



THE ISLAMIC BULLETIN



Twenty Five Years



Volume XXV No. 29

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Islamic Bulletin's 25th Year Anniversary

Join us as we celebrate our 25th Year edition of the Islamic Bulletin. At this time we would like to humbly thank our readers for making this milestone possible. When we began this awesome journey, we never imagined we would come so far. Allah (SWT) has been very generous with our publication and has blessed us every step of the way. To commemorate this wonderful and blessed event, we are very excited to share with you beautiful and inspiring stories in this special, longer edition of The Islamic Bulletin.

Guaranteed to touch the hearts and minds of Muslims and non-Muslims alike everywhere is The Purpose of Life, an inspiring and wonderful excerpt from an inspirational speech by Khalid Yasin. In the account of finding the true meaning and purpose of our existence, readers are encouraged to ponder the meaning behind these amazing words from this dynamic lecturer. Another incredibly touching story is of Robert Davila, a young paraplegic man who, through the aid of a voice-activated computer, found his way to Islam while hospital-ridden.

At the special request of our IB Readers who need guidance in learning how to pray, we are offering a special pull-out section entitled How-to-Perform Salat and Wudhu. Helpful to not only those brothers and sisters who may be new to Islam and in need of assistance in learning how to pray, but also very beneficial to those of us who might need a little "brushing-up" on what to say and fine-tuning of our prayer positions. What better time than now to make these changes and implement them in our everyday lives.

The Sirah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is another informational pull-out section in this edition (IB's 25th year edition). Through this, we get to learn about our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) including his birth, childhood, life and family; culminating in the revelation of prophet hood and hardships of the various battles and struggles of his early years of Islam. The Sirah of the Prophet (S) concludes with how he (SAW) was able to transform warring idol-worshipping nations into peaceful, monotheism societies following the religion of Islam. On the final page of this section is the most beautiful, touching and heart-warming final sermon of our beloved Prophet (SAW).

In this issue, topics include a delicious Crème Caramel in our Cooks Corner, a beautiful and economical Eid card to make a friend or loved one in our Kids Corner, and an article on the tiny creation of Allah (SWT), the mosquito, in our Quranic Science section. Concluding our anniversary edition is the touching story of Prophet Musa (AS), where he asks Allah (SWT) beautiful questions and Allah (SWT) responds that these favors are for the Ummah of Muhammad (S). Then Musa (AS) asks Allah (SWT) to please make him one of the people from the Ummah of Muhammad (S). Allah (SWT) has promised our Ummah so many special favors. Let us strive to attain those special bounties and when we do, we would have learned the purpose of life!

Hoping that you find our anniversary edition memorable, please email us your feedback/suggestions on the articles in this issue. May Allah (SWT) continue to bless each and every one of us with His (SWT) blessings, may He (SWT) make us pious individuals, and may He (SWT) guide us to Sirat-ul-Mustaqueem. Ameen!

The Islamic Bulletin Staff

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Asalamu Alaikum Dear Editor,



I love your newsletter and the valuable information that you provide. This year I made intention to read the whole Quran. I am a new Muslim and so nervous reading it because honestly, I never did that. Could you help me achieve this task. They say aim for the sky. Pray that Allah will make ease and bless the effort.

Raymond James,
San Quentin, CA

Asalamu Alaikum brother James,

During Ramadan it is highly encouraged to read the Quran. The rewards for every letter you read in the Quran is 10. In Ramadan all good deeds are multiplied by 70 or more, so for each letter of the Qur'an you recite you will gain a minimum of 700 good deeds or more. The greater our intentions and the more sincere we are then our rewards will be multiplied even more! But for those who struggle with reciting the Qur'an they will receive double the reward of a minimum of 1400 good deeds for each letter

The Quran is divided into 30 **juz** (parts). We have divided them for you and the readers into 30 parts (see Finish the Quran in one month) in this page to make it easy to read one **juz** each day of Ramadan.

The Qur'an has approximately 600 pages. If you divide it on 30 days, that's 20 pages a day. Looks difficult, but, if you divide it on the 5 prayers a day, it gets easier:

*If you read 4 pages after every *salah* in Ramadan, then you've completed the Qur'an.* If you want to complete the Qur'an twice, you read 4 pages before and after every *salah*. Therefore by the end of it you will have **Inshallah** finished all of the Quran in the 30 days! May Allah accept your intention.



In the pull out section of the Sirah, we have included the Prophet's (SAW) Last Sermon before his death.

In it, the Prophet (SAW) addressed several issues:

- Freedom & Justice for all
- Sanctity of life, wealth, & property
- Women's rights & obligations
- Exploitation & Monopoly
- Rights of others
- Equality of all races.

The Prophet (SAW) directed his Speech to all humankind. He used the term "O People" seven times. He used the terminology "O Men" once. In the farewell address, the Prophet (SAW) did not use the terminology "O Muslims" or "O Believer". The Prophet (SAW) addressed all people regardless of their religions, colors or times. It contained advice for all future generations to come...Us!



We are grateful to all the volunteers for all their help with "The Islamic Bulletin". They wanted to remain anonymous so we ask our readers to remember them in your *duas* this Holy Month. May Allah grant them **Jannatul Firdous** (The highest level of Paradise). Happy Ramadan, Eid Mubarak and Happy Reading!! Please pass this message to Muslims.

Finish the Quran in one month:

1. al-Fatihah:1- al-Baqarah:141 141 الأَفَاحَةُ 1 التَّبَقْرَةُ
2. al-Baqarah:142-252 252-142 التَّبَقْرَةُ
3. al-Baqarah:253- Al Imran: 92 92 آلِ عِمْرَانَ 253 التَّبَقْرَةُ
4. Al Imran: 93 - An Nisa :23 23 النِّسَاءُ 93 آلِ عِمْرَانَ
5. An Nisa :24- 147 147- 24: النِّسَاءُ
6. An Nisa: 148- Al Maidah:81 81 المَائِدَةُ 148 النِّسَاءُ
7. Al Maidah:82- Al Anam:110 110: المَائِدَةُ: 82 الأَنْعَامُ 110
8. Al Anam:111 Al A'raf: 110: 110 الأَنْعَامُ 111 الأَعْرَافُ
9. Al A'raf:88 Al Anfal: 40 40: الأَعْرَافُ 88 الأَنْفَالُ
10. Al Anfal:41 At Taubah:92 92: الأَنْفَالُ 41 التَّوْبَةُ
11. Al Taubah:93 Hud:5 5: التَّوْبَةُ 93 هُودٌ
12. Hud:6 to Yusuf:52 52: هُودٌ 6 يُوسُفُس
13. Yusuf:53 Ibraheem:52 52 يُوسُفُس 53 إِبْرَاهِيمَ
14. Al Hijr:1 An Nahl:128 128 الحِجْرُ 1 النَّحْلُ
15. Israa:1 - Al Kahf: 74 74 الإِسْرَاءُ 1 الكَهْفُ
16. Al Kahf: 75 Taha:135 135 الكَهْفُ 75 طه
17. Anbiyaa:1 - Hajj:78 78 الأَنْبِيَاءُ 1 الحَجَّ
18. Al Muminoon:1 Al Furqaan:20 20 المُؤْمِنُونَ 1 الفُرْقَانُ
19. Al Furqaan : 21 - An Naml:55 55 الفُرْقَانُ 21 النَّمْلُ
20. An Naml:56 - Al Ankaboot:45 45 النَّمْلُ 56 العَنْكَبُوتُ
21. Al Ankaboot:46- Al Ahzab:30 30 العَنْكَبُوتُ 46 الأَحْزَابُ
22. Al-Ahzab: 31 Yasin:27 27 الأَحْزَابُ 31 يَسِينَ
23. Yasin:28 Az Zumar: 31 31 يَسِينَ 28 الزُّمَرُ
24. Az Zumar:32 - Al Fussilat:46 46 الزُّمَرُ 32 فَصَّلَتْ
25. Al Fussilat:47 Al Jaathiyah:37 37 فَصَّلَتْ 47 الجَاثِيَةَ
26. Al Ahqaaf:46 - Ad Dhaariyaat:30 30 الأَحْقَافُ 46 الدَّارِيَاتُ
27. Ad Dhaariyaat:31- Al Hadeed:29 29 الدَّارِيَاتُ 31 الحَدِيدُ
28. Al Mujadilah:1 _ Al Tahreem:12 12 المُجَادِلَةُ 1 التَّحْرِيمُ
29. Al Mulk:1 - Al Mursalaat:50 50 المُلْكُ 1 المُرْسَلَاتُ
30. An Naba':1 - An Naas:6 6 النَّبَأُ 1 النَّاسُ

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The verses of the Holy Qur'an and the traditions of the Prophet have been printed for the benefit of our readers. You are asked to ensure their sanctity. Therefore, they should be disposed of in the proper Islamic manner.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

Subhana Wa Tahala (SWT) - May Allah (God) be glorified and exalted
Sallallahou alayhi wasallam (SAW); (or Alayhi Salam) AS; Peace Be Upon Him
PBUH; = in Arabic these salutations are called Salawat - (Urdu: Durood)- this expression follows specifically after saying the name of the last prophet of Islam, Mohammad (Muhammed)

R.A.; R.A.A. - Allah was pleased with him/her

Rahimahullah or Allahu Yarhamu - May Allah pardon and forgive him

Bukhari, Muslim, Sahih, Abu Dawoud, Tirmidhi, Nasa'i, Ibn Majah are the names of the transmitters of the Prophet's (pbuh) Hadith and Sunnah (words and lifestyle.)

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RIVALRY FOR WORLDLY GAINS

Shaikh Jamal Said

My message to you this month is a discussion of two verses from Quran that you all have memorized as young children partly due to its majestic rhythm. These verses, however short, carry deep meaning and possess the power to impact the lives of even the most lost souls. Allah (SWT) states in the first verse of Surah At-Takathur, Quran 102,

أَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ الْكُتُبُ الْأُولَىٰ
الَّذِي عَلَّمْنَا الْقُرْآنَ بِالْحِكْمِ
وَالَّذِي عَلَّمْنَا الْقُرْآنَ بِالْحِكْمِ

Any translation of the verse does not do justice to the original text but it can be roughly translated to “The want of plenty distracted you.” In the Arabic text, it is comprised of simply two words, one meaning distraction and the other abundance. Allah (SWT) employs the word “lahu” in the Quran in many instances to refer to entertainment or pre-occupation in a matter which is less deserving of attention, especially, when more pressing issues are looming ahead in the journey of life: death, the life of the grave, the Day of Judgement, the next life.

This verse calls upon us to reflect deeply on which drives us to act. Our eyelids are lifted as we ask ourselves what is it that distracts us most. What is something you engross yourself in that completely captures your attention and focus to the point that you cannot for a moment distance yourself from it?

Allah (SWT) identifies the cause of this distraction as “takathur,” or a want of plenty. This essentially refers to an untamed desire to have more of that which we do not have. This desire for more leads to a struggle, an exhaustive effort to try to get more of that which we do not have or might have



some amount of.

Let us take a moment to consider this. Are we pre-occupied with a struggle to possess a worldly matter which we do not have? Money, a house, a car, a spouse, a child? Does that want and struggle define our thoughts and actions? If we are bestowed with that worldly matter which we had sought after, are we then satisfied, or does that struggle continue? And does that struggle transform into an urge to show others what Allah (SWT) has provided us with without any power from us? At some point it causes a person to fail to fulfill their duties towards Allah, their selves, family, and Ummah.

The next verse Allah (SWT) states,

حَتَّىٰ زُرْتُمُ الْمَقَابِرَ
الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَفْرَقُونَ

Allah (SWT) here says that the person engrossed by this senseless preoccupation continues in their struggle until they have visited gravesites. The person is blinded in chasing the life of this world until they are placed in their graves without any warning or choice. Allah (SWT) uses the word visit here rather than enter because even the grave is temporary. Ali (R) was

reported to have said, “People are asleep, until they die, then they are awake.” Death is the time they realize that their chase was pointless and what they have accumulated served as a heavy burden for which they will ultimately have to answer for.

Are you caught up in the dunya? Are you just working hard for money, so you can be more well-off than that other guy? Subhanallah, people buy things they don’t want, with money they don’t have, to impress people they don’t even like! If this is you—and maybe you have a lot of this, or a little of it—remember the grave. That’s where it ends. At that point, none of this dunya stuff will matter.

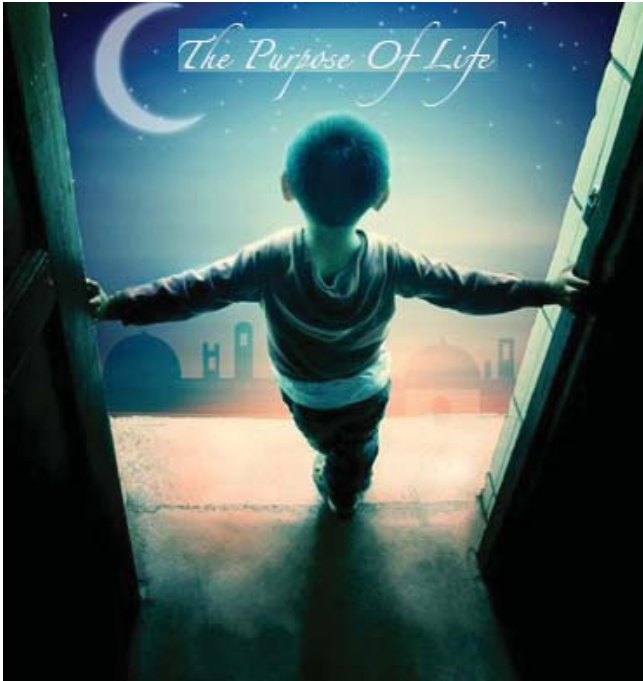
One ‘alim/scholar, may Allah have mercy on him, said: “if you see people racing with you for the dunya, race with them for the akhirah.” Don’t compete for a bigger house here—compete for a better house in Jannah. Compete to beat your friends and family in salah, in sadaqah, in dhikr, in Qur’an memorization and recitation, in all these good deeds.

These two verses remind us that the quality that distinguishes the believer from the believer is elevating oneself above greed for worldly gains and striving instead for the everlasting reward of Allah (SWT). This type of striving allows for spiritual development and constant purification. The believer struggles in performing good deeds without receiving immediate rewards. This struggle consumes their thoughts and actions and offers them the strength and fortitude to face evil in all of its forms, whether it is the oppression that surrounds them or the oppression of their desires. The heart of the believer is awakened in hearing these verses and it is burdened by the triviality of what has occupied it. But it knows that its Creator (SWT) has promised infinite mercy and forgiveness to those who seek it.

Because the ultimate pay-out comes in the Hereafter; this life is only a few days, a few years, and then it’s back to the akhirah. May Allah (SWT) make us among those who are pre-occupied with pleasing Him. May He (SWT) make our hearts filled and satisfied with loving Him above the love of anything of this life. May He (SWT) make us among those who know their purpose in this life and receive His ultimate reward in the next.



THE PURPOSE OF LIFE



I'm very honored to have this opportunity to address you. First of all I want to say that this is not a lecture. I don't think that I'm prepared to lecture. But it's sort of advice for myself. Just a little while ago I was where some of you are. Christian, non-Muslim, whatever - it doesn't matter. I was not aware of Islam. And I did not understand the purpose of life!

So I request you to think about what I'm saying as information and suggestions--not a lecture. It is my responsibility to address the topic: what is the purpose of our life? And to ask the question: What do you know about Islam? I mean what do you really know about Islam. Not what you've heard about Islam. Not what you've seen in the action of some Muslims. But, instead. What do you know about Islam. I would like to begin by saying that all of us have an equal responsibility. And that responsibility is to read or listen with an open heart and an open mind.

In a world filled with prejudice it is very hard to find people who will think about life objectively and try to arrive at the truth and the purpose of our lives. Unfortunately, when you ask most people the question, "What is the purpose of life?" They will not tell you what they have concluded through observation or analytical reasoning. Instead, in most cases, they will tell you what is commonly presumed by others-- their father, their minister or their teacher.

If I ask anyone about the purpose of eating, "Why do we eat?" Most people will answer, in one word or another, "It's for nutrition!" If I ask anyone why they work? They will say in order to support themselves and to provide for the needs of their family. If I ask anyone why they sleep, why they wash, why they dress, etc., they will answer, "This is a common necessity for all human beings." Why is it, that when I ask the question, "What is the goal and the purpose of life?" that I get so many different answers? That's because people are confused. And rather than saying, "I don't know," they offer an answer that they've been programmed to answer.

