

TITLE: ISLAM IN BRIEF
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This book runs through the basics of Islam. I have inserted numerous quotes from the two most important sources in Islam, the Noble Quran and the Sunnah (the sayings and teachings of Muhammad, PBUH). The quotes are placed in the right context of the subject matter.

This is a relatively short book, straightforward and not difficult to read.

Islam is not a new religion. In fact, Islam is the religion of all of the 124,000 Prophets and Messengers Peace Be upon Them (PBUT). Islam began when ALLAH (GOD) created the first thing in the universe.

The Prophet Adam (PBUH) was the first human being to bring forth Islam to the rest of humanity. Thereafter, as the human population began to grow and people began to spread and disperse into pockets ALLAH sent down Messengers and Prophets (PBUT) to

reconfirm and teach people how to worship their LORD (ALLAH) and how to live according to His laws.

ISLAM: The wilful and peaceful total submission to ALLAH. All creatures and objects always wilfully submit to ALLAH, except the Jinn and Humans. Islam is not only a religion, but a comprehensive way of life. Knowledge and intellect are a big part of Islam.

Islam is free of all superstitions and any irrationality. It is quite easy to understand the basic tenets of Islam. They are straightforward.

AS COMMANDED BY ALLAH IN HIS BOOK, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPULSION IN RELIGION. IT IS A GRAVE SIN FOR ANY MUSLIM, MALE OR FEMALE TO FORCE OR COERCE ANOTHER PERSON INTO BECOMING A MUSLIM:

- **"There is no compulsion in religion. Truth stands out (very clearly) from error. Whoever rejects evil and believes in ALLAH has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that never breaks. And ALLAH hears and knows all things." (Noble Quran, Ch. 2:256)**

ALLAH: The personal name of our LORD. In Arabic this name means the One and only true Deity. There is no plural form for ALLAH, nor is there a feminine version of His name. Although He certainly is not a man, we Muslims refer to ALLAH in the masculine, he is after all the Most Powerful being in the entire universe.

Many Arab Jews and Christians use the name ALLAH to describe GOD. ALLAH is not love, he is the Most Loving. The latter signifies that He (ALLAH) loves his slaves more than anyone else can ever, but at the same time we must never forget that ALLAH has other attributes. ALLAH can punish too. He created a Paradise and a Hell.

- **"And your GOD (ALLAH) is One GOD (ALLAH), there is none who has the right to be worshipped but He, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful." (Noble Quran, Ch. 2:163)**
- **"So glorify with praises the Name of Your LORD (ALLAH), The Most Great." (Noble Quran, Ch. 56:96)**
- **"He is ALLAH, the Creator the Inventor of all things the Bestower of forms. To Him belong the best names. All that**

is in the Heavens and the Earth glorify Him. And He is the Almighty, the All Wise." (Noble Quran, Ch. 59:24)

- "There is nothing comparable unto Him (ALLAH)." (Noble Quran, Ch. 42:1)
- "No vision can grasp Him (ALLAH), but His (ALLAH) grasp is over all vision." (Noble Quran, Ch. 6:103)
- "Say He is ALLAH, One, ALLAH the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is born, nor is there to Him any equivalent." (Noble Quran, Ch. 112: 1-4)
Note: This particular chapter (112) of the Noble Quran clearly indicates, without any reservations or confusion, that ALLAH is one and cannot be compared to. This is absolute monotheism.
- Abdullah ibn Amr ibn al-Aas said, "I heard Muhammad (PBUH) say, 'ALLAH wrote the decrees of His creation fifty thousand years before He created the Heavens and the Earth, and He (ALLAH) said, 'His Throne is above the water.'"

Narrated by Bayhaqi, and ibn Al-Jaroud from Umrans Ibn Haseen that the people of Yemen came to Mohammed (PBUH) and said, "O Prophet of ALLAH we came to you to learn about our Religion and to ask you about the Beginning of this thing, how was it?" Muhammad (PBUH) responded, "It was ALLAH and nothing else and His Throne was on the water, and He (ALLAH created the pen then he) wrote in the Book (Al-Lawh Al-Mahfuth (the Preserved Tablet)) all things and then He (ALLAH) created the Heavens and the Earth." (Bukhari)

ALLAH IS THE MOST MERCIFUL, COMPASSIONATE, FORGIVING AND LOVING:

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "ALLAH the Almighty said, "O son of Adam, so long as you call upon Me and ask of Me, I shall forgive you for what you have done, and I shall not mind. O son of Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds of the sky and were you then to ask forgiveness of Me, I would forgive you. O son of Adam, were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the Earth and were you then to face Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring you forgiveness nearly as great as it." (Related by at-Tirmidhi and Ahmad ibn Hanbal). Its chain of authorities is sound.

- Abu Huraira reported that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "When ALLAH decreed the creation, He wrote in His Book (The Preserved Tablet) which is with Him on His Throne: My Mercy prevails over My Wrath." (Sahih Bukhari)
- Say, (O Muhammad), "If you should love ALLAH, then follow me. ALLAH will love you and forgive you your sins. And ALLAH is Forgiving and Merciful. (Noble Quran, Ch. 3:32)
- "He (ALLAH) it is Who Creates for the first time, and He it is Who will create again, and He is the Ever Forgiving, the Most Loving." (Noble Quran, Ch. 85:13-14)

ALLAH IS CLOSER TO US THAN WE ARE TO OURSELVES:

- "Indeed, We (ALLAH) have created man, and We know what his own self whispers to him. And We are nearer to him than his jugular vein (through our knowledge)." (Noble Quran, Ch. 50:16).

IMPORTANT NOTE: The plural of 'we' in this context and in the Arabic language designates a 'Royal Plural' or 'Plural of Respect'. ALLAH uses the singular and plural; the latter to emphasize absolute royalty and respect unto himself.

ALLAH did not leave us in the dark to find and discover the correct path to salvation. Trial and error alone will get us nowhere. ALLAH has described the criterion for the right way to live, worship and to die. ALLAH in His Mercy has sent us guidance through His Scriptures, and Messengers and Prophets (PBUT).

ALLAH IS THE ONLY CREATOR:

- "Do you not see that ALLAH sends down rain from the sky and makes it flow as springs (and rivers) in the Earth; then He produces thereby crops of varying colors; then they dry and you see them turned yellow; then He makes them (scattered) debris. Indeed in that is a reminder for those of understanding." (Noble Quran, Ch.39:21).

ALLAH'S PUNISHMENT IS SEVERE:

- "And fear none but Me (ALLAH)". (Noble Quran, Ch. 2:40)

- "And ALLAH warns you against Himself (His punishment)."
(Noble Quran, Ch.3:30)
- "Such is the Seizure of your LORD (ALLAH) when He seizes the (population of) towns while they are doing wrong. Verily, His Seizure is painful, (and) severe. Indeed in that (there) is a sure lesson for those who fear the torment of the Hereafter. That is a Day whereon mankind will be gathered together, and that is a Day when all (the dwellers of the Heavens and the Earth) will be present. And We delay it only for a term (already) fixed. On the Day when it comes, no person shall speak except by His (ALLAH's) permission. Some among them will be wretched and (others) blessed. As for those who are wretched, they will be in the Fire, sighing in a high and low tone". (Noble Quran, Ch. 11:102-106)
- "Indeed, the vengeance of your LORD (ALLAH) is severe."
(Noble Quran, Ch. 85:12)

The Noble Quran mentions the 99 names of ALLAH, such as the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate, the Most High, the Greatest, the Watchful One, the Most Wise, and so forth. To ALLAH belong the most beautiful names.

- Narrated by Abu Hurraira, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "ALLAH has ninety nine Names, and whoever believes in their meanings and acts accordingly will enter Paradise; and ALLAH is Witr (One) and loves the Witr." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

ALLAH LISTENS TO OUR PRAYERS AND SUPPLICATIONS:

- And your LORD (ALLAH) says, "Call upon Me; I will respond to you." Indeed, those who disdain My worship will enter Hell contemptible." (Noble Quran, Ch. 40:60).

TAWHEED: The Oneness of ALLAH.

SALAM OR SALAAM: Derived from the word Islam. Salam means peace.

SALAM 'ALAYKUM: May Peace be upon you. This is the basic greeting by one Muslim to another.

WA 'ALAYKUM ASSALAM WA RAHMATU-ALLAHU WA BARAKAATU:
And May the Peace, Grace and Blessings of ALLAH be upon you.
This is the response to the Peace Salutation.

WA 'ALAYKUM: And unto you. This is the response a Muslim gives
when given a Salam greeting by a person of the People of the
Book (Jews, Christians).

JIHAD: A believer's internal struggle to live out the Muslim
faith as well as possible, the struggle to build a good Muslim
society. The term Jihad has been distorted by individuals either
unaware or often-times are aware of its meaning but have their
own agenda. Jihad is an Arabic word derived from the root Je Ha
Da, in a literal sense it means to struggle and/or strive in the
way of and sake of ALLAH.

JIHAD IS NOT:

- Holy War
- Committing suicide to harm others
- The killing innocent people including non-combatants women
and children, people in monasteries, monks, the old, etc.
- Killing resulting from one's own anger
- Killing people because they are not of your religion

JIHAD CAN ORIGINATE FROM:

- The heart (weakest form)
- The tongue
- The pen
- The hand
- The use of a weapon (self-defence, fighting evil and
injustice
- **"Fight in the cause of ALLAH those who fight you, but do not
transgress limits; for ALLAH loves not transgressors."
(Noble Quran, Ch. 2:190).**
- **"And if anyone of the (people who associate partners with
ALLAH) seeks your protection then grant him (or her)
protection, so that he (or she) may hear the Word of Allah,
and then escort him (or her) to where he (or she) can be
secure, that is because they are men (and women) who know
not." (Noble Quran, Ch. 9:6)**

NOTE: This verse refers to the treatment of an enemy soldier in battle, who surrenders or who no longer wants to fight. Furthermore, ALLAH has commanded Muslim Armies to feed, give drink, and clothe enemy prisoners the same as the Muslim soldiers.

- "To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight), because they are wronged; - and verily, ALLAH is Most Powerful for their aid." (Noble Qur'an, Ch. 22:39).

"But if the enemy inclines towards peace, do thou (also) incline towards peace, and trust in ALLAH: for He is One that hears and knows (all things)." (Noble Qur'an, Ch. 8:61)

Muslim writers agree that the main meaning of Jihad is the internal spiritual struggle, and this is accepted by many Muslims. The internal Jihad is the one that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is said to have called the Greater Jihad. There are a number of reasons, but the Noble Qur'an is clear that self-defence is the fundamental cause. The Jihad on the Military field is the Minor Jihad.

HUDUD: Islamic laws stating the limits ordained by ALLAH that includes the punishments and penalties for serious crimes and sins. The Noble Quran and the teachings and sayings of Muhammad (PBUH) are used to determine legal actions.

SHARIAH LAWS: A complete code of Islamic Laws pertaining to the rights and duties of Muslims. It entails the conduct of a man or a woman; primarily concerned with the methods of worship, laws regarding social relations and principles, and determining what is lawful and unlawful (often-times sinful versus non-sinful).

SHARIAH literally means the clear path to be followed.

COMPONENTS OF SHARIAH INCLUDE: The Noble Quran, The Sunnah (the way and teachings of Muhammad (PBUH), Ijma (Consensus or agreement of the Muslim Community on a particular matter, and Qiyas (Analogical reasoning as applied to the deduction of juridical principles from the Noble Quran and the Sunnah of Muhammad (PBUH).

FATWA: A legal pronouncement issued by a religious law specialist on a specific issue.

MADH-HAB: Islamic school of thought. There are four of them, including the Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i, and Hanbali.

HIJAB: A headscarf worn by some Muslim women which does not cover the face.

NIQAB: A piece of cloth worn by some Muslim women that is worn, in addition to a hijab, which covers the face. Depending on the person, the eyes may be exposed, or may be behind screened-cloth.

CHADOR: A long dress, traditional garment that is similar in appearance to a Muslim dress. However, this dress is cultural and may also be worn by Hindu women or others. Depending on the person, part of or much of the woman's hair may be exposed, or less so.

NIKAH: Islamic Marriage.

A Muslim woman who wears a Hijab is advertising to the whole world that she is a Muslim, it is her identity. The vast majority of Muslim women who wear Hijab choose to do so. They are practicing their faith, and want to appear modest. They do not like people to tell them what they can't wear; they choose not to expose their bodies. Unfortunately, there are many stories of racism and acts of hatred against these women. Would it be better if they exposed much of their bodies, to sin against their LORD (ALLAH), and to be gawked at by men, and sometimes by other women and to be judged primarily by their outer appearance?

Hijab is an Arabic word. But the truth is, many pious women, including but not limited to the Virgin Mary wore conservative, non-revealing clothing. Although she (the Virgin Mary) was very beautiful she chose wholeheartedly to obey her LORD (ALLAH); no tight pants, no cleavage, no exposing of her hair to the public. Nuns wear conservative clothing.

The late Mother Teresa covered all of her hair, most of her neck, and virtually all of her forehead. She also wore long, loose-fitting, conservative clothing.

In Islamic law a woman is an independent, unique individual in her own right. She has the same responsibilities towards herself, towards ALLAH and towards other human beings, and will be punished or rewarded in the Hereafter without discrimination based on her gender.

- **"And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and guard their private parts from sin and not show of their adornment except only that which is apparent, and draw their head-covers over their necks and bosoms and not**

reveal their adornment except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their husbands' sons, their brothers, or their brothers' sons, or their sisters' sons, or their women (i.e., their sisters in Islam), or their female slaves whom their right hands possess, or old male servants free of physical desires, or small children who have no sense of women's nakedness. And let them not stamp their feet so as to reveal what they hide of their adornment. And turn unto ALLAH altogether, O you Believers, in order that you may attain success." (Noble Quran, Ch. 24:31)

- "O Prophet (Muhammad, PBUH) tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their outer garments about themselves (when they go out). That is better so that they may be recognised and not molested. And ALLAH is Forgiving, Merciful." (Noble Quran, Ch. 33:59)
- Narrated by Abu Dawood, 'Aaishah (one of Muhammad's, PBUH wives) said: "Asmaa' the daughter of Abu Bakr came to see Muhammad (PBUH), while she was wearing a thin dress; Muhammad (PBUH) turned away from her and said, 'O Asmaa, as soon as a woman reaches the age of menstruation, no part of her body should be seen but this, he pointed to his face and hands.'"

ISLAM DOES NOT BLAME EVE ALONE FOR THE ORIGINAL SIN. THE NOBLE QURAN MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT BOTH ADAM AND EVE WERE TEMPTED, THAT THEY BOTH SINNED AND WERE BOTH FORGIVEN AFTER THEIR REPENTANCE:

- "Then Satan whispered suggestions to them both (Adam and Eve) in order to uncover that which was hidden from them of their private parts (before); he said: "Your LORD (ALLAH) did not forbid you this tree save you should become Angels or become of the immortals." And he (Satan) swore by ALLAH to them both (saying), "Verily, I am one of the sincere well-wishers for you both." So he misled them with deception. Then when they tasted of the tree, that which was hidden from them of their shame (private parts) became manifest to them and they began to stick together the leaves of Paradise over themselves (in order to cover their shame). And their LORD (ALLAH) called out to them (saying), "Did I not forbid you that tree and tell you: Verily, Satan is an open enemy unto you?" They said: "Our LORD (ALLAH)!

We have wronged ourselves. If You forgive us not, and bestow not upon us Your Mercy, we shall certainly be of the losers." (ALLAH) said, "Get down, one of you an enemy to the other (i.e. Adam, Eve, and Satan, etc.). On Earth will be a dwelling-place for you and an enjoyment, - for a time. He said, Therein you shall live, and therein you shall die, and from it you shall be brought out (resurrected)." (Noble Quran, Ch. 7:20-25)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ISLAM:

- "ALLAH commands you regarding your children for the male a share equivalent to that of two females." (Noble Quran, Ch. 4:11)

NOTE: Why is this so? A female receives half the share of a male. First, by Islamic law, the man is obligated to take care of his wife and all of their children, this includes the financial burden. Any money that a wife makes is hers. If she gives her husband any of her money, it is considered Sadaqa (a donation of charity). Second, males are obligated to take care of their parents when they get old, the same is not obligatory for females. But if a daughter wants to take care of her parents there is no harm in that, it is a blessed act.

The reason for the discrepancy in inheritance has to do with RESPONSIBILITY not superiority.

- "O mankind! Be dutiful to your LORD (ALLAH), Who created you from a single person (Adam, PBUH), and from him (Adam, PBUH) He created his wife (Eve), and from them both He created many men and women and fear ALLAH through Whom you demand your mutual (rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, ALLAH is Ever and All-Watcher over you." (Noble Quran, Ch. 4:1)
- "O you who believe! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will, and you should not treat them with harshness, that you may take away part of the bridal money you have given them. And live with them honourably. If you dislike them, it may be that you dislike a thing and ALLAH brings a great deal of good through it." (Noble Quran, Ch. 4:19)
- "And whoever does righteous good deeds, male or female, and is a true believer in the Oneness of ALLAH, such will enter Paradise; and not the least injustice, even to the size of

a speck on the back of a date stone, will be done to them."
(Noble Quran, Ch. 4:124)

- "And when the news of (the birth of) a female (child) is brought to any of them, his face becomes dark, and he is filled with inward grief! He hides himself from the people because of the evil (he perceives) of that whereof he has been informed. Shall he keep her (his baby daughter) with dishonour or bury her in the earth? Certainly, evil is their decision." (Noble Quran, Ch. 16:58-59)
NOTE: This quote from the Noble Quran is referring to the Pagan (Pre-Islamic) Arabs of the Arabian Peninsula, many baby girls were buried, often alive.
- And when the female (infant) buried alive shall be questioned (by ALLAH, on the Day of Judgement), for what sin was she killed? (Noble Quran, Ch. 81:8-9)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Assuredly, women are the twin halves of men." (Reported by Abu-Dawud)
- Muhammad (PBUH) declared that, "Seeking knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim (male and female)." (Declared Authentic By Shaikh Muhammad Naasir-ud-Deen Al-Albaani)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "A matron should not be given in marriage except after consulting her; and a virgin should not be given in marriage except after her permission." The people asked, "O ALLAH's Messenger! How can we know her permission?" He responded, "Her silence (indicates her permission)." (Bukhari)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "None but a noble man treats women in an honourable manner. And none but an ignoble treats women disgracefully." (At-Tirmidhi)
- A woman was given by her father in marriage when she was a matron and she disliked that marriage. So she went to Muhammad (PBUH); "He declared that marriage invalid." (Sunan Abu Dawud)

We have free will; we can choose to obey or disobey ALLAH, or to submit or not to submit to ALLAH. Submitting to ALLAH enables a person to live in peace and tranquility.

Islam is not named after a tribe, a person, nation, or a race; Judaism is named after a tribe, Judah; Christianity is named after Christ, Buddhism is named after Buddha.

No human being or creation of ALLAH chose the word Islam to signify this religion or its followers. The word Islam was sent down to us by ALLAH.

MUSLIM: A person (male) who voluntarily submits his will to ALLAH. Believes in and follows the Noble Quran and the Sunnah (the way) of the Prophet. A Muslim must fill his or her life on the love and fear of ALLAH, and to dedicate him or herself to the obeying of ALLAH in order to receive ALLAH's loving mercy and to enter Paradise along with the other believers.

"Say: 'My prayer and my rites, my living and my dying, are for ALLAH alone, the LORD of all the Worlds.'" (Noble Quran, Ch. 6: 162)

MUSLIMA: A person (female) who voluntarily submits her will to ALLAH. Believes in and follows the Noble Quran and the Way of the Prophet.

THE NOBLE QURAN: Is the Final Divine Revelation, the word of ALLAH (GOD). The Noble Quran is in Arabic, and was sent down in Arabic. Translations are in fact transliterations or narratives. However, the word 'translation' is often used for simplicity sake.

ALLAH's words cannot be translated in a literal sense. This rule also applies to the scriptures sent down to Abraham, David, Moses, and Jesus (PBUH). The Noble Quran is un-created; it is the eternal word of ALLAH.

The Noble Quran was revealed in stages so that readers and followers could understand, internalize, and apply its prohibitions, commands, and reforms.

SUNNAH: The life, way, and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

HADITH: The sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), as narrated by the Sahaba.

SAHABA: The companions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

ISNAD: The link of narrators used to judge the authenticity of Hadiths.

AL-MA'ROOF: A noun that includes everything that is looked upon as good by Islam like obeying Allah, getting closer to Him, and being good with people.

AL-MUNKAR: A noun that includes everything that is looked upon as bad by Islam like disobeying Allah and turning one's back to Him and being bad with people.

MAKROOH: An act that is deemed hated or strongly disliked.

HARAM: Sinful, or if describing an act, a sinful act.

FOUR MAIN CATEGORIES OF NON-MUSLIMS IN A CALIPHATE STATE:

DHIMMI: Non-Muslim citizens of an Islamic state.

MU'AHID: A citizen of a foreign state with which the Khilafah has a treaty.

MUST'AMIN: A citizen of a foreign state with which the Khilafah has no treaty.

AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATS, CONSULS AND ENVOYS: From foreign states have diplomatic immunity and the rules of Islam do not apply on them.

WHAT KIND OF GOVERNING SYSTEM AND WHO RULES IN AN ISLAMIC STATE:

KHILAFAH: The Caliph System.

KHALIFAH: The nominated ruler under the Caliph System.

- **Muhammad (PBUH) said, "He who harms a person under covenant, or charged him more than he can, I will argue against him on the Day of Judgement."** (Narrated by Yahya b. Adam in the book of Al-Kharaaj)
- **Muhammad (PBUH) said, "He who hurts a Dhimmi hurts me, and he who hurts me annoys ALLAH."** (al-Tabarani)

DHIMMI: The general term describing a non-Muslim living in Islamic lands. This doesn't apply today, because there are no Muslim Governments on this planet, not even one.

JIZYA (TAX PAYMENT FROM NON-MUSLIMS):

- **"Fight those of the People of the Book who do not (truly) believe in ALLAH and the Last Day, who do not forbid what ALLAH and His Messenger (Muhammad, PBUH) have forbidden, who do not obey the rule of justice, until they pay the tax and agree to submit." (Noble Quran, Ch. 9:29)**

The People of the Book (Jews, Christians) were required to pay a Jizya (payment in return). In return for what; full protection by the Muslim state, and the benefits of living therein, total exemption from military service. Furthermore, they did not pay the mandatory Muslim tax (Zakat).

The Jizya was only required of able-bodied males who have attained puberty, monks were exempted. In addition, women, children and the poor were exempt from paying the Jizya. The amount of the Jizya payment was low.

A MUSLIM IS OBLIGATED AND COMMANDED (BY ALLAH) TO ENJOIN GOOD AND FORBID EVIL, DOING THE OPPOSITE IS SINFUL:

- **"And let there be (Risen) from you a nation inviting to (all that is) good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and those will be the successful." (Noble Quran Ch. 3:104)**
- **"You are the best nation produced (to set an example) for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and (you firmly) believe in ALLAH. If only the People of the Scripture had believed, it would have been better for them. Among them are believers, but most of them are defiantly disobedient." (Noble Quran, Ch. 3:110)**
- **"And when they forgot that by which they had been reminded, We (ALLAH) saved those who had forbidden evil and seized those who wronged, with a wretched punishment, because they were defiantly disobeying." (Noble Quran, Ch. 7:165)**
- **"Hold to forgiveness; command what is right; But turn away from the ignorant." (Noble Quran, Ch. 7:199)**

- **On the Authority of Abu-Said Al-Khudri, who reported that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Whoever (amongst you) sees something detestable (evil, sinful, wicked, unjust, wrong, etc.) let him (or her) change it with his (or her) hand, if he (or she) cannot do so, then with his (or her) tongue, and even if he (or she) cannot do so, then do so with his (or her) heart, and this is the weakest kind of faith."**

Although estimates vary, the Muslim population currently stands at 1.5 billion people. Islam is the fastest growing religion, through birth rates and conversions.

Muslims come in all colours; the Far East, China, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Russia and the Caucasus, Australia and New Zealand, Americas and so forth. Muslims are in a real sense everywhere on this planet.

