



## *Sacred Order of Living Paganism*

Lesson Outline

Shanddaramon

Level One Class Twenty-Eight: Islam

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### **Preparation**

Consider your past experiences with Islam

### **Questions to consider:**

What are the basic theological principles of Islam?

How does Islam compare with Paganism?

How does Islam contrast with Paganism?

### **Study:**

Islam

### **Activity:**

Attend an Islamic service or event

### **Recommended Reading:**

The Essential Rumi by Coleman Barks, translator

The Koran

What Is Sufism? by Martin Lings

Islam: A Very Short Introduction by Malise Ruthven

### **Follow-Up**

Submit your answers to the above questions

Report on your experience with attending and Islamic service or event

Enter all information in your BoW

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# Islam

Founder: Muhammed - 6th century CE

Main text: the Qu'ran

Teachings:

Four principles

1. monotheism
2. creation was a deliberate act of God's will, therefore, it must be good
3. man was also a creation of God and must be good
4. there shall come a Day of Judgement

Goal is life's total surrender to God (Allah)

The Five Pillars of Islam

1. Confession in the faith of God with Mohammed as His messenger.
2. Pray five times a day facing Mecca
3. Fast during the month of Ramadan
4. Pay taxes to the church and give to the poor
5. Make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca. (Hajj)

Types

- ◆ Sunni (90%) follow their three sources of law: the Qur'an, Hadith (commentary on the Prophet) and consensus of Muslims.
- ◆ Shi-ite - strict interpretation of the Qu'ran and followers of Immams
- ◆ Sufi - emphasize personal union with the divine (branch of Shi-ites)
  - many paths to God (many orders)
  - each order has its own meditative method (dhikr)
  - can be combined with an activity
  - Whirling Dervishes begun by Rumi in Turkey