

THUS SPEAKS THE QURAN

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my best friend Basharat Ahmad of Coral Springs, Florida. Basharat is one of those blessed men who seek wisdom and knowledge wherever it is. He has been encouraging and supporting me in our Quranic Mission for many years. I think, when it comes to sincerity, we need only a few close friends. For me, Basharat is on top of that worthy list.

I have the honor of him writing the introduction to quite a few of my books. Every visit of Basharat to his friend Shabbir is a rejuvenating delight. I have never been, and never will be, able to meet his affection and kindness.

May God bless him and his family!

Shabbir Ahmed, M.D.

INTRODUCTION:

WHAT IS THE QURAN?

According to Muslim belief, the Quran is a book revealed by the Almighty to the exalted Prophet Muhammad of Arabia between 610-622 CE. It is a guide of conduct for all humanity. Unbiased reflection tells any reader that the Book is indeed matchless in the wisdom, knowledge, benevolence and guidance it enshrines. The Quran, the Last Message of God to mankind, is a much smaller book than the Bible.

Prophet Muhammad (570-632 CE) was the last in the long chain of prophets, messengers and apostles of God who were raised to guide people in all parts of the world. He was the last prophet since the

Message delivered to him is for all humanity and it is complete, unaltered, and God Himself guarantees its protection for all times.

It sounds strange that most people have no hesitation in accepting the fact that God revealed His messages to the exalted prophets Abraham, Moses, Jesus and others, but suddenly fall into skepticism when it comes to Muhammad (S). TSQ (THUS SPEAKS THE QURAN) will let the reader see the superb quality of the Final Message of God to mankind.

The Quran is all about you humans and it will give you eminence. [21:10]

O' Mankind! There has now come to you Enlightenment from your Sustainer, and a healing for everything that troubles your hearts, and Guidance, and Grace to all who embrace it. [10:57]

Nay, they deny it without grasping the profound knowledge therein. And they have yet to see the benevolent transformation it can bring about in the making of humanity.... [10:39]

Realistic Optimism

Let us not be disappointed or distracted by the deplorable actions of the so-called Muslims today. We know that a tree is known by the fruit it bears. Unfortunately, the Muslims are getting their fruit from a bad tree. They have forsaken the Quran in favor of the Mullah's writings and preaching. This Counterfeit, "Imamist", Tradition-based, Alien, Ritualistic, Fatalistic, Superstitious, 73 Virgin-oriented and non-Quranic, "Islam" preaching manmade Shari'ah, has wrought misery to humanity in general and humiliation to Muslims in particular, and it is destined to be routed. God willing, with efforts like ours, the world is about to witness and experience the most benevolent, Quran-based Islam soon, Islam that is a blessing to all humanity.

Revelation economizes human effort. Without it, humans toil in search of the right system. [84:6]

WHAT IS TSQ?

Although the entire Quran is full of wisdom, knowledge, benevolence and guidance for mankind, "Thus Speaks the Quran" (TSQ) briefly presents the fundamentals of the Divine Message. It is intended to be simple and reader-friendly for all, especially for those on the go.

For simplicity and brevity, I have paraphrased the central themes of the Quranic verses. Particular care has been taken to preserve the original meanings. This work is NOT a literal translation.

Undue bias in the West keeps people from enriching their lives with the Supreme Quranic wisdom. The objective of TSQ is not trying to defend the Quran which, I believe, needs no defense. For details, the reader may check one of my books, “[Islam As I Understand](#)” or “[Who Wrote The Quran?](#)” In addition to hard copies, they are available online at www.ourbeacon.com.

WHY TSQ?

It is our sincere and fervent desire that no human being should remain deprived of the unique Beacon of Light, Al-Quran. We see quotes from every Tom, Dick & Harry in print and electronic media, but, according to Murad Hoffman, "Mentioning the Quran in the West is like quoting Satan." I wish to effectively change this unfortunate perception since the Quran is an unparalleled guidance for all humanity. Muslims have no exclusive rights to it. Rather, it is they who have abandoned it in favor of books written by “Imams” and Mullahs. However, since Muslims are thought to be the custodians of the Quran, their deplorable actions naturally alienate non-Muslims from this Treasure of treasures. We cannot blame the westerners for preemptively rejecting the Benevolent Quran since they have been made to think of it as a demonic book. Here is an opportunity for anyone and everyone to conveniently check the reality first hand.

Note: Surah means Chapter and Ayah means verse. References may be given within brackets. For example, 2:31 written as [2:31] will mean Chapter 2, verse 31. Muhammad (S) or the Prophet (S) indicates ‘our salutes to him’.

The What & Why Of The Universe:

It is often said that great minds think alike. Quite a few brilliant minds in the West, at the height of their intellectual inquiry, seem to come close to the glorious concepts, principles, and ideals of Divine intelligence given in the Quran. For example:

“I think, therefore I am.”

– [Rene Descartes](#) (1590 to 1650, French philosopher)

Descartes’ ability to think proved to him and others that his existence was real. Most simply, this demolishes the false dogmas of "Wahdat al-Wujud" (Unity of being), Mysticism, Pantheism, and Sufism all of which deny the real existence of everything but God.

[Plato](#) thought of the Universe as ‘a reflection of ideas’, “The real existence is only of the World of Ideas. All that we see around us is an image of that World.”

Great **Hindu philosophers** thought of the Universe as **God's dream**, "Lord **Brahma** is dreaming in a deep slumber. The dream is this Universe and the day He wakes up, it would be the end of the show." Some thought of God as "**Nut Rajan**", the Great Player: "The Universe is a toy and **Lord Rama** is playing with it." Said a little differently by philosopher Manu, "The Cosmos is Ramji's 'leela' (doll) and Ramji is playing with her." [Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sir William Muir, the governor of UP during the 1860s]

The Quran states that the entire Universe, including mankind, has a real existence. It has been created for a definite purpose, not in mere play. And it runs according to permanent, immutable Divine laws. So, water flows down-stream, gravity pulls, fire is hot, ice is cold, things float on water or sink in accordance with their specific gravity, planets revolve in their assigned orbits, all living beings face death, night and day alternate, opposite poles attract, like poles repel, actions have reactions, metals are good conductors of heat and electricity while non-metals are not, magnet will pull iron and leave aside wood, elements will always have fixed densities and boiling and freezing points, heat expands, cold contracts, all things are made of atoms, and so on.

When we discover any of such laws, we call it science. If the physical laws in Nature were to keep changing, no science would have been possible.

God creates His laws in the **World of Command** as He wills. Then He implements these laws in the **World of Creation** (Universe or Nature). Although the all Powerful God can change these laws, He never does. Therefore, nothing 'supra-natural', 'supra-rational' or 'supernatural' happens in the Universe. What is called 'chance', something incredible, unexplainable, or a 'miracle' today, becomes easily comprehensible tomorrow as we advance in knowledge.

["One who disbelieves in miracles, is an infidel; one who believes in them, is a fool." - Talmud]

The Universe is an absolute reality It has been created for a definite purpose Not for mere play It has been designed such that everything in it must become what it is meant to be And that every action gets a just recompense Universal laws never change or deviate.

10:5 God has created the Universe as the absolute reality and for a definite purpose. ...

35:43 No change you will ever find in the laws of God, and no deviation you will ever find in them [6:34, 6:116, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 35:43, 40:85, 48:23]

7:54 Remember! To Him belongs the World of Creation, and to Him belongs the World of Command. Exalted is God, the Lord of the Worlds. [10:3, 11:7, 13:2, 25:59, 50:38, 57:4, See 41:10]

18:27 None can alter His Words [His laws in Theory (Kalimaatillah), and His laws in Practice as implemented in the Universe (Sunnatillah), never change. 6:34, 6:116, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 40:85, 48:23]

21:16 We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in mere play, without purpose. [11:7, 45:22, 53:31]

45:22 God has created the heavens and earth with a definite purpose, and every 'self' shall be compensated for what it has earned. And no injustice will be done to them.

Just as the Divine laws govern the Universe, they also govern our physical bodies.

Why Not Let The Divine Laws Govern Our Conduct As Well? Guess What? That Is What Islam Is.

This is another beauty of the Quran: It rationally negates all superstitions and false dogmas of the past, present and future. There is not a single intellectual inquiry that the brightest human mind could raise and its answer is not already given in the Book.

Another very significant factor has been playing its role almost unnoticed. The Quran has been, perceptibly and imperceptibly, making a Universal impact on human civilization during the last fourteen centuries. The celebrated French surgeon, thinker and historian, Robert Briffault (1876-1978), has very convincingly elaborated this fact in his remarkable work, "The Making of Humanity."

