

ISLAM

The Beginnings and Beliefs



ISLAM & MUSLIMS

The religion is called “Islam”

The followers are called “Muslims”

Islam is the 2nd largest religion in the world (1.2 Billion)

It is the fastest growing religion in the World

THE EXPANSION OF THE 5 MAJOR RELIGIONS IN THE WORLD

BEGINNINGS

Much of the Ancient Middle East was polytheistic

The Supreme God was "Allah" (Arabic for "God")

He was symbolized as a sacred stone

All worshiped a massive black meteorite, the Black Stone, which was placed in a central shrine called Kaaba.

This stone is currently in city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia



THE PROPHET OF ISLAM

- Muhammad was born in 570 AD in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- His parents died when he was 7
- He liked to pray in the desert
- He heard the voice of the angel Gabriel telling him to proclaim the one true God
- He believed Gabriel has given him the final revelations.
- Muhammad began preached and started getting followers and led to the Islamic religion



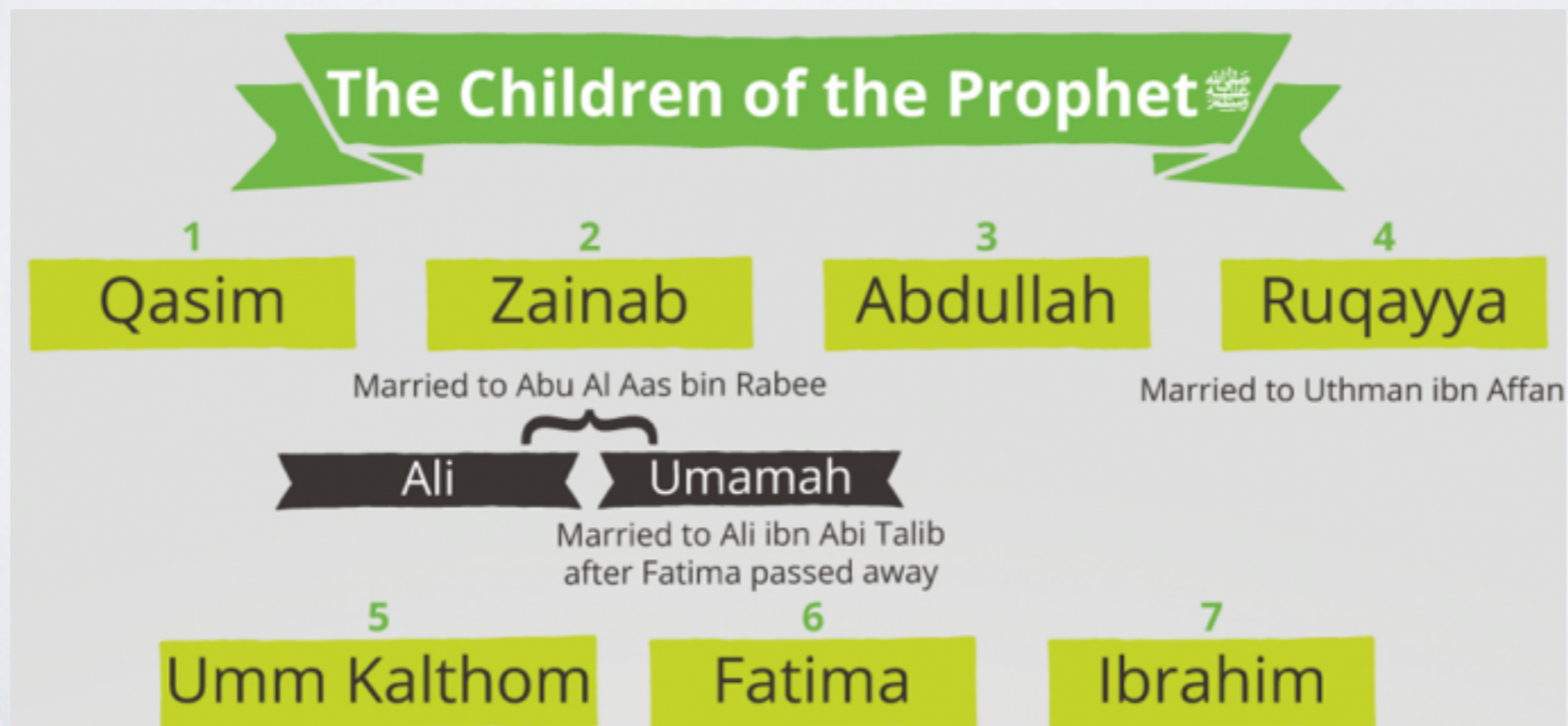
MUHAMMAD

- Muslims do not believe in showing the face of Muhammed
- His image has been used in poems...*”was neither tall nor lanky nor short and stocky, but of medium height. His hair was neither crispy curled nor straight but moderately wavy. He was not overweight and his face was not plump. He had a round face. His complexion was white tinged with redness. He had big black eyes with long lashes. His brows were heavy and his shoulders broad. He had soft skin, with fine hair covering the line from mid chest to navel. The palms of his hands and the soles of his feet were firmly padded. He walked with a firm gait, as if striding downhill. On his back between his shoulders lay the Seal of Prophethood [a mole], for he was the last of the prophets. (Tosun Bayrak al-Jerrahi al-Halveti, The Name & the Named: The Divine Attributes of God, 2000)”*



WE ARE FAMILY

- He was a trader/merchant
- We was married at age 25 and only had 1 wife until death (even though polygyny was common).
- He had 2 sons that died young and 4 daughters (this will be important later because this is where different sects of Muslims come from)