Let's think about this. Is our purpose in this world simply to eat, sleep, dress, work, acquire material things and enjoy ourselves? Is this our purpose? Is this why we were born? Think about that question!

Some people argue that there is no proof of any divine origin, there is no proof that there's a God, there's no proof that this universe has come about through any divine purpose. They say that perhaps this world came about by chance. That there was a big bang and this whole great world with all its orchestration just came together. And they argue that this life doesn't have a definite purpose and that it cannot be proven through logic or science that there is a God, or purpose, or any divine reason behind this world.

Here I would like to mention a few verses from the Quran that address this subject.

"Verily! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for men of understanding, who remember Allah standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and contemplate the creation of the heavens and the earth, (and conclude), "Our Lord! You have not created all this without purpose, glory to You! Grant us salvation from the torment of the Fire." [Quran 3: 190-191]

In the above verses, Allah first draws attention to the creation of our own being. He (SWT) then draws attention to the heavens and the alternation of the night and the day. And then He (SWT) says to us that He has not created all of this for any foolish purpose! .

My dear respected guests- I ask you one more question. When you see a bridge, a building, or an automobile, you automatically consider the person or the company that constructed it. Yet, these are just things that are manufactured by human beings.

What about the human body? Think about the brain—how it analyzes, stores information, retrieves information, distinguishes and categorizes information in the millionth of a second! This is the brain that made the automobile, the rocket ship, the boats, and so on. Think about the heart-- how it pumps continuously for sixty or seventy years, taking and discharging blood throughout the body, and maintaining that steady precision throughout the life of that person. Who regulates that? Human beings? No.

What about this universe? The Earth is one planet in our solar system. And our solar system is one of the systems in the Milky Way. And the Milky Way is one of the constellations in that galaxy. And there are millions of galaxies like the Milky Way. They are not colliding with each other. Did human beings set that into motion? No! For instance, let's say you take ten marbles and number them one to ten. All the marbles are different colors. Let's say you put them in a bag and you shake the bag. And then you close your eyes and reach inside that bag. What if I told you. "Pull out marble number one. And then pull out marble number two. And then pull out marble number three , in order." What is the chance of your pulling out those marbles in order? Twenty-six million to one! So what's the chance of the Heavens and the Earth being thrown together in a big bang and orchestrated like they are? What's the likelihood of that?

Think about the oceans, the fish, the insects, the birds, the plants, bacteria, the chemical elements that have not been discovered and cannot be detected even with the most sophisticated instruments. Yet, each one of them has a law which they follow. Did this happen by chance? No.

The being that is deserving of praise and gratitude is God. God created all of this and maintains all of this. Therefore, God deserves praise and gratitude.

Is God not worthy of praise and thanks? Is He not worthy of worship and recognition? My brothers and sisters, that is the purpose of life.

Allah says in the Quran:

"I have not created the jinn, the spirits, nor the human beings, for any other purpose except to worship Me." (Quran 51: 56)

This is what God Almighty said. So our purpose in this life is to worship the Creator. To surrender ourselves to the Creator, and to obey the laws that He has determined for us. In a nutshell, it means worship. This is our purpose in life. We have been created for worship.

Now, on to the second half of our topic. What do you know about Islam? Not what have you heard about Islam Not what you have seen in the actions of Muslims. And remember there's a difference between Islam and Muslims. Islam is a rule and an order. If a Muslim does not fulfill these rules and orders, he is not a good Muslim. So you cannot equate Islam and Muslims. Just like there's a difference between a man and a father. A man has children but a father is responsible. If a man does not fulfill his responsibilities as a father, he is not a good father.

We hear the terms Islam and Muslims quite often. We hear and see a lot of inaccurate, misleading, and purposeful misinformation in the media. And I have to admit that some of this misinformation and misrepresentation had been perpetuated by Muslims themselves. Yet one of every five persons in this world of some five billion people is a Muslim! One out of five people in this world is a Muslim! How is it that we don't know something about Islam?

What is it that joins so many different nations and this universal configuration into a common fraternity? What makes a brother or sister in Yemen my brother or sister when I'm from America. And what makes this brother from Eritrea my brother or sister? And what makes another brother from Indonesia my brother? And from Africa? And another one from Thailand? And from Italy, Greece, Poland, Austria, Colombia, Bolivia, China, Spain, Russia, and so forth? What makes them my brothers or sisters? We have different cultural and psychological backgrounds! What is it about Islam that automatically embraces us and joins us as a brotherhood? What are the accurate characteristics of this misunderstood way of life?

Although I will now provide you with some facts, it is necessary to be open-minded and open-hearted. Facts alone do not lead to understanding, but rather a combination of tolerance, ambition, and the willingness to accept the truth when you hear it.

The word 'Islam' means surrender, submission, and obedience to the law of Almighty God. Muslims use the Arabic term, Allah, because in Arabic there is no other expression. The word Allah cannot be applied to any created thing. The word "Allah" can only be applied to the One who is the Creator. So I'm going to use the word "Allah," and you know whom I'm speaking about.

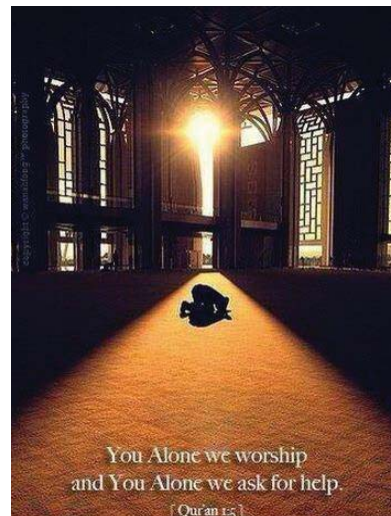
The word 'Islam' is derived from the root 'Salama.' It means to be at peace or to have security. Therefore, a Muslim is a person who surrenders, submits, and obeys the law of Almighty God and through this submission, obtains peace and serenity. By such a definition, 'Islam' describes the manner and behavior of all the well-known and respected prophets and messengers of Almighty God, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Isaac, Ishmael, John the Baptist, Suleiman, Jesus the son of Mary, and Muhammad (May Allah's peace be upon them all.) All of these prophets and messengers came from the same Almighty God with the same message. That is, to worship Almighty God and do good actions and you will fulfill the purpose of life. You will then be

rewarded with an eternal life in the hereafter.

If you read the scriptures carefully you will find this same, simple message from all the prophets. Not one of those prophets ever said, "I am God - worship me." You will not find it in any of the holy books that you have - not the Bible, not the Torah, not the New Testament, not the Psalms of David. You will not find it in the speech of any prophet.

We can see that by such a definition, the Arabic word describes what all the prophets did. They all came and submitted themselves to God; they all insisted that people do deeds of righteousness. Nothing more than surrender and obedience! The Ten Commandments of Moses--what was that? The speech of Abraham--what was that? The Psalms of David--what was that? The Proverbs of Solomon--what did he say? The Gospel of Jesus Christ--what did he say? What did John the Baptist say? What did Isaac and Ishmael say? What did Muhammad say? Nothing more than that!

"And they have been commanded no more than this: To worship Allah, offering Him sincere devotion, being true (in faith); to establish regular prayer; and to practice regular charity; and that is the Religion Right and Straight." [Quran 98:5]



This is what Allah said. And they were ordered only to worship Allah. By the same token, it would also be appropriate here to consider both prophets and messengers as Muslims, because a 'Muslim' is what? The word 'Muslim' means, "He who surrenders himself to Almighty God, and obeys the laws of the Almighty God." Everything that surrenders to the law of Almighty God is a Muslim!

So, when a child comes out of the womb of its mother at the time that God has ordered - what is it? It's a Muslim. Therefore, when we willfully obey Almighty God we are Muslims! Jesus Christ was a Muslim. Abraham was a Muslim. Moses was a Muslim. All the prophets were Muslims! But they came to their people and they spoke different languages. Every prophet and messenger of Almighty God brought the very same and fundamental message -- "Worship Almighty God and be sincere towards Him."

Where there is a conflict, it is a result of false assertions, fabrications, exaggerations, and personalized interpretations of alleged writers, historians, scholars, and individuals. As a Christian--before I became a Muslim--I didn't understand how come throughout the Old Testament God is always referred to as One--the Master and Lord and King of the Universe. And in the first commandment given to Moses, He did not allow anybody to worship graven images. Throughout the Old Testament this is repeated. And then, suddenly we get four testimonies from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Matthew who? Mark Who? Luke who? John who? Four different Gospels that were written forty-eight years apart. And none of these men, who did not collaborate with each other, none of them wrote their last name. Where in the history of men is one name accepted as documentation? Nowhere! Except in the New Testament.

Then, after those four Gospels, there are fifteen more

books written by a man who was an apostate who killed Christians, tortured Christians, and then said that he in a vision saw Jesus. And he was commissioned as an Apostle of Jesus. This is the first time that God is called a man, and the first time that God is called three, and the first time God was given a son -- how is this acceptable to Christians?

The advent of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) did not bring a new religion or a way of life as some people ominously claim. On the contrary, the prophet (SAW) confirmed the life and message of all the previous prophets and messengers. The sacred scripture that Muhammad (SAW) brought is called the Quran. It means "that which is recited." Because Muhammad (SAW) did not write the Quran. The Angel Gabriel recited the words to him! And Almighty God made his heart a receptacle of that. Is there any other book in the world that you know of that has been preserved as it was revealed without any change? Only the Quran.

Don't take my word for it! Go to the library and read what the Encyclopedia Britannica or the World Encyclopedia or any other universal encyclopedia of the world that was not written by Muslims. Read what it says about Islam, the Quran, and Muhammad (S). Read what non-Muslims say about the Quran, Islam, and Muhammad (S). That Muhammad (S) is the most profound individual in the history of humanity. That the Quran is the most incredible, the most profound piece of literature in the annals of history! Read what they say. That the Islamic way of life is categorized and so precise and dynamic! It has never changed.

The sacred scripture that Muhammad (SAW) received is 'The Quran.' And each of the prophets and messengers also received the scripture. In the Quran, these prophets, their scripture, their story, the principle of their mission is mentioned with profound detail. Did Muhammad (S) meet them, talk with them, eat with them, and collaborate with them to write their biographies? No, of course he didn't. In the Quran, Muhammad (S) is referred to as the messenger of Almighty God and the seal of the previous prophets -- which is the limit of his role as a human being.

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: and Allah has full knowledge of all things." [Quran 33:40]

Muslims do not worship Muhammad; we're not 'Muhammadans.' The people who followed Prophet Moses were not Moseans. The people who followed Prophet Jacob were not Jacobites. The people who followed Prophet Abraham were not Abrahamians. Or Davidians. So how do people call themselves 'Christians?' Christ did not call himself a 'Christian,' so why do people call themselves 'Christians?' Jesus Christ (PBUH) said that whatever he received from Almighty God was the word of God, and what he heard is what he said! He was a servant of the Almighty God; so we should be servants of Almighty God, too!

As the final scripture and divine revelation, the Quran makes the statement, "This day have I perfected your religion and completed my favor upon you. And chose Islam as a complete way of life." [Quran 5:3] So, the word Islam came through the Quran. When Islam was completed as a revelation, as a book, as an example through the Prophet Muhammad (S), it then became 'Islam.'

So the word was new. But not the practice...not the prophet...not the order from God...not a new God...not a new revelation...but only the name, Islam. Another distinction to keep in mind is that Muhammad (S) did not come to the Arabs or to his own people exclusively. Therefore, Islam is a religion sent to all people.

In the Holy Quran Allah says,

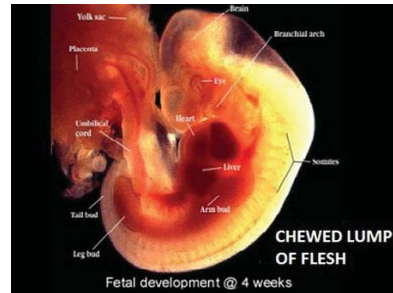
"And you have not been sent, oh Muhammad, except to the all of humanity." [Quran 21:107]

Since I am making references to the Quran to support my argument, I will give some background information on the Quran. First, the Quran claims that it is the product of divine revelation. That it was sent down from Almighty God to Muhammad for inspiration.

Allah says, **"Nor does he say (aught) of (his own) Desire." "It is no less than inspiration sent down to him."** [Quran 53:3-4]

If I am to convince you of the authenticity of the Quran, I must prove - one, that it was impossible for Muhammad to have manufactured such a book. Secondly, that it was equally impossible for any human agency to have created it.

The Quran makes the statement,



"And we created the human beings from the hanging clot that was clinging to the wall of the womb." [Quran 23:14]

"Created man from a clinging substance." [Quran 96:2]

How did the Prophet Muhammad (S) know that the embryo started out as a clot hanging and clinging to the wall of the uterus of the mother? How did he receive this knowledge, when it was just discovered forty-seven years ago?

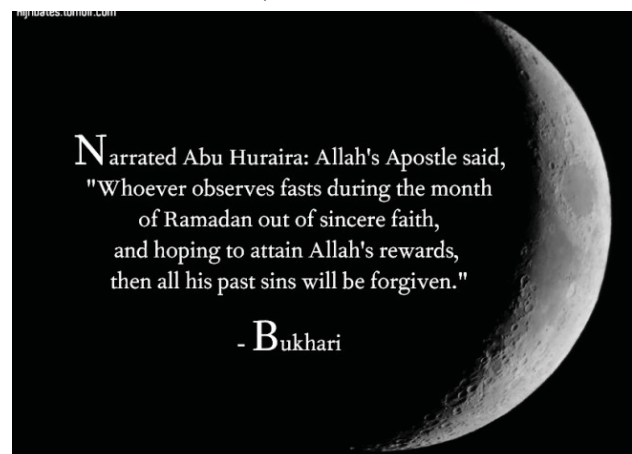
Likewise, how did he know that the oceans have a barrier between them to separate the salt and the fresh water?



"And it is He Who has let free the two seas (kinds of water), one palatable and sweet, and the other salt and bitter, and He has set a barrier and a complete partition between them." [Quran 25:53]

How did he know this?

"It is He Who created the Night and the Day, and the sun and the moon: all (the celestial bodies) swim along, each in its rounded course." [Quran 21:33]



Narrated Abu Huraira: Allah's Apostle said, "Whoever observes fasts during the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith, and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven."

- Bukhari

How did Muhammad (S) know that the sun, the moon, and the planets are all swimming in an orbit that had been ordered for them? These things were just discovered 25 or 35 years ago. How did Muhammad (S), an uneducated shepherd who was raised in the desert, how could he know something like this? How could he produce something like this? How could a man who never left the Arabian Peninsula, a man who never sailed on a ship, who lived more than 1500 years ago -- make such clear and astounding descriptions that were just recently discovered in this half of the twentieth century?

Also, let me mention that the Quran has a hundred and fourteen chapters, over six thousand verses. And there were hundreds of people in the time of the Prophet Muhammad (S) who memorized this book entirely.

There are millions of Muslims today who have memorized this entire book. This is the ambition of every Muslim. You've never met any Christian that memorized the whole Bible, because you've never met a Christian who even knew what the whole Bible consisted of. Because Christians have over 700 denominations, and there are approximately 39 versions of the Bible--with different books and different versions. So how could they memorize what they don't agree about? I'm not speaking in a condemning manner. I was a Christian. I learned these things by my own investigation.

Here are some more facts about the Quran. The Quran has been universally preserved without the slightest alteration of any kind in fifteen centuries. Would you agree that the Quran is profound? Many other non-Muslims came to the same conclusion. People such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Winston Churchill. Whether they accepted Islam openly, or not, they concluded there is no other literature as profound as the Quran.

Now let us turn to another subject matter: the basic themes of the Quran. The supreme oneness of Almighty God, which includes His names, His attributes, the relationship between God Almighty and His creation, and how human beings should maintain that relationship. The continuity of prophets and messengers, their lives, their messages, and their overall mission. The insistence upon following the final and universal example of Muhammad (S), the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers. The Quran reminds us of the shortness of this life and calls us toward the hereafter. Life hereafter, meaning after here. After you die and you leave this earth, you are going somewhere; and you are responsible, because you have been told-- even if you have rejected it. Because the object of this life is not for you to read and discover, and after this do nothing and have no effect. You came into this life for a cause and a purpose, and it must have an effect! You cannot live without expecting to die! You cannot die without the expectancy of the grave! And you cannot expect that the grave is the end.

