

Cultural Competency: Muslims

Faith

Faith: Islam
"Submission"


People: Muslim
"One who submits"



Muslims practice Islam. There are no "Islams."


Faith

- Worship Allah
- Strictly monotheistic
- Muhammad is their founder
- Believe in Jesus as a prophet, not as a savior
- Holy scripture is the Qur'an
- Sabbath day is on Friday




Prayer

- Muslims pray 5 times each day for 20 min.
- Symbolic washing proceeds prayer
- For Friday midday prayers and all men are expected to attend Mosque and a sermon is given



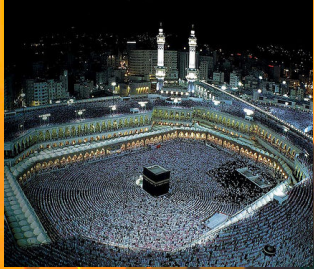
Ramadan

- Month-long fast
- Impossible to tie to Western Calendar
- No eating, drinking, or smoking during the day



Pilgrimage

- All expected to make pilgrimage to Mecca once in their life



Women

- The Qur'an is clear that men & women are equal before God.
- Islam is practiced in male dominated countries

Treatment of women varies

by country:

- **Egypt:** choose how to dress, equal education
- **Indonesia:** traditional dress, equal education
- **Saudi Arabia:** traditional dress, head covering, equal education
- **Afghanistan:** traditional dress, no education
- **Turkey:** banned traditional dress, equal education



Muslim Food Law

"O mankind! Eat of that which is lawful and wholesome in the Earth, and follow not the foot-steps of the devil. Lo! he is an open enemy for you." (2:168)



Muslim Food Terms

- Halal
 - Lawful or permitted
- Haram
 - Unlawful or prohibited
- Mashbooh
 - Doubtful or questionable

Halal Foods

- All vegetable materials
 - Except intoxicating ones
- Meat from halal animals and birds slaughtered correctly
 - Blessed by someone of the book, killed by a sharp blade while the animal is conscious, hung to let blood drain
- Fish and most seafood
- Milk and eggs from halal animals

Haram Foods

- Any pork products
- Animals improperly slaughtered
- Animals dead before slaughtering
- Alcoholic drinks and intoxicants
- Carnivorous animals, birds of prey
- Blood
- Foods contaminated by these things



What does that mean?

- Eating out is a concern
- These foods are Mashbooh
 - Gelatin
 - Enzymes
 - Emulsifiers
 - Flavors
 - Anti-oxidants
 - Vitamins
 - Dairy products
 - Animal protein



How to Live Halal

- Many different levels of stringency
- Halal certified products



General Principles

- Practice Humility: Demeanor of kindness
- Seek Moderation: In speech
- Sincerity is Key: A humble approach

Greetings and Contact

- Handshakes
 - Every time you meet and leave someone
 - Not as firm as western style
- Standing
- Contact between the opposite sex
- Use the right hand to eat



Greetings and Conversation

- Small talk is important to build a relationship
- Maintain eye contact during discussions
- Be aware of appearing to be in a hurry
- Don't point your finger or a pen
- Keep in mind distance

Hospitality and Visits / Meals

- Take off your shoes before entering
- Take care when sitting.
- Allow your host to initiate discussion topics
- Meals
 - Eating in festivals
 - Right hand
 - Leaving food on the

Enjoy a date!