

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

I dedicate this book “Mortal Universe” to my parents, may Allah make it a source of ongoing charity (source of forgiveness and elevation of ranks) for them. I ask Allah_(SWT) to forgive all their sins and make me a source of charity for them. Amin! May Allah reward me, my family, relatives, friends and all Muslims. Amin!

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Preface

Allah created the universe as examination hall for the humans, and has made the universe subservient to the humans. The main purpose of man's creation is to use his intellect to know the Lord. After recognizing the Lord by the signs, He must then be our most beloved. being most beloved means that man should colour himself in his colours and adopt his attributes to please him. Allah has created Paradise for such people who have adopted His attributes. Such people are content with what Allah has given them, and live in peace and harmony with His creatures in this mortal world. On the other hand, He has created Hell as a punishment for those who have adorned themselves with satanic attributes. They are the ones who reject the true Lord, associated partners with him, they love oppression, lie, backbite, violate other's rights, are insensitive to the plight of people, are power hungry, mean, unjust and consider themselves to be a deity.

My first title is to reveal the reality of this universe. It is now a well-known fact that the universe has a beginning and a design. Anything that has a beginning, has to have a Creator, and its Creator is Allah who is free from matter, space and time. Allah created the universe with perfect design and balance. I have quoted the sayings of great scientists who agree that the superficial knowledge of science rejects God, but in-depth knowledge of science acknowledges God. Then I will discuss the purpose of creation. Allah has set SOPs for everything, and made the universe subservient to the humans. Another purpose of creation is to use our intellect to understand and change/amend the system for the benefit of the humanity. Allah created the man with embedded sense of good and evil. Unfortunately, man tends to ignore the good and go for the evil, which makes him arrogant and insensitive to the plight of his brethren. Not only does he forget death, he also rejects the accountability in the Hereafter. He is boxed up in his prejudice, and without clear signs subdues himself to the self-proclaimed false deities. As death is inevitable, every person shall face it on his prescribed time. He came into the world empty-handed, and he will leave it empty-handed. Then I will discuss the Doomsday, Day of Resurrection, and Judgment Day. Then discuss some of the luxuries of Paradise, punishment of the Hellfire. I will also discuss the third category, the people of the heights, and will conclude with my comments and supplication. In need of supplication

A. H. Siddiq

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Reality of this Mortal Universe

Anything that has a beginning, is bound to perish. Allah says: Everything will perish, only the Person of your Lord, full of majesty and splendor, will endure (55:26-27). Further Allah says: There is no god but He. All will perish but He. To Him belongs the command. And to Him shall all of you return (28:88). The reality of this universe is that nearly fifteen billion years ago, Allah created it with a **Big Bang**. Allah in Quran says: Did they not realize that the heavens and the earth were one solid mass, then We tore them apart, and We made every living being out of water? Will they, then, not believe (that He created all this) (21:30)? Further says: And heaven, We made it with Our Own Power and We are expanding it (51:47)? Allah in Quran swears: By the sun and its heat and brightness, and by the moon as it follows it; and by the day as it displays the sun's glory, and by the night, as it, envelopes the sun; and by the sky and by Him Who made it; and by the earth and by Him Who stretched it out; and by the soul and by Him Who perfectly proportioned it (91:1-7). That is, it is Allah(SWT) who created the universe and whatever is in them. In the beginning it was smoke, then from the smoke, the stars and planets were formed. Each having its own orbit and galaxy. The gravitational forces of the planets and stars have been so accurately matched that they are still in their orbits 15 billion years later. Allah challenges mankind and says: He created the seven heavens one upon another. You will see no incongruity in the Merciful One's creation. Turn your vision again, can you see any flaw? Then turn your vision again, and then again; in the end your vision will come back to you, worn out and frustrated (67:3-4) (that is, you will see that everything has been skillfully balanced so that it does not lose its balance and collide.). The universe is constantly expanding, and galaxies pass through each other **without disturbing the balance**. Due to extreme complexity of the universal balance, the scientists were forced to introduced two suppositions a) Dark Matter, b) Dark Energy, just to explain why the planets do not collide. Yet the atheists claim it is all by chance. That is why the Quran says about them: They have eyes but they see not, they have ears but they hear not, they have hearts but they think not. They have boxed themselves in their prejudice. Subhan-Allah!

Allah created this earth to be best suited for the living organisms, and as all living organism are composed of sixty to seventy percent water, therefore, the earth's surface constitutes 72.2% water and 27.8% land. Allah created this world/universe as a testing ground for the humans and the devils, when the test is over, this universe will cease to exist (Dooms Day, it could be man who triggers it).

Question comes to mind, why Allah wants to test us? In my opinion it is just like if we want to join the army, we have to pass written tests, have to be physical fit, and have to go through tough physical tests/training to be part of it. We willingly go through these tests because we foresee immediate material and status gain. Similarly, we have to pass a test for every worldly position. In the same way, this world is a place of test, trial and character building to accomplish the goal of dwelling in the Paradise. To be the dweller of the Paradise we have to master in three important fields of life. The first and the foremost important task to enter the Paradise is: **We have to love God more than anything in the universe.** The second important task is: **We have to learn to take care of God's creatures, especially human beings.** And the third task is: **We have to learn to use our intellect and ability for the good of Allah's creation.**

Regarding the nature of our world, a scientist Carl Sagan once wrote: "It's no surprise, the promise of a better life in the mysterious beyond can be seductive. **But the fact is, the more we learn about out there, the more we realize how special it is here**". The first astronaut to look from space at Earth, saw a beautiful, delicate world that is perfectly suited to the bounty of life it supports. **Subhan-Allah!** William Anders a crew member on Apollo 8 said, when I saw the earth ascending to the horizon, I saw a beautiful delicate enchanting earth, I was overcome by the thought that here we have come all this way to the Moon, and yet the most significant thing we're seeing is our own planet, the Earth". On the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, nine reasons were given why the Earth is the best place to live:

1) We can take deep cleansing breaths: On other planets we will not be able to take long deep breaths of nitrogen and oxygen-rich air, with a gentle spring breeze grazing the skin.

On other planets we will be like corona-stricken patients, always dressed in special costumes and wearing special masks for protection. And still, we would have to face extreme weather and radiation hazards.

2) We have solid ground to stand on: The earth has grass, mountain ranges, icy glaciers and a climate that is perfect for living organisms. Scientist don't know yet whether Jupiter, a giant planet that can fit 1,300 Earths inside it, if it has a solid core. That is why now the scientist acknowledge that having a solid place to stand seems like a luxury when comparing with other planets.

3) The four seasons that go round and round: Recorded history shows that people have celebrated the wilderness of nature in winter, the splendour of spring, the endless days of summer and the cozy autumn. Seasons come from a planet's tilt on its axis (Earth's tilt is 23.5 degrees), which tips each hemisphere either toward or away from the heat of the Sun throughout the year. The twenty-four-hour day with four seasons a year, are best suited and necessary for diversity of crops and living organism.

4) The perfect balance of magnetic field and gravitational force: The perfect balance of magnetic field and gravity protects us from harmful radiation and weakening of bones. Excessive gravitational force just like near a black hole would compress the spacecraft and everyone inside it into a noodle shape, a fate scientist call "spaghettification".

5) We can enjoy a pleasant breeze: Jupiter's swirls of colourful cloud bands might look appealing vacation destination. We would need to bring along our own oxygen and protective costume, since Jupiter's atmosphere is made of hydrogen and helium, with clouds of ammonia. Given the planet's strong gravity and super-fast rotation on its axis compared to Earth (10 hours vs. 24 hours), a skydiver would tumble 2.5 times faster than they would on Earth, and get knocked around by winds raging between 270 to 425 miles per hour. Earth's highest category of hurricane in comparison would feel like a breeze, and its lightning strikes are up to 1,000 times more powerful than ours. Thus, the pleasant breeze on earth is a luxury in comparison to other planets.

6) It's a sparkling globe of blue, white and green: In places where ocean tides are highest on Earth, the difference between low and high tide is about 50 feet (15 meters). Compare that to low tide of Jupiter which is caught in a tug-of-war between the planet's massive gravity and the pulling of two neighbouring moons, Europa and Ganymede. These forces cause its surface to regularly bulge (its rocks up and down and not water) by as much as 330 feet (100 meters). Its interior is very hot, making this moon the most volcanically active world in the solar system. Some lava springs, when they erupt, go up to several miles high. Lava, sulphur dioxide-laden air, intense radiation, does not provide a holiday destination for humans on its beach. Subhan-Allah!

7) Earth has sunny, cloudy and rainy days with water and oxygen: One known place in the universe that could compete with Earth as a home for humans is Titan. This satellite of Saturn is the second largest moon in our solar system after Ganymede. Titan is in some ways the most similar world to ours. Its thick atmosphere would remind us of home, though the air pressure there is slightly higher than Earth's. The atmosphere would defend humans against harmful radiation. Like Earth, Titan also has clouds, rain, lakes and rivers, and even a subsurface ocean of salty water. Even the moon's terrain and landscape look similar to some parts of Earth, but with major flaws. It has no oxygen in the atmosphere, and the lovely rivers and lakes are made of liquid methane. There is no Sun rising and setting in the blue sky, thus making daytime appear like twilight on Earth.

8) Dry land exists on Earth: Jupiter's moon Europa harbours more liquid water than all of Earth's oceans combined. Its ocean reaches from horizon to horizon with no shore, beaches or land. Only ocean of ice that encases the entire moon. Air is practically non-existent and brutally cold temperatures ranging from about minus 134 to minus 223 degrees Celsius. A spacesuit might help with the temperature and pressure, but it can't protect against those pesky atomic particles captured in Jupiter's magnetic field, endlessly lashing Europa with such energy that they can blast apart molecules and ionize atoms. Europa's ionizing radiation would damage or destroy cells in the human body, leading to radiation sickness.

9) **Cream puff clouds that come and go:** With more than 4,000 planets discovered so far outside our solar system, called “exoplanets,” we don’t know of any that can offer the comforts of Earthly living, while many would be downright nightmares. The Kepler-7b, for example, is a gas giant with roughly the same density as foam board. That means it could actually float in a bathtub (so could Saturn). Like other exoplanets called “hot Jupiter,” this one is really close to its star and its year, one orbit, takes just five Earth days. One side always faces the star, just like one side of the Moon always faces Earth. That means it’s always hot and light on one half of this planet; on the other, night never ends. If you’re bummed out by cloudy days on Earth, consider that one side of Kepler-7b always has thick, unmoving clouds, and those clouds may even be made of evaporated rock and iron. And at more than 1,316 degrees Celsius, Kepler-7b would be a real roaster to visit, especially on the dayside. It’s amazing to learn about how different exoplanets can be from Earth, but we’re glad we don’t live on Kepler.

I remember reading somewhere where a scientist said that for the existence of life on earth, the whole universe is a must. But unfortunately, man with all his abilities shuns the complexity of design in the universe and proposes a theory of chance. Quran calls such people blind, deaf and dumb. He is like a person driving a car locked in his thoughts, with open eyes he sees not, with perfect ears he hears not, with his heart he thinks not. Allah in Quran says unlock your hearts of all prejudice and ponder in the signs in the universe and signs around you and signs within you, you will discover God. Allah in Surah Mulk verses 3-5 says: **Who created the seven heavens one upon another. You will see no incongruity in the Merciful’s creation. Turn your vision again, can you see any flaw? Then turn your vision again, and then again; in the end your vision will come back to you, worn out and frustrated. We have adorned the lower heaven with lamps. Physicists say they have stumbled on signs that suggest that the cosmos is custom-made for life and consciousness.** They reached the conclusion on the basis of the constants of nature, the unchanging numbers like the strength of gravity, the charge of an electron and the mass of a proton. If they were tiniest bit

different, then atoms would not hold together, stars would not burn and life would never have made an appearance. I also read in another place where the scientists said, if the Big Bang had been minutely stronger the planets would not have formed, thus life would not be possible. Similarly, if it was minutely weaker, it would have collapsed back to the pre-Big Bang state. Subhan-Allah! Allah in verse (21:32) says: **We made sky a preserved and protected roof, yet, still they turn away from Our signs** (locked up in their boxes of prejudice). Further in 2:29 says: **He it is Who created for you all that there is on the Earth; He then turned to the sky and ordered it into seven heavens. And He has full knowledge of everything.** Allah mentions in verse (41:12) and says: **In two days He determined them seven heavens and revealed, in every heaven, its own mandate.** Today science has proved that, if seven different layers of atmosphere did not exist, life on earth would not be possible. We are still not in a position to send man in outer space. We don't have costumes to protect them from the extremely harmful radiations and bombardment of high-speed particles. To this effect Allah in verses (55:33-38) challenges human and Jinn and says: **O company of jinn (devils) and men, if you have the power to go beyond the bounds of the heavens and the earth, go beyond them! Yet you will be unable to go beyond them for that requires infinite power.** Which of your Lord's marvels will you deny? (If you so venture) a flame of fire and smoke shall be lashed at you, which you shall be unable to withstand (radiations, high temperatures and bombardment of charged particles). Which of your Lord's marvels will you deny? (What will happen) when the heaven will be split asunder and will become crimson like leather? Which of your Lord's marvels will you deny? Unfortunately, those who have boxed themselves in their boxes of prejudice, ignore the signs, and keep blubbering that the universe, with all its creatures and all that is in them came into existence by chance. If we ask them, can the picture of Mona Liza come into existence by chance without human interference, or can the cars, the bikes, the roads, the houses, the clothes etc. come into existence by chance without human intervention? Can the computers upgrade themselves without human intelligence? They will certainly say no. Those people

who are locked-up in their prejudice, believe that the simple things cannot come into existence by chance, yet out of ignorance/arrogance say that the universe with its infinite complexities came into existence by chance. In negation of their claim, I am writing few facts of human body: Our body contains 640 muscles and 360 joints. On average 100 hairs grow and fall per day. The body sweats 800ml per day. The adults have 206 bones while children have 300 bones which fuse together with passage of time. Our skin has 100 billion skin cells with 60 million feeling/pain receptors. Our brain has 100 billion neurons, and can store 2.5 million Giga bytes of data. It caters for 60000 thoughts per day, and when awake our brain produces electricity that can light a small bulb. Our eyes have 127 million retinal cells which can identify 10 million different colours and shades, it has 120 million rod cells, which equals to 576 mega pixel camera. Nose has 1000 smell receptors with which we can identify 50000 different smells, and we breathe 30000 times a day. Heart beats 115000 times per day, due to which 6 litres of blood always circulates in 42 billion blood vessels round the clock. Our heart pumps 1.5 million barrels of blood during average life span, and generates its own electric impulses. The energy produced daily by the heart could drive a truck up to 32Km. The blood contains 30 trillion red cells. On average during our life span, we produce 23000 litres of saliva. Every ten days, the taste buds on our tongue are replaced, after 100 days the blood in the body is completely replaced. Yet those locked up in their ignorance/arrogance will say, DNA came into being by chance, but Mona Liza painting had a creator. I read somewhere, where a scientist working on animal DNA deduced that in a body cell there is also a backup DNA. [Subhan-Allah](#) (the God is needless and faultless)! Have we ever wondered why Allah says in the Quran that you cannot count any of His blessing"? Let's count a blessing. Our life on earth is a blessing. Let us now count the blessings pertaining to life. Life being a reality, it requires many things to survive in the world, such as oxygen, plants, water etc. Let's talk about water and leave out the other millions of necessities. I request my reader to ponder on my words with sincerity. Out of millions of blessings of life, one of the important blessing is water. Science recently came to the

conclusion that when the earth was created, all its water came from outer space, and then it stopped. Why (because if more water had come, there would be no dry land, thus no life)? The Quran tells us that ratio between dry land and oceans is approximately 28.9% land and 71.1% water, today science testifies this ratio. As water came from outer space, then why there is water on earth, and there is no water on other planets of the solar system (by order of the Lord)? Fourteen hundred years ago, the Quran told us that water came to earth from outer space. Allah in Quran in verse 23:18 says: **We sent down water from the sky in right measure, and caused it to stay in the earth, and We have the power to cause it to vanish (in the manner We please).** Now consider, when the world was formed, we agree that a certain fixed amount of water came down. Question: Why water does not evaporate from the earth? The ozone layer that surrounds the earth not only prevents the deadly radiation of the sun from reaching the earth, it also does not allow the water that evaporates from the oceans to rise above a certain limit. What is ozone layer? Ozone layer is a layer in the earth's stratosphere at an altitude of about 10 km containing a high concentration of ozone, which absorbs most of the ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth from the sun. Ozone is an allotrope of oxygen formed by the ultraviolet light. It differs in properties from the normal oxygen (O₂) and has three atoms in its molecule (O₃). Subhan-Allah! Allah describes the sky in verse 86:11 as: **By the sky that returns (evaporated water).** It did not happen by accident; it is a design. The same oxygen is an important component of water (which is essential for life), in the same way, if all the water evaporated from the earth, then life would not have existed either. Subhan-Allah! Salty sea water is not suitable for drinking, nor for land plants. When it rises upward due to vaporization, and due to ultraviolet light and the Law of Diffusion, nitrogen is added to it (that is why 78% of air is nitrogen), which is very essential for the growth of plants (long term use of pure oxygen would have burnt the body cells, that is why oxygen is only 21% of the air). Similarly, when water evaporates, its salinity is left behind (a necessity for life). Were these details taken care of accidentally? Further, since water is more than two-thirds of the dry land and the quantity of

water that evaporates from the oceans is extremely high, and if all that water came down as rain, all the plains would have been flooded. The accident also took care that a few percent of the evaporated water would fall in the form of rain to irrigate the barren land, and the rest would come down in the form of snow and form glaciers and ice bergs. It also catered so that a small part of the snowcapped mountains and glaciers would slowly melt to provide filtered water to the living organisms. Similarly, during drought they keep providing filtered water to the living organism. Someone might ask, why the sea water is brackish? If it was not brackish, there would be no need for other systems to save lives. If the oceans were not brackish, the aquatic creatures that can only survive in saline water would be extinct. They are vital for other forms of life, including humans. To protect the life, the water that accidentally came to earth, it has a property that no other liquid has, that is, its density decreases at temperatures below 4 degree Centigrade, thus the ice instead of sinking, floats on the water. If it weren't so, the whole ocean would turn into ice and the aquatic creatures would die. In the same way, the snow that falls from the sky forms glacier which is again a source of saving lives. Some people believe that the earth came into being by chance and that by chance it rotates tilted at 23.5 degrees in its orbit. Science tells us that if the tilt was half degree less there would be no seasons, thus no life. Did it happen by accident? No, it is by design, and where there is a design there is a creator. Further to negate their prejudice I have included statements of few scientists.

Einstein said, "The more I study science, the more I am led to believe in God."

Mrs. Stutz said, "The more I teach science, the more I agree with Einstein."

Louis Pasteur said, a little science estranges man from God, but much science leads them back to Him.

Francis Bacon said, A little knowledge of science makes a man an atheist, but an in-depth study of science makes him a believer in God.

Allan Sandage: Now at 72 says, he has spent a professional lifetime coaxing secrets out of the stars, peering through telescopes from Chile to California in the hope of spying

nothing less than the origin and destiny of the universe. Sandage actually figured out, **by his observations of distant stars how fast the universe is expanding** and how old it is (15 billion years or so). Sandage says, he was almost a practicing atheist as a boy, but due to mystery to which the answers could not be found even in the supernovas, among them was, **why is there something rather than nothing?** When Sandage was unable to answer such questions, then at the age of 50, he decided to accept the Creator. He said, "It was my science that led me to the conclusion that the world is far more complex than can be explained by science alone. It is only through the supernatural that I can understand the mystery of existence". Sandage says: Due to the scientific community's severe scorning, there is a reluctance to reveal oneself as a believer."

Robert John Russell, a physicist turned theologian, who in 1981 founded the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, says: Now theology and science are entering into a new relationship. Rather than undercutting faith, scientific discoveries are offering support for them, at least in the minds of people of faith. Prior to Big-bang cosmology, science had no room for a Creator. Now to some scientists that there is a design and purpose behind the universe (therefore there is a Creator).

Steven Weinberg a 1977 Nobel physicist of the University of Texas wrote a famous note of despair: The more the universe has become comprehensible through cosmology, **the more it seems pointless to reject God**. But now the very science that "killed" God is in the eyes of believers, restoring faith.

John Polkinghorne who had a distinguished career as a physicist at Cambridge University before becoming an Anglican priest in 1982, says: "When you realize that the laws of nature are incredibly finely tuned to produce the universe we see, that conspires to plant the idea that the universe did not just happen, but that there must be a purpose behind it".

Charles Townes, who shared the 1964 Nobel Prize in Physics for discovering the principles of the laser, goes further: "Many have a feeling that somehow intelligence must have been involved in the laws of the universe".

Carl Feit cites, “that the only pathway to achieve love of God is by understanding the works of His Hand, which is the natural universe. Knowing how the universe functions is crucial to a religious person because this is the world He created.”