The Quran goes to great lengths to expound upon the oceans and rivers, the trees and plants, the birds and insects, the animals, the mountains, the expansion of the heavens, the celestial bodies and the universe. And how could a shepherd boy, born in the desert, expound upon things that he was never exposed to?

The most unique aspect of the Quran, however, is that it serves to confirm all the previously revealed scriptures. If, after examining the religion of Islam, you should decide to become a Muslim, you do not have to change your religion! Likewise, with your belief, your honor, your virtue, your love of Jesus Christ, your dedication to Almighty God - you don't change that! You hold on to that! But, you make alterations where you know that the truth has been revealed to you! Islam is simple: to bear witness that there's none to be worshipped except Almighty God.

Islam is to bear witness that Almighty God is God, the only God, the only One without any partners. Islam is to acknowledge the existence of the Angels who were sent with the duty of revealing the revelations to the prophets. Islam is to acknowledge that all the prophets and messengers of Almighty God were righteous men. And that they were all sent by Almighty God acknowledging the fact that there will be a final day of judgment. Islam is to acknowledge that all good and evil has been predestined by Almighty God. Finally, Islam is to acknowledge that there will be a resurrection after death.

The fundamental duties incumbent upon every Muslim are simple. In fact, there are just 5 simple rules, the so-called Five Pillars of Islam: Belief, Worship, Fasting, Alms giving, and Pilgrimage. The most important rule of Islam is to uphold the strict code of monotheism. Not to worship anything along with God. Not to say anything about God that you have no right to say. Not to say, "He has a father, a son, a daughter, a mother, an uncle, an aunt, a board of trustees." When you bear witness, you sentence yourself to peace and paradise, or you sentence yourself to punishment.

So ask yourself, "Do I bear witness that there is only one God?" Then ask yourself the next question. Do I bear witness that Muhammad is a messenger of Almighty God? If you bear witness to that, then you are a Muslim. And you don't have to change what you were. You just have to make alterations in your thinking and practice. If you are ready to enter Islam and ready to become a Muslim, you must first declare the Shahada, which is the declaration of faith. This testimony is to declare the belief in the Oneness of God and the acceptance of Muhammad as God's final prophet.

Ash-hadu anlaa ilaaha ill-Allah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan rasulu llah "Which means that you believe that there isn't any God except the one and only true God who created everything "Allah"

This is an excerpt from a lecture given by Shaykh Khalid Yasin which resulted in 43 people accepting Islam that evening.

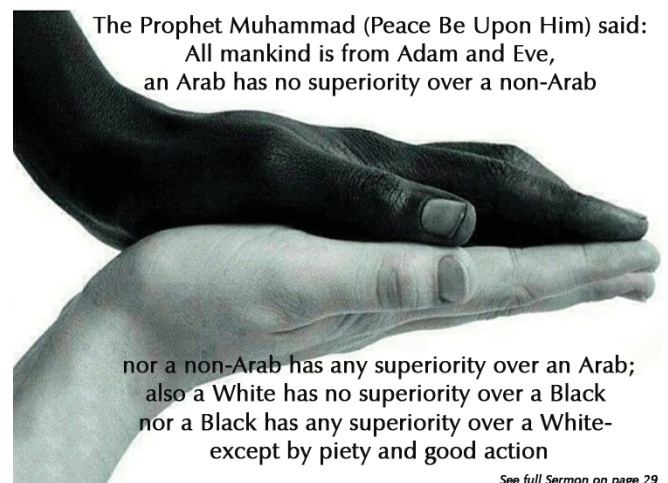
(If you would like to become Muslim or need more information on Islam, please email us at info@islamicbulletin.org)

The audio version and others are also available in several languages in our website at www.islamicbulletin.org.

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See full Sermon on page 29

DO YOU KNOW WHO ROBERT DAVILA IS?



I recently had the pleasure of reading an inspiring story about Robert Davila, a young man who lives in a small town near Fort Worth, Texas. Robert was a farmer with a genetic disorder that manifested later in life. At 20 years old, due to his genetic disorder, he became paralyzed from the neck down. Now 31 years old, Robert has been living in a nursing home for the last ten years.

Sharing Robert's room in the nursing home was another paralyzed young man who was waiting for a liver transplant. Day after day Robert and his friend would talk about God and other things. Each day Robert's friend waited for his transplant. Finally, the day came when Robert's friend got the call that a donor had been found. Both Robert and his friend were so happy! Sadly, however, his friend died on the operating table. When his sister came to remove her brother's personal items from the room he shared with Robert, she gave Robert a crucifix that had belonged to her brother. "This is a reminder of your old buddy," she said, as she hung the crucifix by Robert's bed.

To enable Robert to search the web and research information, Robert's family bought him a voice-activated computer. He would spend hours surfing the web and learning many things. One night Robert dreamed of a man named Muhammad. In this dream, pointing at the crucifix, Muhammad said, "God did not send messengers for people to worship the messengers. God sent messengers so people could worship God. Jesus was just a man. He walked in the markets and he ate food." Then the dream ended.

Robert woke from his dream with the knowledge that Jesus was just a man. He also learned there was a man named Muhammad who told him that messengers were sent to remind people to worship God. Not knowing anything else about this man, Robert decides to google the name "Muhammad." While researching Muhammad, Robert finds Islam and soon takes Shahada. When Robert takes Shahada, he wants to learn about the Quran. He finds a chat session and posts, "Someone needs to teach me the Quran." He finds a brother in Egypt and they get together online to learn Arabic. Once Robert learned how to read the Arabic alphabet, he began to study how to recite the Quran. From his hospital bed, Robert memorized ten Surahs from the Quran. But this was not enough for Robert. Robert said, "I'm beginning to memorize the Quran and I'm beginning to learn about the prophet. But I need to understand the Quran." He goggles, "How to understand the Quran." The Google search leads Robert to bayyinah.com where he is introduced to Nouman Ali Khan.

Meanwhile, oftentimes at the nursing home there was construction going on and on one occasion an Egyptian man was doing some repair work. One day, as the Egyptian man is passing by Robert's room he hears the words of the Holy Quran:

"By the token of time, through the ages, verily man is in loss." Indeed, mankind is in loss (Quran: 103:1 -2)

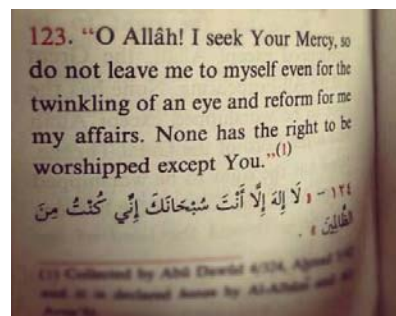
Hearing these Arabic verses, the repair man walks into Robert's room and asks, "Robert, what are you listening to?" Robert answers, "Nothing, that was me." The Egyptian says, "You're Muslim?" and Robert answers, "Yeah, I became Muslim." The Egyptian man is in shock and cannot believe what he has just heard. In fact, having lived so far away from a masjid and other Muslims, the Egyptian man had been struggling with his own faith. When he heard Robert reading verses from the Quran, he thought, "How does Allah guide someone in the middle of a small town in the USA, a man in a nursing home with a crucifix by his bed, a man without the ability to move?"

Robert tells the Egyptian man that he discovered Islam online. Robert also tells him about the teacher he found online, Nouman Ali Khan. So the Egyptian man starts watching Nouman Khan's videos, and says, "I hope I can meet him one day." Robert says, "Okay, I will pray for you."

Five years later, the Egyptian friend shows up at the same Masjid as Nouman Khan. After Jumua prayers, the Egyptian man approaches Brother Nouman and tells him the story of Robert Davila and adds, "I think Allah wants to answer Robert's dua."

Nouman Khan, with a few other brothers, decides to visit the nursing home to meet Robert Davila. During the visit, Robert is asked to recite some Surahs and he chooses to recite Surat Al`Aqr. Those present end up in tears listening to Robert's recitation. Such an emotional reaction was due to the fact that Robert, an American man, had learned and memorized the passage from the Quran completely on his own, without the ability to attend any kind of schooling or classes. They were humbled by what they heard and the perseverance and dedication required. What Robert had accomplished was extremely difficult, especially learning to read in Arabic on his own without a shred of support in the traditional sense because he was paraplegic. Robert's efforts and achievement overwhelmed everyone in the room.

When anyone turns to Allah, no matter the means, guidance and balance will come.



Due to the nature of Robert's paralysis, he is unable to sit in a regular wheelchair. He needs a special wheelchair that supports his neck, along with every other part of his body. Robert requires a special van to accommodate his wheelchair; one that will lock in place,

so when the van drives over a bump, his spine is not further injured.

One Friday, Robert requested to be taken to Jumua prayer. The special van that Robert requires for transport was already being used on another patient that day. Determined to attend Jumua prayers that day, Robert ignored the warnings from the nursing home and rode in a regular van. He returned from Jumua in excruciating pain. The doctors informed Robert that he would no longer be able to sit in his wheelchair. Sadly, he

would have to stay in bed for the next six months at least.

Although Robert was confined to his bed for the next 6 months and was in excruciating pain, he couldn't have been happier about his experience. He said, "I've never felt more peace in my life than when I was in the Masjid. When I can sit in my chair again, I'm going to go to Jum'ah. I going to go to the masjid because I want to feel that peace again."

Some Muslims lose a little bit of health and they complain, "Why is Allah doing this to me?" Atheists argue that because of suffering, there can be no God. If anyone can say, "I don't believe in God, if there was a God, why would I be in this position," it would be Robert Davila. Yet, Robert's face is full of *noor* and contentment. He is completely satisfied with life. When most of us might give up in the face of such a life of restriction, not being able to move, Robert has achieved a positive outlook on life, a life of peace and contentment.

"You know, sometimes I wonder why Allah put me in this position. Then I say to myself, "What, am I kidding? Allah has given me so much. I'm so grateful for what he has given to me. And if this is the way he brings me to Islam, it's all worth it, so worth it."

Robert has control of only his mouth and eyes. Still, he says, "I only find peace in the masjid." And here we are finding every imaginable excuse not to visit the mosque. It doesn't matter what ideology, school of thought, or what they talk about in the masjid, what fitnah may surround it, temptation, trial, sedition, civil strife, it is still Allah's house. Go there to pray. Don't go to talk to people, talk to Allah. Just talk to Allah. Go there and you will find peace. You will become a different person. If Allah can guide Robert Davila, Allah will guide you. Guidance is all around us. You don't have to worry about what's not there, there's plenty there. Once you become sincere, Allah will open doors and give you friends and teachers that will guide you to the straight path. Allah will provide access to resources which will bring you closer and closer to him, to the truth, and a better life for you and the people around you.

Robert is a reminder for all of us that there are no excuses. If Robert can learn Quran from where he is, with no Muslims around him, with nothing more than his will and dedication, then so can you. Whoever and wherever you are, if you ask, Allah will open the door.

From his bed, Robert found the path to Allah. Allah has transformed his life and opened the doors to peace and happiness. Robert has become a symbol of hope and strength. Merely by paying attention to his dream, he became the catalyst for an Egyptian handy man in America to stop thinking his mosque was too far away to visit and pray. Today, Robert spreads the word of Allah through his Facebook page. Through Skype, he continues to memorize verses of the Quran. Robert is an example of how we need not fear the passing of time (Chapter 103 of the Quran). Whether we fear it too fast, or too slow, we must spend it wisely. For a man who cannot move his body, Robert embarked upon a new life, a life of peace and fulfillment he never thought possible. "Indeed, man is in loss, except those who have faith and do righteous deeds, and enjoin one another to [follow] the truth, and enjoin one another to patience." Ponder the man who could not move, yet traveled far to find Allah, and whose efforts to know himself brought people together to renew their faith.

You know, You know what Allah did for the people of the cave? You know he guided them in where to sleep? You know he guided them on when to turn? As the sun was coming up, they turned away from it. As the sun came from

the other side, they turned the other way. Allah will guide you in your sleep, when you make dua to him. He will guide you in your sleep, when you toss and turn. Can you imagine? We shouldn't be skeptical of Allah's guidance. We shouldn't worry, "How will I find balance?" That's Allah's job. Your job is to talk to Allah. Your job is to be sincere. That is the only way you will find balance. Honestly, once you do that, once you become sincere and talk to Allah,

Robert agrees. "I've never studied Arabic or anything like that in my life. I understand that there are some people, Muslims, who grew up in a Muslim home and they do not know Arabic. You know, it's not hard to learn the Quran. Get online, try and don't give up; it's not hard! You start off thinking, "Oh it's the hardest thing in the world for me to do. I can't do this." But no, it's not! You sit there and listen and go along with the recitation. Eventually I learned the Arabic alphabet and now I can find out how to pronounce the words correctly. So when I'm reciting most of the time, I say it correctly. I know my accent is not very good, but I say it anyway. And it took me a while to learn the last ten surahs of the Quran. There are a few other surahs I've started to learn.

For three or four months I was trying to memorize surahs from the Quran and reading, and that was it. Never did I think about understanding it because, as a non-Muslim reading, there is a lot of stuff that you don't understand. And then I began searching for how to understand and I found Ustadh Nouman Ali Khan's Tafseer videos, and they appeared very good. I noticed that as I was studying the surahs, I would watch the Tafseer videos. I understood the ayahs he was talking about and what was going on in the time period these ayahs were being revealed. It helped me to understand everything so much, and then it made my iman (faith) even stronger.

My cousin once asked me "Why do you believe in Islam." He wanted a big explanation from me, and, you know, I told him, "Because I believe in the prophethood of Muhammad (saw), and I believe that his revelations were from Allah (SWT). That's what I believe from my heart and that's what I'm gonna follow. I just have to . . . just always have zikr of Allah (remembrance of Allah). I always ask God for forgiveness (Astaghfirullah), always praising God (Alhamdulillah).

And me in this condition that I'm in, sometimes it's not easy to stay satisfied and happy. I can't do anything for myself and, sometimes if I ask somebody to do something, it will take them quite a long time. I was never a very patient person. But, you know, after I became Muslim, and I studied more, and read, I realized I have Sabr (patience, endurance) now. I can wait. I can calm myself down and remember when they're taking too long, I just repeat Astaghfirullah, Astaghfirullah, Astaghfirullah, Astaghfirullah, (ask for forgiveness from Allah) and eventually what I need gets done.

My mother supports me in my decision. At first, well I can tell you this, I actually converted for a month. I was talking to my mom and I didn't say anything. Then I said, "Well, what would you say if I said I was thinking about converting to Islam?" And my mother says, "Well, I wouldn't like it." And I said, "Well, what if I told you I've already converted?" [Laughs] And the first thing she said was, "So, you wanna go blow up people?" [laughs] And I said, "Oh no, no. You have the wrong idea." Eventually, over time, as I talked to her, and gave her a Quran to read, she read some of it. She understands me and supports me. My father had a different reaction. From his experience he thought that . . . he told me, "Son, only black people are Muslims." [laughs]

I told him, "Dad, there's over one and a half billion Muslims in the world. They're all races and colors, everything." Then the next time I talked to him, and I got a lot more Muslim friends on Facebook, my dad finally sat down and talked to me. He said,

"It's okay. If you want to find your way to God that way, that's your decision."

As for my sister, she doesn't approve of it very much. She actually keeps her distance. I tried to talk to her about Islam, and I gave her a Quran, but she wouldn't read it. Then I gave my son a Quran and talked to him, and he reads some, but you know, he tells me, "I don't believe in organized religion." He's sixteen years old, and he's just . . . he's one of the kids these days. They're about video games and friends. And being bored, you know, that's all they do. He's respectful to me, and he's still going to read the rest, and I'll talk to him. I keep talking to him about Islam and everything.

Then I have a Christian cousin who's really supportive of me. And you know, I told him about it and he didn't say anything bad. You know, yeah, he prays. He tells me he prays for me all the time. And he'll, you know, even in my room, he'll ask me, "Can I say a prayer?" And I'll allow him to. You know,



I don't want to disrespect him, and be like, "No!" So the family is okay. Actually, they're really good. I talk to my brother a lot about Islam and everything. And he liked everything in it. And, you know, I got him to take Shahada actually. He's the one, if you look on my Facebook page, he's the one with the turban and the white thawb. He kind of looks like me, a little more chunky though. [Laughs] I got him to take Shahada,

but he doesn't practice. I'm still gonna talk to him more. I believe I can get him to accept wholeheartedly and practice his faith.

