

The six articles of faith

When the Prophet ﷺ was asked what faith is, he answered with six things. Here they are, one by one.



★ Where the six come from

In the hadith of Jibril, iman is named as belief in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, the Last Day, and the decree.

Sahih Muslim 8 · Sahih al-Bukhari 50

★ Five of them in one verse

وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا

"...whoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day has certainly gone far astray."

Qur'an 4:136

★ 1 · Allah

One, with no partner and nothing like Him; worshipped alone; called by the names He gave Himself.

Qur'an 112:1-4 · 42:11

★ 2 · His angels

Created from light, honoured servants who never disobey what they are commanded. Unseen, but at work.

Qur'an 66:6 · Sahih Muslim 2996

★ 3 · His books

The scriptures of Ibrahim and Musa, the Tawrat, the Zabur, the Injil — and the Qur'an, which Allah pledged to preserve.

Qur'an 87:18-19 · 5:44 · 15:9

★ 4 · His messengers

Sent to every nation with one instruction: worship Allah. A Muslim makes no distinction between any of them.

Qur'an 16:36 · 2:285

★ 5 · The Last Day

Resurrection, the record, the scales, a destination. Nothing is lost — not an atom's weight of good or of evil.

Qur'an 99:7-8 · 21:47

★ 6 · The decree

"Indeed, all things We created with predestination." Allah knows, writes, wills and creates — and you still act and answer.

Qur'an 54:49 · Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Qadar

★ Iman is not only a feeling

The believers are those who believe, then do not doubt, and strive with their wealth and themselves. Belief shows up as effort.

Qur'an 49:15