The Quran Is On The March

"The ideas that inspired the French Revolution and the Declaration of Rights that guided the framing of the American Constitution and inflamed the struggle for independence in the Latin American countries [and elsewhere] were not inventions of the West. They find their ultimate inspiration and source in the Holy Koran." "The Renaissance of Europe did not take place in the 15th century. Rather it began when Europe learned from the culture of the Arabs. The cradle of European awakening is not Italy. It is the Muslim Spain." (Robert Briffault, The Making of Humanity)

- 1. Despotism:** At the time of the advent of Islam in 610 CE, kings and tyrants were ruling countries, nations, and tribes. There was no idea of

human liberty, equality, and rule of law. The Quran uprooted tyranny with one stroke of pen:

No person has the right to command obedience of people even though he is a messenger of God. [3:79]

Command belongs to God alone and all His commands are given in the Quran. [6:57] So, a truly Islamic government will not rule, it will only implement those laws.

Now, look at recent history. Isn't the world moving away from despotism, kingdoms and autocracies?

2. Democracy: It is often claimed that Bacon, Rousseau, Locke and other European thinkers laid down the foundations of modern democracy. But the Quran had decreed fourteen centuries ago:

The affairs of the believers are a matter of counsel. [42:38]

Muslim rulers were elected and then obtained allegiance of the masses. (Ironically, autocratic rule today is seen mostly among countries that call themselves Muslim. This is another instance of the Muslims' departure from the Quran).

3. Human worship: The exalted Messenger broke the idols of personalities. The greatest man who ever walked this earth kept repeating, "I am but a mortal like you." [18:110]

Since the exalted Messenger's advent, human worship has been dwindling throughout the world.

4. Racism: Fourteen centuries ago, the whole world was drenched in racism. Aristotle taught around 500 BC that the Greeks were superior to all nations. He 'owned' 40 slaves and brought 40 kinds of logic in support of slavery. The Romans divided their own people among classes. There were about eight slaves per Roman elite. India demonstrated racism to an extreme degree; a newborn's whole life depended on whether he was born into a Brahman (priest), Khatri (soldier), Vaish (businessman), or Shudra (untouchable) family.

Muhammad (S) toppled the world of false traditions, "There is no superiority of a black over a white or a white over a black. All of you belong to the same single stock. The best among you is the one who is best in conduct." [Farewell Address, 49:13]

Who is the considered the greatest leader of these times? It is Nelson Mandela, who fought and won the battle against apartheid.

5. Human Rights: Here I suggest that the reader examine three most celebrated documents on human rights:

- The British Magna Carta (1215 CE)
- The American Constitution (1787 CE)
- The United Nations Charter of Human Rights (1945)

Then study only the brief "Farewell Sermon" of the exalted Messenger Muhammad and compare. The intelligently written human documents seem to pale in comparison to just one sermon of Muhammad (S).

The Quran had declared in the 7th century, "Indeed, We have conferred dignity on all children of Adam" (regardless of where the child is born). [17:70]

6. The Caste System: The exalted Messenger declared and established human brotherhood and equality by personal example. He belonged to the noblest of tribes and families. Yet, he humbly repeated "I am a mortal just like you." He further advised his closest family members that being a relative of Muhammad will be of no avail to them. He established that the only criterion of superiority among men and women will be their character (or conduct). Color, creed, family, gender or wealth would not impart honor to any individual.

Now which way is the world moving?

7. Slavery: The exalted Messenger shook up the so-called masters of men: "Their mothers had born them free. How could you enslave them? What if you were made their slaves and they were made your masters!"

The Quran, while explicitly pronouncing equality and brotherhood of all humans, ordered to "Free all captives and slaves for ransom or better as kindness." There is no third option. [47:4] The emancipation of slaves (male and female) took place without shedding a drop of blood. It was a noble revolution in the hearts of people. Without the Divine Light, the 19th century America, even under the great leadership of Abraham Lincoln, had to sacrifice one million dead and wounded attempting to abolish slavery!

8. Priesthood: At the dawn of Islam, priesthood was the worst oppressor of humanity. They were considered to possess infinite occult powers. They enjoyed greater authority than the kings did. They could condemn the "Children of God" to be hanged, crucified or burnt alive!

The Quran proclaimed that God is the only Knower of the Unseen. [72:26]
There is no medium between man and God because He is "closer to him than the Vena Cava." [50:16]

9. Womens' Rights: In the times when women were considered the property of men and were treated worse than slaves; when "Eve" and "evil" were considered synonymous and a woman was a "shameful load of sin", when Christian conferences were discussing questions such as

- Does woman have a soul? - Is she human? - Will she be resurrected?

The Quran declared:

O' Men & Women! You have a common origin. [4:1]

"... All of you, men and women, belong to the same single stock." [49:13]

The believers, both men and women, are colleagues one of another. [9:71]

"Women have rights unto you as you have rights unto them." [2:187]

"Every person will be rewarded according to one's actions, male or female." [4:32]

And the exalted Prophet taught:

- Paradise lies at the feet of your mothers.
- The best among you is the one who is best to his wife.
- O' Men! You will be questioned about your treatment of women.

On the other hand, the New Testament still teaches: "Let the woman learn in silence . . . She is to keep silent . . . Adam was not deceived but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. (Timothy 2:11-15).

"The head of every man is Christ, the head of a woman is her husband ... for if a woman will not veil herself then she should have her head shaved ... woman [was created] for man" (Corinthians 11:3-10).

It is interesting to note that women gained the right to vote in 1920 in the USA. When did Muslim women attain it? In the 7th century!

10. Science: While Europe was struggling through the Dark Ages, Muslims were performing scientific miracles under the Quranic teaching that natural laws had been made subservient to man. 2:34] Here is one of the scores of

amazing scientific facts given in the Quran in the seventh century that were unknown to mankind even in the 1900s: The sun was always thought to be stationary in the center of the solar system. The Quran had, however, revealed 1400 years ago, "The sun is moving along toward its appointed destination." [36:38]. Only in the 20th century, science discovered that the sun is moving toward a specific destination at 43,200 miles per hour!

“Roger Bacon owed his illumination to the Muslim Moors of Spain. The great figures of European Renaissance could see further because they stood on the shoulders of the giants of the Muslim world. Those achievements represent what the Muslim world has been in the past. They also point to what it could become in the future.” (Richard Nixon - Nixon's Ten Commandments)

11. Nationalism: Arnold Toynbee in his celebrated 1952 work, “The World and the West”, called nationalism a form of idol worship. In his writings and lectures he repeatedly urged the world leadership to break this idol. After all, who is unaware of the devastation caused to our planet by the World Wars I and II? Nationalism was the obvious root cause of this massive trauma to humanity.

Years before Toynbee, Sir Muhammad Iqbal, on the authority of the Quran, called nationalism "the modern idol that mankind has sculpted". Fourteen hundred years ago, the Quran had ordained all mankind to be one nation. [2:213, 10:19 and many more verses] That announcement left no room for manmade geographical boundaries.

12. Pragmatism: At the dawn of Islam, Greeks were the torchbearers of knowledge in the world but the Greek knowledge rested on theory and logic. Experimentation had no place in their system of learning. Aristotle had written that women were deficient in intellect because they had only 28 teeth. He never even bothered to look! He also stated that an egg would perpetually float in the ocean! It was only Islam that taught mankind of the necessity of testing a theory or ideology by way of experimentation.

17:36 And you shall not follow blindly any information of which you have no direct knowledge. (Using your faculties of perception and conception) you must verify it for yourself. In the Court of your Lord, you will be held accountable for your hearing, sight, and the faculty of reasoning.