Yeah, I took it to heart and, like I said, I woke up and took Shahada, and I started to learn. I've been trying to keep my mind straight and stay steadfast, and be on the straight path. It's very difficult living in a place like this, and being in the condition I'm in, trust me. But I do it. I stay happy. I'm not depressed. I get angry, like any human would, but I don't get depressed. I'm happy. Anyone who meets me would agree that I'm a happy person. And I'll be honest. Before I converted, I was a mean person. I was angry toward other people and treated people badly. Afterwards, I watch what I say, I watch my tongue. And I think about what I'm gonna say to somebody before I say it, you know, and I remember it. I want to speak softly to people, and with good words.



Answers to Quiz on Page 24 and 25

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 15. Muhammad (Saw) | 13. Shu'ayb |
| 14. Yaseen | 12. Ayyub (Job) |
| 13. 10 | 11. Yusuf (Joseph) |
| 12. Nuh (A) | 10. Ya'qub (Jacob) |
| 11. Isha (A) | 9. Ishaq (Isaac) |
| 10. Maryam (A) | 8. Ishmael |
| 9. Friday | 7. Lut (Lot) Ishma'il |
| 8. 136 | 6. Ibrahim (Abraham) |
| 7. 25 | 5. Sa'ilih |
| 6. 2 | 4. Hud |
| 5. 6 | 3. Nuh (Noah) |
| 4. 114 | 2. Idris (Enoch) |
| 3. 30 | 1. Adam |
| 2. 23 | |
| 1. 40 | |
- Quran Answers

REASONS FOR CONVERTING (OR REVERTING) TO ISLAM



If you ask people why they converted to Islam, most likely they will give you 10 different reasons. The vastness and beauty of Islam is encompassing; Islam is universal. All over the world people are finding that the true message of Islam is something that they lacked in their lives. It is quite interesting to discover some of the different reasons which have led these people to the religion of Islam. Following are a few accounts of their discoveries.

1. ONENESS OF GOD:

I accepted the religion of Islam because Islam is the only religion on the face of earth which strongly believes and adheres to the concept of One True God. In Islam, the concept of one God is very clear and its whole foundation is based on Monotheism. – ADAM, PHILIPPINES

2. ALLAH HAS NO IMAGE:

The first time I came to know that Allah has no image was when there was a visit to a Masjid for Non Muslims conducted by Islamic Affairs Dept. After hearing the explanation about Allah and that He is Almighty, All Knowing and All Powerful, I accepted Islam. – MANUELE, ITALY

3. WORSHIPING MANY GODS IN MY PREVIOUS RELIGION:

We were worshiping thousands of gods and we had different gods whom my parents and other family members were worshiping. From the beginning, I was not worshiping these gods. When I moved to Dubai, I stopped doing everything related to my religion and started believing in the One true God and at last I found this concept in Islam. – ADARSH, INDIA

4. ALLAH IS UNIVERSAL GOD:

In each region and place we have different gods, whereas for Muslims, Allah is their God wherever they are. From Nepal to India, from Kashmir to KanyaKumari, you can list the names of our gods in thousands but for Muslims, they have one Universal God. – SANJANA, INDIA

5. GOD IS ONE IN COMMANDMENTS:

In the 10 commandments of the Bible, it is mentioned that God is only One and we should worship Him alone. But we do not follow these commands, whereas I found this concept very clearly only in the Qur'an. – ABDUL RAHMAN, CAMEROON

6. NOT WORSHIPPING MARY:

We worship Mary and my mother is very devoted to mother Mary, whereas it is not mentioned anywhere in the Holy Bible to worship her. While reading about Mother Mary in Islamic books, I got precise information about her and I accepted Islam. – ALVA, PHILIPPINES

7. JESUS WAS NOT SON OF GOD:

My study of Christianity through the Holy Bible and other books led me to believe and know that Jesus was not the son of God. In fact the term 'SON' is used for many prophets and pious men of God in the Holy Bible. This proved to me that Jesus is not the Son of God. – PAUL, AUSTRALIA

8. JESUS WAS JUST A PROPHET:

The concept of Jesus being a prophet is very clear and logical, as several times in the Bible it is mentioned that he was a prophet of God. The Holy Quran provides clear evidence that Jesus was neither god nor son of God; rather he was a prophet and messenger of God. – RYNO FOURIE, SOUTH AFRICA.

9. JESUS NEVER SAID HE IS GOD:

It was shocking for me to learn that Jesus never stated in the Bible that he is God. This made me question my belief about Jesus, so I started reading about him till I reached the point that he is not God. -MADELANE, PHILIPPINES

10. PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S (PEACE BE UPON HIM) MERCY:

The Prophet's immense mercy towards human beings (especially slaves and women), animals, environment etc. were the main reasons for me to accept the truth brought by Prophet Muhammad (S) –JOCHEN, GERMANY

11. SERVE YOUR FELLOW MAN FIRST:

After September 11, I read a book about the Prophet Mohammed, where he said, "My example is the example of a man who made a fire, and when it lighted what was around it, moths and other insects started falling into the fire. The man tried (his best) to prevent them, (from falling in the fire). The Prophet added: Now, similarly, I take hold of the knots at your waist (belts) to prevent you from falling into the Fire. " I immediately saw a kinship to him personally that we both had the same job, how to save people from the fire.". The fire fighter will risk his life to save you whether you're Black, Brown, Red, Jew, Muslim, Christian, Atheist. He's not asking you what your philosophy is or looking at your color. He's looking to get you out of the building. The willingness just to put others before yourself. To be a good Muslim, you serve people. And specifically, Prophet Muhammad (SAW), asked the question to people around him: "Do you love your creator? Serve your fellow man first. "The Qur'an teaches you that the saving of one life is like saving all of humanity. And, that's one of the reasons I became a firefighter. What more noble calling is there than to save a person's life, to save people, to save their property?

Kevin, USA

12. 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN HISTORY

Once I came to know that in Michael Hart's famous book, prophet Muhammad's name is mentioned at the top of the list, I got a copy of it from an international airport and started reading about him. I read some other books on the life of the Prophet and accepted Islam. – GONZALO, USA

13. ISLAM'S ACCEPTANCE OF ALL THE PROPHETS:

I was surprised once I came to know that Muslims believe in all the Messengers and Prophets of God mentioned in the Holy Bible, like Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, John and Jesus etc. I discovered all the messengers and prophets were following one religion and brought one message. – GEORGE, LEBANON

14. THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM:

Islam is perfect in its concept and in its practice. The Five Pillars of Islam are designed very perfectly and emphasize every part of our life like inner faith, physical acceptance, feeling hunger, helping the needy and global brotherhood. –DALIA, PHILIPPINES

15. QURAN THE BOOK OF ALLAH:

During my college years, I got a copy of the Holy Quran from one of my friends which helped me to understand Islam very clearly. I kept that copy of the Quran with me for long time and continued reading it frequently. Once I visited Dubai, I accepted Islam. – SONIA, INDIA

16. QURAN RESPECTS JESUS:

I had no knowledge that Muslims acknowledge Jesus. Once I came to know that Muslims believe in Jesus, that his name is mentioned in the Quran several times and that it is obligated upon every Muslim to believe and respect him, I started reading the Holy Quran and I found that the Quran respects Jesus and provides a clear picture about who he was. -DENISH, UGANDA

17. CHAPTER 'MARYAM' IN THE QURAN CHANGED MY LIFE:

Once I started reading chapter Maryam in the Quran, everything became clear to me. All the details of Jesus & his mother Mary are mentioned very beautifully. And at the end of the chapter, there is a warning for those who after receiving the truth turn their back and do not accept the truth. - FERNANDO, PHILIPPINES

18. THE QURAN WAS PIVOTAL FOR ME

The Quran was pivotal for me. I first tried to approach it in anger, as part of an attempt to prove my Muslim friend wrong. Later I began reading it with a more open mind. The opening of Al Fatiha, with its address to the whole of mankind, psychologically stopped me in my tracks. It spoke of previous scriptures in a way which I both recognized, but also differed. It clarified many of the doubts I had about Christianity. It made me an adult as I suddenly realized that my destiny and my actions had consequences for which I alone would now be held responsible. In the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), I recognized a man who was tasked with a momentous mission, like his predecessors, Moses, Jesus and Abraham.

MYRIAM FRANCOIS-CERRAH - UK

19. THE QURAN CANNOT BE CHANGED:

I was surprised to know that the Quran has not been changed throughout centuries and will not change until the Last Day, because Allah has promised to keep the Quran intact and thousands of Muslims have learnt the Quran by heart. - YUSUF, PHILIPPINES

20. PRAYER IN ISLAM:

For years I was observing Muslims while they were praying. I was often amazed by the devout way of worship. No one asked me to accept Islam, but through my observation of Muslims' prayer, I accepted Islam. - JASON, GERMANY

21. UNITY IN PRAYER:

In the congregational prayer, there is no king or servant, rich or poor, white or black, first or second class, reserved or unreserved. All Muslims stand and pray shoulder to shoulder in the most disciplined manner and demonstrate unity in purpose and action, piety and humility before God and solidarity among Muslims. -TOUKPO, TOGO

22. PRAYER IS A MUST:

Whatever situation comes and wherever we were with our Muslim friends, they never missed their prayers. While playing cricket, they used to stop for prayer and while going to shopping centers, they would often leave us and go to pray. I became curious and started praying with them until I became Muslim. -ABDUL LATEEF, INDIA

23. MASJID HAS NO IMAGE:

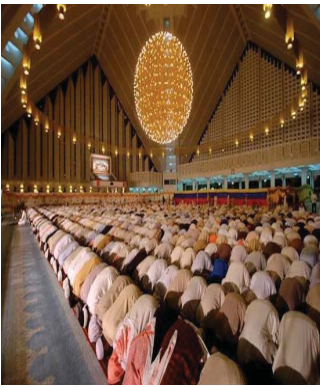
Along with 20 other non-Muslims like myself, we were taken on a tour of a masjid in Abu Dhabi. It was a very spiritual journey. On the tour of the masjid, they explained to us that Muslims do not worship any idols and that they don't keep any images inside the masjid. A woman explained very nicely to us about the principles of Islam. I loved it so much that I embraced Islam. – MARYAM, ROMANIA

24. THE FAST BREAKING:

Muslims break their fast during the month of Ramadan in a beautiful manner. Sitting together and breaking the fast together on the hearing of Adhan is one of the best ways of showing brotherhood. My Muslim colleagues used to call me for Iftar while they were all together breaking their fast in our office. -BILAL, CHILE

25. MUSLIMS CELEBRATED EID:

As I used to call my Muslim friends for birthday parties and Dewali celebrations, my Muslim friends used to call me for Eid celebrations at their home. During Eid they had no dancing or singing. Rather, they would go to pray, hug each other, visit relatives, help the needy and enjoy gracefully every moment of Eid. -SAJIDA, INDIA



26. GIVING CHARITY IN EID:

Celebrating Eid means not only eating sweets, it was much more than that for Muslims. Giving charity is one of the best parts of Eid. Giving money, giving food, giving clothes and visiting poor relatives

and making them smile; Eid is all about celebration but for a good cause. -ASMA, NEPAL

27. UNITY OF MUSLIMS IN HAJJ:

The unity of Muslims everywhere and especially during the Hajj is really amazing. Whether king or layman, black or white, rich or poor, everyone wears unstitched, white clothes to show simplicity and fraternity among themselves. I went through many books while learning about Islam before finally converting. –MARIA, UK

28. BE GOOD TO NON-MUSLIM PARENTS:

I was interested in Islam but not willing to accept because of my parents as I love them, take care of them and was the only bread-winner for them. Once, while reading about Islam, I learned that Islam orders us to be kind and helpful to our parents, even if they are Non-Muslims. After knowing that, I accepted Islam. – MARYAM, PHILIPPINES

29. BROTHERHOOD IN ISLAM:

I am really surprised by seeing the brotherhood system that Muslims have. They consider other Muslims as their brothers and sometime more than that. They care for each other and demonstrate brotherhood in every aspect of life. –WANG, CHINA

31. PROHIBITION OF PORK:

I know that eating pork in Christianity is also not allowed, but most of us consume it. Once I came to know that Islam has prohibited eating pork, I started reading about Islam which led me to accept it. – OSCAR, PHILIPPINES

32. TO HAVE A NEW LIFE:

I was looking for a life in which I could have inner peace and learn good manners. A life without harming anyone, a life satisfied with what we have, a life totally devoted to almighty God. I found all these qualities in Islam and after accepting Islam I had a new life. –AMEEN, CONGO

33. ISLAMIC PROHIBITIONS:

At the beginning I was concerned with so many do's and don'ts in Islam. Don't do this, don't do that etc. But after getting to know many Muslims, I realized that these things help a person to lead good life. I realized that keeping oneself away from prohibitions make the person socially and morally stronger. – ZULIKHA, PHILIPPINES

34. DRINKING IS PROHIBITED IN ISLAM:

I was born into a Christian family and witnessed how my father would drink wine every day before going to sleep. Sadly, he drinks a lot and behaves differently towards the whole family, shouting and fighting for small things were common at our home. This led me to spend most of my time with a Muslim family, where I had complete calmness and a beautiful atmosphere. It was that duration that I studied Islam and accepted it. – ABDULLAH, INDIA

35. CASTE SYSTEM IN MY RELIGION:

There is no caste system in Islam; everyone is equal. We used to suffer from this caste system in our country. Upper caste people were abusing us all the time. We were not allowed to have any relationship with them. We were not even allowed to enter the temple on particular days since the upper caste people would be worshipping on those days. Muslims do not have such a system and they all perform their prayers together. ABDUL JABBAR, INDIA

36. CONCEPT OF LIFE AFTER DEATH:

Islamic concept of life after death is very practical and logical when compared to our concept of rebirth and reincarnation of souls. The Islamic view of being answerable to our faith and deeds after we die makes us responsible in this world and mindful of God. –NOOR, INDIA

38. TO SAVE MYSELF FROM THE HELL FIRE:

I read about Islam and read the verse in the Holy Quran which states, "They do blaspheme who say: "(Allah) is Christ, the son of Mary." But said Christ: "O children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Indeed, whoever joins others with Allah, Allah will forbid him the garden of paradise, and the Fire will be his abode. And there are not for the wrongdoers any helpers. – MONA, BRAZIL

39. EVERYTHING IS BEAUTIFUL IN ISLAM:

I embraced Islam because I believe that there is no God but Allah and that Mohammad is the Messenger. When I was Christian I always felt incomplete and felt like something was missing. I never believed in the trinity because it made no sense. So I started to look at other religions. Islam captured my heart; I found all the answers I was looking for about this life and the hereafter. Everything is beautiful in Islam. –ABDUL RAHMAN, CAMEROON

Learn 30 Duas From The Quran

DAY 1

رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا ۖ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

Rabbanataqabbal minna innaka anta assameeAAu alAAaleem
"Our Lord, accept [this] from us. Indeed You are the Hearing, the Knowing."
Quran 2:127

DAY 2

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

Rabbana atinafee addunya hasanatan wafee al-akhiratihasanatan waqina AAathaba annar
"Our Lord, give us in this world [that which is] good and in the Hereafter [that which is] good and protect us from the punishment of the Fire." Quran 2:201

DAY 3

رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِنْ نَسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا

Rabbana latu-akhithna in naseena aw akhta
"Our Lord, do not impose blame upon us if we have forgotten or erred."
Quran 2:286

DAY 4

رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ ۗ وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا ۚ إِنَّكَ مَوْلَانَا

Rabbanu wala tuhammilnana la taqata lana bihi waAAafuAAanna waghfir lana warhamnaanta maw-lana fansurna AAalaalqawmi alkafireen. "Our Lord, and burden us not with that which we have no ability to bear. And pardon us; and forgive us; and have mercy upon us. You are our protector, so give us victory over the disbelieving people." Quran 2:286

DAY 5

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً ۚ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

Rabbana la tuzigh quloobanabaAAda ith hadaytana wahab lana min ladunkarahmatan innaka anta alwahhab. "Our Lord, let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower." Quran 3:8

DAY 6

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَإِسْرَافَنَا فِي أَمْرِنَا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ

Rabbanu ighfir lana thunoobanawa-israfana fee amrina wathabbit aqdamanawansurna AAala alqawmi alkafireen. "Our Lord, forgive us our sins and the excess [committed] in our affairs and plant firmly our feet and give us victory over the disbelieving people." 3:147

DAY 7

رَبَّنَا فَاعْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَكَفِّرْ عَنَّا سَيِّئَاتِنَا وَتَوَقَّنَا مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ

Rabbana faghfirlana thunoobana wakaffir AAannasayyi-atina watawaffana maAAA al-abrar. "Our Lord, so forgive us our sins and remove from us our misdeeds and cause us to die with the righteous." Quran 3:193

DAY 8

وَارْزُقْنَا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ

Warzuqna waanta khayru arraziqeen.
"And provide for us, and You are the best of providers." Quran 5:114

DAY 9

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

Rabbana thalamnaanfusana wa-in lam taghfir lana watarhamnalanakoonanna mina alkhasireen. "Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers." Quran 7:23

DAY 10

رَبَّنَا افْتَحْ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَ قَوْمِنَا بِالْحَقِّ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْفَاتِحِينَ

Rabbanaiftah baynana wabayna qawmina bilhaqqiwaanta khayru alfatiheen.
"Our Lord, decide between us and our people in truth, and You are the best of those who give decision." Quran 7:89

Salah (Prayer); *Please perform *Wudu* (ablution before prayers) before you start, see page 4
The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: "Pray as you have seen me praying." (Sahih Al-Bukari)

A Step-by-Step Guide On How to Perform Salah
PERFORMING THE FIRST RAK'AH (UNIT) OF PRAYER

Intention: Stand straight facing the Qiblah (direction of the Kabah in Mecca), and make your Niyah (intention in your heart) for the intended prayer.

