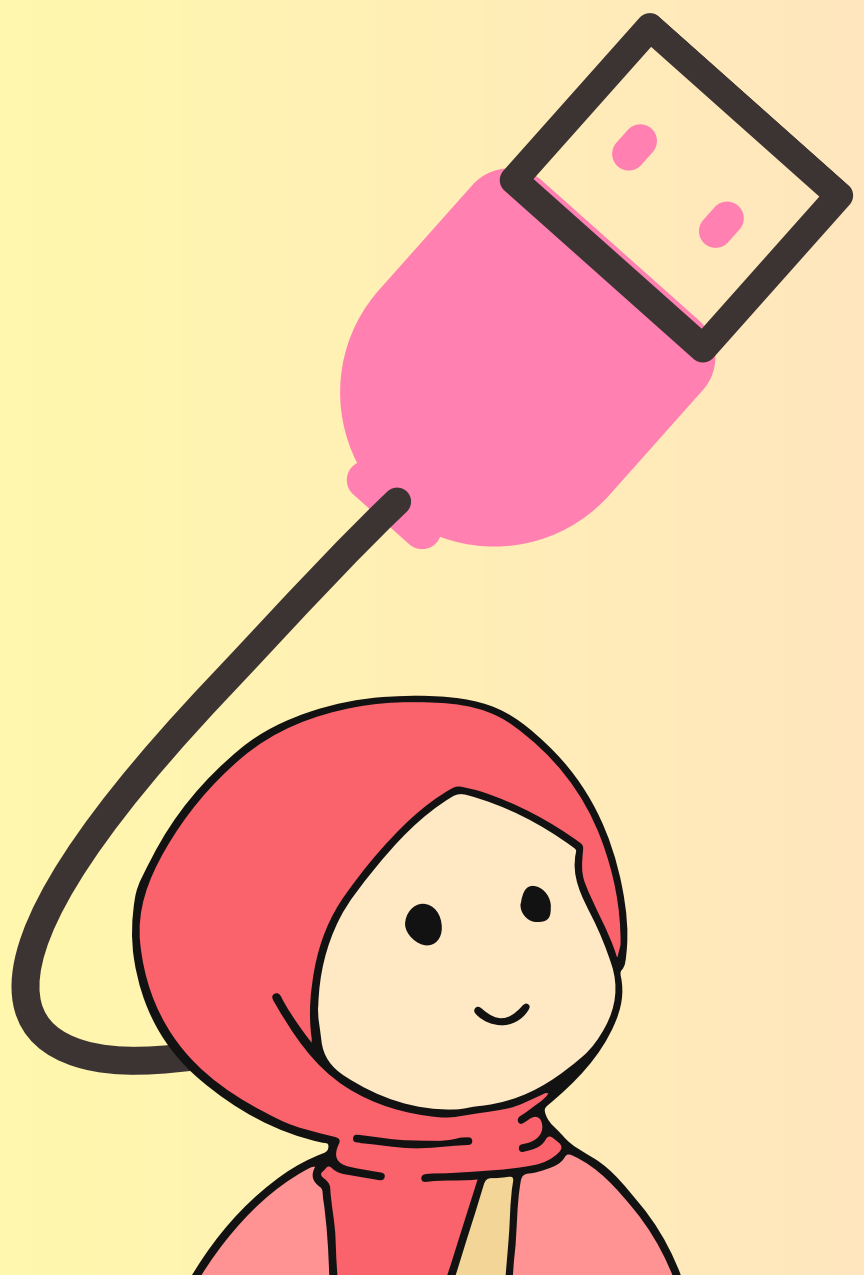


A Quick Guide to Islam's 5 Pillars
by Samia Ahmed

My Journey with Faith: Exploring the Five Pillars of Islam



The Five Pillars



**Assalamu alay kum (peace be on you all).
My name is Samia and I want to share what
the Five Pillars of Islam mean to me as a
Muslim, and how they've become my guiding
principles for how I live my life.**



Welcome!



The Shahadah - My Experience

Faith (Shahadah): My beliefs are grounded in the rock-solid foundation of Shahadah.

It's like a beacon that illuminates my unwavering devotion to the one true God and believing that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final messenger and prophet of God.

Think of it as the anchor that steadies me even in the wildest of storms, helping me hold on to my beliefs no matter what happens good or bad.

Upon committing to the Shahadah, it felt like the light switched on in a dark room.



Hold on!



Cornerstone
of belief

Faith in One
God

My identity
and purpose
become clear





The Shahadah

Discovering the Treasures of Islam with the Shahadah

Picture the Shahadah as a mystical key that unlocks a grand treasure chest filled with precious gems – the Five Pillars of Islam.

These pillars represent the significance of prayer, kindness, and charity, all shining brightly.

But how does one access this treasure?

That's where the key comes in!

By simply uttering the Shahadah from the heart, you can unlock the chest and reveal the beautiful teachings of Islam. This is the beginning of an exciting adventure, where you can explore and put into practice these invaluable gems.

So, are you ready to open the treasure chest of Islam and begin your journey?



The Shahadah (Declaration of Faith)

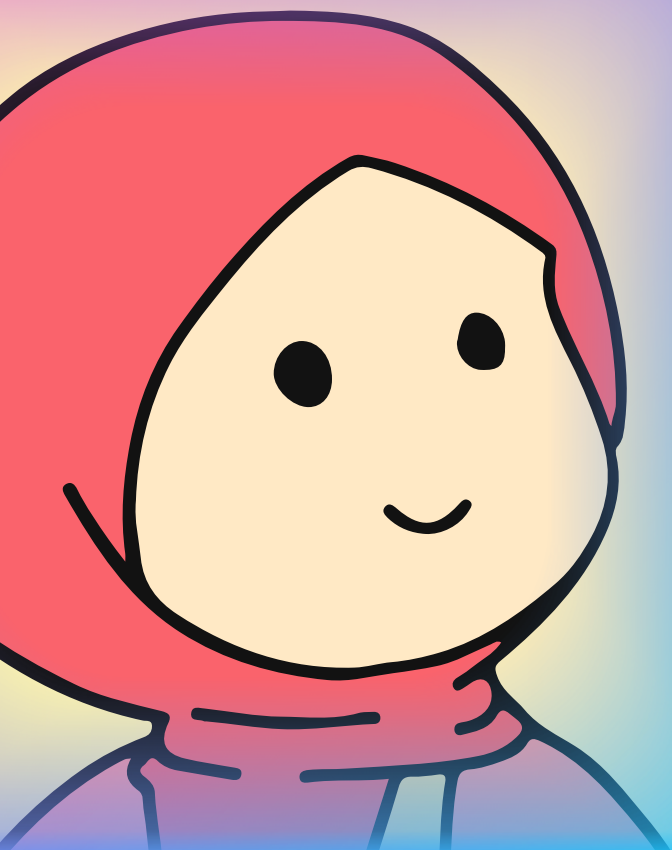
The Shahadah is the Islamic Declaration of Faith and one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

It is the first pillar of Islam and serves as a concise statement of a Muslim's belief in the core principles of Islam.

