

Muslim place of worship) or in Muslim books or homes. Mosques are often beautifully decorated with verses from the Qur'an instead.

## ■ The supremacy of God's will

For Muslims, God is the one and only creator and controller of everything; therefore nothing takes place unless God allows it to happen. No matter whether something is good or bad, Muslims believe it is God's will, and that God must have had a good reason for letting it happen. For Sunni Muslims, the **supremacy** of God's will is an important article of faith.

Muslims believe they should accept whatever happens as the will of God, trusting in God's good intentions for people. God's will is supreme (above all things). What God wants and expects of people is the most important thing.

Muslims often add the words 'God willing' (inshallah) after a promise to do something. This shows their belief that they are not in control of what happens: only God is in control. This idea leads some Muslims to believe that God controls everything human beings do and that humans do not have free will. Others think that God does not force people to act in certain ways, but that God has allowed people freedom to choose how to behave.

“ You who believe, obey God and the Messenger. ”

*Qur'an 4:59*

## ■ The impact of these beliefs on Muslims

For Muslims, it is not enough just to believe in one God: they must show that belief in the way they live their lives. This means that only God should be worshipped. Muhammad is respected as a prophet but he is not worshipped. That would be idolatry (worshipping an idol), which is forbidden in Islam. Muslims must never make anything in their lives more important than God, including their family, money or jobs.

Believing in the supremacy of God's will means that Muslims have to try to accept that even the bad things that happen in life are 'meant to be'. God's plans are mysterious and cannot be fully known by humans. The word Muslim means 'one who has submitted to God', and so a Muslim tries both to accept God's will and to live according to God's will in everyday life.

“ Misfortunes can only happen with God's permission. ”

*Qur'an 64:11*

### Summary

You should now have learnt about Muslim beliefs in the Oneness of God and the supremacy of God's will.



▲ Mosques are often highly decorated inside, but with patterns or text from the Qur'an rather than images of God

### Activities

- 1 Explain the belief in Tawhid in your own words.
- 2 Explain four qualities of God described in Surah 112.
- 3 Why might a Muslim add the words 'God willing' when talking about their future plans?
- 4 Explain how belief in the supremacy of God's will might affect a Muslim's attitude to life.

### Discussion activity

With a partner or in a small group, discuss the following statement: 'If God controls everything, then people are not responsible for their actions.' Try to consider different points of view and include a Muslim perspective.

### ★ Study tip

It is easy to find differences between religions, but try considering the beliefs about God that Muslims and Christians share.