* **‘A belief that there is only one God is the most important thing to Muslims’.**

***Discuss this statement. You must refer to religious teachings in your answer but also your own opinion. You must also show two sides of the argument and reach a reasoned conclusion. (12 marks)***

Tawhid, the belief in only one God, is the foundation of Islam but I think that in itself. I think that it is the most important thing to Muslims.

Some Muslims may argue that it is the most important thing. Tawhid is part of the declaration of faith in Islam – that there is only one God, Allah, and this is considered to be the first and foremost belief of any Muslim. Given that it is the first belief of any Muslim, it could be argued that a belief in only one God is the most important thing to Muslims.

In addition, stories of the prophets show that those who believed in multiple Gods were condemned. In the story of Ibrahim, he rebelled against the religion that worshipped multiple idols at the time and Allah rewarded him for his faith. The same happened to Muhammad. This again emphasises the importance in the belief in only one God in Islam.

However, there are other things that are important to Muslims. For example, a belief in the prophets (Risalah) is a core part of how Islam has spread. This includes all 25 prophets mentioned in the Quran with a specific respect for Muhammad as the ‘seal of the prophets’. It is through belief in the prophets that Muslims can think about how to behave in different situations.

Furthermore, Islam has two main sects – Sunnis and Shias. These are not focussed on the belief in only one God, as they both agree on this, but are focussed on who the rightful leader of the Muslims should have been after the Prophet Muhammad. So, Shias might argue that to follow the right path as outlined by Ali, not Abu Bakr, is the most important thing in Islam as this is the actual rightful path.

Overall, I think that a belief in only one God is a core belief in Islam. There are, however, other beliefs which also contribute to the Muslim’s beliefs. However, I think that all of these are founded on a belief in only one God – for example, the belief in the stories of the prophets are important because of the intervention that the one God gives to them. And, although the rightful leader argument separates Sunnis from Shias, the belief in only one God is more important than this as this itself labels them both as Muslims.

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