How to declare the Shahadah!

'There is no God (worthy of worship) but Allah and Muhammad is His final messenger.'

Is it really that straightforward? Absolutely!



Journeying to the Shahadah



Feeling that there's more to life than just short-lived moments of joy.

Hunting for Truth Beyond Culture and Environment.

But before the Shahadah, you have to have belief.
Let me share my own experience with you.

Get ready for a soul-searching adventure:
Discovering Different Religions.

Supercharge Your Choices with Research and questions.

Journeying to Unravel the Purpose of My Existence.

Unlocking Life's Purpose with Mind-Bending Queries.

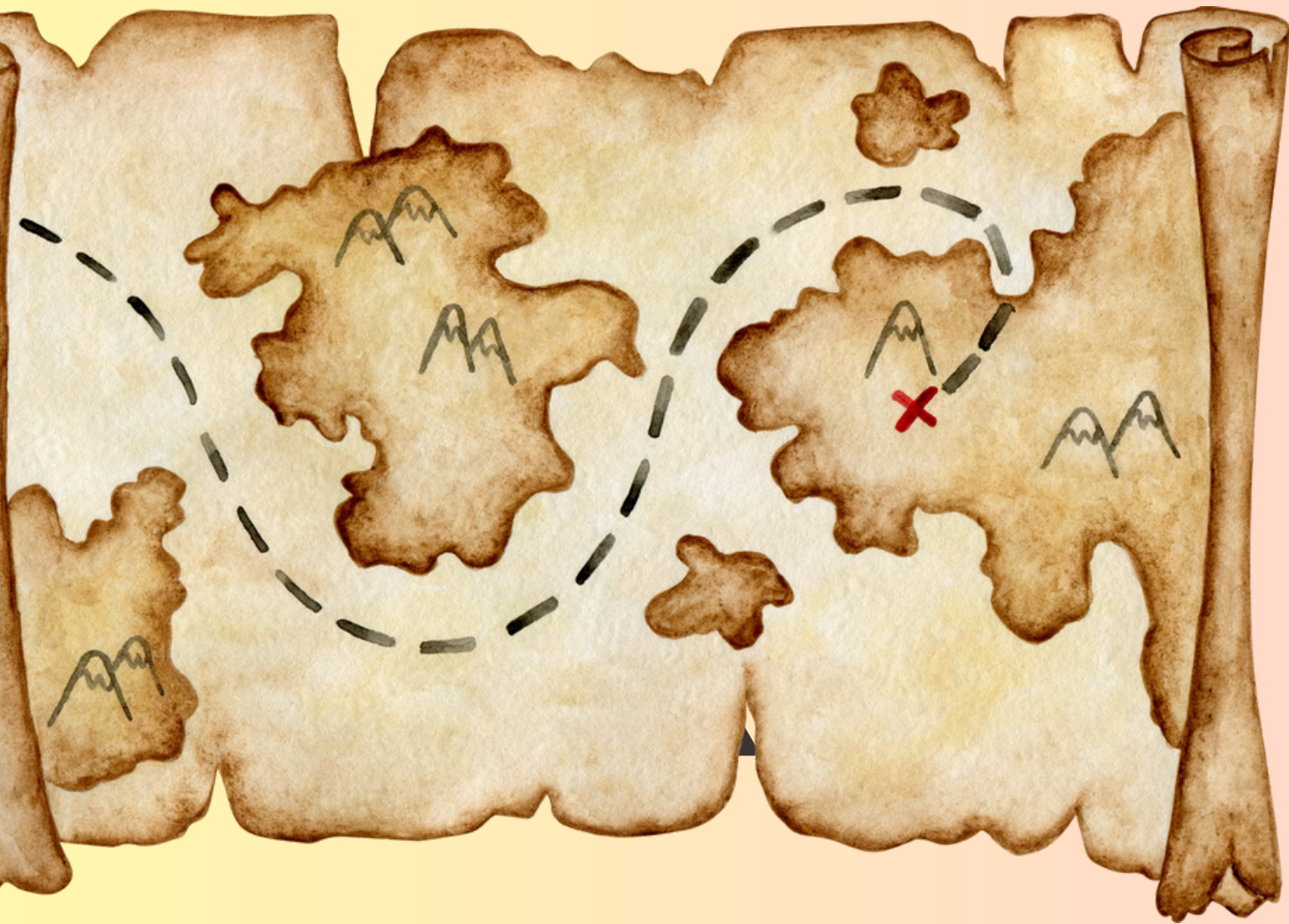


The Shahada is a statement of belief and now it's time to put that into action. That's where the other pillars come in. First the prayer.

Salah (Prayer): Prayer is my daily connection with God. It's a personal dialogue where I express my gratitude, seek guidance, and ask for forgiveness.

- Like a compass, it helps me find my direction and stay on the right path.
- It keeps me focused on my goal of purifying my heart and building up a better character to be worthy of meeting God one day.
- It brings calmness to my soul. It keeps me away from doing wrong and if I make a mistake it helps me to get back on track.

Prayer (Salah)



Think of Salah as a treasure hunt unlike any other! Every day, you hold a special map that only you can decode, leading you to the ultimate trove of happiness, kindness, and **inner peace**.

That map is your guide to Salah. Your personal X marks the spot to find the treasures of your heart.

As you journey through Salah each day, you'll unlock hidden gems of kindness, goodness, and love inside yourself. It's a daily quest that brings you closer to the heart of the treasure, filling you with peace, happiness, and a deep connection to God.

Grab a speedy lowdown on Zakat!



In Islam, Zakat is a cornerstone principle that instructs the community **to lend a supportive hand** and aid the less fortunate by sharing some of their wealth.

Giving back is not only great for the soul, but can also give our communities a boost. In Islam, this selfless act is called Zakat, which literally means "**purification**," and reminds us to share our wealth with those in need and purifies us from greed.

