

Review

- Give a brief description of Muhammed's childhood.
 - Born in Mecca in AD 570.
 - His father, however, died before Muhammad's birth, and his mother died when he was only six, so the young Muhammad was raised by his uncle, Abu Talib.
- What are some things we learned last week about Muhammed's (first) wife, Khadijah?
 - When they met, she was a wealthy widow for whom he worked as a successful merchant
 - When they married (in AD 595), she was 40 and he was 25
 - Their marriage produced two boys and four girls
 - When Muhammad had his vision, she believed it was from God before he did and she became his first convert.
- Give a brief description of how Muhammad's first vision took place.
 - The angel Gabriel appeared to him while he was meditating in a cave in AD 610.
- Give two things about Jesus that Muslims and Christians **agree** on and two things about Jesus that Muslims and Christians **disagree** on.
 - Agree – Jesus was sinless, virgin-born, a miracle-worker, and a great prophet
 - Disagree – whether Jesus is God and whether he was crucified.

Review

- What is the unforgivable sin in Islam called and what does it mean?
 - To commit shirk –means to commit idolatry and violate Allah’s oneness by acknowledging any other god besides Allah
- Why did Muhammad flee Mecca and what significance does the date of his flight have in Islam?
 - Muhammad and his followers were a persecuted minority and his uncle, who had been protecting him died.
 - The date of his flight marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar.
- What are the five main duties (“pillars”) of Islam?
 - **Shahadah**, or the confession of faith – “There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His prophet”.
 - Prayer five times a day, said facing towards Mecca.
 - Giving charitable gifts of money as a welfare contribution to the poor.
 - Fasting in the holy month of Ramadan.
 - A pilgrimage to Mecca, which a Muslim must try to make at least once.

