



# WHY



# ISLAM?



## Inspirations from 40 Muslim Converts

**WHY  
ISLAM?**



## Chapter (1) Sūrat al-Fātihah (The Opening)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿١﴾  
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢﴾  
الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿٣﴾ مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ﴿٤﴾ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ  
وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ﴿٥﴾ اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ﴿٦﴾  
صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ  
وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ﴿٧﴾

---

*Bismillaa Hirrahmaan Nirrahiim. Alhamdulillah rabbiil 'aalamiin.  
Ar Rahmaanir Rahiim. Maaliki yawmid diin. Iyyaaka na'budu wa  
iyyaaka nasta'iin. Ihdinas siraatal mustaqiim. Siraatal ladzina  
an'amta alaihim. Ghairil maghduubi 'alaihim walad doliin.*

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds. The Beneficent, the Merciful. Master of the Day of Judgment. You (alone) do we worship; and You (alone) do we seek support from; Guide us towards the straight path. The path of those on Whom You have favoured, not (the path) of those who have incurred Your anger nor those who go astray. Ameen.



ISBN: 978-981-14-7154-4

Title: Why Islam? Inspirations from 40 Muslim Converts.

First published in 2020



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# WHY ISLAM?

**Inspirations from 40 Muslim Converts**



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## About the Publisher

Muslim Converts' Association of Singapore actively serves to bridge everyone – regardless of language, race or belief – towards the better understanding of Islam. Advocating no compulsion in religion, this non-profit organisation is dedicated to deliver educational opportunities with lectures, courses, and other activities that depict Islam in discussion, behaviour and spirit. Its friendly programmes and harmonious events involve social gatherings in celebration of Islamic events, dissemination of books and magazines to build Islamic awareness, and assistance for the community through counselling, financial aids, and other welfare services.

Also affectionately known as Darul Arqam Singapore, it has flourished since 1980, with the confidence and continued support of its members, volunteers and donors. Since August 2005, Darul Arqam Singapore has been appointed as the One-Stop Centre for Converts (OSCC) by the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS). It continues to facilitate the issuance of Conversion Card and reimbursements of transport claims, circumcision fees, and the fees incurred by Converts when they insert their Muslim names in their identity card. Darul Arqam Singapore regularly sources for Islamic publications including translations of Qur'an in various languages for distribution amongst non-Muslims who are interested to find out about Islam. The trade fairs, exhibitions, and events, in which

Darul Arqam Singapore participates, are directed at increasing the knowledge of Muslims and spreading awareness amongst non-Muslims about varying aspects of Islam.





## **FOREWORD BY** **MUHAMMAD** **IMRAN KUNA**



***President (2018-present)***

**Muslim Converts'  
Association of Singapore  
(Darul Arqam Singapore)**

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## **Why Islam?**

A question that someone who has explored or is exploring Islam will have asked oneself at some point of time during the pursuit of discovery. To uncover the truth is a unique journey and experience for every individual. Many individuals who are seeking Islam will find familiarity if they have access to other Converts who have had gone through the same path of embracing Islam while not coming from Muslim parentage or culture.

Therefore, to facilitate the journey of new seekers and new Muslims who are learning Islam, the MCAS team has compiled over 40 individuals' actual thoughts and responses to the question "Why Islam?" with pictures of the contributors to

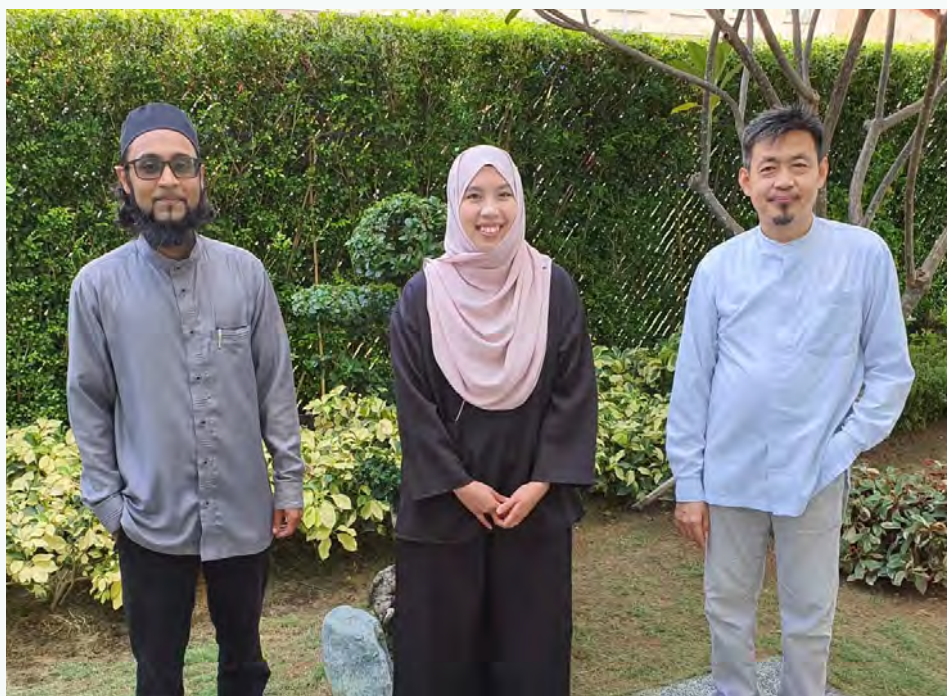


portray that Islam is actually not that unfamiliar or strange. As the book manifests itself, you will find that Islam is in fact a very relatable and colourful religion that comprises of almost every single ethnicity in the world. May this book benefit many others to understand and perceive the beauty of Islam.