A Muslim is a true Monotheist. There is no room for other deities, associates or partners with ALLAH, or intermediaries.

Is there a single statement or pronouncement that signifies a person is a Muslim? Yes, there certainly is. It is the Shahadah, the First Pillar of Islam.

THE SHAHADAH (TESTIMONY, ACKNOWLEDGMENT) IS THE FIRST PILLAR OF ISLAM:

SHAHADAH: A formal declaration and pronouncement by a person which is done in Arabic, but for the sake of ease and clarity I will translate it into English.

If a person is giving the Shahadah for the first time in order to become a Muslim or Muslima does not understand Arabic, the person dictating the Shahadah will translate in English, or if needed the language of the convert.

Muslims believe that everyone is born a Muslim. ALLAH has planted Belief deep into everyone's soul.

- **I TESTIFY THAT THERE IS NO DEITY WORTHY OF WORSHIP, EXCEPT ALLAH, AND I TESTIFY THAT MUHAMMAD IS HIS SLAVE AND FINAL MESSENGER.**

The Shahadah is the most important statement that any Muslim can make. This statement signifies that he or she acknowledges that Islam is his or her religion.

During the first portion of the Shahadah when the person is negating false Deities and stating his or her belief in the One and only true GOD (ALLAH), the index finger on the right hand is raised. It is lowered before signifying the belief in Muhammad's (PBUH) being a Slave and Messenger of ALLAH.

Notice in the Shahadah that before acknowledging the oneness of ALLAH there is a denial of other deities. This is because associating partners with ALLAH is tantamount with disbelief. He (ALLAH) neither has a father, son, wife, or other relative or equal. Nor can any person, place, or thing even be compared to him.

The negation of other deities is followed by acknowledging the Oneness of ALLAH. Thereafter, the second half or part of the Shahadah signifies that Muhammad (PBUH) is first ALLAH's slave (servant) (like all other believers), then he (Muhammad, PBUH) is ALLAH's final Messenger (124,000 Messengers and Prophets, PBUT).

Parents of a newborn are supposed to whisper the Shahadah into their child's ear.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was not, as many western texts incorrectly identify, the founder of Islam. On the contrary, Muhammad (PBUH) is the Seal of the Prophets; there were 124,000 Messengers and Prophets (PBUT) sent to every nation that existed.

A MUSLIM MUST BELIEVE THAT ALLAH NEVER TIRES; TO SAY THAT ALLAH EVER RESTS OR TIRES IS BOTH A BLASPHEMY AND A PERSONAL INSULT TO HIM. NEITHER DOES HE HAVE ANY RELATIVES OR EQUALS. IF ALLAH WANTS TO DECREE ANYTHING, EVEN THE CREATION OF AN ENTIRE NEW UNIVERSE ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS FOR HIM (ALLAH) TO SAY IS 'BE' AND IT IS:

- **"They say, "ALLAH has taken a son." Exalted is He! Rather, to Him belongs whatever is in the Heavens and the Earth. All are devoutly obedient to Him, Originator of the Heavens and the Earth. When He decrees a matter, He only says to it, "Be," and it is." (Noble Quran, 2:116-7)**
- **"Behold! In the creation of the Heavens and the Earth, and the alternation of the night and day, and the sailing of ships through the ocean for the profit of mankind, and the water which ALLAH sends down from the skies, thereby reviving the Earth after its death, and dispersing therein all kinds of beasts, and (in) the ordinance of the winds, and the clouds subjugated between Heaven and Earth: are signs for people who have sense." (Noble Qur'an 2:164)**
- **"ALLAH is He Who (has) raised the Heavens without pillars that you can see, then mounted the Throne, and compelled the Sun and the Moon to be of service (to his Law)! Each runs (its course) unto an appointed term. He regulates all**

affairs, explaining the revelations, that you may be certain of the meeting with your LORD (ALLAH)." (Noble Qur'an 13:2-4)

- Or, Who guides you through the depths of darkness in the land and the sea, and Who sends the winds as heralds of His Mercy? Could there be another GOD besides ALLAH? High is ALLAH above what they ascribe to Him! Or, Who originates creation, then repeats it, and Who gives you sustenance from Heaven and Earth? Could there be another GOD besides ALLAH? Say, "Bring your proof, if you are truthful!" Say, None in the Heavens or on Earth, except ALLAH, knows what is hidden. Nor are they able to perceive when they shall be resurrected (for Judgment)." (Noble Qur'an 27:60-65)
- "Then He completed and finished from their creation (as seven Seavens in two Days and He made in each Heaven its affair. And We adorned the nearest (lowest) Heaven with lamps (stars) to be an adornment as well as to guard (from the devils by using them as missiles against the devils). Such is the Decree of Him, the All-Mighty, the All-Knower." (Noble Quran, Ch. 41:9-12)
- "We (ALLAH) shall show them Our Signs on the horizons and within themselves, until it becomes clear to them that it is the Truth. Is it not sufficient that the LORD (ALLAH) is Witness over all things?" (Noble Qur'an, Ch. 41:53)
- "And indeed We (ALLAH) created the Heavens and the Earth and all between them in six Days and nothing of fatigue touched Us." (Noble Quran, Ch. 50:38)

EVERY MUSLIM SHOULD KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE 5 PILLARS OF ISLAM. OUR LIVES REVOLVE AROUND THEM. THEY ARE THE ESSENCE AND THE FOUNDATION OF A MUSLIM'S ENTIRE LIFE:

- Faith or belief in the Oneness of God and the finality of the Prophet-hood of Muhammad (PBUH).
- Establishment of the Salat (daily Prayers).
- Concern for and (Zakat) almsgiving to the needy.
- Self-purification through fasting during the Holy month of Ramadan.
- The pilgrimage (only the first time is compulsory) to Mecca for those who are able.

- Ibn `Umar reported that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Islam is based on five (Pillars), testifying that there is no true GOD except ALLAH and that Muhammad (PBUH) is His slave and Final Messenger; performing of Prayers; the payment of (Zakat) Almsgiving; fasting during the Holy month of Ramadan; performing Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime, if able to do so)." (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

SALAT: The Arabic word Prayers.

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Prayer is the pillar of religion." (Al-Baihaqi)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "A person who commits a sin, but performs ablution in the best way, then offers a Prayer (containing 2 prostrations), and he asks for the forgiveness of ALLAH, ALLAH almighty forgives his sins." (Ahmad)

In every single prostration of every compulsory and optional Prayer (except the Prayer for the dead), the one who is Praying must recite the opening chapter of the Quran:

SURAT AL-FATIHA (THE OPENING CHAPTER):

- "In the name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise be to ALLAH, the LORD of the Worlds; Most Gracious, Most Merciful; Master of the Day of Judgment. You we worship and Thy aid we seek. Show us the straight path, the way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace, those whose (portion) is not wrath, and who go not astray." (Noble Quran, Ch.1:1-7)

NOTE: Amen (pronounced Ameen in Arabic) is always recited at the end of this chapter.

THE OBLIGATORY PRAYERS ARE PERFORMED 5 TIMES A DAY:

FAJR PRAYER (Dawn Prayer) 2 Prostrations
 ZUHR PRAYER (Mid-Day Prayer) 4 Prostrations
 ASR PRAYER (Mid-Afternoon Prayer) 4 prostrations
 MAGHRIB PRAYER (Sunset Prayer) 3 prostrations
 ISHA PRAYER (Night-time Prayer) 4 prostrations)

TWO IMPORTANT TERMS RELATING TO ISLAMIC PRAYERS:

RAKAAT: The Arabic word for Prostrations.

SUJUD: When a person's forehead is on the carpet (prostrating).

OTHER TYPES OF PRAYERS (OPTIONAL PRAYERS) INCLUDE:

SALAT AL-JUM'A OR JUM'A (Friday Prayer): The Friday Prayer is obligatory on all able-bodied Muslim males. In fact, this is the most obligatory of all Islamic Prayers. It can only be performed in congregation. It's held during the period of the Mid-day Prayer every Friday. It's longer because there's a sermon before the Prayer. Two prostrations are performed following the sermon. During the sermon while the Imam is speaking no one should chatter or speak unless it is to say Amen, PBUH, or other permitted response to the Imam's supplication.

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "While the Imam is giving the Sermon on Friday, if you tell your companion 'Listen' you have made an intrusive remark." (Bukhari)
- "Oh you that believe, when the Adhan [the call to Prayer] is called on the Day of Friday, then proceed to the remembrance of ALLAH and leave trade and business. That is better for you, if you only knew. But when the Prayer has ended, then disperse abroad in the land and seek of ALLAH's Grace, and remember ALLAH much, so that you may be successful" (Noble Quran, Ch. 62: 9-10)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Friday is the best of days. It was on this day that the Prophet Adam (PBUH) was created, it was on this day that he was granted entry into Paradise, it was on this day that he was removed from Paradise, and the Day of Resurrection will also be on this day (Friday)." (Sahih Muslim)
- "A person who leaves 3 Friday Prayers consecutively without justifiable cause, ALLAH puts a seal on his heart." (Ahmad, Tirmizi, abu Dawud)
- "Abu Hurairah (may ALLAH be pleased with him) narrated that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "On Friday the Angels stand outside the door of the Masjid and write down the names of the people in the order in which they enter the Masjid for the Friday Prayer. The first group of people who enter the Masjid get the reward equivalent to that of sacrificing a camel the people who enter the Masjid after them get the reward equivalent to that of sacrificing a cow. The people

who enter the Masjid after them get the reward equivalent to that of sacrificing a ram and the people who follow on likewise get this reward of a Chicken, egg and so on there is a gradation of rewards for the people as they enter. The Angels keep writing the names of the people as they enter the Masjid until the Imam (the person who gives the sermon and leads the Prayer) sits down to give the Sermon. Then the Angels collect their registers and sit and listen to the Sermon." (Bukhari, Muslim)

SUNNAH OR NAFIL PRAYER (Extra, non-obligatory Prayer): Any Prayer that is not of the 5 obligatory Prayers.

TAHIYYAT AL-MASJID PRAYER: A Prayer that is performed upon entering a Masjid (Mosque) or shortly afterward, it's performed before any other Prayer upon entering a Masjid. This Prayer can only be performed in a Masjid or a Musallah. It is a Prayer of glad tidings to the Masjid.

DUHA PRAYER: An optional prayer offered in the late morning when the sun has already risen; its time ends before the noon prayer time begins. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) performed up to 12 Duha Prayers.

TAJAHUD PRAYER: Although it can be performed after the night prayer it is best to perform this prayer during the last third of the night, ending before the Dawn Prayer.

JANAZA PRAYER: The prayer for the dead. There are no prostrations in this prayer. As a general rule, it's performed in congregation.

UL-ISQUAA PRAYER: Prayer for Rain.

TARAWEEH PRAYER: Performed during the Holy month of Ramadan following the evening Prayer). The Noble Quran is recited from beginning to end before the Holy month of Ramadan ends.

SHAF' AND WITR PRAYER: This Prayer contains odd numbered prostrations (1 or 3 or 5 and so forth, one of the Prostrations must therefore be a single). It is performed as the last prayer of the night. No prayer should be performed thereafter until the Dawn Prayer time sets in.

EID PRAYERS (Eid Al-Fitr Prayers, Eid Al-Adha Prayers): Each of these Prayers is performed only once a year. Both begin with a 2 prostration Prayers, followed by a sermon.

In these 2 particular Prayers the phrase ALLAHU AKBAR (ALLAH is the Greatest) are spoken by the Imam more times than in any other 2 prostrations.

The Eid sermon and Prayer is performed in the morning, sometime between 8:00 A.M. and usually no later than 10:00 A.M.

The Eid Prayers are a very special occasion where the congregation is very happy and cheerful. Therein, following the sermon many Muslims say Salam 'Alaykum and make supplications to ALLAH for others around them. There's also much embracing.

Food and beverages are customarily served in the Masjid or at another designated location.

EID AL-FITR: The Holiday celebration following the Holy Month of Ramadan.

EID AL-ADHA: The Holiday commemorating Abraham's (PBUH) willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael (PBUH) for ALLAH. Unlike Christians and Jews, Muslims believe that it was Ishmael (PBUH) rather than Isaac (PBUH) who was ready to be sacrificed by his father Abraham (PBUH) for ALLAH. Muslims love Abraham, Ishmael, and Isaac (PBUT). We negate none of them.

QASR PRAYER: A shortened version of Prayer for the person who is travelling.

ISTIKHARA PRAYER (In Arabic it means seeking goodness from ALLAH): The purpose of this Prayer is guidance in choosing the best option available from various options and choices in life; undertakings, making plans for a journey, etc. The worshipper is asking ALLAH to help him or her choose what is best; ALLAH knows what is best for every single person. This Prayer consists of 2 prostrations. A specific supplication within this particular Prayer is the following:

- **"O ALLAH! I seek goodness from Your Knowledge and with Your Power (and absolute might) I seek strength and I ask from You Your Great Blessings because You (ALLAH) have the Power and I do not have the power. You know everything and I do not know and You (ALLAH) have knowledge of the unseen. Oh ALLAH! If in Your Knowledge this action (so-and-so), (which I intend to do) is better for my religion and faith, for my life and end (death), for here (in this World) and**

the Hereafter then make it destined for me and make it easy for me and then add blessings in it, for me.

ALLAH! In Your Knowledge if this action is bad for me, bad for my religion and faith, for my life and end (death), for here (in this World) and the Hereafter then turn it away from me and turn me away from it and whatever is better for me, ordain that for me and then make me satisfied with it."

AL-KHAWF PRAYER: This is a Prayer performed during the time of war. When there is imminent danger from the approach of an enemy the Imam should divide the army into two bodies; one of which should be placed in a position towards the enemy, the other should recite, if they are on the march, 1 Prostration; if stationary in a place, 2 Prostrations...

MASJID: A place used for performing Prayers that is owned by the Muslim community.

MUSALLAH: A place used for performing Prayers that is rented.

NOTE: The word Mosque is a misnomer, and quite frankly in its origin was offensive. It's derived from the Spanish word for Mosquito; "We shall crush the Muslims like Mosquitoes."

Islamic Prayer is a direct connection from the worshipper to ALLAH. Prayers can be performed in a Masjid, Musallah, at home, or anywhere else. However, the worshipper must not obstruct traffic, a walkway, and must certainly use common sense to know where he or she shouldn't perform the Prayer. Praying in front of a statue or any kind of an idol, portrait or painting or beside the tomb of someone is absolutely forbidden. So is doing so in a restroom, bar, or any other filthy place.

The obligatory Prayers that are performed in congregation are 27 times better and more rewarding than praying alone.

IMAM: The man who leads the congregational prayer. Members of the first row of the congregation receive the highest rewards from ALLAH, followed by the second row and so forth.

Prayer helps the worshipper to remember ALLAH throughout the day. Much of the rhythm and schedule of the day is determined by Prayer.

Whatever is required (to be spoken) in the Prayers is spoken in Arabic. The non-obligatory supplications can be spoken in any language. Anything whatsoever can be asked of ALLAH, so long as it's not sinful, hated, or otherwise bad.

- **"So, endure what they say and sanctify with praise of your LORD (ALLAH) before the rising of the Sun and before its setting; and during periods of the night sanctify (ALLAH) and at the ends of the day that you may be contented."** (Noble Quran, Ch. 20:130)

The method and times of Prayers, and ablution are derived from the Way of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He (Muhammad; PBUH) prayed 5 times a day and performed many non-obligatory prayers.

No person can perform the Prayers unless he or she is in a state of ablution.

WUDU (ABLUTION): Ritualized cleansing (with water) for the purpose of entering a state of Tahara. Wudu is performed before Prayers and before holding the Noble Quran. Although most Muslim scholars agree that no person should hold the Noble Quran unless he or she is ritually purified, some scholars believe that a person can hold a Noble Quran, however, touching any of ALLAH's letters is forbidden.

- **"O believers! When you stand for prayer wash your face and hands to the elbows, wipe your head and wash your feet to the ankles"** (Qur'an, Ch. 5:6)

FARD WUDU (OBLIGATORY ABLUTION): Required before Praying or touching the Noble Quran.

WAAJIB WUDU (NECESSARY ABLUTION): Necessary for the Tawaf (Circumambulation of the Ka'aba).

MUSTAHABB WUDU (RECOMMENDED AND LIKED ABLUTION): Done before going to sleep, before having an obligatory bath. A person can perform ablution at any time.

NEGATION OF ABLUTION:

- Excretions in the form of urine, faeces or wind.
- Fluids such as blood or puss flowing from a wound.
- Vomiting food or other fluids if the mouth becomes full and its restraint is beyond control.
- Falling asleep; it depends on the person's position. It's not the sleep but what can happen while a person is asleep. A Muslim or Muslima should ask their Imam regarding the technicalities of this issue.
- Unconsciousness due to madness or swoon or intoxication.
- Laughing loudly during prayer.

Because a person must be in a state of ablution in order to pray, what breaks the ablution also breaks the Prayer. However, one additional negation of the prayer that does not negate ablution involves the passing of a dog in front of a person who is praying, even if the dog is running.

IF THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF PERFORMING ABLUTION WITH WATER, THE PERSON CAN PERFORM TAYAMUM:

TAYAMUM: The action of cleansing oneself (ablution) using clean sand or dust, both of which must be dry.

TAHARA: The state of being physically and ritually clean and purified.

- **"Most surely it is an honoured (Noble) Quran, in a Book that is protected. In which none shall touch but those who are purified, a revelation by the LORD (ALLAH) of the Universe." (Noble Quran, Ch. 56: 77-80).**
- **"I (Muhammad, PBUH) have been given five things which no one before me has been given ... The Earth has been made for me a place of worship and ceremonially pure, so that when the time of Prayer comes any man may Pray." (Agreed Upon)**
- **Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The Earth has been made for me (Muhammad, PBUH) as a means of cleansing." (Ahmad)**

IN THE CASE OF SEMINAL OR VAGINAL DISCHARGE OR SEXUAL INTERCOURSE THE PERSON MUST PERFORM GHUSL JANABA: The person must completely cover the surface of his or her body with water; a full body bath.

GHUSL HAS FIVE OBLIGATORY ELEMENTS:

- Intention.
- Consecutiveness.
- Rubbing.
- Making water penetrate to the roots of the hair.
- Cover the entire body with water.

All of the 124,000 Prophets and Messengers of ALLAH (PBUT) were clean, in heart, mind, body, and soul.

Following urination or defecation, a Muslim pours water onto the polluted region (genitals or anal region).

ISTINJAB: Pouring water on the genital region following urination.

TASHFEET: Pouring water on the anal region following defecation.

Regardless of where a Muslim is, when performing any Prayer, he or she must be facing Mecca. However, there are extraordinary circumstances; ALLAH is always just and understanding.

QIBLA: The direction that is faced during Prayer. In all Masjids and Musallahs there will be a visible Qibla or a person can find the Imam's personal prayer rug. The rug's position will automatically indicate the direction of the Prayer. Much of the time, though, a newcomer will ask another Muslim about the direction of the Qibla. The person should direct him/herself to the east or to the west (perpendicular to that of the Qibla). If this cannot be done, ALLAH is Most Forgiving and Merciful.

- **Abu Ayyuh Al-Ansar reported that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "while a person is relieving him/herself he or she should not be facing the direction of the Qibla, nor give his/her back to it.**

NOTE: This rule only applies if the person is in an open plain, a wide expanse of flatland.

- **Narrated by Abu-Hurraira, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The person who does not face the direction of the Qibla while relieving him/herself shall receive one reward (from ALLAH) and one sin shall be erased." (Imam At-Tabaraani)**

If you see a person Praying alone do not cross his or her path; if so, you should be comfortably more than an arm's length away from him. Prostration is to ALLAH only.

During congregational Prayers the Imam becomes the Sutra, therefore, if someone is in need of leaving the prayer for whatever reason he can do so by crossing people's path, if necessary.

SUTRA: A barrier used by a person who is praying. It is placed in front of the person thereby allowing people to pass freely, but in front of the barrier, not between the barrier and the person who is Praying. The barrier can be a backpack, pillow, etc. It can't be something tiny like a pencil or pen, though.

- If he (or she, deliberately) passes in front of the one who is Praying, i.e., in the area between the spot where he (or she) puts his (or her) forehead when he (or she) prostrates and where he (or she) stands, this is Haraam (sinful, forbidden), and indeed it is a major sin as Muhammad (PBUH) said, "If the one who (deliberately) passes in front of a person who is Praying knew what (a burden of sin) he (or she) bears, it would be better for him (or her) to stand for forty rather than pass in front of him."
Abu'l-Nadar - one of the narrators - said, "I do not know whether Muhammad (PBUH) said forty days or months or years." (Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 510; Muslim, 507 - from Abu Juhaym)
- The person passing through the rows in congregational Prayers is exempted: It has been reported that Ibn 'Abbaas said, "Fodle and I arrived riding on a female donkey, while Muhammad (PBUH) was at `Arafah. So we passed in front of some of the rows (during the congregational Prayer) then we dismounted and we left the donkey to graze. We then entered (congregational Prayer) with Muhammad (PBUH) there, and he did not say anything to us (about it)." (Al-Bukhari, Muslim, Al-Humaydee)

WHAT SHOULD A PERSON WHO IS PRAYING DO IF SOMEONE TRIES TO PASS IN FRONT OF HIM OR HER?

- If anyone tries to pass in front of a person performing non-congregational Prayer (Praying alone), the person who is Praying must prevent him (the crosser) from doing so. The first time the Prayer should stick his arm out indicating to the crosser that 'I am Praying'!
If he (or she, the crosser) insists, then intensify the resistance, thereafter, push him (or her) away, and if he (or she) persists, then use necessary force against him (or her, the crosser) without using a weapon.
If by some rare occurrence there is a terrible skirmish leading to the death of the crosser, there is no sin on the one who caused his (or her) death, and no penalty nor blood money nor expiation is demanded of him (or her). This is so, whether the person was performing Prayer towards a Sutrah or without a Sutrah.
If on the other hand, they dispute with each other, the matter is taken to court (before the Judge). This is because the person (deliberately) passing in front of another person who is performing Prayer is possessed by

evil. The evidence in support of this is the Saying of Muhammad (PBUH), "If any of you perform Prayer then do not let anyone pass in front of you. And if someone insists (on doing so) then fight him, for indeed he is possessed."
(Muslim)

A person who deliberately passes right in front of another person who is Praying is saying to the worshipper 'worship me'.

In Masjids and Musallahs it is normal for persons to accidentally pass in front of a Praying person. But most of the time, they are stopped by a simple flick of a person's hand or an extension of it.

I have never heard of a case of anyone deliberately standing in front of, or passing a Praying person and insisting on doing so. Also, toddlers and children and the young who are immature are not dealt with in the same manner.

ADHAAN: The first call to prayer performed for each of the 5 daily obligatory Prayers. This is an invitation and reminder that the congregational Prayer time is soon. For ease sake, I have translated the Adhaan into English. However, keep in mind that the Adhaan and the Iqama are done only in Arabic.

ALLAH is the Greatest

ALLAH is Greatest

I testify that there is no GOD but ALLAH

I testify that there is no GOD but ALLAH

I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of ALLAH

I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of ALLAH

Come to Prayer

Come to Prayer

Come to Salvation

Come to Salvation

(Prayer is nobler than sleep: These 5 words are only recited for the Dawn Prayer)

ALLAH is the Greatest

ALLAH is the Greatest

There is no GOD but ALLAH

MU'DHIN: The person who gives the Adhaan (call to Prayer). Traditionally, the person who gives the Adhaan also gives the Iqama.

IQAMA: The second and final call to Prayer. Iqama is an order to stand and straighten up the lines for the congregational Prayer. The Prayer commences following the Iqama:

ALLAH is the Greatest
ALLAH is the Greatest
I testify that there is no GOD but ALLAH
I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of ALLAH
Come to Prayer
Come to Salvation
Stand for Prayer
Stand for Prayer
ALLAH is the Greatest
ALLAH is the Greatest
There is no GOD but ALLAH

ZAKAT IS THE THIRD PILLAR OF ISLAM:

Everything in this universe belongs to ALLAH, and also the wealth that most people have a hard time giving a portion of away for charity.