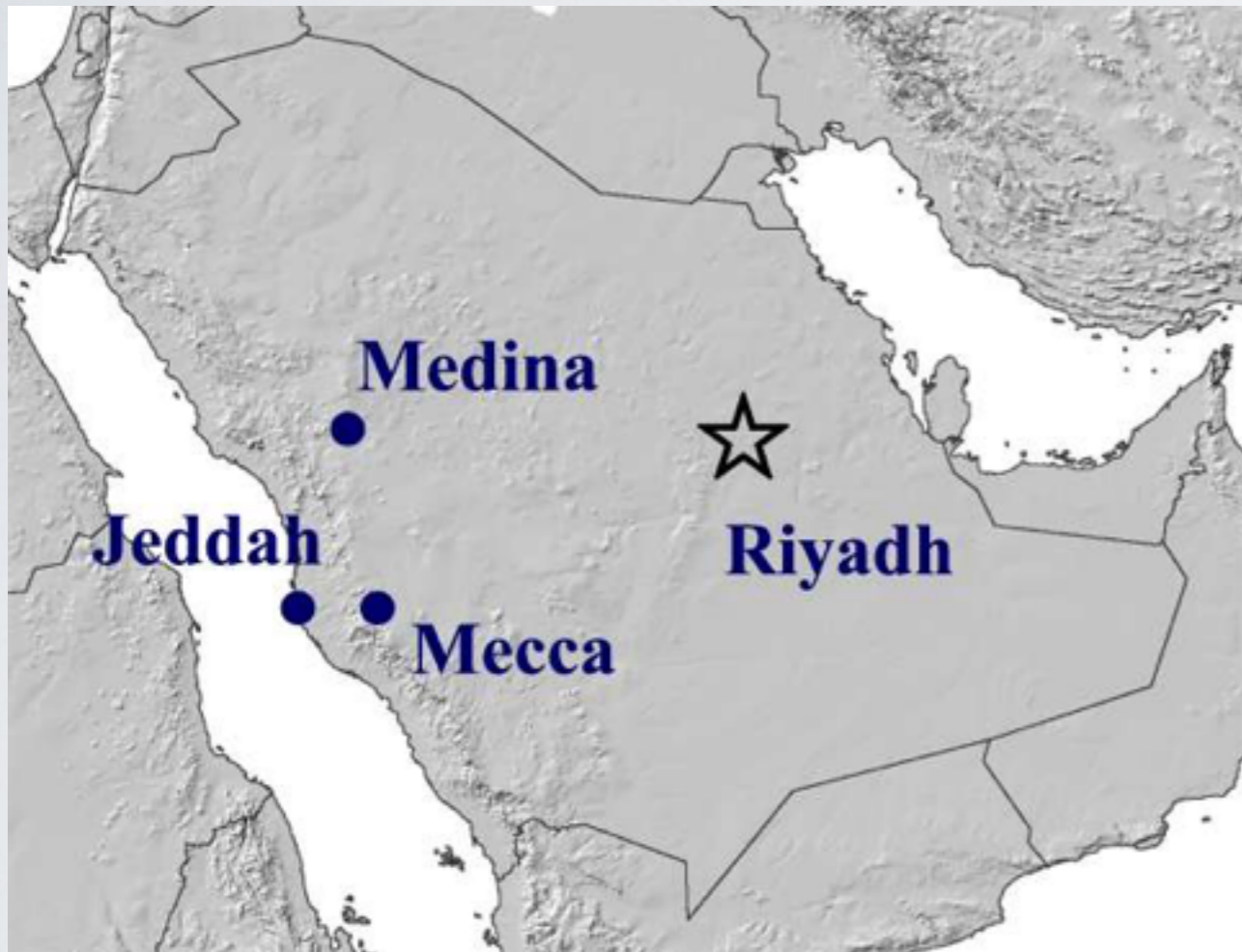


THE QUR'AN



- Holy Book of Islam
- Written in Arabic
- Believed to be the final revelations given by Gabriel
- Muslims believe Allah (God) revealed the book to Muhammad
- The Qur-an has guidelines and laws by which Muslims should live

PERSECUTION, MIGRATION & WAR



- The wealthy encouraged persecution of Muhammad and his followers afraid he would change the social order
- Muhammad and his followers moved to Medina. This movement is called the Hijrah.
- He became a religious and political leader and put together a military to defend himself
- He went back to Mecca with his army of 10,000 and won the land back.

COMPARING ISLAM TO CHRISTIANITY

- He was known as the last of the Prophets
- Earlier prophets included Abraham, Moses, & Noah.
Jesus is highly respected and also considered a Prophet.
(They believe in much of the Old Testament in the Bible!)
- They also believe Jesus will come again during the “Second Coming”
or the end of earth
- They also believe in the Creation by Adam and Eve