Newton’s first law states that, if a body is at rest or moving at a constant speed in a straight line, it will remain at rest or keep moving in a straight line at constant speed unless it is acted upon by a force. This postulate is known as the law of inertia. Now the most important question that the atheists should ask themselves is, “What initiated the Big Bang”? If they say by itself, then they negate the Newton’s **first law of inertia**. The answer can only be that it is Allah! Allah in Quran in Surah Ambia verse 21:30 says: *Did they not realize that the heavens and the earth were one solid mass, then We tore them apart, and We made every living being out of water? Will they, then, not believe (this is the source of the power)?* Allah in verses (67:1-4) says: *“Full of blessing is He in Whose hand is the kingdom of the universe, and He has power over all things; Who created death and life, that He may try you to see which of you is best in deeds, and He is All-Mighty as well as All-forgiving; Who created seven heavens one above the other. You will not see any fault in the creation of the Merciful. Turn your eyes up; do you see any flaw anywhere? Look up again and yet again. Your look will return to you disappointed, wearied out”*. And further in verse (41:53) says: *“Soon shall We show them Our signs in the World around them (design), as well as in themselves, till it becomes clear to them that it is the truth”*. Show who? Those who have unbiased hearts and suppress their prejudice, such are conscious of Allah(SWT) while standing or sitting or lying on their sides and give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, (they cry out spontaneously) *O our Lord, You did not create this in vain (3:191)*. Since the universe has a beginning, thus it is destined to perish. This is the reality of the universe. Unfortunately, those who doubt the existence of Allah and the Day of Resurrection, are the ones who turn deaf ear to the Lord’s admonishing. That is why Allah in verses 30:52-53 tells the Prophet(SAW): *(O Prophet), you cannot make the dead hear, nor can you make the deaf hear your call when they turn back in retreat, nor can you guide the blind out of their error. You can make none hear*

(your call) except those who believe in Our Signs and have surrendered themselves (to Him).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Purpose of Life

Quran tells us that Allah has made this worldly life a test, a preparation ground for the life of the Hereafter, and that death signifies the end of the worldly life (test). The verse 67:2 says: Allah created death and life that He might try you as to **which of you is better in deed**. He is the Most Mighty, the Most Forgiving. Question arises why Allah wants to test us? Allah in Quran in verse 33:72 says: **We offered the trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, but they refused to carry it and were afraid of doing so; but man carried it. Surely, he is wrong-doing, ignorant (he thought the exam would be easy)**. In another verse 59:21 the Quran says: **Had We sent down this Quran upon a mountain you would indeed have seen it humbling itself and breaking asunder out of fear of Allah. We propound such parables to people so that they may reflect**. As we chose to take the test, therefore, we will have to face the consequences of failure. As a tool for examination, Allah in verse 31:20 says: **Have you not seen that Allah has made subservient to you all that is in the heavens and on the earth** and has abundantly bestowed upon you all His bounties, both visible and invisible? Yet some people dispute regarding Allah without having any knowledge or guidance or any illuminating Book. As everything on earth and in the universe has been made subservient to us, therefore, we are accountable for its misuse.

Someone might object that he did not choose to take the test. Has man ever considered that he obeys his leader without seeing or knowing him, because he knows the consequences? In the same way, while pondering on the creation of the universe we have to believe in Allah and obey His command. Since test is believing in the unseen (therefore the memory has been erased except the instinct of the Creator). He who is

convinced of the existence of Allah avoids disobeying His commandments. For the sake of argument, let's accept their objection. I would like to put forward few questions to my readers. Did Allah create angels without purpose? Did He create this colossal universe without purpose? Did He create all the species without purpose? Did he create the devils without purpose? Did He create the humans without purpose? Did He create the Paradise without purpose? Did He create the Hellfire without purpose? Allah mentions in Quran that **He did not create this universe without a purpose** and in another place tells the believers to say that **He is free from creating things without a purpose** (creating pointless things is a short coming, and Allah is free from all short comings). Here I would like to say, **if someone creates something that has no purpose or use, we call such a person, a stupid person!!** Therefore, the answer is no, it contradicts the attribute of Allah. The question arises then what is the purpose of our creation. I would now urge my readers to keep in mind the questions I have raised, as we move forward, I will try to answer them to the best of my ability.

Just like purposeful worldly test can be both mental and physical, similarly, Allah created the universe to test us, spiritually, mentally and physically. On one hand He filled it with lust and desires, and on the other hand with unpleasant and painful things. Abu Huraira narrates that the Prophet(SAW) said: "When Allah(SWT) completed the creation of Paradise and Hell (a test for reward and punishment), He(SWT) told Gabriel(AS) to visit the Paradise and see what He has created for the people of Paradise. The Prophet(SAW) said, "Gabriel(AS) visited the Paradise and saw what Allah had created, came back and said, "I swear by Your Honor, whoever hears about it, will surely enter it." Then Allah commanded, and the Paradise was covered with unpleasant and painful things. Gabriel(AS) was told to revisit it. Gabriel(AS) revisited the Paradise and saw that it is now surrounded by unpleasant and painful things, so he returned and submitted, "I'm afraid, now no one will enter it". Then Allah told Gabriel(AS) to visit the Hell and see what He has prepared for the people of Hellfire. He saw that one part of it ascending to the other. He came to Allah and said: "I swear by Your Honor! Anyone who hears about it will not enter it." Then

Allah commanded, and the Hell was surrounded/covered by lust and desires. Allah^(SWT) told Gabriel to revisit it. Gabriel^(AS) went back to see the Hell again, came back and said: "I swear by Your Honor! I'm afraid no one will be able to escape it, but fall in it." To enter the Paradise, one will have to walk the path of unpleasant and painful things. Question arises what are the unpleasant and painful things that cover the Paradise? **The unpleasant things that cover the paradise are:** The rituals like praying, ablution, waking in the middle of night for prayers, whether weather is cold or warm, fasting (whether days are long or short), caring for His creatures especially humans, and spending on them from one's hard-earned wealth etc. **The painful surroundings are:** Giving respect to others (even if they don't respect you), bonding the kinship (even when they try to break it), to be humble (with power and status), to do justice when it hurts oneself or his loved ones etc. **The lust that surrounds the Hell are:** Lust for opposite sex, wealth, status, power etc. **The desires are:** The charm of intoxicants, gambling etc.

Within the framework of Justice, humans accepts that if someone wants to become a doctor, he has to follow and work hard on a certain curriculum. Humans accept that not everyone can become a doctor (i.e., pass the test, rather most fail). Similarly, if someone wants to become a Food Technologist, he has to follow and work hard on certain other curriculum, here also, not all who studied the curriculum will pass, nor call themselves a food technologist. Similarly, we do not give same marks or grade to all those who have passed or failed. My questions to my reader: Can we say that all these courses are baseless and without purpose? When applying for a lucrative post, aren't we supposed to have the necessary qualification and skills? We will agree it makes sense. Yet to get a place in the Paradise we are not ready to acquire the colours of the Merciful Lord. In the worldly life if we break the rules prescribed by the authorities, we end up in jail. Can we say the prisons have been built without purpose? Can we say that humans are free to do anything, harm anyone, destroy anything? Everyone will say no, nothing is without purpose. Thus, if the concept of imprisonment makes sense. So, why doesn't the concept of hell make sense? Don't we have life

imprisonments? Don't we have different categories in prisons? The prisoners in jail have different classifications according to their crime, some get harsh treatment and some might have come for a short period. Each classification can have further classifications. Similarly, the Hell has six classifications and the seventh is a well at the bottom of the hell from which even the Hellfire seeks Allah's refuge hundred times a day. The well is for the miscreant scholars who are selling (misguidance) the religion for petty worldly gains. The sixth bottom most classification is for the hypocrites (traitors) who work hard to destroy the basic structure of the society. Aren't traitors punished severely in the world? The fifth level is for the polytheists, who believe in Allah and His attributes, but still associate others with Him in His attributes (although man believes that there can't be two kings, or presidents, or prime ministers in a country, but yet the polytheists associate others with God in the universe). To explain polytheism, I would like to relate a hypothetical situation for argument. Suppose we go to the court of a powerful king, to inform him of our need. Now if in the court we do not address the king, and in his presence ask a minister to intercede (we think the king will not yield to our request). What would be the response of the king for this insult? On top of that, if he loves us like his children, what would be his response? In my opinion, the king will behead us and the minister. Let's look at another hypothetical situation, we are in a shelter home and the Prime Minister Imran Khan comes there, and asks us if we have any request? Would we tell him our needs, or tell the Prime Minister that we will contact him through an intercessor? We'll tell him right away, or give it to him on a piece of paper. Some people claim that Mohammed(SAW) is all present, and so are all the saints, and that they respond to their request. If we agree for the sake of argument that they are all present, then my question: In the presence of the Prophet(SAW) and the saints, can we ask a saint to intercede with Allah on our behalf? If they do so (nearly always they do so), would it not be insulting to the Prophet(SAW) that they ignored him? Of course, it would be. Now imagine that our Lord (the Provider, the Sustainer, the Reliever) who loves us seventy times more than the mothers, is the All-Knowing, and the one who is

actually the all-Present is present, the Prophet(SAW) and the saints are also present, and if in the presence of Allah we call on the Prophet or a saint to intercede before Allah, what will be the result? The result will be that we would be in the bottom most level of the Hellfire after hypocrites. Because Allah in Quran says, I listen to all supplications and I fulfil them, while the polytheists say he listens via an intercessor (self-made-up). May Allah protect us. That is why in verses 25:1-3 Allah says: [Highly blessed is He, Who has sent down Al-Furqan, to His servant so that it may be a warner to all mankind, He to Whom belongs the Sovereignty of the heavens and the earth, Who has begotten no son, Who has no partner in His Sovereignty, Who created each and every thing and then ordained its destiny. Yet the people have set up, besides Him, deities, who do not create anything but are themselves created, who can neither harm nor help even themselves, who have no power over life or death, nor can they raise up the dead.](#) Continuing, the 4th classification is for the atheists (the ignorant ones). The 3rd classification is for the sinners from the monotheist Jews, 2nd classification for the sinners from the monotheist Christians, and the top most is for the sinners from the monotheist followers of Mohammed(SAW).

Allah created this universe with all its sophistication for man and devils, and bestowed man the ability to think, learn and understand, thus making him Allah's best of creation. Allah did not leave him without a guidance and instruction manual. Over the time He bestowed on humanity many divine books, and His last divine book is the Quran. With the instructions mentioned in the Quran, God-given consciousness and intellect, man is supposed to strive to improve his environment and the condition of his fellow human beings within the realm of the three basic commandments and three basic prohibitions given by Allah (the God). In 16:90 Allah say: [Surely Allah enjoins justice, kindness \(with God consciousness\) and the doing of good to kith and kin, and forbids all that is shameful, evil and oppressive. He exhorts you so that you may be mindful.](#)

The three dos mentioned above are:

a) Be just and give the rights to the rightful owners, whether He be the Creator or the creation. It includes all rights. I have

mentioned 29 rights in my book called “The Rights”. The creator is also called the Lord (the fulfiller of needs, the remover of difficulties, the provider, the sustainer, the one Who answers the supplication of His creation etc.). [Associating any of His attributes to His creatures is called polytheism, which is negation of His Rights.](#)

b) Ahsan, when people fear Allah that He is watching them, and that He will take them to account for their deeds. Such people would be more humble, humane and kinder. They would give to others more than their rights. They would be patient when calamity befalls them, or when someone commits excesses against them.

c) Protect the bond of kinship, help them and strengthen the relationship (Being sons of Adam^(AS), the chain would bond the whole humanity together). Bonding is not that someone is nice to you, you are nice to him. The Prophet^(SAW) said if it is so, then you are doing business. [The bonding is when others are not nice to you, you are nice to them.](#)

The three don'ts are:

a) Abstaining from premarital relationships and indecencies (as it destroys the ethics of the society).

b) Avoiding all evils, especially polytheism, because it negates the rights of the Creator. Every evil negates someone's rights.

c) Avoid oppression and abuse, because they deny justice, and suppress the rights of others.

The system of the universe is based on the Law of Diffusion, i.e., things flow from high concentration to lower concentration e.g., light, heat from fire etc. Plants and our bodies survive on this very principal, without it the plants and all living organisms would die. The same principal applies to societies. A society where rich get richer and the poor get poorer, where the morals of religion/Law of Diffusion (charity, khairat, sadaqa, ushar etc.) is not applied, such societies lose their morals and are destroyed. With passage of time, it becomes a tyrannical society, where a very small filthy rich group enslaves the majority (this is why the commandment of Ahsan is to be implemented, i.e., give others more than their rights). And where it is applied no one goes to bed hungry and the society flourishes with love, and caring for each other. In

Islam where agriculture is based on rain water, ushar (10%) of the crop is for the destitute of that area. Where the agriculture uses man made irrigation system, 5% of the produce is for the destitute. I.e., out of 100-acre land, 5-acres are for the destitute. Let suppose a village has 1000-acres of irrigated agriculture land, that means 50 acres of produce is for the destitute of that village/area. Usually the farmers harvest two crops, the average wheat yield from an acre is approximately 2 tons per acre and approximately 1.6 tons of rice. This means in that village has 100 tons of wheat and 80 tons of rice for the destitute. My question, will anyone go to bed hungry? No! Similarly, in the cities the wealthy have to pay 2.5% zakat on their assets + sadaqa and charity annually. Taking into account the massive wealth in the cities, my question again, will anyone go to bed hungry? No!

Here I would like to elaborate an important point, the Law of diffusion is only supposed to be applied for good things, not bad. I will try to illustrate this with an example, suppose a part of our body is gangrened and as per law of diffusion it would spread and kill the whole body, that is why it is cut off and thrown away. In the same way, the bad characters of the society are sentenced to death or imprisonment. As the incurable bad spreads fast, that is why Islam has severe punishment for them. It takes decades to build a society of integrity, the same society is destroyed in a few years where a corrupt leader is elected, or gains power through deceit. The corruption spreads fast because the people of ethic who were supposed to be vigilant, ignore it. And when a leader of ethic acquires the power, the good takes time to spread or filter down to the grass root level, **because it faces strong resistance from the evil that unites**. Another example is when we try to do a constructive job it requires time, while it takes a little time to destroy. E.g., constructing a building could take years and destroying it would be in minutes by explosives. Here a thought came to me, a building has to be constructed with a design, it cannot come into existence by chance, **but can be destroyed by chance**. Thus, where there is a design, it has to have a creator, and the creator of the universe is Allah.

Allah in Quran in verses 21:16-17 Himself says: **We did not create the heaven and the earth and what is between them for**

sport. Had it been Our will to find a pastime, We would have found one near at hand; **if that had been Our Will.** Similarly, in verses 3:190-191 tells us the attributes of a believer: Surely in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are signs for men of understanding (minds free of prejudice/arrogance). Those who remember Allah while standing, sitting or (reclining) on their backs, and reflect in the creation of the heavens and the earth, (and say): **“O’ our Lord You did not create this aimlessly or by accident; exalted are You (above such things) i.e.,** Allah does not create things without reason, there is always a purpose behind all creations. These verses tell us that Allah did not create this colossal universe with whatever in them as a pass time, rather there is a purpose behind it. The question arises, what is the real purpose of the creation, especially humans? In my opinion it is far more than just recognizing and acknowledging the Creator by the signs in the universe, signs around us and signs within us (our body), and then conforming to His laws, praising Him, worshipping Him and being grateful to Him (faith). Although what we just read is obligatory, **but in my opinion, there are other two very important purpose of our creation.**

Allah in verses 92:3-7 says: **And by Him Who created the male and the female, surely your strivings are divergent** (some are stingy, some are generous, some are pious and some are self-sufficient, some are truthful and some are liars). **As for him who gave out his wealth (for Allah’s sake) and abstained from disobeying Him, and affirmed the Truth of goodness. We shall facilitate for him the Way to Bliss. Thus the first purpose after faith is** to acquire the moral attributes of Allah(SWT). Allah in verse 2:138 says: **Take Allah’s colors, and who can give a better color than Allah?** What are Allah’s colors? His colors are His attributes. Because Allah is merciful; therefore, we too must learn to be soft hearted, so that we can ignore excesses. Allah likes to forgive, so we should struggle and learn to overcome our anger and forgive. Allah loves bestowing bounties on His creatures, so we should learn and struggle to raise the standard of living of the human population etc. I have mentioned ninety-nine attributes in detail in my book “Tawheed”. Allah loves His creation ninety-nine folds more

than their mothers; therefore, we must strive to love and take care of the humanity, especially the relatives. Further Allah in verse 2:29 says: **He it is Who created for you all that there is on the Earth** (it is for all). If everyone were to be financially, intellectually and status wise equal, the system would not work, the Law of diffusion would not exist, so would neither the society. Therefore, inequalities in wealth, knowledge and status are essential for the existence of a society. Only when there is an unequal distribution of wealth, knowledge and respect can the Law of Diffusion be applied. So, for the society to flourish, the flow has to be from high concentration to low concentration in all the three aspects. I.e., the wealth should flow from well off to the needy via charity, knowledge from literate to illiterate and the respected should be considerate for other's self-respect. Similarly, the receiving party should not beg rather put their trust in Allah and be patient. The Prophet(SAW) said that the believing destitute who shows patient will enter Paradise five hundred years before the rich believer. If we considered, the Day of Resurrection is fifty thousand years long, and if every day of five hundred years is equal to or greater than that, when will the rich believer enter the paradise (wealth is provided to us as a trust by Allah, thus, we are accountable for all the pleasures we enjoy in the mortal world, i.e., the more the wealth, more will one be held accountable)? To elaborate it, Allah in Quran in chapter 107 says: **Did you see him who gives the lie to the Reward and Punishment of the Hereafter (non-believer)? Such is the one who repulses the orphans away, and urges not the feeding of the needy. Woe, then, to those who pray, but are heedless in their Prayers, those who do good (in order) to be seen, and deny people the articles of common necessity** (i.e., a believer who really believes not). In 18:7 Allah says: **Surely, We have made all that is on the earth an embellishment for it in order to test people as to who of them is better in conduct** (i.e., who follows the Law of diffusion and shares his wealth with the destitute, knowledge with illiterates, and treats equally in status whether poor or rich). **This is the first purpose after faith, where man has to master himself in caring for all the creatures, especially humans.** These are the lucky ones who will enter Paradise, and will respect and care for each other

(they groomed themselves in the worldly life). Allah in verses 90:8-20 tells us about those who are successful and why: **Did We not grant him two eyes, and a tongue and two lips** (intellect to communicate and ponder)? **And did We not show him the two ways** (of good and evil)? But he did not venture to scale the difficult steep. And what do you know what that difficult steep is (painful things that surrounds the Paradise)? It is freeing someone's neck from slavery; or giving food on a day of hunger to an orphan near of kin; or to a destitute lying-in dust; and, then besides this, he be one of those who believed, and enjoined upon one another steadfastness and enjoined upon one another compassion. These are the righteous People (lucky ones). Allah further in verses 92:17-21 says: **And that God-fearing shall be kept away from the Hellfire, who spends his wealth to purify himself; not as payment for any favors that he received, but only to seek the good pleasure of his Lord the Most-High. He will surely be well-pleased (with him).** But unfortunately, man incited by his inner-greed and the whispering of the satanic devils and humans, ignores some or all of the commandments of the Lord. This attitude destroys the harmony in the society. Now it is up to us whether we go after lust and desires (that destroys the society), or go for the unpleasant and painful which is a building block for strong societies (just like training under live fire, to become a soldier). We humans work hard day and night for the worldly tests and ignore the Hereafter, yet we want to enter the Paradise for free. Where there is justice, does it make sense? No! Here two hadiths come to mind: One day after the Fajr prayer, the Prophet(SAW) asked: "Which of you gave charity at night?" No one got up. The Prophet(SAW) asked for the second time: "Which of you gave charity last night?" Again no one got up. The Prophet(SAW) asked emotionally for the third time: "Which of you gave charity last night?" One of the companions got up in fear and said, "I did." The Prophet(SAW) said: Why are you worried? I have seen the angels carrying your reward to heaven all night long. What kind of charity did you do? The companion said, "I could not sleep at night. I thought I should give some charity." I didn't find anything or utensils in the house that I could give in charity, I went to bed again. Still, I could not sleep, I got up again to give some charity, searched

the whole house again and found nothing for charity. I lay down again. I still could not sleep. I got up, performed ablution, prayed two rakats and supplicated: "O Lord, I have forgiven those whom I am angry with, so forgive them." In another hadith, the Prophet(SAW) said: He who seeks forgiveness from Allah should forgive others. This is the attribute that we have been sent to the world to acquire.

The second purpose after faith is: God has endowed man with intellect, so that he can use it to understand His creation, with the authority to tamper with it (being accountable for misuse). Scientists tell us that the geniuses like Einstein, Newton etc. used only 10 to 15 percent of their brain power, whereas an ordinary intelligent person uses only 7 to 10 percent of his brain power. **So, in my opinion second and foremost purpose is to enable the humans to enhance their ability of utilizing their brain power positively** (bearing the unpleasant and painful and avoiding lust and desires). I usually say, the lucky ones who will enter Paradise, will be able to use 100 percent of their brain power for the good of the people of Paradise (those who had mastered the colors of Allah(SWT)). **What high charactered super geniuses will they be? Subhan-Allah!**

Man is learning to use his brain power both positively but regretfully mostly negatively. As a result, those who seek petty gain and power will exploit and abuse their brethren, enslave those who were born free, and cause them unwarranted suffering, such people torture and massacre others without mercy. Even though all humans are descendants of Adam, thus brethren, yet these miscreant elements ignore the rights of others. Man, who was supposed to be the best creature has become the worst. Animals hunt just to feed, while humans hunt for fun sake and to show their superiority over others. In order to enslave the human race and gain control over its food chain, man is manipulating nature through technologies such as HAARP, genetic engineering, etc. The Prophet(SAW) told us that Anti-Christ would control the weather, thus food chain. These tyrants are trying to rapidly reduce the human population by controlling the food chain and using weapons of mass destruction (including biological weapons (viruses, etc.)). To enslave and tighten control, they are also trying to

insert nanochips into human bodies to monitor their movements. Such people shall be the dwellers of the Hellfire. My question here: We accept that humans can monitor and control humans, but are not ready to accept the monitoring of the Lord who knows the future, and his technology is infinitely superior to humans, on the Day of Reckoning how will we escape those monitored proofs? Have we ever thought of that? I usually give an example: Parents love their children very much; they will instruct them to love and take care of each other. If anyone abuses a sibling and if the parents have the power, they will punish the culprit. In the same way, Allah loves us more than seventy-folds. He too tells us to love and take care of each other. In case of abuse, we will face the punishment (Hellfire). Allah has set SOPs for everything.