But wait, there's a checkpoint! Meet **Nisab**, your financial friend. Make sure you've got enough wealth to last you through one lunar year and then, let the countdown begin!

Once the year is up, it's time to **spread the love and share your Zakat** with those who could use some help.



Zakat

My personal experience

- **Zakat (Charity):** It's my way of becoming a superhero for those in need – like giving a warm hug to fellow human beings and making sure no one is left out in the cold.
- **Sharing my blessings** reminds me of the importance of kindness and taking care of one another.
- **It helps me detach** from materialistic desires for myself, as I learn how to share and care for others.



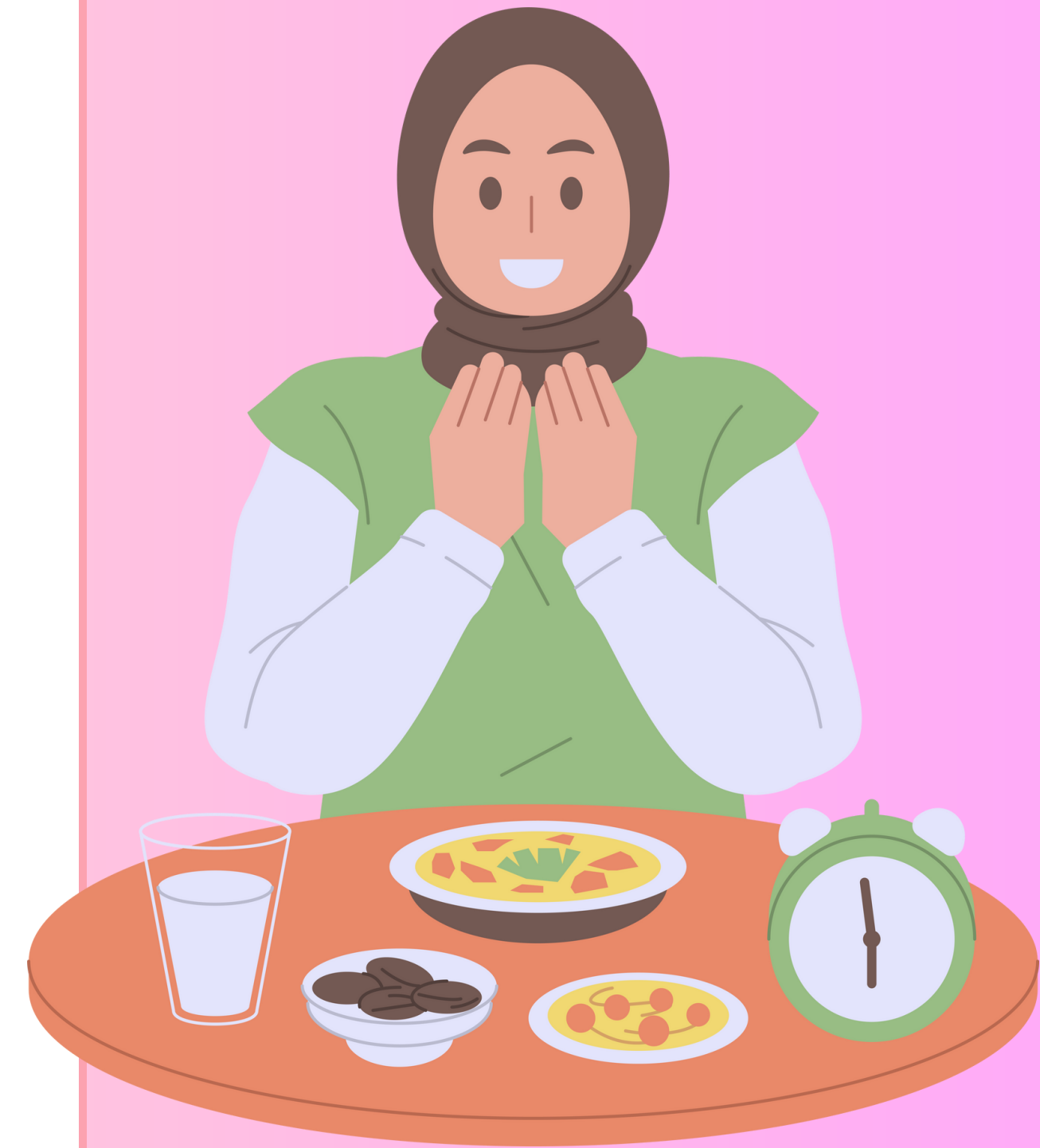
Fasting

It's no surprise that Ramadan is a beloved time of the year for many Muslims, as it makes them feel spiritually elevated and closer to God.

Ramadan: More Than Just a Fast

Ramadan is not simply about abstaining from food and drink during daylight hours. It tests one's self-discipline, an opportunity for spiritual growth, and much more.

- For me, it's like an **annual boot camp** for my character. I learned patience, empathy, and the importance of self-control.
- Ramadan presents a chance for me to **connect with my inner self**, and to **draw nearer to my Creator**.
- As I feel closer to God, the **best version of myself begins to emerge**. People become more caring towards others and feel driven to **spread more kindness and generosity**.