Finally, we implore the readers to be involved to do your small part in the good works of MCAS by circulating this book among your family and friends.

May God Almighty grant us success.

Your Brother in Faith,  
**Muhammad Imran Kuna**  
Embraced Islam in 2010



## **EDITORIAL TEAM**

*Left to right: Mohamed Sameer (Managing Editor),  
Surayya Shahri, Omar Ma*

# INTRODUCTION

All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the universe. Peace and blessings upon the Final Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said to 'Ali (May Allah be pleased with him), **“By Allah, if a single person is guided by Allah through you, it will be better for you than a whole lot of red camels.”** [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

Seeking the truth is an enriching and enlightening journey for many individuals. These journeys and experiences often yield beneficial wisdoms which would prove very useful and relevant for seekers of Truth. As such, we wanted to preserve and manifest these wisdoms in a handy book for fellow seekers to find renewed meaning and conviction in the pursuit of the Divine. A special MCAS programme titled: Converts' Arena enabled us to bring together various Muslim Converts to capture the wisdoms which are contained in this book before you.

We believe this unique book is a first of its kind in the region and we pray to Allah ﷻ that it becomes a means of guidance and light for those seeking the truth.

Ameen.

Why Islam? Because of His Divine Unconditional Love.

Your Brother in Islam,  
Mohamed Sameer  
Managing Editor

# **QUOTES BY** **RIDZUAN** **WU**

***Founding Member***

**Muslim Converts' Association  
of Singapore (Darul Arqam  
Singapore)**



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**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**1977**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

“Islam/Da’wah is essentially the introduction that there is a Creator, and that life in this world is temporary and man will face God in the Hereafter. This perspective is important in influencing man’s priorities in life. For people who believe in Islam, Da’wah would imply the translation of this belief into his personal, family, day to day life, as well as his social , political, economic life as a whole.”

“Islam teaches that there is no compulsion in faith. Islam would like to see the individual as a convinced man, convinced that God exists, convinced that the teachings of the Quran are appropriate in his life”

Excerpts from Ridzuan Wu.  
The Call to Islam: A contemporary perspective (p.53-54).  
Singapore: MCAS, 1990.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Bismillaa Hirrahmaan Nirrahiim

**“In the name of God, the Most Gracious,  
the Most Merciful”.**

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ

Allahumma salli `alaa  
Sayyidinaa Muhammad

**“Oh Allah send blessings on our  
Prophet Muhammad”**

**Inspirations  
from  
40 Muslim  
Converts**



# 1.

**A.**  
**MURALITHARAN**  
**@**  
**MUHAMMAD**  
**YUSUF ALI BIN**  
**ABDULLAH**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2008**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Indian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

Most people are born into their religion and it may become a matter of legacy and cultural heritage until they consciously study the religion.

For the person who converts, from the start it is a matter of strong conviction and certainty. This pursuit is based on a combination of faith and logic because one would need powerful reasons to embrace beliefs which are foreign to our upbringing.

# 2.

## ADAM FAULKNER



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2020**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Australian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Australia**

# Why Islam?

For me, Islam is the most refined and complete religion and way of life.

---

*Chapter (5) Sūrat l-mā'idah (The Table spread with Food), Verse 3:*

*“This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion”  
(Quran 5:3)*

# 3.

**AMRESH S/O  
ANBALAGAN**

**@**

**AMR ESA**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2018**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Indian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

Islam came across to me as a logical religion. Islam encourages us to consistently contemplate about life. There are questions we might be asking ourselves from time to time. Questions such as: Where did we come from? What are we doing on earth? What is the purpose of our lives? What happens after our death? I had asked such questions myself. I realised that Islam has the answers.

**4.**

**ANG SHU  
MIN  
@  
NUR  
ASHALINA  
ABDULLAH  
ANG**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2010**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**



# Why Islam?

When I was 17, I started searching for God. I looked for God in the religion that I was raised in and in other religious traditions and learned Islam by reading books and had religious debates with friends. I compared the way that Muslims and other traditions practiced fasting. I also encountered dreams and spiritual inspirations that moved me to tears. These incidents put me at a loss for words but my heart was at ease and the peace that I found in my heart convinced me to accept Islam.



**5.**

**ARUMUKAM S/O  
MURUGAYA  
@  
MUHAMMAD  
FEROZ BIN  
ABDULLAH**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**1977**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Indian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

I accepted Islam because I was searching for the true Lord of the Universe. I came to realise that Islam showed the consistent path to worshipping the One and Only God who is worthy of worship and with Godly attributes. I found unity in Islam with no discrimination according to race, caste or creed. Islam enjoins a common brotherhood based on sharing the same faith.

