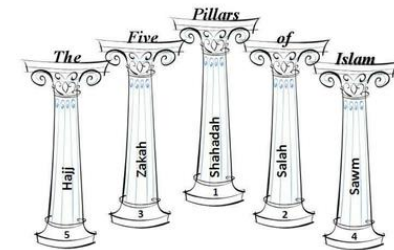


What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today? How do the Five Pillars of Islam shape their lives?

Pillars of Islam



Shahada – Pillar One

This pillar is the main belief of all Muslim people and it is a declaration of their faith. The English words are:

“There is no god except Allah, Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.”

Muslims say this when they pray. Anyone who says these words and means it can become a Muslim.

Key Word	Definition
Allah	The Arabic word for God.
Muhammad	The founder of Islam.
Qur’an	The Muslims holy book.
The Five Pillars of Islam	Five practices Muslims must follow.
Muslim	A follower of Islam

Sawm – Pillar Four

This pillar is all about Ramadan. The ninth month of the Islam calendar is when Muhammad began receiving messages from God.

For 30 days Muslims fast, they do not eat or drink during daylight hours.

Salah – Pillar Two

This pillar is prayer. Muslims pray five times a day and follow a special ritual to do so. First they must wash in symbolically clean water.

All the prayers are said at the same time every day.

Zakat – Pillar Three

This pillar is about looking after other people. Each Muslim gives up a share of his wealth each year to provide for those less fortunate.

The word zakat means to be clean. As a person gives away a share of their wealth they become clean from selfishness and greed.

Hajj – Pillar Five

All Muslims have a duty to make a pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in their life. Very often whole families will save to send one person at a time.