ZAKAT: An Arabic word meaning purification and growth. When a person pays his or her Zakat it purifies the person's money and wealth (the money and wealth has to be clean). Zakat is an almsgiving, giving to the needy and back to society. It has a very deeply ingrained religious, personal and social-humanitarian value. This act helps to prevent the hoarding of wealth and promotes solidarity and unity amongst Muslims. It helps to purify one's soul and helps Muslims be thankful for ALLAH's countless bounties. Zakat payment is 2.5 percent on annual savings that are measurable and 20 percent of a treasure. If a Muslim owns livestock, properties, etc., he or she should consult with an Imam or other person who is qualified to calculate his or her Zakat payment.

- **"Establish the Prayer and pay the Zakat." (Noble Quran, Ch. 2:43)**
- **"O ye who believe! There are indeed many among the priests and anchorites, who in falsehood devour the substance of men and hinder (them) from the way of ALLAH. And there are those who hoard gold and silver and spend it not in the way of ALLAH. Announce unto them a most grievous penalty, that on the Day when heat will be produced out of (the wealth that they hoarded) in the fire of Hell, and with it will be branded on their foreheads, their flanks, and their backs. This is the (treasure) which ye buried for yourselves: taste ye, then, the (treasures) ye buried!" (Noble Qur'an, Ch. 9:34-35)**

- It is related from Abu Ayyub that a man said to Muhammad (PBUH), "Inform me of an action which will ensure my entrance into the Garden (Paradise). Another person asked, 'What does he want? What is wrong with him?' Muhammad (PBUH) said, 'What he wants is to know something. Worship ALLAH and do not associate anything else with Him. Establish the Prayer and pay the Zakat and maintain ties of kinship.'"

ALLAH TELLS US IN HIS NOBLE QURAN WHO IS QUALIFIED TO BE A RECIPIENT OF ZAKAT:

- "The alms are only for the poor and the needy, and those who collect them, and those whose hearts are to be reconciled, and to free the captives and the debtors, and in the cause of ALLAH, and (for) the wayfarers; a duty imposed by ALLAH. ALLAH is Knower, Wise." (Noble Qur'an, Ch.9:60)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Every one of the sons of Adam (PBUH) has been created with 360 joints; so that (he or she) who declares the Glory of ALLAH, praises ALLAH, removes a stone, a thorn, or a bone from peoples' path, and enjoins what is good and forbids evil, ALLAH will remove from (him or her) those 360 joints from Hell." (Reported by Muslim), on the authority of Aisha who was one of the Prophet's {PBUH} wives).
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Charity is due on everyone, every day the Sun rises; Administration of justice between two men (or women, etc.) is also a charity, assisting a man (or woman) to ride on his (or her) beast or helping to load goods on his (or her) beast, a good word is charity, removing harmful things (or objects) from the path is charity." (Narrated by Abu-Huraira; Agreed Upon)

ZAKAT IS ONLY REQUIRED OF ADULTS WHOSE INCOME AND WEALTH HAVE REACHED THE LEVEL OF NISAB:

NISAB: The minimum net worth of an individual which obligates him or her to pay Zakat.

ZAKAT AL-MAL: An annual payment based on the amount of wealth owned by a Muslim individual or organization.

ZAKAT AL-FITR: A one-off payment made once a year by every Muslim between the first day of the Holy month of Ramadan and the first day of Shawwal before the Eid Prayer.

THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO OTHER FORMS OF CHARITY:

- Saying there is no GOD but ALLAH.
- Listening to the aggrieved.
- Guiding the blind.
- Showing the seeker his need.
- Smiling in the face of your brother (or sister).
- Guiding the man (or woman) gone astray in the world.

SADAQA: All charity that is not required; any charitable act that does not fall under any category of Zakat.

FASTING DURING THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN IS THE FOURTH PILLAR OF ISLAM:

SAWM: The Arabic word for fasting.

SAAYIM: A person who is fasting.

MUFTIR: A person who has eaten; he or she is not fasting or has broken the fast.

IFTAAR: The first meal or snack to break the fast.

IMSAAK: This is the period when a fasting person can no longer eat or drink.

The breaking of the fast is a very pleasant feeling, indeed! Stronger-willed persons may break their fast by consuming one or a few dates, some milk, and water, or other light food and drink. Thereafter, the person will perform the Sunset Prayer, and afterwards will eat a large snack or a meal.

Other persons will eat and drink an entire meal or a small meal immediately upon the ending of the fasting period.

In many Muslim countries the firing a cannon is used to signify the beginning and the end of the fasting period. Either way, schedules indicating the Prayer times and fasting periods are readily available, even in many non-Muslim countries.

Ramadan falls on the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. During this Holy Month able-bodied Muslims fast from the onset of dawn till sunset. No food, water or sexual relations occur during the fasting period. Most able-bodied individuals begin to fast upon reaching puberty. However, many people fast earlier.

The first day of Ramadan is determined by the sighting of the crescent new moon. The tradition ordered by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and continued by the Muslim communities is to visibly sight the new moon crescent. ALLAH has set crescent sighting as the only means for establishing dates of various Islamic occasions such as Eids (Holidays) and Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca). This is one tradition that does not use high-tech.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ordered that if the view of the moon is blocked (cloudy, etc.) then Muslims should fast 30 days one year and the following year 29. For example, if Muslims fasted 29 days the previous year, then they should fast 30 days for the present year, if the moon cannot be sighted.

- **"They ask you (Muhammad, PBUH) concerning the new moons. Say: They are but signs to mark fixed periods of time for men and for Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca)" (Noble Quran, Ch. 2: 189)**

MUSLIM SCHOLARS AGREE THAT TWO TRUSTWORTHY MUSLIM WITNESSES ARE SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH MOON SIGHTING:

- **"Muhammad (PBUH) said, "If two (honourable and trustworthy) Muslim witnesses testify (that they have seen the new crescent moon) then fast or break your fast." (Authentic; narrated by Ahmad, an-Nassa'i and ad-Daraqutni)**

For Muslims who are healthy enough to fast it is a time to rest the digestive tract. Fasting helps to cleanse the body. People tend to be calmer during the fasting period. In addition, they get a taste of what it feels like to be poor and hungry. Many Islamic charities work extra diligently during this Holy Month.

Pregnant women, breast-feeding women, and women having menses are excused from fasting, but they have to make up the lost days. Travellers and people who are ill are also excused from fasting. They too, must make up the days they missed sometime before the next Ramadan month.

RAMADAN IS NOT ONLY ABOUT ABSTENTION IT'S ALSO ABOUT GETTING CLOSER TO ALLAH AND CONTROLLING ONE'S DESIRES. MUSLIMS MAKE A STRONG EFFORT TO ABSTAIN FROM SIN AS

ORDERED BY ALLAH; BACKBITING, BAD TALK, ETC. IT IS A TIME TO PURIFY ONE'S SOUL:

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Whoever does not give up forged speech and evil actions, ALLAH is not in need of the fasting person's leaving his (or her) food and drink (i.e. ALLAH will reject his (or her) fasting." (Narrated by Abu Huraira)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Fasting is a shield (or a screen or a shelter). So, the person observing fasting should avoid sexual relation with his wife and should not behave foolishly and impudently, and if somebody fights with him (or her) or abuses him (or her), he (or she) should tell him (or her) twice, I am fasting!" Muhammad (PBUH) added, "By Him (ALLAH) in Whose Hands my soul is, the smell coming out from the mouth of a fasting person is better in the sight of ALLAH than the smell of musk. "He has left his food, drink and desires for My sake (ALLAH). The fast is for Me. So I will reward (the fasting person) for it and the reward of good deeds is multiplied ten times." (Narrated by Abu-Huraira)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan out of faith and in the hope of earning reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven, and whoever stays up during Laylat al-Qadr (the Night of Power) out of faith and in the hope of earning reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven." (Agreed upon)

FASTING DURING THE MONTH OF RAMADAN IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP AND OBEDIENCE TO ALLAH:

- "O you who believe, Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard (against sin and evil). For a certain number of days (29 or 30); but whoever among you is sick or on a journey, then (he or she shall fast) a like number of other days; and those who are not able to do it may effect a redemption by feeding a poor man; so whoever does good spontaneously it is better for him; and that you fast is better for you if you know" (Noble Quran, Ch. 2:83-84).
- "Ramadan is the (Holy Month) in which was sent down the (Noble) Qur'an, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (Between right and wrong, good

and evil). So every one of you who is present (at his home) during that month should spend it in fasting, but if anyone is ill, or on a journey, the prescribed period (Should be made up) by days later. ALLAH intends every facility for you; He does not want to put to difficulties. (He wants you) to complete the prescribed period, and to glorify Him in that He has guided you; and perchance ye shall be grateful" (Noble Quran, Ch. 2:185).

- "Muhammad (PBUH) said, "When Ramadan begins, the gates of Paradise are opened" (Narrated by Abu-Huraira).

THE NOBLE QURAN WAS REVEALED DURING THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN. THE PARTICULAR NIGHT THAT THE BOOK WAS REVEALED IS REFERRED TO IN THE NOBLE QURAN AS THE 'GRAND NIGHT':

- "We sent it (the Noble Quran) down on a Grand Night" (Noble Quran, Ch. 44:3).
- "Surely We (ALLAH) revealed it on the Grand Night. And what will make you comprehend what the Grand Night the Grand Night is better than a thousand months. The Angels and Gabriel (PBUH) descend in it by the permission of their LORD (ALLAH) for every affair, Peace! It is till the break of the morning" (Noble Quran, (Ch. 97:1-5).

HAJJ (PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA) IS THE FIFTH PILLAR OF ISLAM:

The Pilgrimage to Mecca is not directed at the shrines of saints, holy men, or monasteries, or at sites or locations where miracles supposedly have occurred.

- Narrated by Abdullah Ibn Zayd, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The Prophet Abraham (PBUH) made Mecca a sanctuary and asked ALLAH to bless it. I made Medina a sanctuary as Abraham made Mecca a sanctuary and I asked ALLAH to bless its treasures, the Mudd and the Saa' (its food treasures)." (Reported by Imam Muslim).
- Narrated by Abdullah Ibn 'Umar, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Enjoy this House (the Kaaba) for it was demolished twice before but the third time around it shall be lifted (never raised again)." (Reported by Imams Al-Bazzaar, Ibn Khuzayma and Ibn Hibbaani).

HAJJ: The Arabic word that means to set out for a place. Under the context though, it specifically refers to the Pilgrimage to Mecca by Muslims. Every single able-bodied Muslim (male and female) is required to perform the Pilgrimage to Mecca once in their lifetime. The Pilgrimage is performed during the final month of the Islamic year (Dhul-Hijjah). Excluding travel to and from Saudi Arabia, the process takes 6 or 7 days minimum. Especially for those who are travelling from abroad, the Pilgrimage is tiresome, but certainly worth it. Over 2 million Pilgrims converge upon the area for the Pilgrimage.

UMRAH: It is not required, but highly recommended; often referred to as the 'Little Pilgrimage'. The Umrah can be performed any time of the year, except during the Hajj period. During the off-season (non-Hajj period) the area is significantly less populated.

Before the 8th of Dhul-Hijjah (final month of the Islamic calendar), a person who wants to perform pilgrimage (Hajj) pronounces the intention to perform Umrah while approaching the Miqat). A second intention for the actual Hajj is pronounced at a later period. There are several rites to properly complete the Hajj and Umrah.

MIQAT: Designated stations where pilgrims put on the Ihram garb.

IHRAM: A state of sacred purity a pilgrim must be in before performing the Pilgrimage. Males wear a white, two-pieced, seamless garment. Females wear modest, required Islamic dress.

NIYYAH (INTENTION): "O ALLAH! I intend to perform Pilgrimage. Make it easy for me and accept it from me. I make the intention for Pilgrimage and enter into the state of Ihram for the sake of ALLAH alone, the Most High.

- **"And (mention) when We (ALLAH) made the House a place of return for the people and (a place of) security. And take (O believers) from the standing place of Abraham (PBUH) a place of Prayer. And We (ALLAH) charged Abraham (PBUH) and Ishmael (PBUH), Purify My House for those who perform Tawaf (Circle the Kaaba) and those who are staying (there) for worship and those who bow and prostrate (during Prayer)."**
(Noble Quran, Ch. 2:125)
- **"And proclaim to mankind the Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca). They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel they**

will come from every deep and distant mountain highway (to perform the Pilgrimage to Mecca)." (Noble Quran, Ch. 22:27)

KAABA OR SACRED HOUSE: The cube shaped monument which was the first 'House of ALLAH' initially built by the Prophet Adam (PBUH), and then later rebuilt by the Prophet Abraham (PBUH) and his son the Prophet Ishmael (PBUH). Pilgrims circle the Kaaba seven times, counter-clockwise as one of the requirements of the Pilgrimage. When Muhammad (PBUH) conquered Mecca he destroyed 360 idols that were inside the Kaaba. In Islam, there is no room for idols or false deities; worship of ALLAH alone without any false images.

THE BLACK STONE: Muslims feel awe and respect for this stone. It lies in the eastern corner of the Kaaba, and for an average-sized man it is chest-high. The Black Stone is venerated by Muslims; Pilgrims performing the Tawaf (circling of the Kaaba), they try to touch and kiss and caress the stone. The Black stone is embedded in a silver frame, it also serves as a marker, aiding Pilgrims to keep count of the number of times (seven in all) they perform Tawaf. It is believed that the Black Stone fell from heaven.

- **Narrated by Ibn Abbas, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The Black Stone will appear on the Day of Judgement possessing 2 eyes with which it can see, and a tongue with which it will be able to speak, it shall testify in favour of the person who touched it (while fulfilling the rights of Islam). (Imams Al-Tirmithi, Al-Nasaa'i, Ahmad, and Ibn Maa'jahi).**

KISWAH: The covering of the Kaaba that consists of a black cloth, woven of silk and is lined with cotton. It's embroidered in golden thread, written is the Shahadah and verses of the Noble Quran. The Kiswah is replaced every year.

- **Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Anyone who ALLAH has given enough (Funds) to perform the Hajj, and he also has a conveyance which can take him to the House of ALLAH. If he still fails to do so then it does not matter whether he dies a Jew or Christian, and it is so because ALLAH has said, Pilgrimage to the House (of ALLAH) is a duty men (and women) owe to ALLAH - those who can afford the journey." (Tirmizi)**
- **Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Whoever performs the Hajj and commits no lustful act during it nor disobeys ALLAH shall**

return from it (the Hajj) as pure and sinless as he (or she) was at the time of his birth." (Bukhari & Muslim)

- "From one Ummrah (Little Hajj) to another (Ummrah) becomes atonement for the sins committed during the period between them ..." (Bukhari and Muslim)

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS IN ISLAM (WITHIN THESE BELIEFS ARE THE ARTICLES OF FAITH INCLUDING BELIEF IN ALLAH, THE ANGELS, MESSENGERS AND PROPHETS, PBUT, THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT, AND DIVINE DESTINY):

- The belief in One GOD (ALLAH), Supreme and Eternal, Infinite and Mighty, Merciful and Compassionate, Creator and Provider for all. This belief, in order to be effective, requires complete trust and hope in ALLAH, submission to ALLAH's will and reliance on ALLAH's aid. It Secures a man's (or a woman's) dignity and saves him from fear and despair, from guilt and confusion.
- The belief in all of the 124,000 Messengers and Prophets (PBUT) of ALLAH without any discrimination between them. Every known nation had a Messenger or Prophet (PBUH) to warn and convey the message from ALLAH. These Messengers and Prophets (PBUT) were the best of humanity. No one can learn to be a Prophet or a Messenger. This duty is assigned directly from ALLAH. Be aware though, there have been and will be many False Prophets.
- The belief in all the Scriptures and Revelations of ALLAH. They were the guiding light which the Messengers (PBUT) received to show their respective peoples the Right Path of ALLAH. In the Noble Qur'an a special reference is made to the books of Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus (PBUT). But long before the revelation of the Noble Qur'an to Muhammad (PBUH) some of those books and revelations had been lost or corrupted, others forgotten, neglected, or concealed. The only authentic and complete book of ALLAH in existence today is the Noble Qur'an (in Arabic).
- The belief in the Angels of ALLAH, They are purely spiritual and splendid beings whose nature requires no food or drink or sleep. They have no physical desires of any kind of material needs. They spend their days and nights, in the service of ALLAH, never disobeying him, even once.

Angels have no free will whatsoever. Only ALLAH knows how many Angels there are; many, many, many more than humans and Jinn combined.

- Belief in the Day Judgment. This world will come to an end; no one knows the exact day except for ALLAH. The dead will rise to stand (by ALLAH's decree) for their final and fair trial. Everything we do in this world, every intention we have, every move we make, every thought we entertain, and every word we say, all are counted and kept in accurate records. On the Day of Judgment they will be brought up.
- The belief in the Infinite Knowledge of ALLAH and His power to plan and execute His plans. ALLAH is not indifferent to this World nor is He neutral to it. ALLAH is Wise, Just and Loving and whatever He does must have a good motive, although we may fail sometimes to understand it fully. We should have strong faith in ALLAH and accept whatever He does because our knowledge is limited and our thinking is based on individual consideration, whereas His knowledge is limitless and He plans on a universal basis. Man (or woman) should think, plan, and make sound choices, but if things do not happen the way he (or she) wants, the person should not lose faith and surrender him-self or her-self to mental strains or shattering worries. A Muslim is always invited to make supplications to ALLAH. It is an act of worship. Have faith in your Creator at all times.
- Belief that ALLAH has created us to worship him. Worshipping ALLAH does not mean we spend our entire lives in constant seclusion and absolute meditation. To worship ALLAH is to live life according to His commands (indicated in the Noble Quran and the teachings and actions of Muhammad, PBUH). To worship ALLAH is to know Him, to love Him, to obey His commands, to enforce His laws in every aspect of life, to serve His cause by doing right and shunning evil and to be just to Him, to ourselves and to our fellow human beings (and animals, the environment, etc.).
- Humans have been granted high ranking and status in the hierarchy of all known creatures. Though, it must be remembered that we are not masters of our planet, but stewards. We have a responsibility to behave as such. ALLAH does not love the proud and arrogant person.

- Every person is born a "Muslim". Every person is endowed by ALLAH with spiritual potential and intellectual inclination that can make him (or her) a good Muslim. It is a person's parents or guardians who raise him or her as a member of another religion. The identity of ALLAH is ingrained deeply into our souls. Every person's birth takes place according to the will of ALLAH in realization of His plans and in submission to His commands.
- Every person is born free of sin. When a person reaches the age of maturity and if he or she is sane, accountability begins for all his (or her) deeds and intentions. A human is free from sin until he or she commits sin. There is no inherited sin, no original sin. Adam (PBUH) and Eve committed the first sin, he and she prayed to ALLAH for pardon, and ALLAH granted Adam (PBUH) and Eve pardon. ALLAH is the Most Merciful and the Most Compassionate.
- Salvation is attained through the guidance of ALLAH. No person can act on behalf of another or intercede between him and ALLAH. In order, to obtain salvation a person must combine faith with action, belief and practice. Faith without doing good deeds is as insufficient as doing good deeds without faith.
- ALLAH does not hold any person responsible until he (ALLAH) has shown him (or her) the Right Way (the Straight Path). If people do not know and have no way of knowing about Islam, they will be judged fairly on the Day of Judgement (more on this point will be discussed later). Every Muslim must preach Islam in words and in action.
- Faith is not complete when it's followed blindly or accepted unquestioningly. A person must build his or her faith on strong convictions beyond any doubt and with certainty. Islam insures freedom to believe and forbids compulsion in religion.
- The Noble Quran is the word of ALLAH revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through the Angel Gabriel (PBUH). The Noble Quran was revealed in Arabic and is still in its original and complete Arabic version until today. It's memorized by many millions. ALLAH has guaranteed the Noble Quran eternal preservation.

- Although both are essential for a practicing Muslim, there is a clear distinction between the Noble Quran and the Traditions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Whereas the Noble Quran is the direct word of ALLAH, the Traditions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH, his teachings, sayings, and actions) are the practical interpretations of the Noble Quran. The Noble Quran and the Traditions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) are the primary sources of knowledge in Islam.

THE NOBLE QURAN:

The final divine revelation from ALLAH appears through the Noble Quran, sometimes spelled Koran. There will never be a new or additional Holy Book from ALLAH.

- ... **"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My (ALLAH) favour upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion..."** (Noble Quran, Ch. 5:3)

The word Quran in Arabic means recitation or something that is frequently recited. ALLAH's revelations were sent down in a specific language therefore, if for instance, a person reads a 'Noble Quran' in English or any other language beside Arabic, technically it's a narrative or transliteration at best.

The Noble Quran is a divine miracle, containing prophecies, science, warnings, commands, and beautiful stories. Revelations began to be sent down to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in 610 C.E., and thereafter were sent down in bits and pieces for over 2 decades. This miracle of a book was memorized by heart not only by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) but by numerous Sahabas; there were many thousands of them.

SAHABA: Companions and followers of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Muhammad (PBUH) recited the entire Noble Quran once a year with the Angel Gabriel (PBUH). However, in Muhammad's (PBUH) final year of life he recited the book twice.

The collection of the Noble Quran began soon after Muhammad's (PBUH) death. The first Caliph Abu Bakr (May ALLAH be pleased with him) began the work, along with Muhammad's (PBUH) scribe, Zaid Ibn Thabit (May ALLAH be pleased with him) and later the next Caliph (Umar, May ALLAH be pleased with him), later his daughter Hafsa (May ALLAH be pleased with her) and then the next Caliph (Uthman, may ALLAH be pleased with Him) completed the arduous task.

- "We (ALLAH) have sent it (the Noble Quran) down as an Arabic Quran so you people may understand." (Noble Quran, Ch. 12:2)
- So we (ALLAH) have revealed an Arabic Quran to you, in order that you may warn the capital city (Mecca) and all who live nearby ..." (Noble Quran, Ch.42:7)

The Noble Quran is not a revelation to a tribe, nation, race, or a people from a specific region this book is for the whole of humanity.

- "Oh Mankind, what has seduced you from your LORD (ALLAH) so Generous?" (Noble Quran, Ch. 82:6)

READ IN ARABIC, THE NOBLE QURAN IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BOOK IN THE WORLD; NO OTHER BOOK IS LIKE IT. AND ALLAH MAKES IT CLEAR:

- "Haven't the unbelievers considered it this was from other." (Noble Quran, Ch. 4:82)
- "Bring ten chapters like it." (Noble Quran, Ch. 11:13)
- "Bring one chapter like it." (Noble Quran, Ch. 10:38)

The Challenge to produce only one chapter (the shortest of which is just 3 short verses) is over 1400 years old. Indeed, they complain and laugh and mock at the Noble Quran, but at the end of the day, for 1400 years, they still haven't and will never be able to produce anything like it or as good as the Noble Quran.

The Noble Quran is the most read book in the world. Many millions of Muslims read it daily and many amongst them try to memorize segments of it, or try to become a Hafiz (a person who has memorized the Noble Quran. A reader of the Noble Quran should ponder about its meaning. Reading is done by moving the lips. Depending on where the person is, it can be read without making a sound, or recited out loud.

Individuals who seek additional reading skills learn how to properly read the Noble Quran. The proper method (Tajweed) is not straightforward Arabic reading, it takes practice and training.

TAJWEED: The Arabic word meaning to improve, make better, enhance. Tajweed of the Noble Quran entails the knowledge and of and application of the rules of Quran recitation, the same manner as Muhammad (PBUH) had done.

WHY DO PRACTICING MUSLIMS FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD READ THE NOBLE QURAN:

- The realization and completion of a sacred religious obligation.
- To receive the ultimate source of guidance.
- Exposing their inner and outward selves to the words of the All Mighty ALLAH.
- To search for and receive wisdom.
- Receiving very generous rewards from ALLAH.

For each letter that is read (of the Noble Quran) ALLAH grants 10 blessings or 10 good deeds to the reader. For individuals that struggle with the Arabic reading, they receive a double reward. However, during the Month of the Quran (Holy Month of Ramadan) the reward for reading each letter of the Noble Quran is much greater, 70 or more good deeds or blessings. ALLAH is the Most Giving, Most Bountiful, and Most Generous.