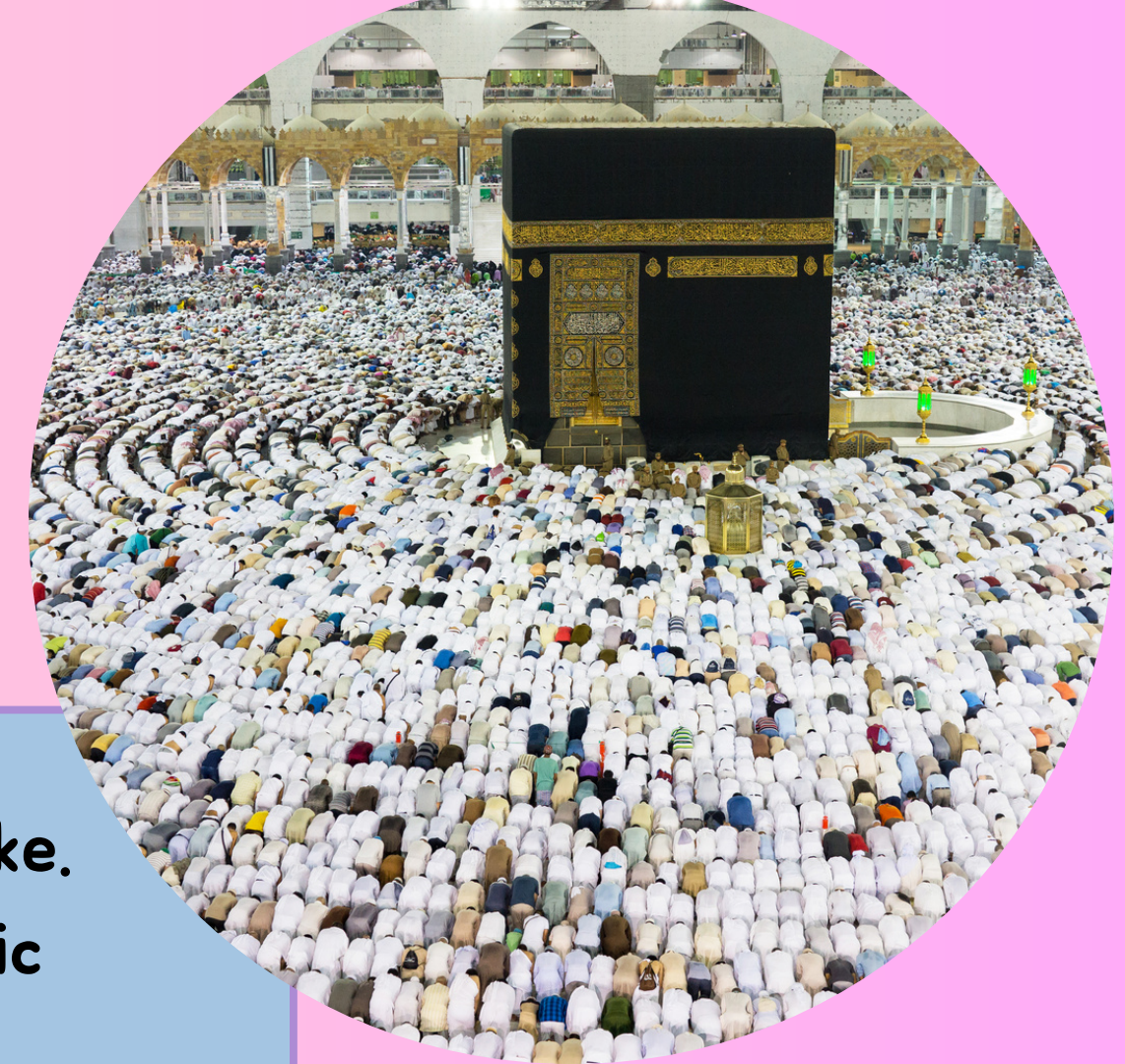
Get a Brief Insider Guide to the Hajj!

Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah):

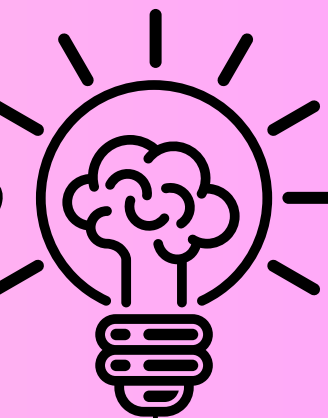
Hajj, **the fifth pillar of Islam**, is a **mandatory pilgrimage** every Muslim must make. Held in the Islamic month of Dhul-Hijjah, from the 8th to the 12th day, this epic event is a time for spiritual growth, unity, and **commemorating the actions of Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) and his family**.

The Hajj journey is filled with **sacred rituals** that include circumambulating the Kaabah seven times, walking between the hills of Safa and Marwah, standing in prayer at the plain of Arafat, and sacrificing an animal to honour Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son.

Male pilgrims wear simple white garments, called **ihram**, to symbolise equality and purity while refraining from certain actions. Women wear modest clothes.

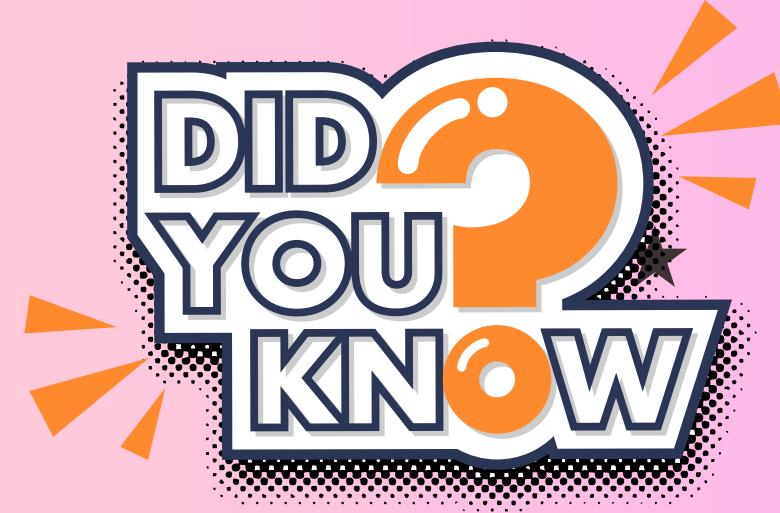


DID YOU KNOW?