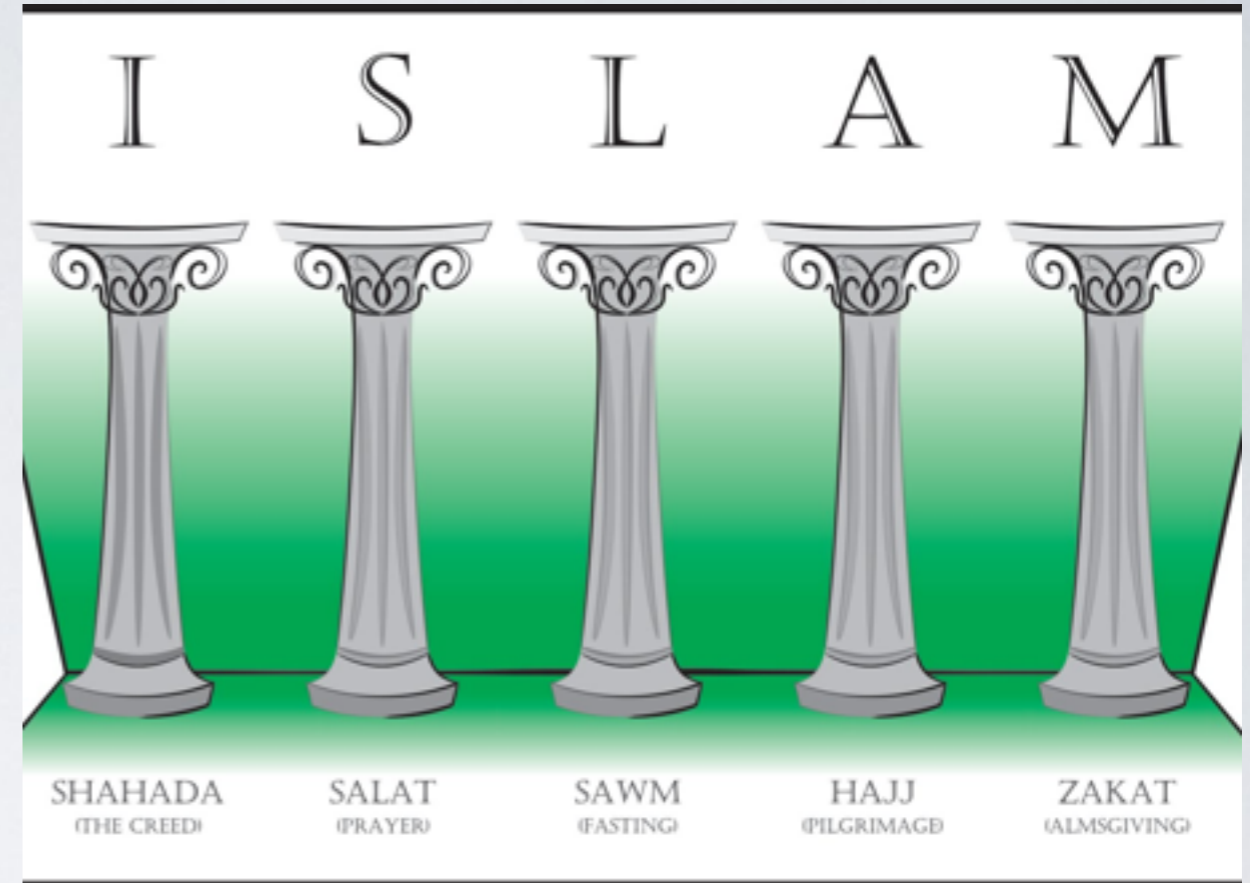
BASIC BELIEFS

- Monotheistic
- Obey the will of Allah
- How do you obey the will of Allah.....



5 PILLARS OF ISLAM

1. Belief (Shahada)- There is only one God and Muhammad is the Prophet
2. Prayer (Salat) - pray 5 times a day
3. Charity (Zakah)- annual donation of money to help the needy
4. Fasting (Sawn): Fasting during the month of Ramadan
5. Pilgrimage (Hajj)- pilgrimage to Mecca (at least once in lifetime)



IMPORTANT HOLIDAY: **RAMADAN**

-Every year during the 9th month of the Muslim Calendar year, one must fast from sun up to sun down for the entire month

