

English translation:

We start by *Bismillah*,¹ *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*... in our religion... it's a great religion, our prophet Muhammad said that every word of every religion is a great thing. In our religion praying, ablution, immaculateness, cleanliness... all the best comes from immaculateness, praying for five times a day, alms... It is our wish from God that there will be no fights, no harm; we pray for this five times a day. It is what we constantly wish for from God: that we shall not have any times of trouble, that we shall not look at each other with evil eyes. In God's truth, whatever God has planned for us will be. We are grateful for what he offers us; we speak of him all the time. We, along with many other people, beg to God that we do not want evil to happen to anyone. With the five times praying ritual of Islam, and by reading the Qur'an, we pray to God that Allah the Almighty shall give us all the good things. We are not doing any evil, do not want any evil; we accept anything that comes from God. Therefore, we want to do good even to people who have treated us badly. Never do we want to cause any harm. Five times we open our hands and beg God that there shall be no more war anywhere, that our children shall not cry, that even the festivals in South Africa shall have tables like ours, that people there shall not encounter a shortfall. The one who knows Islam shall read the Qur'an all the time, remember the ones who passed away, know his/her friends and their hearts. If one does something good all the time, that person is a Muslim. Who ever does something evil or follows an evil path, this is not a part of Islam. This is our Islam; this is how our religion is.

Why do we read the Qur'an? To remember the dead; to wish well-being to the living ones, in order to prevent them from accidents and evil on the road, we pray, we give alms. We are following God's path. A Muslim has no evil business.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

¹ *Basmala* is the first sentence of every *sura* in the Qur'an.