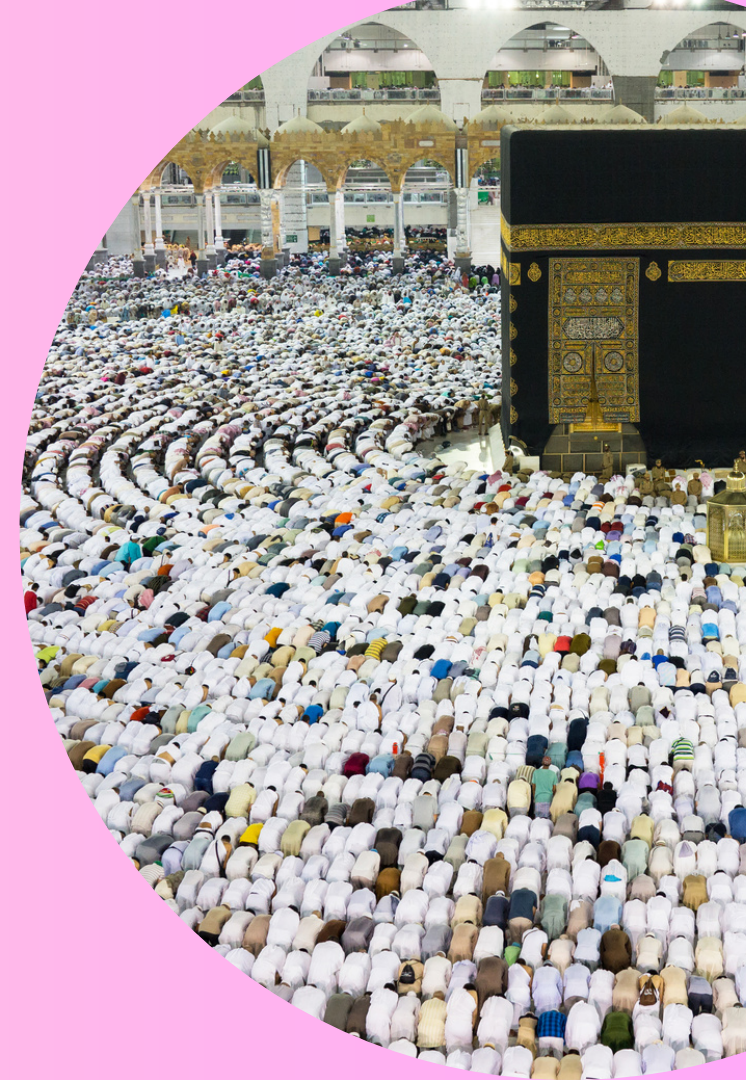


The Hajj pilgrimage culminates in the joyous Eid Al-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice. Muslims from all over the world take part in offering an animal sacrifice to honor Prophet Ibrahim's readiness to sacrifice his son for the Almighty.

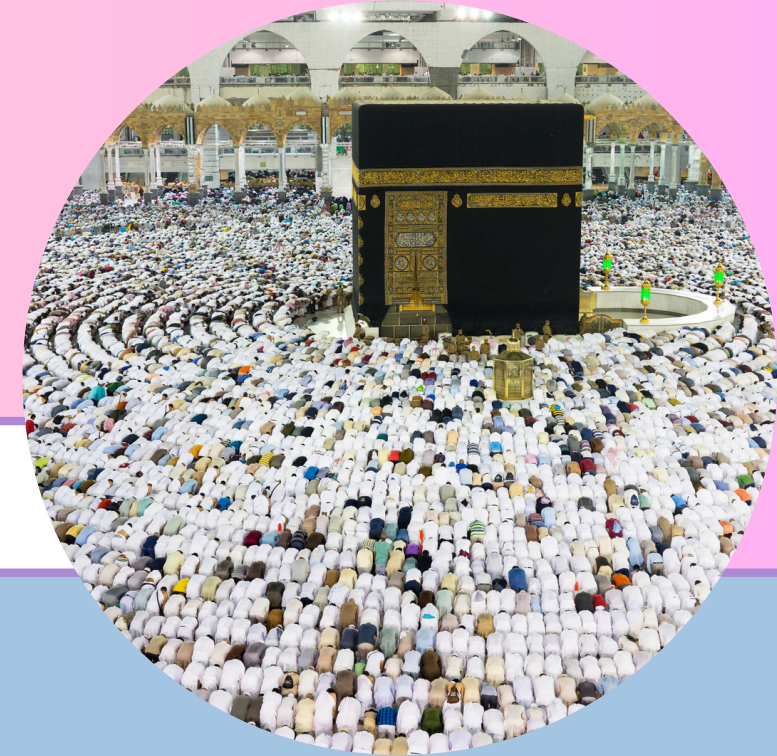
Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah):



- Hajj is a religious obligation for capable Muslims seeking spiritual cleansing and obedience to God's command.
- Dressed in simple white garments, millions gather to symbolise unity and equality, and follow in the footsteps of Prophet Ibrahim, his wife Hagar, and their son Isma'il.
- The holy sites of Hajj offer a transformative experience, strengthening faith and connection to religious identity while seeking guidance, mercy, and blessings from God.



My Personal Experience

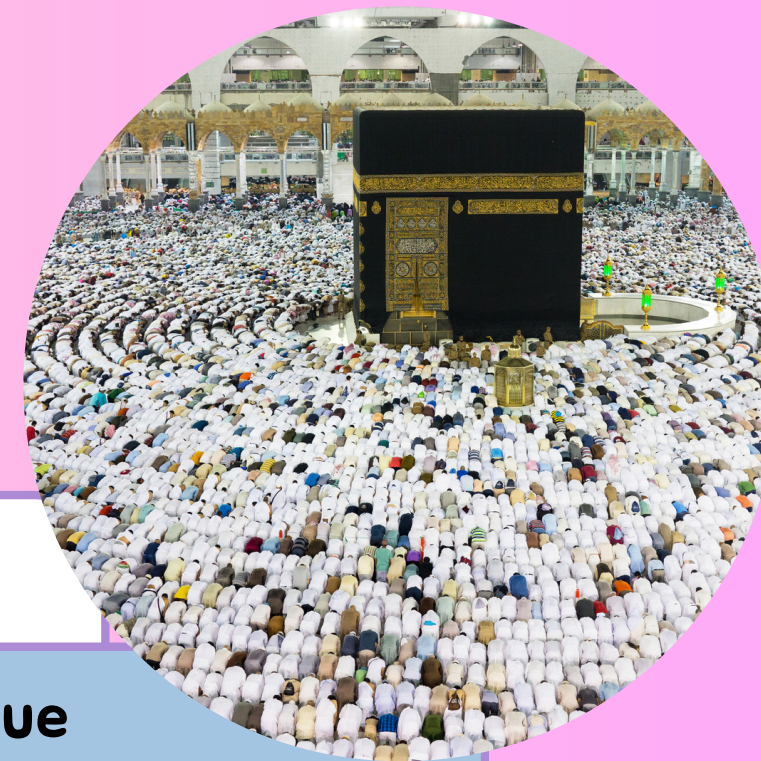


I'm speechless! I'm overflowing with gratitude after performing Hajj. This spiritual adventure of a lifetime has cemented my bond with God and my fellow Muslims around the globe.

To top it off, I had the honour of being a Hajj volunteer for three consecutive years. This epic journey allowed me to uncover some profound truths:

- The simple things in life bring the most joy and peace.
- No matter where you're from or what you look like, we're all united in worshipping one God.
- Nothing worthwhile comes without hard work and dedication.
- True contentment and inner peace come from nurturing a relationship with your Creator.
- Hajj is fulfilling and satisfying to the soul.

