

How have people and events in history shaped Islamic diversity?



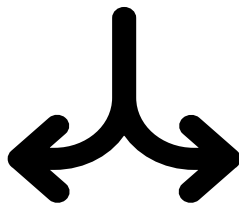
Key vocabulary

Unity in Islam

During the Prophet Muhammad's lifetime, there was unity in Islam. After he died, in AD 632, people disagreed over who should lead. This led to a split in Islam.

Sunni

Chose **Abu Bakr** as the new leader. He was a close and trusted friend of Muhammad and a good Muslim. They felt that he was the worthiest leader.



Shi'a

Chose **Ali**, who was the Prophet's cousin and related by blood. They felt that Allah would be making the decision about the leader if they were born into the Prophet's family.

After trying to unite, the two groups fought. Eventually they split completely, and Sunni and Shi'a Muslims followed different leaders as Islam continued to spread.

Diversity in Islam

Today, the many diverse Islamic groups agree on some things, such as the oneness of Allah and daily prayers, but may practice and understand other things differently, such as prayer, observance, worship, tradition, and celebration.

Women in Islam

- Muhammad's first wife, **Khadija**, supported him financially and emotionally. When he doubted his abilities, she helped him see what Allah wanted him to do.
- **Aisha** narrated the Hadith and was an early scholar of Islam.
- **Hafsa** helped in compiling the Qur'an and keeping it safe.
- **Khawlah bint al-Azwar** was a warrior in the early battles of Islam.

- **Ashura** : (in Shi'a Islam) the commemoration of the death of Husayn at the Battle of Karbala
- **caliph**: from Arabic meaning successor, used by Sunnis for the succession after Muhammad, those they considered the worthiest leaders
- **diversity**: a range of different things
- **Hadith**: written collection of sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad
- **Imam** : (in Shi'a Islam) from Arabic meaning leader, name for the bloodline of Muhammad
- **Muhammad**: 570-632 AD. Considered the final prophet of Islam
- **prophet**: a chosen messenger of God
- **Qur'an**: the Islamic Holy book believed to contain the words of Allah
- **Shi'a**: (party of Ali) the followers of the succession of **Ali** and Muhammad's bloodline
- **Sunni**: the followers of succession of **Abu Bakr** and those considered the worthiest leaders (largest Islamic group today)
- **Sufi**: small group within Islam who connect spiritually with Allah in mystic ways
- **Turbah**: tablet of stone on which Shi'a Muslims rest their head during prayer
- **unity**: being one whole without differences