STEP 1

TAKBEER



In standing position, with your head and eyes directed to the place of prostration, raise both hands above your shoulders and say,

Allaahu Akbar اللهُ أَكْبَرُ
 Allah is the greatest

as you move your hands to place on your chest.

STEP 2

QIYAM



أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

A'oothu billahi minash-shaytanir-rajeem
 I seek refuge with Allah from Satan the accursed

Place right hand over the left hand and keep the gaze of eyes and face directed to place of prostration and recite Surah Al Fatiha (The Opening):

STEP 3 RECITE SURAT AL-FATIHA



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1. Bismillaahir-Rahmaanir-Raheem

In the name of God, the infinitely Compassionate and Merciful.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

2. Al hamdu lillaahi rabbil 'aalameen

Praise be to God, Lord of all the worlds.

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

3. Ar-Rahmaanir-Raheem

The Compassionate, the Merciful.

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

4. Maaliki yawmid-Deen

Ruler on the Day of Reckoning.

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

5. Iyyaaka na'abudu wa iyyaaka nasta'een
 You alone do we worship, and You alone do we ask for help.

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

6. Ihdinas siraatal mustaqeem

Guide us on the straight path,

STEP 3 CONTINUED



صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

7. Siraatal latheena an 'amta' alaihim

the path of those who have received your grace;

غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ

Ghairil maghduubi' alaihim

not the path of those who have brought down wrath,

وَالضَّالِّينَ

Waladdaalleen.

nor of those who wander astray.

آمِينَ

Aameen

Oh Allah answer our prayer.

STEP 4

Recite another *surah* (chapter) from the Holy Quran if this is the 1st or 2nd Rakat (unit). See pages 3 and 4 for some short *suras*. Recite only the Arabic . In the 3rd and 4th Rakah (Unit), only recitation of Surah Al Fatiha is required.

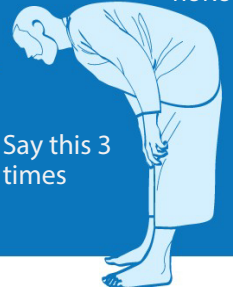
As you move from standing position (Qiyam) to bowing (Ruku') position

say: **Allaahu Akbar**

STEP 5

You should now be in the bowing (RUKU') position.

RUKU'



سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْعَظِيمِ

Subhaana rabbiyal 'atheem x3

Glory be to my Lord The Supreme

Say this 3 times

STEP 6

As you move from Ruku (bowing) position to standing position, say:



سَمِعَ اللَّهُ لِمَنْ حَمِدَهُ

Sami'-Allaahu liman hamidah

Allah listens to the one who praises Him

In standing position, keep your body straight with your hands resting by your sides and say,

رَبَّنَا وَ لَكَ الْحَمْدُ

Rabbanaa wa lakal hamd

Our Lord, and to You belongs the praise

STEP 7

As you go down into prostration (Sujood) (Sajdah),

say: **Allaahu Akbar**
Allah is Greatest **اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ**

In prostration position, ensure:

- The nose and forehead are touching the ground.
- The palms of the hands are placed on the ground (with fingers together) below your ears and your forearms should not rest on the ground.
- The two knees are on the floor.

While in prostration position, say three times:

SUJOOD
SAJDAH



x3 Subhaana rabbiyal 'alaa
Glory be to my Lord the most high
سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْأَعْلَى

STEP 8

As you come up to sitting position (Jalsah) (Q'adah), say:



Allaahu Akbar
Allah is Greatest **اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ**

In the sitting position say the following 3 times:

رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي **x3**
Rabbighfirlee
Oh Allah, forgive me

Sit relaxed with your back straight, and with your hands resting comfortably on your thighs and knees and say:

JALSAH
Q'ADAH

STEP 9

Next you go into the prostration (sujood) position for a second time as described in step 7. As you go into this position say:

Allaahu Akbar
Allah is Greatest **اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ**

In the sujood position say the following 3 times:

x3
Subhaana rabbiyal 'alaa
Glory be to my Lord the most high
سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْأَعْلَى



The first unit is now complete. Now you should complete the second/final rak'ah (unit).

PERFORMING THE SECOND OR FINAL RAK'AH (UNIT) OF PRAYER

STEP 1



Repeat steps 3 to 9
from the first Rak'ah (unit) of



STEP 2

Attahiyat



التَّحِيَّاتُ لِلَّهِ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالطَّيِّبَاتُ
Attahiyyaatu Lillaahi was-salawaatu wat-tayyibaatu

All compliments, prayers and pure words are due to Allaah.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ

Al-salaamu 'alayka ayyuhan-Nabiyyu
Peace be upon you, O Prophet,

وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuh.

And the mercy of Allaah and His blessings.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا وَ عَلَى عِبَادِ اللَّهِ الصَّالِحِينَ

Assalaamu 'alaynaa wa 'alaa 'ibaad-illaahi assaaliheen.

Peace be upon us and upon the righteous slaves of Allaah.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

Ash-hadu allaa ilaaha illa-Allaah

I bear witness that there is no god except Allaah

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh

And I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

2 Rakats/Units

FAJR WHAT TO DO NEXT ?

You have now completed the 1st and 2nd rak'ah. What you do next will depend on which prayer you are performing i.e. how many rak'ah you are performing. Use this chart to know what you next step is.

1st Unit

2nd Unit

Complete the prayer

4 Rakats/Units

DHUHR, ASR & ISHA'

1st Unit

2nd Unit

3rd Unit

4th Unit

Complete the prayer

3 Rakats/Units

MAGHRIB

1st Unit

2nd Unit

3rd Unit

Complete the prayer

COMPLETE THE PRAYER

STEP 1

Attahiyat



اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ
Allaahumma salli 'ala Muhammad
O Allaah, send prayers upon Muhammad
وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ
wa 'ala aali Muhammad
and upon the family of Muhammad,
كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ
kama salayta 'ala Ibraaheem
as You sent prayers upon Ibraaheem
وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
wa 'ala aali Ibraaheem,
and the family of Ibraaheem,
إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ
innaka hameedun majeed
You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory.
وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ
Allaahumma baarika 'ala Muhammad
O Allaah, bless Muhamma
وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ
wa 'ala aali Muhammad
and the family of Muhammad
كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ
kama baarakta 'ala Ibraaheem
as You blessed Ibraaheem
وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
wa 'ala aali Ibraaheem,
and the family of Ibraaheem,
إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ
innaka hameedun majeed
You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory.

Upon completion of the Tashahhud and the words that follow, the player is finished with the Tasleem by doing the following:

STEP 2 RIGHT SIDE



Turn your head to the right and say:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ
Assalaamu 'alaykum wa
rahmatullah
May Allah's peace and mercy be upon you

STEP 3 LEFT SIDE

Turn your head to the left and say:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ
Assalaamu 'alaykum wa
rahmatullah
May Allah's peace and mercy be upon you



The Salah (Prayer) is now complete.
It is recommended to make supplications after the completion of the prayer, and pray any Sunnah (voluntary) prayers (where applicable).

SUPLICATION AFTER PRAYER



x33
سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ
Subhan Allah
Glory be to Allah

x33
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ
Al-hamdu lillah
Praise be to Allah

x34
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ
Allaahu Akbar
Allah is the
greatest

Any of the following chapters may be recited in Arabic after Suratul Fatiha

سورة الكوثر (The Abundance) -108 سورة الكوثر

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Bismi Allahi arrahmani arraheem

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ ﴿١﴾

Inna aAAtaynakaalkawthar

Indeed, We have granted you, [O Muhammad], al-Kawthar.

فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ ﴿٢﴾

Fasalli lirabbika wanhar

So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone].

إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ ﴿٣﴾

Inna shani-aka huwa al-abtar

Indeed, your enemy is the one cut off.

سورة الإخلاص (The Sincerity) -102 سورة الإخلاص

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Bismi Allahi arrahmani arraheem

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ﴿١﴾

Qul huwa Allahu ahad

Say, "He is Allah, [who is] One,

اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ﴿٢﴾

Allahu assamad

Allah, the Eternal Refuge.

لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ﴿٣﴾

Lam yalid walam yoolad

He neither begets nor is born,

وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ﴿٤﴾

Walam yakun lahu kufuwan ahad

Nor is there to Him any equivalent."

سورة الفلق 113 - Surat Al-Falaq (The Daybreak)

Bismi Allahi arrahmani arraheem بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

1 قُلْ اَعُوْذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ ﴿۱﴾ **Qul aAAoothu birabbi alfalaq**

Say, "I seek refuge in the Lord of daybreak

2 مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ ﴿۲﴾ **Min sharri ma khalaq**

From the evil of that which He created

3 وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ اِذَا وَقَبَ ﴿۳﴾ **Wamin sharri ghasiqin ithawaqab**

And from the evil of darkness when it settles

4 وَمِنْ شَرِّ النَّفَّاثَاتِ فِي الْعُقَدِ ﴿۴﴾ **Wamin sharri annaffathatifee alAAuqad**

And from the evil of the blowers in knots

5 وَمِنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ اِذَا حَسَدَ ﴿۵﴾ **Wamin sharri hasidin itha hasad**

And from the evil of an envier when he envies."

سورة الناس 114 - Surat An-Nas (The Mankind)

Bismi Allahi arrahmani arraheem بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

1 قُلْ اَعُوْذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ ﴿۱﴾ **Qul aAAoothu birabbi annas**

Say, "I seek refuge in the Lord of mankind,

2 مَلِكِ النَّاسِ ﴿۲﴾ **Maliki annas**

The Sovereign of mankind.

3 اِلٰهِ النَّاسِ ﴿۳﴾ **Ilahi annas**

The God of mankind,

4 مِنْ شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ ﴿۴﴾ **Min sharri alwaswasi alkhannas**

From the evil of the retreating whisperer -

5 اَلَّذِي يُّوسَّوْسُ فِيْ صُدُوْرِ النَّاسِ ﴿۵﴾ **Allathee yuwaswisu fee sudoori annas**

Who whispers [evil] into the breasts of mankind -

6 مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ ﴿۶﴾ **Mina aljinnati wannas**

From among the jinn and mankind."

STEP 1

HOW TO PERFORM WUDU' (STEP-BY-STEP)
THE FOLLOWING STEPS MUST BE OBSERVED IN ORDER

BEFORE WUDU: Intention of making wudu should be done in the heart, then say:

Bismillah

In the name of Allah

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ

STEP 2

x3 Completely washing the hands including the wrists and between the fingers (3 times).



STEP 3



x3

Rinse the mouth (3 times). Using the right hand, put a small amount of water into the mouth, swirl around, then expel.

STEP 4



x3

Sniff water into the nostrils as far as possible with the right hand, and then sniff it out with the left hand (3 times).

STEP 5



x3

Wash the face from forehead to chin, left earlobe to the right earlobe making sure the whole face is washed (3 times).

STEP 6

Wash the two arms up to and including the elbows, hang, and between the fingers. Begin with the right arm (3 times for each arm).



x3

STEP 7

Wipe the head with wet fingers starting at the fringe to the back hairline and back the same way all in one movement (once only).



x1

STEP 8

Simultaneously wipe the inside of both ears with the index fingers, and the back of the ears with the thumbs (once only).



x1

STEP 9

Wash the feet including the ankles and between the toes. Begin with the right foot (3 times for each foot).



x3

STEP 10

Du'a after Wudu

اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللهُ وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهٗ وَرَسُوْلُهٗ
Ash-hadu anllaa ilaaha illallaah wa ash-hadu anna
Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh.

I bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah. And I bear witness that Muhammad is His Slave and Messenger.

اَللّٰهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِيْ مِنَ التَّوَابِيْنَ وَاجْعَلْنِيْ مِنَ الْمُتَطَهِّرِيْنَ
Allaahuma ij'alnee minat-tawabeena waj'alnee minal-
mutatahireen.

O Allah, make me among those who turn to You in repentance, and make me among those who purify themselves.

Learn 30 Duas From The Quran

DAY 21

أَنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الضُّرُّ وَأَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّحِيمِينَ

Annee massaniya addurru waanta arhamuarrahim.

"Indeed, adversity has touched me, and you are the Most Merciful of the merciful."
Quran 21:83

DAY 22

رَبِّ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ هَمَزَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ

Rabbi aAAoothu bika min hamazatiashshayateen.

"My Lord, I seek refuge in You from the incitements of the devils." Quran 23:97

DAY 23

رَبَّنَا أَمَنَّآ فَاعْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّحِيمِينَ

Rabbana amanna faghfirlana warhamna waanta khayru arrahimeen.

"Our Lord, we have believed, so forgive us and have mercy upon us, and You are the best of the merciful." Quran 23:109

DAY 24

رَبَّنَا اصْرِفْ عَنَّا عَذَابَ جَهَنَّمَ إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا

Rabbanaisrif AAanna AAathaba jahannama inna AAathabahakana gharama.

"Our Lord, avert from us the punishment of Hell. Indeed, its punishment is ever adhering."
Quran 25:65

DAY 25

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

Rabbanahab lana min azwajina wathurriyyatinaqurrata aAAyunin wajAAalna lilmuttaqeena imama. "Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous." Quran 25:74

DAY 26

رَبِّ هَبْ لِي حُكْمًا وَ آَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ . وَ اجْعَلْ لِي لِسَانَ صِدْقٍ فِي الْآخِرِينَ .

وَ اجْعَلْنِي مِنْ وَرَثَةِ جَنَّةِ النَّعِيمِ

Rabbi hab lee hukman waalhiqneebissaliheen. WajAAal lee lisana sidqinfee al-akhire. WajAAalnee min warathati jannati annaAAeem. "My Lord, grant me authority and join me with the righteous. And grant me a reputation of honor among later generations. And place me among the inheritors of the Garden of Pleasure. 26: 83-85

DAY 27

رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَى وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا

تَرْتَضِيهِ وَأَدْخِلْنِي بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِي عِبَادِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ

Rabbi awziAAnee an ashkura niAAamataka allateeanAAamta AAalayya waAAala walidayya waan aAAamala salihan-tardahu waadkhilnee birahmatika fee AAibadikaassaliheen. "My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to do righteousness of which You approve. And admit me by Your mercy into [the ranks of] Your righteous servants." Quran 27:19

DAY 28

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا

لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ

Rabbana ighfir lana wali-ikhwaninaallatheena sabaqoona bil-eemani walatajAAal fee quloobina ghillan lillatheena amanoorabbana innaka raoofun raheem. "Our Lord, forgive us and our brothers who preceded us in faith and put not in our hearts [any] resentment toward those who have believed. Our Lord, indeed You are Kind and Merciful."

DAY 29

رَبِّ ابْنِ لِي عِنْدَكَ بَيْتًا فِي الْجَنَّةِ

Rabbiibni lee AAindak baytan fee aljannati.