The teachings of Islam requires us to uphold and emulate the beautiful examples of our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and to love all of Allah's creations. The teachings of Islam has also moulded me into a person who focuses on practising the best of manners and love for every creation of God.

I found the teachings of Islam easy to practice, and has limitless knowledge that is infinitely deep. There is so much to learn in Islam and I am continuously discovering new wisdom.

To me, Islam is the biggest gift Allah has given me, and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is Allah's gift to mankind. My life would not be complete without Islam.



**6.**

**BRANDON TAN  
WEI MING**

**@**

**MUHAMMAD  
ZULFAKAR TAN  
BIN ABDULLAH**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2018**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

Initially when I first started learning about Islam, it was due to the interest of my wife. She wanted to know more about Islam so we attended an initial lesson at Darul Arqam. After that lesson, the teachings and facts which were brought up during the class made so much sense that even when I tried to come up with reasons to counter the facts, I wasn't able to. One of them was regarding the formation of the fetus in a pregnant woman. The Quran has so much details, even though at the point of time the Quran was revealed, technology was not yet advanced to detect such advanced information unlike now.

Ever since that first lesson, I became more interested in knowing about Islam and have attended the basic courses which are held at Darul Arqam. Also with the guidance of my teachers, the learning of Islam continues till this day.



7.

**CEDRIC LIM**

@

**MUHAMMAD  
DANIEL LIM**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2019**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**



# Why Islam?

I have always known that there is only one Creator of all existence. I studied and analyzed many religions and when I studied the Quran, I realised that The True Creator is Allah, especially through Sūrat l-ikhlās\* which confirmed His Characteristics. This made me choose Islam.

---

*\*Chapter (112) Sūrat l-ikhlās (Sincerity)*

*Say, "He is Allah , [who is] One,  
Allah , the Eternal Refuge.  
He neither begets nor is born,  
Nor is there to Him any equivalent."  
(Quran 112:1-4)*



**8.**

**CHARLES  
WESLEY**

**@**

**KABIR  
WESLEY**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2017**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Eurasian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

I found the Adzan\*, the Islamic call to prayer, beautiful and wanted to learn more about Islam from there.

*\*The Islamic call to prayer is called the Adzan:*

*AllaHu Akbar AllaHu Akbar - 2x*

*Ash-Hadu an la ilaaHa illAllah - 2x*

*Ash-Hadu anna Muhammadan Rasulullah - 2x*

*Hayya 'alas solah - 2x*

*Hayya 'alal falah - 2x*

*AllaHu Akbar AllaHu Akbar,*

*Laa ilaaHa illAllah.*

Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest - 2x

I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except

Allah - 2x

I bear witness that Muhammad is a Messenger of Allah - 2x

Hurry to prayer - 2x

Hurry to success - 2x

Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest

There is none worthy of worship except Allah.

**9.**

**CINDY  
TACIO  
@  
HANEefa  
ALIYA**



**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2017**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Igorot**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

If i were to compare myself in the past, I have changed a lot. I'm at peace. Alhamdulillah, I am so happy.

---

*Chapter (13) Sūrat l-ra'd (The Thunder), Verse 28:*

*“Those who have believed and whose hearts are assured by the remembrance of Allah. Unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allah hearts are assured.” (Quran 13:28)*



**10.**

**CHUNG  
YOW MIN**

**@**

**DANIAL  
CHUNG**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**1995**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Malaysia**

# Why Islam?

Alhamdulillah, with Allah's grace I stumbled upon a book which highlighted the Prophet Muhammad's last sermon. I was in deep thought about Islam after I started reading the inspirational sermon and I found Islam to be a beautiful and dynamic religion. That inspired me to learn more about Islam and eventually embrace Islam.

# 11.

**ELENA  
DELFIN  
LOBATON**

**@**

**KAMILA  
ZARIN  
DELFIN**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2013**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Filipino**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

Islam is a true religion, which proclaims that there is none worthy of worship except Allah ﷻ and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is His Messenger. Islam is a religion of peace which spreads the word of God according to the Holy Quran - The Final Preserved word of Allah ﷻ.

---

*Chapter (15) Sūrat l-hij'r (The Rocky Tract), Verse 9:*

*“Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur'an and indeed, We will be its guardian.”  
(Quran 15:9)*





# 12.

**ELVIRA  
DELFIN  
@  
HUMA  
ZAAFIRA  
DELFIN**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2011**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Filipino**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

Islam is a religion that is transparent and clear in differentiating what is right from wrong.

---

*Chapter (2) Sūrat l-baqarah (The Cow), Verse 256:*

*“There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong. So whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing.”  
(Quran 2:256)*

# 13.

**FOO ENG  
YOONG**

**@**

**ADAM FOO**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2012**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Malaysia**

# Why Islam?

In May 2012, I was introduced to Islam through marriage. I did not plan to practice the faith fully as most Malaysian Chinese felt that Islam was only meant for a certain ethnicity.