ABOUT THE ARABIC LANGUAGE:

- The Noble Quran is in Arabic and contains 114 chapters.
- The Angels will greet those entering Paradise with 'As-Salaam Alaykum (Peace be Upon You; an Arabic phrase)
- Everyone in Paradise will speak Arabic.
- Arabic is the 6th most commonly spoken language in the world.
- Over 200 million speak Arabic as a mother tongue, and hundreds of millions of Muslims throughout the world speak it when they perform Prayer, read the Noble Quran, perform supplications to ALLAH, and/or as a second language.
- The language was first spoken in the Arabian Peninsula by small groups of nomadic peoples.
- With the spread of Islam the number of people speaking Arabic as a first or second language increased quite rapidly.
- Arabic is a Semitic language (South Central Semitic) closely related to Aramaic and Hebrew. Other Semitic languages include Maltese, Mehri, Phoenician, Amharic (Ethiopia) and Tigrinya.

- FUSHA: Literary, Modern Standard Arabic, and Classical Arabic. The Noble Quran is in Classical Arabic. A person cannot be a true scholar of Islam without having a good knowledge of classical Arabic.
- Arabic is written from right to left.
- The written language is in cursive only.
- There are 28 letters in the alphabet.
- There are no capital letters, all are case letters.
- The greatest language in the world for eloquent speech; the pagan Arab Bedouins of Pre-Islamic Arabia were the most incredible orators. Later, they were replaced by Arab Muslim orators.
- The greatest rhythmic structured language, when needed (Quran, Adhan, Poetry, etc.)
- Arabic writing styles include KUFIC (used primarily for the first handwritten copies of the Noble Quran), NASKHI (Rounded Script), RUQ'AH (Used by most of the contemporary Arab World), TA'LIQ and NASTA'LIQ (Persian Style), DIWANI (Originated by Ottoman calligraphers), TUGHRA (Ottomans), MUTHANNA (Double-styled, each half of a design is the mirror image of the other), ANGULAR KUFIC SCRIPT (Uses religious phrases or expressions into the shapes of Masjids or Minarets).
- The Arabic script is very artistic.
- Special symbols (like haceks) were later added to the Noble Quran text to aid non-Arabic speakers with correct pronunciation.

THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH):

- **Narrated by Jubair bin Mut'im, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "I have 5 names! I am Muhammad and Ahmad, I am Al-Mahi through whom ALLAH shall eliminate Kufr (unbelief), I am Al-Hashir who will be the first to be resurrected, I am Al-Aqib the Seal of the Prophets (PBUT)." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)**

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the most documented human being ever. There are over three hundred thousand sayings, actions, and teachings of his that were documented.

Muhammad (PBUH) never sought after worldly wealth. Later, when he began his message, the Unbelievers and Hypocrites tried to bribe him, offering immense wealth, beautiful women, and even to be king of the region. He rejected their offerings. Muhammad (PBUH), as a Messenger of ALLAH did not hold onto money that was his for more than 2 days.

MIRACLES PERFORMED BY MUHAMMAD (PBUH, WITH ALLAH'S PERMISSION):

Muhammad (PBUH) performed numerous miracles, often-times in front of large crowds of people. Of course, all miracles are with ALLAH's permission. The biggest miracle was the Noble Quran that was sent down to him from ALLAH.

- "And they say, 'We will not believe you until you break open for us from the ground a spring, or (until) you have a garden of date-palms and grapes and make rivers gush forth within them in force (and abundance) or you make the Heaven fall upon us in fragments as you have claimed or you bring ALLAH and the Angels before (us) or you have a house of ornament (gold) or you ascend into the sky. And (even then), we will not believe in your ascension until you bring down to us a book we may read.' 'Say Exalted is my LORD (ALLAH)! Was I ever but a human messenger?" (Noble Quran, Ch. 17:90-93)

MIRACLE: ALLAH ALLOWED MUHAMMAD (PBUH) TO SPLIT THE MOON IN FRONT OF WITNESSES:

- "The Last Hour draws near, and the moon is split asunder! And if they see a sign (miracle), they turn away and say, 'Passing magic!'- for they are bent on giving it the lie, being always accustomed to follow their own desires." (Noble Quran, Ch. 54:1-3)

MIRACLE: MUHAMMAD'S (PBUH) NIGHT JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM AND TO THE HEAVENS (BY ALLAH'S WILL):

- "Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing the Seeing." (Noble Quran, Ch. 17:1)

MIRACLE: THE FLOWING OF WATER FROM MUHAMMAD'S FINGERS (BY ALLAH'S WILL):

- Another miracle was the flowing of water through Muhammad's (PBUH) fingers when his companions were thirsty and had no water except a little in a vessel.

They came to him and told him that they had no water to make ablution or to drink except for what was in the vessel. So, Muhammad (PBUH) put his hand in the vessel, and the water started gushing out between his fingers. So, they drank and made ablution. They were one thousand five hundred companions. (Bukhari, Muslim)

THE DRESS AND BEAUTY OF MUHAMMAD (PBUH):

He had a pleasant face that was round, white, and fair. His hair fell to his ear lobes. His beard was thick and black. When he was pleased, his face would light up. His laugh was no more than smiling. His eyes were blackish, and his eyelashes were long. His long eyebrows were curved. When the eyes of Abdullah ibn Salam, the chief rabbi of Medina, fell on his face, he (Abdullah bin Salam) declared that such a noble face (of Muhammad, PBUH) could not be the face of a liar!

He was of medium height, neither tall nor short and walked inclining forward. He wore tanned leather sandals. His pants would reach to the middle of his shin or sometimes just above his ankles.

On his back, towards the left shoulder was the 'Seal of Prophet-hood'. It was the size of a pigeon's egg with spots like moles on it. His palms were described to be softer than the brocade of silk.

He was recognized by his fragrance when he approached from a distance. Drops of his perspiration were described to be like pearls. His companions collected his sweat to mix with their perfumes which made them even more fragrant!

- **Jabir bin Samura (a companion of Muhammad, PBUH) described him (Muhammad, PBUH) as follows, "I (Jabir bin Samura) began to look at him (Muhammad, PBUH) and at the moon, he was wearing a red mantle, and he appeared to be more beautiful than the moon to me." (Al-Tirmidhi)**
- **His dress usually consisted of a shirt, trousers, a sheet thrown round the shoulders and a turban. On rare occasions, he would put on costly robes presented to him by foreign emissaries in the later part of his life. (Ahmed, Musnad, Hafiz Bin Qaiyyam).**
- **His blanket had several patches (Tirmizi). He had very few spare clothes but he kept them spotlessly clean (Bukhari). He wanted others to put on simple but clean clothes too.**

Once he saw a person putting on dirty clothes and remarked, "Why can't this man wash them." (Abu Dawud, Chapter "Dress").

- Once he enquired of a person in dirty clothes whether he had any income. Upon getting a reply in the affirmative, he observed, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "When ALLAH has blessed you with His bounty, your appearance should reflect it." (Abu Dawud)

Muhammad (PBUH) was born in 570 C.E. from an honourable lineage, the Prophet Abraham (PBUH) and his son Ishmael (PBUH). He belonged to the noblest clan in the city of Mecca, the tribe of Quraish.

Muhammad was an orphan, his father died before he was born, and his mother died while he was still young. This led to him being raised by his grandfather, Abdul Mutallib, and then finally by his uncle Abu Talib.

Muhammad (PBUH) was cared for quite well. When he was able to find work he became a shepherd. He received much experience from his Uncle Abu Talib's taking him along on important trading ventures. Soon, Muhammad (PBUH) was able to lead his own caravans.

Still, much of the society that Muhammad (PBUH) had to live in was full of sin, polytheism, darkness and ignorance. In Islam the pre-Islamic society of the area is referred to as Jahiliya (ignorance or the Days of Ignorance).

Muhammad (PBUH) saw all kinds of vices, and it really bothered him. Nevertheless, even before Muhammad (PBUH) had received his first divine revelation from ALLAH through the Angel Gabriel, he was widely known as the trustworthy one. He did not commit fornication, lie, steal, or drink any intoxicants. Muhammad (PBUH) was a very lovable person with the highest moral character.

- **"Noon (This is the letter N in Arabic). By the Pen and what they write down! By the blessing of your LORD (ALLAH), you (Muhammad, PCUH) are not mad. You will have a wage which never-fails. Indeed you are truly vast in character. So you will see and they will see which of you is mad. Your LORD (ALLAH) knows best who is misguided from His Way and He knows best those who are guided." (Surat al-Qalam: 1-7)**

Muhammad's (PBUH) journeys to the Kaaba were quite worrisome. He did not see or witness the worship of the One True Diety, ALLAH, but he saw incredible idolatry and paganism.

People even stooped down to the level of using stones and dates as objects of worship.

Muhammad (PBUH) made regular retreats to the cave of Hira, where he could meditate and be away from the paganism and idolatry. Yet it was here, at the age of 40, where he received his first divine revelation.

While Muhammad (PBUH) was meditating, the Angel Gabriel (PBUH) appeared to him and spoke:

- **"Recite in the name of your LORD (ALLAH) who has created. He (ALLAH) created the human being from a clot. Recite and your LORD (ALLAH) Most Honourable, Who taught (how to write) with the pen, taught the human being what he knew not ..."** (Noble Quran, Ch. 96:1-5)

From the very first command, the Angel Gabriel hugged Muhammad (PBUH), each time following the command he hugged Muhammad (PBUH) even harder.

Muhammad (PBUH) was certainly shocked, knowing very well that he was illiterate! But nevertheless, ALLAH taught Muhammad (PBUH) how to read the divine revelation, and subsequent ones until the entire Noble Quran was recited taking over 2 decades.

Muhammad (PBUH) only practiced and commanded unto others what ALLAH had revealed and commanded him to do.

- **Say (O Muhammad, PBUH), "I am only a man like you, to whom has been revealed that your GOD (ALLAH) is One GOD. So whoever would hope for the meeting with his LORD - let him (or her) do righteous work and not associate in worship of his LORD (ALLAH) anyone else."** (Noble Quran, Ch. 18:110)
- **"When Our (ALLAH) Clear Signs are recited to them, those who do not expect to meet Us (ALLAH) say, "Bring a (Noble) Qur'an other than this one or change it." Say, "It is not for me to change it of my own accord. I follow nothing except what is revealed to me. I fear, were I to disobey my LORD (ALLAH), the punishment of a Dreadful Day." Say (oh Muhammad), "Had ALLAH so wished I would not have recited it to you, nor would He have made it (the Noble Quran) known to you. I lived among you for many years before it came. Will you not use your intellect?"** (Noble Quran, Ch.10: 15-16)
- **Muhammad (PBUH) said, "All my people will enter Paradise except those who refused. Upon being asked about who has refused, Muhammad (PBUH) replied, "He who obeys me will**

enter Paradise he who disobeys me has refused." (Bukhari, Muslim)

- **Muhammad (PBUH) said, "None of you truly believes until I am dearer to him (or her) than his father, his children, and all of mankind." (Bukhari, Muslim)**
- **Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Do not over-praise me as the Christians over-praised the Son of Mary (Jesus, PBUH). I am His (ALLAH's) Slave and Messenger." (Bukhari, Muslim)**

Muhammad (PBUH) like other Prophets and Messengers (PBUT) neither acted on his own accord, nor did he claim to be a super-being with miraculous powers and who could see the unseen, but he was only a Servant of ALLAH.

- **Say (oh Muhammad), "I do not say to you that I possess the treasures of ALLAH, nor do I know the Unseen, nor do I say to you that I am an Angel. I only follow what has been revealed to me." Say, "Are the blind the same as those who can see? So will you not reflect?" (Noble Quran, Ch.6:50)**

Like all other Prophets and Messengers (PBUT) of ALLAH, Muhammad (PBUH) did not compromise his religion nor did he make concessions to sacrifice his religion for any of the idol worshippers. They wanted sin and idolatry; he wouldn't relent.

ALLAH commanded Muhammad (PBUH) to be patient and faithful regarding those people who deviously and secretly, or manifestly plotted against him, the worst of which were the two-faced hypocrites. ALLAH knew who they were (every single one of them).

- **"They have the word, 'Obedience!' on their tongues but when they leave your presence, a group of them spend the night plotting to do other than what you say. ALLAH is recording their nocturnal plotting. So let them be and put your trust in ALLAH. ALLAH suffices as a Guardian. (Noble Quran, Ch. 4:81)**

The first person who accepted Islam following Muhammad (PBUH) was his wife Khadija. She was the person who comforted Muhammad (PBUH) during those stressful times following his first revelations.

Muhammad (PBUH) married Khadija when he was 25 years-old she was 40 years-old at the time.

Khadija was a brilliant woman who was wealthy, hard-working and respectable. She was the archetype of a woman who was her

own woman. Although she could've easily supported Muhammad (PBUH) he nevertheless continued to be a hard worker.

Each and every one of Muhammad's wives was honourable and faithful. They were seeking Paradise. In Islam, they are not to be criticized.

- **"O Prophet, say to your wives, If you should desire the Worldly life and its adornment then come, I will provide for you and give you a gracious release." (Noble Quran, Ch. 33:28)**

With the exception of Aisha, Muhammad's (PBUH) wives were either widows or women who were beyond their prime. He could've chosen from a plethora of beautiful, rich women to marry, but Muhammad (PBUH) was the Messenger of ALLAH. The elusions of this World did not blind him like most people.

In 614 C.E. the Muslims had been enduring horrific abuse at the hands of the pagan enemies in Mecca. Muhammad (PBUH) allowed a group of Muslims to temporarily migrate to Ethiopia. King Negus was known to be a fair man.

BELOW IS A TRANSLATION OF MUHAMMAD'S LETTER TO KING NEGUS AL-ASHAMA OF ETHIOPIA:

- **"Peace be upon him who follows true guidance and believes in ALLAH and His Messenger. I bear witness that there is no GOD but ALLAH alone with no associate, He has taken neither a wife nor a son, and that Muhammad is His slave and (Final) Messenger. I call you unto the fold of Islam; if you embrace Islam, you will find safety." "Say (O Muhammad), 'O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), come to a word that is just between us and you, that we worship none but ALLAH, and that we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as LORDS besides ALLAH.' Then, if they turn away, say, 'Bear witness that we are Muslims.'" (Noble Qur'an Ch.3:64) Should you reject this invitation, then you will be held responsible for all the evils of the Christians of your people."**

By 622 C.E. the situation for the Muslims in Mecca became unbearable. They'd suffered immensely and were enduring the worst kinds of persecution. ALLAH commanded Muhammad (PBUH) and his followers to leave Mecca and migrate to Medina, roughly 260 miles north of Mecca. This historical event is called the Hijra (migration) in Arabic. The Hijra marks the beginning of the Muslim Calendar.

Thankfully, ALLAH had guaranteed Muhammad (PBUH) and Islam victory. Within just a few years Muhammad had performed the miraculous. He managed to form a Muslim nation from scratch, within an area that formerly contained one of the most ignorant and barbaric peoples.

- **"We sent thee (Muhammad, PBUH) not save as a mercy for the peoples (of the World)." (Noble Quran, Ch.21:107)**

BELOW IS A TRANSLATION OF MUHAMMAD'S FINAL SERMON WHICH WAS DELIVERED DURING THE HAJJ, ON THE 9TH DAY OF THE MONTH OF DHUL HIJAH (622 C.E) IN THE URANAH VALLEY OF MOUNT ARAFAT IN MECCA :

AFTER PRAISING, AND THANKING ALLAH, MUHAMMAD (PBUH) BEGAN HIS SERMON:

- **"O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore, listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today.**
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 (ALLAH), and that He will indeed reckon your deeds. ALLAH has forbidden you to take usury (interest) therefore all interest obligations shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. ALLAH has ruled that there shall be no interest and that all the interest due to Abbas ibn Abd'al Muttalib shall henceforth be waived...
Beware of Satan, for the 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.
People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under a trust from ALLAH and with His permission. 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 be unchaste.

People, listen to me in earnest, worship ALLAH, perform your five daily Prayers, fast during the (Holy) Month of Ramadan, and offer Zakat. Perform Hajj if you have the means.

All mankind is from Adam (PBUH) and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; white has no superiority over black, nor does a black have any superiority over white; (none have superiority over another) except by piety 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.

People, no Prophet or Apostle will come after me, and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O people, and understand words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the (Noble) Quran and my example, the Sunnah (my teachings, sayings, and behaviour), 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 it may be that the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness, O ALLAH, that I have conveyed Your message to your people."

THUS THE BELOVED MUHAMMAD (PBUH) COMPLETED HIS FINAL SERMON, AND UPON IT, NEAR THE SUMMIT OF ARAFAT, THE REVELATION CAME DOWN:

- "...This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My Grace upon you, and have chosen Islam for you as your religion..." (Quran 5:3)

The religion of Islam had been completed. There shall be no additional Prophets or Messengers, nor new Scriptures. Jesus (PBUH) when he does return to Earth, by ALLAH's command, will live and rule by the Noble Quran and the Sunnah of Muhammad (PBUH). No new divine laws will be established.

QUOTES FROM FAMOUS PEOPLE ABOUT MUHAMMAD (PBUH):

- "My choice of Muhammad (PBUH) to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular level." (Michael H. Hart, *The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History*, New York: Hart Publishing Company, Inc., 1978, Page 33).
- "Head of the State as well as the Church, he was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without the legions of Caesar, without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a palace, without a fixed revenue. If ever any man had the right to say that he had all the power without instruments and without its support. He cared not for dressing of power. The simplicity of his private life was in keeping with his public life." (Reverend Bosworth Smith in 'Muhammad and Muhammadanism,' London, 1874).
- "He must be called the Saviour of Humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it much needed peace and happiness." (George Bernard Shaw, *The Genuine Islam*, Singapore, Vol.1, No.8, 1936).
- "The lies (Western slander) which well-meaning zeal has heaped round this man (Muhammad, PBUH) are disgraceful to our-selves only." (Thomas Carlyle in 'Heroes and Hero Worship and the Heroic in History,' 1840).
- "How one man single-handedly, could weld warring tribes and wandering Bedouins into a most powerful and civilized nation in less than two decades." (Thomas Carlyle, *Heroes and Hero Worship*).
- "I wanted to know the best of one who holds today undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind ... I became more than convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. I was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet (Muhammad, PBUH) the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense

devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in GOD (ALLAH) and in his own mission. These and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle. When I closed the 2nd Volume (of Muhammad's biography, PBUH) I was sorry there was not more for me to read of the great life." (Mahatma Gandhi, Young India).

JESUS (PBUH) AND THE VIRGIN MARY:

In Islam Jesus (PBUH) plays a very important role. He is a Messenger of ALLAH, was born of a Virgin, his mother, the Virgin Mary is given the highest honour amongst women. But in Islam, Muslims do not worship, nor make supplications to Jesus (PBUH), nor to the Virgin Mary. Both were humans, and were created by ALLAH. Chapter 19 of the Noble Quran is entitled Maryam (Mary).

Muslims believe in the miraculous birth of Jesus (PBUH). However, the Prophet Adam (PBUH) neither had a mother nor a father. The miracle did not come from them, but from their Creator, ALLAH.

Jesus (PBUH) and Adam (PBUH) are mentioned 25 times each in the Noble Quran.

- **"And he (Jesus, PBUH), shall be a Sign of the Hour" (Noble Qur'an, Ch. 43:61)**
- **"And We did certainly give Moses (PBUH) the Torah and followed up after him with Messengers. And We gave Jesus (PBUH), the son of (the Virgin) Mary, clear proofs and supported him with the Pure Spirit. But is it (not) that every time a Messenger came to you, (O Children of Israel), with what your souls did not desire, you were arrogant? And a party (of Messengers) you denied and another party you killed." (Noble Quran, Ch. 2:87)**
- **(And mention) "When the Angels said, "O Mary, indeed ALLAH gives you good tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus (PBUH), the son of (the Virgin) Mary - distinguished in this World and the Hereafter and among those brought near (to ALLAH)." (Noble Quran, Ch. 3:45)**

- "Surely the likeness of Jesus (PBUH) is with ALLAH as the likeness of Adam (PBUH); He created him from dust then said to him, 'Be', and he was." (Noble Quran, Ch.3: 59).
- "O People of the Scripture do not commit excess in your religion or say about ALLAH except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus (PBUH), the son of (the Virgin) Mary, was but a Messenger of ALLAH and His word which He directed to (the Virgin) Mary and a soul (created at a command) from Him. So believe in ALLAH and His Messengers (PBUT). And do not say, 'Three'; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, ALLAH is but One GOD. Exalted is He above having a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the Heavens and whatever is on the Earth. And sufficient is ALLAH as Disposer of affairs." (Noble Quran, Ch. 4:171)

Muslims do not believe that Jesus (PBUH) was crucified, nor do they believe that he died. ALLAH raised him to the Heavens. By ALLAH's command, Jesus (PBUH) shall return to kill Dajjal (the Anti-Christ).

- That they said (in boast and arrogance), "We killed Jesus (PBUH) the son of (the Virgin) Mary, the Messenger of ALLAH"; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (clear and certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not." (Noble Quran, Ch.4:157).

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF JESUS (PBUH) AS DESCRIBED BY MUHAMMAD (PBUH):

- He will resemble the famous Companion Urwa bin Masoodi.
- He will be of average height
- Reddish-white in colour.
- His hair will reach his shoulders, and will be straight and shiny.
- When he bends his head it will appear as though pearls are falling.
- He shall be wearing armour.
- He will be wearing 2 pieces of clothing, yellow in colour.

JESUS (PBUH) MAIN TASKS:

- To kill the Dajjal (Anti-Christ)
- To protect the Muslims from Gog and Magog by taking them to Mount Tur. Later, he (Jesus, PBUH) will pray to ALLAH to make Gog and Magog perish. And ALLAH will respond to his supplications by destroying Gog and Magog, sending down a burrowing worm onto their necks. None will survive.
- Jabir reported that Mohammad (PBUH) said, "A party of my followers will not cease to fight for victory until the Day of Resurrection. Then Jesus (PBUH), son of (the Virgin) Mary, will come down. Their Imam (the Mahdi) will say, "Come (Jesus, PBUH) and lead our Prayer" He will reply, "Some of you are leaders over others on account of divine honour upon these people." (Sahih Muslim)
- Mohammad (PBUH) said, "While the Muslims will be making preparations to fight him (the Anti-Christ), they will be lining up (for the Prayer) and the Iqamah (the call to stand up, and form the lines to prepare for Prayer) will have been pronounced, Jesus (PBUH) shall descend but will allow the Mahdi to lead that particular Prayer; and ALLAH's enemy (the Anti-Christ) on seeing him (Jesus, PBUH) shall start dissolving like salt in water. If Jesus (PBUH) were to leave him (the Anti-Christ) alone, he (the Anti-Christ) would melt to death anyway, but ALLAH will have him (the Anti-Christ) killed by his (Jesus', PBUH) hand, and he (Jesus, PBUH) will show the Muslims his (the Anti-Christ's) blood on his (Jesus', PBUH) spear." (Sahih Muslim).

And by ALLAH's decree, Jesus performed many miracles including but not limited to speaking as an infant and identifying himself for what he truly was.