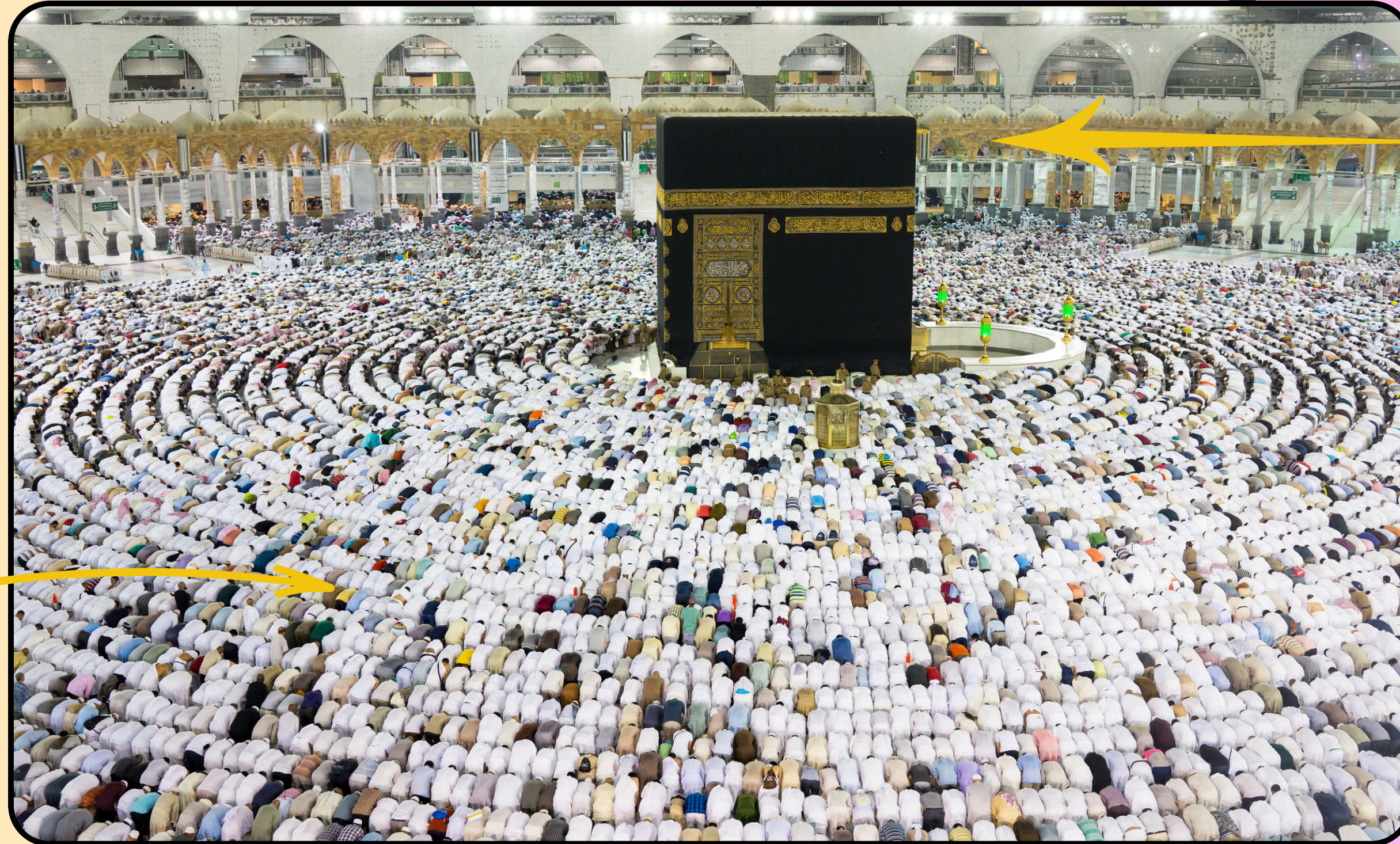
My personal experience



- Performing Hajj is both a physical and internal struggle that tests one's true character.
- It's a journey that brings a sense of inner peace and humility. You're surrounded by countless individuals who travelled from all corners of the world, each with the same purpose: to express their love and obedience to the Creator.
- Hajj made me realise how dependent and vulnerable we are as human beings and you can only be a slave to God.
- Being patient is the key to life and that resilience can only come through hardship.



Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah):



Kaabah

Muslims praying
to God in unity
during the
prayer time
during Hajj.

Kabbah

A Symbol of the Oneness of God.

"Behold, We gave the site, to Abraham, of the (Sacred) House, (saying): 'Associate not anything (in worship) with Me; and sanctify My House for those who compass it round, or stand up, or bow, or prostrate themselves (therein in prayer).'"

Quran (22: 26/27)