Other Interesting Facts About Islam



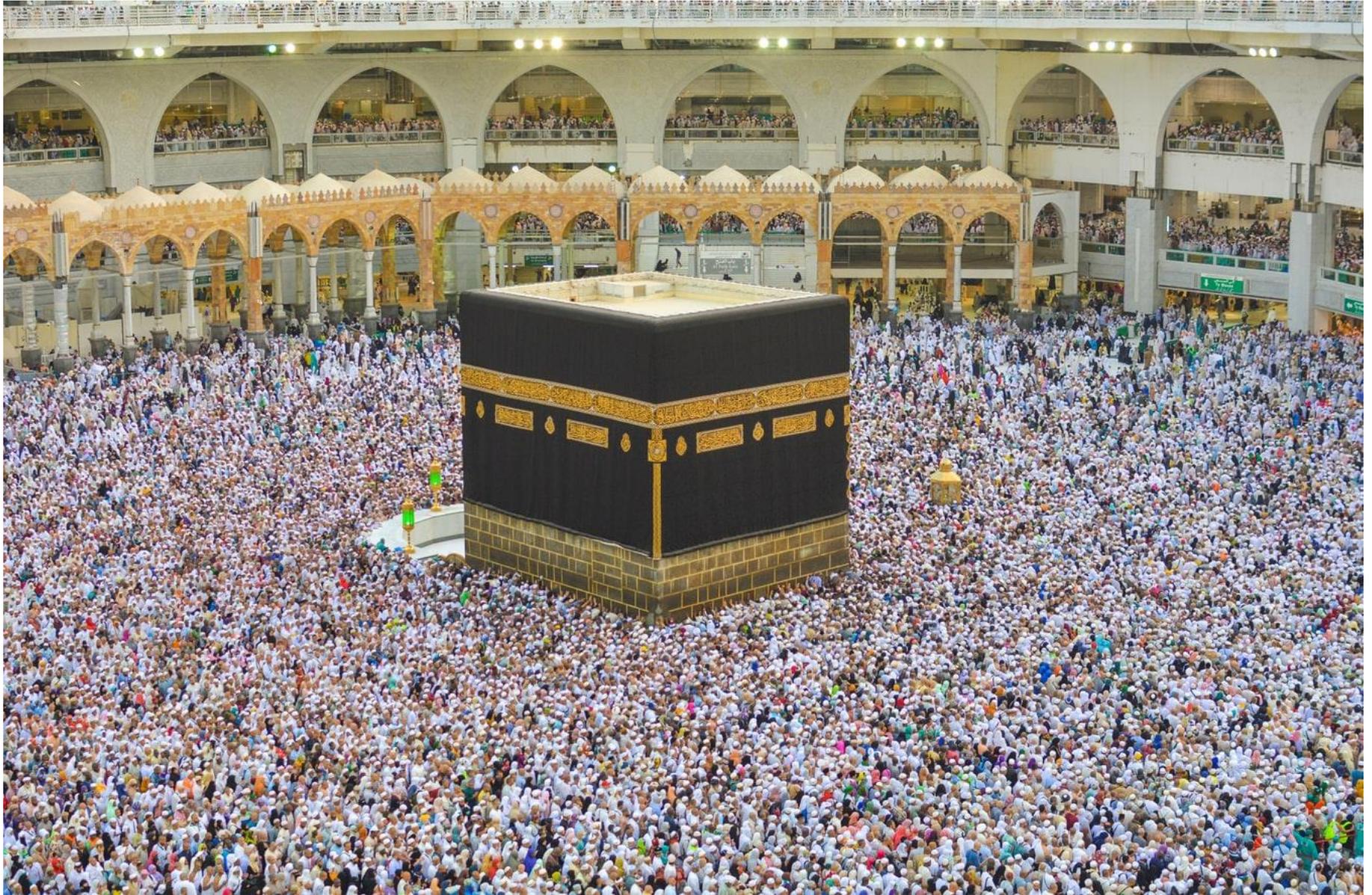
The Kaaba and the Black Stone

- To Muslims, Mecca is an important place from a religious standpoint because of the **Grand Mosque** and a black building it surrounds called the **Kaaba** – which contains “the black stone”.
- The black stone is believed by Muslims to have been white when it fell from heaven it, but then turned black because of the sins of man.
- The Kaaba is just a building which, historically, has been rebuilt many times. It’s the **black stone** that has religious significance to the Muslims.

The Grand Mosque



The Kaaba



The Black Stone



The Black Stone



The Kaaba and the Black Stone

- Muslims believe that the Kaaba was originally built by Abraham and Ishmael.
- According to Muslims, it was *Ishmael*, the father of the Arabs, who was offered on the alter by Abraham, *not* Isaac (cf. Genesis 22).
- Historically, there is no evidence that Abraham ever even *went* to Mecca.
- The Muslims believe that over time the Kaaba became corrupted so that by the time of Muhammad it had become a place of polytheistic idolatry.

The Seriousness of Committing Shirk

- Muhammad's parents died as **Mushrikun** (comes from the term *shirk* – Mu in Arabic is a participle).
- Muhammad asked for the right to intercede for his parents after their death, but because they were guilty of shirk, Allah would not allow it.
- In Islam, there is only **one** example of “forgiveness” for shirk: Muhammad's uncle, Abu Talib.
- Muhammad had approached his uncle when Abu was on his deathbed and told him that he needed recite the **Shahada** and become a Muslim. But his uncle would not do it.
- After his uncle died, Muhammad made intercession for him and Allah's response was to give Abu Talib “the best spot in hell”.
- One description given of “the best spot in hell” is that his uncle is standing in fire that's so hot that his brains boil.

The Hadith of the Man Who Killed 99 Men

- A man who murdered 99 people went to a **priest** and asked the priest if God would accept his repentance.
- The priest, knowing what he had done, said no. And so the man killed the priest!
- Then the man went to a **scholar** and asked if God would accept his repentance.
- The scholar told him to go to such and such a city, that the people there were particularly godly and they would instruct him how he should do repentance so as to be accepted by God.
- As the man was going to that city, the “time for his death” came.

The Hadith of the Man Who Killed 99 Men

- **Note:** There is another Hadith that says that 40 days after someone is conceived, an angel comes and writes a certain number of things that will happen to that person:
 - Whether they will be male or female,
 - Whether they're going to be successful or not,
 - The day of their death,
 - Whether they're going to heaven or hell.
- That same Hadith says that there are people who do the deeds of the people of the fire for their ***entire life*** (rebellion, sin) until they are a “hands breadth” from entering into the fire and then what is written of them overcomes them and they enter into **Jannah** (paradise).
- Likewise, it says there are people who do the deeds of the people of paradise their ***entire life***, they're righteous people, until they are a “hands breadth” from entering into paradise and then what is written of them overcomes them and they go to hell fire.