- (The Day of Resurrection) when ALLAH will say, "O Jesus (PBUH), Son of (the Virgin) Mary, remember My favour upon you and upon your mother when I supported you with the Pure Spirit and you spoke to the people in the cradle and in maturity; and (remember) when I taught you writing and wisdom and the Torah and the Gospel; and when you designed from clay (what was) like the form of a bird with My permission, then you breathed into it, and it became a bird with My permission; and you healed the blind and the leper with My permission; and when you brought forth the dead with My permission; and when I restrained the Children of Israel from (Murdering) you when you came to them with

clear proofs and those who disbelieved among them said, "This is not but obvious magic." (Noble Quran, Ch. 5:10)

- "But she (the Virgin Mary) pointed to the baby (Jesus, PBUH). They said, 'How can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle?' He (Jesus, PBUH) said, 'I am indeed a servant of ALLAH; he hath given me revelation and made me a Prophet'." (Noble Quran, Ch. 19: 29-33)

ALLAH HAD MADE THE VIRGIN MARY FIT AND WORTHY OF BARING A CHILD, JESUS (PBUH), A MESSENGER OF ALLAH. SHE WAS KNOWN FOR HER REVERRENCE TO AND DEVOUTNESS TO ALLAH:

- "And (mention) when the Angels said, 'O Mary! Indeed ALLAH has chosen you, and purified you, and has chosen you above all other women of the Worlds. O Mary! Be devoutly obedient to your LORD (ALLAH) and prostrate and bow with those bow (in Prayer).'" (Quran 3:42-43)
- "And We (ALLAH) made Mary's son, and his mother, a Sign, and We (ALLAH) gave them refuge on a lofty ground, a peaceful site with springs flowing in it." (Noble Quran, Ch. 23:50)
- "And (the example of) (the Virgin) Mary, the daughter of 'Imran, who guarded her chastity, so We (ALLAH) blew into (her garment) through Our Angel, and she believed in the words of her LORD and His scriptures and was of the devoutly obedient." (Noble Quran, Ch. 66:12)

THE JINN RACE:

ALLAH created the Jinn from smokeless fire and humans from clay. The Jinn were created before humans. Although we humans cannot see them, ALLAH has given them the ability to see us. Their world is unseen to ours.

ALLAH has also given the Jinn the ability to move through space at (by human standards) a remarkable speed, and have been given the ability to shape-shift.

Like humans, the Jinn were created to worship ALLAH and no one else. They too are responsible for their deeds and will stand before their LORD (ALLAH) on the Day of Judgement. Iblis (Satan's birth name; his name before he became a devil) was not an Angel, but a member of the Jinn race.

Most Jinn are unbelievers, following their leader, Satan. A minority though, are believers in ALLAH and are his righteous

servants.

Jinn eat, drink, marry, bear children, and of course eventually die. ALLAH has given the Jinn longevity regarding life. Their lifespan is considerably greater than ours. Sometimes, an Jinn who knew a person's parents or grandparents, etc., will use this knowledge upon a person with weak faith to trick him or her into believing that the Jinn is an Angel, or some other benevolent being. People who claim to speak to the dead are liars; any information that is correct is either obtained by trickery or by an evil Jinn.

The Jinn who are evil and devilish are grossly involved in magic, Ouija boards, soothsaying, mediums, Prophets, tarot cards, fortune telling, palm reading, crystal ball reading, astrology, etc. All of these are sources other than ALLAH; Satan is the ultimate source.

The aforementioned sources are categorized as SHIRK, in Islam.

SHIRK: Associating partners with ALLAH, or seeking a source other than ALLAH to acquire knowledge of the unseen or the future. Shirk, and Unbelief are categories that lead to the hellfire.

A person should have faith in his or her LORD (ALLAH). I have used the name 'ALLAH', but He has many names, the Most High, the Creator, Yahweh, GOD, Dios, etc. Have faith in your LORD (ALLAH)! Don't go to the Devil when you can ask your LORD (ALLAH) for anything you can imagine, so long as it is not sinful, harmful, or otherwise bad. Supplications to ALLAH are absolutely free.

- **"I created Jinn and Mankind only that they may worship Me."
(Noble Quran, Ch. 51:56)**
- **"Say, (O Muhammad, PBUH), "It has been revealed to me that a group of the Jinn listened and said, 'Indeed, we have heard an amazing (Noble) Qur'an. It guides to the right course, and we have believed in it. And we will never associate with our LORD (ALLAH) anyone. And (it teaches) that Exalted is the Nobleness of our LORD (ALLAH); He has not taken a wife or a son. And that our foolish one has been saying about ALLAH an excessive transgression. And we had thought that Humankind and the Jinn would never speak about ALLAH a lie. And there were men from Humankind who sought refuge in men from the Jinn, so they (only) increased them in burden.'" (Noble Quran, Ch. 72: 1-6)**

NOTE: People who call out to the Spirits are calling out to the Jinn.

- "And among us (the Jinn) there are the righteous folk and among us there are far from that; we are sects having different rules." (Noble Quran, Ch.72:11)
- Narrated by Abu Saeed Khudri, "A Sahabi (Companion of Muhammad, PBUH), returning from the battle of Khandaq saw his newly-wed wife standing outside of their house. He could not bear this sight and got extremely angry. He pointed the spear (at her), which he had in his hand, and asked her for an explanation. She asked him to go inside the house and see what was there before taking any further action against her. She was obviously scared by what she had seen. He entered the house and saw a huge python. He (thought he) killed the python but as he was returning, it suddenly attacked him and it was not known which of the two had died first. Upon learning about the above incident, Muhammad (PBUH) remarked, "Indeed you will find some inhabitants within your household, so whenever you come across any of these warn them three times, if they go away it is alright otherwise you may kill them." The serpent, it appears, was of the Jinn race.
- "And (remember) when Satan made their deeds pleasing to them and said, "No one can overcome you today from among the people, and indeed, I am your protector." But when the two armies sighted each other, he (Satan) turned on his heels and said, "Indeed, I am disassociated from you. Indeed, I see what you do not see; indeed I fear ALLAH. And ALLAH is severe in penalty." (Noble Quran, Ch.8:48)
NOTE: The context of this Noble Quran quote is from the famous battle of Badr. Therein, Satan appeared. He tried to cheer up the Unbelievers, and when ALLAH sent the Angels to aid the Believers Satan disassociated himself from the disbelieving army and then quickly turned on his heels like a chicken being chased by a fox.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE POSSESSED BY THE JINN. TO HELP PREVENT (WITH ALLAH'S PERMISSION) POSSESSION OR HARM FROM ONE OR MORE JINN, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE OPTIONS THAT A MUSLIM CAN CHOOSE FROM:

- Remembrance of ALLAH through Supplications.
- Have unyielding faith in your Creator (ALLAH).
- Pray the 5 daily Prayers on time.

- Say "I seek refuge with ALLAH from Satan the Accursed."
- Say "There is no Power or Might except with ALLAH."
- In particular, recite the last two chapters of the Noble Quran (very short chapters)
- Recite the Noble Quran daily, regularly. Chapter 2, The Heifer, is highly recommended. Satan flees from a room or house in which this particular chapter is recited.
- Recite the Adhaan or the Iqama.
- Go to an Imam or an Islamic scholar who is qualified to perform an exorcism.

NOTE: It is imperative to first rule out medical, drug, and mental health issues before considering a person to be possessed.

IBLIS BECOMES SHAYTAN (SATAN):

IBLIS: Satan's birth name. This was his name until ALLAH cursed him.

SHAITAN: The Arabic name for Satan, which means enemy, evil, adversary (the eternal enemy of ALLAH, the Humans and Jinn, and the Angels, and anything that ALLAH deems to be good).

SHAITAN AR-RAJEEM: The Arabic phrase meaning Satan the Accursed. Muslims generally use this term when making mention of Satan and always before begin to recite the Noble Quran.

Satan's number one goal is to lead us away from the straight path, to make us unthankful to ALLAH's favours, and to pave our way into the Hell-fire forever, if he can't do that then he'll try to get us into the hell-fire to suffer for as long as possible. Beware of Satan even upon death, as he never gives up trying to make someone a Polytheist, Atheist, or if he cannot do that, to make a person sin right before he or she dies.

It must be understood though, that Satan has no power in tossing someone into the Hell-fire. Judgement is with ALLAH, so fear him and do not fear Satan.

Humans and Jinn were created with free will, choosing right or wrong.

When Satan was named Iblis he was a faithful servant of ALLAH. So much so, he would actually converse with the Angels, Angels are free of sin because they have no free will whatsoever. They obey ALLAH always, without any hesitation whatsoever.

The Jinn race was on this planet long before humans. But there was a problem. The Jinn fought each other with horrendous ferocity. Furthermore, they spread incredible mischief and corruption throughout the world.

But Iblis was tested by ALLAH. Iblis had a few deeply ingrained problems; he was proud, arrogant and pompous.

- And (remember) when We (ALLAH) said to the Angels, "Prostrate yourselves before Adam (PBUH)." And they prostrated except Iblis (Satan), he refused and was proud and was one of the disbelievers (disobedient to ALLAH). (Quran Ch. 2:34)

Important Note: In Arabic grammar there is a rule called the 'Rule of Majority'. The aforementioned quote from the Noble Quran may give the impression that Iblis (Satan) was an Angel, however he was not. Because the majority of those who heard ALLAH's command in this particular group were Angels, the minority under this grammatical rule are not mentioned as Jinn. Whatever the number of Jinn therein, it was noticeably smaller than the number of Angels.

- And (also) those who spend of their substance to be seen of men, and believe not in Allah and the Last Day (they are the friends of Shaitan (Satan)), and whoever takes Shaitan (Satan) as an intimate; then what a dreadful intimate he has! (Noble Quran, Ch.4:38)
- "Shaitan (Satan) wants only to excite enmity and hatred between you with intoxicants (alcoholic drinks) and gambling, and hinder you from the remembrance of ALLAH and from the Prayer. So, will you not then abstain?" (Noble Quran, Ch.5:91)

SATAN MAKES A PROMISE TO ALLAH THAT HE WILL NEVER BREAK:

- "And We have certainly created you, (O Mankind), and given you (human) form. Then We said to the Angels, "Prostrate to Adam"; so they prostrated, except for Iblis. He was not of those who prostrated. (ALLAH) said, "What prevented you from prostrating when I commanded you?" (Satan) responded, "I am better than him (Adam, PBUH)). You created me from fire and created him from clay. (ALLAH) said, "Descend from Paradise, for it is not for you to be arrogant therein. So get out; indeed, you are of the debased. (Satan) said,

"Reprive me until the Day they are resurrected. (ALLAH) said, "Indeed, you are of those reprived." (Satan) said, "Because You (ALLAH) have put me in error, I will surely sit in wait for them (Jinn and Humans) on Your straight path. Then I will come to them from before them and from behind them and on their right and on their left, and You (ALLAH) will not find most of them grateful (unto You). (ALLAH) said, "Get out of Paradise, reproached and expelled. Whoever follows you among them - I will surely fill Hell with you, all together." (Noble Quran, Ch.7:11-18)

SATAN WILL BETRAY EVERY SINGLE ONE OF HIS FOLLOWERS:

- And Satan will say when the matter has been decided, "Verily, ALLAH promised you a promise of truth. And I too promised you, but I betrayed you. I had no authority over you except that I called you, so you responded to me. So blame me not, but blame yourselves. I cannot help you, nor can you help me. I deny your former act in associating me (Satan) as a partner with ALLAH (by obeying me in the life of the World). Verily, there is a painful torment for the polytheists and wrong-doers." (Noble Quran, Ch.14:22)

It must be stated that Satan's belief and absolute fear in the LORD (ALLAH) is considerably stronger than ours.

ALLAH spoke to Satan, and Satan spoke to ALLAH, in the Garden. When he (Satan) was Iblis (before ALLAH cursed him) he was a very righteous individual. He saw the Jinn, Angels, and many other creations of ALLAH.

ALLAH tested Satan; his (Satan's) envy of Adam (PBUH) was so great he defied a direct command by ALLAH. Satan, contrary to much misconception, was never, and will never be an atheist. Certainly, he rejects ALLAH's commands and all that is good. But he has seen ALLAH's Power and absolute Might in action.

DAJJAL, AD-DAJJAL, OR MASIH-AD-DAJJAL (THE ANTI-CHRIST):

Muhammad (PBUH) spoke about the Dajjal. He will be the final false Messiah. From the time of Adam (PBUH) until the Day of Judgement there will be no Fitnah (Trials and Tribulations) greater than the appearance of the Dajjal.

Every single Prophet and Messenger of ALLAH (PBUT) warned of the coming of the Dajjal, however, Muhammad (PBUH) was given additional knowledge regarding this matter by ALLAH.

BELOW IS A NARRATIVE DESCRIBING A MEETING THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN A GROUP OF SAHABAHS (COMPANIONS OF MUHAMMAD, PBUH) AND THE DAJJAL (ANTI-CHRIST):

- Narrated by Fatima bint Qays Muhammad (PBUH) said, "I have kept you here because Tamim Ad-Dari, a Christian man who has embraced Islam, told me something which agrees with what I have told you about the Dajjal. He told me that he had sailed in a ship with thirty men from Banu Lakham and Banu Juzam. The sea waves rocked them about for a month, and finally drew them toward an island around sunset time. They approached the island and landed. They were met by a beast that was so hairy that they could not tell its front from its back. They said, 'Woe to you! Who are you?' It said, 'I am Al-Jassasah.' They said, 'What is Al-Jassasah?' It said, 'O people go to the man in the monastery, for he is very eager to know about you.' Tamim said that when it named a person to us we left quickly fearing that it might be a devil.

Tamim Dari said we quickly went to the monastery. There, we found a huge man whom we had never seen before. His hands were tied up to his neck and his legs were tied up with iron shackles. We said, 'Woe to you, who are you?' He said, 'You will soon know about me. Tell me who you are?'

We said, 'We are people from Arabia. We sailed on a ship, but the waves have been tossing us around about for a month, and they brought us to your island, where we met a very hairy beast. It said, 'I am Al-Jassasah.' We asked, 'What is Al-Jassasah?' and it told us, 'Go to the man in the monastery, for he is very eager to know about you.' So we came to you quickly.

The man said, 'Tell me about the date-palm trees of Bisan (a town in Northern Palestine, near Jordan River, renamed by the Zionists as Beit She'an).' We said, 'What do you want to know about them?'' He said, 'I want to know whether these trees bear fruits or not.' We said 'Yes'. He said, 'Soon, they will not bear fruits.'

Then he said, 'Tell me about the Lake of Tiberius (Sea of Galilee in Northern Palestine).' We said, 'What do you want to know about it?' He said, 'Is there water in it?'' We said, 'There is plenty of water in it.' He said, 'Soon, it will become dry.'

Then he said, 'Tell me about the Spring of Zughar (near the Dead Sea in Palestine).' We asked, 'What do you want to know about it?'' He asked, 'Is there water in it, and does it irrigate the land?'' We said, 'Yes, there is plenty of water in it and the people use it to irrigate the land.'

Then he said, 'Tell me about the illiterate Prophet (Muhammad, PBUH), what has he done?' We said, 'He has left Mecca and settled in Medina.' He said, 'Do the Arabs fight against him?'' We said 'Yes'. He said, 'How does he deal with them?'' So we told him that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had overcome the Arabs around him and that they had followed him. He asked, 'Has it really happened?' We said 'Yes'. He said, 'It is better for them to follow him. Now I will tell you about myself. I am the Dajjal (Anti-Christ). I will soon be permitted to leave this place. I shall emerge and travel about the Earth. In forty nights, I shall pass through every town, except Mecca and Medina, for these have been forbidden to me. Every time I try to enter either of them, I will be met by an Angel bearing an unsheathed sword, who will prevent me from entering. There will be Angels guarding them at every route leading to them.'

Fatima bint Qays said, Then, the Messenger of ALLAH (PBUH) struck the pulpit with his cane and said, 'This is Tiba, this is Tiba, this is Tiba,' meaning Medina. 'Did I not tell you this before?' The people said, 'Yes'. (Muhammad, PBUH) said, 'I liked the story of Tamim because it agrees with what I used to tell you about him and about Mecca and Medina. But he is in the Syrian Sea (Mediterranean Sea) or the Yemeni Sea (Arabian Sea). No, rather he is in the East, he is in the East, he is in the East,' and he pointed towards the East with his hand. She said, I memorized this from the Messenger of ALLAH (PBUH)." (Sahih Muslim).

BELOW IS A PARTIAL LISTING OF WHAT MUHAMMAD (PBUH) SAID ABOUT THE DAJJAL AND THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS THEREIN:

- Imraan bin Husain narrates that, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Since the birth of Adam (PBUH) till the advent of The Day of Judgement there have been no trials and tribulations greater than that of the Dajjal."
- Narrated by Abu Hurraira, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Shall I not tell you about the Dajjal a story of which no Prophet told his nation? The Dajjal is one-eyed and will bring with him what will resemble Hell and Paradise, and what he will call

Paradise will be actually Hell; so I warn you (against him) as Noah warned his nation against him." (Sahih Al-Bukhari).

- The first sign (out of the signs of the appearance of the Dajjal) will be the appearance of the sun from the west, the appearance of the beast before the people in the forenoon and which of the two happens first, the second one would follow immediately after that.
- Amr ibn Hurayth quoted Abu Bakr as-Siddiq as saying that Muhammad (PBUH) told them the Dajjal would come forth from a land in the East called Khurasan, followed by people whose faces resembled shields covered with skin. (At-Tirmidhi).
- Narrated by Anas ibn Malik Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The Dajjal would be followed by seventy thousand Jews of Isfahan (a city in Iran) wearing Persian shawls." (Sahih Muslim)
- Narrated by Abu-Hurraria Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Dajjal will come from the eastern side with the intention of attacking Medina until he will get down behind Uhud. Then the Angels will turn his face towards Syria and there he will perish."
- Narrated by Abdullah Ibn Umar, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "While I was sleeping, I saw myself (in a dream) performing Tawaf (circumambulation) around the Kaaba. Behold, I saw a reddish-white man with lank hair, and water was dropping from his head. I asked, 'Who is this?' They replied, 'The son of Mary (Jesus, PBUH).' Then I turned my face to see another man with a huge body, red complexion and curly hair and blind in one eye. His eye looked like a protruding grape. They said (to me), He is Ad-Dajjal (in Arabic Ad under this context means 'the')." Muhammad, (PBUH) added, "The man he resembled most is Ibn Qatan, a man from the tribe of Khuza'a."
- Narrated by Ubadah ibn as-Samit Muhammad (PBUH) said, "I have told you so much about the Dajjal that I am afraid you may not understand. The Dajjal is short, hen-toed, woolly-haired, one-eyed, an eye-sightless, and neither protruding nor deep-seated. If you are confused about him, know that your LORD (ALLAH) is not one-eyed." (Abu-Dawud).

TAKE THIS WARNING SERIOUSLY; IF YOU ARE LIVING DURING THE TIME OF DAJJAL STAY AWAY FROM HIM!

- Narrated by Imran ibn Husayn, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Let him who hears of the Dajjal go far from him for I swear by ALLAH that a man (or a woman) will come to him thinking he (or she) is a believer, but end up following him (the Dajjal) because of confused ideas roused in him (or her) by the Dajjal).

THE SAYINGS OF MUHAMMAD (PBUH) ABOUT THE DAJJAL IN SHORT STATEMENT FORM:

- Dajjal will emerge between Shaam (Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan) and Iraq, and his emergence will become known when he is in Isfahan at a place called Yahudea.
- The Yahudis (Jews) of Isfahan will be his main followers.
- He will have a great number of women followers.
- He will have with him fire and water, but in reality the fire will be cold water while that what appears to be cold water will in reality be a blazing fire. Those who obey him will enter "his Paradise" (which is really Hell), while those who disobey him will enter "his Hell," (which is really Paradise).
- There will be a thick fingernail-like object in his left eye.
- The letters "Kaaf" "Faa" "Raa" will appear on his forehead and will be deciphered by all Believers regardless of them being literate or not.
- He will have a wheatish complexion.
- He will travel at great speeds and his means of conveyance will be a gigantic mule. It is said that he will play beautiful music which will attract the music lovers.
- Dajjal will lay claim to Prophet-hood.
- He will then lay claim to Divinity (claiming that he is ALLAH).
- He will perform unusual feats.
- He will travel the entire world.
- He will send down rains upon those who believe in him, which in turn will cause good crops to grow, trees to bear fruit and cattle to grow fat.
- He will cause drought to those who disbelieve in him, resulting in starvation and hardship for them.
- During those trying times the Believers will satiate their hunger through the recitation of Subhanallah (Glory be to ALLAH) and La'ilaha Ilallahu (There is no Deity but He, meaning ALLAH).
- The hidden treasures will spill forth at his command.
- He will stay on this Earth for a period of forty days; the length of the first day will be one year, the second day

will be equal to one month, the third day will be equal to a week and the remaining days will be normal.

- He will be unable to enter Mecca because Angels will be guarding the Holy City and nor will he be able to enter Medina because there will be Angels guarding each of the seven entrances to Medina; From Medina he will proceed towards the Shaam where Imam Mahdi will be stationed.
- Jesus (PBUH) will descend from the Heavens resting on the wings of two Angels. Jesus (PBUH) will be wearing yellow. When he raises his head his sweat will fall like pearls.
- Jesus (PBUH) will pursue the Dajjal and kill him at present day Lydda (Baad Lud). ALLAH has specifically ordained that Jesus (PBUH) will kill the Dajjal. By ALLAH's permission, Jesus' breath and vision will cause the Dajjal to begin to dissolve. Jesus (PBUH) will kill him with a staff or a dagger.