The Kaabah

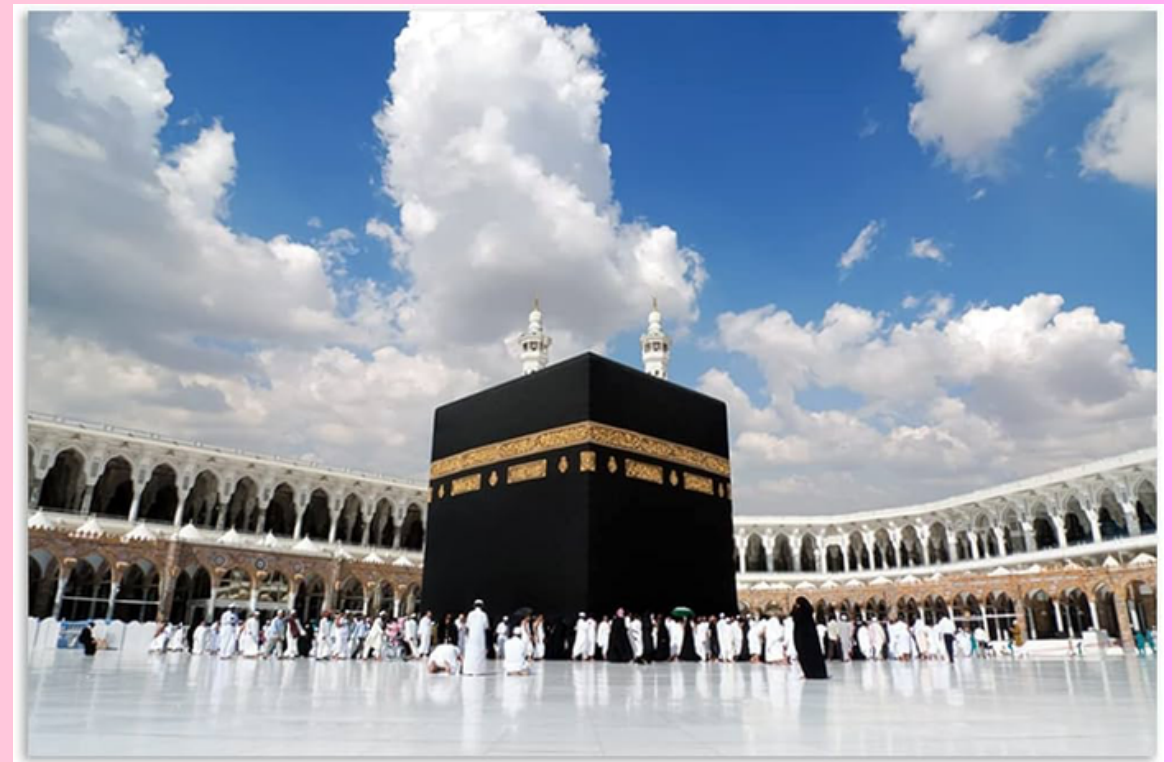
24/7 345 days a year

The Kaabah is a cube-shaped building located in the centre of the Masjid al-Haram mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

It is considered the most sacred site in Islam and is the focal point of the Hajj pilgrimage. Kaabah is a powerhouse of importance for Muslims worldwide, as **it dictates the direction (Qibla)** that faithful followers face during their daily prayers.

According to Islamic beliefs, the **prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and his son Isma'il (Ishmael)** were the masterminds behind its **original construction**. And ever since, it has been flooded with worshippers through every era.

The **Kabbah signifies monotheism** and that faith is rooted back to the Abrahamic traditions.



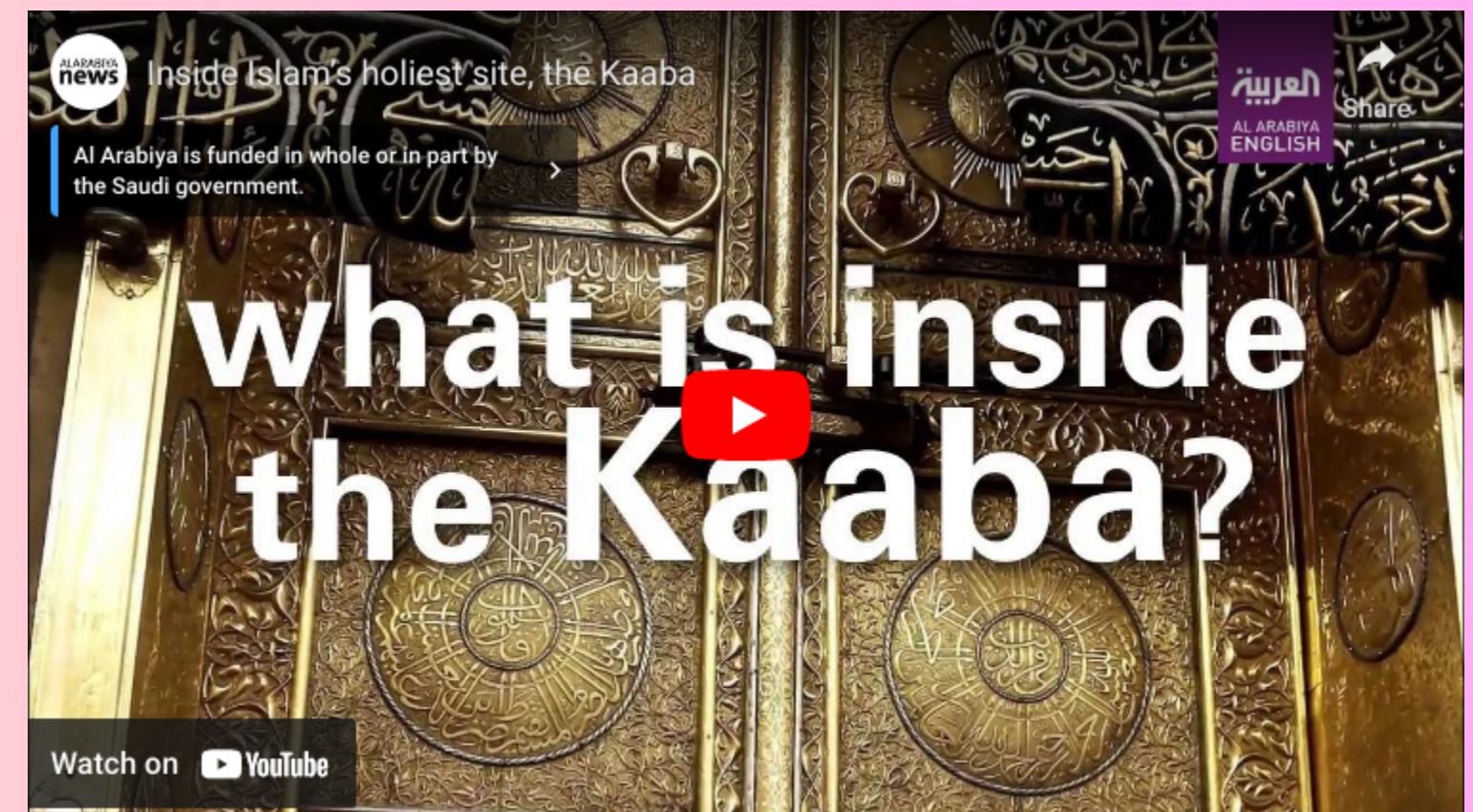
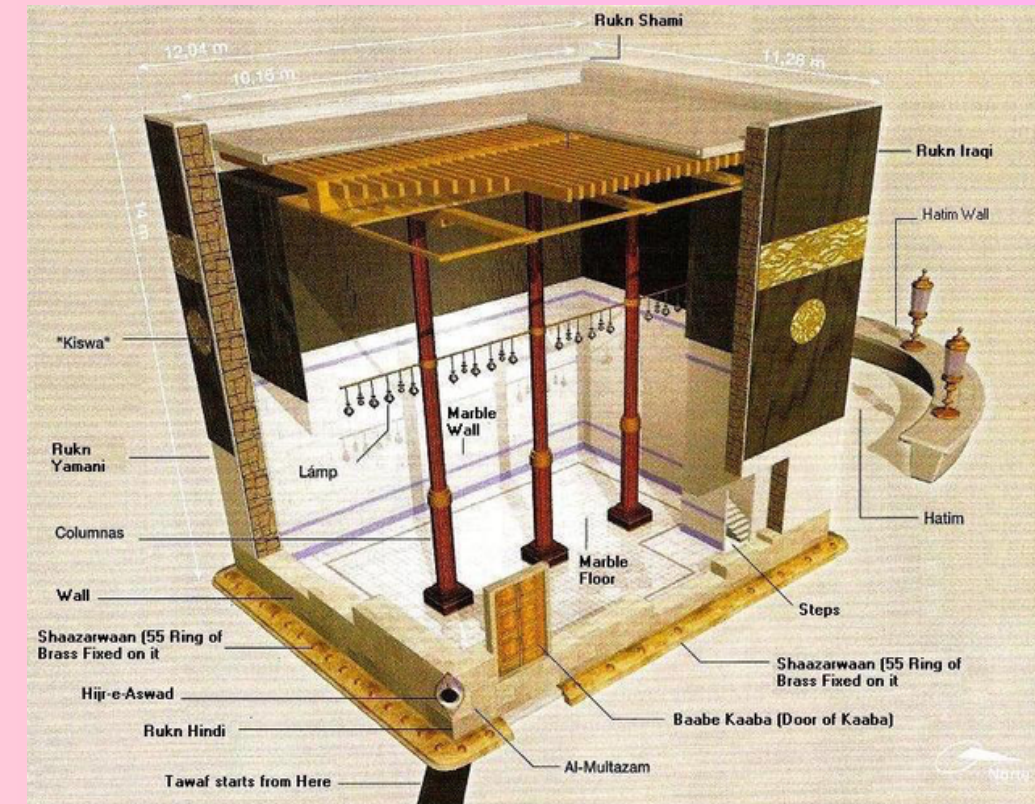
The Kaabah