Five months later, my religious teacher (Ustaz) invited me for breakfast at Masjid Hang Jebat, a cozy kampung mosque. During our conversation, my Ustaz asked whether I loved my wife and was able to protect her 24/7. I told him that I will try. He repeated his question by emphasising on the word “able”. I replied that it was impossible. Then he asked me whether I would like to know the person who can do so. When I responded with scepticism, he started to share with me the characteristics of Allah swt.

I was attracted to the information my Ustaz shared and started to attend all his classes. In 2015, he invited me to go for Umrah. I had mixed feelings as I was also worried about whether I was doing the right thing, for I had promised my dad that I will not practice Islam.

When I reached Mecca, my heart experienced sorrow upon seeing the Kaaba’ and I cried non-stop as I reflected on my past sins. When I returned to Singapore, I made an intention to contribute to Islam so we set up a small group to promote Islam. I also joined Masjid Sultan as a guide to share Islam with Mandarin-speaking tourists and to clear the misconceptions that people might have about the religion. Alhamdulillah, I thank Allah ﷻ for giving me these opportunities and ability to achieve these good works.

Ameen.



**14.**

**GONZAGA  
VENERANDO  
CANESA**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**1993**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Filipino**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

I converted to Islam with the support of my girlfriend, who is now my wife. Initially I was skeptical to convert because I was afraid of Muslims. But I told myself to give it a try and I went to Darul Arqam to attend the orientation. There we learnt about the Oneness of God, relationship between The Creator and the creations, the 5 Pillars of Islam, and many more things which increased my understanding. After the orientation I attended more classes until I finally converted to Islam. Alhamdulillah!

# 15.

**GUILLAUME  
JEANPIERRE**

@

**BILAL  
JEANPIERRE**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2015**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Caucasian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**France**



## Why Islam?

Islam is the way of life that facilitates us to become better human beings. As Muslims, we need to constantly improve ourselves to reach the path of excellence and to be role models in our society. Reaching closeness to Allah ﷻ gives us ultimate satisfaction and a sense of purpose which cannot be reached through any other means. Relevant knowledge needs to be learnt and applied, in the strive to perfecting ourselves.

Why Islam? Because of the brotherhood it offers. Islam teaches us to assist everyone regardless of race, colour, religion or social status as everyone are creations of Allah ﷻ, and He loves the ones who take care of His creations. Sharing with others the things that we love should be a common practice. As one of the Prophetic Teachings (Hadith) states: “Love for others what you love for yourselves.”

Why Islam? Because of the love of our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ towards his Ummah, who always reminded us to be kind, compassionate and humble. Having the right leadership skills is needed to be exemplary and create more positivity around us. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ showed us the way of greatness and gratitude. His abilities to deal with adversities in the most beautiful manner, made many of us embrace the Islamic faith.



# 16.

**HAMESH  
KUMAR**

**@**

**MUHAMMAD  
MUKHLIS**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2009**

**Ethnicity:**  
**North Indian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

While searching for truth, one day I raised my hands and looked at the sky and made doa (supplication): “God whoever you are, guide me.”

Within a year I met certain knowledgeable people and found that Islam made sense to me. What Muslims told me moved me. God is one, He cannot be seen nor is He created. Everyone prays in the same manner through the Quranic recitations and in One direction, facing the Qibla (the direction of Prayer). Converting to Islam is the best decision I have ever made.



**17.**

**HOMEN WONG**  
**@**  
**MUHAMMAD**  
**WONG**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2018**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

Growing up in a foreign country with a different religious upbringing made me oblivious to other religions. After making friends with a Muslim girl in Singapore, I realised that there was more to religion. I started my journey with my partner by attending the beginners course at Darul Arqam. Right from the first lesson, I fell in love with Islam. One lesson was able to convince me that there is only One God, Allah.

Islam is simple, straightforward and easy to comprehend. Islam teaches me great things and makes me kinder and more generous. My perspective of the world changed ever since I embraced Islam. It has changed my life forever.

Not only am I able to conduct more good deeds, it makes me an overall better son, husband and person. Without Islam, I will probably still be wondering about the meaning of life. I am thankful to Allah for opening my eyes and my heart, and for leading me to the right path. Alhamdulillah.

# 18.

## JALIL ASHRAF JEEVA



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**1999**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Indian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

Islam has taught me that it is not a religion. It is actually a way of life. Islam teaches one how to conduct oneself as a proper human being on this Earth, among all the other creations of Allah. One conducts his/her life to one's best ability and fulfils his/her role as a child, parent, spouse but at the same time within Allah's laws made for mankind.

Personally, Islam has brought me peace and purpose in life. I have found that the way to lasting happiness in this world is admitting that there is no such thing as "happily ever after". Trials and tests are part of life and part of Allah's plan for us, as He only wants what is best for us and ultimately, we return to Him.

# 19.

**JOVELYN  
PALUPE DIZON**

**@**

**IZMA  
JUNAINAHH  
PALUPE**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2014**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Filipino**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

It was due to Allah's Guidance and Will that I embraced Islam. He shined His Light to help me see the straight path and showered His Protection to keep me away from harm.