The Universal SOPs (instructions, laws, instincts, properties etc.) To understand the topic, we have to understand why the universe was created and how it runs. Allah created this colossal, extremely sophisticated universe with its SOPs (rules like gravitational balance etc.). Allah has assigned for every planet, every star, every galaxy, every black hole etc. its SOPs (orbits etc.), so that they perform their prescribed duties and do not collide with each other. Scientists being unable to comprehend the intricacies of the gravitational balance, and the way the galaxies cross each other, they were forced to assume that there exists some sort of dark matter that prevents the planets from colliding, and a dark energy that is expanding the universe. Allah_(SWT) has not only assigned the SOPs for the planets but also has assigned the SOPs for everything that exists in them. Allah created all this for man and jinn. All creatures/creations have been assigned their SOPs which they follow (called their instinct/properties). The universal system was created and runs by the will of Allah. It is Allah who by His will gave man the intellect to understand and make changes in His system, that is why man has been honoured as being God's best creature. In the Quran, humans and devils have been provided their SOPs on how to live their lives, with the authority to bypass most of them, and to be able to make changes in Allah's system. This being the test, they are accountable for misuse, and will be rewarded if beneficial for the society. Similarly, Allah gave man the guidance on how to

live this mortal life (SOPs). For the guidance of mankind over the period, Allah_(SWT) has sent nearly 124000 prophets and revealed many divine books, and the last divine book of Allah is the Quran which was revealed to the last Prophet Mohammed_(SAW). By following the moral and social SOP's (rules) that Allah has laid down for human beings in the Quran, they can be successful in the afterlife.

We humans accept that the head of an institution (with limited authority) has the power or discretion to bypass/ change the SOPs set by him. Similarly, being the Lord and the Creator of all things (with Absolute authority), it's His discretion when and where He pleases, to set-aside/replace the SOPs He set. The overriding of the SOPs openly by the Lord is called miracle. If in an institution, the head ignores the SOPs openly, the whole system would collapse. Similarly, if the Lord openly intervened and set aside the SOPs He has set, the test "believing in the unseen" would become meaningless. Yes, He intervenes in many other ways imperceptibly e.g., when a slave calls on him, He responds to his call whether he believes in Him or not. He provides him support imperceptibly, from where he does not expect. In Quran Allah says that all good is from him, and bad is the earning of your hands. To understand the miracles (open intervention), let's look at some examples from the Quran and Hadith. The fire has the property to produce extreme heat that would burn the living organisms. But when Abraham_(AS) was thrown in a fire that burnt for weeks, it did not harm him; why? Allah, used His discretion to change the hot property of fire for Abraham_(AS) alone, and ordered it to be cool for him (a miracle). The property of water is that it maintains its level, and sinks objects of higher density. When Moses_(AS) struck the sea with his staff, by Allah's command, the sea receded, and made way for the Israelites (losing its level, a miracle). A Jewish woman invited the Prophet_(SAW) for dinner and served him with poisoned food. The property of food is that it cannot talk, and the property of poison is that it harms or kills living organism. After the Prophet_(SAW) had eaten the first bite, the food spoke out that it is poisonous. On his death bed the Prophet_(SAW) told Ayesha_(RA) that it is the effect of that bite of poisonous food that he ate. The Lord did not override the SOP for the first bite,

later sidestepped it, and the food spoke out (a miracle). In the near future, an army from Sham (Jordan) will come to kill Imam Mehdi, it would be swallowed by the earth at a place between Medina and Makkah called Baidah. No fault line passes there, yet an earth quake will destroy the army (a miracle that will testify that he is the fore told guided one). Those who witness a miracle for them unseen becomes seen. Similarly, invisible deviation from the clear rules means, Allah used His discretionary powers, which is His right. A few days ago, an Indonesian plane crashed into the sea, killing all its passengers and crew members, except for a few months old, who was rescued two days later (invisible use of discretional powers).

Man was given the intellect to understand the system and make changes in it. Man has developed high yield bearing plants, genetical changes to cure diseases etc., these are the positive aspects. On the other hand, man is meddling with the SOPs of nature to gain control, and is making weapons of mass destruction, etc., these are the negaunseentive aspects for which one will be held accountable (Hellfire will be the abode). A scholarly person enquired about the infectious diseases, and presented me with six hadiths, that according to him contradicted. a) Abu Huraira^(RA) narrates that the Prophet^(SAW) said, “Infectious disease is nothing and there is no origin of month of Safar being ominous and owl being sign of misfortune.” On this a Bedouin asked: “O Messenger of Allah! What about camels”? They are as clean in the sand as deer, and then when an itchy camel enters them, it makes them itchy too? The Prophet^(SAW) asked: “Who caused the first itching” (it is not the infection that causes infection, it is the bacteria/virus that infects)? The diseased skin does not transfer it, it is the bacteria or viruses that cause the skin disease, and they are contagious. It is in their instinct to affect a body having weak immune system. They transfer from one being to the other (in different ways, through air, water, contact etc.). Let’s look at an example. Suppose someone is infected with corona virus and his lungs get damaged, later the corona virus becomes nil. He still has diseased (damaged) lungs but it is no longer contagious (the infectious virus has been eliminated that damaged the lungs). Cancer is a fatal disease; it is caused by the deformation of the

body cells. As it is not spread by the bacteria or the viruses, thus it is not a contagious disease. Another thing, not all viral diseases are fatal, neither all viruses, bacteria are harmful, actually some bacteria are necessary for our digestive system, and are called the good bacteria.

عن أبي هريرة، حين قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "العدوى ولا هامة"، فقال اعرابي: يا رسول الله فما بال الإبل تكون في الرمل كأنها الظباء، فيجيء البعير الأجرب فيدخل فيها فيجربها كلها، قال: "فمن أعدى الأول؟" (صحيح مسلم 5788)

b) Usama bin Zayd(RA) used to narrate from Saad(RA) that the Prophet said: **When you hear that plague is spreading in a place, do not go there, but when the plague breaks out somewhere and you are there, then do not leave that place (quarantine yourself).**

I read in another hadith that if a person leaves the affected area and dies, he dies as a disbeliever. Because he could have been the means of transmitting the disease and hurting others, in places that were free of it. This is what the modern medical science tells us. Today plague does not exist, why? Because it spreads by a bacterium, and we have strong anti-biotics that kill the bacteria. **This is the positive use of the intellect.** On the other hand, the miscreants are mutating viruses, making them deadly and contagious to reduce the world population (by passing the SOPs set by Quran). **Which is the negative use of the intellect.**

عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم انه قال: "إذا سمعتم بالطاعون بأرض فلا تدخلوها، وإذا وقع بأرض وأنتم بها فلا تخرجوا

منها" صحيح بخاري، كتاب الطب، حديث نمبر: 5728

c) In another hadith Sharid ibn Suwayd al-Thaqafi(RA) says that there was a leper in the delegation of Thaqafi. **The Prophet(SAW) told him to go back, I have taken your oath of allegiance (without his presence).** In another hadith the Prophet(SAW) said: **When you see a leper run as you run from a lion i.e. avoid contact.**

عن يعلى بن عطاء، عن رجل من آل الشريد يقال له عمرو، عن أبيه، قال: كان في وفد ثقيف رجل مجذوم، فأرسل إليه النبي

صلى الله عليه وسلم: "ارجع فقد بايعناك" - سنن ابن ماجه، كتاب الطب، حديث نمبر: 3544

d) The third related hadith says: **The Prophet(SAW) took the hand of a leper and put his hand in the bowl with him, then said to him: "Eat, I trust Allah and in Him I have put my trust."** In my opinion it could imply that when a situation arises, we should put our trust in Allah, e.g., doctors should put their trust in Allah and treat the patient (Allah knows best).

عن جابر بن عبد الله، ان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم اخذ بيد رجل مجنون، فادخلها معه في القصة، ثم قال: "كل ثقة بالله وتوكل على الله" - سنن ابن ماجه، كتاب الطب، باب: الْجَذَام، حديث نبوي: 3542

e) In another hadith the Prophet(SAW) said: **Disease being infectious, bad omens, owl being sign of bad luck and month of Safar brings bad luck are all absurd thoughts, but run from a leper like you run from a lion.** Why? Because disease is not infectious, rather the bacteria/virus that cause it are infectious. Each having its own way of transmitting. In continuation of hadith read earlier, here it says run away from a leper as one runs from lion. Because if Allah does not bypass the SOPs, the infection spreading virus/bacteria can infect you.

سعيد بن ميناء، قال: سمعت ابا هريرة يقول، قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "لا عدوى ولا طيرة، ولا هامة ولا صفر، وفي من البعوض كما تنف من الاسد" - صحيح البخاري، كتاب الطب، باب: الْجَذَام، حديث نبوي: 5707

The second question posed by him was, "Is preventive medicine allowed"? The Prophet(SAW) used to have hajama (puncturing skin and sucking out the blood) at regular intervals as a preventive measure to keep himself healthy. After centuries, hajama has surfaced again. It cures and prevents deceases.

عن ابن عباس، ان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم "احتجم وهو محرم" - سنن نسائي حديث: 2848

The third question posed by him, "Why some people catch disease and die, while others recover, and why some don't catch disease at all? Isn't it due to the will of Allah"? My answer is, the SOPs set by Allah say, it all depends on the immune system of the body. The stronger the immune system, the lesser chances of getting infected. If we follow the SOPs of eating food, our immune system would be strong, and will overcome nearly all diseases. A Doctor of herbal medicine came to Medina, **he was told he would starve here, because we eat less than our appetite, so no one gets sick.** The other related SOP for us humans is to put our trust in Allah, and not to stress ourselves. **The stress weakens the immune system.** Finally, Allah tells us: **Among people there are some who say: "We believe in Allah."** But when such a person is made to endure suffering in Allah's cause, **he reckons the persecution he suffers at the hands of people as though it is a chastisement from Allah.** But if victory comes from your Lord,

the same person will say “We were with you.” Does Allah not know whatever is in the hearts of the people of the world (29:10)?

Sometimes people groan, if it is written in their destiny, then why are they accountable for it? Destiny is not a script to be followed, but rather what we will do is written down by Allah with His knowledge. Let me illustrate this with an example. A cunning thief was caught stealing, and when he was brought to Umar^(RA)’s court, he said to him, “O Umar are you going to punish me for what was destined for me?” Umar^(RA) replied, “No, I am going to punish you what is destined for you.” I.e., due to free-will he is accountable for his deeds. Finally, remember if Allah wishes to bless you, and if all the powers of the world get together to stop it, they will not be able to do so, and if Allah wants to stop a blessing reaching you, again if all the powers of the world get together to provide you, they will not be able to do so. So, we should have faith in Allah and be patient, God willing paradise will be our abode.

From the above we can deduce:

- a) No sickness is contagious (except viral and bacterial).
- b) Quarantine and precautions are necessary to avoid spread of bacterial and viral diseases.
- c) One should place trust in Allah and care for the patients.
- d) Place trust in Allah and avoid mental stress.
- e) Preventive measures and medication are recommended.
- f) God can do what He wishes, what God wishes will be.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Creation of Man

Allah has made this worldly life an ultimate trial and test for the Hereafter, and with death, this worldly life/test comes to an end. Allah in Quran verses 91:7-10 says: **And by the soul and by Him Who perfectly proportioned it, and imbued it with (the consciousness of) its evil and its piety: He who purifies it will prosper, and he who suppresses it will be ruined.** This worldly

test is the first and the last test, after which neither this mortal universe will be re-created, nor will anyone be sent back to earth for re-testing (man could be the reason of its destruction, but cannot recreate it). Therefore, humans and devils have only one chance to prepare for the life to come. There Allah will resurrect each and every individual **and decide his fate on the basis of his faith and his deeds (good or bad)**. Thus, death is the doorway to eternal life of Paradise or pit of the Hellfire (may Allah protect us from the Hellfire). Amin!

As far as human life on this earth is concerned, billions of people have come before us, died and left this mortal world, and maybe billions more might come after us, and all shall die at their appointed time. That is why the Prophet(SAW) said that you should visit the cemetery, because it would remind you of death (fear of the Judgment Day). And in the graveyard, if we ponder at the old graves, we would realize that the inhabitants of those graves have spent most of their time underground and relatively little time above the ground. In Islam death is not the end of life, rather the continuation of life in another dimension. When the trumpet is blown the Doms Day begins, and after the Doms Day everything will cease to exist, all types of matter, energy, living beings, souls, Paradise, Hell, angels etc., except Allah. The Quran in 55:26-27 says: *All things will perish, only the Person of your Lord, full of majesty and splendor, will endure*. Further in verse 28:88 says: *There is no god but He. All will perish but He. To Him belongs the command. And to Him shall all of you return*. When Allah wills, He will resurrect all angels, humans and devils, and will recreate the universe with new laws on the Day of Resurrection, followed by the Day of Judgment. That Day Allah will hold each and every one accountable (from humans and jinns), and they will be rewarded/punished according **to their faith and deeds**. Unfortunately, for immediate gains, humans tend to forget the eternal life. That is why in chapter 102 Allah says: *The craving for ever-greater worldly gains and to excel others in that regard keeps you occupied until you reach your graves. Nay, you will soon come to know; nay, again, you shall soon come to know. Nay, would that you knew with certainty of knowledge (you would never have acted the way you do). You will surely end up seeing Hell; again, you shall*

most certainly end up seeing it with absolute certainty. Then, on that Day, you will be called to account for all the bounties you enjoyed. And then further in chapter 103 says: By the time! Lo! Man is in a state of loss; save those who have faith and do righteous deeds, and counsel each other to hold on to truth and counsel each other to be steadfast. The result on the Judgment Day depends on how a person spent his life in this mortal world. If he had faith and had acquired the colors of Allah(SWT), God willing he will be the dweller of Paradise, otherwise, God forbid, he will dwell in the Hellfire eternally. The reality of this life is that man came into this world empty handed and will leave this world empty handed, only his deeds will accompany him to the next destination. But, sadly, the lust for the worldly gain has diverted man from his purpose.

The Reality of Man: Man was supposed to love his Lord more than anyone/anything in the universe, and follow His prescribed way. He was supposed to be grateful for all the blessings that Allah bestowed upon him, fear Him and acquire His colours to correct his morals. And then convey the God's message to others. Unfortunately, man in his arrogance, forgets how and why he was created. Allah in verse 30:54 says: It is Allah Who created you in a state of weakness; then after weakness He gave you strength, then after strength He made you weak and old. He creates what He pleases. He is All-Knowing, All-Powerful. Sadly, man seduced by his inner-self, starts thinking, he is god. Ah, the same macho man willingly subdues to a man like himself, but is not ready to subdue to the One Who created him and this colossal universe. Man in his arrogance claims, there is no creator, and that he evolved by himself (from a monkey). Unfortunately, evil unites easily, while the good hesitates. That is why the spread of evil is fast, and the spread of good is always slow. When the evil completely overpowers the good, then Allah sends His messengers, those who believe prosper, but the arrogant perish. This is the reality that the lowly created man tends to ignore. Since Mohammed(SAW) was the last prophet, and now that the evil of the antichrist has overwhelmed the good, Imam Mahdi(AS) will defeat him and pave the way for the return of Jesus(AS). Jesus(AS) will rule the world with justice for forty years, under one God, one rule.

Man's Lowly Creation: The question that comes to mind is, why Allah created us from a mere drop of fluid, a fluid that is considered dirty, lowly and worthy of being washed off/discarded? A fluid that emanates from that part of the body that is kept covered. Leaving it uncovered is considered shameful; a part that excretes the urine (filth, waste) from our body. Furthermore, when the baby comes into this world, it again does so through the same anatomical part of the mother's body. Question arises: Why does Allah mention the creation of man in detail? I think there are at least three reasons. **The first reason** why man is told about his lowly creation is to enable him to control his pride/arrogance. **The second reason** why man is told about his lowly creation is to enable him to use his intellect to understand the complex signs in the universe to recognize its Creator (that's why the angels were ordered to bow down to Adam(AS)). When we try to understand the signs without prejudice, we will discover God. It will humble us, stop our negative tendencies, and make us realize the purpose of our creation. It will enable us to live in peace and harmony. As a sign for men of intellect, fourteen centuries ago, long before any ultrasound machine existed, Allah in the Quran described precisely the sequential phases of fetal growth and development in the womb of a mother. When these verses were revealed, humans had little knowledge about the stages of human growth (no ultra sound, no x-rays). Allah in verse 22:5 says: **O mankind! If you have any doubt concerning Resurrection, then know that it is surely We Who created you from dust (Adam(AS)), then from a drop of sperm, then from a clot of blood, then from a little lump of flesh, some of it shapely and other shapeless. (We are rehearsing this) that We may make the reality clear to you. We cause (the drop of sperm) that We please to remain in the wombs till an appointed time. We bring you forth as infants (and nurture you) that you may come of age. Among you is he that dies (at a young age) and he who is kept back to the most abject age (dotage) so that after once having known, he reaches a stage when he knows nothing.** (Resurrecting you is like) You see the earth dry and barren and then no sooner than We send down water upon it, it begins to quiver and swell and brings forth every kind of beauteous vegetation (seeds/DNA).

Further in the Quran in verses 23:12-16 Allah says: **We created man out of the extract of clay, then We made him into a drop of life-germ, then We placed it in a safe depository, then We made this drop into a clot, then We made the clot into a lump (leech-like clot), then We made the lump into bones, then We clothed the bones with flesh, and then We caused it to grow into another creation.** Thus, Most Blessed is Allah, the Best of all those that create. Thereafter you are destined to die, and then on the Day of Resurrection you shall certainly be raised up (He already has our design, DNA). And in verse 40:67 says: **It is He Who created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then from a leech-like clot; then He brings you out as an infant, then lets you to grow into full maturity, and then causes you to grow further so that you may reach dotage, while some of you He recalls earlier. All this is in order that you may reach an appointed term and that you may understand (the Truth).** According to Tafsir Ibn Kathir, the reference to man's creation from dust, implies that Allah created the first human being, Prophet Adam(AS) from dust, and then He created his offspring from semen of worthless water." It's a message for the men of understanding.

Man is a Disputer: Man, in his arrogance denies the existence of God, thus His religion, and insists that he is right. His arguments are not to establish the truth, but rather to suppress it and to stop the truth from being put forth. That is why in the Quran in verse 16:4 Allah says: **He created man out of a mere sperm drop, and lo! he is blatantly contentious?** To negate their stubbornness/ignorance, Allah reminds man how he was created from a miniscule sperm, which is not visible to the eyes, and yet when he grows, he argues about the very being that created Him. In verses 76:2-4 Allah tells and warns such people: **Verily We created man out of a drop of intermingled sperm so that We might try him, and We therefore endowed him with hearing and sight. Surely, We showed him the Right Path, regardless of whether he chooses to be thankful or unthankful (to his Lord). For the unbelievers, We have kept ready chains and fetters and a Blazing Fire.** In spite of all the universal facts and signs, man shuts his eyes, ears and heart, and without pondering in the signs around him, he disputes about Allah, His attributes, and other aspect

of Islam, only to avoid submitting to the One True Lord, Who created him (but willingly bows before a mortal like himself), gave him provisions, and blessed him with sight, hearing, and intellect. In verse 2:204 Allah describes his duplicity: **There is a certain type of man who charms you in this worldly life with his glib talk. He calls Allah to witness again and again that he cherishes good intentions in his heart, whereas, in fact, he is the deadliest opponent of the Truth (hypocrites).**

People who are arrogant/stubborn try to hide themselves in their boxes of prejudice. And in their arrogance, they close their eyes, their ears and their hearts to the admonishing of the Lord. Such people would believe in the assumptions put forward by the scientists, which leads them to ingratitude and disbelief. As a result, they would deny Allah's blessings, reject His commandments, belie His Prophets and His message, and most importantly deny the establishment of the Hour. In Quran in Surah Al-Kahf in verses 18:34-41, Allah narrates the conversation between an arrogant man who owned 2 luscious gardens and his pious neighbor. While bragging about possessing more wealth and a larger family than him, he says that **"I have greater wealth than you and I am stronger than you in numbers. I do not think that this (wealth) will perish ever. And I do not think the Hour will occur.** And even if I should be brought back to my Lord, I will surely find better than this as a return". While conversing with him, his neighbor exclaimed: **"Do you deny Him Who created you out of dust, then out of a drop of sperm, and then fashioned you into a complete man?"** As for myself, Allah alone is my Lord, and **I associate none with my Lord in His Divinity.** When you entered your vineyard, why did you not say: **"Whatever Allah wills shall come to pass, for there is no power save with Allah".** If you find me less than yourself in wealth and children it may well be that my Lord will give me something better than your vineyard, and send a calamity upon your vineyard from the heavens and it will be reduced to a barren waste, or the water of your vineyard will be drained deep into the ground so that **you will not be able to seek it out".** The purpose of the conversation is to remind us of our origin, so that we may humble ourselves before Allah, and not be fooled by the superfluous worldly benefits. And neither deny the absolute

reality of the imminence of the Hour and the Day of Resurrection. The Quran mentions it in 80:19-22 this way: **Out of a sperm-drop did He create him and then determined a measure for him, and then made the course of life easy for him, then He caused him to die and brought him to the grave, and then, whenever He wills, He will raise him back to life** (the reality of life). To stress on the imminence of the hour, Allah in verses 53:45-47 says: **And it is He Who created the two kinds, the male and the female, from a drop of sperm when it was emitted, and that it is on Him to grant the second life.** For Whom the first creation was easy, the resurrection will be even easier (locked up minds accept when scientist say they are pretty hopeful of recreating the dinosaurs etc. from their DNA's, while the Creator who created the DNA cannot!!). In verse 21:104 Allah says: **On that Day We shall roll up the heavens like a scroll for writing. Even as We originated the creation first so We shall repeat it. This is a promise binding on Us; and so, We shall fulfill.**

Arrogance of Man: **The third reason for** mentioning the inferior creation of man in the Quran is so that man may be convinced of Allah's perfect power over creation and resurrection. Arrogance is the major factor which stops humans from acquiring the colors of Allah(SWT), the Lord of the universe. Man, whom Allah gave intellect, he in his ignorance/arrogance responds and says: This universe always existed and will always exist (Steady State Theory). The Quran fourteen hundred years ago mentioned its creation with a Big Bang, today science accepts it as a universal truth. The scientists also agree that if the Big Bang was not precise, the universe would not have existed i.e., if the strength of the blast was slightly stronger the planets would not have formed, and if it was slightly less it would have collapsed to pre-Big Bang state. Similarly, they accept that if there was slightest variation in the charge of electrons and protons, the universe would not have existed (indicating excellent design). They also say where there is beginning, there has to be a creator. Yet such people out of their arrogance/ignorance claim it is all by chance. The Quran's reminder of the lowly creation is not for such people rather for those who have not locked themselves in their boxes of prejudice, who are ready to use their intellect,

breathe in fresh air (guidance) and adhere to it. Allah in 37:11-18 asks: *So, ask them (the human beings): "Were they harder to create than the objects We created (universe)?" We created them from sticky clay. You marvel (at the wondrous creations of Allah) and they scoff at it, and when they are admonished, they pay no heed; and if they see any Sign, they laugh it away and say: "This is nothing but plain sorcery. Is it ever possible that after we die and are reduced to dust and (a skeleton of) bones, we will be raised to life? And so also shall our forefathers of yore be raised to life?" Tell them: "Yes; and you are utterly helpless (against Allah)."*

Allah bestowed man with intellect and authority to apply it in a positive or negative way (to be held accountable for misuse). Sadly, vast majority of the prejudiced people use their intellect in a negative way. In an effort to become a human deity, they are trying to enslave humans through HAARP technology and genetic engineering. Miscreants are already manipulating nature to gain control of the food chain.