A SHORTENED EASY TO UNDERSTAND LISTING OF THE MINOR SIGNS BEFORE THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT: NARRATED BY HADHRAT ABU MUSA ASH'ARI THAT MUHAMMAD (PBUH) SAID:

- The disappearance of knowledge and the appearance of ignorance (Bukhari, Muslim, Ibn Majah, & Ahmad)
- Books and writing will be widespread and (religious) knowledge will be low (Ahmad)
- Adultery and fornication will be prevalent Muhammad (PBUH), said that this has never happened without new diseases befalling the people which their ancestors had not known. (Bukhari, Muslim, Ibn Majah, & Al-Haythami)
- When fornication becomes widespread among your leaders Muhammad (PBUH) said, "this will happen when the people stop forbidding evil (Ibn Majah)
- Adultery and fornication will be performed in the open
- The consumption of intoxicants will be widespread (Bukhari & Muslim)
- Women will outnumber men.....eventually 50:1 (Bukhari, Muslim, & Ahmad)
- Killing, killing, killing (Bukhari, Muslim, Ibn Majah, & Ahmad)
- The nations of the Earth will gather against the Muslims like hungry people going to sit down to a table full of food. This will occur when the Muslims are large in number, but "like the foam of the sea".
- People will beat others with whips like the tails of oxen (Muslim); The Slave Trade

- The children will be filled with rage (at-Tabarani, al-Hakim)
- Children will be foul (at-Tabarani, al-Hakim)
- Women will conspire (at-Tabarani, al-Hakim)
- Rain will be acidic or burning (at-Tabarani, al-Hakim)
- It will be cold in the summer and warm in the winter (Noticeably so)
- Children of fornication will become widespread or prevalent (at-Tabarani, al-Hakim)
- When a trust becomes a means of making a profit (at-Tirmidhi, Al-Haythami)
- Gains will be shared out only among the rich, with no benefit to the poor (at-Tirmidhi)
- Paying Zakat (Compulsory Almsgiving) becomes a burden and miserliness becomes widespread; charity is given reluctantly (at-Tirmidhi & Al-Haythami)
- Miserliness will be thrown into the hearts of people (Bukhari)
- Episodes of sudden death will become widespread (Ahmad)
- There will be people who will be brethren in public but enemies in secret. Muhammad (PBUH) was asked how that would come about and he replied, "Because they will have ulterior motives in their mutual dealings and at the same time will fear one another." (at-Tirmidhi)
- When a man obeys his wife and disobeys his mother; and treats his friend kindly while shunning his father (at-Tirmidhi)
- When voices are raised in the masajids (Mosques) (at-Tirmidhi)
- People will walk in the marketplace with their thighs exposed
- Great distances will be traversed in short spans of time
- The people of Iraq will receive no food and no money due to oppression by the Romans (Europeans) (Muslim)
- People will hop between the clouds and the earth
- A tribulation will enter everyone's home (Ahmad)
- The leader of a people will be the worst of them (at-Tirmidhi)
- Leaders of people will be oppressors (Al-Haythami)
- People will treat a man with respect out of fear for some evil he might do (at-Tirmidhi)
- Men will begin to wear silk (at-Tirmidhi)
- Female singers and musical instruments will become popular (at-Tirmidhi)
- When singers become common (Al-Haythami)
- People will dance late into the night
- When the last ones of the Muslim nation begin to curse the first ones (at-Tirmidhi). NOTE: Cursing the Righteous Caliphs,

the wives of Muhammad (PBUH), and his Companions is absolutely forbidden in Islam

- People will claim to follow the Noble Qur'an but will reject Teachings, Sayings, and Behaviour of Muhammad (PBUH) (Abu Dawood)
- People will believe in the stars (Al-Haythami)
- People will reject the Divine Decree of Destiny (Al-Haythami)
- Time will pass rapidly (Bukhari, Muslim, & Ahmad)
- Good deeds will decrease (Bukhari)
- Smog will appear over cities because of the evil that they are doing
- People will be carrying on with their trade, but their will only be a few trustworthy persons
- Wealth will increase so much so that if a man (or woman) were given 10,000 (likely Dinars) he (or she) would not be content with it (Ahmad & Bukhari)
- A man will pass by a grave and wish that he was therein (Bukhari)
- Earthquakes will increase (Bukhari & Muslim)
- There will be attempts to make the deserts green
- The appearance of false Messengers (30 dajjals in the Muslim Nation) (Bukhari)
- Women will be naked in spite of being dressed, these women will be led astray & will lead others astray (Muslim)
- The conquest of Constantinople by the Muslims (Ahmad)
- The conquest of India by the Muslims, just prior to the return of Jesus (PBUH) (Ahmad, an-Nisa'i, at-Tabarani, al-Hakim)
- When people begin to compete with others in the construction of taller buildings (Bukhari)
- There will be a special greeting for the people of distinction (Ahmad)
- The Euphrates will disclose a treasure. Muhammad (PBUH) said, that whoever is present should not take anything from it (Bukhari & Muslim)
- Two large groups, adhering to the same religious teaching will fight each other with large numbers of casualties (Bukhari & Muslim)
- Wild animals will be able to talk to humans (Ahmad)
- A man will leave his home and his thigh or hip will tell him what is happening back at his home (Ahmad)
- Years of deceit in which the truthful person will not be believed and the liar will be believed (Ahmad)
- Bearing false witness will become widespread (Al-Haythami & Ahmad)

- When men lie with men and women lie with women (Al-Haythami)
- Trade will become so widespread that a woman will be forced to help her husband in business (Ahmad)
- A woman will enter the workforce out of love for this World (Ahmad)
- Arrogance will increase in the Earth (at-Tabarani, al-Hakim)
- Family ties will be cut (Ahmad)
- There will be many women of child-bearing age who will no longer give birth (by choice, many will consider it a burden to have children)
- There will be an abundance of food, much of which has no blessing in it
- People will refuse when offered food
- Men will begin to look like women and women will begin to look like men

NARRATED BY HADHRAT ABDULLAH IBN MAS'OOD, MUHAMMAD (PBUH) SAID:

- Music and musical instruments will be found in every home
- People will indulge in homosexuality
- There will be an abundance of illegitimate children
- There will be an abundance of critics, tale-carriers, back-biters and taunters in society
- People will establish ties with strangers and sever relations with their near and dear ones
- Hypocrites will be in control of the affairs of the community and evil, immoral people will be at the helm of business establishments
- The Masajids (Mosques) will be decorated, but the hearts of the people will be devoid of guidance
- The courtyards of Masjids will be built beautifully and high pulpits will be erected
- Gangsters and evil people will prevail
- Various wines will be consumed excessively

NARRATED BY AUF BIN MALIK THAT MUHAMMAD (PBUH) SAID COUNT SIX THINGS BEFORE THE ADVENT OF THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT:

- My own (Muhammad, PBUH) death
- The conquest of Jerusalem

- Mass deaths amongst your people, just as when sheep die in large numbers during an epidemic
- An abundance of wealth to such an extent, that if a person were to be given a hundred Dinars he still won't be satisfied
- General anarchy and bloodshed no Arab household will be spared from it
- Then a life of peace as a result of a peace agreement between you and the Banil Asfaar Romans (Europeans), but which they will break and attack you with a force consisting of eighty flags and under each flag will be an army of twelve thousand men."

MAJOR SIGNS OF THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT:

- The appearance of the Masih ad-Dajjal (The Anti-Christ)
- The appearance of the Mahdi (the Saviour)
- The appearance of Jesus (PBUH), the Son of Mary
- The appearance of Gog and Magog (and later their annihilation; Jesus (PBUH) will make a supplication to ALLAH. ALLAH will respond by sending down a special worm that will burrow into the necks of each and every Gog and Magog). They will all die off.
- The destruction of the Kaaba and the recovery of its treasure
- Emergence of the Beast
- The (Great) smoke
- Three major landslides (one in the East, one in the West, and one on the Arabian peninsula)
- The wind will take the souls of the Believers
- The rising of the sun from the west
- The fire will drive the people to their final gathering place
- The blasts of the horn by Israfil signifying death and then Resurrection. Israfil's eyes are continuously on ALLAH's throne. He (Israfil) is afraid to miss the command of ALLAH to blow the horn. Israfil never blinks, his eyes appear like shiny stars.

Regarding Prophecies Muhammad (PBUH) spoke of things that would happen during his lifetime, and things that were to happen following his death. It is beyond the scope of this book to interpret and summarize all of the Prophecies of the Noble Quran and of Muhammad (PBUH).

Muhammad (PBUH) had never Prophesized on his own accord. All knowledge of future events is known to ALLAH. ALLAH informed many of the Prophets and Messengers (PBUT) what they needed to convey to the people.

- Narrated by Aamir bin Sa'ad, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "I asked my LORD (ALLAH) (for) three things and He has granted me two but has withheld one. I begged my LORD (ALLAH) that my Nation should not be destroyed because of famine and He granted me this. And I begged my LORD (ALLAH) that my Nation should not be destroyed by drowning (by deluge) and He granted me this. And I begged my LORD (ALLAH) that there should be no bloodshed among the people of my Nation. But He did not grant it." (Muslim)
- "Muhammad (PBUH) once delivered a speech in front of us wherein he mentioned everything (all the signs) that would happen till the Final Hour without leaving anything. Some of us remembered it and some forgot it. After this particular speech, I used to see events taking place which were referred to in the speech, but I had forgotten them before their occurrence. Then I would recognize such events as a man recognizes another man who has been absent and then sees and recognizes him." (Saheeh Al-Bukhari)
- Preceding the Battle of Badr, the first and decisive confrontation with the Pagans of Mecca in the second year of migration, from Mecca in 623 CE, Muhammad (PBUH) foretold the precise spot every Pagan soldier of Mecca would fall. Those who witnessed the battle saw the Prophecy come true with their own eyes. (Saheeh Muslim, Abu Ya'la.)
- Muhammad (PBUH) informed his daughter, Fatima, that she would be the first member of his family to die after him. The preceding is two prophecies in one: Fatima will outlive her father; Fatima will be the first member of his household to die after him. Both were fulfilled. (Sharh' Saheeh Muslim,' by Imam al-Nawawi.)
- Muhammad (PBUH) Prophesized the conquest of Persia. (Saheeh Muslim)
- Muhammad (PBUH) Prophesized that an imposter claiming to speak in the Name of ALLAH would be killed at the hands of a righteous man in Muhammad's (PBUH) lifetime. (Saheeh Al-Bukhari); Al-Aswad al-Ansi, a false Prophet in Yemen, was

killed in the Muhammad's (PBUH) lifetime by Fayruz al-Daylami. (Encyclopaedia of Islam)

THE NOBLE QURAN CONTAINS NUMEROUS PROPHECIES. I HAVE INSERTED A SHORT LIST OF EASY TO READ AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND PROPHECIES:

ALLAH has guaranteed the Noble Quran shall be preserved as is, safe, and free of contamination and alteration.

- **"Behold, it is We (ALLAH) Ourselves who have gradually revealed this reminder, and, behold, it is We who shall truly guard it (the Noble Quran from all corruption)."**
(Noble Quran, Ch.15:9)

ALLAH has guaranteed that the Noble Quran shall be easy to memorize. Many millions of people have memorized the entire Noble Quran. And many more millions have memorized significant portions of it. This is not including the countless millions who memorized the Noble Quran in the past and will do so (ALLAH Willing) in the future.

- **"And in truth We (ALLAH) have made the (Noble) Quran easy to remember; who, then, is willing to take it to heart?"**
(Noble Quran, Ch.54:17)

ALLAH guaranteed that Pharaoh's body would be preserved, in spite of it being overwhelmed by a humungous landslide of water and numerous centuries of the elements.

- **"What, now! When previously you rebelled and were one of the corrupters? Today we will preserve your body so you can be a Sign for people who come after you. Surely many people are heedless of Our Signs."** (Noble Qur'an, Ch.10:91-92)

Prior to the rise of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula, the two major superpowers of the day were the Romans (Byzantines) and the Persians.

Both empires were ruled by an arrogant leader. Heraclius, a Christian Emperor ruled the Byzantines. Khosrow Parviz ruled the Persians.

Muslims were saddened by the defeat of Christian Rome. The Muslims felt a closer tie with the Christians than the Pagan Persians. However, the Pagans of Mecca were glad to see the Pagans of Persia victorious.

At the time, it seemed that the Christian Romans could never defeat the Persians. However, ALLAH in his mercy sent down

a twofold Prophecy that helped comfort and rejuvenate the spirit of the Muslims.

- **"The Romans have been defeated - in a land close by; but they, (even) after (this) defeat of theirs, will soon be victorious- within ten years. With ALLAH is the Decision, in the past and in the future: on that Day shall the Believers rejoice with the help of ALLAH. He helps whom He will, and He is the Mighty, the Most-Merciful." (Noble Quran, Ch.30:2-4)**

A twofold Prophecy: An unimaginable, unconceivable victory for the Romans, and a guaranteed victory of the Muslims over the Pagans.

While the Muslims were horribly persecuted by the Pagans of Mecca, ALLAH guaranteed that the Pagans would be defeated.

- **"Soon will their (Pagans of Mecca) multitude be put to flight, and they will show their backs." (Noble Quran, Ch. 54:45)**

An evil man named Waleed bin Mugheera openly mocked the Noble Quran. ALLAH made it clear that this particular man would never accept Islam.

- **"Then said he: 'This is nothing but magic, derived from of old; this is nothing but the word of a mortal!' Soon will I cast him into Hell-Fire! And what will explain to thee what Hell-Fire is? It leaves naught nor does it spare aught." (Noble Quran, Ch.74:24-28)**

A very wicked man referred to as Abu-Lahab (the Father of the Flames) in the Noble Quran, was foretold by ALLAH that he (Abu-Lahab) would never accept Islam. In addition, ALLAH tells us the same about his wicked wife. This Prophecy was sent down 10 years before Abu-Lahab's death.

- **"May the hands of Abu Lahab be ruined and ruined is he. His wealth will not avail him or that which he gained. He will burn in a Fire of (blazing) flame. And his wife (will be) - the carrier of firewood. Around her neck is a rope of (twisted) fibre." (Noble Quran, Ch.111:1-5)**

THE MAHDI (THE GUIDED ONE, THE SAVIOUR) WHO WILL PRECEDE JESUS (PBUH):

- Narrated by Abdullah bin Mas'ood Muhammad (PBUH) said, "This world will not come to an end until one particular person (the Mahdi) from my progeny rules over the Arabs, and his name will be the same as my name (Muhammad Ibn Abdullah)." (Tirmidhi)
- Ali narrated that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Even if only a day remains for The Day of Judgement to come, yet ALLAH will surely send a man from my family who will fill this world with such justice and fairness, just as it initially was filled with oppression." (Abu Dawood)

SIGNS THAT PRECEDE THE APPEARANCE OF THE MAHDI:

There are numerous signs that will precede the Mahdi, a general and very important sign is that he will come at a time when there is great confutation, intense disputes and violent deaths. People will be afflicted by disturbance and will be experiencing great fear.

Calamities will fall upon the people, so much so that a man (or woman) shall not find a shelter to shelter him (or her) from oppression. There will be battles and trials and tribulations before the appearance of the Mahdi. Every time a trial and tribulation comes to an end, another will begin, spread and intensify. The people will be troubled to such an extent that they will long for death. It is then that Imam Mahdi will be sent.

- Abu Saeed Al-Khudri narrated that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "He (the Mahdi) will be sent at a time of intense disputes and differences among people and earthquakes..." (Ahmed)
- Before Imam Mahdi emerges an inter-tribal fight will take place. In the same year Pilgrims will be looted and a battle will erupt in Mina (located in present day Saudi Arabia) in which many people will be killed. Ameer bin Shauaib reported from his grandfather that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "In Dhul Qaidah (11th Month of the Islamic Calendar) the tribes will fight, people will be looted and there will be a battle in Mina in which many people will be slain and immense blood will flow. Their companion (referring to Imam Mahdi) will flee to a point between the corner and the Maqaam and will be forced to accept people's allegiance." (Al-Fitan, Nuaim ibn Hammad)

The river Euphrates (which flows through Syria and Iraq and finally opens in the Gulf) will disclose a mountain of a

treasure. Incredible fighting will erupt amongst the peoples therein. Each person will believe "Perhaps I shall be the last one standing" (I shall inherit the treasure). Ninety nine percent of the people therein will perish. If this event occurs in your lifetime, STAY FAR AWAY FROM THIS CURSED TREASURE!

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The time is near when the River Euphrates will uncover a treasure of gold. Whosoever may be alive at that time, should not take anything of it." Another narration states: "The Hour will not come to pass before the River Euphrates dries up to unveil a mountain of gold, for which people will fight. Ninety-nine out of one hundred will die (in the fighting) and every man amongst them will say: 'Perhaps I may be the only one to remain alive (and thus possess the gold).'" (Sahih Muslim)
- Narrated by Abu Hurairah, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "A man will emerge from the depths of Damascus. He will be called Sufyani. Most of those who follow him will be from the tribe of Kalb. He will kill by ripping the stomachs of women and even kill the children. A man from my family will appear in the Haram (the Grand Masjid in Mecca), the news of his advent will reach Sufyani and he will send to him one of his armies. He (referring to Imam Mahdi) will defeat them. They will then travel with whoever remains until they come to a desert and they will be swallowed. None will be saved except the one who had informed the others about them." (Mustadrak)

THE PHYSICAL FEATURES OF MAHDI:

- Saeed Khudri narrates that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The Mahdi will be from my progeny. His forehead will be broad and his nose will be high. He will fill the world with justice and fairness at a time when the World will be filled with oppression. He will rule for seven years."
- He will be tall
- He will be fair complexioned
- His facial features will be similar to those of Muhammad (PBUH)
- His character will be exactly like that of Muhammad (PBUH)
- His father's name will be Abdullah
- His mother's name will be Amina

- He will speak with a slight stutter and occasionally this stutter will frustrate him so much, causing him to hit his hand upon his thigh
- His age at the time of his emergence will be forty years
- He will receive knowledge from ALLAH

DEATH IN ISLAM:

- "Who, when disaster strikes them, say, "Indeed we belong to ALLAH, and indeed to Him we will return (death and resurrection)." (Noble Quran, Ch. 2:156).

MALAK AL-MOTE (ANGEL OF DEATH): He was specifically created by ALLAH for the purpose of taking a person's soul (by ALLAH's decree) as to the time and place. ALLAH has guaranteed that no one can escape the Angel of Death neither can the Angel of Death ever disobey ALLAH.

- "It is ALLAH that takes the souls (of men and women) at death; and those that do not die (ALLAH takes) during their sleep: those on whom He has passed the decree of death, He keeps back (from returning to life), but the rest He sends (back to their bodies) for a term appointed, verily in this are Signs for those who reflect." (Noble Quran, Ch.39:42)
- And He (ALLAH) is the Subjugator over His servants, and He sends over you guardian-Angels until, when death comes to one of you, Our Messengers take him, and they do not fail (in their duties). Then they, His servants are returned to ALLAH, their true LORD. Unquestionably, His is the judgment and He is the swiftest of Accountants." (Noble Quran, Ch. 6:61-62)
- "O you who believe! Let not your properties, or your children divert you from the remembrance of ALLAH. Whoever does that then they are the losers. So spend (in charity) of that with which We (ALLAH) have provided you, before death comes to one of you and he says, 'My Lord! If only You would give me respite for a little while (i.e. return to the Worldly life), then I should give charity of my wealth, and be among the righteous.' But ALLAH grants respite to none when his (or her) appointed time (death) comes. And ALLAH is All-Aware of what you do." (Noble Quran, Ch.63:9-11)

- "Seek ALLAH's help with patience and Prayer. It is indeed hard, except for those who are humble. Who bear in mind that they will meet their LORD (ALLAH) and that they are to return to Him." (Noble Qur'an, Ch.2:45-46)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "When ALLAH decides for a person to pass away at a certain place, he makes a need for that person to be at that place." (Tirmidhi)
- "Everyone shall taste death. And only on the Day of Resurrection shall you be paid your wages in full. And whom-ever is removed away from the fire and admitted to Paradise, he (or she) indeed is successful. The life of this World is only the enjoyment of deception (a deceiving thing)." (Noble Qur'an, Ch.3:185)

"And We did not grant to any man (or woman) before you eternity (on Earth); so if you die - would they be eternal? Every soul will taste death. And We test you with evil and with good as trial; and to Us you will be returned." (Noble Quran, Ch.21:34-35)

DEATH AND DYING:

In Islam, the most important phrase to say to a dying person is, 'utter the Kalima' (There is No GOD but ALLAH).

Muhammad (PBUH) said that anyone whose last words are La Illaha Illa-ALLAH (There is No GOD but ALLAH) will enter Paradise irrespective of what had happened to the person prior to that.

Supplications to ALLAH for the dying person, if possible in his or her presence is imperative. The dying person needs the Mercy, Compassion, and Forgiveness of ALLAH, and he or she also needs to be around caring Believers.

Upon dying the deceased person should have his or her eyes closed.

- Um Salamah reported, Muhammad (PBUH) entered upon Abu Salamah (i.e. his corpse), whose eyes were wide open. Muhammad (PBUH) closed Abu Salama's lids and then said, "When the spirit is taken out, the eyesight follows it." (Ahmed and Muslim)

IF THE DECEASED HAD ANY DEBTS, THE RELATIVES SHOULD BE QUICK IN PAYING BACK THE DEBTS FROM WHATEVER WEALTH THE

DECEASED HAS LEFT BEHIND, EVEN IF IT MEANS THAT ALL OF THEIR WEALTH WILL BE EXHAUSTED:

- Jabir ibn 'Abdullah reported that after a man once died, he was washed, shrouded, embalmed, and placed where the funerals are usually placed for the Prayer. Muhammad (PBUH) was invited to perform the Funeral Prayer. He came in, took a few steps, stopped and asked, "Perhaps your friend owes some debt?" He was told, "Yes, two dinars." So he (Muhammad, PBUH) moved back and said, "You pray for your friend." Abu Qatadah said, "O Messenger of ALLAH (PBUH), I will take care of the two dinars."... Muhammad (PBUH) prayed the Funeral Prayer for the deceased. The following day, Muhammad (PBUH) met Abu Qatadah and asked him, "What happened with the two dinars?" He replied, "O ALLAH's Messenger (PBUH), he only died yesterday." On the next day, Muhammad (PBUH) asked him the same question and was informed that the debt had been paid off. So Muhammad (PBUH) said, "It is now only that his skin has cooled down." This saying of the Muhammad (PBUH) indicates that paying the deceased's debts quickly is quite imperative.

BURY THE DECEASED IN THE SAME TOWN OR COUNTRY:

- When a brother of A'ishah (the wife of Muhammad, PBUH) died in Wadi al-Habashah, and he was moved from the place where he had died, she said, "The only thing that upset me (or grieved me) was that I wished that he had been buried in the place where he died." (Narrated by al-Bayhaqi with a Saheeh Isnaad).
NOTE: Transferring a deceased to another country takes time and there may be legal issues regarding the treatment (washing, preparation, etc.) of the deceased person. A Muslim must be buried as soon as possible.

MUSLIM SCHOLARS AGREE THAT WEEPING FOR THE DEAD IS PERMISSIBLE, WHEREAS CRYING OUT LOUD AND WAILING ARE NOT. THE LATTER ACTIONS ARE OF THOSE OF THE PRE-ISLAMIC PERIOD:

- The pre-Islamic manner of mourning for the dead is strictly forbidden to the Muslim. Muhammad (PBUH) declared, "He (or she) who slaps his (or her) cheeks, tears his (or her) clothes, and cries out in the manner of Jahiliya (the Days of Ignorance; Pre-Islamic period in Arabia) is not of us." (Reported by al-Bukhari)

- Narrated by Abu Malik al-Asharai, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "There are four of the practices of Jahiliyyah (Pre-Islamic Days of Ignorance) that my Nation will never drop: boasting about social status, defaming the kinship relations, seeking rains by means of stars (astrology), and wailing. As for the wailing woman, if she does not repent before death, she will be raised on Resurrection Day wearing a garment of liquid pitch and a shirt of scabies." (Muslim)
- "The deceased person suffers because of the wailing of the living. When the wailing woman says, "What a great loss! I have lost my right arm, the one who clothed me", the deceased will be pulled up sharply and asked: "Are you her right hand? Are you her support? Are you the one who clothed her?" (Ahmad)

The body of the deceased must be washed and treated according to Islamic tradition, thereafter, it is obligatory to cover the entire body with a white shroud, one or two pieces. What follows is the funeral prayer. The deceased is greatly rewarded for this Prayer. Many persons are asking and even begging ALLAH to be merciful, compassionate, and forgiving to the deceased, to protect the deceased in the Grave and in the Hereafter, and to send him or her to Jannat Al-Firdhaus (the highest level of Paradise).

IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR A MUSLIM TO VISIT THE GRAVES OF THE DECEASED FOR THE PURPOSE OF GETTING ADMONISHMENT AND REMEMBERING THE HEREAFTER:

- Suleiman b. Buraida narrated on the authority of his father that Muhammad (PBUH) used to teach them when they went out to the Cemetery. One of the narrators used to say this in the narration transmitted on the authority of Abu Bakr: "Muhammad (PBUH) used to say, "Peace be upon the inhabitants of the city (i.e. Cemetery)..." (Sahih Muslim)

DEATH AND BURIAL OF A MUSLIM IN SHORT STATEMENT FORM:

- Better to repent while we are still alive
- Do not wish for death
- Do good deeds to prepare for the Hereafter
- Encourage the dying person to recite "There is no GOD but ALLAH
- Recite Chapter YaSeen of the Noble Quran over the dying

- Weeping for the dead
- Close the eyes of the deceased and supplicate for him
- Lamentation prohibited
- Speak good about the dead
- Mourning for the dead
- Helping the bereaved
- Hasten the burial of the deceased
- Ghusl (ceremonial cleansing of the dead)
- The shroud
- The funeral procession
- The funeral Prayer
- Placing the body in the grave
- Sprinkling water on the grave
- Graves should not be lavish or monumental in appearance
- Visit the graves
- Do not make supplications to the deceased
- You can speak to the deceased because they hear you clearly, however, asking for anything or to intercede on your behalf is absolutely forbidden

BARZAKH (THE LIFE IN THE GRAVE; A PARTITION PHASE BETWEEN LIFE IN THIS WORLD AND THE HEREAFTER):

- (For such is the state of the Disbelievers], "Until, when death comes to one of them, he says, "My LORD (ALLAH), send me back: That I might do righteousness in that which I left behind." No! It is only a word he is saying; and behind them is a barzakh (barrier) until the Day they are resurrected." (Noble Quran, Ch.23:99-100)

In the Barzakh phase a person will either be punished or he or she will receive the bounties and blessings of ALLAH.

AZHAABUL QABIR: The Arabic phrase for punishment in the grave.

TAN'EEMU AHLIT-TAA'AH FIL QABIR: The Arabic phrase for bounties and blessings in the grave.

More people will be punished in the grave than rewarded. This is made quite certain from reading the Noble Quran and the Sayings and Teachings of Muhammad (PBUH). Both sources make it clear that the Hellfire will be filled with Humans and Jinn. No one who is sent to the Hellfire (forever) can receive rewards in the grave.