I have learnt a lot in life after becoming a Muslim. I have learnt to be calm, patient and to be forgiving. I have been tested in so many ways but with His Help, I remained steadfast. All Praise is due to Him.

There is nothing permanent in this world. With His Help, our problems will be swept away by the waves of His Mercy and you will attain peace.

I thank Allah ﷻ for the opportunities given to me to redeem myself.

---

*Chapter (2) Sūrat l-baqarah (The Cow), Verse 45:*

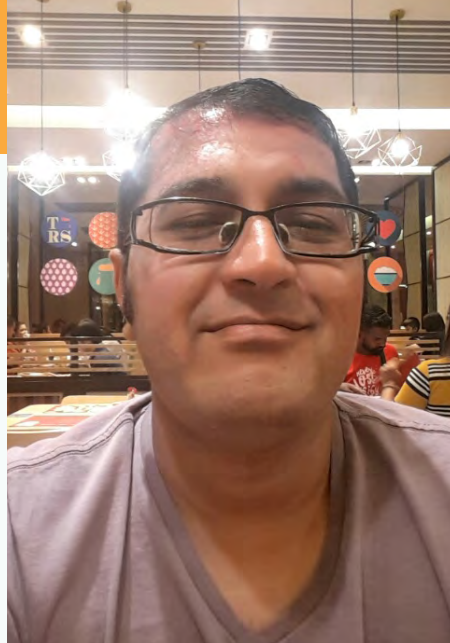
*And seek help through patience and prayer, and indeed, it is difficult except for the humbly submissive [to Allah]*

*(Quran 2:45)*



# 20.

**KARAM SINGH  
A/L RANJIT  
SINGH  
@  
MUHAMMAD  
ARIQ**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2019**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Indian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Malaysia**

# Why Islam?

Islam taught me that the first thing in life is to trust in The One God – Allah. Islam also teaches you to look out for humanity through zakat (alms) and sadaqah (charity). I am really happy to have found Islam. I feel like I have achieved harmony in my life after converting.

# 21.

## KARTINAH POH



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**1970**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

Islam has taught me the meaning of life. The hard work of this world is to prepare for the eternal happiness of the Hereafter. Islam is the beacon of light in the sea of life. It gives us guidance and a clear direction in life. It is essential to have principles in life in order to know how to distinguish right from wrong.

The six articles of faith allow us to know the existence of the Creator. Believing in the existence of angels dispels all superstitions and fear of the spiritual world. Believing in prophethood and revelations assists us to understand God's Guidance. Believing in the Judgment Day assists us to be accountable for our actions. Believing in predestination gives us the confidence to overcome the challenges of this world with the conviction that everything happens only with the permission of Allah ﷻ.

As Muslims, we must treat life's challenges as tests from Allah. We must be steadfast and patient to overcome these tests with the teaching of our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Our daily practices increase our awareness of the existence of the Creator. The five daily prayers remind us of the favours and blessings from Allah ﷻ. Fasting trains us to develop self-restraint (Taqwa) and Zakat reminds us to care for community building and the less fortunate. The pillar of Hajj assists us to emulate Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) to attain the spirit of obedience and sacrifice. The Islamic practices from the Quran and Sunnah train individuals to have a positive attitude in life and prepares one confidently for the ultimate destination towards Allah ﷻ.



**22.**

**KAVEN LIM**

**@**

**SIDDIQUE**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2018**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

Islam promotes the seeking of knowledge. Islam is grounded in reason and it makes sense. Accepting Islam is the process of accepting the truth. We need Islam in our lives. We need to be grounded in its values and guided by its teachings to live a beneficial life.

# 23.

**KUEK PUEY  
KIA  
@  
JAMILAH  
JOSEPHINE  
KUEK**



**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2019**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

There is only One God. He does not have a face or form. He does not beget nor is He begotten.

---

*Chapter (42) Sūrat l-shūrā (Consultation), Verse 11:*

*[He is] Creator of the heavens and the earth. He has made for you from yourselves, mates, and among the cattle, mates; He multiplies you thereby. There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the Hearing, the Seeing.  
(Quran 42:11)*



# 24.

**LESLIE SELARTA  
ARCONADO**

@

**AINUN LESLIE  
SELARTA**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2016**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Filipino**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

Through Islam, I found the right path to faith and inner peace in both my mind and heart.

---

*Chapter (59) Sūrat l-hashr (The Gathering), Verse 23:*

*“Allah is He, than Whom there is no other god;- the Sovereign, the Holy One, the Source of Peace (and Perfection), the Guardian of Faith, the Preserver of Safety, the Exalted in Might, the Irresistible, the Supreme: Glory to Allah! (High is He) above the partners they attribute to Him.”*

*(Quran 59:23)*

# 25.

**MARIE  
LEA AMOR  
MALADIA**

**@**

**NUR AALIYAH  
MALADIA**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2019**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Filipino**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

Six years ago I found myself lost and used to have many shortcomings. One morning I stopped believing in God and I stopped praying. I asked God: Why? What is my purpose in this world? I wished my life should end.