One day while reciting Surah Ar-Rahman in the night prayer, verses 55:7-8 startled me, which states: *And He has raised up the heaven and has set its balance that you should not transgress*, i.e., fiddle with the universal balance. This verse shocked me as to why Allah mentioned it? As Allah neither creates anything without purpose, nor mentions meaningless things. After some deliberation, I came to the conclusion that this is an indication that man will tamper with the universal balance, just as he is tampering with the nature. To illustrate the consequence of the above verse, I will try to explain it with an example. Suppose we place six magnets in the six directions, and then balance a needle in the middle at a spot where all the six magnetic forces are equal, the needle will hang in the air. If we tamper with the balance by moving a magnet or needle slightly, the balance will be lost and the needle will collide with the magnet of stronger force. Imbalance in the universe would trigger collisions between planets that would destroy the universe (Dooms Day, Allah knows best). Scientists assume that billions of years later the universe might collapse, after losing its balance (in my opinion the universal balance set by Allah is so precise and accurate that it will never lose its balance, unless fiddled with). But on

the other hand, Islam tells us that the Dooms Day is very nearby. In an effort to gain supremacy over others, man with his technologies is meddling with the balance of the mother nature, **similarly in my opinion, after having acquired the necessary knowledge and know how, man will one day tamper with the universal balance, and he will trigger the Dooms Day** (with Allah's permission). An artist does not like to destroy his useless creation, similarly, **in my opinion** the Merciful Lord would never like to destroy his creation, it will be man that will destroy the universe (with Allah's consent). Few years back I remember reading an article in which in France scientist had dug a tunnel couple of miles long, in which they intended to accelerate the proton to the speed of light i.e., 300KM/sec. Before carrying out the experiment, they showed concern that if something went wrong, it could trigger chain reaction that could destroy the earth. Yet they carried it out. So will one day man in his arrogance tamper with the universal balance. This is the reality of man, he loves destruction, and forgets his lowly creation.

To further my claim, Microsoft founder Bill Gates continues to pose threats to the world

with new viruses. He also says that he doesn't like the sun, and wants to block it. Bill Gates backed by top scientists at Harvard University are designing an aircraft that



could spray carbonate dust into the lower stratosphere to partially block the sunlight. A test of the technology has been proposed for this year. The Daily Mail reports, with the Stratospheric Controlled Perturbation Experiment (SCoPEX), a bag of carbonate dust will be released into the atmosphere 12 miles up. If the experiment is successful, the researchers will spread the dust by the planes across the horizon. They have calculated that the special jets that can fly above 12 miles high would complete the task in over 60,000 missions, and it would take them 15 years to complete it. [Bill Gates \(the macho man\) wants to control the sun's light. He wants to deprive the human race of natural vitamin D3, and plants from photo](#)

synthesis, so that he can reduce the world's population by controlling the food chain. Due to sun light that is not easy, as the light kills the viruses, and due to photo synthesis stopping crop growth is difficult. The scientists have been predicting a Mini-Ice Age era (by design). If Bill Gates succeeds in partially stopping the sun rays from reaching the earth above the Tropic of Cancer in the Northern Hemisphere and below the Tropic of Capricorn in the Southern Hemisphere, in my opinion it would result in Mini Ice-Age that would destroy the population living in those areas.

On the other hand, Elon Musk (owner of Tesla dry batteries) who intends to set up a human colony on Mars and build a network of satellites above us. He has already requested permission to put 30,000 more satellites into the orbit. He is building a heavier rocket that would allow him to put 400 satellites into orbit at a time. Soon, Earth may be blanketed by tens of thousands of satellites, which will outnumber the approximately 9,000 stars that are visible to an unaided human eye. This is not some distant threat. It's already happening. SpaceX has already put 240 of these small satellites, collectively called Starlink, in the sky. The goal of SpaceX is to build a satellite constellation via Starlink, to monitor human movement. Yet the macho man is not ready to accept the infinite sophisticated monitoring of the Lord. Subhan-Allah! The macho man accepts there can't be two kings in a kingdom, but associates the human beings whom he adores as partners to the Lord of the universe. The macho man gladly submits to a human king whom he has never seen, never met, and about whom he knows nothing, but he is not ready to bow to the creator Who created this colossal universe and whatever is in it, and Who left signs of His existence. The biggest enemy of man is his pride, it makes it easy for him to mistreat his brethren in humanity. In Quran in verse 49:13 Allah says: Human beings, We created you all from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another (not despise one another). Verily the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most God-fearing of you. Surely Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware. The bragging about the lineage, makes it easy to despise others (what lineage? All humans are children of Adam^(AS)). My questions to my readers:

“A person who despises others, should he be allowed to enter the Paradise? Should an arrogant man be allowed to enter the Paradise? Should an envious person who is never content with what he has, be allowed to enter Paradise. The answer would be no. They would destroy the harmony of the Paradise, just like they have destroyed the harmony of the world. Allah’s sieve is sieving them out for the Hellfire.

The test of the world is believing and fearing the unseen (Lord). Unfortunately, most of us are oblivious of the Merciful. On the other hand, if we get an invitation to see the president in his palace, we would buy new clothes, use a good perfume and reach the palace before time, even if we have to stand in rain with our new clothes, we will wait. How sad, the caller calls five times a day (Azan), saying Allah is calling his slaves (humans) to his worldly palace (mosque). He calls out, hurry for the prayers (to meet the Lord), hurry for the salvation (gift). Nearly all ignore it, and those who do go, they are least bothered about their dress. Allah in Quran verse 7:31 says: *Children of Adam! Take your adornment at every time of Prayer; and eat and drink without going to excesses. For Allah does not like those who go to excess* (this verse is tough).

The reality of human (gods): Quran in verses 55:14-16 tells and asks the men of intellect: *He has created man from dry, rotten clay like the potter’s, and has created the jinn (devils) from the flame of fire. Which of your Lord’s marvels will you deny?* We all know when a child is born, he is naked, physically helpless and broke. We were all new-borns once, and our survival depended entirely on our parents. When we wetted our nipples, we needed someone (mom) to clean us up, when we were hungry, we needed someone to feed us, we need someone, to clothe us according to the weather, provide us with safe and hygienic environment, and to protect us from all hazards and diseases. That is why the Quran speaks about parents after Allah. As man grows older, he starts thinking that he is something special, and forgets his origin. When he grows to become a young man, he becomes independent, and mostly arrogant. Time goes by and then there comes a time when he wakes up in the morning and all his bones hurt, he has grown old. With bent back he is forced to walk with a stick. As he gets older, he gets sick, and then a time comes when he

can't move without help (again). That is, he is in need of others till death. That is why the Prophet(SAW) used to seek refuge in Allah from the dependent life of old age (dotage). Then comes a time when he faces the angel of death (Malik Ul Mawt) who has come to take his soul. Nobody around him sees him, but the dying person can. It is then that one realizes the reality of the mortal world (then it is too late). The living may or may not know, but the truth is that Sucrat Ul Mawt (hardship of death) is not easy. Finally, when a person dies, he is bathed because he can no longer bathe himself. He is shrouded because he can no longer shroud himself. He is taken to the cemetery, because he can no longer walk on his own. His loved ones offer his funeral prayers and bury him in the grave. They cannot keep his body, because the dead corpse will decay and will be harmful for the living, nor would anyone like to give him a company, and neither his corpse can be left open outside, because the animals would eat it, or the corpse would rot and produce an unbearable stench. Thus, the macho man is buried alone in the dark abyss of the grave. **Even thou man knows the reality of this mortal life that one day he will be no more, yet he tends to ignore it and does not take heed.** The first step that man faces towards the end of his mortal life is sucratul mawt (hardship of dying).

Sucratul Mawt: The agony of death (sucratul mawt) means the semi unconscious state of a person who is about to die. Aisha(RA), the mother of the believers, said: I saw the Messenger of Allah(SAW) in the throes of death, he had a cup of water with him, he would put his hand into the mug, then wipes his face and say: "Oh Allah, help me from the hardship of death, and from the agony of death" Then he raised his hands and said "to Rafiq-ul-Ala" (to the highest Companion) until his soul was taken away and his hand fell down. (Bukhari 42, Tirmizi 978). May Allah ease it on us. Amin! To explain the hardship of dying, I am quoting from the chapter "My Dream" from my book "Prayers". In my opinion it is quite comprehensive. It goes: The story I read on WhatsApp sent shivers through my spine, it was then that I realized that sooner or later it was inevitable that I would die, and that I will be resurrected on the Day of Resurrection to be judged for my deeds (O Allah, forgive me). The Quran warned me in

verse^(36:12), that Allah said: **He will surely raise the dead to life and He has record of what they did and the traces of their deeds that they have left behind** (consequences of their deeds, i.e. if one does good deeds that continue after him, he keeps getting bonus points, and negative points on continuity of bad deeds), **and We have written all things in a clear Book (of evidence)**. While pondering on the lesson of the story, I fell asleep. I dreamt that I was on my death bed, and I was dying. I could not move my feet, my ankles were joined with each other (soul had existed my feet), then I felt my arms were not moving, then my lungs stopped breathing, I couldn't breathe, the soul was slowly exiting my body until it reached my throat, due to excruciating pain I tried to scream, but no sound came out of me, I tried to tell my loved ones, but could not tell them, my mouth stayed open I could not close it. It is then I remembered what the Quran said: **Nay! When a man's soul reaches up to the throat, and it will be said, "Who can cure him and save him from death?"** And he, the dying person, will realize that it is the time of departing, and calf is inter-twined with calf. **On that Day you will be driven to your Lord** (75:26-30). I also remembered, the Prophet^(SAW) once said that if a person seeks repentance one year before dying, God will accept the repentance. Even if a person seeks repentance one day before dying, God will accept it. The Prophet^(SAW) then said that even if someone seeks repentance before his soul reaches here (pointing to his throat), God will accept it. In spite of this, I was not worried, I heard a scholar say, the fire of Hell will not touch the Muslims. Suddenly, I recalled what the Quran said: **This is because they say: "The fire of Hell shall not touch us except for a limited number of days."** The false beliefs which they have forged have deluded them in their faith. How, then, will they fare when We shall gather them all together to witness the Day about (the coming of) which there is no doubt, **and where every human being shall be repaid in full for what he has done, and none shall be wronged** (3:24-25)? And further in Surah Baqarah it says: **"..... Why will not the fire of Hell touch you? Whoever earns evil and becomes engrossed in sin shall be doomed to Hell and abide therein forever** (2:80-81). Oh God, it was then that I realized it was too late to repent, and fear gripped me. O woe to me, I was unmindful of this day, when I

would taste death (O Allah, forgive me!!). I could now see the angles and my dead relatives and friends, it is then I remembered a hadith in which the Prophet(SAW) told us that on the death bed the satanic demons would come to you in the form of your dead loved ones and tell you not to die on Islam. I started reciting the declaration of faith, "there is no one worthy of worship except Allah". I looked up; I saw my soul exit my body through my head, **ah and I was no more.**

The angel of death arrives at the death bed of a disbelieving soul and tells it to get out of the body, to face the wrath of Allah. Being terrified, the soul desperately tries to hide itself in the body. Thereupon, the angel of death start beating the soul and extracts the soul from the body in a most painful way. The painful process of taking out a sinner's soul can be compared to the dragging of an iron skewer over moist wool. The soul of the sinner is then wrapped in a dirty cloth which emits bad smell. The angels carry the wicked soul towards the heaven. On the way, other angels inquire about this wicked soul, they are told that it is the soul of so and so sinner/disbeliever. The angels then arrive at the seventh heaven, but its doors are not opened for the evil soul. Consequently, the soul is then thrown into underworld, where it is punished till the Doomsday. On the other hand, when a righteous believer dies, bright-faced angels from heaven descends with perfumed shroud. Then the angel of death comes, and tells the soul to come out in the pleasure and mercy of Allah. The soul is then extracted as easily as water pours out from the pitcher. The soul is then wrapped in the perfumed shroud and is taken up to the seventh heaven, where God declares: "Write down his name in 'Illiyin' and take him back to earth. I created him from earth, and I will raise him second time from this very earth." He is blessed with heavenly rewards.

This is the reality of the mortal life which we consider precious, and forget our purpose of existence. We never bother to ask ourselves, where are all those who have died, and in what state are they in. After Prophet Moses(AS)'s soul was taken, Allah asked him how he found death. He said: "I felt like a sparrow being fried in a pan; neither does it die so that it will rest, nor can it escape so that it can fly away." It signals that death can sometimes be harsh on the beloved slaves of Allah.

And in another narration, Moses^(AS) said: “It was like a sheep being skinned at the hands of a butcher” (Hasan Idwi, Mashariq, Egypt, 1316, p.15). Although the Prophet^(SAW) said that people who had little sins would have easy death and that there would be no fear or hardship for true believers who uttered the expression of “shahadah” at the time of death (Munziri, at-Targhib wa’t-Tarhib 2/416-417). Then what is the reason for the severe agony those faced, whom the Quran said that their lives after death will be in the highest level in Paradise? The reason of severe sucratul mawt could be one of the four reasons mentioned below:

1. When Allah wants to elevate the status of a true believer, He makes him endure agony of death. Aisha^(RA) narrates: “Having seen the agony the Prophet^(SAW) suffered while dying, I will not envy anyone’s easy death” (Tirmzi 8). In another narration, Aisha^(RA) said: “The Messenger of Allah^(SAW) died on my chest. Having seen it with the Messenger of Allah, I will not consider the severity of death bad for anyone” (Nasai 6).
2. Allah makes the agony of death severe for people whose sins He wants to forgive and/or raise their status. The Prophet^(SAW) said that no believer suffers except that he is rewarded or his sins are expiated (except the rights of the creation). Umar^(RA) said: “If something from a believer’s sins still remains after repentance, Allah makes the agony of death severe for him. Eventually, he shall enter Paradise. That is why Umar bin Abdul Aziz said: **“I do not want that agony of death be eased for me, I do not desire it because, it is the last ransom which covers a believer’s sins and increases his level”** (Hajar, Fathul-bari, 11/365).
3. For some the agony of death is severe, because they are being put to trial once more to enable them to pass the worldly test.
4. For some the agony of death is severe, could be because it is the beginning of their punishment; they disbelieved by being cruel, unfair to people and always occupied themselves with evil deeds. The Quran tells us that as a special case, the people of Pharoah are already facing the torment of the Hellfire, because they accepted Pharoah as their lord.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Death (When the Soul Departs)

Allah warns us in verse 3:185 that: **“Everyone is bound to taste death and you shall receive your full reward on the Day of Recompense. Then, whoever is spared the Fire and is admitted to Paradise has indeed been successful. The life of this world is merely an illusory enjoyment.”** This is the reality of life which should be remembered. The death does not distinguish between kings and destitute. It is advised to the Muslims to be patient (when their loved one is on his death bed) and recite what the Prophet(SAW) said to his daughter. Once the Prophet (SAW)’s daughter sent a message to him to come home because her son was dying. He(SAW) sent his greeting and said: “It is His what He has taken, and it is His what He has given, and everything in His possession has a prescribed lifetime, so let her be patient and content with Allah’s will and reward” (Bukhari).

Death is the termination of worldly life and the beginning of the actual life called the afterlife (which most deny). This is the separation of the soul from the body and its transfer to another dimension till the Dooms Day. Believing in the afterlife is one of the six basic tenets of Islam. After being resurrected and on the Day of Reconnung, every person will know whether he is going to Heaven or Hell. As it is not the end but rather the beginning of the actual life (a promise of Allah which man neglects). That is why in Islam there are lots of rituals and supplications for the deceased and the bereaved family (as each person has to face the reality of death). The messenger of Allah went to see Abu-Salama after he died; he found his eyes open, so the Prophet(SAW) closed them and said: “When the soul is retrieved, the sight follows it”. Thus, those near the deceased should close the dead person’s eyelids while reciting the following supplication (Muslim).

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِقُلَانِ (نام) وَأَذْقِمْ دَرَجَتَهُ فِي السَّعَادَاتِ وَأَخْلُقْهُ فِي حَقْبِهِ فِي الْعَابِرِينَ وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلَهُ يَا رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَأَقْسِمُ لَهُ فِي قَبْرِهِ وَتَوَزَّلَهُ فِيهِ۔

Allahummaghfir li (name of the person) warfa darajatahu fil-mahdiyyeen, wakhluflu fee aqibihi fil-ghaabireen, waghfir-lanaa wa lahu yaa Rabbal-aalameen, wafsa lahu fee qabrihi wa nawwir lahu feeh. O Allah, forgive (name of the person) and elevate his station among those who are guided. Send him along the path of those who came before, and forgive us and him, O Lord of the worlds. Enlarge for him his grave and illuminate it for him. Muslim 2/634.

The body is to be covered with a sheet. The Prophet(SAW) upon his death was wrapped with a piece of striped cloth (Bukhari and Muslim). According to scholars, it is permissible to kiss the dead and to shed tears for him. When Othman Bin Makhtoon died, the Prophet(SAW) kissed his forehead and cried until the tears wet his cheeks (Tirmizi and Ibn Majah). Abu-Bakr(RA) kissed the forehead of the Prophet(SAW) between his eyes after his demise and said: "O' Prophet, O' dear friend". Debt is a burden on the deceased, the family and friends of the deceased should pay off the debt from the deceased's wealth, and if there is no wealth left, it should be paid off by donations. The Prophet(SAW) said: "The believer's soul is attached to his debt until it is paid" (Ahmad, Ibn Majah). Meaning that the close relatives, friends and neighbours who had affection for him, should try to pay off his debt, it is binding on the dead person. Ah! The macho man can't do anything for himself, he now depends on others to pay off his debt. This is the reality of life; we are accountable for all the delights and debts. Debt being the right of someone, it cannot be forgiven unless it is paid off or the creditor forgives. A reality that man usually forgets.

In Islam, death is a step towards the beginning of the eternal life, and is predetermined by Allah, and the correct knowledge of the time of death is only known to Him. If we consider this point, we will praise Allah for hiding the time of death. I will try to explain it with an example. Allah the Al-Rehman, the Most Merciful has said if someone repents sincerely, He always forgives. Now suppose I knew for certain I would live for eighty years, then **I would do what I wanted** (it would not be something good), and hours before death repent sincerely to the All Merciful, He would forgive me. The humanity would cease to exist, there would be chaos, suppression, enslavement and trampling of individuals rights everywhere.

As it is not known, that's why a believer craves that his last words in this world would be that of penitence and his profession of faith (which reads "I testify that there is no god but Allah, and Mohammad(SAW) is the messenger of Allah"). The Prophet(SAW) said, he(SAW) repents more than hundred times a Day. **In Islam Paradise is not an inheritance, it has to be earned with faith in the One True God, schlepping for good deeds, and to tolerate the mistreatment with patience.** This is the reason why the relatives of the dying person, urge and encourage the dying person to repent and pronounce the declaration of faith. The Prophet(SAW) recommended that the dying person should be asked to pronounce, "La ilaha illal lah". (There is no God but Allah.), before death (Muslim, Abu Dawood, At-Tirmizi). The Prophet(SAW) also said: "The one whose last words are "La ilaha illallah", will ultimately enter Paradise" (Abu Dawood).

Under Allah's great plan, death transfers a man from the material realm to the world of Barzakh. This is the basic concept of all monotheistic Abrahamic religions of the world. Islamic traditions discuss elaborately, as to what happens before, during, and after the death. However, what exactly happens is not clear, as different schools of thought have drawn different conclusions. One canonical idea is, that an Angel of death Izrael appears to the dying person to take his soul. Another recognised idea adds that, after the burial, two angels Munkir and Nakeer question the dead about his faith. The righteous believer answers correctly and lives in peace and comfort, while the sinners and disbelievers fail, and punishment ensues them. **Thus, faith and righteous deeds are the gateway to paradise, while disbelief, polytheism, hypocrisy, and bad deeds are gateway to the Hellfire.** The time period between death and the Dooms Day is called the life of the Barzakh. Another idea is that the torment of the grave reduces the sins of the believers.

The Quran in several places discusses the issue of death, and that death is inevitable for all living beings. It doesn't matter how much people try to avoid death; **it will reach everyone.** In verse 50:19 the Quran says: **Lo, the agony of death has indeed come with the Truth. That is what you had sought to avoid.** Further, those who deny resurrection and afterlife, the Quran

challenges them by saying: Why, then, when the soul leaps up to the throat, and while you are helplessly watching that he is on the verge of death, at that moment We are closer to him than you 56:83-85. In 75:26-28 says: Nay; when a man's soul reaches up to the throat, and it is said: "Is there any enchanter who can step forward and help (by his chanting, to put back the soul that has reached the throat and is about to escape the body)?" and he (the dying person) realizes that the hour of parting has come. Realization will not benefit the dying person. In 23:99-100 tells us that: (They shall persist in their deeds) until when death comes to anyone of them he will say: "My Lord, send me back to the world that I have left behind. I am likely to do good." Nay, it is merely a word that he is uttering. There is a barrier behind all of them (who are dead) until the Day when they will be raised up. Probably the most-frequently quoted verse of the Quran about death is: "Every soul shall taste death, and only on the Day of Judgment will you be paid your full recompense" 3:185. In verse 3:102, the Quran urges the mankind and says: Believers! Fear Allah as He should be feared, and see that you do not die except in the state of submission to Allah. Because, the true religion with Allah is Islam 3:19. Allah warns in verses 70:6-7: Verily they think that the chastisement is far off, while We think that it is near at hand. The living can only mourn the dead, they cannot bring him back to life. Here I would like to add, death is a blessing for the man kind. If there was no death, the tyrants like Pharaoh would be ruling the world and there would be no respite from their tyranny. And if we grew old as we grow now, the life would be miserable, painful and unbearable. Thank you, Allah!