Moral Code of the Quran:

- a. Equal human dignity by birth. (17:70, 95:4)
- b. Gender equity. (4:32, 33:35)
- c. Superiority by character only. (49:13, 46:19)
- d. Rule of law, not of individuals. (3:79)

- e. Full compensation of work. (53:39, 53:41, 39:70, 37:39)**
- f. Provision of basic needs. (20:118-119)**
- g. Security of faith, life, mind, honor, and property. (6:109, 6:152, 2:269, 17:36, 24:2, 22:40, 6:152, 5:90, 2:195, 5:32, 17:32, 17:35, 17:29, 83:1)**
- h. Choice of spouse. (4:3, 4:19)**
- i. Freedom of religion. (2:148, 2:193, 2:256, 4:88, 5:48, 6:104, 6:107-108, 7:177-178, 10:99, 12:108, 18:29, 22:39-40, 27:80-81, 39:41, 56:79, 73:19)**
- j. Freedom of expression. (2:42, 3:71)**
- k. Redress of grievances. (4:148)**
- l. Right to privacy. (33:53, 24:27)**
- m. Care of the handicapped. (4:36, 70:24)**
- n. Presumption of innocence. (49:6)**
- o. Sanctity of name and lineage. (49:11, 33:4)**
- p. Right to residence. (4:100, 2:85, 6:41)**
- q. Aesthetic choice. (18:31, 76:13-15)**
- r. Protection of chastity. (17:32, 24:2)**
- s. Race, color, gender, lineage, wealth, nothing, nothing but good conduct, is the only criterion of honor. (49:13)**
- t. Degrees of people according to their deeds. (2:212, 3:163, 6:132)**

It is noteworthy that human rights outlined in the Quran are not subject to the whims of nations or individuals as in the manmade documents.

Let Us Continue:

A'uzubillahi-min-ash-Shayitan-ir-Rajeem

I most humbly shelter myself with Allah against the reprehensible promptings of all evil sources including my own ego.

['Shayitaan' = Satan = The straying Ego = Selfish desire = Self-glorification = False pride = Desire that rebels against the higher controls of sound judgment. Emotions that rebel against the Permanent Moral Values = Intrinsic or extrinsic evil prompting = Negative peer pressure = Violent emotions = A rumor monger, slanderer = A hinderer of good = He who spreads corruption and disorder in the Earth = Anyone who impels others into violating the Permanent Moral Values = Bad company = Anything or Anyone that deceives or charms people into violating Divine Laws = Any being or

influence that alienates man from the Creator and, thus, distances itself from Divine Grace. 2:14, 4:38, 4:60, 4:83, 4:119, 5:90-91, 6:43, 6:143, 7:200, 17:26-27, 22:3-4, 25:28-29, 31:21, 67:5.]

Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Raheem

With the Glorious Name of God, the Ultimate Source of Instant Beneficence and Eternal Mercy Who embraces the entire Universe nourishing and taking care of all things for becoming what they are meant to be, just as a mother's womb nourishes the embryo to completion without any returns.

The Quran Is For All [2:112, 34:28, 49:13]

2:112 Nay, whoever submits his whole being to God, and he is a doer of good to humanity, his reward is with his Lord. Then, no fear shall come upon them nor shall they grieve.

34:28 (O' Messenger) We have sent you as a bringer of glad news and as a warner to mankind at large, but most people are (at this time) unaware of this fact.

49:13 O' Mankind! We have created you male and female, and have made you nations and tribes so that you may affectionately come to know (identify) one another. Certainly, the most honored among you, in the Sight of God, is the one who is best in conduct. God is Knower, Aware.

Incredible Falsification Tests – “Prove Me Wrong”, Says the Quran.
The Quran is also a unique book in that it offers falsification tests.

One - The Quran is the only scripture to assert that there is no contradiction in it. Indeed, close examination fails to reveal one single contradiction in the Book.

2:176 ... God has revealed the Book in absolute truth; therein is no contradiction. ...

4:82 Will they not then, try to understand this Quran? If it were from other than God they would have found in it much contradiction and inconsistencies.

Two - It also challenges all mankind to get together and produce one chapter like this. [2:23, 4:82, 17:88]

2:23 (For the real skeptic, here is a reason-friendly offer.) If you are still in doubt concerning what We have revealed to Our servant (Muhammad), call and set up (a committee, commission,

organization, association of the highest order) all your helpers besides God, and then produce just one Surah (Chapter) like this, if you are truthful.

10:38 Or, do they say, "He has invented it"? Tell them, "Bring one Surah like this and call for help everyone you can besides God, if you are truthful." [2:23, 11:13]

Three - The Quran presents another beautiful and most pragmatic falsification test. It invites the people among whom the exalted Prophet lived, to reflect on his spotless character. The people of Arabia used to call him Al-Amin (the trustworthy) and As-Sadiq (the truthful) even before he was commissioned to the prophetic office.

7:184 Has it never occurred to them that there is no fault whatsoever in their fellow-man? He has lived a whole life among you

10:16 Say, "...I have dwelt among you a whole lifetime before this. Will you not, then, use your sense?"

Not a single person rose to deny this noble proclamation of the Quran. None could point out a single flaw in his character.

Four – Muhammad (S) never asked for a reward for his services. [12:104, 25:27, 38:86]

Five - Over the last fourteen centuries, advancing human knowledge has been proving the truth of the Quran again and again.

41:53 In time, We will show them Our signs in the utmost horizons and within themselves, so that it will become clear to them that this Quran is certainly the truth. Is it not enough for them to know that your Lord is Witness to all things (including this proclamation)? [9:31-33, 13:31, 14:48, 18:48, 41:53, 48:28, 51:20-21, 61:9]

Muslims should have been the first ones to do this research, but, as I mentioned, unfortunately, they are the first ones to forsake the Noble Book.

25:30 And the Messenger will say, "O' My Lord! These are my people, the ones who had forsaken this Qur'an making it of no account."

Whenever science proves and establishes some theory as fact, people notice with amazement that it has been present in the Quran for fourteen centuries! For example,

51:47 And it is We Who built the Universe with power, and certainly, it is We Who are steadily expanding it.

[36:38, 55:5. The expansion of the Universe was first proposed by the Belgian cosmologist Georges Lemaitre and the Russian scientist A. Friemann. In 1929, it was observed for the first time by the American astronomer Edwin Hubble]

36:38 And the sun: it is running to its appointed destination. That is the measure of the Almighty, the Knower.

[Until the 19th century, it was thought that the sun was static. But, the celebrated Russian philosopher, astronomer and mystic, P.D. Ouspensky (1878-1947, author of Tertium Organum), had maintained that any science that contradicted the Quran would turn out to be false. Then, during Ouspensky's lifetime, it was discovered that the sun is moving towards a specified destination at 12 miles per second, 43,200 miles per hour! This destination has even been assigned names, the Solar Apex and the Constellation of Hercules]

Who taught such knowledge to the exalted Prophet in the middle of a barren desert centuries ago? Much detail on the subject is given in my book, **Who Wrote The Quran?** [The research minded reader may consult the following mind-boggling references in the Quran, especially in my rendition, **QXP, The Quran As It Explains Itself**. It is replete with modern scientific examples for the reader of this book. 2:29, 5:17, 6:125, 10:61, 10:92, 11:37, 12:54, 13:2, 16:15, 16:68-69, 19:65, 21:30-33, 22:5, 23:13-14, 24:40-45, 25:53, 25:61, 34:3, 34:15-16, 36:36, 36:40, 39:5, 43:12, 44:10, 55:19-20, 75:4, 79:30, 89:6-7, 96:15-16 etc. **QXP** and **Who Wrote The Quran?** - are available online. www.ourbeacon.com]

Thirty-five Objections: It is interesting to learn that throughout history, the smartest people have been able to conjure up only 35 objections against the Glorious Book. From Abu Jahl in 615 CE to the opponents in 2010, the same 35 objections have been circulating and re-circulating for fourteen centuries. Isn't it miraculous that every one of these 35 points has directly and convincingly been answered right within the Book?

Now, Some Glorious Teachings Of The Quran:

How God Nourishes the Universe:

God nourishes the entire Universe for everything in it to become what it is meant to be, just as a mother's womb nourishes the embryo to completion, and without any returns. [Rahman]

What Is Satan?

Satan is nothing but one's selfish desire or inflated ego. It is no extrinsic entity. [Ash-Shayitaan] The story of Adam and Satan or Iblis in the Quran is a beautiful and dramatic allegory for us to enjoy and understand. [2:31-34]

The exalted Prophet is reported to have said that every person has one's own Satan within. The noble companions respectfully asked, "Even you, O' Messenger of Allah?" He responded, "Yes, though I have made him a Muslim (submitter to Allah)." The Prophet (S) had made his desires subservient to God's commandments and laws.

What Are Angels?

They are the forces of Nature, like gravity, electricity, thunder, lightning, air, rain, water cycle, atmosphere, seasons, celestial bodies, and atomic energy that relentlessly strive to carry out Divine commands and keep order in the Universe. They do not have free will and do as God commands them. [2:31-32]

The Forbidden Tree

What was the Forbidden Tree? Mankind branching off and dividing like the branches of a tree; based on selfishness, family, tribe, wealth and prejudice. It was neither the "Tree of Knowledge" nor the "Tree of Eternal Life". [2:35, 2:213, 10:19, 20:117-118, 49:13]

Did Eve Deceive Adam?