"My Lord, build for me near You a house in Paradise ." Quran 66:11

DAY 30

رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِمَنْ دَخَلَ بَيْتِي مُؤْمِنًا وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ

Rabbi ighfir lee waliwalidayyawaliman dakhala baytiya mu/minan walilmu/mineena wal-mu/minati. My Lord, forgive me and my parents and whoever enters my house a believer and the believing men and believing women. Quran 71:28

تكبيرات العيد - Eid Takbeers

الله أكبر
Allahu Akbar,
Allah is Great,

الله أكبر
Allahu Akbar,
Allah is Great,

الله أكبر
Allahu Akbar
Allah is Great

لا إله إلا الله

La ilaha illallah
there is no God, but Allah

الله أكبر
Allahu Akbar,
Allah is Great,

الله أكبر
Allahu Akbar
Allah is Great

و لله الحمد

walilahil Hamd
to Him belongs all Praise

الله أكبر كبيراً
Allahu Akbaru Kabeeera
Allah is Most Greatest

والحمد لله كثيراً
wal-Hamdūlīlahi katheera
And praise be to Allah in abundance

و سبحان الله
wa Subhan allahi
And Glory to Allah

بكرة وأصيلاً
bukratan wa aseila
in the early morning and the late afternoon

لا إله إلا الله وحده
La ilaha illallah Wahdah
there is no God, but Allah the Unique

صدق وعده
sadaga wa 'dah
He has fulfilled His Promise

ونصر عبده
wa nasara abda
and made victorious His Servant

وأعز جنده
wa a'zza jundahu
and made Mighty His soldiers

وهزم الأحزاب وحده
wa hazamal-ahzaaba wahdah
and by Himself defeated the enemy parties

لا إله إلا الله
La ilaha illallah
there is no God, But Allah

ولا نعبد إلا إياه
wa laa na 'budu illa iyyah
He alone we worship

مخلصين له الدين
mukhllessena lahud-deena
with sincere and exclusive devotion

ولو كره الكافرون
walaw Karehal-Kafeeroon
even though the idolaters hate it

اللهم صل على سيدنا محمد
Allahumma salli ala sayyedna Muhammad
O Allah, have Mercy on our Prophet Muhammad

وعلى آل سيدنا محمد
wa ala aalie sayyedna Muhammad
and on the family of our Prophet Muhammad

وعلى اصحاب سيدنا محمد
wa ala as-haabie sayyedna Muhammad
and on the companions of our Prophet Muhammad

وعلى انصار سيدنا محمد
wa ala ansari sayyedna Muhammad
and on the helpers of our Prophet Muhammad

وعلى أزواج سيدنا محمد
wa ala azwajie sayyedna Muhammad
and on the wives of our Prophet Muhammad

وعلى نرية سيدنا محمد
wa ala dhurreyatie sayyedna Muhammad
and on the progeny of our Prophet Muhammad

وسلم تسليمًا كثيرًا
wa sallim tasleeman katheera
and Bestow upon them much peace.

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THE MAGNIFICENT CREATION OF THIS TINY MOSQUITO

“Indeed, Allah is not timid to present an example - that of a mosquito or what is smaller than it.” (Qur’an 2:26).



Allah’s reference to the mosquito in the Qur’an is unique among His references to animals. “Allah does not hesitate to mention the mosquito as an example because of what is carried above it.” One of the strangest discoveries of modern science is that a very small microscopic insect lives on the backs of mosquitos. 1400 years ago, the Qur’an told us about this microscopic insect! In other verses in the Qur’an, Allah mentions other small animals, like the fly and the spider. However, when Allah narrates parables about them, the idolaters objected. They think that they found what they were looking for: the opportunity to discredit the truth of the Qur’an.

Modern science discovered, much to its amazement, that an adult female mosquito is an extremely complicated biological organism:

- **Anatomy:** The mosquito flaps its wings about 500 times per second to realize a speed of flight of approximately three miles per hour. Only the female mosquito sucks blood, a thing she does to feed her eggs. She obtains her own nourishment from the nectar of flowers. In its head, the mosquito has 100 eyes, 48 teeth, and 6 cutting implements in its snout—each with a unique function. In its torso, it has 3 complete hearts with 3 wings on the exterior of its chest.

- **Chemical sensors:** By detecting carbon dioxide and lactic acid, special chemical sensors in the mosquito enable it to find prey which is located up to 100 feet away from itself. Mammals and birds give off these gases when they breathe. Certain chemicals in mammalian sweat also attract mosquitos.

- **Visual sensors:** Mosquitos can detect color and color contrast. Thus, the wearing of clothing that contrasts with the background, and moving while wearing such clothing, facilitates the mosquito’s ability to see and target its prey. If something moves, that means to the mosquito that the thing is alive with the desired, needed blood flowing in its veins. In the dark, the mosquito’s X-ray vision distinguishing the skin of a human as a violet-col-

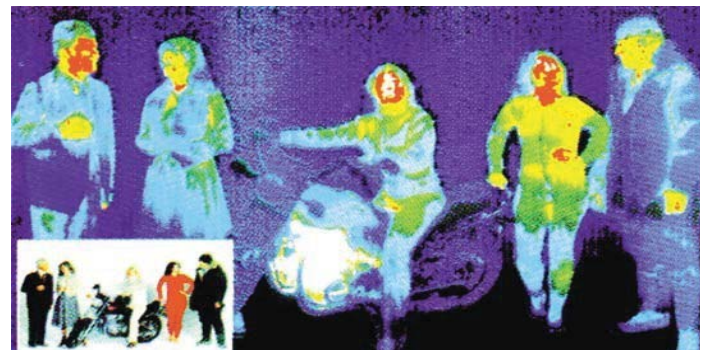
The mosquito has 100 eyes, 48 teeth, and 6 cutting implements in its snout—each with a unique function. In its torso, it has 3 complete hearts with 3 wings on the exterior of its chest.

ored sheath. It then injects a liquid local anesthetic into the human’s skin to help it insert its snout into the human’s skin without its human prey feeling it. Then, the mosquito can sucking the human’s blood uninterrupted. To provide for the fact that it does not like all types of blood, it has the ability to test its prey’s blood prior to extracting it. It also has the ability to thin the blood to speed up its flow so that it can be drawn out of the body faster, before the anesthetic wears off and the person perceives the intrusion.

- **Heat sensors:** Mosquitos detect heat. These special sensors help them find warm-blooded creatures, i.e., humans and other mammals when they are within a certain distance.

Sensitive Receptors Sense the Location of Prey in the Dark

Even if a man is sleeping in a pitch-dark room, a mosquito can find him easily. Even if a person’s entire body is under their bed covers, with only a hand sticking out, the mosquito can find that small piece of flesh and extract its blood, without waking the person up. The mosquito has the ability, by the Will of its Creator, to seize a prey millions of times larger than itself—in the dark.



One of the ways the mosquito does this is with heat-sensitive sensors; they perceive heat given off by the body. The mosquito’s heat-sensitive receptors are as effective as that of our military technology, particularly in the dark. These organs, known as “tarsi,” are located in the forelegs. When the tarsi detect heat waves from a body, the mosquito is drawn to its target unerringly. With heat detectors, the mosquito can also find the areas under the skin where the blood is warmest, as in the veins as compared to the tissue. In the pitch-dark, a mosquito can locate the exposed parts of a sleeping person and the veins closest to the skin.

Amino acids, amines, ammonia, and lactic acid found in the blood also attract the mosquito. Even when these substances are diluted 2,000 times, the produce is 5 times more attractive to mosquitos than distilled water. The mosquito is like a warplane loaded with detectors for heat, gas, humidity, and odor. The mosquito can identify prey 25 to 30 meters (82-98 feet) away. Such a unique and powerful structure cannot be the result of a chain of coincidences. Obviously, despite its tininess, the mosquito is not insignificant but complex and fascinating. In fact, its tininess adds to the mystique of its unique form of life. Thus, we can understand why Allah refers to the mosquito as wondrous and miraculous.

We know the female mosquito sucks blood for the protein needs of her eggs. To obtain that blood, the mosquito must first find a source of blood, i.e., prey. Evolutionary theory claims that the mosquito acquired its attributes and skills in stages. But, the mosquito could not afford to have thousands of years for its body to acquire its heat receptors. It had to have its system of perception from the beginning for it to find its prey, or its eggs would

have perished. In the case of the mosquito, development over time was not an option.

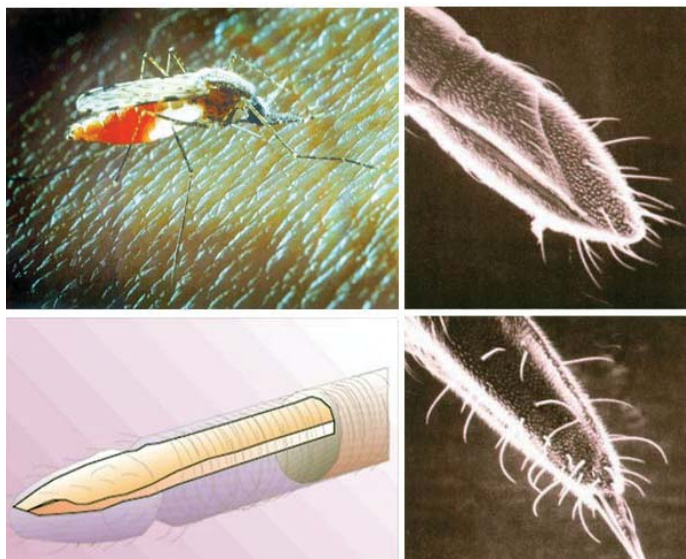
“Our Lord is He who gave each thing its form and then guided [it]” (Qur’an 20:50)

The anatomy of the mosquito includes heat, humidity, gas, and chemical-substance receptors. In addition to these receptors, the mosquito has feelers which perceive the vibrations of their opposite sex. The fact that a mosquito is equipped with such an extensive and effective system of receptors indicates that its nature, i.e., its way of meeting its needs, had to be in place from the beginning for it to be a mosquito, for it to exist and perpetuate itself. The Creator of this marvelous and perfect system, the one who brought the mosquito into existence, made His identity known in the following verse of the Qur’an:

“There is no creature on the Earth that is not dependent upon God for its provision. He knows where it lives and where it dies, and all of it is recorded in a Glorious Book” (Qur’an, 11:6).

Biting the Prey

The first incision is made with the upper and lower jaw. The four cutters in the sucking tube cut deep into the skin. Sensory organs which detect heat, smell, taste, and touch play an important role in establishing where the capillaries are located under skin. After a few attempts, the mosquito finds a vein. It sucks the blood by sticking a tube into the hole it



has opened in the skin. With the tube, it penetrates a small vein and sucks blood directly out of the vein. It can also suck the blood which has accumulated in the surrounding tissue, a thing which happened when skin the mosquito severed the skin.

At this juncture, a potentially unsurmountable problem presents itself to the mosquito. The bite of a mosquito activates the human body's defense system. The human body excretes in the region of the wound an enzyme which prevents microbes from entering the body. By causing the blood to clot, the human enzyme also stops the body from bleeding. A mosquito cannot drink clotting blood. To resolve this problem, through one of its sharp knives, the mosquito injects

into the wound an anti-coagulant which renders the enzyme completely ineffective; the clotting stops, and with the mosquito's instruments of invasion no longer obstructed, the mosquito can slurp up as much free flowing blood as he needs. This counter-defense secretion of the mosquito also provides the local anesthetic which numbs the area of the incision in the victim. This makes the victim unaware that his/her skin has been cut and its blood sucked. Only after the fact, does the secretion causes an allergic reaction and the skin starts to itch.

A female sucks about 2.8 mg (0.0001 ounce) of blood at a time, for about 2.5 minutes. The blood is sent to the midgut by suction pumps in the fore-section of the digestive system. The abdomen fills with blood as far as the digestive system. Digesting the blood takes 3-4 days, and then sucking is repeated.

In a mosquito's sucking tube, there are 6 knives. 4 of these cut the skin. The other 2 join to form a hollow tube which the mosquito uses to stick into the tissue it has cut and suck out the blood.

“O people, an example is presented, so listen to it. Indeed, those you invoke besides Allah will never create [as much as] a fly, even if they gathered together for that purpose. And if the fly should steal away from them a [tiny] thing, they could not recover it from him. Weak are the pursuer and pursued. They have not appraised Allah with true appraisal. Indeed, Allah is Powerful and Exalted in Might.” (Qur’an 22:73-74).

Superior Flying Technique

Wings of a mosquito beat approximately 500 times a second. This produces the buzzing perceived by the human ear. This astonishing rate results from a very sensitive measurement. If someone's arms were tied to a machine and forced to flap 500 times a second, the shoulder joint would rupture. Connections would burn. Ligaments holding the arm together would snap. The arm would become completely disabled. If the movement lasted for more than a second, the shoulder would dislocate and the arm would break off. This movement which is impossible for humans, is the daily life of a mosquito.

“And there is no creature on [or within] the earth or bird that flies with its wings except [that they are] communities like you. We have not neglected in the Register a thing. Then unto their Lord they will be gathered” (Qur’an 6:38).

This miraculous ability to flap its wings is utilized with the help of a support systems innate to the mosquito. First and foremost, the muscles and connectors that make the wings flap are extremely strong and resilient. Second, these muscles require energy. As we know, cells use oxygen to synthesize energy. Resilience increases in direct proportion to an increased capacity for utilizing oxygen. In the human body, oxygen from the lungs is taken into the blood. Thereby, it is carried to the cells. The reason a person gets tired when running is because necessary oxygen is not carried to the cells in time. Another reason is the appearance of lactic acid in the cells of the muscles. If the cells cannot get rid of the acid, fatigue follows. This situation is different for mosquitos. In order to beat their wings—which are nearly the size of their bodies—500 times a second, the mosquito needs a great deal of oxygen. The mosquito's respiratory system is created to meet this need. Its respiratory system consists of a tube that reaches every cell. As the tube makes direct contact with the outside air, the cells obtain oxygen without an intermediary substance. Waste substances are also passed from cells into the atmosphere by

means of these tubes. Thus, the mosquito can get enough oxygen to flap its wings thousands of times per minute without tiring.

The fact that a mosquito can beat its wings so rapidly gives it many advantages. It can fly vertically. It can move forward and backward with ease. The mosquito is a perfect flying machine with many features superior to man made aircraft. Aircraft require a specially-refined fuel to fly. The mosquito maintains all its energy from nectar. An aircraft undergoes maintenance before each flight, with engine parts renewed periodically. With no maintenance requirements whatsoever, the mosquito flies its entire life, thanks to the muscles on its back.

The aircraft of our present day resulted from hundreds of years of research and experimentation which came together to make up a pool of knowledge. At every stage of development, the human brain's power and design was employed. However, no matter how advanced technology becomes, man will remain far behind the flight technology that exists in nature—in the mosquito. The life form of the mosquito is a 10-mm (0.4 inch) creature with circulatory, excretory, and nervous systems, a heart constantly beating, eyes constantly seeing, receptors constantly scanning, and millions of cells synthesizing. No technology can create a machine with the dimensions and flight characteristic of a mosquito.

Asked how aircraft are made, people will say by senior engineers in sophisticated factories. They know they are not the result of a chance fusion of metals. Some claim that the mosquito, never part of the discussion of superior aircraft, exists as a result of "coincidences in the evolutionary process". In other words, without a plan.

"He created everything and made them to an exact measure" (Qur'an 25:2).

Technology will never develop to the point where it can bring a living creature into existence—not even a thing as tiny as a mosquito. Creation is God's preserve; He is The Lord of the worlds. Every creation is evidence of His existence. The judgement given in the Qur'an, **"..Indeed, those you invoke besides Allah will never create [as much as] a fly, even if they gathered together for that purpose.."** (Qur'an 22:73), is valid for eternity. Those who deny His existence, just contradict and deceive themselves. Consider the magnificence of the mosquito, its 3 hearts, 100 eyes, wings that flap 500 times per second... It is a tiny mechanism of complexity beyond anything we could ever imagine, or build. This is the Power of our Glorious Creator. This is the Power of Allah.

"Verily, Allah is not ashamed to set forth a parable even of a mosquito or so much more when it is bigger (or less when it is smaller). As for those who believe, they know it is the Truth from their Lord, but for those who disbelieve, they say: "What did Allah intend by this parable?" By it He misleads many, and many He guides thereby. And He misleads thereby only those who are Al-Fasiqun (rebellious, disobedient to Allah)" (2: 26).