-It celebrates receiving the Qur'an from Allah, fight in Mecca and victory

-It is a test of one's discipline





PILGRIMAGE: THE HAJJ

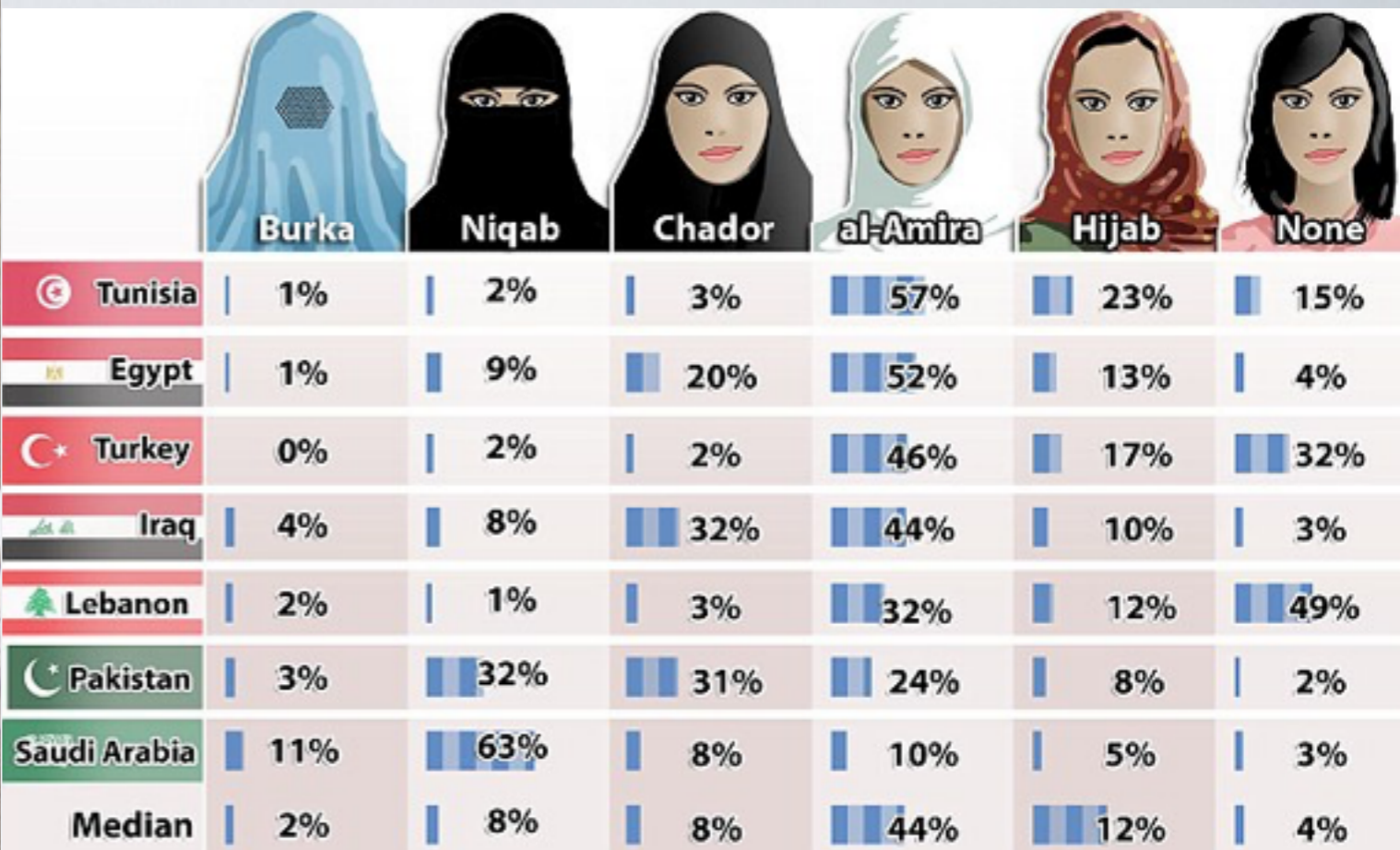
At least once in a Muslim's life, it is encouraged to travel to the holy site of Mecca in Saudi Arabia
There is the

MOSQUES

Mosques are a place of worship
Every mosque has a niche in the wall facing
Mecca

Men & women usually pray/worship separated
in the mosque but it is not required for
women to worship at a mosque
Women must cover their head, arms and legs





TRADITIONAL MUSLIM HEADGEAR

Women In Islam

Women have a wide range of rights depending on which country you are in. Some have very little rights (usually in extremist territories) others have even been heads of state

HIJAB



- A head scarf that hides the hair ears and neck.
- Widespread use in the Muslim world. Championed by the Muslim Brotherhood.

CHADOR



- A full cloak that covers the body and hair, it has no hand openings or any buttons or clasps. It is held closed by the woman's hands or wrapping the ends snugly around her waist.
- Not obligatory in Islamic countries.

NIQAB



- A veil that entirely covers the woman including the mouth and nose, with small opening for the eyes.
- Widespread use through the influence Wahhabi Islam, especially in urban environments.

BURKA



- Covers the head and the body and has a grille which hides the eyes. Traditionally worn by Pashtuns in Afghanistan.
- Enforced by the Taliban.