One day I met a friend and he introduced me to Islam. It was very hard to believe and convince myself of the religion at first. I discussed with my friend about the negative things that I have heard about Islam. He educated me well. Today I am very happy because this friend of mine is my husband now.



# 26.

**MUHAMMAD  
UMAR RAJU  
ABDULLAH**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2011**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Indian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Malaysia**

# Why Islam?

Islam came to me through my love for someone whom I had met, a person who was bringing up her children single-handedly and struggling to make ends meet. My conversion and the steps taken to comply to the daily prayers and my yearning to understand the Quran, upon my marriage and my children's guidance helped me to be a better Muslim.

After the loss of a close Muslim friend, and my lack of knowledge of how to pray for him, made me crave for more knowledge about Islam. That made me strive to understand and practice Islam. My search for knowledge brought me to Darul Arqam, where I am receiving the knowledge I was searching for.



# 27.

**NG TSER YEOW  
DAMIEN**

**@  
ISA NG**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2018**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

Being brought up in several different religious environments as a child, I found it very hard to accept and understand Islam at first. It never quite made sense, but when I gradually learnt about Islam, it became the only religion that made sense to me. Almost every question that I seek has been answered.



# 28.

**NORA  
HOSTALLERO  
GUISANDO**

**@**

**MARIAM G  
HOSTALLERO**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2015**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Filipino**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

I learnt a lot of positive things about the Muslim community and finally embraced Islam. I believe there is only One God. As a Muslim, I can practise my faith and communicate directly with my Creator at any time.

---

Chapter (50) Sūrat qāf, Verse 16:

*“And We have already created man and know what his soul whispers to him, and We are closer to him than [his] jugular vein”*

*(Quran 50:16)*



**29.**

**NUR  
AMANDA  
ALIYAH**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2015**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Malay**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

At first, I was very confused but as I studied more about Islam, I found peace in my mind and heart. My husband and I experienced many struggles and hardships but we surpassed everything in the name of Allah.

---

*Chapter (2) Sūrat l-baqarah (The Cow): Verse 45:*

*“And seek help through patience and prayer, and indeed, it is difficult except for the humbly submissive [to Allah]”  
(Quran 2:45)*

# 30.

**PETERS  
CHRISTOPHER**

**@**

**MD SHARIFF  
ABDULLAH**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**1986**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Eurasian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

**A.K.A**  
**Singapore Blade Runner**

# Why Islam?

I was born on 10 November 1968 without a left foot. Life was challenging. My mum left me when I was one. My father and foster mother passed away when I was a young boy. I was kicked like a ball from one place to another as no relatives wanted to take care of me because of my disability.

At the age of six, I fell in love with the Adzan on the radio. I wondered why I wasn't given the opportunity to be with the rest of my friends who went for religious classes. At 17, a family friend introduced me to Darul Arqam, where I took classes and eventually converted to Islam.

In the year 2008 my stump was amputated due to skin infection, but I was given an opportunity to take part in sports. Now I am a marathon runner - the first Muslim blade runner in the world.

Today, I am in my 50s and my life is amazing. I am blessed to have so many great things in my life - family, friends and Allah.

# 31.

**PHUA SHI  
LING**  
@  
**SHARLEEZ  
PHUA**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2019**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

As cliché as it sounds, Islam is a beautiful religion. I find myself being so much calmer after learning the religion. Most importantly, the Muslims around me always make me feel so welcomed. The most special thing about Islam is Allahﷻ. He is described as being extremely generous, merciful, and forgiving towards His creations. All my Muslim friends agree with this. This draws me towards Islam even more.



# 32.

**POK SOON  
CHOO**

**@**

**NUR AZILAH  
POK BINTE  
ABDULLAH**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**1993**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Malaysia**

# Why Islam?

Islam is beautiful and represents a perfect way of life. I have witnessed many things, with the help of Allah, that have increased my certainty in God and in Islam. I am very grateful for what Islam has done for me.

---

*Chapter (16) Sūrat l-nahl (The Bees), Verse 121:*

*“[He was] grateful for His favors. Allah chose him and guided him to a straight path.”  
(Quran 16:121)*

# 33.

**RAMESH  
KANNAN**

**@**

**MUHAMMAD  
SHAKIR**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2011**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Indian**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

Initial misconception and hatred spurred my interest to study Islam (to find faults in the Islamic faith). I often went to the library to read on Islam and its practices. All the questions I had on Islam were answered with 80% logic and 20% mysticism, unlike the other major religions which were largely mystical in nature.

The Quran also challenged its readers to ask questions and refrain from pursuing blind faith. This clearly made me understand that no one can give such an open challenge unless it is from a true source - Allah ﷻ.

There came a day while I was doing my routine research on Islam, when my heart asked; what was I waiting for despite getting answers to all my questions? That's when I knew I was certainly ready to accept the Truth as my religion. Alhamdulillah.



**34.**

**ROSALYN**  
**@**  
**NURHANNA**  
**SAYSON**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2014**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Filipino**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

I believe Allah guided me to choose Islam. Without His Guidance I would not be able to embrace Islam. I became convinced about the message of God by learning it and feeling it within myself.