The Kaabah is a simple stone structure with a multilayered interior consisting of white marble and black granite flooring, grey stone walls, and multiple walls and layers.

Adorned only by a black silk and gold curtain, it has limited access for maintenance and cleaning purposes by select authorities but is not open for public visitation or worship inside.

DID YOU KNOW?


The Kabbah prior to Islam was home to pagan rituals as people fell out of the Abrahamic faith. It used to be a place where idols were placed inside until Islam became the religion of Makkah.

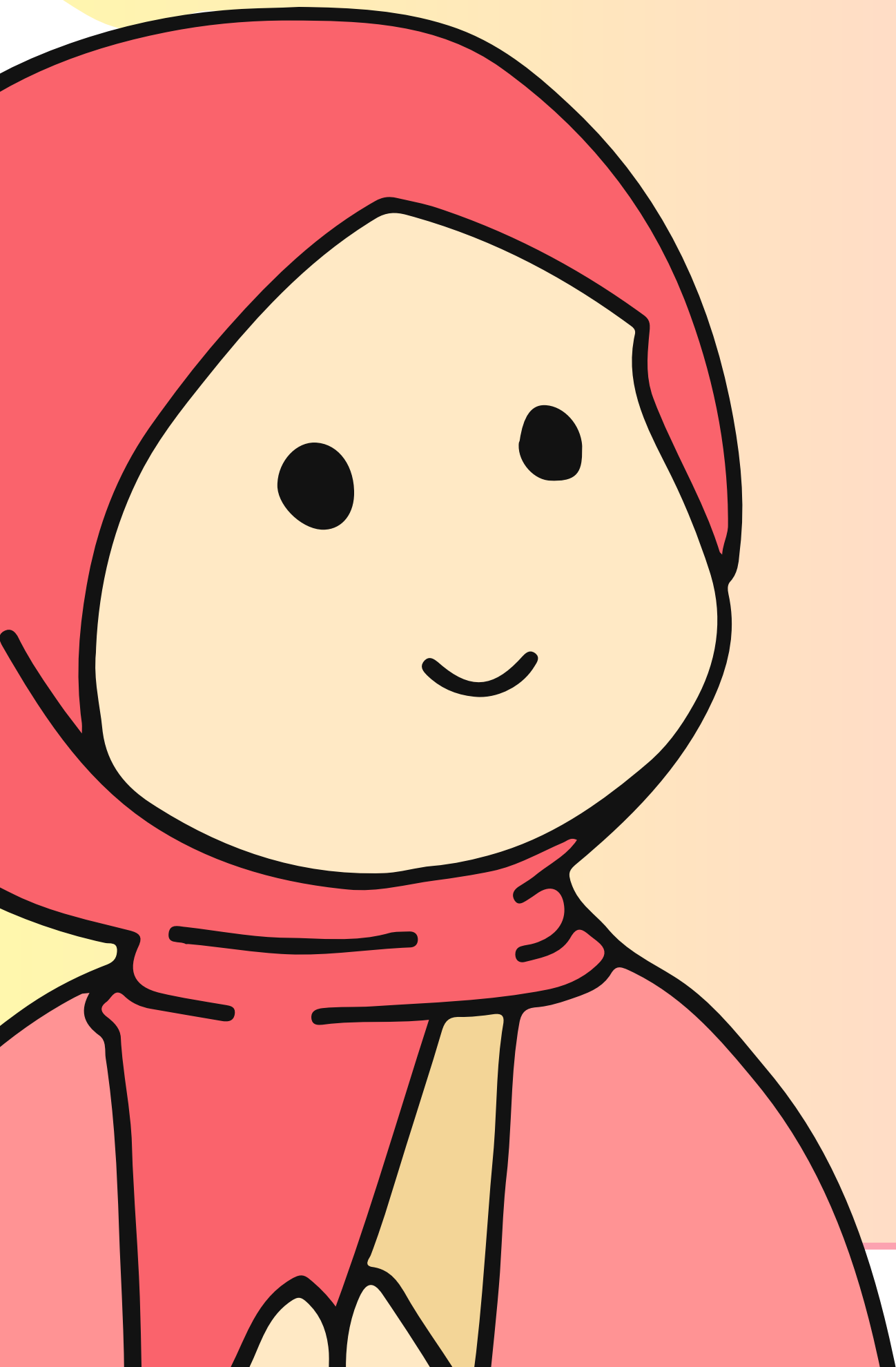




Taking a Moment to Reflect...

The Five Pillars are not just religious duties; **they are principles that guide my life.** They inspire me to be **steadfast in my faith, connect with God, help those in need, grow as a person,** and look forward to a remarkable journey of faith. These pillars are like **the map and compass of my life, leading me on a path of faith, compassion, and self-improvement** and trying my best to **live a morally grounded and ethical life.**





Thank you!

You have been wonderful!