Preparing the dead for burial is a "Fard Kifayah" duty of the community. Preparing the dead for burial consists of the following: Bathing the dead, wrapping the body in a shroud, praying for the dead, and burying the body. After demise people mourn for their loved ones.

Mourning: As a grieving person can harm his well-being, that is why to soothe his grief, Islam lays down the ethics of mourning. **The first ethical rule:** It is narrated by Abu Amama who said that the Prophet(saw) said that Allah says: "O' son of Adam! If you are patient and seek reward at the moment of

first shock, I will not approve of any reward for you less than Paradise.” Subhan-Allah!

عَنْ أَبِي أُمَامَةَ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. قَالَ "يَقُولُ اللَّهُ سُبحَانَهُ ابْنُ آدَمَ إِنَّ صَبْرَكَ وَاحْتِسَابَكَ عِنْدَ الصَّدَمَةِ الْأُولَى كَمْ أَرْغَسَ لَكَ كُؤُوبًا دُونَ الْجَنَّةِ".

Un abi Amama annil nabiya sallah ho wa alihi was alum qala: yaqolu Allah subhana hu, ibnai Adam in sabarta wahtsabta indus sadmatil oola lum arza laka sawabun dunal junnah.

The second ethical rule: It is recommended to comfort the family of the deceased with consoling words that would soothe the grieving heart and reduce its sadness. The Prophet(SAW) said: “Surely, every believer who comforts his brother at a time of grief, he will be clothed with dignity on the Day of Resurrection (Majah). Um-Salama(RA) heard the Prophet(SAW) say: “Whosoever is inflicted by a misfortune and says: “Inna Lillahi wa inna ilaihi Rajeeon (we belong to Allah and to him is our return)”, and then says, “O’ Allah, reward me on my misfortune, and bestow on me a better substitute.” So, Allah will reward him for his misfortune and give him a better substitute. Um-Salamah said: “When my husband, Abu-Salama died, I said what the messenger of Allah told us, so Allah bestowed on me a better substitute, the messenger of Allah(SAW)” (Muslim and Ahmad).

The third ethical rule: When visiting a grieving person/family, the bereaved ones should be expressed with the following supplication.

اعظم الله أجرك، وأحسن عزاءك، وغفر لبييتك۔

Azamallah ajraka wa ahsana azaaika, wa ghafara lai maiyattica. May Allah magnify your reward, and make perfect your bereavement, and forgive your departed. Amin!

And/or

إِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَا أَخَذَ، وَلَهُ مَا أُعْطِيَ، وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ عِنْدَهُ بِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى. أَعْظِمُ اللَّهُ أَجْرَكَ، وَأَحْسِنْ عَزَاءَكَ، وَغْفِرْ لِبَيْتِكَ۔ فَتُشْفِدُ وَلْتُحْتَسِبَ

Inna lillaahi maa akhaza, wa lahu maa aataa, wa kullu shayin indahu biajalin musamman, aazama mallahu ajraka, wa ahsana aaza aka, wa gafara lai mayyateka. faltasbir waltahsasib. Verily to Allah belongs what he took and to Him belongs what He gave, and everything with Him has an appointed time. May Allah magnify Your reward, make better your solace and forgive your deceased. So have patience and be rewarded (Al-Bukhari 2/80, 1/1284 Muslim 2/636).

The fourth ethical rule: Islam provides rituals and procedures for the Muslims, who at the demise of their loved one are going through period of grief. It is permissible to mourn and shed tears at the demise of a loved one for three days, but not permissible to wail or cry loudly. The Prophet(SAW) said: “Allah does not punish a person as a result of tears, or the sadness of the heart, rather Allah bestows His mercy as a result of this, and punishes on,” the Prophet(SAW) pointed to his tongue (i.e. wailing). The Prophet(SAW) shed tears at the death of his son, Ibrahim(AS), and said: “The eye shed tears and the heart grieves, and we say nothing except what pleases our Lord, and we grieve as a result of your departure, O Ibrahim” (Bukhari and Muslim). The Prophet(SAW) said: “Whosoever is wailed upon will suffer as a result of this wailing” (Bukhari and Muslim). Ah, the macho man is helpless against death.

A firm belief in the afterlife is a foundational truth in Islam, which is a source of comfort and strength for the pious family, with a hope of reuniting in the paradise. It is normal to grieve and shed tears over the death of a loved one, because Allah has embedded love in our hearts. While grief and tears are expected, but loud outbursts of wailing are considered inappropriate and an evidence of a lack of faith.

Fifth ethical rule: Islam expects a person to express his grief in a dignified manner. **It prohibits loud wailing, shrieking, beating the chest and cheeks, tearing hairs or clothes, breaking of objects, scratching of faces and howling unbefitting phrases.**

Sixth ethical rule: As life has to continue, the Prophet(SAW) said that the loved ones and relatives of the demised person are to observe only three days of mourning period, while the grief could last longer, as it varies from person to person. This is to enable and force the aggrieved family to control their emotions and continue with normal life. On Jaffer(RA)’s death, when the Prophet visited his family, he gave them three days to weep over Jaffar’s death, then he told them, after today do not cry anymore for my brethren (Nasai and Abu Dawood). It is also narrated by Zainab d/o Abi Salma(RA) that when the news of Abu Sufyan(RA)’s death came from Syria, Umm Habiba(RA) (daughter of Abu Sufyan(RA) and mother of the believers) on the third day asked for Safra (a perfume) and rubbed it on both

her cheeks and arms, and said, if I had not heard from the Holy Prophet(SAW) that it is not permissible for any woman who believes in Allah and the Last Day that she should mourn for anyone other than her husband for more than three days. I would not have used it, as I had no desire to use the perfume at this time (Bukhari 1280).

Seventh ethical rule: Mourners receives visitors who have come for condolence in simple plain clothes.

Eighth ethical rule: According to a hadith, widows are ordered to observe an extended mourning period (iddah, period of waiting), which is four months and 10 days as per hadith. During that period, the widow cannot remarry or interact with non-mahram (a man she can legally marry). This is to confirm that the widow is not pregnant prior to remarrying. The widow is expected not to leave the house unnecessarily or to meet non-mahrams. However, in emergencies, like a widow might have to visit a doctor due to illness, or go out to earn a living, etc., in which case the widow can talk to non-mahrams. If the widow is pregnant, the waiting period ends immediately after giving birth.

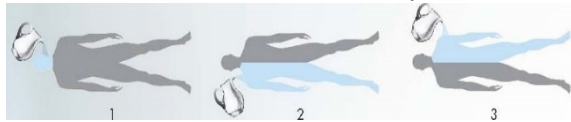
Duty of the neighbours, relatives, friends during mourning period: Neighbours, relatives and friends mourn the loss of their loved one for three days. Meanwhile, close relatives and neighbours have a responsibility to take care of the bereaved family. Most of the relatives and friends stay at the bereaved family's house for three days to solace them and friends who have come from far and wide to offer condolences. It is also expected that neighbours, relatives and friends will provide food and other basic necessities to the bereaved family during this period or at least on the first day. It is narrated by Abdullah bin Jaffer bin Abi Talib(RA) that the Prophet(SAW) said: Prepare food for family of Jaffer, because something has happened that has kept them busy (Abu Dawood, Ibn-Majah). Every soul shall face death, this is the reality of life that macho man forgets.

Funeral Rites in Islam

On death, the body is covered with a sheet. The close relatives, friends and neighbours, notify his relatives and friends of his demise. Then some go to visit the caretaker/authority for

allocation of space in the cemetery and digging of the grave. The body is washed and covered with at least a sheet by family members (the reality of the macho man is that now he cannot bathe himself). The deceased's funeral prayer is held outside/ inside a mosque or in the courtyard of cemetery. Islamic etiquette forbids mourners from taking pictures or recording the funeral services. One fact that man cannot comprehend in his worldly life, is the horror of the afterlife (which majority of humans will face). The Islamic law calls for the burial of the body as soon as possible. There are few simple rituals which involve giving a bath to the deceased, shrouding the body, followed by salah (janazah prayer) and burying the deceased. Burial is usually within 24 hours after death, to protect the living from any sanitary issues, except for a person where murder is suspected. In that case, the cause of death must be determined before burial. Incineration of the body is strictly prohibited in Islam. The rites of burial are not constituted in the Quran, rather in traditions of the Prophet(SAW). When Muslims die, members of Muslim community gather together to give a bath to the deceased, shroud him in white sheets (kafan) and offer his funeral prayer, a form of supplication for his forgiveness. The funeral prayer is called Salat ul-Janazah. There are some pre-burial rituals that are performed before burying the dead. They are:

Bathing: Deceased males should be washed by men, while



deceased females should be washed by women. It is permissible for either spouse to wash the other after death. This is because Ali(RA) had washed his wife Fatima(RA), and the Prophet(SAW) had said to his wife Aisha(RA) that, "If you die before me, I'll bathe you and wrap you in a shroud" (Ibn Majah). It is obligatory to wash the deceased once with water with the intention of cleansing the body. It is recommended that the body be laid on an elevated platform. The body is stripped of its clothes, and the area between the navel and the knee is kept covered. Those bathing the deceased should press his abdomen to remove the impurities.

That impurity should be washed off from the deceased. The person washing the deceased should wrap a cloth on his/her hand. Just as we perform ablution, so is ablution performed on the deceased. Then the whole body is washed three times with water and soap, starting with the right side. If the deceased is a woman and her hairs are interweaved, then her interweaves should be loosened and washed, and then interweaved back in three separate interweaves. After bathing is done, the body should be dried with a clean cloth and then perfumed. The Prophet(SAW) commanded women to wash the body of his daughter twice and to add camphor in the water the third time (Bukhari, Muslim). After bathing and drying the body with a clean cloth, then perfume is applied. The Prophet(SAW) commanded women to wash his daughter's body twice and to add camphor to the water the third time (Bukhari, Muslim). In case of violent death or accident where the body of the deceased has incurred injuries, prior to surrendering the deceased to the mourners, the authorities investigate the body, mend it, wash it and wrapped in a shroud.

We should also know when water is not available, how to dry wash (tayammum) the deceased, a substitute for cleansing the body. Tayammum is also permissible, where there is a concern that the body might disintegrate if touched by water, such as in cases of burn victims. We can give Tayammum to deceased female, if women are not available to wash her body, and the same goes for men, if there are no men available to wash his body. All this is done because the macho man can no longer do anything for himself. The reality of life that one forgets.

Shrouding: After the bath, the corpse is wrapped in unstitched white cloth called kafan. It is obligatory that the body be covered by at least a single sheet. The shroud can consist of maximum three sheets for the male, and five sheets for the female. A white shroud is used, because the Prophet(SAW) said, "Wear white clothing it is the best of your clothes, and wrap the dead with it" (Abu Dawood, Ibn Majah). The shroud is perfumed, and the shrouded body is laid on the bier to be carried to the graveyard. Before carrying the corpse to the cemetery, the cloth from its face is removed, so that his loved ones can see his face for the last time. As per the time announced, the bier is lifted and carried on shoulders to the graveyard (if graveyard

is near). Muslims are advised to keep reciting the Kalima-e-shahada on the way in their hearts. Which is: “*Ash-hadu an-lailaha-illallah, wa ash-hadu anna Mohammadan abduhu wa rasoolu*”. We bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and we bear witness that Mohammed(SAW) is His slave and His messenger.

Carrying the Bier to the cemetery: The Prophet(SAW) was offered an animal ride while walking with the funeral, but he refused it. When the funeral service finished, he(SAW) was offered a ride again, which he accepted. When asked about it, he(SAW) said: “The angels were walking with the funeral procession, so I didn’t like to ride, but when they left I rode” (Abu Dawood, Al-Baihaqui). Meaning walking with the janazah carries lots of blessings.

Funeral Prayers: The Muslim community offers funeral prayers for the forgiveness of the deceased. On reaching the prayer ground near the graveyard, the funeral prayer, called the Salat-ul-Janazah is prayed. The body of the deceased is placed in the front of the person leading the funeral prayers (Imam). It is highly preferable that a close relative of the deceased should lead the prayer, the reason being, he would supplicate with sincerity, thus the chances of being accepted would be high. The Imam stands towards the head of a male-deceased and towards the middle part of the female-deceased. It is narrated that Anas(RA) offered the funeral prayer of a dead person in which he stood in front of the head of the deceased to lead the prayers, then a female was brought for the funeral prayer in which he stood in front of the middle part of the deceased. When asked, he said, “This is where the Prophet(SAW) stood with the body of a man and the body of a woman” (Ahmad, Abu Dawood, Ibn Majah). The Janazah prayer is just a petition to Allah(SWT) (the God) asking Him to forgive the sins of the deceased and to increase in his good deeds. In this prayer we neither bow nor prostrate. It has four takbeer (Allah-hu-Akbar: Allah is the greatest). First, we make intention of Janaza prayer and some say:

إِنِّي وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِي فَطَرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا أَكُنُ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ۔

Inni wajahtu wajhi lillazi fataras samawatai wal arza hanifaon wa ma ana minal mushrakeem. *I have turned my face in exclusive devotion to the One Who originated the heavens*

and the earth, and I am certainly not one of those who associate others with Allah in His divinity (6:79).

On first takbeer we raise our hands till our ear lobes and then join them on the belly or chest with right hand over the left hand, and recite the following.

سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ وَتَعَالَى جَدُّكَ وَلَا إِلَهَ غَيْرُكَ۔

Subhana kala huma wa bai hamdai ka wa tabara qasmo ka wa taala jaddoka wala ilah gairok.

O Allah, You are Pure with Your praise, and Your name is blessed, Your eminence is very high and there is no god (doer deity) but You.

Then some of us also recite:

Auzu billhai minash shetanir rajeem. اَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطٰنِ الرَّجِيْمِ

I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Shaitan.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ - اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعٰلَمِيْنَ - الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ - مٰلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّيْنِ - اِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَاِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِيْنُ - اِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيْمَ - صِرَاطَ الَّذِيْنَ اَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوْبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّيْنَ - آمِيْن۔

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem. Alhamdu lillahi Rabbul alameen. Ar-Rahmanir-Raheem. Maliki Yawmid Deen. Iyyakanabudu wa iyya kanastaeen. Ihdi nasiratal-Mustaqeem. Siratal lazeena anamta alaihim ghayril-maghdoobai alaihim walad dalleen. Amin

In the name of Allah, the Entirely Gracious and Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. The Most gracious and Merciful, Sovereign of the Day of Recompense. It is You we worship and You we ask for help. Guide us to the straight path, the path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked Your anger or of those who are astray.

Then some might recite a chapter from the Quran:

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ - اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ - لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ - وَكَم يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ۔

Qulho wala ho ahd; Allah hussamad; Lamyalid wa lamyulad; Wa lam yakunlaho kafowan ahd.

Say: "He is Allah, the One and Unique; Allah, Who is in need of none and of Whom all are in need; He neither begot any nor was He begotten, and none is comparable to Him.

Then the second takbeer is said (Allah-hu-Akbar), some raise hand up to the earlobe and then send salutation on the Prophet(SAW):

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ. اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ.

Allah humma salli ala Mohammedin wa ala aali Mohammed; kama sallayta ala Ibraheema wa ala aali Ibraheema, innaka Hameedum Majeed. Allah humma barik ala Mohammedin wa ala aali Mohammedin; kama barakta ala Ibraheema wa ala aali Ibraheem, innaka Hameedum Majeed.

O Allah, let Your Peace come upon Mohammed and the family of Mohammed, as you have brought peace to Abraham and his family. Truly, You are Praiseworthy and Glorious. O Allah, bless Mohammed and the family of Mohammed, as you have blessed Abraham and his family. Truly, You are Praiseworthy and Glorious.

Then the third takbeer is said (Allah-hu-Akbar), some raise hand up to the earlobe and then we supplicate for the deceased:

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِحَيِّنَا وَمَيِّتِنَا وَشَاهِدِنَا، وَعَالِيِنَا، وَصَغِيرِنَا وَكَبِيرِنَا، وَذَكَرِنَا وَأُنْثَانَا. اللَّهُمَّ مَنْ أَحْيَيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَأَحْيِهِ عَلَى الْإِسْلَامِ، وَمَنْ تَوَفَّيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَتَوَفَّهُ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ، اللَّهُمَّ لَا تُخْضِرْ مِنَّا أَجْرَةً، وَلَا تُفْلِتْنَا بَعْدَهُ.

Allah hummaghfir le hayyena, wa mayyetena, wa shahedena, wa gaebena, wa sagheerena, wa kabirena, wa zakarena, wa unsana, Allah humma man ahyaiytahu minna, fa ahyehi alal Islam, waman tawaffaiytahu minna fatawaffahu alal Iman. Allah humma la tahrim ajra hu wala tozilna baada hu.

O Allah, forgive our living and our dead, those present and those absent, our young and our old, our males and our females. O Allah, whom amongst us You keep alive, then let such a life be upon Islam, and whom amongst us You take unto Yourself, then let such a death be upon faith. O Allah, do not deprive us of his reward and do not let us stray after him.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمْهُ، وَعَافِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنْهُ، وَأَكْرِمْ مُرُؤُسَهُ، وَوَسِّمْ مَذْهَبَهُ، وَاعْسَلْهُ بِالنَّارِ وَالنَّارِ، وَنَقِّهِ مِنَ الْخَطَايَا كَمَا نَقَّيْتَ الشُّوَبَ الْأَبْيَضَ مِنَ الدَّنَسِ، وَأَبْدِلْهُ دَارًا عَمْرًا مِنْ دَارِهِ، وَأَهْلًا عَمْرًا مِنْ أَهْلِهِ، وَزَوْجًا عَمْرًا مِنْ زَوْجِهِ، وَأَدْخِلْهُ الْجَنَّةَ، وَأَعِزَّهُ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ الْقَدِيمِ وَعَذَابِ النَّارِ.

Allahum maghfir lahu wer hamhu, wa afihi wafu anhu, wa akrim nuzulhu, wa wssi mudkhalahu, waghsil hu bilmai walsaljai walbardi, wa naqqi hi minal khataya kama naqqeta sobbal abyaza minal danas, wa abdilhu daran kheran min darai hi, wa ahlan kheran min ahli hi, wa zojan kheran min zojai hi, wa adkhillhu jannta, wa aaizhu min azabil qabrai wa azabin nar.

O Allah, forgive and have mercy upon him, excuse him and pardon him, and make honorable his reception. Expand his entry, and cleanse him with water, snow, and ice, and purify him of sin as a white robe is purified of filth. Exchange his home for a better home, and his family for a better family, and his spouse for a better spouse. Admit him into the Garden, protect him from the punishment of the grave and the torment of the Fire (Muslim 2/663).

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّ فُلَانِ بْنِ فُلَانٍ فِي ذِمَّتِكَ، وَحَبْلٍ جَوَارِكَ، قَبْلِهِ مِنْ فِتْنَةِ الْقَبْرِ وَعَذَابِ النَّارِ، وَأَنْتَ أَهْلُ الْوَقَالَةِ وَالْحَقِّ، فَاغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمْهُ، إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ-

Allahuma inna fulanabna fulanin fi zimmatika wa habli jawarika fqihi min fitnatil qabri wa azabin nari wa anta ahlul wafai wal haqqai faghfir lahu war hamhu innaka antal Ghafoor ur Raheem. O Allah, so-and-so (name) is under Your care and protection, so protect him from the trial of the grave and torment of the Fire. Indeed, You are faithful and truthful. Forgive and have mercy upon him, surely You are The Oft-Forgiving, The Most-Merciful.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِفُلَانٍ (بِاسْمِهِ) وَأَرْقُمْ دَرَجَتَهُ فِي السَّعَادَةِ، وَأَخْلُقْهُ فِي عَقِيهِ فِي الْغَابِرِينَ، وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا وَكَهْ يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَأَفْسَحْ لَهُ فِي قَبْرِهِ وَكَوْنُ لَهُ فِيهِ

Allahummaghfir li (name of the person) warfa darajatahu fil-mahdiyyeena, wakhlufhu fee aqibihi fil-ghabireena, waghfir-lanaa wa lahu ya Rabbal-alameena, wafsaah lahu fee qabrihi wa nawwir lahu feehi. O Allah, forgive (name of the person) and elevate his station among those who are guided. Send him along the path of those who came before, and forgive us and him, O Lord of the worlds. Enlarge for him his grave and shed light upon him in it (Muslim 2:634).

اللَّهُمَّ عَبْدُكَ وَأَبْنُ أُمَّتِكَ، احْتِاجُ إِلَى رَحْمَتِكَ، وَأَنْتَ غَنِيٌّ عَنْ عَذَابِهِ، إِنْ كَانَ مُحْسِنًا فَزِدْ فِي حَسَنَاتِهِ، وَإِنْ كَانَ مُسِيئًا فَكْتَحِرْهُ عَنْهُ-

Allahumma abduka wabnu amatika ihtaja ela rahmatika wa anta ghaniyun an azabhi, in kana muhsinan fazid hasnathi wa in kana museean fatjawaz anhu.

O Allah, he is Your servant and the son of Your maidservant, he is in need of Your mercy and You are without need of his punishment. If he was righteous, then increase his reward, and if he was wicked then over-look his sins (Al-Hakim 1/359). You can also recite other supplications in Arabic.

These supplications are made when the deceased is a baby/child (not having reached the age of puberty).

