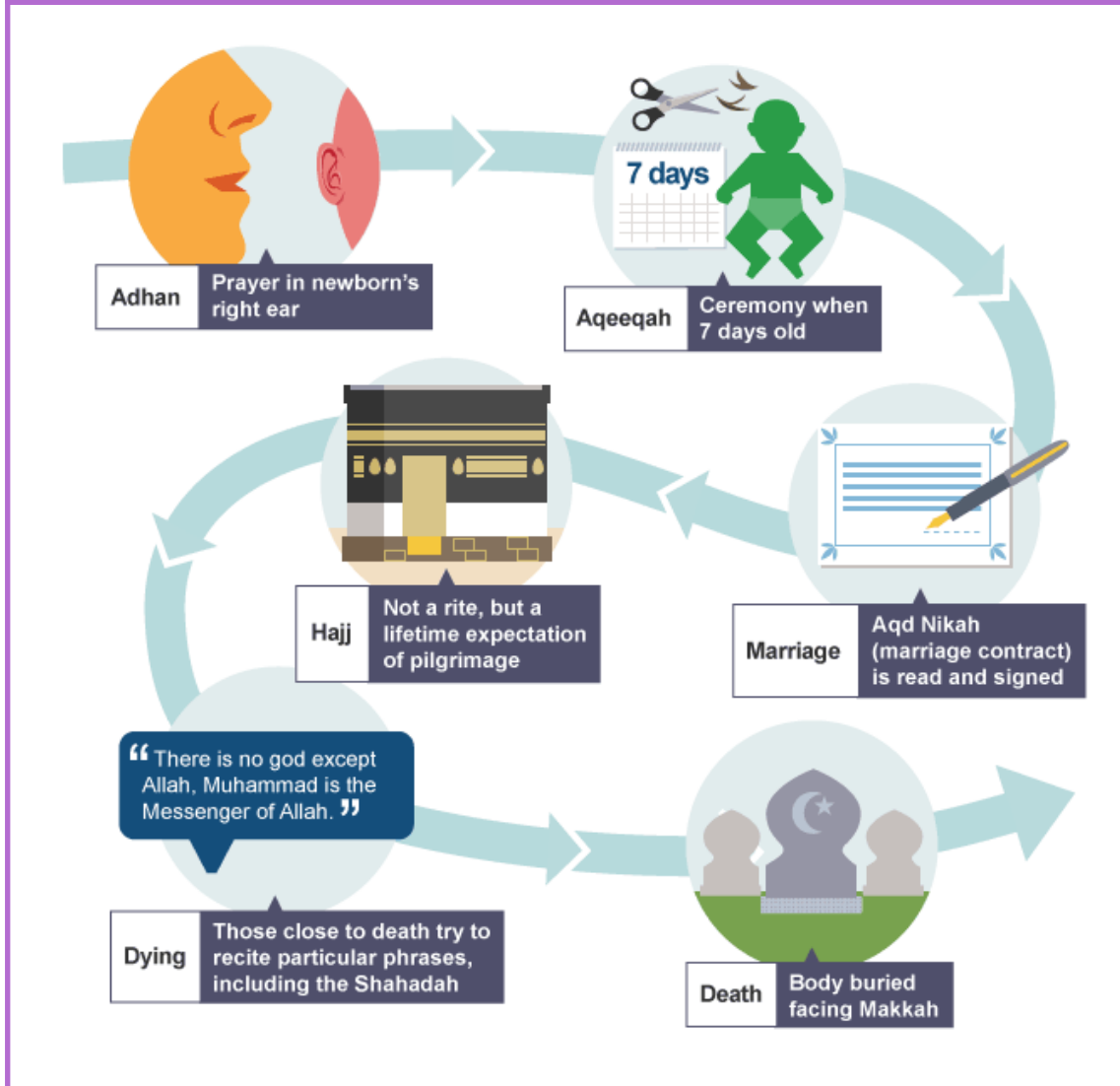


Rites of Passages in Islam

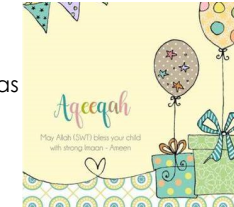


Birth

At the moment of birth, many Muslims speak the words of the **Adhan** (the call to prayer) in the ear of the baby so that the call to serve **Allah** is present from the start of the child's life.

On the seventh day after birth, the child's head is shaved. This is called **Aqeeqah** and is performed as part of the naming ceremony.

The baby is given a taste of honey to reflect the sweetness of the **Qur'an**. A sheep or a goat may be offered in sacrifice to mark the occasion.



Death

When a person is dying, if he or she is able to, they should say the **Shahadah**.

As soon as possible after death, the body is washed three times by relatives of the same gender as the deceased, and it is then wrapped in a white cloth. The body is then taken to an outdoor location, sometimes near the **mosque**, where Muslims will stand and offer prayers for the **forgiveness** of the deceased and that they may find peace and happiness in the world to come.

When a person dies, Muslims believe they enter an intermediate phase in the grave, waiting for **Yawm al-Din** or the Day of Judgement, when **Allah** will raise the body. This is why Muslims generally do not practise **cremation**.

Marriage

Marriage is expected for all Muslims. It is a **Sunnah** of the prophet. Muslims do not expect any individual to take a vow of **celibacy**.

Muslim parents may **arrange** a suitable marriage partner for their children. However, the couple have to agree to their parents' choice.