- As reported by Ahmed and Abu Dawood on the authority of Al-Baraa Bin Azhib, that they (the companions of Muhammad, PBUH) while they were out with Muhammad (PBUH) to the funeral of a man from the Ansaar. They reached the location of the grave before it was dug. Muhammad (PBUH) sat down facing the Qibla (direction of the Kaaba); and they sat around him quietly, as if afraid to disturb birds standing on their heads. He held in his hand, a stick with which he was moving the earth, raising and lowering his eyes three times. He said to them (two or three times): "Seek refuge in ALLAH from the punishment of the grave." Then he said (three times), "Oh! ALLAH I seek refuge in you from the punishment of the grave."
- It was narrated that Haani' the freed slave of 'Uthmaan ibn 'Affaan said, "When 'Uthman ibn 'Affaan stood by a grave he would weep until his beard became wet. Someone said to Uthmaan, "You remember Paradise and Hell and you do not weep, but you weep because of this?" He (Uthmaan) said, "Muhammad (PBUH) said, 'The grave is the first of the stages of the Hereafter; whoever is saved from it, whatever comes afterwards will be easier for him, but if he is not saved from it, what comes afterwards will be worse for him.'" And Muhammad (PBUH) said, "I have never seen any scene but the grave is more frightening than it." (Narrated by al-Tirmidhi, Ibn Maajah)

QUESTIONED IN THE GRAVE BY TWO ANGELS:

- Angel Munkar and Angel Nakeer: "What is your religion?"
The Believing soul: "Islam."
Munkar and Nakeer: "Who is your LORD?"
The Believing soul: "ALLAH."
Munkar and Nakeer: "Who is your Prophet?"
The Believing soul: "Muhammad."
Munkar and Nakeer: "How did you come to know these things?"
The Believing soul: "I read the Book of ALLAH (i.e. the Noble Quran) and I believed."

Then, when the soul passes the test, a voice from the Heavens will call out:

"My slave has spoken the truth, supply him with furnishings from Paradise, clothe him from Paradise, and open a gate for him to Paradise."

NOTE: A person living during the time of, and was of the people of another Prophet will be questioned about that

particular person (Moses, Jesus, Noah, etc.) It is impossible for anyone to obey ALLAH and disobey the Prophet, or vice versa. Both must be obeyed. A Prophet is a representative specifically created, chosen and sent by ALLAH. Rejection of ALLAH or one of His Prophets is a rejection of faith.

Another category of people will for some reason or another not hear the true message. On the Day of Judgement ALLAH will place them in front of the Gates of Hell, which is horrifying and makes a roaring sound. A Messenger (PBUH) will be sent to them. He will tell the people, "ALLAH has cooled the fires of Hell, enter the Gates." Anyone who obeys will enter Paradise, anyone who doesn't will end up in the Hellfire.

- The two Angels who are charged with questioning come to the deceased and ask what he (or she) used to believe in, when living in the World; "Who is your LORD, what is your Religion and who is your Prophet. If he (or she) responds correctly to all three questions that is good, but if he (or she) does not answer them they (the Angels) inflict a severe and painful beating on the person.

If the person was righteous, Angels with white faces come to him (or her), but if the person was one of the evildoers, Angels with dark faces come to him (or her). This is the tribulation that the evildoer suffers in the grave.

The person destined for Paradise will feel extremely comfortable in the grave, it will be lit up. It will appear and feel so large, as far as the eye can see. The scent therein will be better than musk. First, he or she will be shown the Hellfire, and then told "this is where you would've ended up had you been a disbeliever." Twice daily, this person will be shown his or her final abode (Paradise or Hell). The one destined for Paradise will say to his LORD (ALLAH), please bring forth the Day of Judgement. ALLAH will respond by re-affirming to his faithful servant that the Day of Judgment is coming (You shall see your promised reward, Paradise, eternal happiness, etc.)

The person destined for Hell will ask his LORD (ALLAH) to postpone the Day of Judgement. ALLAH will make it clear to the person that the time of the Day of Judgement will not be changed (neither advanced nor delayed, it has been appointed).

- "Indeed, those who deny Our (ALLAH's) verses and are arrogant toward them - the gates of Heaven will not be

opened for them, nor will they enter Paradise until a camel enters into the eye of a needle. And thus do We (ALLAH) recompense the criminals." (Noble Quran, Ch. 7:40)

- "When a believer is about to depart this world, Angels with white faces come down from the heavens and say: "O peaceful soul, come out to forgiveness from ALLAH and His pleasure." (*Hakim and others*)

NOTE: In the Arabic language, in particular relating to Islam, phrases such as 'white faces' May ALLAH 'whiten your face', 'blackened faces', May ALLAH 'blacken your face,' have absolutely nothing to do with race. This is one of the reasons that a good knowledge of Arabic is extremely important for a Muslim, and anyone who wants to become a scholar of Islam.

- "...When the time of the death of a believer approaches, he (or she) receives the good news of ALLAH's pleasure with him (or her) and His blessings upon him (or her), and so at that time nothing is dearer to him (or her) than what lies ahead of him (or her). He (or she) therefore loves meeting ALLAH, and ALLAH loves meeting him (or her)." (*Saheeh Al-Bukhari*)

ALLAH WILL RECOMPOSE OUR DECAYED BODIES FROM THE COCCYX (TAILBONE);

- Narrated by Abu Hurraira, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "All of the sons (and daughters) of Adam (PBUH) will decay except for the bone of coccyx (tailbone). From it he (and she) was created and by it he (and she) will be reconstructed."
- Narrated by Abu Hurraira, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "There is nothing of the human body that does not decay except one bone; that is the little bone at the end of the coccyx of which the human body will be recreated on the Day of Resurrection."

THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT (WILL BE 50,000 YEARS LONG):

It is a sure fact, a guarantee, that one day each and every one of us shall die, we should be certain of the fact that ALLAH shall resurrect every single one of us. We shall see everyone, Humans and Jinn alike, and an unfathomable number of Angels. Belief in the Day of Judgement is absolutely compulsory for

anyone claiming to be a Muslim. This belief is one of the Articles of Faith in Islam.

People can be assigned a place in Paradise without punishment in the Hellfire, a place in Paradise following a designated period of time in the Hellfire, and many others will be sent straight to the Hellfire for Eternity.

When the Angel Israfil (PBUH) blows his horn for the first time, there will be no believers on this planet. All of the believers will have died out. Ignorance, extreme debauchery, no belief or faith in ALLAH, and other sins will be performed, many in public without hesitation.

And on the Day of Judgement, ALLAH will shower many people with His Mercy, but, He will be angrier than he ever was, and ever will be.

- "And those who believe and do good deeds, they are dwellers of of Paradise, they dwell therein forever." (Noble Quran, Ch.2:82)
- "And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will not be accepted from him (or her) and he (or she) will be one of the losers in the Hereafter." (Noble Quran, Ch.3:85)
- "Those who have disbelieved and died in disbelief, the Earth full of gold would not be accepted from any of them if it were offered as a ransom. They will have a painful punishment, and they will have no helpers." (Noble Quran, Ch.3:91)
- Abu Razin al 'Uqayli said that he asked Muhammad (PBUH) how ALLAH would restore all things and what indication there was of that in His creation. Muhammad (PBUH) replied, "Have you not come by the farm of your people when it was barren, then come by it when it was shaking with greenery?" When Abu Razin replied that he had, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "That is ALLAH's sign in His creation and thus will ALLAH bring the dead to life." (Razin)

THE BLOWING OF THE TRUMPET (IT WILL BE BLOWN TWICE BY THE ANGEL ISRAFIL, PBUH):

- Abu Sa'id al-Khudri reported that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "How can I be at ease when the one who blows the trumpet (the Angel Israfil, PBUH) has put it (the trumpet) in his

mouth, inclined his ear and bent his forehead waiting to see when he will be ordered to blow it ..." (Tirmidhi)

ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT IT WILL BECOME QUITE APPARENT HOW SHORT THE LIFE OF THIS WORLD REALLY WAS:

- He (ALLAH) will say, "How many years did you stay in the World?" They will say, we stayed a day or part of a day ..." (Noble Quran, Ch.23:112-113)
- "Then did you think that We (ALLAH) created you uselessly and that to Us you would not be returned?" So exalted is ALLAH, the Sovereign, the Truth; there is no deity except Him, LORD (ALLAH) of the Noble Throne." (Noble Quran, Ch.23:115-116)

On the day ALLAH will flatten all of the mountains the oceans will be boiling over. There will be a new sky; the present sky will fall piece by piece, the sun will appear very close, everything that we'd known in this World shall soon come to an end. Many people will be engulfed in their own sweat, depending on their faith and deeds. Some people will be joyous, the Faithful and good-doers. Others will be terrified. Angels with specific purpose will be sent by ALLAH to beat the Devils. The Devils will have nowhere to run or hide.

The first thing that ALLAH will ask a Muslim about is his or her Prayer. If the person's Prayers were performed completely he or she (ALLAH willing) will be saved. If on the other hand, the person's Prayers are deficient, then the optional Prayers will (ALLAH willing) compensate for the shortcoming.

AN ISLAMIC SUPPLICATION FOR THE DAY OF RESURRECTION:

- "Our LORD (ALLAH)! Grant us what You promised unto us through Your Messengers (PBUT) and disgrace us not on the Day of Resurrection, for You never break (Your) promise."

JUDGEMENT DAY (FROM THE NOBLE QURAN):

- "And be conscious of the Day on which you shall be brought back unto ALLAH, whereupon every human being shall be repaid in full for what he (or she) has earned, and none shall be wronged." (Noble Quran, Ch.2:281)
- "On the Day (when some) faces will turn white and (some) faces will turn black. As for those whose faces turn black,

(to them it will be said), "Did you disbelieve after your belief? Then taste the punishment for what you used to reject." (Noble Quran, Ch.3:106)

- In that is a Sign for those who fear the penalty of the Hereafter: that is a Day for which humankind will be gathered together: that will be a Day of Testimony. Nor shall We (ALLAH) delay it but for a term appointed. (Noble Qur'an, Ch.11:102-7)
- "O Humankind! Fear your LORD (ALLAH) and be dutiful to Him! Verily, the earthquake of the Hour (of Judgment) is a terrible thing. The Day you shall see it, every nursing mother will forget her nursing and every pregnant one will drop her load, and you shall see mankind as in a drunken state. Yet they will not be drunk but severe will be the Torment of ALLAH." (Noble Quran, Ch.22:1-2)
- He (or she) asks, "When is the Day of Resurrection? At length, when the sight is dazed and the moon is buried in darkness, and the sun and moon are joined together that Day will Man (and Woman) say; "Where is the place of refuge (or escape)?" (Noble Qur'an, Ch.75:6-10)
- "What will convey to you what the Day of Judgement is? Again! What will convey to you what the Day of Judgement is? It is the Day when a soul will have no power to help any other soul in any way. The command that Day will be ALLAH's alone." (The Holy Qur'an, Ch. 82:17-19)
- "The Striking Calamity-What is the Striking Calamity? And what can make you know, what is the Striking Calamity? It is the Day when people will be like moths, dispersed, and the mountains will be like wool, fluffed up. Then as for one whose scales are heavy (with good deeds), He (or she) will be in a pleasant life. But as for one whose scales are light, His (or her) refuge will be an abyss. And what can make you know what that is? It is a Fire, intensely hot." (Noble Quran, Ch.101)

ALLAH SHALL ROLL UP THE HEAVENS AND THE WORLDS ON THE TIP OF ONE FINGER:

- Narrated by Abu-Huraira, Muhammad (PBUH) said, The Angel of Death will say to ALLAH, "O ALLAH All those in the Heavens and all those in the Worlds have died, except for

those whom You have kept alive." ALLAH will say, "who remains?" The Angel of Death will say, "O ALLAH Gabriel (PBUH) remains, Michael (PBUH) remains, Israfil (the Trumpet Blower, PBUH) remains, and the Angels carrying your throne remain." ALLAH will say, "Let death come to Gabriel (PBUH), let death come to Michael (PBUH), let death come to Israfil (PBUH), and let death come to the Angels carrying My Throne." Then, ALLAH will say, "who remains?" The Angel of Death will say, "O ALLAH, I remain and You remain, no one else remains." ALLAH will say, "I created you (the Angel of Death) for a purpose, you have full-filled your purpose, you also die." Thereafter, ALLAH will roll up the Heavens and the Worlds in his hand and then He will say (in a very powerful and forceful voice), "I am the Almighty ALLAH! I am the Almighty ALLAH! For whom is the Divine Rule today! For Whom is the Power today! For whom is the Kingdom Today! I am the King of All Kings! Where are your dictators! Where are your oppressors?" There will be no reply whatsoever. Then, ALLAH will answer, "Power is for ALLAH! Might is for ALLAH!"

- Narrated by Abdullah bin Mas'ud, A (Jewish) rabbi came to ALLAH's Messenger (PBUH) and he (the Rabbi) said, "O Muhammad! We learn that ALLAH will put all the Heavens on one finger, and the Earths on one finger, and the trees on one finger, and the water and the dust on one finger, and all the other created beings on one finger. Then He (ALLAH) will say, 'I am the King!'" Thereupon Muhammad (PBUH) smiled so that his premolar teeth became visible, and that was the confirmation for the Rabbi. Then Muhammad (PBUH) recited (a verse from the Noble Quran): "They made not a just estimate of ALLAH such as is due to Him. And on the Day of Resurrection the whole of the Earth will be grasped by His Hand." (Noble Quran, Ch.39:67)

ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT THE PEOPLE SHALL BE TOO PRE-OCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN FATE:

- "When the Deafening Blast comes, that Day a man (or woman) will flee from his (or her) brother (or sister) and his (or her) mother and his (or her) father, and his (or her) wife and his (or her) children: on that Day every man (and woman) among them will have concerns enough of his (or her) own. (Noble Qur'an, Ch.80:33-37)

- Then when the Trumpet is blown, that Day there will be no family ties between them; they will not be able to question one another. Those whose scales are heavy are the successful ones. Those whose scales are light are the losers of their souls, remaining in Hell timelessly, forever. (Noble Qur'an, Ch.23:101-103)
- No good friend will ask about his (or her) friend, even though they can see each other. An evil-doer will wish he could ransom himself from the punishment of that Day, by means of his sons, or his wife or his brother or his family who sheltered him or everyone else on earth, if only that meant that he (or she) could save him or herself. But no! It is a Raging Blaze." (Noble Qur'an, Ch.70:10-15)

Muhammad (PBUH) said, that on the Day of Judgement everyone will be naked and the men will be uncircumcised. Aa'ishah (one of Muhammad's, PBUH wives) said, "O Messenger of ALLAH (PBUH)! Will the men and the women look at each other?" Muhammad (PBUH) responded, "The situation will be too hard (too terrifying, too serious of a matter) for them (the people) to pay attention to that (the nudity of others)." (Al-Bukhaari)

- Narrated by al Miqdad ibn Aswad, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "On the Day of Resurrection, the sun will draw so close to the people that there will be left a distance of only (a rough estimate in a translated form, one mile). The people will be submerged in perspiration according to their deeds, some up to their ankles, some up to their knees, some up to the waist and some will have the bridle of perspiration." While saying this, Muhammad (PBUH) placed his hand near his mouth. (Muslim)

JUDGEMENT DAY (FROM THE SAYINGS OF MUHAMMAD, PBUH):

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "ALLAH will talk to everyone directly, without a translator. The person will look to his (or her) right, and will not see anything but his (or her) deeds. Then the person will look in front of him (or her) and will see nothing but the Hellfire facing him or her. So protect yourself from Hellfire even by giving a charity of half a date." (Bukhari)
- Muhammad (PBUH) told us in an authentic Hadith (Saying of Muhammad, PBUH), "The first thing the people will be

accountable for on the Day of Judgment is Prayer, ALLAH will say to His Angels (even though he already knows): "Look at my servant's Prayers. Were they complete or not?" If they were complete it will be written as complete. If the Prayers were not fully complete ALLAH will say: "See if my servant has voluntary prayers if he (or she) has them ALLAH will say: Complete his obligatory Prayers shortage with his voluntary Prayers." Then the rest of his (or her) deeds will be dealt with in the same manner." (Imams Ahmad, Abu Dawood, An-Nisa'i, and Al-Hakim)

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The son of Adam will not pass away from ALLAH until he (or she) is asked about five things: how he (or she) lived his (or her) life, and how he (or she) utilized his (or her) youth, with what means did he (or she) earn his (or her) wealth, how did he (or she) spend his (or her) wealth, and what did he (or she) do with his (or her) knowledge." (Imam At-Tirmithi)

ALLAH'S MERCY ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT:

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, ALLAH has a hundred mercies, one of which He has sent down to be divided between humans, the jinn, birds, cattle, and insects, by which they have compassion and mercy towards each other (all actions of mercy that we see, and do not see, everywhere on this planet). And He (ALLAH) has saved ninety-nine mercies with which He (ALLAH) will be Merciful to His slaves on the Day of Judgement." (Bukhari and Muslim)
- The Mercy of ALLAH is manifested when ALLAH counts the sin of the sinner as one sin. The Mercy of ALLAH is manifested further when ALLAH rewards the righteous doer on his (or her) good deed ten times what his (or her) good deed is worth and ALLAH multiplies his (or her) reward even more than ten times to whom He wants from His servants. Imam Bukhari and Muslim reported that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "ALLAH ordered (the appointed Angels over you) that the good and the bad deeds be written, and He then showed (the way) how (to write). If someone intends to do a good deed and he (or She) does not do it, then ALLAH will write for him (or her) a full good deed; and if he (or she) intends to do a good deed and actually did it, then ALLAH will write for him (or her) (its reward equal) from ten to seven hundred times to many more times. And If someone intends to

do a bad deed and he does not do it, then ALLAH will write for him (or her) a full good deed (in his or her account) with Him, and if he (or she) intends to do a bad deed and actually did it, then Allah will write for him one bad deed." Also, ALLAH erases the sin with the good deed. ALLAH says in (the Noble Quran, Ch. 11:114), what can be translated as, "...Verily, the good deeds remove the evil deeds..."

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "If a disbeliever knows of all the mercy which is in the hand of Allah, he would not lose hope of entering Paradise..." (Bukhari and Muslim)
- Say: O My servants who have transgressed against their own souls, despair not of the Mercy of ALLAH. Indeed, ALLAH forgives all sins. Truly, He is the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Noble Quran, Ch.39:53)

MUHAMMAD (PBUH) WILL INTERCEDE (WITH ALLAH'S PERMISSION):

- When the time comes in which ALLAH chooses to Resurrect all of humankind on the Day of Judgement, Muhammad (PBUH), as he himself explained, will be the leader of the children of Adam, carrying the banner of praise. The enormity of the situation is further expounded by Muhammad (PBUH) as he explained that all of the previous Prophets and the Messengers (PBUT) will be beneath his banner: Muhammad (PBUH) said, "I will be the leader of the children of Adam, on the Day of Resurrection, and I am not boasting. In my hand there will be a banner of praise, and I am not boasting. There will be no Prophet that day, Adam (PBUH) or anyone else, but he will be beneath my banner. I will be the first one to intercede and the first one to be called upon to intercede, and I am not boasting." (Ahmad, Tirmidhi and Ibn Maajah. Majmoo' al-Fataawa Shaykh al-Islam)
- Abu Hurayra reported that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "I shall be pre-eminent amongst the descendants of Adam on the Day of Resurrection and I will be the first intercessor and the first whose intercession will be accepted (by ALLAH). (Muslim)

On the Day of Judgment, Muhammad (PBUH) shall be able to make the Greater Intercession for human-mankind (with ALLAH's permission), that ALLAH may give His verdict and let people depart the place of congregation. At this point ALLAH will

permit him (Muhammad, PBUH) too, to intercede for a number of believers, that they may be admitted into Paradise. We believe in the fact that his intercession will also be for the disobedient among the believers. We believe that the Messenger will intercede only for those for whom ALLAH permits it.

NOTE: Regarding, any person whom ALLAH has judged to be an Unbeliever or a Hypocrite, Muhammad (PBUH) will not be able to intercede on that person's behalf.

- Anas bin Malik narrated, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "ALLAH will gather people on the Day of Resurrection and they will be concerned about it." (Ibnu Ubeid elaborated upon this saying, "The people will be inspired to look for someone to intercede on their behalf.") The people will say, "If we could seek intercession with our LORD (ALLAH), we may be relieved from this predicament of ours." Muhammad (PBUH) said, "They will come to Adam (PBUH) and say, 'You are Adam (PBUH), the father of humankind, ALLAH created you with His Own hand and breathed into you of His spirit and commanded the Angels and they prostrated before you, so intercede for us with your LORD (ALLAH) that He may relieve us from this position of ours.' He (Adam, PBUH) will say, I am not in a position to do this, and would recall his error and would feel shy of His LORD (ALLAH) on account of that." The Hadith (Sayings of Muhammad, PBUH) is too long to be quoted in its entirety, but in brief, Adam (PBUH) will direct people to Noah (PBUH), who in turn would direct them to Abraham (PBUH), after recalling his error Abraham (PBUH) will direct the people to Moses (PBUH) who will direct them to Jesus (PBUH). Finally Jesus (PBUH) refrains from interceding saying, 'You should go to Muhammad (PBUH) a servant whose former and latter sins have been forgiven." The narrator said, Muhammad (PBUH) observed, "So they will come to me and I will ask for permission of from my LORD (ALLAH) and it will be granted to me, and when I see Him (ALLAH), I will fall down in prostration, and He (ALLAH) will leave me that way as long as He will wish, and then it will be said," "O Muhammad, raise your head, say and you will be heard; ask and it will be granted; intercede and your intercession will be accepted. . ." (Muslim)

ON A LOWER LEVEL THAN MUHAMMAD (PBUH), BELIEVERS WILL BE ABLE TO INTERCEDE:

- Abu Sa'id reported that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Some of my people will intercede for a large number, some for a tribe,

some for a group, and some for a single man (or woman), till they enter Paradise. (Tirmidhi)

SEVEN CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BE SHADED (PROTECTED) BY ALLAH ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT:

- Narrated by Abu Hurraira, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "There are seven categories of people whom ALLAH will shade in His Shade on the Day when there is no shade except His Shade: a just ruler; a youth who grew up in the worship of ALLAH, the Mighty and Majestic; a man whose heart is attached to the Masajids (Mosques); two men who love each other for ALLAH's sake, meeting for that and parting upon that; a man who is called by a woman of beauty and position (for unlawful, sinful intercourse), but he says (upon refusing): 'I fear ALLAH', a man who gives in charity and hides it, such that his left hand does not know what his right hand gives in charity; and a man who remembered ALLAH in private and so his eyes shed tears.' (Bukhari, Muslim)

THE SIRAT (BRIDGE OVER THE HELLFIRE THAT EVERYONE MUST PASS):

- "There is not one of you but will pass over it (Hell): this is with your LORD, a Decree which must be accomplished." (Noble Quran, Ch.19:71)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The first Prophet who will cross it (the Sirat) with his Nation will be I." (Bukhari)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "On the Day of Resurrection I will stand by the side of the Sirat Bridge and wait for my Nation to cross it." ALLAH will say, "Ask for whatever you want. Intercede for whomever you wish, for your intercession will be accepted." "After interceding for my nation, I will continue entreating, and I will not rise to my feet until He (ALLAH) says," "Put all people into Paradise who said *La ilaha ill-Allah* (there is No GOD but ALLAH) once with (complete sincerity) and then died with faith. (Ahmed)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Crossing the Sirat Bridge depends on everybody's light (Faith, Deeds). Some (people) will cross it in the twinkling of an eye; some, like lightning; some, like a falling star; some, like a running horse. He who has very little light will creep facedown. His hands and feet will slip, and he will cling to it again. At long last, he

will break free from it by creeping and creeping."
(Tabarani)

THE CREATION OF JANNAH (PARADISE) AND JAHANEM (HELLFIRE):

- Narrated by Abu Hurairah Muhammad (PBUH) said, "When ALLAH created Paradise and Hellfire, He sent (Angel) Gabriel (PBUH) to Paradise, saying, 'look at it and at what I have prepared therein for its inhabitants.' So Gabriel went to it and looked at it and at what ALLAH had prepared therein for its inhabitants. Then Gabriel (PBUH) returned to ALLAH and said, 'By Your glory, no one hears of it without entering it.' So ALLAH ordered that it be encompassed by forms of hardship, and He (ALLAH) said, 'Return to it and look at what I have prepared therein for its inhabitants! So, Gabriel (PBUH) returned to it and found that it was surrounded by forms of hardship. Then he returned to ALLAH and said, 'By Your Glory, I fear that no one will enter it, ALLAH said, 'Go to Hellfire and look at it and at what I have prepared therein for its inhabitants.' Gabriel (PBUH) found that it was in layers, one above the other. Then Gabriel (PBUH) returned to ALLAH and said, 'By Your Glory, no one who hears of it will enter it.' So ALLAH ordered that it be surrounded by lusts (and temptations). Then He (ALLAH) said, 'Return to it and Gabriel (PBUH) returned to it and said, 'By Your glory, I am frightened that no one will escape from entering it.' (at-Tirmidhi, abu Dawud and An-Nasa'i)

THE HELLFIRE HAS DIFFERENT NAMES IN ISLAMIC TEXTS. EACH NAME IS A DESCRIPTION THEREOF:

JAHEEM FIRE: Referring to Hell's horrendous blaze.