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ قَرِطاً وَذُخْراً لَوَالِدَيْهِ، وَشَفِيعاً مُجَاباً، اللَّهُمَّ ثَقِّلْ بِهِ مَوَازِينَهُمَا، وَأَعْظِمْ بِهِ أَجُورَهُمَا، وَأَلْحِقْهُ بِصَالِحِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ،
وَاجْعَلْهُ فِي كِفَالَةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، وَفِيهِ بِرَحْمَتِكَ عَذَابُ الْجَحِيمِ

O Allah, make him a preceding reward and a stored treasure for his parents, and an answered intercessor. O Allah, through him, make heavy their scales and magnify their reward. Unite him with the righteous believers, place him under the care of Abraham(AS), and protect him by Your mercy from the torment of Hell.

Allahummajal hu lana faraten, wa salafen wa ajra. O Allah, make him a preceding reward, a prepayment and a recompense for us.

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ لَنَا قَرِطاً، وَسَلَفاً وَأَجْراً-

When the fourth takbeer (Allah-hu-Akbar) is said: Then the salatul Janaza ends by saying Assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullah **peace and blessing upon you**, while turning face to the right, and again saying Assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullah while turning the face to the left side. Janaza prayer is complete.

It is recommended that a large number of people pray the funeral prayer. The Prophet(SAW) said: "If a Muslim dies and the people who pray the funeral prayer for him total one hundred, and all of them intercede with Allah and ask Him for forgiveness for the deceased, then their intercession will be accepted" (Muslim, Ahmed). The Prophet(SAW) said: "No single Muslim who dies and forty Muslims pray the funeral prayer for him, and none of them associates any deity with Allah, then Allah will accept their intercession for the deceased" (Muslim, Abu Dawood). The Prophet(SAW) also said: "Give presents to your dead people." The companions asked, what should we give as present to our dead ones? **He(SAW) said present them with alms (to destitute for deceased to be rewarded)** and supplications.

Carrying the Bier to the grave site to bury the deceased: And when entering the cemetery, we should supplicate:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَهْلَ الدِّيَارِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَإِنَّا إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ بِكُمْ لَاحِقُونَ، (وَيَرْحَمُ اللَّهُ الْمُسْتَقْدِمِينَ وَمِنَّا الْمُسْتَأْخِرِينَ، نَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ لَكُمْ الْعَافِيَةَ-

Assalamu alaykum ahlad-diyaari, minal-mumineena wal muslimineena, wa innaa in sha Allahu bikum lahiqoon (wa

yarhamullahul mustaqdimeena minna walmustakhirena) as-alullaha lana wa lakumul afiya. Peace be upon you, people of this abode, from among the believers and those who are Muslims, and we, by the Will of Allah, shall be joining you. May Allah have mercy on the first of us and the last of us. I ask Allah to grant us and you strength (Muslim 2/671, Majah 1/494).

The Prophet(SAW) said: "Visit the sick and walk with the funeral, it will remind you of the Hereafter" (Muslim). The Prophet(SAW) said, "When a dead body is placed on a bier and men carry it on their shoulders, if the deceased is pious, the corpse will say : "Take me in haste", but if it is not, it will say: "Woe to it, where are you taking it?" Everything except man, hears its voice, and had a human heard its voice, he would have surely died". The Prophet(SAW) also said: **"Hasten with the funeral, for if it is a good one, bliss is awaiting it, and if it is otherwise, you will be putting down wickedness off your necks"** (Bukhari and Muslim). Thus, people should hasten when carrying the bier. The Prophet(SAW) also said, when being carried to his grave, a dead person is followed by three things, two of which return after his burial and one remains with him. His relatives, his wealth, and his deeds follow him. Relatives and his wealth return, while his deeds remain with him (Bukhari). Ah the reality of life, only deeds (good or bad) accompany us. If the macho man has not repented, his arrogance will destroy all his good deeds. May Allah protects us from being arrogant. Amin!

Grave: The Prophet(SAW) said: "The grave is the first phase of the Hereafter. Whoever is delivered from it, what comes after is easier, and if he is not delivered from it, then what comes after it, is harder." O Muslims, the grave keeps calling to the living, that it remembers them, and do they remember it or are they oblivious of it. It tells them: "Don't forget I am eagerly waiting for your arrival", and says: "Now listen carefully, I am full of darkness so bring with you the light of prayers. I am place of fear, bring with you the understanding of the Quran. I am full of snakes and scorpions, so come with you actions of sunnah of the Prophet(SAW). I am full of fire, so bring with you tears that you shed in love of Allah. I am full of punishment, so bring with you the rewards of charity and sadaqa".

The minimum size of the grave should be that which would completely conceal the body, prevent its odour from reaching

people, so deep that it protects it from wild animals, and that it should be dug parallel to the Qibla. The bier is then carried and placed near the grave that has been dug for it. A straw mat is placed in the grave and two or three close relatives of the deceased lower the body in the grave, and place it slightly tilted to the right side facing the Kabaa. When lowering the body in the grave following supplication should be recited, because the Prophet(SAW) used to recite it (Ahmad, Abu Dawood). **In the name of Allah, by His command and upon the traditions of the Prophet(SAW)** Tirmizi 2:1046. Bismillah wa billah hi, wa ala sunati Rasool Allah(SAW). بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَبِأَمْرِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَى سُنَّةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ

Then all the ties of the shroud are untied. Concrete plates or wooden planks are placed slightly lifted to cover the body completely. The Prophet(SAW) while facing the head side of the grave, poured three handfuls of dust on the grave. That is why everyone is invited to throw three handful of dust on the grave. The caretaker collects rest of the mud and creates a heap over the grave. On the first handful we recite: Minha khalaq nakum: مِنْهَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ **from the earth did We create you.** On the second handful we recite: Wa fiha nu idukum: وَفِيهَا نُعِيدُكُمْ **And into it shall We return you.** At on third handful we recite: **And from it shall We bring you out once again.** Wa mniha nukhrijukum taratan ukhra: وَمِنْهَا نُخْرِجُكُمْ تَارَةً أُخْرَى

It is recommended to raise the grave a hand height above the ground level, so that it could be recognized. Higher than approximately 9 inches is not allowed. However, to distinguish it, stones or pieces of wood etc. are allowed to be placed on the grave as a marking. The Prophet(SAW) marked the grave of Uthman Ibn Maktum(RA) with a rock and said: "with it I recognize the grave of my brother and will bury next to him those who die from my family" (Abu Dawood). Then water is poured over the mud heap, some might place rose petals or flowers on the grave (although it is forbidden). There should be no construction on or around the grave. Even name plates are forbidden. The Prophet(SAW) forbade cementing the graves with mortar, writing on the graves, and building mausoleums on top of them (Muslim). The Prophet(SAW) also said: "Do not make your houses graves (where Allah is not remembered), and **do not make my grave a place of festivity.** But invoke

blessings on me, for your blessings will reach me wherever you may be” (Abu Dawood). In another hadith the Prophet(SAW) said: “It is better for you to sit on a piece of burning coal that would burn your clothes and penetrates your flesh, than to sit on a grave” (Muslim). Ah the macho man is now in the Barzakh, the reality of life we tend to ignore. May Allah give us the understanding to realize the purpose of life. Amin!

Supplication after burial: The Prophet(SAW) used to stop after burying the dead and say to the people: Ask Allah to forgive your brother and pray for him to be strengthened, for indeed he is being questioned now” (Sunan Abu-Dawood). **O Allah, forgive him. O Allah, strengthen him.** Allah humma aghfir lahu, Allah humma sabbit hu:

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ ثَبِّتْهُ

O Allah, save him from the torment of the grave. Amin! Allah humma aaizhu min azabil qabrai:

اللَّهُمَّ احْذَرْهُ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ

Visiting the Graves: When visiting a grave, one should face the grave, greet and supplicate for the deceased as the Prophet used to do when he(SAW) visited the graves. The Prophet(SAW) said to the companions, “I had previously forbidden you to visit the graves, now go and visit them, there is a lesson to learn from them, and do not say anything that will upset Allah” (Al-Hakm, Al-Bahiqi). Women just like men can visit the graveyard provided the rules for visiting a grave are followed. This is so that men and women can understand the wisdom of going to the cemetery (so that the fear of Allah may be instilled in the hearts, and the feeling may be created that one day we too will be buried in the grave, and held accountable on the Day of Judgment). Aisha(RA) asked the Prophet(SAW) what should she say when visiting the cemetery. The Prophet(SAW) told her to say: “**Peace be upon the believing men and women dwelling here. May Allah grant mercy to those who have preceded us and those who are to follow them. Certainly, Allah willing, we will join you. We will ask Allah for our and your forgiveness**” (Muslim).

The undesirable acts are: i) Wiping hands over the graves. ii) Kissing or circum-ambulating around them. iii) Sacrificing animals near the grave. iv) Sitting on the grave or walking on top of them. v) Praying toward the graves. vi) Placing pictures or flowers on top of the grave etc. vii) Making grave a deity.

Deeds by the living that benefit the deceased believer: The Prophet(SAW) said: "When a son of Adam dies, his deeds cease to benefit him except three: a perpetual charity, a useful contribution to knowledge, and a good child who would pray for him" (Muslim). The good acts by the living people that would benefit the dead person are as follows:

a) **Paying off deceased's debt:** Most desirable act of charity for the deceased is to pay off his debt. The money to pay off the debt can come from the deceased's wealth, or any donations from family or friends. Abu Qatada(RA) donated money to pay the debt of a deceased person, which was two Dinars, with the approval of the Prophet(SAW) (Al-Hakm, Al-Baihaqui). A man came to the Prophet(SAW) and said: "O messenger of Allah, my mother died before she could make up a month's time of fasting, can I make it up for her". He(SAW) said: "If your mother were in debt, would you have paid the debt for her"? He said: "Yes". He(SAW) said: "A debt to Allah is more worthy of being paid" (Bukhari and Muslim). A woman from Juhaynah tribe came to the Prophet(SAW) and said, "My mother had made a promise to Allah to go for Hajj, but she died before she could fulfil her promise. Can I perform Hajj on her behalf"? He(SAW) said: "Perform Hajj on her behalf. If your mother were in debt, would you not have paid it for her? Do it (all of you) because Allah is more worthy of being paid back (unpaid debt becomes debt of Allah i.e., rights of the creation cannot be forgiven)" (Bukhari).

b) **Supplication:** Supplicating and asking Allah's forgiveness for the deceased. Funeral prayers are nothing but praying for the deceased forgiveness. Also, this practice of praying for the dead is from the tradition of the Prophet(SAW).

c) **Charity:** The mother of Saad Ibn Obada(RA) died while he was away, so he came to the Prophet(SAW) and said: "O messenger of Allah, my mother had died while I was away, would it benefit her if I gave charity on her behalf? He(SAW) said: "Yes". Saad said: "I would like you to be witness that my orchard of Al-Mikhraf is a charity on her behalf" (Bukhari). There is no text from the Prophet that proves that reciting Quran will transfer into a reward for the dead (there is difference of opinion, mostly we do it because it is free).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Life in Barzakh(barrier)

The time duration between death and the Dooms Day is called the life of Barzakh. Believing in life after death is one of the six basic tenets of Islam. The deceased are in an intermediary state until the Resurrection Day. Barzakh is mentioned only three times in the Quran, and just once specifically as the barrier between the corporeal and ethereal life. Two refer to Barzakh as an impenetrable barrier between fresh water and salt water. While the two water may mix, yet the two seas remain distinct in properties from each other. Allah in Quran in 55:20 says: **There is a barrier (Barzakh) between the two seas which they do not transgress.** Barzakh is a transitional life between this life and the Hereafter. Just like the two seas with a barrier do not mix, similarly, the transitional life and the current life do not mix. Allah in Quran 23:99-100 says: **(They shall persist in their deeds) until when death comes to anyone of them, he will say: "My Lord, send me back to the world that I have left behind. I am likely to do good". Nay, it is merely a word that he is uttering. There is a barrier (Barzakh) behind all of them (who are dead) until the Day when they will be raised up.** The Barzakh world is a temporary station between the worldly life and the Dooms Day. The life after death is in isolation of the worldly life till Dooms Day in Barzakh (between transitional barriers). Before the Hereafter the other two will cease to exist. Thus, no communication is possible between the two dimensions. The Barzakh has its own realities, and it is completely different from this world. In the Barzakh a person will know whether he is going to Hell or Heaven. The Prophet(SAW) said: "The grave is the preview of the Judgment Day". If he or she is saved from the torment of the grave, then whatever is after it is going to be better and easier. If one is not saved from the torment of the grave, then whatever is going to come after that is going to be worse. When a believer is shown his place in the Paradise, he will say "O my Lord, let the Last hour come, I want to be in Paradise. When a disbeliever sees his place in Hellfire, he will say "O my Lord,

don't let the Last Hour come". The only thing that a man carries to his grave, are his deeds. After belief, it is his deeds that will determine his place in the Hereafter. The Prophet(SAW) said: In Barzakh, the dead meet each other in graves, so when you bury your dead, clothe them with a clean and fragrant shroud. In a hadith, Ibn al-Qayyim cites that in Barzakh souls will meet each other according to their piousness. The Prophet(SAW) used to say, "Remember death, the grave and the Hereafter", they will help you to remember the purpose of life, to prepare for the Hereafter, and avoid the distractions of the temporal world.

In Islam, the soul and the body are independent of each other. This is significant in Barzakh, because only soul goes to Barzakh and not their physical body. When a person dies, the time of his examination also ends, so onwards, no good or evil can be recorded in his book of deeds. If a person spends his life in sin and worldly pleasures, he will not be able to do good deeds to undo them. Whatever one does in his corporal life is final and cannot be changed or altered in Barzakh. Some Muslim scholars stress the importance of Barzakh, while others simply ignore it. Modern Muslim thinkers de-emphasize Barzakh, and focus instead on individual life and the Day of Judgment, which is most important.

Questioning in The Grave: Another common idea is that, after the burial, two angels Munkar and Nakir come to question the deceased to test his faith. The righteous believers answer correctly and live-in peace and comfort, while the sinners and disbelievers fail and punishments ensues. Abu Huraira(RA) narrates that the Prophet(SAW) said: "When a person is buried, two angels with dark eyes come to him. One is named Munkar and the other Nakir. They ask him, "What do you say about this man (Mohammed)? He will say what he used to say in this world, "He is slave and messenger of Allah(SWT), and say, "I testify that there is no deity except Allah and Mohammed is servant and messenger of Allah." Both angels will say we knew you will reply like this." His grave is lit and widened 70X70 hand span. He is then told to go to sleep. He would say, "I would like to inform my family about my status". They tell him to go to sleep. He falls asleep, until when Allah will raise the dead from their graves. Abdullah Ibn Umar(RA) said that the Prophet(SAW)

said, "When one of you dies, he is shown his destination day and night. If he is one of the people of Paradise, then he is shown Paradise. If he is of Hellfire, he is shown Hellfire, and he is told, this is your abode. This continues till Dooms Day (Bukhari). After the interrogation, the sinners and the disbelievers will have to deal with the severe angels who will punish them. They will tell the soul to get out of the body and face the wrath of God. Terrified, the soul desperately tries to hide itself in the body. After that, the angels of death begin to beat the soul and remove it from the body in a painful way. Then the angels ascend to heaven, wrapping the soul of the sinner in a foul-smelling cloth. Along the way, other angels ask about the sinner. They are told that it is the soul of such and such sinner. Then the angels ascend to the seventh heaven, but the door is not opened for this evil spirit. The soul is then thrown underground, where it is punished until the Dooms Day. On the other hand, when a righteous believer dies, angels with bright faces descend from heaven with fragrant cloth. Then the angel of death comes and tells the soul to come out in the pleasure and mercy of Allah. Then, just as water comes out of a jug, so the soul is easily taken out. The soul is then wrapped in a fragrant cloth and taken to the seventh heaven, where Allah says: "Write his name in 'illiyin' and take him back to earth. I created him from dust, And I will raise it from the dust again." Then he is rewarded with blessings.

Torment of the grave: 52:47 Surely a chastisement awaits the wrong-doers even before the coming of that Day; but most of them do not know. 9:101 There are many hypocrites among the Bedouins who dwell around you; likewise, among the citizens of Al-Medina there are hypocrites who have become experts in hypocrisy. You do not know them, but We do know them. The time is coming when We will give them double chastisement (one in the world (humiliation) and one in the graves (barzakh)): then they shall be returned to a far greater torment (Hell). Aisha^(RA) said: In Medina two old Jewish women, my neighbours entered my house and they said to me the people of the grave get punished inside the graves. I said to them it's not true, the people of the grave don't get punished. Then they left. She said I asked the Prophet^(SAW) about it. The Prophet^(SAW) said: They spoke the truth, the

people of the grave get punished until the animals can hear them. She said I never saw the Prophet(SAW) after that day in prayers or after the prayers that he(SAW) would always seek refuge in Allah from the punishment of the grave. The Prophet(SAW) said, "No doubt it has been inspired to me that you will be put to trials in your graves, and these trials will be like the trials of the anti-Christ. Once the Prophet(SAW) passed by two graves and said, "They are being punished, but they are not being punished for something that was difficult to avoid. One of them used to backbite and slander others, and the other did not protect himself from the drops of urine (Bukhari 218, Muslim 292). **O Allah, protect us from the torment of the grave.** اللَّهُمَّ اَعِزَّنَا مِنْ عَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ۔ In Islam the souls of the unrighteous are punished by two angels in the grave, while the righteous find the grave "peaceful and blessed". The torment of the grave is not mentioned in the Quran, but in the hadith. The Quran itself gives only brief references about the period between death and the resurrection. However it mentions that certain individuals such as martyrs are alive, and in 2:154 says: **And do not say of those who are slain in the way of Allah, "they are dead". In fact, they are alive but you do not perceive that life. And in 71:25 says: And so they were drowned on account of their sins, and then cast into the Fire, and did not find any other than Allah, to come forth to their help, indicating some are already in hell (people of Pharaohs). Eventually Allah saved the person endowed with faith from all the evils of their guile, and a woeful chastisement encompassed the Pharaohites. They are exposed to the Fire every morning and evening; and when the Last Hour will come to pass, a command shall be given: "Admit the Pharaohites to an even more severe chastisement" 40:45-46.** The term barzakh indicates that the dead and the living are separate and cannot interact with each other. The interaction that the miscreants show between themselves and the deceased is in fact nothing but a dialogue between devil and him. The Barzakh refers to the period between death and the Dooms Day, because after Dooms Day everything will cease to exist except the Face of the Lord, till Resurrection Day. In the life of Barzakh, the souls of sinners and infidels are kept in a place called Sijjin and punished. A complete record of their deeds is also kept there.

It is said to be located at the very bottom of the earth. On the other hand, the souls of the righteous believers are kept in a place called Illiyin. A complete record of their deeds is also kept there. One belief is that the torment of the grave cleanse believers from their sins so that the soul is free from sins before the Day of Recompense. Muslim scholars have varying interpretations regarding the life of Barzakh, based on different traditions.

Dooms Day

Allah in Quran says: “O mankind, fear the (wrath of) your Lord! Indeed, the earthquake of the Hour (of Judgement) will be an awesome thing. On the Day when you witness it, the suckling woman shall utterly neglect the infant she suckles, and every pregnant woman shall cast her burden, and you will see people as though they are drunk, when they are not drunk; but dreadful shall be Allah’s chastisement” (22:1-2). The scientists have come up with the Big Crunch theory to explain how the universe will come to an end. According to them, the Big Crunch will be like the Big Bang in reverse. At present the universe is expanding, but the rate of expansion of the universe is gradually slowing down. This shows that the Doomsday is approaching nearer and nearer. Quran mentions Dooms Day in verses 75:7-9: **When the sight is dazed, and the moon is eclipsed, and the sun and the moon are joined together.** After the Dooms Day everything will perish except Allah. Allah will call out with all His Majesty, “Who was the Lord then, and Who is the Lord today” (no one will answer, as nothing exist that Day). And when Allah wills, angel Israfil will be resurrected and ordered to blow the trumpet again. When the trumpet is blown the second time, the Day of Resurrection will begin, all the dead angels, humans and jinn will be resurrected, the heaven, the hell and the ground of resurrection will be re-created with eternal laws. Doomsday, Day of Resurrection and the Day of Judgment is the fifth fundamental belief in Islam. The doctrine of Tauhid and resurrection are the most basic concepts which were emphasized by all the prophets. This is why these three

concepts exist in almost all the religions of the world. However, in other religions, the concept of resurrection has been distorted like other teachings of the prophets and only Islam gives correct and accurate information about the occurrence of this great event (because it was documented and preserved).

The Doomsday: Why! How! and When! These are indeed very pertinent questions. Almost every nation has asked these questions from their prophets. But mostly the questions were asked to ridicule the concept. Only Allah knows the answers to these questions.

Why is the Doomsday kept secret? Quran clearly tells us, why the time of the Doomsday is held in secret. “The Doomsday is coming. I have willed to keep the time of its coming hidden so that everyone may be recompensed in accordance with his effort” (20:15). They ask you (O Prophet) about the Hour: “When will it be?” What concern do you have to speak about that? Its knowledge rests with your Lord (79:42-44). People ask you concerning the Hour. Say: “Allah alone has knowledge of it. What do you know? Perhaps the Hour is nigh.” (33:63). It is kept secret so that humans who fear the lord are on their toes.

Why the Doomsday must occur? As per the purpose of our creation, we are here to adopt the art of living peacefully by acquiring the attributes/colours of Allah(SWT), and to use our intellect to benefit the humanity in general. As all exams have a time limit, so does the life of this world. It has to end. This will be the day when all goods will be taken away from their owners. The day when everything will perish except the Lord of the universe will prevail.

When shall the Doomsday occur? When a person dies, it is the doomsday for him. The actual Doomsday in my opinion will occur after the demise of Jesus(AS). The actual time is only known to the Allah the Knower of the Unseen. But a probability exists that the initiator of the doomsday could be man himself. He will fiddle with the universal balance and trigger it. Macho man has started thinking if it ignites Jupiter, which has oceans of methane, what would happen etc.? From the Quran and the hadith, it is clear that the exact timing of

the Doomsday is an absolute Divine secret. No one except Allah(SWT) knows the time of Doomsday.

