

Who Are the People in Our Neighborhood?

#6 Muslims

Timeline

622 Beginning of Islam: Hijra (migration) of Muhammed from Mecca to Medina

632 Death of Muhammed

638 Muslim conquest of Jerusalem, Jews allowed back under certain restrictions

691 Ummayyad caliph Abd el Malik builds the Dome of the Rock and expands al Aksa

711 Muslim conquests reach to Spain in the west and Afghanistan in the east

1099 Crusader conquest of Jerusalem

1187 Ayyubid Sultan Saladin defeats the Crusaders and captures Jerusalem

1260-1270 Mamluke Sultan Baybars defeats the Crusaders and destroys their cities

Islam and Jerusalem

Glory to Him who made His servant travel by night from the sacred place of worship to the furthest place of worship, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him some of Our signs. He alone is the All Hearing, the All Seeing. (Koran Sura 17:60)

Jews Return to Jerusalem

All of the Muslims in the city and surrounding came, together with a group of Jews. Then they were ordered to sweep the site of the Temple and clean it. . .whenever they uncovered another layer, Omar would ask the Elders of the Jews if this was the stone known as the Foundation Stone . . They [the Jews] gathered before Omar and said to him “How many of the Community of Jews will the Emir of the believers command to come to this city?”. . .Omar decreed that seventy households should come.. . .So seventy households including women and children moved from Tiberias and established settlements in buildings whose foundations had stood many generations. (Letter found in the Cairo Genizah, unknown date)

The Koran

In the Name of Allah the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful.
[All] praise is [due] to Allah, Lord of the worlds —
The Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful,

Sovereign of the Day of Recompense.

It is You we worship and You we ask for help

Guide us to the straight path—

The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray. (Sura 1)

Say, 'O Prophet,' "He is God—One ' and Indivisible';

God—the Sustainer ' needed by all'.

He has never had offspring, nor was He born.

And there is none comparable to Him. (Sura 112)

The Five Pillars

Name	Translation	Action
<i>shahada</i>	witnessing	Declaration of God's unity and Muhammad's status as prophet
<i>salat</i>	prayer	Formal prayer five times daily (men and women)
<i>zakat</i>	charity	2.5% per cent of liquid assets to be given to the poor and needy
<i>sawm</i>	fasting	Dawn to dusk fast during the month of Ramadan
<i>hajj</i>	pilgrimage	Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once (men and women)

Dhimmi Status

We heard from 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Ghanam [died 78/697] as follows: When Umar ibn al-Khattab, may God be pleased with him, accorded a peace to the Christians of Syria, we wrote to him as follows:

In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate. This is a letter to the servant of God Umar [ibn al-Khattab], Commander of the Faithful, from the Christians of such-and-such a city. When you came against us, we asked you for safe-conduct (aman) for ourselves, our descendants, our property, and the people of our community, and we undertook the following obligations toward you:

We shall not build, in our cities or in their neighborhood, new monasteries, Churches, convents, or monks' cells, nor shall we repair, by day or by night, such of them as fall in ruins or are situated in the quarters of the Muslims. We shall keep our gates wide open for passersby and travelers. We shall give board and lodging to all Muslims who pass our way for three days. We shall not give shelter in our churches or in our dwellings to any spy, nor bide him from the Muslims.

We shall not teach the Qur'an to our children. We shall not manifest our religion publicly nor convert anyone to it. We shall not prevent any of our kin from entering Islam if they wish it. We shall show respect toward the Muslims, and we shall rise from our seats when they wish to sit.

We shall not seek to resemble the Muslims by imitating any of their garments, the qalansuwa, the turban, footwear, or the parting of the hair. We shall not speak as they do, nor shall we adopt their kunyas.

We shall not mount on saddles, nor shall we gird swords nor bear any kind of arms nor carry them on our- persons. We shall not engrave Arabic inscriptions on our seals. We shall not sell fermented drinks. We shall clip the fronts of our heads. We shall always dress in the same way wherever we may be, and we shall bind the zunar round our waists

We shall not display our crosses or our books in the roads or markets of the Muslims. We shall use only clappers in our churches very softly. We shall not raise our voices when following our dead. We shall not show lights on any of the roads of the Muslims or in their markets. We shall not bury our dead near the Muslims. We shall not take slaves who have been allotted to Muslims. We shall not build houses overtopping the houses of the Muslims. (A version of the Pact of Omar, 7th century)

Muslim Calendar

Sha'ban (8th month) **Isra and Miraj**: Muhammed's night journey and ascent to heaven

Ramadan (9th month) fasting from dawn to sunset

Laylat el Khadr: during the last ten days of Ramadan, "Night of Power," Koran revealed to Muhammed

Shawwal (10th month) **Eid al Fitr**: three-day holiday marking the end of Ramadan

Dhul Hijjah (12th month) Hajj and **Eid al Adha** (sacrifice holiday)

Prayer

Adhan (call to prayer)

God is most great (allahu akbar) (x 4) I testify that there is no god but God (x 2) I testify that Muhammad is the messenger of God (x 2) Come [alive] to the prayer (x 2) Come [alive] to flourishing (x 2) God is most great (x 2) There is no god but God (x 1)

Shahada:

I bear witness that there is no God but God (Allah), and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah