A photograph taken from inside an airplane, looking out of a window. The window frame is visible, and the view outside shows a dense city skyline with many skyscrapers. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The text "A BOOK OF PEACE" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

A BOOK OF
PEACE



طلب التصريح لتداول أو طباعة المصاحف والمطبوعات

Request Issuance of Permit Publication/Printing

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Date of application	11/05/2023	تاريخ الطلب						
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Audit Result	لا مانع من منحه إذن التداول، وذلك لتحقيق المادة العلمية شروط طباعة وتداول المصاحف والمنشورات الدينية في إمارة دبي							نتيجة التدقيق

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لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللّٰهِ

PREFACE

As-salaam Alay-kum
Peace Be Upon You

Welcome to this new land – a land of peace, security and stability.

The purpose of this book is to familiarize the reader with the symbols and values of Islam in order to appreciate this land and understand its people.

By sharing our religious traditions and explaining our values, we hope to draw closer and create a pleasant and peaceful experience for you.

We wish you the start of a beautiful chapter in your journey of life.

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01

THE GREETING OF PEACE

AS SALAM ALAYKUM.

You might have heard this phrase or will come across hearing it, but what does it mean?

This is the greeting of all messengers of God (Allah). It is the greeting of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them all).

As salam alaykum means “peace be upon you.” When someone wishes peace upon you, what they really mean is “I will not harm you by my tongue or hands.”

It is also a supplication to God (Allah) in which we are asking God (Allah) to give you peace. Peace in your heart, peace in your mind, peace in your health, peace in your body, peace in your life, peace with your family and peace with others.

It is a phrase that is short but mighty in meaning.... *As salam alaykum*.

When someone says “*As salam alaykum*” – peace be upon you.

We reply with “*Wa alaykum as salam*” – and upon you be peace.

وَإِذَا حُيِّئْتُمْ بِنَحِيَّةٍ فَحَيُّوا بِأَحْسَنَ مِنْهَا أَوْ رُدُّوهَا

“And when you are greeted with a greeting, greet [in return] with one better than it or [at least] return it [in a like manner].”¹

¹ Noble Qur’an [4:86] – Surah An Nisa’a – The Chapter of Women

02

ISLAM

Islam is a way of life which leads us to be the best of human beings – to speak in the best way, to act in the best way and to deal with others in the best way.

The word “Islam” has two meanings:

01 To surrender

02 Peace

When we surrender to God (Allah) then we will find peace.


Why?

Because we are surrendering to the God (Allah) Who is The Most Merciful, All-Sufficient, Most Rich, who knows everything, sees everything and hears everything. We are surrendering to the God (Allah) Who is One and has no children, partner or support. He takes care of us in the best way.

Knowing His actions and how He cares for us brings peace to our hearts, makes us understand ourselves and the reality of this life.

Who is a Muslim?

A Muslim is one who believes in One God (Allah), the same God of Abraham, Noah, Moses and Muhammad (peace be upon them all). Muslims believe in Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who is the final messenger sent by God (Allah).



In the words of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): “The Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand the people are safe.”²

A Muslim does not harm others with their tongue by speaking harmful words or vulgar speech. A Muslim does not harm others with their hand by writing hurtful words or physically harming others.

² Sunan an-Nasa'i 4995

03

SYMBOLS OF ISLAM

There are different symbols of Islam which can be observed in a Muslim land. We will familiarize you with some of them:

Call to Prayer

Newcomers find themselves intrigued when they hear the soothing and melodious call to prayer that echoes five times a day. This is known as the *adhaan*, and it notifies the people that it is time for prayer. The words of the *adhaan* are in Arabic and are a beautiful way to invite people to come to prayer. The caller of the *adhaan* encourages the people to come and pray because it is a way to success – success in this life and the next.

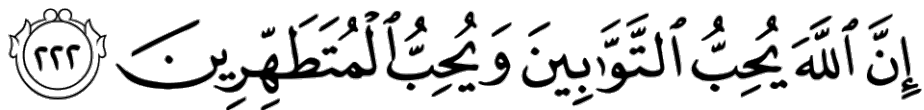
Mosque

Muslims pray five times a day and the place where they pray is called a mosque (known as *masjid* in Arabic). You will see mosques spread throughout the land. There are special areas dedicated for praying inside the malls and at the airport as well. When the time for prayer approaches, the call to prayer (*adhaan*) is announced from the mosque or the prayer room.

Ablution

You may have noticed “ablution areas” at the airport and in malls and wondered about their purpose.

Hygiene is of great value in Islam and Muslims perform ablution before praying. This is also referred to as *wudhu* in Arabic. Because Muslims pray five times a day, they perform ablution just as many times. Do not be surprised if you see a Muslim washing his / her face, arms and feet. This is all preparation for the prayer.



“Truly, Allah loves those who turn unto Him in repentance and loves those who purify themselves (by taking a bath and cleaning and washing thoroughly their private parts, bodies, purify for their prayers, etc.).”³

Prayer

The word for prayer in Arabic is called “*salat*”. *Salat* means connection and it is a way to connect with God. When we love someone, we always want to connect with them, and the five daily prayers provide this lifeline and communication channel for the Muslims. They find comfort and solace by connecting to God (Allah) in the prayer and can lay bare all their worries. When our connection with our Creator is upright then all other connections with people will be set straight, and this makes life so easy and clear.

The prayer takes no more than 5 to 7 minutes and is an uninterrupted time where we disconnect from the outside world and focus just on our connection with God (Allah). It is a special time between us and our Creator. It is a time to be grateful to Him, to ask Him for help to remove our burdens and to give us what we need.

³ Noble Qur’an [2:222] – Surah Al Baqarah – The Chapter of the Cow



Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The prayer is light."⁴

This means prayer is a way to obtain guidance and clarity in this life. It helps us live an upright and balanced life when we are connected to our Creator.

Ramadan

Muslims fast in the holy month of Ramadan, which is the 9th month of the Islamic calendar. Fasting is observed from dawn until sunset and Muslims refrain from eating, drinking and any sinful behavior during this time.

The term *iftar* is used in Ramadan which is the meal eaten after fasting.

Since the Islamic calendar is based on the lunar calendar, Ramadan takes place in different times throughout the years. This means after a period of 30 years we would have experienced fasting Ramadan in every day of the year and across all seasons. This is important to remind us that some people face limitations not only one month in a year, but throughout the year. It encourages us to be generous, caring, giving and mindful of others.



Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever fasts in Ramadan out of faith and in the hope of reward, will be forgiven his previous sins."⁵

⁴ Sahih Muslim 223


⁵ Sunan an-Nasa'i 2203

Modest Clothing

A prominent symbol of Islam is the modest attire of the Muslim women. Unfortunately, this symbol has been greatly misunderstood and misrepresented.

Modesty is a great value in Islam. God (Allah) has ordained women to cover themselves and dress in a modest way for their own protection and so that they may be presented in an honorable way. A veiled woman is not oppressed, rather she is empowered because she knows that a woman's worth is not measured by her physical appearance but by her values, manners and conduct.

The face covering is known as *niqab* and the head covering is known as *hijab*.



Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Modesty is a branch of Faith."⁶

Commonly Used Words and Their Meanings

You will hear these common words used in day to day speech.

01

Bis-mil-lah

We begin in the Name of Allah

This is said before starting anything (drinking, eating, working, doing chores, etc.) so that God (Allah) will bless whatever is being undertaken and remove any harm.

⁶ Sunan an-Nasa'i 5006

02

Al-ham-du-lilah

All praises and thanks are for Allah

This is said upon the completion of something – whether it be good or bad.

When Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw something he liked, he would say: “Praise is to Allah by Whose Grace good deeds are completed.” And if he saw something he disliked, he would say: “Praise is to Allah in all circumstances.”⁷

وَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تُحِبُّوا شَيْئًا
وَهُوَ شَرٌّ لَّكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢١٦﴾

“But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you; and perhaps you love a thing and it is bad for you. And Allah Knows, while you know not.”⁸

03

In-sha'a-Allah

If Allah wills

Human beings have limitations and we cannot guarantee we will do the things we say. Muslims say in sha'a Allah because they realize that something can only happen if God (Allah) allows it to happen. In sha'a Allah is used with the intention of doing what is promised unless matters take place which are not in one's hands.

⁷ Sahih Aj Jami'e 4727

⁸ Noble Qur'an [2: 216] – Surah Al Baqarah – The Chapter of the Cow

VALUES OF ISLAM

Islam is a way of life that is rich in values and manners. Values in individuals and societies bring about success, stability and happiness.

Respecting the Rulers

Islam teaches us to respect the rulers because they have been entrusted to take care of their subjects. Obeying them and abiding by their rules creates harmony, peace and stability in society.

By God's (Allah's) Favor, we feel secure when we walk in the streets, park our cars and even when we go out at night.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِن
نَنزَعْنَاهُ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ
الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا

“O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger [Prophet Muhammad peace and blessings of Allah be upon him] and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day [Day of Judgement]. That is the best [way] and best in result.”⁹

Respect is not only limited to the rulers and other people, but also includes respecting the environment. The country invests in its environment and works on enhancing the roads, landscaping and other facilities because it is an Islamic principle to do goodness in all aspects and in all actions.



Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Verily Allah has prescribed excellence in all things.”¹⁰

Respecting Women, Elderly, Children and People of Other Faiths

Islam teaches us to respect women and be gentle in dealing with them.

وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

“And live with them (women) in kindness.”¹¹

Islam also teaches us to respect the elderly and have mercy on the children. These are two groups in a society which are often overlooked or disregarded. However, Islam reminds us that taking care of them is part of our identity as Muslims.

⁹ Noble Qur'an [4: 59] – Surah An Nisa'a – The Chapter of Women

¹⁰ Sahih Muslim 1955

¹¹ Noble Qur'an [4: 19] – Surah An Nisa'a – The Chapter of Women

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Anyone who does not show mercy to our children nor acknowledge the right of our elderly is not one of us."¹²

Islam also calls for the protection and respect of non-Muslims who live in their lands.

Family

Islam encourages us to maintain strong family ties, especially with our parents. Sometimes we put on a kind and smiling face to outsiders, but at home we are indifferent to our family members. Our family is foremost to receive good treatment from us.

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The best of you is the one who is best to his family."¹³

Our parents took care of us while we were young and we should take care of them too, especially by saying good words to them.

❁ وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ
عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا آفٍ وَلَا
نَهْرَهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ﴿٢٣﴾

“And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life,

¹² Al-Adab Al-Mufrad 353

¹³ Sunan Ibn Majah Book 9, Hadith 2053

say not to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them but address them in terms of honour.”¹⁴

Compassion to Help Others – People and Animals

The Muslims, and in particular people of the United Arab Emirates, are a generous people and strive to pass down this quality through the generations. It is common to find water tanks outside homes providing free, cold water to passersby. That is because the best charity is water – water is needed by humans, animals and plants.



Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was asked: "What kind of charity is best?' He said: 'Providing drinking water.'"¹⁵

Islam greatly emphasizes helping those who are needy as anything we have is from God's (Allah's) Favor and by giving, we purify ourselves from the greed within us. Any visitor to the United Arab Emirates will find many charity boxes spread out in government offices, shopping centers and supermarkets.



Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Guard yourselves against the Fire even if it be only with half a date-fruit (given in charity); and if you cannot afford even that, you should at least say a good word."¹⁶

To give charity and help others is not limited to money, but also saying a kind word and a smile.

¹⁴ Noble Qur'an [17:23] – Surah Al Isra'a – The Chapter of the Night Journey

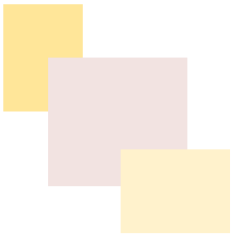
¹⁵ Sahih Aj Jami'e 1113, Authenticated by Al Albani as Hasan

¹⁶ Riyadh As Saliheen, Al Bukhari and Muslim, Book 2, Hadith 693



Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Every good act is charity. Indeed among the good is to meet your brother with a smiling face."¹⁷

Islam also calls for the caring of animals and there is a great reward for the one who is kind to them.



Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "A man saw a dog eating mud from the severity of thirst. So that man took a shoe (and filled it) with water and kept on pouring the water for the dog till it quenched its thirst. Allah approved of his deed and made him to enter Paradise."¹⁸

¹⁷ Jami` at-Tirmidhi 1970

¹⁸ Sahih al-Bukhari 173

05

MANNERS

Do:

- Learn about Islam from the right sources (refer to the recommend sites at the end of the book).
- Read the translation of the Qur'an.

Reminders:

- Men should avoid shaking the hands of a veiled woman.
- Dress modestly.
- Respect the rulers, laws and people residing in the country. Do not spread rumors or share images that can upset this stability.
- Public display of affection between members of the opposite gender are discouraged.
- Be mindful that it is uncomfortable for a Muslim to sit at a table where alcohol is served.
- Avoid taking selfies or videos of other people without first asking permission.
- Avoid walking dogs near mosques and prayer areas as these are places of worship.

Recommended sites:

- 01 <https://www.iacad.gov.ae/en/Pages/default.aspx>
- 02 <https://www.cultures.ae/>
- 03 <https://www.markazalsalam.com/>





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 www.markazalsalam.com

 info@markazalsalam.com

   Al Salam Islamic Center

 t.me/markazalsalam

 t.me/alsalamislamiccenter_kids

 +97150 8008875

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