The Hadith of the Man Who Killed 99 Men

- So when it says the murderer was going to the city and the “time of his death came” it is referring to the idea that an angel had already written down the time of his death.
- Muslims also believe that when you die, an angel comes from **the fire** and another angel comes from **paradise** to **argue** over your soul.
- Now you would think **this** case would be a slam-dunk – this guy killed 100 people!
- But the angel from paradise makes the argument that yes, he was evil, but he was **on his way** to find out about **repentance**.
- And so Allah decrees that if the man was one cubit closer to the city he was **going to** than the city he was **coming from** when he died, he would go to paradise.
- And in some versions of the story, Allah shrinks the earth in such a way that the place where the man died ends up being one cubit closer to the city he was going **to** than the city he was coming **from**, and so he ends up going to paradise!

The Hadith of the Man Who Killed 99 Men

- So the idea we get from this hadith is that **any** sin can be forgiven by Allah if he chooses to do so.
- But there is a great deal of **uncertainty** in Islam as to who will be forgiven and who won't.
- There are Hadith that say that some people who mistreated animals will go to hell in spite of doing everything else they were supposed to do.
- Some of the companions of Muhammad were in **tears** because they didn't know if they were going to heaven or hell.
- There is a major level of **uncertainty, ambiguity, and arbitrariness** in the Hadith and in the Quran as to how Allah will decide where a person will go in eternity.
- It says over and over again, "Allah is most merciful, most forgiving, most gracious" – but to **whom** and upon **what basis?**

The Hadith of the Man Who Killed 99 Men

- It's not a surprise that Muhammad's **God** is arbitrary and unpredictable, because Muhammad **himself** was arbitrary and unpredictable.
- When Muhammad engaged in warfare and defeated an enemy, sometimes he would show mercy and other times not.
- He might defeat a city and when one of the inhabitants is brought before him, Muhammad restores to him his goods and sends him on his way.
- The next person might come to him in the **same** way from the **same** city and Muhammad would personally behead him.
- In one Jewish city, Muhammad thought the inhabitants had particularly betrayed him so, after defeating them in battle, he personally beheaded 800 men!
- You could never know how Muhammad would treat the people that he defeated – he would **restore** one and **behead** the other. It seems totally **arbitrary**! No way of knowing what he would do.

The Hadith of the Man Who Killed 99 Men

- So a guy can murder 100 people and still go to paradise – even though God’s justice remains unsatisfied.
- The Muslims do not understand why we believe in the *necessity* of atonement. Because in Islamic theology, God’s justice can be separated from his character. He can just simply forgive!
- Muslims will argue that human beings can do that, so why can’t Allah do that? But we’re not God and our character is not demonstrated by our holy nature.
- So it helps to understand these Hadiths in order to explain the gospel to Muslims.
- So from this Hadith we see that a guy who commits 100 murders can be forgiven, but a guy who commits shirk, cannot.
- Which is why it’s such a big deal to them to not believe in Jesus – to do so is to commit shirk.

Meccan Surahs Versus Medinan Surahs

- As we have seen, the Quran is divided into 114 chapters known as *surahs*.
- The surahs do **not** appear in the Quran in **chronological** order; instead, except for the first surah which is a brief seven verses, the **longer** surahs appear **earlier** in the Qur'an, while the **shorter** ones appear **later**.
- There are **two types** of surahs in the Quran:
 - The **Meccan** Surahs written from AD 610 – 622
 - The **Medinan** Surahs written from AD 622 – 632
- If you arrange the surahs in **chronological** order you will see a clear progression in how Muhammad handles his enemies:
 - In the **Meccan** Surahs, where Muhammad is **not** in power, there is a lot of pleading for tolerance and religious freedom.
 - But in **Medinan** Surahs, written while Muhammad is in power and the head of the Islamic armies – there is much more of an emphasis on the use of the sword and fighting the **kaffirs** (infidels)

Stories of Muhammed's Later Marriages

- Muhammad was monogamous for 25 years when married to his first wife, **Khadijah**.
- After her death in AD 619, he, over time, married a number of women including **Aisha** and **Zaynab**.
- **Abu Bakr**, Muhammad's companion and friend, had a daughter named **Aisha** whom he gave to Muhammad to be his wife.
- Muhammad's marriage to Aisha is a very sensitive subject for Muslims. If you want to blow up a conversation with a Muslim, just bring up Aisha.
- Some Christians bring this up first thing just to be combative.

