

# The Bahá'í Faith and Islam: Discourse on Beliefs

## Introduction

The study of the history of religions, their tenets and teachings, and their relationship to each other are of utmost importance. Through such a study the Bahá'ís will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the tenets and the messages of the previous dispensations. This, in turn, will equip them to better communicate the Message of Bahá'u'lláh to the followers of other religions.

With regard to the study of Islam the Beloved Guardian states:

“First is the importance of the study of Islam-which subject is still new to the majority of the believers, but whose importance for a proper and sound understanding of the Cause is absolutely indispensable”. (Letter to an individual believer, August 14, 1939).

In another letter written on his behalf dated April 27, 1936, it is stated:

“Shoghi Effendi hopes that your lectures will not only serve to deepen the knowledge of the believers in the doctrines and culture of Islam, but will set their hearts afire with the love of everything that vitally pertains to Muhammad and His Faith.”

"There is so much misunderstanding about Islam in the West in general that you have to dispel. Your task is rather difficult and requires a good deal of erudition. Your chief task is to acquaint the friends with the pure teachings of the Prophet as recorded in the Qur'an, and then to point out how these teachings have, throughout succeeding ages, influenced and guided the course of human development."

## Focus of the Weekend

The course has been structured and designed based on the above-referenced guidance of the Beloved Guardian. It will be delivered through a combination of lectures and focused discussions/workshops. The goal of the weekend is for participants to gain knowledge, insights and skills which will enable them to have constructive discourse with Muslims.

The following topics will be discussed in detail:

- **History**
  - The beliefs of pre-Islamic Arabia
  - The manifestations of God who appeared in Arabia in antiquity
  - The life of the Prophet Muhammad
- **The Qur'an**
  - The revelation of the Qur'an
  - The teachings and the laws of the Qur'an
  - The relationship between the Qur'an the Old Testament and the New Testament
- **Major denominations within Islam**
  - Sunnis and their beliefs
  - Shiites and their beliefs
- **Islamic prophecies about the advent of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh**
  - Prophecies in the Qur'an
  - Prophecies in the oral traditions
- **Dialog with Muslims**
  - How to discuss the Bahá'í Faith with Muslims
  - The meaning of the Seal of the Prophets

## Structure of the Program

The program will run as a combination of lectures and participatory discussions/workshops. The lectures equip the participants with knowledge on various themes. The workshops provide an opportunity for the participants to reflect on the acquired knowledge and develop skills and capabilities to use the knowledge in discourse and communicating beliefs.

## Tuition Fee

The tuition fee of the program is set to \$110 which covers the cost of overnight accommodation and food including 3 meals and 3 refreshments per day, and the course handouts.



## The Weekend Timetable

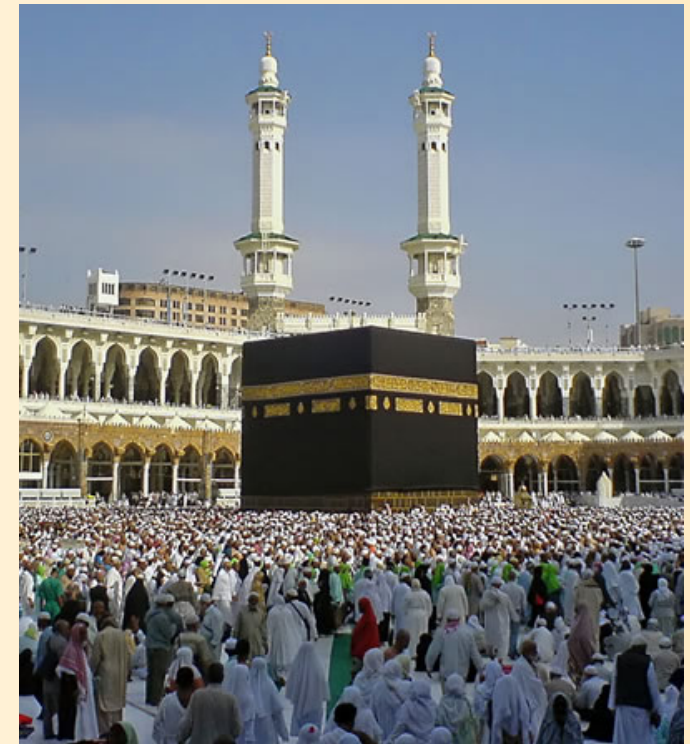
Session	Session	Topic
Friday	Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation</li> <li>• Introduction</li> </ul>
Saturday	Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beliefs of pre-Islamic Arabia</li> <li>• The life of the Prophet Muhammad</li> </ul>
	Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The revelation of the Qur'an</li> <li>• The teachings and the laws of the Qur'an</li> </ul>
	Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major denominations within Islam</li> <li>• Islamic prophecies about the advent of the Bab and Baha'u'llah</li> <li>• Discourse with Muslims</li> </ul>
Sunday	Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meaning of the Seal of the Prophets</li> </ul>

## Course Facilitator

The course is designed by Dr Javid Atai and will be facilitated by him. Javid has special interest in the study of the Bábí and Bahá'í Writings and the history of religions. During the past 10 years, he has presented many lectures on these and other topics related to Bahá'í Studies. He has served on various local and national Bahá'í institutions including National Association for Bahá'í Studies and National Teaching Committee.



Javid has a PhD in theoretical physics and by profession he is an Associate Professor at the School of Electrical and Information Engineering, the University of Sydney.



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30th October– 1st November 2009

### Application Form– The Bahá'í Faith and Islam

(You can enroll on line at <http://www.ybcl.org/>)



Surname: ..... First Name: ..... Date of Birth: .....

Current study/work: .....

Address: .....

State. .... Post Code: ..... Tel: Home:..... Mobile:.....

E-mail: .....

Please tick your method of payment:

Cheque     Money order     Credit Card    Course Fee : \$ .....

**Payable to: "Yerrinbool Bahá'í Centre of Learning"**

Please debit my:  Bankcard     Mastercard     Visa Card

Number:                    Expiry Date:

Name on the Card: ..... Signature: .....

**Please send the completed form to Programs Administrator: 27 Sierra Street, Yerrinbool, NSW 2575.**

Tel: 02 48839462, Fax: 02 48839552, Mobile: 0411879028, E-mail: [admin@ybcl.org](mailto:admin@ybcl.org),

Web sit: <http://www.ybcl.org/>



**Yerrinbool College**  
**Social Discourse Series**