How the Doomsday would occur? The Doomsday will appear all of sudden with a catastrophic Big Crunch. It has been referred in the Quran as blowing of first Trumpet. No one knows the actual nature of the Trumpet. But Quran tells us that the Trumpet will be a tremendous bang which will send tremendous shock waves throughout the universe. An unprecedented condition of sweeping chaos on a cosmological scale will grip the entire universe. The residents of earth will face a tremendous earthquake, that had never occurred before in the entire history of mankind. Then a chain of disastrous events will occur one after the other destroying the whole universe. Everything, including the angels, will perish. "Everything that exists will perish, except the Face of your Lord, Full of Majesty, Bounty and Honor" (55:26-27). "The Day when the Trumpet will be blown all those who are in the heavens and on the earth shall be terror stricken, all except those whom Allah wills, and everyone shall come to Him utterly abject" (27:87).

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Day of Resurrection

Allah says in Quran: Tell them: "(You will be raised afresh even if) you turn to stone or iron, or any other form of creation you deem hardest of all (to recreate from)." They will certainly ask: "Who will bring us back (to life)?" Say: "He Who created you in the first instance." They will shake their heads at you and inquire: "When will that be?" Say: "Perhaps that time might have drawn near; on the Day when He will call you and you will rise praising Him in response to His call, and you will believe that you had lain in this state only for a while" 17:50-52. On that Day We shall roll up the heavens like a scroll for writing. Even as We originated the creation first so We shall repeat it. This is a promise binding on Us; and so, We shall do 21:104. (Do warn them of the) Day when the heavens and the earth shall be altogether changed; when all will appear fully exposed before Allah, the One, the Irresistible 14:48. Allah will resurrect the angel Israfil and command the blowing of the Trumpet the second time for Resurrection Day. The second time the trumpet is blown, the Day of Resurrection will begin and all

the dead angels, man and jinn will be resurrected, the field of Judgment will be prepared and the universe (heaven and hell) will come into existence again with eternal laws. It will bring the new order of creation. Allah will create a new universe much larger than the present one and the most beautiful one. This will be the fulfilment of the promise of Allah(SWT) made in the Holy Quran. On that Day every soul, will be resurrected by the scary sound of the trumpet. Whether a body was burned or eaten by beasts or drowned, everyone will be resurrected without exception. Worriedly, people will ask themselves, what's happening, what woke us up. It is then, one will realize that it is the Day of Resurrection about which they were in doubt. Allah will then say: I am Allah, there is no god except I alone, the One Who created all the creatures and gave them death; verily, there is no partner for Me, nor any minister; and I made the creatures by My power and I made them die by My Will; and I have resurrected them by My power again. *That Day when they will emerge and nothing of them shall be hidden from Allah. (On that Day, they will be asked): "Whose is the kingdom today?" (The whole world will cry out): "It is Allah's, the One, the Overpowering" (40:16). O woe, Quran had told us: When the Trumpet is blown. That is the day of the promised chastisement. Everyone has come, each attended by one who will drive him on, and another who will bear witness. You were heedless of this. Now We have removed your veil and so your vision today is sharp (50:20-22) (O Allah, have mercy!!). And in Surah Al-Qiyamah, verses(75:1-12), Allah said: No, I swear by the Day of Resurrection; and no, I swear by the self-reproaching soul. Does man think that We will not be able to put his bones together again? Yes indeed; We have even the power to shape and restore even his finger-tips (finger prints). But man, desires to persist in his evil ways. He asks: "When will the Day of Resurrection be?" When the eyes are dazzled and the moon is darkened, and the sun and the moon are joined together, then the same man will say: "Whither to escape?" By no means, there will be any refuge whatsoever. Only with your Lord will be the retreat that Day. O the ill-fate, O the miseries, man will now understand the reality of this terrible day that the Quran warned about. Almost every human being will be crying out to Allah to have mercy on him. Although the*

Prophet(SAW) had told us that repentance is only be accepted before the last moments prior to death. The fear and anxiety of this Day and the high temperature will make a person sweat a lot, which he has never imagined or experienced before. In the worldly life man would have turned into charcoal. The whole resurrection area will be crowded with hundreds of billions of humans and devils (jinns), which can be pictured as swarms of moths. Some people will be completely drenched in their sweat, some up to their necks and some up to their ankles. Oh Allah, the scenario of the Resurrection Day will be extremely petrifying, and it would be filled with high groaning voices, calling Allah(SWT) for mercy. O what an agonizing ill-fate macho man will face. Due to the horror of the Day, man will realize he is completely broke, he does not have the currency of the Hereafter (good deeds). Ah, the Quran had warned us that the time for remorse, regret and repentance is only in the mortal life, and that on the Day of Recompense, being penitent will be to no avail. O Allah, have mercy!! That Day the hearts would be thumping at extremely high rate; in the mortal life, it would have collapsed. On seeing the anxiety of this Horrifying Day, man will wish he never opted for the test, he never existed, or death would come to him again, or he could turn to dust, or sent back to reappear for another test. Ah, the Quran had told us, there is no death after resurrection, neither will man be tested again. Due to anxiety, the time will not pass. In anticipation of Judgment Day, man will swim in his pool of tears and sweat for fifty thousand years. Quran told us in verse (23:113-114), when we will be questioned on that horrifying Day, "how long did you stay on earth", man will say: "We stayed for a day or part of a day. Ask of those who keep count of this." He will say: **"You stayed only for a while, if you only knew that."** It is then that he will realize that comparatively the mortal life on earth was even less than the time spent in an examination hall. The Prophet(SAW) compared the stay on earth as less than the time a traveller spends resting under a tree. Ah the wretched soul, man was warned about the questioning of the Day of Judgment, but then he thought it to be a fairy tale or a fabrication of the mind. Although the Book of Allah had warned us about it, yet man did not take heed. Due to anxiety of the Day man will start

recalling his deeds. O Allah, the very thought is sending shivers through the spine. Ah, on this Fearsome Day, only His mercy can save man from the consequences of his deeds. The Quran told us that, on that Day the remembrance of Allah and supplications carry no weight. The Quran told us that **the guilty one would fain ransom himself from the torment of that Day by offering his children, and his spouse and his brother, and his kinsfolk who had stood by him, and all persons of the earth, if only he could thus save himself (70:11-14).** Is it his to give? No! He himself belongs to the God. **Because of the test, only his soul and his deeds belong to him.** That is why the Quran told us that everyone will be recompensed for his own deeds, and in the verses(75:13-15) said, **On that Day will man be apprised of his deeds, both the earlier and the later. But man is well aware of himself, even though he might make up excuses.** And in the verses(3:29-30): Allah say: “Whether you conceal what is in your hearts or disclose it, Allah knows it. Allah knows what is in the heavens and in the earth and He has power over everything.” The Day is approaching when every soul shall find itself confronted with whatever good it has done and whatever evil it has wrought. It will then wish there is a wide space between it and the Day! Allah warns you to beware of Him; He is most tender towards His servants. Ah, man misused His mercy, and today no excuse of his will work, and nor will Allah(SWT) punish others for their evil deeds. The Quran had told us that everyone will carry his own load, and no one else will carry it, yet man ignored the warning, and missed his chance of penitence. The average mortal life is only six or seven decades, while fifty thousand years will pass in fear and anxiety, waiting for the Day of Judgment. After the intercession of the Prophet(SAW), the Day of Reckoning will start.

What will be the length of the Doomsday?

No one knows the actual length of the Doomsday. However, we can estimate the duration from the reliable data available to us. The Doomsday will cause complete destruction of the universe. There are over 200 billion galaxies in the universe, and each galaxy contains over 200 billion stars. Thus, from the size of the universe as well as from the hadiths, it seems that the whole event of Doomsday will take quite a long time.

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Day of Judgment/Recompense

On this day everyone will be resurrected without exception, whether a body was burned or eaten by beast or drowned. Allah in the Quran in verse 37:26 says: **Indeed, today they are surrendering themselves completely.** And in verses 75:10-13 tells us that: **On that Day will man say: "Whither the refuge?" No, there is no refuge. With your Lord alone will be the retreat that Day. On that Day will man be apprised of his deeds, both the earlier and the later. (37:19-23) There will be a single stern rebuff and lo, they will be observing with their own eyes (all that they had been warned against). They will then say: "Woe for us. This is the Day of Judgement." "Yes, this is the Day of Final Decision that you used to deny as a lie." (Then will the command be given): "Muster all the wrong-doers and their spouses and the deities whom they used to serve apart from Allah, and direct them to the path of Hell. In verses 69:18:24 tells: That will be the Day when you shall be brought forth (before Allah) and no secret of yours shall remain hidden. On that Day, he whose Record is given to him in his right hand will say: "Lo! Read my Record! Verily I was sure that I would be handed over my account." Then he shall find himself in a life of bliss; in a lofty Garden the clusters of whose fruit will be hanging low to be within reach (of the inmates of Paradise). (They will be told): "Eat and drink with good cheer as a reward for the good deeds you did in the days that have passed by". To give a faint picture of the Day of Judgment, I am quoting from the chapter "My Dream" in my book on "Prayers". When resurrected, man will start recalling all his past deeds. Due to the anxiety and horror of the Day, **man would recall all his disobediences to the Lord and the Master of the Day, Allah(SWT).** O Allah, the very thought sends shivers through my spine. O Allah, there is no**

hope, it is only Your mercy that can save us from the consequences of our deeds on this Fearsome Day. Ah, the time for the examination had long passed, it is the Result Day. The Quran had told us that on this Day the remembrance of Allah and supplications carry no weight. The Quran also tells us that on that Day, man will wish to give everyone (his children, his family, his friends and even all human beings), in order to save himself from the horrors of that Day. Ah, Allah(SWT) told us, everyone will be recompensed for his own deeds, and in the verses(75:15) said, **even though he might make up excuses** (Oh Allah). And in the verses(3:29): Tells: **“Whether you conceal what is in your hearts or disclose it, Allah knows it.** Ah, we misused His mercy, and today no excuse of ours will work, and neither will He punish others for our misdoings. The Quran told us that every person will carry his own load, and no one else will carry it. O woe, yet man ignored the warning, and missed the chance of calling on Allah’s mercy.

Oh Lord, the impatient ones will go to the Prophet(SAW) to intercede, so that Allah(SWT) starts the Judicial Process. Not realizing that 99.9% of the human population will be the dwellers of the Hellfire. With the intercession of the Prophet(SAW), the Day of Judgment/Recompense will begin. Scales will be setup for all monotheist believers. Every soul would be so petrified that no one would look at each other, and if this were mortal life, we would all die of fear. There will be places where the scales are not set, the faces of all the people there would be dark reddish black. The Quran explained it like this: **On the Day of Resurrection, you shall see that the faces of those who had lied against Allah, have turned dark. Is Hell not vast enough to provide a room to the arrogant** (39:60)? There some people would be blind, some without arms, some without legs and some walking on their heads. The Prophet(SAW), told us that on the Day of Resurrection some people will walk on their heads. Companions asked, how will they walk on their heads. The Prophet(SAW) said, the one Who made them walk on legs, will make them walk on their heads. The Quran told us that the blind will ask Allah, O Allah, in the world we could see, why have You raised us blind. Allah will tell them, you forgot Me in the world, and today I have forgotten you, be the eternal dwellers of the Hellfire. The

Quran told us that on the Day of Judgment the deeds of the hypocrites, the polytheist and the disbelievers carry no weight. Thus, their deeds will not be weighed, and they will be the eternal dwellers of the Hellfire. "O Allah, we seek refuge with You that we knowingly associate partners with You, and seek Your refuge for the shirk (polytheism) we committed unknowingly, or were unaware of". They will be questioned, "Where are those associates of Allah whom you used to call upon"? They will be nowhere to be seen, because Prophet(SAW) told us no one can intercede here, not even Prophet(SAW) himself. On seeing the torment, they will swear by Allah that they did not call on anyone else except Him(SWT). That Day their skins, their hands, their feet, their flesh and bones will bear witness against them. The Quran told us: *They should not forget the Day when their own tongues and their own hands will bear testimony in regard to their misdeeds. On that Day Allah will give them the full recompense they deserve, and they will realize that Allah is the very Truth, Who makes the Truth manifest (24:24-25). The Quran told us in verses (41:21-24): They will ask their skins: "Why did you bear witness against us?" The skins will reply: "Allah gave us speech, as He gave speech to all others. He it is Who created you for the first time and it is to Him that you will be sent back. When you used to conceal yourselves (while committing misdeeds) you never thought that your ears or your eyes or your skins would ever bear witness against you; you rather fancied that Allah does not know a great deal of what you do. This thought of yours about your Lord has led to your perdition and you have become among the losers."* In this state, whether they bear with patience (or not), Fire alone shall be their abode. And if they seek to make amends, they will not be allowed to do so. Ah, the angels will carry vast majority to the gorge and throw them in the Hellfire. Whenever someone is thrown in the Hellfire, it would roar with loud terrifying rage, as if it wanted to swallow everyone. Oh Allah, have mercy!! The Quran told us in verse(67:7): *When they will be cast into it, they will hear it roar as it boils, as though it will burst with rage.* On the Resurrection ground there will be no place to hide. When the name is called, the man will wish he was invisible, he did not exist or is altogether ignored. Ah, the Quran told us, no soul

will be ignored, nor will it escape its recompense. On that day man will stagger in the crowd with shame and remorse, wishing that the earth would swallow him, he will wish, if he had not disobeyed his Lord. O the miserable ill-fate, Allah has record of all deeds, and nothing is hidden from Him. He told us in the Quran: (Other than Our direct knowledge) There are two scribes, one each sitting on the right and the left, recording everything. He utters not a word, but there is a vigilant watcher at hand. Lo, the agony of death has indeed come with the Truth. That is what you had sought to avoid (50:17-19). And We shall set up **just scales** on the Day of Resurrection so that none will be wronged in the least (Oh Allah, with just scales man is doomed, only whom Allah's mercy engulfs will be saved, O Allah, engulf us in Your Mercy). (We shall bring forth the acts of everyone), even if it be the weight of a grain of mustard seed. We shall suffice as **Reckoners** (21:47). O woe to us, the Prophet(SAW) told us that the first thing we will be called to account for is the salah. The prayers that were missed and did not repent for in the worldly life. Ramadan is not just about staying hungry from dawn to dusk, rather, it was intended to instill in us a feeling of empathy for the hungry, so that we could be more caring for them, unfortunately, it did not move us. Ah, Gabriel(AS) said to the Prophet(SAW), **"Live as you wish in this world, in the Hereafter you will be recompensed accordingly"**. O our ill-fate, the Quran told us that there would be no hiding place and no refuge except with Allah. O Allah, we seek refuge from Your anger in Your pleasure, we seek refuge from Your punishment in Your forgiveness and mercy, O Allah, we seek refuge from You, with You. Ah, it is the earning of our hands, and we have no one to blame, but ourselves.

When the accountability starts, there will be nothing to plead. In a hadith the Prophet(SAW) said that no one will enter the Paradise except with Allah's mercy, including he(SAW) himself. Hope of humanity depends on Allah(SWT)'s mercy. The wrong doers will be dragged face down towards the blazing flames of the Hellfire. The Quran told us: **When the Trumpet is blown than there will remain no kinship among them that Day, nor will they ask one another** (O Allah!! 23:101). And in verse (14:31) Allah said: (O Prophet), tell those of My servants who believe

that they should establish Prayer and spend out of what We have provided them with, both secretly and openly, before there arrives the Day when there will be no bargaining, nor any mutual befriending (O our ill fate, O miseries of this Day). In desperation, every soul shall cry O Allah, save me, O Allah, save me, even prophets would cry "O Allah, save us, O Allah, save us". The Quran told us that on this Petrifying Day, every soul will be worried about himself; O Allah, have mercy!! The Prophet(SAW) told his beloved wife Ayesha(RA) that there are three places where no one can intercede, and one of them is Day of Recompense. Ah, the Quran told us that on this Fearful Day, **no one will bear another's burden. Even if a heavily laden one should call another to carry his load, none of it shall be carried by the other, even though he be a near of kin (35:18).** O woe, today, neither parents, nor siblings, nor children, nor anyone else can help or share the burden of sin. And neither will give a single good deed of his to anyone. The Hellfire will be brought near, and its heat will rise exponentially and become unbearable. "How clean will he be who bathes in a river five times a day, in the same way, he who prays five times a day will be cleansed of all his sins" (i.e., by putting fear of Allah in his heart). Today the only thing that can intercede in front of Allah(SWT) and save us from the torment of the Hellfire, are our good deeds, else it will be the abyss of the Hellfire.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Heaven

In Paradise are sparkling lights, aromatic plants, lofty palaces, flowing rivers, ripe fruits, beautiful spouse, abundant clothing, and an eternal abode of radiant joy" (Ibn Majah). Its buildings are of: "Bricks of gold and silver, and mortar of fragrant musk, pebbles of pearl and sapphire, and soil of saffron. Whoever enters it will be extremely happy, and will never be sad again. He will live forever and never die; his clothes will never wear out and his youth will never fade" (Ahmad, Tirmizi). In a nut shell: The reality of Paradise is something which people will never be able to comprehend until they actually enter it. Allah has shown us a glimpse of this in the Quran. **"No person knows**

what is kept hidden for them of joy, as a reward for what they used to do" (32:17). "And when you look there (in Paradise) you will see a delight (that cannot be imagined), and a great dominion" (76:20). The Prophet(SAW) said: "Never mind what Allah has told you; what He has not told you is far greater" (Muslim). The pleasures of the Paradise will be found without any trouble, people will live in it with pure joy and happiness. All the causes of sorrow, pain and suffering that people see in this life will disappear in the Paradise.

For those who believe in the existence of Allah, and love Him above all and above all things, Paradise is a home that brings joy to their hearts, gives a hope that makes it easy to follow the commandments of the Lord. In the hope that they will have a home in heaven, they endure all worldly difficulties with a smile. It turns the sorrows of their hearts into joy, tightness into sense of vastness. The hope of entering the eternal bliss, frees them of the shackles of burden, stress, depression and poverty. In the Paradise there will be no sweat, no bad smell, nobody has to take a bath, nobody gets older, nobody gets tired, no bad words, nobody has to work, everything there is free for its residents. Anything one imagines or wants will be his, but on the highest level. There will be greeting of peace everywhere. Their faces will be radiant, glowing with happiness, like full moon, pleased and satisfied. The keepers will say, "Peace be upon you, congratulation, you have done well, so enter the eternal bliss". They will see inside it what eyes have never seen, what ears have never heard, nor ever imagined. Its soil and sand have the sensation of musk and saffron. Its stones and pebbles are of diamonds, emeralds and rubies. The Prophet(SAW) said: In paradise there are certain pavilions that Allah has prepared for the believers that are made out of a single hollowed out pearl that extends sixty miles into the sky. [Here is the parable of Paradise which the God-fearing have been promised: in it shall be rivers of incorruptible water, rivers of milk unchanging in taste, and rivers of wine, a delight to those that drink; and rivers of pure honey. In it they will have every kind of fruit as well as forgiveness from their Lord 47:15?](#) The Prophet(SAW) said there is no tree in Paradise except it's trunk is made of Gold, providing fruit in winter and summer alike. They also produce

the garments of the Paradise. Abdullah Ibn Abbas(RA) said: If anybody craved for a fruit, he sees above him, that branch will automatically lower itself till it gets to his bedside to pick and eat. The menu of Paradise includes every type of fruit and meat. An announcement is made: Eat and drink as you wish, because of the good that you used to do. In Paradise there will be no ill feeling, no spites, no jealousy, no anger, no hatred, no gossips, no backbiting, they will be relieved of them before they enter the Paradise. Ayesha(RA) said the women who worked their way up will say to the Hur Al-Ayn in Paradise, we are women who prayed, you never prayed, we are women who fasted for the sake of Allah and you never fasted, we gave out charity for the sake of Allah, you never gave charity, we performed ablution before prayers, you never performed ablution, therefore our arguments would be stronger than theirs. Let's look at some of these:

Wealth: Allah has promised the inhabitants of Paradise that they will have all that they imagine. God gives us a glimpse of this when he says: *Platters and cups of gold shall be passed around them, and there shall be all that they might desire and all that their eyes might delight in. (They shall be told): "Herein shall you abide forever* 43:71.

Disease and death: In Paradise, none will ever feel sick or bear pain. The Prophet(SAW) said about the people of Paradise: "They will never fall ill, blow their noses or spit" (Bukhari). They shall live eternally and enjoy the pleasures therein. The Prophet(SAW) said that a caller will call out in Paradise when people enter it: "Indeed you will stay healthy and never be sick again, you will live eternally and never die again, you will stay young and never grow feeble again, you will always be joyful and never feel sorrow and regret again" (Muslim).

The special gift: While enjoying the residence in the Paradise, a caller will call, your Lord wishes an audience with you, so rush to the meeting place of your Lord, mounts are prepared for them to ride to the place of meeting, they reach a vast open valley, the throne of Allah is placed there. Some will sit on stage of light, some on pearls, some on jewelry, some on gold or silver, the lowest level will sit on cushions of musk. The caller calls, O people of Paradise, there is a promise of Allah still pending, He wishes to honour the promise. Allah will ask

the people of the Paradise if they want anything else? They will reply You have given us what You promised. Allah will again ask if they want anything else. They will realize Allah wants to give them something special, they will say “Yes Allah”. A light comes from above them; the whole Paradise is lightened by it. They raise their heads, Allah will greet them with Salam, they will reply: Allahuma antas Salam, wa minka Salam Tabarakta ya zuljilalai wal Ikram. O Allah, You’re Peace, from You comes Peace, blessed art You, how high and exalted are You. The people of the Paradise will say O Lord we are pleased, be pleased with us. Allah will say, if I wasn’t pleased with you, I would not have entered you in the Paradise, so ask for more, today is the day to give more. All will join together and say; “O Lord, show us Your Blessed Face, we want to look at You. Allah(SWT) will order the hijab to be removed. A light will emanate from above them, which will overshadow the scenery of the Paradise. Behold, this is Allah, the Most High, the Almighty, they will see the beauty of the Creator with their own eyes, then all the beauty of heaven will fade in front of it. It will rejuvenate everyone (the biggest gift of all). Subhan-Allah!