Stories of Muhammed's Later Marriages

- According to the vast majority of Islamic sources, when Aisha was six years of age, she was betrothed to Muhammad by agreement with her father Abu Bakr.
- Those same sources indicate that that marriage became *consummated* at age nine.
- Granted, in days when life expectancy was short, women often married at a very young age. Mary might have been 14 when she was visited by the angel. But still, nine is very young – especially considering that Muhammad was in his 50s at this point.
- There are issues concerning child brides in Islamic countries. Muslims will argue that many of the restrictions that Christians hold concerning marriage are ridiculous.

Stories of Muhammed's Later Marriages

- Aisha is considered by the Sunnis to be a *leader* among the Muslims. A large portion of the Hadiths comes through her.
- She is said to be the only virgin that Muhammad married.
- There is no evidence that the author of the Quran found this relationship to be embarrassing.
- There is another situation, though, that the author of the Quran *does* seem to think is embarrassing.
- **Zaynab** was Muhammad's cousin and was apparently a very stunning woman.
- Muhammad gave Zaynab in marriage to his adopted son.
- But one day Muhammad came to visit, when his adopted son wasn't around, and Zaynab was there, and wasn't fully dressed, and Muhammad is said to have been smitten with her.

Stories of Muhammed's Later Marriages

- When word gets out that Muhammad is smitten with Zaynab, she wants to be his wife and his adopted son offers to divorce her so Muhammad can have her for his wife.
- Muhammad refuses at first, but then a special revelation comes (and gets included in the Quran!) which gives Muhammad permission to marry Zaynab!
- The Quran explains that this exception was granted to Muhammed *“in order that (in the future) there may be no difficulty to the believers in (the matter of) marriage with the wives of their adopted sons”*
- The **real** problem was that in Arabic culture you could not marry the divorced wife of your adopted son – it was considered **incest**.
- And so an entire section of the Quran had to come down from heaven to change that cultural taboo and allow Muhammad to marry Zaynab! And so he does.

Stories of Muhammed's Later Marriages

- But the Quran shows clear embarrassment over this situation and there is a huge result from this: the massive diminishment of adoption in Islamic countries.
- Because basically the Quran says, don't call yourself the son of Muhammad if you're adopted; call yourself by your original father's name.
- It basically destroys adoption in Islamic countries – a beautiful concept that used to be **common** in Islamic countries.

Muhammed's Successors

- In AD 632, after a certain battle, Muhammad accepted a meal from a woman whose husband he had killed in battle. It turns out, she had poisoned the food.
- And that is how Muhammad is thought to have died.
- When Muhammad dies, one of the big issues is who is going to run the Islamic state?
- His closest kin was a man named Ali. But the majority of Muslims followed Abu Bakr, so he becomes the first **caliph** or leader of the Islamic people.
- Under Abu Bakr, you have the first written version of the Quran.
- Prior to this, under Muhammad, it had largely not been committed to writing, but memorized in parts by certain people.