2 MAJOR SECTS OF ISLAM

Sunni

84-90% of Muslims

-emphasize the teachings &
traditions of Muhammad

-believed after Muhammad's death
the next leader should be elected

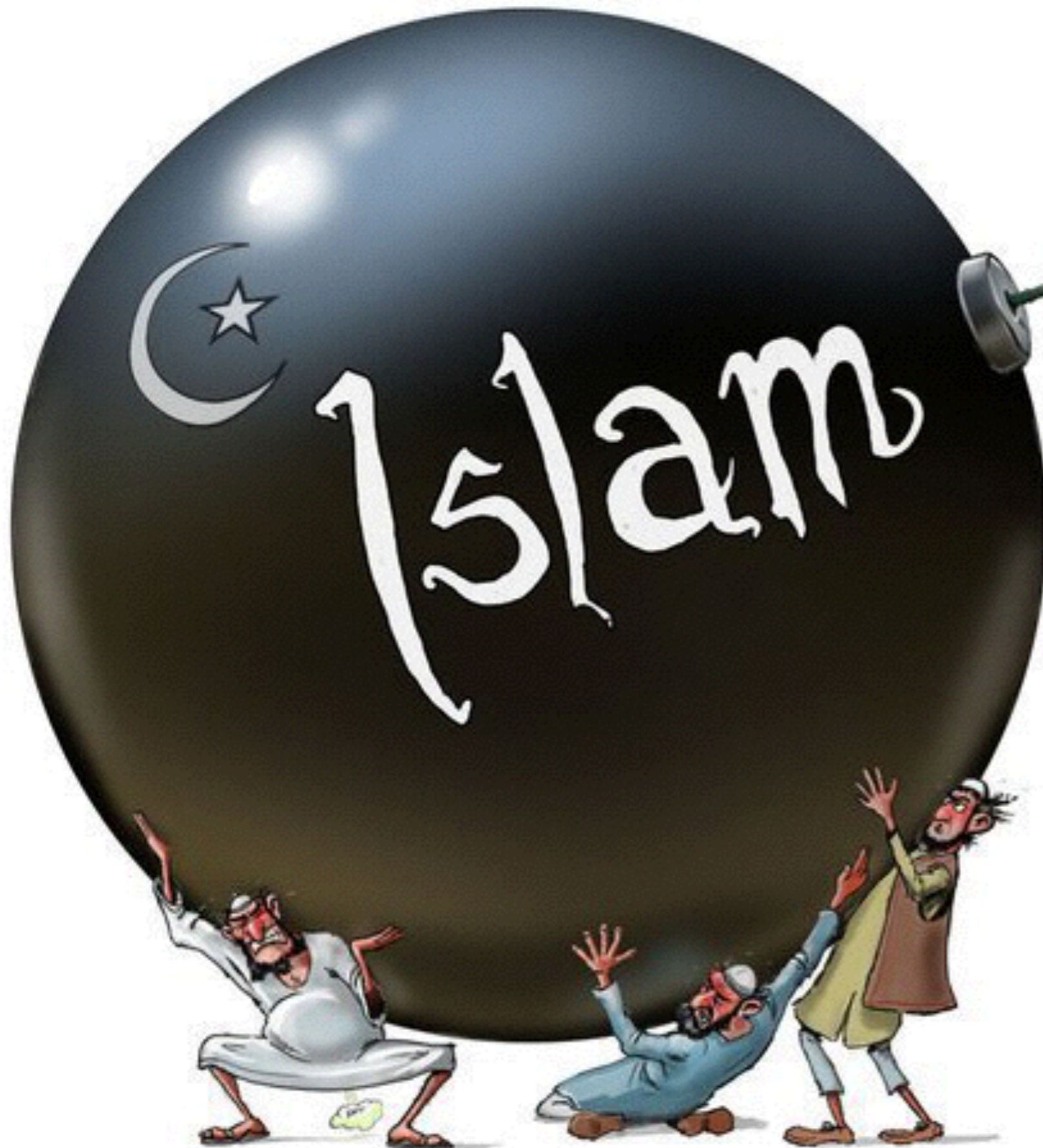
Shi'ite

10-16% of Muslims

-believed Muhammad's
son-in-law, Ali, should
have been the next
leader after
Muhammad

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ARE MUSLIMS
DANGEROUS?