This is God's creation. Show me then what those besides Him have created! The wrongdoers are clearly misguided (Qur'an 31:11)



CRÈME CARAMEL / TRES LECHES FLAN

This Ramadan, we thought what would be an excellent treat which is not only impressive, but easy to make is a Tres Leches Flan. Tres Leches in Spanish means "three milks." What I like most about this dessert is you can make it ahead of time, which makes you stress free when serving to guests.

To make this dessert you will need:

- 5 eggs
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- A pinch of salt
- 500 ml of regular milk
- 1 (12 oz) can of evaporated milk
- 1 (14 oz) can of condensed milk



To make the caramel, you will need:

- 1 cup of granulated sugar. You will also need boiling water

Steps to making this dessert:

(What is the best tool for blending your ingredients together is to use a blender, however you may use your whisk or mixing bowl).

1. Preheat your oven to 350 F.

To make your flan:

2. In your blender, blend your: eggs, vanilla extract, salt, and three milks.

To make your caramel:

3. In a skillet, pour your sugar and cook on medium-high heat. Stir the sugar constantly until it melts into a golden brown liquid. (It might at first turn into lumps, yet it will eventually melt).

4. Once your sugar melts, immediately pour into an 8.5 inches rectangular pan. The caramel (melted sugar) should cover the entire bottom surface of the pan.

To bake:

5. Take your blended flan mixture, making sure to remove any foam with a spoon (if foam forms at the top) and stir the mixture before pouring into your 8.5 rectangular pan (on top of the caramel).

6. Place your 8.5 rectangular pan in a slightly bigger long rectangular pan and place it in the oven rack. Then pour boiling hot water into the slightly bigger pan (do not let any water enter your pan with the flan in it).

7. Bake the flan for around 1 hour.

8. Insert a knife in the center, if it comes out clean: it is ready.

9. Remove the flan from the water bath and let it cool for 1 hour. Then place it in the fridge for at least four hours before serving.

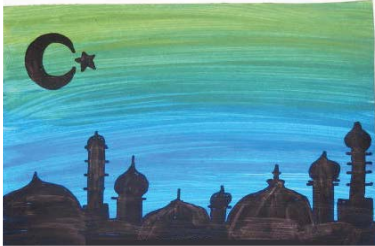
10. To serve, run a sharp knife around the edges, so as to make sure the flan edges will not stick to the pan. Place the plate you want to serve on top of the pan, flip, and give it a shake. Slowly remove the pan, and its ready to serve.



EID SILHOUETTE PICTURE

For our Kids Page, we have a beautiful Eid card that kids can make to give to family and members. It is easy project that kids can complete by themselves. All you need some paint, cards, and a black marker pen. Everyone will love to receive a wonderful, handmade card such as this one.

This is a simple technique for children to master but the result is an Eid silhouette picture. Use for a special Eid card, or put your picture on display.



You will need:

2 primary colors of paint (we have used blue and yellow, but red and yellow looks good too). Card and Black marker pen.

Card and Black marker pen.

Instructions:

Using your darkest colour (blue for us) paint the bottom half of the card. Mix a small amount of the second paint colour into the first and paint a bit further up the card. Repeat and keep going until the card is covered.



Leave to dry.

With your marker pen, draw an outline of a skyline with mosques (masjids). Colour under the line black. To finish, add a crescent moon and star. This technique would make a lovely Eid card, or you could frame your picture for display each year.

Here's our finished Eid silhouette.



Did you know this about the Quran?

1. How old was Prophet Muhammed(SAW) when he received his first revelation?

2. How many years did it take for the Quran to be fully revealed?

3. How many juz (parts) is the Quran divided into?

4. How many suras (chapters) are there in the Quran?

5. How many suras (chapters) are named after the Prophets?

6. Which surah is the longest in the Quran?

7. How many prophets are mentioned in the Quran?

8. How many times is Musa (AS) Moses mentioned in the Quran?

9. Which is the only day of the week mentioned in the Quran?

10. Which is the only woman specified by name? *

11. Which Prophet is mentioned 29 times in the Quran?*

12. Which Prophet is mentioned 43 times in the Quran?*

13. How many rewards will you receive for every letter read in the Quran?

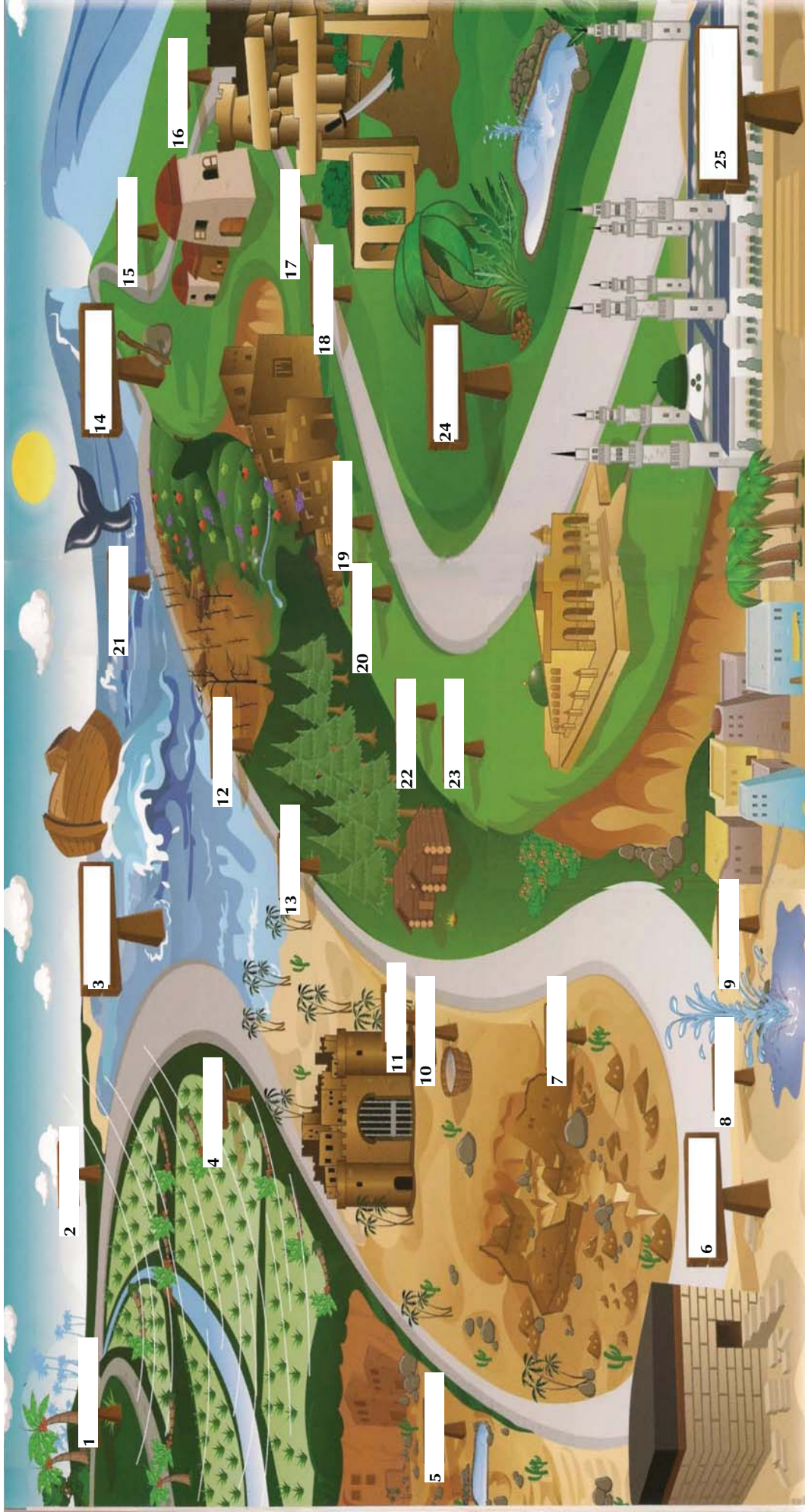
*Peace Be Upon Them All

14. Which surah is the Heart of the Quran?

15. Which Prophet is mentioned 4 times in the Quran?*

See Answers on Page 10. Don't Peek!





25 PROPHETS The Prophets Quiz Below are the 25 Holy Prophets mentioned in the Holy Qur'an... Can you match the names with the clues below?

- The first Man
- A man of truth raised to a high station by Allah.
- Allah commanded him to build an Ark.
- The Prophet that was sent to the tribe of 'AD.
- The Prophet that was sent to the tribe of Thamud. Warned the people not to kill the she camel.
- Was the father of all Prophets who built the Ka'ba with his son, Ismail.
- The father of Ya'qub.
- The son of Ibrahim and Hagar, who was to be sacrificed.
- The father of Ya'qub.
- He had 12 sons, one of which was Yusuf.
- This Prophet was able to interpret dreams and was said to be very handsome.
- This Prophet had great patience.
- Sent to the people of Midian and warned them not to cheat in weights and measures.
- He parted the Red Sea with his stick and crossed with the children of Israel.

- The brother of Musa
- Mentioned along with Ismail and Alyasaa
- He slew the giant Goliath. The father of Sulamian
- He knew the language of the birds. Send a letter to the Queen of Saba (Bilqis} A mighty king.
- Warned his people not to worship the idol Ba'l
- Mentioned with Ismail and Dhul-Kifl in the Qur'an.
- Swallowed by a whale
- He took care of Mariam. The father of Yahya.
- He was the son of Zakariya.
- Son of Mariam (Mary), healed the blind and lepers.
- The last prophet sent by Allah for all mankind.

How many of the Prophets can you name without looking? Play this with Mom or Dad to see how many they can name them! See answers on page 10. Don't peek!



The *Sirah* of Prophet **Muhammad**

Birth

570 Muhammad's (SAW) Birth and Infancy

♦ The Holy Prophet Muhammad, *Salla Allah alayhi wa sallam*, (SAW) meaning (may the peace of Allah be upon him), was born in the year 570 in the town of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. His name derives from the Arabic verb *hamada*, meaning "to praise, to glorify." He was the first and only son of Abd Allah bin Al-Muttalib and Amina bint Wahb. Abd Allah died before Muhammad's (SAW) birth and Muhammad (SAW) was raised by his mother Amina, who in keeping with Meccan tradition entrusted her son at an early age to a wet nurse named Halima from the nomadic tribe of the Sa'd ibn Bakr.

575 Muhammad (SAW) Becomes an Orphan

♦ When the prophet (SAW) was six his mother took him to Yathrib (Madina). On the return journey, Amina became ill and died. The orphaned boy was now placed in the protection of his paternal grandfather, Abdul Al-Muttalib. Mecca was Arabia's most important pilgrimage center and Abdul Al-Muttalib its most respected leader.

578 Muhammad (SAW) in Mecca in Care of an Uncle

♦ Upon his grandfather's death in 578, Muhammad (SAW), aged about eight, was passed into the care of a paternal uncle, Abu Talib. Muhammad(S) grew up and was most beloved by him.

580-594 Muhammad's (SAW) Teenage Years

♦ Muhammad (SAW) worked as a shepherd. In his teens he sometimes traveled with Abu Talib, who was a merchant, accompanying caravans to trade centers. Upon reaching Busra, Syria, Bahira, a Christian monk recognized the Prophet (SAW) through his knowledge of the previous scriptures. Older merchants recognized his character and nicknamed him El-Amin, the one you can trust.

594 Muhammad (SAW) Acts as Caravan Agent for Khadija (RA)

♦ At the age of 25, Muhammad (SAW) entered the service of a wealthy Meccan merchant, a widow named Khadija bint Khawalayd. She sent the Prophet and her worker Maysarah to Syria. On this journey a monk called Nastura observed him and identified him as a Prophet.

♦ Maysarah testified to the honesty and nobility of the Prophet.

595-609 Muhammad's Marriage and Family Life

♦ Impressed by Muhammad's (SAW) honesty and character, Khadija proposed marriage. They were wed in about 595. He was twenty-five. She was forty. From his marriage with her, the Prophet (SAW) had a son named Al-Qaasim, who passed away at a young age. From him, he took his name, *kunya* (father of) Abu'l-Qaasim. In addition, he had four girls,

♦ **Zainab:** who the prophet (SAW) said about her when she migrated to Medina and was attacked and harmed by the disbelievers: "She is the best of my daughters for she was harmed following my path". She migrated to Medina after the battle of Badr. In the year 8 A.H. her husband embraced Islam and migrated to Medina to join her, and the prophet (SAW) reunited them.

♦ **Rukaya:** who the prophet (SAW) said after she migrated to Abyssinia with Othman: "May Allah be with them both, Othman is the first to migrate with his family after prophet Lot (AS).

♦ **Umm Kalthoum:** whose first husband was Otaiba Bin Abulhab, who died as a disbeliever. Her second husband was Othman Bin Affan who married her after Rukaya's death, that is why Othman was called "*dhin-noorain*" which means the one with the two lights", because he married two of Muhammad's (SAW) daughters ..

♦ **Fatimah:** the prophet (SAW) said, "Fatimah is a piece of me, whatever hurts her, hurts me, and whatever frightens her, frightens me". "Fatimah is the lady of all ladies in Paradise except Mariam (Mary) *Bint Imran* (the daughter of Imran).

• You can also watch or listen to the Sira at our website by clicking link below: www.islamicbulletin.org/sira/sira.swf click mouse, wait, click red button,

Prophethood

First Year of Prophethood

♦ In the year 610 C.E., at the age of 40 in the cave Hira, the Prophet(SAW) was visited by the angel Jibra'il. Jibra'il revealed the first few verses of Surah Iqra. From this point the era of divine revelation (Wahi) began.

♦ Shaken by the experience of revelation, Khadijah (R.A) took the Prophet(S) to Waraqah bin Nawfal, a Christian scholar. The Prophet(SAW) related his experience and Warqah said that this is what the Prophet Moses also experienced. Waraqah confirmed the Prophet(S) was the final messenger described in the Christian and Jewish scriptures.

♦ The first people to accept Islam are Khadijah (R.A), Abu Bakr (R.A), Ali (R.A) and Zaid (R.A).

♦ The Muslims began gathering in the house of Arqam to learn about Islam and worship Allah(SWT) discreetly.

First-Third Year of Prophethood

♦ The Prophet(S) discreetly invited people to Islam. This practice and propagation of Islam continued for 3 years.

♦ Those people who accepted Islam during the first three years are known as 'Al-Sabiqin al-Awwalin'. Approximately 130 men and women fall into this category.

Fourth Year of Prophethood

♦ The Prophet(S), was instructed by Allah(SWT) began to openly preach Islam. They also began to worship and perform Salah openly.

♦ Islam spread fast.

♦ The Quraish, as they received money from pilgrims visiting the Kabah, feared this new and popular religion.

♦ The Quraish intensified their opposition to the prophet and started to physically abuse him and other Muslims. The poor and weak Muslims were severely persecuted.

♦ The Quraish approached Abu Talib and attempted to convince him to make his nephew, the Prophet(S) stop preaching. Abu Talib refused.

Fifth Year of Prophethood

♦ In hope of escaping the persecution of the Quraish, 12 men and 4 women migrated to Abyssinia, where a kind king, Najasi, ruled over.

This was the first migration in Islam. Soon after a second group of 82-86 men and 17-18 women migrated to Abyssinia.

♦ The Prophet recited Surah al-Najm and the disbelievers of the Quraish were miraculously forced, against their will, to prostrate with the Muslims upon hearing the Quran.

Sixth Year of Prophethood

♦ Enraged that the Muslims were safe in Abyssinia, the Quraish sent Amr bin al-As and Abdullah bin Ubayy to Najasi to try to convince him to evict the Muslims. Najashi refused.

♦ Notable and powerful figures such as Hamza (R.A), the Prophet(S)'s uncle and Umar (R.A) accepted Islam.

♦ The Quraish contacted the Jews of Madinah and asked them for advice. They told the Quraish to put three questions to the Prophet(S) advising that, if he answered the first two of the three questions he was a Prophet(S). The Prophet(S) answered the questions.

timeline, scroll and click on white circle for audio, Media is for watching video.