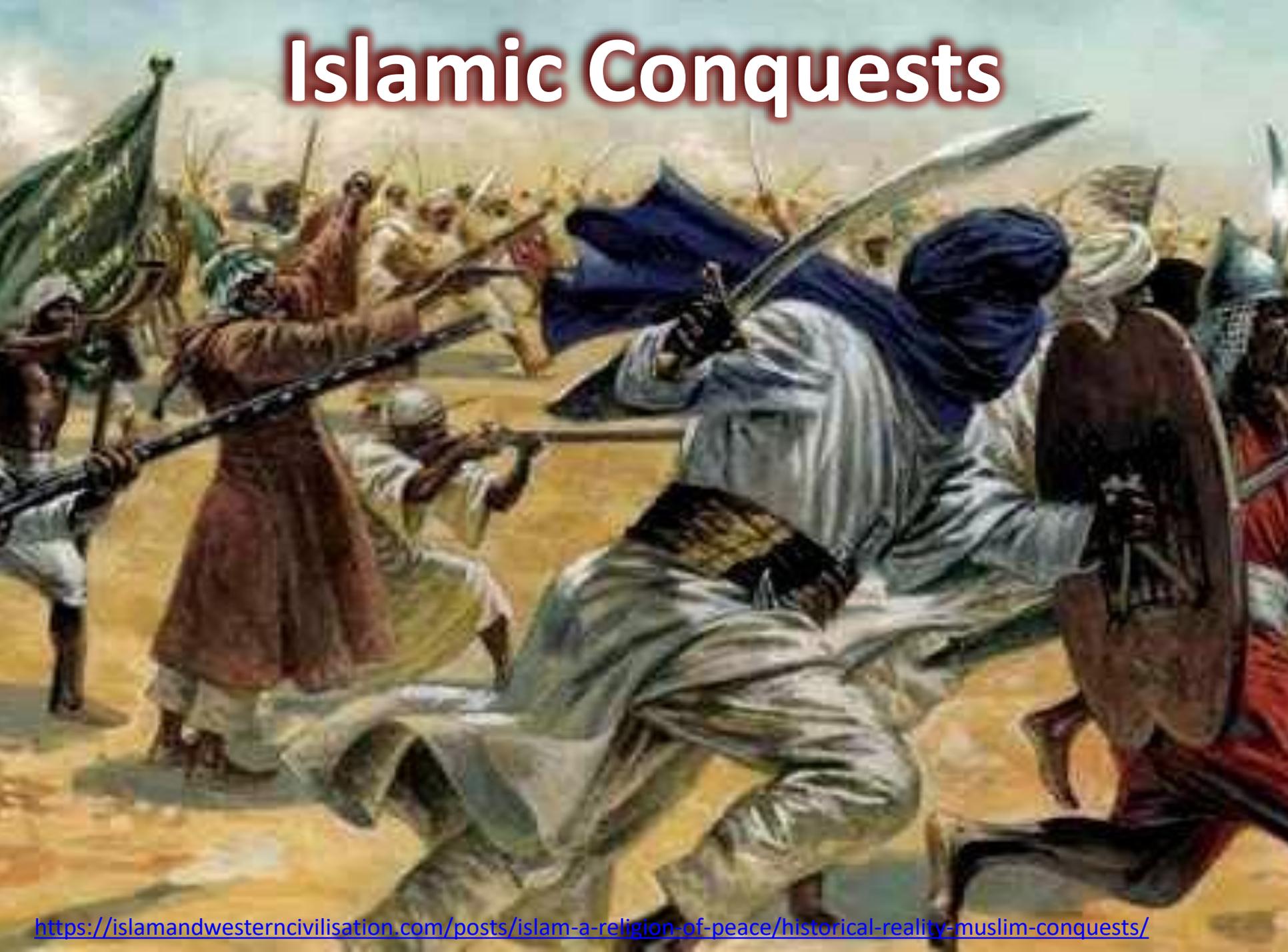
Muhammed's Successors

- Fifteen years later, during the days of **Uthman**, Islam was expanding and spreading, the people came to Uthman and said that they didn't want to have conflicting versions of the scriptures like the Jews and Christians, so they asked him to make an "official" version.
- So Uthman agreed to do this. This is known as the **Uthmanic revision**.
- Uthman sent copies of *his* version of the Quran to the major Islamic cities and he ordered that ***all the other copies of the Quran be burned***.
- It is possible that we at least one pre-Uthmanic version of the Quran that was dug up in the 1970s. It does contain a number of variants from the current official version. Some Muslims will claim it was just a school child's project.
- The Quran has been transmitted in a very different way from the NT. The NT spread by a free transmission process. The Quran was transmitted through a controlled process which is far less reliable.

Muhammed's Successors

- The next Caliph or Islamic leader is **Ali**.
- Under Ali you get the beginning of civil war among the Muslims.
- Ali's children are slaughtered in a particular place. The death of those individuals is commemorated in Shiite countries, by walking through the streets cutting themselves with swords – they are covered in blood.
- This is where the Sunni/Shia split takes place.
- Those who follow Ali are the Shiites.
- The followers of Abu Bakr are called the Sunni. The Sunni make up 85% of the worlds Muslims, Shiites about 10%.
- Their theology is very similar on many points. They both use the same Quran.

Islamic Conquests



VOLUNTEERS ARE LIKE BROWNIES!

B BEST OF THE BEST
R REALLY GENEROUS
O OUTSTANDING
W WONDERFUL
N NATURALLY NICE
I INVALUABLE TO HOPE
E EXCELLENT
S SWEET



Class Discussion Time



*Class Discussion Time

- Of the things you learned today about Islam what did you find to be the most surprising or interesting?
- From what you have learned about Islam to this point, what are some things that you think you might want to bring up if you were to have an opportunity to witness to a Muslim?
- At this point, how do you *feel* about the idea of witnessing to a Muslim?
- Do *you* have a topic or question that *you* would like to see us to discuss?