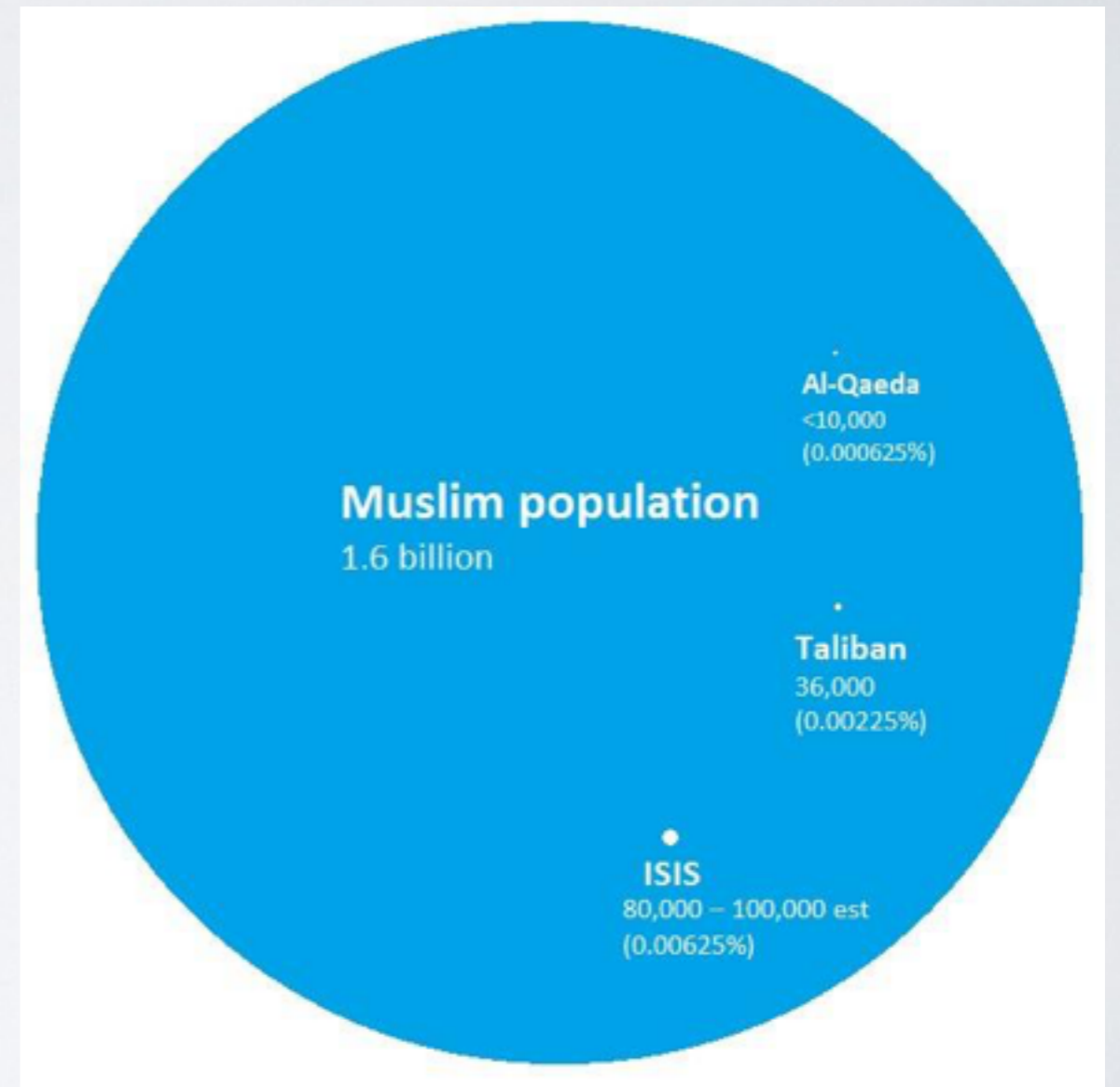
MODERATE



RADICAL

ARE MUSLIMS DANGEROUS?

- The 3 main Islamic terrorist groups are Al-Qaeda, Taliban & ISIS
- Look at the chart and examine how many terrorist (radical) Muslims there are compared to common Muslims



ARE MUSLIMS DANGEROUS?

- Majority of Muslims believe in helping the poor, doing good to others,
- Most Muslims are deeply saddened about the acts of terrorist extreme Muslims.



“I’M MUSLIM BUT I’M NOT...”

VIDEO