---

*Chapter (93) Sūrat l-duhā (The Forenoon): Verse 7:*

*“And He found you lost and guided [you]”  
(Quran 93:7)*

# 35.

**SHARON**

@

**NURUL AIN  
ABDULLAH**

@

**SHARON  
ABDULLAH**



# Why Islam?

Islam changed me and showed me the true meaning of life. I have become a better person ever since I converted to Islam.

---

*Chapter (51) Sūrat l-dhāriyāt (The Wind that Scatter), Verse 56:*

*“And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me.”  
(Quran 51:56)*





**36.**

**SHENALYN  
CELEDONIO**

**@**

**ZARINAH  
CELEDONIO**

**Year of Discovery to Islam:**  
**1994**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Filipino**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

I have never been taught about Islam, nor had I ever heard the word Muslim when I was growing up. I started my journey looking for the true God. I started venturing into many religions to find out which followed the true God.

In 1986, I came to Singapore, where I got to know Muslim neighbours. I became curious about the religion after befriending many Muslims. I was introduced to Islam through a book called “Knowing Islam”, which was gifted to me by my current husband. I felt an electrifying connection when I started reading that book.

From that moment, I began getting excited and wanted to know more. Alhamdulillah! I took my Shahadah in 1994.

Islam has taught me to be patient, respectful and to love others. Islam makes me a better person and teaches that human beings are born pure and sinless and that no one can take responsibility for the actions of others. That is why I chose Islam. Subhaanallah!

# 37.

## **SITI KHAIRIYAH WANG**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2019**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

## Why Islam?

It was fate that I converted to Islam. I encourage all fellow Muslims to be open-minded, authentic and seek more knowledge from credible sources. Do good deeds in the name of Allah and expect nothing in return. That is how you know you are genuine in your belief.

# 38.

## **SNG KAI LIN** **@** **FATIMAH SNG**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2018**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

Why Islam? Because of the Oneness of God and He cannot be seen.

---

*Chapter (21) Sūrat l-anbiyāa (The Prophets), Verse 108:*

*Say, “It is only revealed to me that your god is but one God; so will you be Muslims [in submission to Him]?”  
(Quran 21:108)*



**39.**

**SUGAYA  
YASUKO**

**@**

**NUR AZLINA  
YASUKO  
SUGAYA**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2007**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Japanese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Japan**

# Why Islam?

The view of watching my children running barefoot on the sand with their playful voices under the sky brings a smile to my face and my heart attains peace.

Why do I feel like this? Where does this feeling come from? Who designed the beautiful innocent nature of children?

Islam gave me a fresh life to realise that there must be a Merciful and Almighty Lord who has designed all the beautiful creations around us.

Now I wake up and say Alhamdulillah (Praise be to God).

I wake my husband and children up with Assalamualaikum (Greetings of Peace).

I remind my children that Allah ﷻ is always with them and to perform their best in life.

I start the day with Bismillah (In the name of God) and I am aware that I am His Creation.

I say Subhaanallah (Glory be to God) when I witness His beautiful creations.

How peaceful it is to have Iman (Faith) and to know the Tawheed (Oneness of God).

I love my new found life which is full of peace and tranquillity. Where does this feeling come from?

Now I know.





**40.**

**TAN JING YI  
JANE**

**@**

**AZZAHRA  
DURRA**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2012**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

One of the factors why I chose Islam was because Islam explained the scientific wonders of the Earth before I looked them up. Islam gave me peace, provided me with logic and rationale over all matters pertaining to life and Hereafter.

---

Chapter (3) Sūrat āl-im'rān (The Family of Imrān), Verse 191:

“Who remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides and give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], “Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire.”  
(Quran 3:191)



**41.**

**TAY YUAN XIN**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2018**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

In my journey of discovering Islam, I realised that it consists of many practices which brings people together and gives one a sense of peace. These practices can be as simple as saying greetings in the name of God, to giving Salam, to praying and fasting together. It adds more meaning to my life as I learn to do things with intention from my heart and for God, based on what I have learnt from religious lessons. It gives me more opportunities to reflect and think at the end of each day. Islam is also aligned with my thinking process and values.

# 42.

**TOH KOK  
SIANG**

**@**

**AYMAN TOH**



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2014**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Chinese**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Singapore**

# Why Islam?

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Compassionate.  
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Why Islam? Islam establishes justice. Sadly, there are many oppression in the modern world. Muslims believe, however, in the Day of Judgement, where divine justice will be meted out.

There are several verses in the Quran that mention the Day of Judgement. For example, “that Day, the people will depart separated [into categories] to be shown [the result of] their deeds. So whoever does an atom’s weight of good will see it. And whoever does an atom’s weight of evil will see it.” (Quran 99: 6-8) and “Or do those who commit evils think We will make them like those who have believed and done righteous deeds - [make them] equal in their life and their death? Evil is that which they judge.” (Quran 45:21)



**43.**

**VEEN  
HELENA  
MARIE**

**@**

**MARYAM  
VEEN**

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**1981**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Netherlander**

**Country of Origin:**  
**New Zealand**



# Why Islam?

I was an Atheist before I embraced Islam. I believed only in science and proof.