The *Sirah* of Prophet **Muhammad**

Seventh-Ninth Years of Prophethood

- ♦ The Quraish initiated an oppressive boycott to the Muslims and any supporters of the Prophet(S). To show that it was official, they hung the charter of the boycott inside the Kabah, with the words, "In the name of God."
- ♦ The three year long boycott caused massive starvation amongst the Muslims. They were forced to survive on leaves. Sometimes if they were lucky they would find skin, which they would roast to eat.
- ♦ Mansur bin Ikramah, the scribe who drafted the charter of the boycott, was soon punished by Allah. His hands became disabled and he was never to write again.

Tenth Year of Prophethood

- ♦ The Quraish again asked Abu Talib, to make his nephew stop preaching. The Prophet(S), by Allah(SWT), said if the Quraish were to find that charter hanging inside the Kabah was eaten away except for the words, "In the name of Allah," then they would stop the boycott. The Quraish found this to be true and so stopped the boycott.
- ♦ The Prophet's (SAW) uncle Abu Talib, who had given him constant support, and his wife Khadija, with whom he had shared a happy life for twenty-five years, passed away only three days apart from one another (10 Ramadan/19 April 620). Their demise deeply saddened the Prophet and the Muslims. Thus, this year came to be known as the Year of Sorrow,
- ♦ The Prophet(S) went to the city of Taif to ask for help. The people of Taif mocked and attacked him. On the return from Ta'if an angel asked the Prophet(S) for permission to crush the people of Ta'if by bringing together the mountains on either side of the two cities, Prophet(S) refused and instead prayed for them.

Eleventh Year of Prophethood

- ♦ The Me'raj/Isra took place wherein the Prophet(S) was taken from Masjid al-Haram in Makkah, to Masjid al-Aqsa in Palestine in one night. In this journey, Prophet(S) physically toured the heavens. It was during this journey that the 5 daily prayers became obligatory.
- ♦ Six men from the tribe of Khazraj accepted Islam. Through these six men Islam began in Yathrib, or as it was later named to, Madinah.
- ♦ The Prophet(S) married A'isha (R.A).

Twelfth Year of Prophethood

- ♦ First pledge of Aqabah took place, in which 12 men from Madinah pledged their allegiance to the Prophet(S).

Thirteenth Year of Prophethood

- ♦ The second pledge of Aqabah took place, in which 2 women and 70-73 men pledged their allegiance to Prophet(S). The Prophet(S) then appointed 12 leaders amongst them.
- ♦ Upon seeing the mounting difficulties and persecution the Muslims faced daily, the Prophet(S) instructed his companions to migrate to Madinah.

"You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah, a beautiful model of (conduct) for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day and who engages much in the praise of Allah"

Quran: 33 -21.

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Fourteenth Year of Prophethood/First Year of Migration 622/623 CE

- ♦ The disbelievers of Quraish gathered in Dar al-Nadwa to plot to kill the Prophet(S).
- ♦ The next day, a group of Quraish men surrounded the house of Prophet(S) in order to assassinate him. When the Prophet(S) emerged, he threw dust in their direction which temporarily blinded them. They remained unaware of his exit until morning. At this point, on the 27th of Safar, the Prophet(S) began the journey of migration along with his loyal companion Abu Bakr (R.A).
- ♦ The Prophet(S) stopped in Quba, which was a place at the entrance of Medina for a few days wherein he established the first masjid, namely Masjid Quba.
- ♦ The Jewish rabbis came to the Prophet(S) in order to test him and determine whether he was their long awaited prophet. Many Jewish scholars accepted Islam upon meeting him.
- ♦ The Prophet(S) and his companions (R.A) built Masjid al-Nabawi as well as his living quarters. As the Muhajirin(Muslims who emigrated to Medina) had left all their possessions in Makkah, Prophet(S) established the bond of brotherhood between the Muhajirin and Ansar(Muslims of Medina). An Ansari took a Muhajir as his brother, which established the bond of Brotherhood between the Muhajirin and Ansar. The Ansar then divided his entire wealth with that man whom he had taken as his Brother.
- ♦ The Athan, call to prayer was established.
- ♦ As the Quraish prepared to attack Madinah, Allah(SWT) granted the Muslims permission to defend themselves and thus Jihad was ordained.
- ♦ Salman al-Farsi and Abdullah bin Salam the famous Jewish scholar, both accepted Islam.

Second Year of Migration

- ♦ Through the command of Allah the direction of prayer, Qibla, was changed from Masjid al-Aqsa to Masjid al-Haram.
- ♦ The Battle of Badr took place between the Muslims and the disbelievers of Quraish. Despite the fact that the Muslims had only about 300 ill-equipped men and the Quraish had over a 1000 well armed men, the Muslims were victorious. The year was 624 C.E.
- ♦ Fatimah (R.A), the daughter of the Prophet, married Ali (R.A).

Third Year of Migration

- ♦ The Battle of Uhud took place. The year was 625 C.E. In this battle, Prophet Muhammed(S) placed fifty of his best archers on the side of the mountain to protect the Muslims from the rear. They were instructed not to leave until instructed to do so.
- ♦ When the Quraysh started retreating, the archers eager to collect the booty (spoils of the war), started running down the mountain. Abdullah ibn Jubayr, tried to convince them to stay, but only ten kept their ground, while the rest left. The Quraysh seeing the archers leaving their posts, advanced to the Muslims attacking them from their rear.
- ♦ The Muslims did not win this battle.

timeline, scroll and click on white circle for audio, Media is for watching video.



The *Sirah* of Prophet Muhammad

Fourth Year of Migration

- ◆ Upon their request, the Prophet(S) sent ten learned Muslims to the tribe of Adhal and Qarah to educate them about Islam. They betrayed the Muslims and killed all ten learned Muslims.
- ◆ Upon the request of Amir bin Malik the Prophet(S) sent seventy companions (R.A) to Najd to teach them about Islam. Again the Muslims were betrayed and martyred.
- ◆ Hussain (R.A); the grandson of the Prophet(S) was born to Fatimah (R.A).
- ◆ The second expedition of Badr took place.
- ◆ The rules of Hijab (modestly covering oneself) were ordained.

Fifth Year of Migration

- ◆ The rules of Tayammum were ordained.
- ◆ The Battle of the Trench: An alliance of 10,000 soldiers from different Arab and Jewish tribes converged on Madinah. The Prophet(S), by the suggestion of Salman al Farsi, dug trenches around Madinah to stop their advance. The enemy besieged Madinah for 27 days after, which distrust and dispute dissolved the alliance and they all left.
- ◆ Hajj is made obligatory.

Sixth Year of Migration

- ◆ The Prophet(S) and his companions intended to perform Umrah.
- ◆ The Quraish prevented them from entering Makkah and a standoff between the Quraish and the Muslims ensued.
- ◆ During this standoff, the Prophet(S) sent Uthman (R.A) as a messenger on behalf of the Muslims to the Quraish. The Muslims were wrongly informed that Uthman (R.A) was martyred by the Quraish.
- ◆ The Muslims vowed to take revenge for him. This vow was known as Bay'ah al-Ridhwan. Subsequently this standoff was resolved through the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah.
- ◆ The Treaty of Hudaibiyyah meant that after 18 years of persecution at the hands of the Quraish, the Muslims would now live in peace.
- ◆ In this peace-time era the Prophet sent letters to various kings and rulers inviting them towards Islam.

Seventh Year of Migration

- ◆ The battle of Khaybar: The inhabitants of Khaybar were the main agents who had enlisted the Arab and Jewish forces in the battle of the confederates, who lived in Madinah. They were still at large and continued to plot against Islam. The Prophet(S) laid siege to their forts.
- ◆ The people of Khaybar begged for forgiveness, which the Prophet(S) granted and he allowed them to leave Madinah without any punishment.
- ◆ Umrah al-Qadha was performed to compensate for the Umrah, which the Muslims intended to perform in the previous year.
- ◆ Ja'far bin Abi Talib (R.A) and other companions (R.A) who are left in Abyssinia migrated to Madinah.
- ◆ Highly respected leaders such as Khalid bin Walid, Uthman bin Talha and Amr bin Aas accepted Islam.

Eighth Year of Migration

- ◆ The Quraish broke the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, at which, the Prophet (S) advanced towards Makkah with 10,000 soldiers and successfully entered and conquered Makkah.
- You can also watch or listen to the Sira at our website by clicking link below:
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- ◆ Even though the Quraish had tortured and persecuted the Muslims, when the Prophet(S) entered Makkah, he prohibited any form of revenge and thus there was no bloodshed.
- ◆ This act of kindness and peace results in many ardent enemies of the Prophet accepting Islam. The year was 630 C.E.
- ◆ Entire tribes embraced Islam in succession. Even after the Prophet(s) gave the Quraish leaders sanctuary and forgave them, many of the leaders still embraced Islam. Some of them were: Safwan bin Umayyah, Suhayl bin Amr, Utbah and Mu'awiyah (RA) (May Allah be pleased with them).
- ◆ The Prophet(S) appointed governors in many Muslim areas and thus a system of peace and justice was established in those areas.

Ninth Year of Migration

- ◆ Tamin bin Awsal-Dari accepted Islam. He was also well known for being the first person to light a lamp in a Majid that had no light.
- ◆ The Prophet(S) dispatched individuals to the various Muslim lands to collect Zakat.
- ◆ After the fall of Makkah and the collapse of the Quraish, the Romans feared for their own power. The Muslims assembled an army of 30,000 to combat the Roman army of 40,000 at Tabuk. The Romans fled as soon as they heard of the Muslim army and thus no fighting took place.
- ◆ Usury and dealing with Riba (interest) became prohibited.

Tenth Year of Migration

- ◆ The Prophet sent Muadh bin Jabal (R.A) to Yemen. One of the greatest of Muadh's contributions was that he was one of the group of six who collected the Qur'an during the lifetime of the Prophet (S).
- ◆ The Prophet (S) personally bade farewell to him and walked for some distance alongside Muadh as he set out to leave the city. Finally he (S) said to him: "O Muadh, perhaps you shall not meet me again after this year. Perhaps when you return you shall see only my mosque and my grave." Muadh wept. Those with him wept too. A feeling of sadness and desolation overtook him as he parted from his beloved Prophet, (SAW). The Prophet(S)'s premonition was correct. The eyes of Muadh never beheld the Prophet(S) after that moment. The Prophet(S) died before Muadh returned from the Yemen. When Muadh returned to Madinah the *Khalifa* (head of state) was Abu Bakr (RA).

Eleventh Year of Migration (May) 632 CE

- ◆ In March, 632, Prophet Muhammed(S) returned to Mecca one last time to perform Hajjat Al Wada (Farewell Pilgrimage); and tens of thousands of Muslims joined him where he gave his Last Farewell Sermon.
 - ◆ After the pilgrimage, he returned to Medina. Three months later on June 8, 632 (Monday 12th Rabi'al- Awwal 11 AH) he died there, after a brief illness. He is buried in the mosque in Medina.
 - ◆ Muhammed (SAW) lived a simple, austere and modest life. He played many roles including, head of state, chief of justice, commander-in-chief, arbitrator and family man. The Prophet's (SAW) sayings are collections known as the "Hadiths". A
 - ◆ Among his (S) last words were "We the community of Prophets are not inherited. Whatever we leave is for charity."
 - ◆ So strong was his message of faith that within a hundred years, Muhammad(S)'s teachings and way of life had spread from the remote corners of Arabia to as far east as Indo-China and as far west as Morocco, France and Spain.
- timeline, scroll and click on white circle for audio, Media is for watching video.**



The Prophet's (SAW) Last Sermon



"O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I don't know whether, after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore listen to what I am saying to you carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today.

O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and that He will indeed reckon your deeds. Allah has forbidden you to take usury (Interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived.

Beware of Satan, for your safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have right over you. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to commit adultery.

O People, listen to me in earnest, worship Allah, say your five daily prayers (Salah), fast during the month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in Zakat. Perform Hajj if you can afford to. You know that every Muslim is the brother of another Muslim. All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety (taqwa) and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves.

Remember, one day you will appear before Allah and answer for your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O People, and understand my words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the Qur'an and my example, the Sunnah and if you follow these you will never go astray.

All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness oh Allah that I have conveyed your message to your people."

If you have a windows computer running flash, you can watch a documentary or listen to the *Sira* at our website by clicking link below: www.islamicbulletin.org/sira/sira.swf click mouse, wait, click red button, choose timeline for audio listening by scroling era of your choice and clicking on white circle. You can also watch the documentary by clicking on Media.

*“And We have not sent you,
[O Muhammad],
except as a mercy to the worlds.”* Quran 21:107



I wanted to share something very important. *Attahiyat* is a very important ‘*Dua*’ we repeat in our daily prayers. When I learnt the importance of this, it melted my heart. *Attahiyat* is actually a part of the conversation between Our Creator Allah , and our beloved Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* during his journey of *Al Isra Wal Miraj*. When Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* met Allah , he didn’t say ‘*Assalamu Alaikum*’. What is someone going to say when he meets Allah ? We can’t wish HIM peace because ALL sources of peace are through HIM. So Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* said:

“Attahiyyaatu Lillahi Was Salawatu Wattayyibatu”
(All compliments, all prayer and worship are for Allah)

Allah replied:

“Assalamu Alaika Ayyuhannabiyyu ‘Warahmatullahi Wabarka’tuhu”
(Peace be upon you, Oh Prophet and Allah’s Mercy and Blessings).

To this, Prophet Muhammad *sallallahu alayhi wasallam* replied:

“Assalamu Alaina Wa’ala’Ibadillahis Saa’liheen”
(Peace be on us and on all good slaves of Allah)

Note* Prophet Muhammad *sallallahu alayhi wasallam* included “us”
in his reply... (and on all good slaves of Allah)

And listening to this conversation between Allah and His Messenger *Sallallahu alayhi wasalam* the Angels said:

**“Ash’had’u’un La ilahailallahu Wa Ash’hadu Anna Muhammadun
Abd’uhu Wa Rasooluh.”**

(I bear witness that no one is worthy of worship except Allah And I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger).

SubhanAllah!!!! I now understand the importance of this conversation in our daily prayers and how the *Salat* was prescribed to us. There is no word as beautiful as Allah. No example as beautiful as *Rasulallah* (SAW). No lesson as beautiful as Islam. No song as melodious as *Adhaan*. No charity as meaningful as *Zakat*. No encyclopedia as perfect as *Al-Quran*. No prayer as perfect as *Salat*. No diet as perfect as *Siyam* (fasting).

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Adam, Musa, and Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Them)

By Abdul Hamid Kishk

Rahimahullah (Allah have mercy upon him)



Moses said to his Lord, "My Lord, you have created Adam with your power, and breathed into him the spirit, and made the angels prostrate for him, and entered him into Paradise, and you accepted his repentance. How could he thank you in return for all these favors?"

Allah (SWT) told him, "Oh Moses, it was sufficient from Adam that he said, 'Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.'"

Moses asked, "Oh my Lord, if a servant says, 'Oh Lord,' while bowing down in worship, what do you tell him?"

Allah (SWT) said, "I tell him, 'I am here, Oh Servant.'"

Moses asked, "And if he says it while prostrating?"

Allah (SWT) said, "I say, 'I am here, Oh Servant.'"

Moses asked, "And if he says it while being a sinner?"

Allah said, "I tell him, Here I am. Here I am. Here I am."

Indeed Allah, the Most High said to Moses, son of Imran (A), about our Prophet Muhammad (SAW), while receiving the Torah.

Moses said to his Lord, "Oh my Lord, I see that it is written in the Torah, that there will be a nation, if a morsel is struck in their stomach, you forgive their sins, because they start their food with 'Bismillah,' and they end it with 'Alhamdulillah.' Oh Allah, make it my nation, my Lord."

Allah (SWT) said to Moses, "Oh Moses, it is the nation of Muhammad (SAW)."

Moses said to his Lord, "Oh my Lord, I see that it is written in the tablets, that there will be a nation, if one of them is about to commit a sin, but did not commit it and left it by the fear of Allah (SWT), You write it down for him as a good deed. Make it my nation, oh my Lord."

Allah (SWT) said to him, "Oh Moses, it is the nation of Muhammad (SAW)."

Moses said "Oh Lord, I see that it is written in the tablets that there will be a nation, if one of them is about to do a good deed, but did not make it, it is written down for him as a good deed. And if he does it, it is written down for him as 10 good deeds, up to 700 times. Make it my nation, oh my Lord."

Allah said to him, "Oh Moses, it is the nation of Muhammad (SAW)."

So Moses said, "Oh my Lord, make me from the nation of Muhammad (SAW)

Muhammad ﷺ محمد

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