Ah, the poor woman of the Bible! According to the Quran, Satan deceived Adam and his wife both (the early humans). They admitted their fault and their repentance was accepted. [2:37, 7:21-24]

7:21 Satan swore to both, man and woman, "I am a sincere advisor to you."

7:22 So by deceit Satan brought about their downfall. They tasted of the tree of discord and started to divide into branches....

Where Is This Universe Going?

The entire Universe is in a state of journey to its appointed destination and all things in it are undergoing evolution to become what they are meant to be. Ultimately, all actions will receive a just recompense. [1:3 Yaum-id-Deen, 10:4, 45:22]

There is a coherent plan in the Universe, though I don't know what it is a plan for. [British astronomer, author, Sir Fred Hoyle. He knew to the extent that there is a coherent plan]

Reincarnation: Is Life Cyclical?

The Quran strongly negates the dogma of reincarnation which subscribes to a cyclical theory of life. The theory originated with Plato and was adopted by Hindu philosophers. The Quran corrects the fallacy by stressing that Life in the Universe goes on with a linear ascending evolution with all creation moving on to newer and higher forms. The human 'self' also ascends on the ladder of self-actualization by benefiting people.

.... Indeed, my Lord is on the Straight Path. [He has designed the Universe and the life therein for evolution in a linear, ascending fashion. [11:56]

Linear Ascent of the human 'self'. [90:10-20]

[God has designed the Universe so that all things go through evolution. It is an ascending, linear journey that makes progress possible and allows all things to become what they are meant to be. In the Cyclical hypothesis of the Greek philosophers, things will keep revolving in a circle like oxen endlessly going around water well without covering any real distance. Christian Monasticism, Judaic Mysticism, Hindu and Buddhist Mythology, Sufism etc delineate the ultimate objective of humans as freeing themselves of this endless cycle of life. They call it 'salvation'. It becomes obvious that salvation is a negative notion, whereas the Quran motivates us to attain a positive goal, eternal success. The dogma of Original Sin in Christianity also involves restoration of humans to the zero point, a sinless state, once again a negative connotation]

Human Dignity As A Birth Right

We have conferred dignity on all children of Adam regardless of where the child is born. (All humans are created equally worthy of dignity as a birth right.) [17:70]

Every human being is worthy of respect and honor regardless of color and creed. [17/70]

All children are born with a clean slate and without any blot of their ancestors' sins. [53:39, 17:70]

There is no such thing as **Original Sin** because no person shall bear the load of another. [53:38]

Sanctity Of Life

One who kills one person, kills the entire mankind. One who saves a life, saves the entire humanity. [5:32]

Captives

Free all captives either as an act of kindness or ransom as soon as the battle is over. There is no third option. [47:4]

Slavery

No one is allowed to enslave another human being since all people are the slaves of God. [3:79, 7:157]

A Most Responsible Community

It is the noble duty of Muslims to see to it that no people oppress others. [2:143, 9:71, 22:78]

Aggression

Never commit aggression. God does not love aggressors. [2:190]

The Greatest Jihad And Duty

The greatest Jihad can be conducted only by means of the Quran. [Convey it in a decent manner. 25:52]

The Quran is a binding duty to act upon and convey to people. [28:85]

Knowledge

Human beings have been endowed with the capacity to attain knowledge while angels are not. [2:31]

Free Will

Humans are the only creation granted free will. They have been given the option of choosing their way. [2:256, 18:29]

Fatalism

There is no such thing as fatalism or pre-destiny. [As you sow so shall you reap. 53:39]

Asceticism

Do not deprive yourselves of the nice things life has to offer. [5:87]

57:27 ... As for monastic asceticism - We had never ordained it to them. They invented it themselves to (wishfully) seek God's approval....

World Economy

Disregard of the commands given in the Quran results in economic depressions and poverty. [20:124]

If the people of the townships had believed in the Divine laws and run their system right, We would have opened for them blessings

from the heaven and earth. ... [7:96]

People should work according to their capacity and get compensated according to their needs. [2:219, 4:36, 9:79, 24:61, 59:7]

God has spread out the earth for the benefit of all His creatures. People must not exploit the weak. [55:10, 7:73]

God has placed more than enough sustenance on earth but human beings are responsible for its equitable distribution. [62:11, 4:36, 9:60]

Spend on fellow humans all that is beyond your needs. [2:219]

People in power must establish the Divine System and set up the Just Economic Order (Zakaat) in which wealth circulates freely and everyone's needs are taken care of. [22:41]

Let not wealth keep revolving among the rich elite only. [59:7]

Good Deeds

The Quran does not leave the definition of 'good' and 'evil' vague.

A good deed is one that increases human potential and benefits others. A bad deed is one that hurts human potential and harms others. [2:62, 9:102, 11:114, 13:17, 53:31]

Benefiting Humanity

... The real existence on earth is of the one that benefits humanity. [13:17]

Love Of Wealth

Humans are too zealous in the love of wealth although God has given it to them as a trust. [57:7, 100:8]

The relentless greed of material gains distracts you from the real purpose of life until you go down to your graves. [102:1-2]

Spend on fellow humans all that is surplus. [2:219]

Honor

Keep a spotless character and live with honor. [7:26, 74:4]

Good conduct decorates you above and beyond the most beautiful attire and adornment. [7:26]

Special Honor For Women

Women in the society are the guardians of your future generations, just as a garden keeps the seeds and turns them into flowering plants. So, whenever you meet with women socially, treat them with respect, keeping the aforementioned principle in mind. This conduct will go a long way to insure the betterment of the future generations. [2:223]

Clarity Of Expression

Speak words straight to the point. [33:70]

Say what you mean and mean what you say. [3:167]

Do What You Say

Practice what you preach. [2:44]

Do not say or promise what you won't do. [61:3]

No Discrimination

God does not restrict His bounties to any individuals or communities, nor should you. [17:20]

Body Language

Do not walk on earth with pride. Neither could you bore through the earth, nor could you become as tall as the mountains. [The body language speaks louder than words. 17:37, 31:19, 40:75]

Walk humbly and lower your voice in humility. For, the harshest of voices is the voice of a donkey." [31:19]

Hygiene

Cleanliness is an essential part of belief. [Bath, ablution, cleanliness - 4:43, 5:6, 7:157, 22:26, 2:172, a quote from the exalted Prophet. Think of 17th and 18th century Europe, where baths were considered injurious to health]

The Quran Explains The "Why" Of Every Rule

The following verses, among many others, spell out for us very clearly what we should do and what we should not:

[16:90, 5:32, 6:140, 6:151, 17:31, 2:85, 60:8, 2:185, 2:219, 2:191, 5:38]

For example,

God commands: justice, creating balance in the society, benefiting humanity, kindness to His creation, and giving to relatives. And He forbids all indecent deeds, immodesty, stinginess, all criminal activity and rebellion. He instructs you again so that you may take it to heart. [16:90]

Some Do's:

- Justice
- Kindness
- Benefiting people
- Giving to relatives and to the needy
- Forgiveness
- Compassion
- Charity
- Clemency
- Trustworthiness
- Generosity
- Self-control
- Truthfulness
- Keeping pledges
- Service of creation

Some Don'ts:

- Indecent behavior
- Lying
- Immodesty
- Stinginess
- Rebellion
- Killing
- Intoxicants
- Gambling
- Persecution, terror, oppression
- Theft
- Anger
- Insensitivity
- Deception
- Slander
- Backbiting

Using Reason

People who do not use their senses and the faculty of reason live a subhuman life. [7:179]

Say (O' Prophet), "This is my way. Resting my call upon reason, I am calling you all to God, I and those who follow me. ...[We do not invite through blind faith, vague dogmas or by stunning your intellect with miracles. 12:108]

Majority

The majority is not necessarily right, rather most of the people follow conjecture and are misguided. [6:116, 10:36, 10:60, 16:75]

6:116 (People will confront you with what the majority is doing.) Now if you pay heed to, or get intimidated by majority of those who live on earth, they will lead you astray from God's way. Most of the people follow nothing but conjecture and they only live by guesswork. [6:116]

The majority of people follow nothing but conjecture. But conjecture can never be a substitute for the Reality of things. [10:36]

How To Treat People

How we should treat our **parents** (17:23-25), our **near and dear ones, neighbors, orphans** and the **downtrodden**, the **needy**, the **disabled** (4:36-37), **wives** (2:188, 4:20), **children** (6:153), **widows** (4:20), **enemies** (5:9), **companions** (24:61, 58:12).

