

The 6 beliefs



This is the testimony of a convert to Islam

'I never really knew what I believed. I might believe one thing one day and another thing the next day. How do you ever know anything for certain unless you have proof? OK, so on your average day I could believe that water boiled at 100 degrees and that if I jumped out the window I would be unlikely to fly. But are those really 'beliefs' or are they 'facts'? One could argue that there is never anything that is certain except for, perhaps, mathematical truths because at some point and in some situation even the beliefs we hold about the temperature of boiling water can change. So, I suppose I have come to the conclusion that a belief is something that I hold true despite there being some doubt about it.

When I began to really think about God, my first discussions were, like most people's; 'Does He exist?' Then I realised that this was not the initial question. The question should be 'what is God?' See; what I have discovered from being Muslim is that most people never really ask themselves that question and so their disbelief in God is something I share... because the thing they think IS God is nothing like what I have been taught by my religion!

The very essence of Islam, which means submission, is God; Allah. Without Allah there is nothing as He created everything and He knows everything that *is* and *will be*. Everything that will come to pass is written on the Preserved Tablet before He even said 'Be' and created Creation. This is what Our Prophet Muhammad and all the other prophets before him told us; that Allah knows what will happen; not just in our own lives but in every aspect of Creation until the end of time. The prophets have also taught us that at the end of time there will be a judgement day where all our good and bad sins that have been written down by the angels on our shoulders will be accounted for and we will either be sent to Jannah (heaven) or Jahannam (hell). This will be our *akhirah*; our afterlife. The prophets were sent to remind us of the promise we made to Allah when our souls were in His hand before they were placed into our body that HE alone is our Lord and teach us to behave well towards others. If we do not, we face torment in the afterlife. The final prophet was the Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and he died 1400 years ago. He left us the Qur'an which is the word of Allah. It is the final message and it is perfect. It is totally unchanged and contains all the truths of the universe. It confirms that the messages that went before it in the Torah and the Gospels etc but it is the complete and unchanged truth.

Muslims have '6 beliefs' well actually they have a great deal more than that but there are 6 that some scholars have recognised to be the most important ones using the Hadith of Jibril as guidance. These beliefs are not separate beliefs, they are all entwined together; to disbelieve any of them means as a Muslim, you may not really have understood the message.

Before you begin, READ the text again baring the task in mind.

Task:

Use 6 coloured highlighters and identify where each of the 6 beliefs are alluded to, discussed or mentioned. Most of them are mentioned more than once! If more than one is relevant at the same time, make sure you use more than one colour over those words to show this.