

## **Background article: Beliefs, Sunni articles of faith**

Over the centuries the main beliefs of Islam, contained in the Qur'an and the Sunna [Q. 2:177; 2:285], have been written down in many different statements or creeds. One of the simplest expressions is contained in the *Iman al-Mufassal*, which runs as follows:

*I believe in God, in his Angels, in his Revealed Books, in all his Prophets, in the Day of Judgement, in that everything, both good and evil, comes from him, and in the Life Hereafter.*

This gives us the six Sunni articles of faith, each of which is discussed in greater depth in the respective topics in this Section.

### **God**

Belief in the oneness, uniqueness and indivisibility of God is central to Islam.

{See the topics: The nature of God and Five foundational beliefs of Shi'a Islam: *tawhid*.}

### **Angels (*Malaikah*)**

Angels are beings created of light, without freewill, who act as the messengers and agents of God.

{See the topic: Angels and Jinn.}

### **Revealed Books (*Kutub*)**

God has revealed an unknown number of books or scriptures throughout human history; five of which are mentioned by name in the Qur'an.

{See the topic: Revealed Books.}

### **Prophets (*Risalah*)**

God has sent prophets to all the peoples of the earth at some stage in their history. The line stretches from Adam to Muhammad.

{See the topic: What is a Prophet?}

### **Everything comes from God**

God is all-powerful and so even the power that human beings use to do wrong is God's power, but used in a way that does not accord with God's wishes. Human

beings will be accountable for the way in which they have used God's power on the Day of Judgement.

{See the topic: Power, freedom and destiny.}

### **The Day of Judgement and life hereafter**

This life is but a test from God. The real, eternal, abiding abode of human beings is in the life after death.

{See the topic: Life after death.}