4:36 Treat kindly your parents, relatives, the orphans and those who have been left alone in the society. Take care of the needy, the disabled, those whose hard earned income is insufficient to meet their needs, those whose businesses have stalled, and those who have lost their jobs. You shall treat kindly your related neighbors, and unrelated neighbors, companions by your side in public gatherings, or public transportation. Be generous to the needy wayfarer, the homeless son of the street, and the one who reaches you in a destitute condition. Be nice to people who work under your supervision. God does not love those who are proud, the boastful.

Relationship Between Spouses

Women, in all equity, have rights similar to men. [2:228]

Spouses must be a source of comfort to each other. [25:74]

Husband and Wife are like garments for each other, close to each other, source of mutual comfort, complementing each other, trustworthy and keepers of privacy, reason for décor, and redressers of faults. [2:187]

Virtuous spouses are a supreme gift from the Providence. [3:15]

You shall treat your wives nicely. Even if you dislike them, it may happen that God has placed much good in what you have failed to realize. [4:19]

The best among you are those who treat their household kindly. [The exalted Prophet]

Never take away the property you have gifted to a wife. [4:20]

Men & Women have equal rights. They have equal reward for their works. [4:7, 4:124, 16:97, 33:35, 49:13]

Fairness In Dealings

Do not devour the wealth and property of one another in a wrongful manner, nor bribe the officials or the judges to deprive others of their rightful belongings. This kind of behavior drags down your own humanity and harms the collective welfare of the society. [2:188]

Children, Care and Justice

God commands you further: Do not approach the wealth of the orphan except to improve it until they come of age with full maturity of body and mind. Give full weight and full measure in all your dealings. Uphold justice in all aspects of your life. [6:152]

Peace And Friendship With Enemies

... Let not the hatred of any people move you away from justice. [5:8]

Since good and evil cannot be alike, repel evil with what is decent. Then he, between whom and you there was enmity, may become a close friend. [41:34]

Make peace between contending factions. [49:9]

Remember that today's enemy could be tomorrow's friend. [60:7]

Hold in good esteem anyone who proclaims peace. [4:94]

God does not forbid you from being kind, and fully equitable to those who do not fight you on account of Religion, and do not evict you from your homelands. [60:8]

God loves those who lead a just, balanced life. [60:8]

Pleasant Attitude

... Whenever you enter houses, salute one another with a blessed, goodly greeting from God. [24:61]

... When you are told to make room in assemblies (and accommodate one another in the society), do make room. God will open up His resources for you. And when you are told to rise up, do rise up (to the occasion) ... [58:11]

Helping Orphans

Do not let the immature orphans manage their property that God has entrusted with you as guardians, until they are able to make sound financial decisions. Feed and clothe them decently, take care of all their needs, interact with them kindly and speak to them in a decent, recognized manner. [4:5]

Interpersonal Relationship – Courtesy & Kindness

Speak to people in plain terms with full understanding of their mental capacity and their viewpoints. [4:63]

Speak to people kindly and treat them nicely. [2:83]

When you are greeted with a greeting, respond with a better greeting or, at least, in the same manner. [4:86]

Greet each other saying, “Salamun alaikum!” (Peace and salutes to you!) [6:54]

When you enter your own home or the home of somebody else, compliment the inmates with a blissful greeting. [24/61]

Obtain permission and greet people with peace before entering any houses. [24:27]

Parents

(A benevolent society begins at home.) ...always be kind to your parents. If one of them or both attain old age, do not utter the slightest harsh word to them. Never repel them and always address them respectfully. [17:23]

Lower for them the wing of kindness and humility and say,

"My Lord! Bestow upon them Your grace and blessing as they raised me in kindness since I was little." [17:24]

Treat kindly your parents, relatives, the orphans and those who have been left alone in the society. [4:36]

We have enjoined upon the human kindness to his parents....[46:15]

Honor your parents, treat them kindly and fulfill their needs. [6:151]

Those In Need

Be generous to your parents, family and relatives, and to orphans, widows, and those left without any means to make progress in the society, and to those who have suffered loss of income, the disabled,

the needy, the poor. [2:83, 17:53]

Take care of the needy, the disabled, those whose hard earned income is insufficient to meet their needs, those whose businesses have stalled, and those who have lost their jobs. [2:215]

Be generous to the needy wayfarer, the homeless son of the street, and the one who reaches you in a destitute condition. [8:41]

Be nice to people who work under your supervision. [2:83, 2:215, 4:36, 17:53]

Manners, Attitude, Behavior

Speak to one another in a kind manner and treat one another nicely. [2:83, 17:53]

Shun flamboyant behavior. [22:30]

Be a source of tranquility and comfort to others. [3:134]

Pardon people gracefully. [3:134]

Avoid open criticism of people unless you have been wronged. [4:148]

Help one another in acts of collective benefit and security and do not help one another in the acts of societal harm and discord. [5:2]

Make room for others to let them make progress in the society. [58:11]

Visit people at the appointed time and avoid futile conversation. [33:53]

Mankind Is One Community

All mankind is one community. [2:213, 10:19, 23:52]

A noble ideology makes people brothers and sisters. [3:103, 6:165, 49:10]

Those who share the Divine ideology are one family. [49:10]

Repentance

Take immediate corrective action if any misconduct has occurred from you. [3/135]

Exponential Growth

You will never attain exponential growth of the 'self' unless you open up for others the possessions you cherish. [3:92]

Neighbors

You shall treat kindly your related neighbors, and unrelated neighbors, companions by your side in public gatherings, or public transportation. [4:36]

Environment

Do not harm the infrastructure, produce of land and products of industry. [2:205]

Golden Rules

2:44 Practice what you preach ...

2:83 Speak to people kindly, and treat them nicely ...

8:61 When the enemy inclines to peace, you must incline to peace and trust in God.

61:2 Do the good that you say.

"You cannot be a believer unless you like for the fellow man what you like for yourself." [The exalted Prophet]

History

Travel and pick up lessons from history. [29:20, 22:46, 6:11, 40:21, 47:10, 30:42]

Bribery

Do not bribe the officials or the judges to deprive others of their possessions. [2/188]

Mutual Consultation

Conduct your affairs by mutual consultation. [42:38]

Meetings

Conferences must be held for noble goals and not for creating detriment and discord. [58:9]

Accommodate people in assemblies and in the society to make progress. [58:11]

Outdo Others

Outdo one another in perseverance and steadfastness. [3:200]

Outdo one another in benefiting the society. [5:48]

Discussions

Reason with people in a decent manner. [16:125]

Leave to themselves those who ... look for quick gains of the worldly life. [6:70]

Do not be in the company of those who ridicule God and His messages unless they engage in some other conversation. [4:140]

Since good and evil cannot be alike, repel evil with what is decent. Then he, between whom and you there was enmity, may become a close friend. [41:34]

Fear Of Death

Conviction in Eternal life helps conquer the fear of death since life goes on and the human 'self' never dies. [2:94-95, 2:243]

Death is an inevitable Divine law. Every living being is bound to taste death. [Why fear the inevitable? 3:185]

Endurance

Persevere in patience and constancy, outdo others in steadfastness. [3:200]

Self-protection

Guard yourselves and your families against actions that lead to bitter consequences. [66:6]

The Common Grounds Between Jews, Christians And Muslims

Acknowledging Prophet Abraham as the Patriarch of Faith can lay down the foundation of unity between Jews, Christians and Muslims. [2:135]

Self-assessment

The way to self-assessment of our personal growth: To what extent we have adopted the Divine 'hue' i.e. God's attributes in our human capacity. [Love, mercy, service, forgiveness, creativity, justice, truth, clemency, trustworthiness, responsibility, appreciation, kindness, gratitude, giving, selflessness, courage, patience, affection, strength, compassion, knowledge, wisdom, decision making, guiding, self-control, sound judgment, providing, being worthy of honor, self-confidence, courage, cleanliness, self-restraint, magnanimity, peace, peace-keeping etc. 2:138]

Blind Following

The sure way of going astray is blind following. [2:170]

Do not follow blindly any information of which you have no direct knowledge. [17:36]

Empty ritualism has nothing to do with Islam. [2:177, 9:19]

Not a single community ever suffered or faced annihilation for want of rituals. [Surah 11 Hud]

Most people follow nothing but conjecture and they only live by guesswork. [6:116, 10:36, 17:36]

Some Divine Laws

Divine laws in the Universe never change. [6:34, 6:116, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 40:85, 48:23] The grand empire of human learning, development, invention, science and technology would have failed to come off ground if God's physical laws in the Universe were to keep changing. So, water flows down-stream, gravity pulls, fire is hot, ice is cold, things float on water or sink in accordance with their specific gravity, planets revolve in their assigned orbits, living beings face death, elements will have fixed freezing and boiling points, night and day alternate, opposite poles attract, like poles repel, actions have reactions, metals are good conductors of heat and electricity while non-metals are not, magnet will pull iron and leave aside wood, elements will always have a fixed density, all things are made of atoms, heat expands, cold contracts, and so on.