My husband, Osman introduced Islam to me which became an eye opening experience when I started to realise that there are so many scientific evidences and proof in the Quran, a divine book which was revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ more than 1400 years ago.

I was particularly intrigued by my first Islamic book titled “The Bible, The Quran and Science” by Maurice Bucaille which touched on various fascinating scientific topics on ecology, embryology, cosmology (The Big Bang theory, etc) and many other topics which broadened my mind about Islam.

Islam had all the answers for me where I found tranquillity, harmony and a purpose in this world and the Hereafter.



# 44.

## ZARAH MAE RAMA LABID



---

**Year of Conversion to Islam:**  
**2018**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Filipino**

**Country of Origin:**  
**Philippines**

# Why Islam?

People have asked me: Why did you choose Islam?

I used to follow a different religious tradition and read its scriptures. And as I started to read the Quran, I was convinced in my heart and mind that the Quran was truly divine. When I converted to Islam, I loved the Prophets even more especially Prophet Jesus (as) because I was now able to send blessings and peace upon him in a proper manner.

Out of my own curiosity, I compared verses from my previous tradition and the Quran, and found my answers in the Quran. I embraced Islam on August 10, 2018. The search was over, Masha Allah!

# Glossary

## Common Abbreviations

### **/Jalla Jalaluhu (Arabic):**

May His Glory be glorified.

### **Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh:**

The Greetings of peace used by Muslims.

### **AS: 'Allayhis Salam (Arabic) Meaning: Peace be upon him**

Other similar abbreviations: PBUH (peace be upon him), PBOH (peace be on him).

Usage: For the Prophets (AS) who came before Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

### **MCAS: Muslim Converts' Association of Singapore**

Other similar abbreviations: DA (Darul Arqam).

### **RA: Radiyallahu 'Anhu/'Anha/'Anhum (Arabic)**

Meaning: May Allah be pleased with him / her / them

Usage: For the Companions (RA) of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

### **/SAW: Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wassallam (Arabic)**

Meaning: Peace be upon him.

Other similar abbreviations: PBUH (peace be upon him), PBOH (peace be on him) Usage: For Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

### **SWT: Subhanahu Wa Ta 'ala**

Meaning: Glorified and Exalted One

Usage: For Allah (SWT) Note: Arabic terms have been represented by basic Roman alphabets, and their meanings briefly provided, to ease your reading.

For accurate pronunciation and detailed meanings, it is highly advised to refer to the original spelling and meanings in Arabic.

# Glossary

## Common Terms

**Adhan:** The call to prayer

**Akhira:** The Hereafter

**Astaghfirullah:** I seek forgiveness from God

**Alhamdulillah:** Praise be to God

**Allahu Akbar:** God is great

**Ameen:** O Allah, Accept our prayer

**Aql:** Mind

**Da'wah / Dawah:** Invitation to understand Islam

**Deen:** Religion; way of life

**Dhikr:** Remembrance of Allah

**Doa / Dua:** Supplication

**Hajj:** Annual pilgrimage to Makka

**Halal:** Permissible

**Haram:** Forbidden

**Hijab:** Headgear that covers hair and neck, worn by females

**Ibadah/Ibadat/ 'Ibadah/ 'Ibadat:** Acts of worship

**Ihsan:** Excellence in faith

**Ijtihad:** Independent reasoning

**Insha'Allah:** If God wills

**Jahillayah:** Concept of time and state of affairs before the advent of Islam

**Jemaah:** Congregation Jihad: Struggle

**Kaaba / Ka'bah:** The sacred house of God

**La ilaha illaAllah:** The declaration of faith / The 1st pillar of Islam

**Madrassa / Madrasah:** Islamic school

**Masjid:** Mosque

**Muezzin:** Person who leads, and recites the call to prayer

**Nafs:** Life

**Qibla:** The prayer direction of Muslims

**Sadaqah:** Charity

# Glossary

## Common Terms

**Sadaqah Jariyah:** Ceaseless charity

**Salam (greeting):** Assalamu'alaikum (Peace be upon you)

**Seerah:** History of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

**Sharia / Shariah:** Islamic laws

**Syahadah (Shahadah):** The declaration of faith / The 1st pillar of Islam

**Shirk:** Ascribing partners to God

**Solah / Solaat:** Prayer

**Subhaanallah:** Glory be to God

**Sunna / Sunnah:** Practices of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

**Ukuwah:** Fraternity

**Umma / Ummah:** Community

**Umrah:** Minor pilgrimage

**Ustaz:** A religious teacher of Islam

**Zakat:** That which purifies; obligatory payment made annually on certain kinds of property

## Further Notes

Arabic terms have been represented by basic Roman alphabet, and their meanings briefly provided, to ease your reading. For accurate pronunciation and detailed meanings, it is highly advised to refer to the original spelling and meanings in Arabic.

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This book aims to facilitate the journey of everyone who are exploring Islam and grants access to over 40 individuals' thoughts and responses to the question "Why Islam?" with colorful pictures of the contributors to realise that Muslims are of diverse ethnicities and nationalities who form unity of faith through the universal religion of Islam.



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