

Islamic faith is built along key lines and ideas. These are sometimes separated into "faith" and "practice" and labeled as "Iman" and "Din", although all such categorization leaves something to be desired.

Faith requires:

- Belief in One God (Allah)
- Belief in Muhammed, his Prophet
- Belief in the Koran,
- Belief in Spirit beings
- Belief in immortality, resurrection, judgment and something in the matter of Divine Decrees.

Practice requires:

- Recital of the spiritual formula
- Prayer (and holy washings)
- Fasting
- Almsgiving
- Mecca. Pilgrimage.

Understandably this is too brief but it is practical in our general understanding of Islam.

Islam spread like wildfire in the middle eastern world. Palestine was completely under its control by 670. Egypt by 690 and North Africa by 700. Kept out of eastern Europe by the Eastern Roman Empire, Islamic forces tried to overrun Europe from the west...first taking the Iberian peninsula and moving to France. Their progress was then halted by Martel and they found a defensive warfare with the Castillians...eventually being driven from Spain in the days of Ferdinand and Isabella. In some places Islam lived comfortably with both Christianity and Judaism but for the most part did not tolerate the proselytizing of its people by either. But with the coming of the Crusades, there would come a degree of intolerance one towards the other that would make inter-communication almost impossible.

The Greek church did undertake to win Islamics through various apologetic and mission works..with the western church joining the enterprise somewhat later. Dialogue apologetics were very common in which the Christian always had the better arguments than the Muslim..when the Christians wrote the books.