There is life for the community in the Law of Just Recompense. [2:179]

Nothing can deter Divine laws. [3:10]

Those who ignore laws of Nature (science), trail behind in the community of nations. [29:42-44, 35:27-28]

God helps those who help themselves. [13:11, 47:7]

The Rise and Fall of nations follows well-defined laws given in the Quran. [3:26]

There are well-defined laws for attaining honor and facing humiliation. [3:26]

Some Admonitions

God loves those who serve humanity. [3:134]

Rule of Law should take priority over your families, wealth, business and homes. [9:24]

God loves those who keep clean of division and sectarianism. [9:108]

God's Right

Give God His right on the day of the harvest, i.e. whenever you earn income. It is the Divine right of the poor. [6:141]

Human Rights

Equal human dignity by birth. (17:70, 95:4)

Gender equity. (4:32, 33:35)

Superiority by character only. (49:13, 46:19)

Rule of law, not of individuals. (3:79)

Full compensation of work. (53:39, 53:41, 39:70, 37:39)

Provision of basic needs. (20:118-119)

Security of faith, life, mind, honor, and property. (6:109, 6:152, 2:269, 17:36, 24:2, 22:40, 6:152, 5:90, 2:195, 5:32, 17:32, 17:35, 17:29, 83:1)

Choice of spouse. (4:3, 4:19)

Freedom of religion. (2:148, 2:193, 2:256, 4:88, 5:48, 6:104, 6:107-108, 7:177-178, 10:99, 12:108, 18:29, 22:39-40, 27:80-81, 39:41, 56:79, 73:19)

Freedom of expression. (2:42, 3:71)

Redress of grievances. (4:148)

Right to privacy. (33:53, 24:27)

Care of the handicapped. (4:36, 70:24)

Presumption of innocence. (49:6)

Sanctity of name and lineage. (49:11, 33:4)

Right to residence. (4:100, 2:85, 6:41)

Aesthetic choice. (18:31, 76:13-15)

Protection of chastity. (17:32, 24:2)

Race, color, gender, lineage, wealth, nothing, nothing but good conduct, is the only criterion of honor. (49:13)

Degrees of people according to their deeds. (2:212, 3:163, 6:132)

Holding back charity is a violation of human rights. [2:270]

Withholding charity throws a society into self-destruction. [2:195]

God does not love the oppressors. [3:57]

God does not love the violators of human rights. [3:57]

Criminals are the ones who steal the fruit of others' labor and thus violate human rights. [7:41]

The Law of requital annihilated many communities for their violation of human rights. [10:13]

Not a single community ever suffered or faced annihilation for want of rituals. [Surah 11 Hud, many other verses]

Those who oppose the truth and violate human rights, God will never forgive them. [4:168]

When nations violated human rights with their unjust systems they were uprooted. [6:45]

The violators of human rights will be undone. [20:111]

The violators of human rights will soon come to know how viciously their affairs get overturned. [26:227]

Rule On Earth

Those who will believe in the Divine laws in nature and strengthen human resources will rule the earth. [24:55]

Prepare A Will

Preparing a will for the parents and family is a binding duty. [2:180, 4:11-12]

Mannerism

Do not be arrogant with people, and do not walk haughtily on earth. [31:18]

Walk humbly and lower your voice in humility. [31:19]

Pride of knowledge is the height of arrogance since above every man of knowledge there is one who knows more. [12:76]

Do not shout. Speak politely keeping your voice low. [31/19]

Do not be a bragging boaster. [31/18]

Be proactive rather than reactive. [3:17]

Do not argue in matters of which you have no knowledge. [3:66]

Do not ridicule the under-privileged for insufficient help. [9:79]

Sublimate your anger into creative energy. [3:134]

Be moderate in your pace. [31:19]

Walk on earth humbly and when the ignorant address you, say, "Peace!" [25:63]

When you hear a slander, think well of the fellow human beings. [24:12-16]

Do not slander. [24:4]

Do not ridicule others, nor defame them. [49:11]

Do not insult each other by offensive nicknames. [49:11]

Avoid suspicion and guesswork. [49:11]

Do not spy upon one another. [49:11]

Do not criticize anyone in his absence. No backbiting. [49:12]

Do not envy the prosperous. [4:54]

Respond to harsh words and actions with kindness. [13:23]

Appreciate fine arts and the nice things of life. [7:32]

Everyone acts in a manner peculiar to himself. (Human beings tend to make their own rules of conduct), but the best path has been shown by the Creator. [17:84]

Do not walk on earth with pride. Neither could you bore through the earth, nor could you become as tall as the mountains. [17:37]

Terrorism Is A Grievous Crime

Torture, persecution and creating terror are crimes even more grievous than killing. [2:191]

Leadership & Office

Beware! A dazzling speaker may be a corrupt leader. [2:204-205]

It is of little significance for a prospective leader to be wealthy. [2:247]

Wisdom and health are better than abundant riches. [2:247]

Two basic qualities of a good leader are Competence and Trustworthiness. [12:55, 28:26]

Entrust your offices to those who are capable, competent and sincere. [4:58]

How We Can Achieve Peace

[Peace cannot guard itself] Peace and security can be achieved only with collective commitment to justice. [2:208]

Human Judgment

Human judgment is never infallible. [2:216, 4:19]

Intoxicants And Gambling

The detriment of alcohol, intoxicants and gambling far outweighs their fleeting benefit. [2:219]

5:91 By means of intoxicants and games of chance (gambling), Satan, your rebellious and selfish desire, excites you to enmity and hatred among you and hinders you from being conscious of God and following the Divine System. Will you not then abstain?

Nourishment Of Infants

Breast-feeding the babies is the preferred choice. [2:233]

Wisdom & Knowledge

Wisdom and health are better than abundant riches. [2:247]

Wisdom is a great blessing. [2:269]

Wisdom and knowledge are granted to all those who benefit people since youth. [12:22, 28:14]

Make good use of your senses and the faculty of reasoning. [17:36]

Personal Accountability

Every person shall be responsible for, and compensated for, his/her labor [53:39]

Ranks of people are determined according to their deeds. [46:19]

People are accountable for their intentions and efforts and not for the results. [53:40]

Every person is responsible for one's own actions. [5:105]

None will bear the load of another. [53:38]

Freedom Of Religion

There is no compulsion in Religion. [2:256, 18:29]

This (Quran) is the truth from your Lord. Whoever accepts it let him accept it, and whoever rejects it, let him reject it. [18:29]

Had your Lord willed, all the people on earth would have believed in the Truth. Will you force people to become believers? [6:66, 10:99, 42:48]

The Prophet was not a guardian over people. His duty was to convey the message clearly. [4:80, 42:48]

It is not God's will that all people must believe. [10:99, 11:118]

Temples of any religion must be protected. [22:40]

God has placed no hardship in Islam. [2:185, 22:78]

Charity And Generosity

Spend on fellow humans all that is surplus. [2:219]

Do not inflict the recipients with reminders of your generosity. [2:262]

Do not give alms and charity for show off. [4:38]

Do not try to impress people with your piety. [53:32]

Giving charity brings lasting rewards and strengthens one's own 'self'. [2:265]

Help the needy without expecting any returns, not even a word of thanks. [76:9]

Give to others the decent things that you have honorably earned with hard work. [2:267]

The noble ones feel no hesitation in their hearts in helping the needy, giving them preference over themselves, even though poverty is their own lot. [59:9]

Whoever is saved from greediness of the heart, such are the ones who truly prosper. [59:9]

Keep your resources available for fellow humans. [3:134]

Give your relatives their Divinely ordained right, and give to those whose running businesses have stalled, those who have lost their jobs, the needy wayfarer, the homeless, and the one who reaches you in a state of destitution. Do not squander your wealth senselessly. [17:26]

Be easy on the debtor. Giving up the loan as charity is better for you. [2:280]

Give to the poor their Divine right whenever you earn income. [6:141]

Give charity while you are in good health and expect to live instead of waiting until ill health and death approaches you. [63:10]

Charities must go to, the poor, those who are not able to earn enough living to meet their basic needs, those whose running businesses have stalled or the ones who have lost their jobs, those who have become needy with their active lives coming to a stand-still, officials who have been appointed by the government to collect alms and charity, those who are hindered from joining the Divine System for financial reasons, to “free” men and women from bondage of any kind - physical slavery, unjust captivity, and oppression from any quarters, those who are pressed under the load of ransom or heavy debt from an enemy, defense of the Ideological State, in the cause of God, the wayfarer who becomes needy, those who travel to the believers in destitute condition, and the homeless son of the street. [9:60]

Giving charity in secret is better than announcing it. [2:271]

Adoption

Adoption is a great act of benevolence. Treat your adopted children like family members but do not conceal their biological parenthood.