JEHANNAM: Referring to the depth of its pit.

LADTHAA: Referring to its flames.

SA'EER: It is kindled and ignited.

SAQAR: Referring to the intensity of its heat.

HATAMAH: It breaks and crushes everything that is thrown into it, debris.

HAAWIYAH: Chasm or Abyss, the person who is thrown into it is thrown from top to bottom.

THE HELLFIRE:

- When the Hellfire sees them from a distant place, they will hear its fury and roaring," (Noble Quran, Ch.25:12).

- Those in the Fire will say to the Keepers of Hell, "Pray to your LORD (ALLAH) to lighten for us the penalty for a day (at least)." They (the Keepers of Hell) will say, "Did there not come to you your Messengers with clear signs?" The (inhabitants of Hell) will say, "Yes." The (Keepers of Hell) will reply, "Then Pray as you like. But the Prayer of those without faith is not but in error." Noble Quran, Ch.40:49-50).
- "O you who believe, save yourselves and your families from a fire whose fuel is men (and women) and stones, over which are (appointed) Angels, stern and severe, and who do not disobey ALLAH (ever) in what He orders them and who do precisely what they are commanded." (Noble Quran, Ch.66:6)
- When they are thrown into it (Hellfire), they hear from it a (dreadful) inhaling while it boils up. It almost bursts with rage..." (Noble Qur'an, Ch.67:7-8).
- "Over it (Hell) are nineteen. And We (ALLAH) have not made the guardians of the Fire except Angels. And We have made their number only as a trial for the unbelievers - in order that the People of the Book (Jews and Christians) may be certain and that the believers may increase in faith, and so that the People of the Book and the believers would not doubt, and that those in whose hearts is a disease and the unbelievers would say, 'What example does ALLAH intend by this?' Thus does ALLAH leave to stray whomever He pleases and (He) guides whom He pleases. And none can know the soldiers of your LORD (ALLAH) except He (ALLAH). And this is nothing other than a warning to humankind." (Noble Quran, Ch.74:30-31).

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HELLFIRE:

The fire of Hell is nothing like the fire of this World. There is no comparison whatsoever. We may be naturally inclined to think of a giant flame similar to that of a flame engulfing a house, building, or part of a forest, or maybe our stove or fireplace; the Fire of Hell is enormously more intense and severe. It is a roaring monster!

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Your (Worldly) fire is one of 70 parts of the (Hell) Fire." A person asked him, "O ALLAH's Apostle (PBUH), this (Worldly) fire would have been

sufficient (punishment)!" Muhammad (PBUH) replied, "The (Hell) Fire has 69 parts more than the ordinary (Worldly) fire, each part is as hot as this (Worldly) fire." (Bukhari).

- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Hellfire will be brought forth on the Day of Judgment with 70,000 (ropes or chains) each (rope or chain will be) pulled by 70,000 Angels," (Muslim).

THE INHABITANTS OF PARADISE SHALL SEE ALLAH'S FACE:

- "Some faces that Day shall be (shining and radiant). Looking at their LORD (ALLAH) (Noble Quran, Ch.75:22-23).
- Narrated by Jareer that on a moonlit night Muhammad (PBUH) said to his Companions, "You will certainly see your LORD (ALLAH) as you see this moon, and there will be no trouble in seeing Him. So if you can avoid missing (through sleep, business, etc.) a Prayer before the rising of the sun (Dawn Prayer) and before its setting (Mid-Afternoon Prayer) you must do so." (NOTE: The three best things that the inhabitants of Paradise shall receive, in order of importance and beauty are, seeing ALLAH's face, knowing that He (ALLAH) will never be disappointed with them again, and they (the dwellers of Paradise) can have anything that they desire and much more.

PARADISE:

It is impossible to understand or to even imagine how incredibly beautiful Paradise is until we enter it (ALLAH willing). ALLAH speaks about Paradise in His Noble Quran, and Muhammad (PBUH) also spoke about it.

ALLAH has made everything perfect in Paradise. The inhabitants therein can have anything that they desire. The duration of stay in Paradise is Eternity; no one will ever die or even become ill.

In Paradise there is much fun, joy, contentment, happiness, and all the other good feelings, and more. There is no work or responsibility whatsoever. No urination or defecation, the food eaten exits a person's body as vapour better than the scent of musk.

- "And We (ALLAH) shall remove from their (the inhabitants of Paradise) hearts any hatred (whatsoever) or sense of injury

(which they had, if at all, in the life of this world)..." (Noble Quran, Ch. 7:43)

NOTE: These women are so incredibly beautiful (named Hoor al-'iyn) the bone marrow of their shins will be visible from beneath their garments. Each man shall have (at least) two wives.

- "Thus. And We will marry them to fair women with large, (beautiful) eyes." (Noble Quran, Ch.44:54).
- "As for such, theirs will be Gardens of Eden, wherein rivers flow beneath them; therein they will be given armlets of gold and will wear green robes of finest silk and gold embroidery, reclining upon thrones therein. Blessed is the reward, and fair the resting-place!" (Noble Quran, Ch.18:31).
- "Circulated among them (the inhabitants of Paradise) will be plates and vessels of gold. And therein is whatever their Souls desire and (whatever) delights the eyes, and (they) will abide therein eternally." (Noble Quran, Ch. 43:71).
- "They (the inhabitants of Paradise) will not hear therein ill speech or commission of sin. But only the words of Peace! Peace!" (Noble Quran, Ch.56:25-26).
- "Eat and drink at ease for that which you have sent forth (good deeds) in days past!" (Noble Quran, Ch.69:24)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "They will never fall ill, blow their noses or spit." (Bukhari)
- Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri narrated that Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The people of Paradise will look at the dwellers of lofty mansions in the same way as one looks at a brilliant star, far away in the East or in the West of the horizon. This is because of their superiority over one another (in reward)." One of the people asked, "O Messenger of ALLAH (PBUH), are these lofty mansions for the Prophets which no one else can reach?" Muhammad (PBUH) replied, "No! By ALLAH, in whose Hands is my life, these (lofty mansions) are for men (and women) who believe in ALLAH and also believe in the Messenger (Muhammad, PBUH)." (Bukhari, Muslim).

- Narrated by Abu Hurraira, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "There is not a tree in Paradise, except that its trunk is made of gold." (Sahih al-Jami)
- Narrated by Anas ibn Malik Muhammad (PBUH) said, "I entered Paradise and found myself by a river by its edges were tents of pearls. Then I tapped with my hands where the water was running, and there was then a beautiful smell of Musk. I asked, 'What is this O (Angel) Gabriel?' He said, 'This is Kawthar (River in Paradise) which ALLAH has given to you.'" (Sahih al-Jami).

THE LAST PERSON TO ENTER PARADISE:

- Narrated by 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The last person to enter Paradise will be a man who will alternately walk, stagger and be touched by the Fire. Once he has passed out of the Fire, he will turn to face it and say, "Blessed be He (ALLAH) Who has saved me from you (the Hellfire). ALLAH has given me something that He did not give to the earlier and later generations. Then a tree will be raised up for him, and he will say, "O my LORD (ALLAH), bring me closer to this tree so that I may enjoy its shade and drink of its water". ALLAH will say, "O son of Adam (PBUH) perhaps if I grant you this, you will ask Me for something else?" He will say, "No, O LORD (ALLAH), I promise that I will not ask for anything else". ALLAH will excuse him because he is seeing something that he has no patience to resist so He (ALLAH) will bring him closer to the tree so he can enjoy its shade and drink its water.
Then another tree, better than the first, will be raised up for him and he will say, "O my LORD (ALLAH), bring me near to this tree so that I may drink its water and enjoy its shade, then I will not ask you for anything more". ALLAH will say, "O son of Adam (PBUH) did you not promise Me that you would not ask me for anything else? Perhaps if I bring you closer to this tree you will ask for more?" So the man will promise not to ask for any more, and ALLAH will excuse him because he is seeing something that he has no patience to resist, so He (ALLAH) will bring him closer to the tree so he can enjoy its shade and drink its water.
Then a third tree will be raised up at the gate of Paradise, and it will be better than the first two. The man will say, "O My LORD (ALLAH), bring me closer to this (tree) so that I may enjoy its shade and drink its water,

and I will not ask for anything more." ALLAH will say, "O son of Adam (PBUH), did you not promise Me that you would not ask Me for anything more?" He will say, "Yes, O LORD (ALLAH), I will not ask you for anything more." His LORD (ALLAH), may He be Glorified, will excuse him because he is seeing something which he has no patience to resist, so He will bring him closer.

When he is brought close, he will hear the voices of the people of Paradise, and will say, "O my LORD, admit me to it." ALLAH will say, "O son of Adam (PBUH) what do you want so that you will never ask Me for anything else? Will it please you if I give you the World and as much again?" He will say, "O LORD (ALLAH), are You making fun of me when You are the LORD of the Worlds?" (Sahih Muslim)

NOTE: The man couldn't believe how much ALLAH was ready to grant him. In other narrations of this story, ALLAH gives the man 10 times the World and more and more. ALLAH will not be mocking the man. On the contrary, He (ALLAH) will give the man Worlds full of gifts, rewards, and pleasures.

ISRA (NIGHT JOURNEY) AND MIRAJ (ASCENSION) AND THE IMPORTANCE OF JERUSALEM:

- "O my people! Enter the holy land (Jerusalem)..." (Noble Quran, Ch.5:21)
- "Holy is He who carried His servant by night from the Holy Masjid (in Mecca) to the farther Masjid (in Jerusalem), whose surroundings We (ALLAH) have blessed, that We might show him some of our signs. Indeed, He is all All-Hearing, All-Seeing." (Noble Quran, Ch.17:1).
- Narrated by Abu-Hurraira Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Set out deliberately on a journey only to three Masajids (Mosques): this Masjid (Mosque) of mine (in Medina), the Sacred Masjid (Mosque, in Mecca) and the Masjid al Aqsa (in Jerusalem)." (Bukhari & Muslim)
- Narrated by Jabir bin Abdullah, he Muhammad (PBUH) say, "When the people of Quraish did not believe me (regarding the Miraculous Night Journey, Isra and Miraj) I stood up in AL-Hijr and ALLAH (clearly) displayed Jerusalem in front of me, I then began to describe it to them while I was looking at it." (Bukhari)

- Narrated by abu Darda, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "A Prayer in the Sacred Masjid (in Mecca) is worth 100,000 Prayers, a Prayer in my Masjid (in Medina) is worth 1,000 and a Prayer in Jerusalem is worth 500 Prayers more than in an any other Masjid." (Bukhari)
- On the authority of Maimunah bint Sa'd, upon being asked about a person who is unable to the Masjid Al-Aqsa, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "He should make a gift of oil to be burnt therein, for He who gives a gift to the Masjid al Aqsa will be like one who has prayed Salaah therein." (Ahmad & Ibn Majah)
- Narrated by Abu Dhar, I asked the beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) which was the first Masjid on Earth? He (Muhammad, PBUH) replied, "The Sacred Masjid (in Mecca)." And then which, I asked? Muhammad (PBUH) replied, "Masjid al Aqsa." I further asked, what was the time span between the two (Masjids)? Muhammad (PBUH) replied, "Forty years." (Muslim)
- Narrated by Abu Umamah Al-Bahili, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "A group from within my Ummah (Nation) will remain firm upon the truth, dominating their enemies. They will not be harmed by their opponents until ALLAH's decree arrives upon them." They (the people) asked, "Oh Prophet of ALLAH (PBUH)! Where will they be?" He (Muhammad, PBUH) replied, "In Bait al Maqdis (Jerusalem) and its surrounding areas. (Ahmad)

Isra and Miraj are two parts of a miraculous night journey that Muhammad (PBUH) took from Mecca to the Al-Aqsa sight in Jerusalem, followed by ascension to Paradise, visiting the various levels and reaching the highest part of Paradise reaching the peripheral border, and at the same time seeing and speaking to Prophets of ALLAH.

This miraculous journey took place one year before the Hijra (migration from Mecca to Medina).

Muhammad (PBUH) was accompanied by the Angel Gabriel (PBUH), and he rode al-Buraq, a white horse-like animal, with wings and whose stride reached the horizon.

It was during this heavenly journey that Muhammad (PBUH) received the command from ALLAH about the five compulsory Prayers. ALLAH had first commanded fifty Prayers a day; Muhammad (PBUH) was told by Moses (PBUH) that this is too hard, and that he (Muhammad, PBUH) should ask ALLAH for leniency. This occurred several times before Muhammad (PBUH) told Moses (PBUH) that he

was ashamed to ask his LORD (ALLAH) for additional leniency hence, the number of compulsory Prayers was lessened to five. However, because ALLAH grants a minimum of ten good deeds for each good deed, the five compulsory Prayers are given the reward of fifty; ALLAH knows Best.

In addition, during the Heavenly journey Muhammad (PBUH) was shown Paradise and the rewards therein, and also the punishments are to be meted out to the inhabitants of Hell.

The Qubbat Al-Sakhra (Dome of the Rock) is situated near Masjid Al-Aqsa in Jerusalem. It (the Dome of the Rock) is by far the most widely recognized symbol of Jerusalem; an Islamic symbol indeed. When people see its golden dome rising above the open expanse of al-Masjid al-Aqsa, they think of only one place in the world, Jerusalem. It is unquestionably a major tourist attraction.

I WILL END MY BOOK BY DISCUSSING ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL LIFE IN ISLAM:

- "But whoever kills a believer intentionally - his recompense is Hell, wherein he will abide eternally, and ALLAH has become angry with him (or her) and has cursed him (or her) and has prepared for him (or her) a great punishment." (Noble Quran, Ch.4:93).
- "So We (ALLAH) decreed for the tribe of Israel that if someone kills another person - unless it is in retaliation for someone else or for causing corruption in the Earth - it is as if he (or she) had murdered all humankind. And if anyone gives life to another person, it is as if he (or she) had given life to all humankind. Our Messengers came to them with Clear Signs but even after that many of them committed outrages in the Earth." (Noble Quran, Ch.5:32).
- Say, "Come and I will recite to you what your LORD (ALLAH) has made forbidden for you': that you do not associate anything with Him; that you are good to your parents; that you do not kill your children because of poverty - We will provide for you and them; that you do not approach indecency - outward or inward; that you do not kill any person ALLAH has made inviolate - except with the right to do so. That is what He instructs you to do so that hopefully you will use your intellect." (Noble Qur'an Ch. 6:151)

- "Those who do not call on any other GOD together with ALLAH and do not kill anyone ALLAH has made inviolate, except with the right to do so, and do not fornicate; anyone who does that will receive an terrible punishment." (Noble Qur'an, Ch.25:68)
- Muhammad (PBUH) listed the kinds of people who are not pleasing to ALLAH. "Those who act cruelly and unjustly in the sacred lands, those who yearn for the ways of the ignorant and those who wrongly shed human blood." (Bukhari)
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The first thing to be adjudicated on the Day of Judgement will be those of bloodshed (killing and injury)." (Bukhari, Muslim)

MUHAMMAD (PBUH) SET 10 RULES FOR HIS SOLDIERS TO ABIDE BY IN WAR:

- Do not kill any child, any woman, or any elder or sick person." (Sunan Abu Dawud)
- Do not practice treachery or mutilation .(Al-Muwatta)
- Do not uproot or burn palms or cut down fruitful trees.(Al-Muwatta)
- Do not slaughter a sheep or a cow or a camel, except for food." (Al-Muwatta)
- If one fights his brother, (he must) avoid striking the face, for ALLAH created him in the image of Adam (PBUH)." (Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim)
- Do not kill the monks in monasteries, and do not kill those sitting in places of worship. (Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal)
- Do not destroy the villages and towns, do not spoil the cultivated fields and gardens, and do not slaughter the cattle." (Sahih Bukhari; Sunan Abu Dawud)
- Do not wish for an encounter with the enemy; pray to ALLAH to grant you security; but when you [are forced to] encounter them, exercise patience." (Sahih Muslim)
- No one may punish with fire except the Lord of Fire (ALLAH)." (Sunan Abu Dawud).
- Accustom yourselves to do good deeds and to not do wrong even if they commit evil." (Al-Tirmidhi)

SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA ARE FORBIDDEN IN ISLAM:

Both Islam and Muslims as a whole are staunchly against euthanasia and suicide in any form. Life is sacred and very precious. ALLAH (GOD) created everything in the universe and only He has the right to end life. He has assigned a birth date and a date of death for each and every person. No one has the right to end their own life, or for any other person to end the suffering of another by assisting in their suicide.

- "And no person can ever die except by ALLAH's leave and at an appointed time." (Noble Quran, Ch.3:145).
- "Destroy not yourselves. Surely ALLAH is ever merciful to you." (Noble Quran, Ch.4:29).
- "Destroy not yourselves. Surely ALLAH is ever merciful to you." (Noble Quran, Ch.4:29).
- Narrated by Abu Hurraira, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Whoever purposely throws himself from a mountain and kills himself (or herself), will be in the (Hell) Fire falling down into it and abiding therein perpetually forever; and whoever drinks poison and kills himself with it, he (or she) will be carrying his (or her) poison in his (or her) hand and drinking it in the (Hell) Fire wherein he (or she) will abide eternally forever; and whoever kills himself (or herself) with an iron weapon, will be carrying that weapon in his (or her) hand and stabbing his (or her) abdomen with it in the (Hell) Fire wherein he (or she) will abide eternally forever." (Bukhari)

MUHAMMAD (PBUH) AND KINDNESS TO ANIMALS:

- Muhammad (PBUH) not only preached to the people to show kindness to each other but also to all living souls. He forbade the practice of cutting tails and manes of horses, of branding animals at any soft spot, and of keeping horses saddled unnecessarily. (Sahih Muslim)
- If Muhammad (PBUH) saw any animal over-loaded or over-worked he (Muhammad, PBUH) would pull up to the owner (of the animal) and say, "Fear ALLAH in your treatment of animals." [Abu Dawood]

- A companion (of Muhammad, PBUH) came to him with the young ones of a bird in his sheet and said that the mother bird had hovered over them all along. He (the companion) was directed (by Muhammad, PBUH) to replace her offspring in the same bush (Mishkat, Abu Dawood)
- During a journey, somebody picked up some birds eggs. The bird's painful note and fluttering attracted the attention of Muhammad (PBUH), who asked the individual to replace the eggs. [Sahih Bukhari]
- Muhammad (PBUH) said, "If someone kills a sparrow for fun, the sparrow will cry out on the Day of Judgment, 'O Lord (ALLAH)! That person killed me in vain! He (or she) did not kill me for any useful purpose." The listeners asked, "O Messenger of ALLAH (PBUH), what is a just cause?" He replied, "That he (or she) will kill it to eat, not simply to chop off its head and then throw it away." (An-Nasa'i)
- As his (Muhammad, PBUH) army marched towards Mecca to conquer it, they passed a female dog with puppies. Muhammad (PBUH) not only gave orders that they (the soldiers) should not be disturbed, but posted a man to see that this was done. He (Muhammad, PBUH) stated, "Verily, there is Heavenly reward for every act of kindness done to a living animal."
- Muhammad (PBUH) commanded mercy unto all animals such that they are to be fed well, watered well, not forced to carry too heavy a burden, and not tortured or maimed for one's enjoyment.
- Abu Hurraira said that Muhammad (PBUH) said, 'While a man was walking on a road he became very thirsty. He found a well, went into it, drank, and came out. (Upon exiting he met) a dog panting and eating the dirt out of thirst. The man said, 'This dog has become stricken with the same degree of thirst which had stricken me.' He went down into the well and filled his shoe and then held it in his mouth until he climbed out and gave the dog water to drink. ALLAH rewarded him (for his good deed) and forgave him.' They said, 'O Messenger of ALLAH (PBUH), are we rewarded for taking care of beasts?' He said, 'There is a reward (for you) in every creature with a moist liver.'" (Narrated by Al-Bukhari, Muslim, and Malik)

- Sahl ibn Amr said, "Muhammad (PBUH) passed by a camel whose stomach quite touched its back (from extreme hunger or starvation). Upon seeing this Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Fear ALLAH in these unspeaking animals! Ride them (while they are) in good health, and eat them (while they are) in good health." (Narrated by Abu-Dawood)
- Narrated by Anas, Muhammad (PBUH) said, "All creatures are like a family (Ayal) of God: and he loves the most those who are the most beneficent to His family. (Bukhari)

IN ORDER FOR FOOD TO BE CERTIFIED AS HALLAL IT MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- The slaughterhouse must be under the supervision of a certified Hallal inspector. The inspector should be deemed a pious Muslim by the Muslim community and observant of the slaughter. A mentally unstable or feebleminded person cannot be a certified Hallal inspector.
- Each day before the slaughtering begins, the area, instruments, and machines to be used must be cleaned, and if applicable, sharpened.
- Each animal must be checked before slaughter. Only animals that are healthy and fully conscious can be slaughtered. An animal that has been killed by strangulation, a fall off of a cliff, trampled upon, beaten to death; tortured in any way, shape, or form; or if the slaughterer pronounced a name other than ALLAH (GOD) it is not Hallal. All pork products are categorized as Haram (forbidden, sinful). Foie gras and typical veal are not raised and slaughtered in a humane manner.
- The blade should be cleansed after each slaughter.
- At the time of the slaughter the slaughterer must say 'In the Name Of ALLAH (GOD) and 'ALLAH (GOD) Is the Greatest'.
- The jugular vein, oesophagus, and respiratory tract must be severed quickly and completely.
- No work on the animal can be done until it is dead.

- No animal should see the slaughter of another animal; as this may cause extreme panic and fear.
- The butcher must use his right hand to perform the action of killing the animal.

BELOW ARE WEBSITES THAT CAN BE USEFUL TO YOU. THE WORDS ON THE RIGHT OF THE URL IS WHAT YOU TYPE IN THE YAHOO SEARCH ENGINE BOX:

www.islamic sites.com Islamic Sites.com
www.islam tomorrow.com/islam Islam Tomorrow
www.isna.net Islamic Society of North America
www.caircan.ca Council on American-Islamic Relations Canada
www.islam religion.com The Religion of Islam
www.onislam.net On Islam.net
[www.iris.org.nz/death judgement.php](http://www.iris.org.nz/death_judgement.php) The Final Judgement: Iris.org
www.islamicway.tk IslamicWay.tk
www.wamy.co.uk World Federation of Muslim Youth
www.quranspeaks.com Let the Quran Speak
www.quran-o-sunnat.com Quran-O-Sunnat.com
www.islamsgreen.org Islam's Green

YOU CAN WATCH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ON YOUTUBE:

Shabir Ali	Bilal Assad
Navaid Aziz	Dr. Jamal Badawi
Ahmed Deedat	Sheikh Omar Elbana
Yousef Estes	Abdur Raheem Green
Yusuf Islam	Muhammad Abdul Jabbar
Nouman Ali Khan	Lisa Killinger
Muft Ismail Menk	Abdul Salam El-Menyawi
Dr. Zakir Naik	Yasir Qadhi
Sheikh Abdullah Hakim Quick	Sheikh Said Rageah
Shady Al-Suleiman	Hamza Tzortzis
Khalid Yasin	