[33:4-5]

Usury, Trade, Fair Earnings

Usury is return on money and hence forbidden, while trade is return on labor, and therefore, permissible. [2:275, 53:39]

Seek your provision by fair endeavor. [29/17, 2/188]

Give full weight and full measure in all your dealings. Uphold justice in all aspects of your life. Do not cheat people. [6:152, 7:85]

Be fair in business dealings and weights and measures. [6:152, 17:35]

Do not devour the wealth and property of one another. [2:188]

No Superstitions

Are you not aware of those who, after receiving their share of the Book (Quran), believe in 'JIBT' (occult sciences, baseless mysteries, magic, future-telling, astrology, zodiacs, clairvoyance, evil eye, good and bad omens, amulets, dreams and prophecies, palm-reading, soothsaying, superstitions of all kind, jinn or demon-possession of people, exorcism, blowing verses and senseless words on people or in food and drink, counting names on rosaries)? [4:51]

Documentation

Always document your loans, wills and future obligations. [2:282, 2:180, 4:11-12]

Modesty And Decency

Do not come near immodesty or indecent deeds, whether openly or in secret. [6:151]

Refrain from persisting in indecent behavior. Take immediate corrective action. [3:135]

Do not go near adultery. [4:24]

Avoid indecent shameful deeds, open or secret. These are actions that hurt the 'self' and drag down the individual and collective human potential. [7:33]

Unjust aggression is forbidden. [7:33]

Do not spread immorality. [24:19]

Do not stare at people. Men and women must lower their gaze and maintain chastity. [24:30-31, 40:19]

Dress-up in agreeable attire and adorn yourself with good conduct. [7:26]

Maintain chastity. [24:31-33]

Dress modestly. [33:59]

The Noble Goal

Individuals choose their goals. Let your goal be mutual benefit of humanity. [2:148]

Justice

Do not harm the advocates of justice. [3:21]

Do not bribe the officials or the judges to deprive others of their rightful belongings. [2:188]

Do not be an advocate for the treacherous. [4:105]

Do not blame others for your fault. [4:112]

Do not take stand in support of criminals. [28:17]

Be staunch in justice, even though your witness goes against yourself or your parents or your kindred. [4:135]

Uphold justice, be a witness to the truth. [5:8]

Let not the hatred of any people move you away from justice. Always deal justly. [5:8]

(What goes around comes around.) Whoever has done an atom's weight of good or evil, will see it. [99:7-8]

Do not withhold from people things that are rightfully theirs. [7:85]

Those who harass, molest or rape women could face capital punishment. [33:60]

Everyone shall be justly compensated for one's labor. [39:70, 53:39]

Promises, Pledges And Trusts

Fulfill your pledges and obligations. [5:1, 62:5]

Guard your trusts, duties and your pledges, as a shepherd guards his flock. [70:32]

Always keep your promise. [3:76]

Do not betray people. [8:27]

Be trustworthy especially to those who trust you. [8:27, 12:52, 23:8]

Fulfill your covenants. [17:34]

Keep your oaths. [16:91]

Treaties

Do not violate peace treaties. [9:4]

Trade

Give full weight and full measure in all your dealings. Uphold justice in all aspects of your life. Do not cheat people. [6:152, 7:85]

Be fair in business dealings and weights and measures. [6:152, 17:35]

Do not devour the wealth and property of one another. [2:188]

Decision Making

Think before making a decision and once decided, put your trust in God. [3:159]

Value Time And Avoid Vain Talk

Avoid vain talk and turn away from all that is senseless. [23:3, 28:55]

Withdraw from vain talk with dignity. [28:55]

Do not participate in assemblies of vanity and pass by futile activity with dignity. [25:72]

Right Means Are As Important As Right Ends

Adopt the right means for the right ends. [18:85, 18:89]

Moderation

Enjoy God's bounties, but do not commit excesses and waste not. [7:31]

Do not squander your wealth senselessly. [17:26]

Do not keep your hand chained to your neck in stinginess, nor open it foolishly lest you sit down destitute and denuded. [17:29]

Aesthetics

Enjoy the decent things of life. [7:32]

... Who is there to forbid the beauty that God has brought forth for His servants, and the good things of sustenance? [7:32]

[The Mullah said, "Well, we are here to forbid these." The Mullahs declare Haram the aesthetically pleasing things of life. They declare Impermissible pictures and photos of living things, paintings, sculptures, gold, silk, beautiful artwork, decent clothing and even dolls!]

Rumors

Refer all rumors to the government officials. [4:83]

Rule Of Law

All Command, Rule and Judgment belong to God alone. [6:57-62, 18:26]

A truly Islamic government will run their national affairs with mutual consultation deriving the basic principles from the Quran. Minor details of things will change according to the needs of changing times and environment. [42:38]

No one is allowed to enslave another human being. All people are the slaves of God. [3:79]

Never would a human being, whom God has blessed with the scripture, wisdom and even prophetic office, thereafter, say to people, "Be servants of me instead of God." [3:79]

Maintain peace and do not cause corruption and disorder. [7:85]

A balanced society will discourage indecent deeds and promote peace. [16:90]

Do not spread corruption in the land, for God does not love the corrupters. [28:77]

Unity Of Mankind

Diversity of tongues and color should be no barrier in the unity of mankind. [10:19, 30:22, 49:13]

All prophets/messengers were one in purpose. They preached unity of God and unity of mankind. [2:136, 4:152, 23:52]

22:34 To every community We have ordained rites that they might

extol the Name of God over the sustenance given to them Your God is the same; the One and only God. Therefore, submit to Him alone. And give good news to all those who are humble. [22:67]

Science & Technology

The entire Universe has been made subservient to mankind. [31:20, 45:12]

Angels prostrated before Adam i.e. humans are endowed with the ability to understand and harness the laws in Nature. [2:31]

Men of knowledge (Ulema) are the scientists who research on subjects like Meteorology, Water Cycle, Astronomy, Botany, Geology, Topography, Anthropology, Human soma and psyche, Biology, Zoology, Parasitology, Livestock, Nutrition, Archeology etc. [35:27-28]

Human Equality

There is only one criterion of superiority among people and it is their conduct. [49:13]

There is no such thing as low class people. [26:111-113]

Do not dismiss sincere people from your presence just because they are poor. Their reckoning is not your job. [6:52, 80:1-3]

Escort The Enemy To Safety

Provide safe passage to anyone of the aggressors requesting it. Escort him to where he feels secure. This kindness is mandatory. [9:6]

Truth

Do not confound the truth with falsehood. [2:42]

Do not knowingly conceal the truth. [2:42]

Conveying the truth is a duty, convincing people is not. [3:20]

Never cloak the truth with falsehood. [3:71]

People knowingly utter much falsehood. [3:78]

Do not try to conform the truth to people's wishes. [23:71]

If the truth had followed people's whims, the heavens and the earth and all beings therein would have suffered chaos. [23:71]

Testimony

When you voice an opinion, be just, even if it is against yourself or a family member. [4:135, 6:152]

Never give false witness. [25:72]

Abstain from lying and bearing false witness. [22:30]

Do not hide testimony. [2:283]

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Practice what you preach. [2:44]

Do not say or promise what you won't do. [61:3]

Diversity

[God could have made humans programmed by instincts like animals] If the Lord willed, all who are on earth would have believed. Will you, then, compel people to become believers? [10:99, 2:256, 76:4-6]

There is diversity of nations, colors and tribes so that they affectionately come to know one another. [49:13]

Change

All things, but the Almighty, are ever changing. [55:26-27]

Sectarianism

You must hold fast, all of you together, to the Bond of God and be not divided into sects and parties. [2:256]

The Prophet will have nothing to do with those who divide into sects. [6:159]

Abundance Of Evil

The dazzling abundance of evil can make it sound good or normal. [5:100]

Let not the abundance of evil dazzle you. [5:100]

Apostasy

[There is no worldly punishment for apostasy since there is no compulsion in religion] God will judge those who believe and then reject belief. [2:256, 4:137]

Those Who Seek Help

Always be kind to the helpless. [93:9]

Never repulse him who seeks help. [93:10]

Convey The Message

Convey the benevolent Divine Message for betterment of humanity. [93:7, 25:77]

God will not concern Himself with you if you did not call people to Him. ... [25:77]

Say (O' Prophet), "This is my way. Resting my call upon reason, I am calling you all to God, I and those who follow me. ...[We do not invite through blind faith, vague dogmas or by stunning your intellect with miracles. 12:108]

The greatest Jihad can be conducted only by means of the Quran. [Convey it in a decent manner. 25:52]

The Quran is a binding duty to act upon and convey to people. [28:85]

Denial is a common defense mechanism. People feel secure in the cocoon of their pre-conceived notions. [2:170, 6:104, 7:107, 21:53]

Twelve Maxims Of Intense Beauty

The Divine message has essentially been the same, always. Herein are mentioned some of those laws, Twelve Maxims of intense beauty.

53:38 i No laden one shall bear the load of another.

53:39 ii Every human being (male or female) shall be responsible for his works, and compensated for, his labor.

53:40 iii His effort (and not the results) will be seen.

53:41 iv Then he will be fully rewarded for it.

53:42 v To your Lord is the final destination. [79:44. Your goal shall be your Lord's Rule on earth]

53:43 vi He is the One Who causes you to laugh, and to cry. [The basic principles that cause nations to live in prosperity versus misery, have been expounded in the Quran]

53:44 vii He is the One Who gives death and gives life. [The rise and fall of nations follow His laws. And these laws are most clearly expounded in the Qur'an]

53:45 viii He is the One Who creates the two companions, the male and the female (pairs and opposites among His creation),

53:46 From gametes that unite.

53:47 ix He has promised to bring about a second life (and the ultimate accountability).

53:48 x He is the One Who gives wealth and contentment. [Only His laws can bestow true prosperity]

53:49 xi He is the One Who is the Lord of the brightest star, the human intellect.

[*Shi'ra* = *Sha'oor* = Intellect. *Shi'ra* is also the Arabic name of the brightest star Sirius in the constellation Canis Major. It was widely worshiped in ancient Middle East]

53:50 xii He is the One Who annihilated the former tribe of 'Aad. [They were men of intellect but refused to establish the Divine System. 7:65. A wrong system, however smartly run, is bound to collapse]

Nine Commandments [6:151-152]

Notably, “graven images” of the Bible is not among them. Only the Mullah forbids images and pictures in Islam. He is responsible for depriving the world of a Muslim Leonardo or Michelangelo, and the master-pieces of art that talented Muslims could have created during the last millennium plus. There is no Quranic Injunction allowing the Mullahs to destroy the memorable Bamyán statue of Buddha in Afghanistan. The Quran forbids idol worship but not carving beautiful sculptures.

- i. Associate none with Him.**
- ii. Honor your parents, treat them kindly and fulfill their needs.**
- iii. Neither kill your children for fear of poverty nor deprive them of proper training and education.**
- iv. Do not come near immodesty or indecent deeds, whether openly or secretly.**
- v. Do not slay a life.**
- vi. Do not approach the wealth of the orphan except to improve it until they come of age with full maturity of body and mind.**
- vii. Give full weight and full measure in all your dealings.**
- viii. And when you voice an opinion, be just, even if it is against a relative.**
- ix. Fulfill your Covenant with God, the unwavering allegiance to the Divine System.**

Test Yourself: How Good A Human Being Am I?

Some glorious attributive names of Allah and their significance to human character:

Quran 2:138 Hue of God! And who can give a better hue to life than God? ...

Adopting Divine attributes in our limited human capacity can very significantly help us build our character. At the same time, it can help people make self-assessment as to where they stand on the ascending ladder of self-actualization.

[Hue of God = We take our hue from God. Nearest to God are those who have adopted His 'Sibghah' = Hue or Color = His attributes in the limited human capacity. (2:138, 83:28). That means adopting the Divine Attributes in our limited human capacity such as: kindness – empathy - creativity – mercy - forgiveness – authority – self-confidence – management - turning to people in love and affection – (attaining) wisdom – carrying all tasks to completion – guiding - creativity – mercifulness – success – zeal – concealing others' sins – splendor – honor - justice – bounteousness – generosity – greatness – love – glory – dignity – insight – ruling in justice and all other goodness and beauty are attributes of God. Knowledge – compassion – clemency – taking care - peacefulness – remaining informed and aware – sense of duty – abilities – showing light – organizing - determination – justice – protecting others – generosity – unity - self-control – leniency - approachability - appreciation – moral strength – patience - independence – truthfulness – tranquility – cool temperament - care of people and things – helping the environment - keeping pledges – resolve – benefiting others – beautiful designing – providing – listening – observing – being trustworthy – nobility of character – giving – sense of responsibility – protecting from harm – giving forewarning – keeping good health. Interestingly, people can make a self-assessment by this spectrum as to where they stand on the ascending ladder of *Tazkiah* = Self-actualization or personal development]

Some Attributive Names of God

The more of these attributes I have in my limited human capacity, the better I am.

Allah = The Supreme Ruler, God's Proper Name
Ar-Rahman = The Beneficent
Ar-Raheem = The Merciful
Al-Malik = The Sovereign, The King Supreme
Al-Quddus = The Impeccable

As-Salam = The Source of Peace
 Al-Mu'min = The Guardian of Tranquility
 Al-Muhaimin = The Protector
 Al-'Aziz = The Almighty
 Al-Jabbar = The One Who Carries All Things to Completion
 Al-Mutakabbir = The Majestic
 Al-Khaliq = The Creator
 Al-Bari = The Creator from Nothing
 Al-Musawwir = The Designer
 Al-Ghaffar = The Forgiver
 Ar-Razzaq = The Provider
 Al-Fattah = The Opener of Gate to Victory
 Al-'Aleem = The All-Knowing
 Al-Basit = The Expander of Provision
 Ar-Rafi' = The Exalter
 Al-Mu'izz = The Honorer
 As-Sami' = The All-Hearing
 Al-Baseer = The All-Seeing
 Al-Hakam = The Judge, The Ruler
 Al-Lateef = The Subtle
 Al-Khabeer = The Aware
 Al-Haleem = The Clement
 Al-'Azeem = The Magnificent
 Al-Ghafoor = The All-Forgiving
 Ash-Shakoor = The Appreciative
 Al-'Aali = The Most High
 Al-Akbar = The Greatest
 Al-Hafeez = The Preserver
 Al-Muqet = The Maintainer
 Ar-Rubb = The Sustainer
 Al-Jaleel = The Sublime
 Al-Kareem = The Generous,
 Ar-Raqeeb = The Watchful
 Al-Mujeeb = The Responsive
 Al-Waase' = The All-Embracing
 Al-Hakeem = The Wise
 Al-Wadud = The Loving
 Al-Majeed = The Most Glorious
 Ash-Shaheed = The Witness
 Al-Haqq = The Truth
 Al-Wakeel = The Guardian, The Defender
 Al-Wali = The Protecting Friend
 Al-Hameed = The Praiseworthy
 Al-Badee' = The Originator
 Al-Hayyi = The Eternally Alive
 Al-Qayyum = The Self-subsisting Sustainer
 Al-Ahad = The One
 As-Samad = The Unique
 Al-Qadir = The Able
 Al-Awwal = The One With No Beginning
 Al-Akhir = The One With No Ending
 Ar-Ra'uf = The Compassionate
 Al-Muqsit = The Equitable
 Al-'Adil = The Just
 Al-Qawi = The Most Strong
 Al-Maalik = The Owner

Al-Ghani = The Self-Sufficient
An-Nur = The Universal Light
Al-Haadi = The Guide
Al-Baaqi = The Everlasting
Al-Mateen = The Firm
Al-Qahhaar = The Ultimate Decider, The Dominant
Al-Wahhaab = The Giver of Gifts

Closing

The respected reader should have gained some insight into the Final Glorious Book of God. I sincerely hope that TSQ might have given you information that is quite contrary to the detracting propaganda. Please do not hesitate to contact Shabbir Ahmed, M.D. for any questions or comments 24/7:

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