Social Relationships: There they will only hear good words and words of peace. Allah says: [There they shall hear no idle talk nor any sinful speech. All talk will be sound and upright \(56:25-26\).](#) There will be no enmity between people nor ill-feelings. Allah in verse 7:43 says: [We shall strip away all rancour from their hearts, and rivers shall flow beneath them, and they shall say: 'All praise be to Allah Who has guided us on to this. Had it not been for Allah Who granted us guidance, we would not be on the Right Path. Surely the Messengers of our Lord did indeed come down with truth.'](#) Then a voice will cry out to them: ['This is the Paradise which you are made to inherit as a reward for your deeds.'](#) The Prophet said: “There will be no hatred or resentment among them, their hearts will be as one, and they will glorify God, morning and evening” (Bukhari). They shall have the best of companions in the Hereafter, those who were the best people in the world. [“...and they shall have therein purified mates...” \(2:25\).](#) The hearts of the people of Paradise will be pure, their speech will be good, their deeds righteous.

The Eternal nature of the Hereafter: The Pleasures of this world are temporary, whilst the joys of the hereafter are everlasting. With the delights of Paradise, a person will never feel bored with anything, but rather, its goodness will increase each time they indulge in it. 'There is little enjoyment in this world. The World to Come is much better for the God-fearing. And you shall not be wronged even to the extent of the husk of a date-stone (4:77). "...its fruits will be eternal, and so will be its blissful shade..." (13:35). Whatever you have is bound to pass away and whatever is with Allah will last. And We shall surely grant those who have been patient their reward according to the best of what they did 16:96. "(It will be said to them): This is Our Provision, which will never end" (38:54).

Superior Delights: The delights of the Paradise, such as clothing, food, drink, jewelry and palaces, will be far superior than the contemporary world. The Prophet(SAW) said: "The space of the bow of any one of you in Paradise is better than all that the sun rises upon" (Mishkat 3/85, no. 5615).

Free from all Impurities and filth: "Crystal-white, delicious to those who drink (thereof), free from intoxication, nor will they suffer intoxication therefrom" (37:46-47). The water of Paradise does not become brackish, and its milk never changes in flavor. Quran says: "...In it are rivers of incorruptible water, rivers of milk unchanging in taste, and rivers of wine, a delight to those that drink; and rivers of pure honey. In it they will have every kind of fruit as well as forgiveness from their Lord...." (47:15). The prophet answered a person when they asked how the people of Paradise will relieve themselves: "They relieve themselves by perspiring through their skins, and its fragrance will be that of musk, and all stomachs will have become lean" (ibn Hibban).

We want to enter Paradise, but are not ready to strive for it. Allah(SWT) has made Paradise a steep climb to enter it, that is why most ignore it, and go for the lust and desires of this temporary world (gateway to Hellfire). Allah in verses 90:11-17 says: And did We not show him the two highroads (of good and evil)? But he did not venture to scale the difficult steep. And what do you know what that difficult steep is? It is freeing someone's neck from slavery; or giving food on a day of hunger to an orphan near of kin; or to a destitute lying-in dust;

and, then besides this, he be one of those who believed, and enjoined upon one another steadfastness and enjoined upon one another compassion. May Allah the Almighty guide us, forgive us, help us to stay firm on the right path, and unite all of us with our families and friends in Jannat-ul-Firdaus. Amin!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Heights

7:46-48 And between the two there will be a barrier, and on the Heights will be men who will recognize each person by his mark and will cry, out to the people of Paradise: 'Peace be to you. 'These will be the ones who had not yet joined them in Paradise, though they long to do so. And when the eyes of the people of the Heights will be turned towards the people of Hell they will say: 'Our Lord! Do not cast us among the wrongdoing people.' And the people of the Heights will cry out to the men whom they would recognize by their marks. saying: 'Neither your numbers nor the riches of which you were proud availed you.

The Hell

Muslims hope to spend their eternal lives in Heaven, but mostly will fall short in their deeds. The Quran says: **It houses those who were misers and behaved with aversion to Allah, and denied the Truth of goodness** (92:8-9), and those who chose the path of lust and desire, macho (arrogant) man, those who belied the truth, evil-doers, disbelievers, polytheists and hypocrites. Quran says: **Just imagine when they will argue with one another in Hell. The weak ones will say to those who waxed proud: "We were your followers. Will you, then, lighten for us a part of our suffering of the Fire?" Those who had waxed proud will reply: "All of us are in it. Allah has already passed His judgement among His servants"** 40:47-48. Are these not the ones of whom you swore that Allah shall grant them nothing of His mercy?' To such it will be said: 'Enter Paradise. You have no cause to fear, nor shall you grieve.' And the people of the Fire will cry out to the people of Paradise: 'Pour out some water on us or throw at us something of what Allah has bestowed upon you.' They will reply: 'Allah has forbidden them to the deniers of the truth, who have made their religion

a sport and play, and whom the life of the world has beguiled. So, on that Day We shall forget them in the manner they forget their meeting of this Day with Us and persisted in denying Our revelations.' 7:49-51. The Quran warns and describes the severity of this eternal punishment.

Blazing Fire: Quran says: "...fear the Fire which has been prepared for the disbelievers and which shall have men and stones for fuel" (2:24). "... (Those who turn away), Hell suffices for a blaze. Surely, We shall cast those who reject Our signs into the Fire; and as often as their skins are burnt out, We shall give them other skins in exchange that they may fully taste the chastisement. Surely Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise" (4:55-56). "But he whose scales weigh lighter, his shall be the deep pit for a dwelling. And what do you know what that is? A Blazing Fire!" (101:8-11).

Cursed by Allah: Those who did not heed to Allah's guidance and warnings have earned His wrath. The Quran says: "Those who adopted the way of disbelief and died as disbelievers, are accursed, of Allah and of angels and of all mankind, they shall remain accursed forever. Their punishment shall not be lightened, nor shall they be reprieved" (2:161-162). "Such are the ones whom Allah has cursed; and he whom Allah curses has none to come to his help" (4:52).

Boiling Water: The drinking water in Hell would be boiling water. Quran says: "...As for those that disbelieve, garments of fire have been cut out for them; boiling water shall be poured down over their heads, causing (not only) their skins but all that is in their bellies as well to melt away" (22:19-21). "Hell is before him and he shall be made to drink of the oozing pus" (14:16). "They will keep circling around between Hell and boiling water" (55:44).

Tree of Zaqqum: The inhabitants of Hell will eat from the Tree of Zaqqum. The Quran describes it says: "The tree of al-Zaqqum shall be the food of the sinful. Like dregs of oil, it will boil in their bellies like boiling water" (44:43-46). "Is this a better hospitality or the tree of al-Zaqqum? We have made this tree a trial for the wrong-doers. It is a tree that grows in the nethermost part of Hell. Its spathes are like the heads of devils. (The people of Hell) will surely eat of it, filling their bellies with

it. Then on top of it they will have a brew of boiling water (37:62-67).

No Second Chance: When they are dragged into Hell-Fire, many people will instantly regret the choices they made in their lives and will beg for another chance. The Quran warns such people: "Then those who followed them will say, "Would that we were given another chance to return to the world: then we will disown them just as they have disowned us today." Thus, will Allah bring before them the deeds they did in the world in such a manner as to make them wring their hands in regret but they shall be unable to come out of the Fire" (2:167). "For those who disbelieved, even if they had all that is in the earth, and the like of it with it, and offered it all as ransom from chastisement on the Day of Resurrection, it will not be accepted of them, a painful chastisement lies in store for them. They will wish to come out of the Fire, but they will not. Theirs will be a long-lasting chastisement" (5:36-37). When the leaders and the followers have no one to lay the blame, they will surround the Satan and blame him for their misguidance. In reply the Satan gives a sermon just after Judgment Day. The Quran mentions it, so that man may benefit from it in this worldly life and prepare for the Hereafter. 14:20-22: That is not at all difficult for Allah. Then all of them will appear exposed before Allah, and the weak ones will say to the haughty ones: "We merely followed you. Will you, then, protect us from Allah's chastisement?" They will say: "Had Allah shown us the Way to our salvation, we would surely have also guided you. Now it is all the same whether we cry or suffer patiently, we have no escape." After the matter has been finally decided Satan will say: "Surely whatever Allah promised you was true; as for me, I went back on the promise I made to you. I had no power over you except that I called you to my way and you responded to me. So, do not blame me but blame yourselves. Here, neither I can come to your rescue, nor can you come to mine. I disavow your former act of associating me in the past with Allah. A grievous chastisement inevitably lies ahead for such wrong-doers." Verily all will face a painful chastisement. Ah the Quran warned us that Satan is your enemy, we ignored it. Who is to blame?

Quran says: As for him whose Record will be given to him in his left hand, he will exclaim: "Would that I had never been given my Record, and had not known my account. Oh! Would that the death that came to me in the world had made an end of me! My riches have not availed me, and my authority has vanished." (A command will be issued): "Seize him and shackle him, then cast him in the Fire, then fasten him with a chain, seventy cubits long 69:25-32.

Life in Hellfire: In Hell there is no comfort, no rest, no break, the clothes of Hellfire are of fire, the chains are from fire. The food is zaqqum, drink is boiling water and puss. Yet it is dark in there, the excruciating pain leaves no one to talk to, no one to complain to, no company, the bedding in Hellfire is fire. O macho man, this is where the promise of the Satan leads to. How sad, the promise has come to pass.

My Suggestions to the Ummah

O Muslims, recognize your Lord, and the best way to recognize Him is through the Quran and then the hadith, rest all other knowledge are secondary. Allah is the All-Powerful, All-Wise, whatever He ordains is in our best interest. If we consider, this is the only way to pass the test. Allah is the Guardian, Who loves and cares for all His creatures. The main purpose of the test is to recognize Him and to instill His love in our hearts, so that He is the most beloved to us, and then obey His commandments. In the same way, we should love the Prophet(SAW) more than our own lives and follow him to walk on the straight path. O Muslims, Allah's rights, His commandments are not forgiven without sincere repentance. O Muslims, remember in regret is salvation, and in arrogance is failure. In Quran in verses 39:53-57 Allah says: Tell them, (O Prophet): "My servants who have committed excesses against themselves, do not despair of Allah's Mercy. Surely Allah forgives all sins. He is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful. Turn to your Lord and surrender yourselves to Him before the chastisement over-takes you; for then you will receive no help. Follow the best of what has been revealed to you from your Lord before the chastisement suddenly comes upon you without you even being aware of it." Lest a person should say: "Alas for me for neglecting my duty towards Allah and for

being among those that scoffed"; and lest a person should say: "If only Allah had guided me, I should have been one of the God-fearing". Allah has sent the guidance (Quran), but due to free will, it cannot be imposed, its acceptance is voluntary. On the Day of Recompense, those who followed it, will prosper, while those who rejected it, will be in ruins. To illustrate the mercy of Allah, I will discuss the story mentioned in Surah Burooj. There lived a monotheistic Christian tribe in Yemen, its rulers tried to convert them forcefully. On refusal, the whole tribe was burned alive in pits of fire. They sat around it and enjoyed watching them burn alive. In verse 85:10, the Merciful Lord said: **Surely those who tormented the believing men and the believing women and then did not repent, theirs shall be the chastisement of Hell, and theirs shall be the chastisement of burning.** Ah the Merciful Lord did not shut the door of repentance for them. O Muslims, turn to your Lord in repentance and mend your ways, He will forgive you. Also remember that verses (57: 23-25) tell us: **Allah does not love the vainglorious, the boastful, those who are niggardly and bid others to be niggardly... Indeed, We sent Our Messengers with Clear Signs, and sent down with them the Book and the Balance that people may uphold justice... so that Allah may know who, without even having seen Him, helps Him and His Messengers.** Similarly, Allah does not guide those who sincerely do not seek guidance from Him. Being the Most Merciful, He taught us Surah Fatiha in Quran, that is recited in every unit of prayer, in which we supplicate: 1:5-7: **You alone do we worship, and You alone do we turn for help. Direct us on to the Straight Way, the way of those whom You have favoured, who did not incur Your wrath, who are not astray. Amin!** In prayers we go through it obliviously, without understand and without intention, and expect the guidance to come to us. No, Allah is in no need of guiding us, if we are not in need of it, He is selfless and needless. Had He wished, He would have made everyone a Muslim (surrendering to His will). **O Allah, we are not your rebels, just over-look at our sins. Amin!**

O Muslims, it is easy to do good deeds but it is ten times more difficult to preserve them. That is why on the Day of Judgment the deeds that have been preserved will be rewarded ten times. So, learn to protect your good deeds. O Muslims, the

rights of the creation cannot be forgiven without recompense. Allah says He will not forgive two things of a believer: Polytheism and the rights of the creation. When we transgress the rights of any creature, it is a debt that should be compensated in this world, or we will have to pay dearly in the Hereafter, the choice is ours. In a hadith the Prophet(SAW) asked the companions, "Do you know who is poor"? The companion answered, a person who has no wealth, property etc. The Prophet(SAW) said "No". The companions enquired than who? The Prophet(SAW) said that on the Day of Judgment a man would come with mountains of good deeds, then there is a long queue of complainants whom he slandered, abused etc. They will be recompensed with his good deed, until his good deeds run out, and still a long queue remains. Now the bad deeds of the complainants will be put in his scale as compensation, then he will be cursed and thrown in the Hellfire. O Muslims, fear the Day when our good deeds will end up in the scales of people we hurt, and end up being a loser. Justice demands that the rights of creatures be forgiven by the aggrieved. O Muslims, on the Day of Judgment, where even a mom will not give a single good deed to her children, there, we will have to compensate aggrieved with our good deeds (currency of the Hereafter), if they fall short, and mostly it will fall short, in compensation we will be loaded with their sins, and shoved in the Hellfire. O Allah, soften our hearts. O Muslims, this is what we should have worried the most, unfortunately, we are least concerned about it. **O Muslims, Paradise is not an inheritance, nor it is free, we have to toil for it.**

O Muslims! The Prophet(SAW) will be the intercessor of those who follow the teachings of the Quran and his Sunnah. What would happen to those who claim to love the Prophet(SAW), and on the Day of Judgment the Prophet(SAW) will be the complainant against them, against those who ignored the teachings of the Quran, as stated in verse 25:30: **And the Messenger will say, "O my Lord, my people had made this Quran the object of their ridicule."** O ummah of Mohammed (SAW), if the Prophet(SAW) is the complainant against us, can anyone intercede on our behalf to save us? Today, as a nation in general, our actions contradict the teachings of the Quran.

We are unjust, our judiciary ranks 120th out of 128 nations i.e., our judicial system is one of the most corrupt system. All our government machinery and people are corrupt, and yet we claim that we love the Prophet_(SAW). What love are we talking about? On the Day of Judgment, the Prophet_(SAW) will be complainant against those of his ummah who mocked the Quran by disobeying its commandments. So, turn back to the Quran, read it with understanding and follow it.

O Muslims, read the purpose of creation over and over again, until it melts the heart, softens it, makes it sympathetic for the less fortunate, feels empathy for the destitute etc. O Muslims, we were born naked, weak, and penniless, we will leave this world in a white sheet, zero strength and broke. When we were born, someone gave us our first bath. Similarly, when we die someone will give us our last bath. When we were born, someone said adhan in one ear and iqamah in the other, our funeral will be prayed without adhan and iqamah, so why be a macho man with so much malice, envy, hate, resentment and selfishness. These things not only hurt us, but also ruin the society. So, make yourself gentle, caring and generous. O Muslims, we were supposed to exert for the betterment of the society irrespective of being Muslim or non-Muslim, and not to suppress it. Just like rain which does not select a spot, similarly, our goodness, soft-heartedness should leave an impact everywhere, benefitting the creation in general and humanity in particular. Muslims used to feed the ants, and even stray dogs, if they came to their doors. Today most of us have become spend thrift, showoffs and misers. Is this what Islam taught us? How will we face our Lord? The two things that will get us closer to Paradise are: fear of Allah and good character. Fear of Allah will stop us from oppression, and make us soft hearted, while good character will leave a good impact on the society, motivating the non-Muslims to study Islam, thus, bringing them closer to their Lord.

O Muslims, we should have been the most learned people in the world (and when we were, we ruled the world with justice). Unfortunately, today, we are the most illiterate, and the most unjust nation on the face of the globe. Unless we educate ourselves, how can we benefit ourselves and the humanity. Due to ignorance, we have become hot tempered,

abusive, morally corrupt, and unjust. We like lynching and taking law into our own hands. Does Islam allow lynching? No, Islam stands for justice both for Muslims and non-Muslims alike. When Ali_(RA) was the caliph, his armor was stolen. One day he saw a Jewish person wearing it. Ali_(RA) said to him, "this is my armor, that was stolen". The Jew refused to accept his claim. Ali_(RA) filed a petition in the court of Law. Being the plaintiff, he had to prove that the armor belonged to him. He could not, and the case was decided in the favor of the accused. After the judgment the Jewish person gave back the armor to Ali_(RA), and embraced Islam.

O Muslims, Allah's rights (obeying commandments) are forgiven on sincere repentance, while compensation is necessary when it comes to the rights of the creation. The cases without pardon or compensation will be decided on the Day of Judgment. Therefore, seek penitence from Allah, and settle the disputes with the aggrieved in the world. The punishments of the Day of Judgment would be long lasting and extremely harsh. The Prophet_(SAW) used to repent to Allah more than hundred times a day. He lived the life of destitute, because Allah loves them. I would like to repeat my old example: Suppose I harass your child whom you love very much, what will be your response? If you have the power, you would break my bones. Your love for your child is one third that of a mother. Allah who loves His creation seventy-folds more than mothers, and He has said that He will not forgive the rights of the creation. How will we escape the punishment? O Muslims, always seek the betterment of humanity, Allah will subdue your enemies. Do good like the rain, which does not see a particular place but irrigates everywhere. O Muslims, the pride, whether it be of wealth, status, beauty, lineage or even of piety, it will leave you in ruins and in disgrace. If we remember our lowly creation, we can save ourselves from arrogance. Allah does not like arrogance. [May Allah protect us from being arrogant. Amin!](#)

O Muslims, it is a pity that Islam is not our priority today, that is why we do not get up for Fajr prayers but for business meetings. Since we do not believe in the highest reward, the Paradise? Remember that what is written in your destiny you will get it. O Muslims, there is a race everywhere in the world

to be famous and known, this world will soon forget you, if you want to be famous, try to be famous among the angels, they do not forget anything, they write everything down. This worldly life is only few days/decades, everyone has to die. O Muslims, when you enter the grave, everything you loved will leave you except your good deeds. Therefore, learn to love your good deeds, they will intercede for you. O Muslims, do not fall for the lust of the world, it will perish, and what is with Allah is everlasting. Therefore, spend more in the way of Allah so that it is secured. O Muslims, fear the Day when you will be answerable to Allah, therefore submit your soul and your desires to His obedience. O Muslims, do not fall for the worldly glory, the most honourable in the sight of Allah is the one who fears Him. O Muslims, do not harbour hatred, enmity and jealousy among yourselves for the sake of wealth and status. This is God's division, so be content with it. O Muslims, do not harbour enmity in your hearts for anyone, Satan is your enemy, therefore, consider him your enemy. O Muslims, do not humiliate yourselves with wrong doings for the sake of worldly sustenance. Giving sustenance is the authority of Allah. So, never compromise on His rights. O Muslims, learn to rely on Allah instead of wealth and status, Allah suffices us. O Muslims, remember that Allah is self-sufficient in every need, while we are in need of Him for everything. Quran says: [Can the reward of goodness be any other than goodness \(55:60\)?](#) Since Allah is self-sufficient in everything, the recompense for the goodness Allah has bestowed on us is by sharing the goodness with His creatures. O Muslims, the only one who can satisfy our heart, is the one who made it, so remember Allah frequently.

What Quran says about us: The Quran in verse(21:10) says: [We have bestowed upon you a Book that mentions you. Do you not understand?](#) Let's study the Quran. Allah says in verses (95:4-6): [Surely, We created man in the best mould; then We reverted him to the lowest of the low, except those who have faith and do righteous deeds. Theirs is a never-ending reward.](#) The first group mentioned by the Quran are those: [Who obey their Lord and establish Prayer; who conduct their affairs by consultation, and spend out of what We have bestowed upon them \(42:38\).](#) Their sides forsake their beds, and they call upon

their Lord in fear and hope, **and expend (in charity) out of the sustenance We have granted them** (42:16). Who pass their nights in prostrating themselves and standing before their Lord (25:64). They sleep but little by night, and would ask for forgiveness at past midnight, **and in their wealth, there was a rightful share for him who would ask and for the destitute** (51:17-19). **Those who, for the love of Him, feed the needy, and the orphan, and the captive,** (saying): “We feed you only for Allah's sake; we do not seek of you any recompense or thanks” (76:8-9). **Who spend in the way of Allah both in plenty and hardship,** who restrain their anger, and forgive others? Allah loves such good-doers” (3:134). Are you from them? If you are you are the lucky ones, I am not, may Allah make us all like them. Amin! The second group mentioned by the Quran are those people whose character is like this: It also belongs to those who were already settled in this abode (of migration) having come to faith before the (arrival of the) emigrants. They love those who have migrated to them and do not covet what has been given them; they even prefer them above themselves though poverty be their own lot. And whosoever are preserved from their own greed, such are the ones that will prosper (59:9). Alas, I can't find myself anywhere among them! And the Quran mentions group of people whose morals are like this: **Who eschew grave sins and shameful deeds, and whenever they are angry, forgive; who obey their Lord and establish Prayer; who conduct their affairs by consultation, and spend out of what We have bestowed upon them** (42:37-38). O Allah, I do not see myself anywhere from amongst them! Quran further illustrates that some people are like this: Whenever it was said to them: “There is no true deity apart from Allah,” they waxed proud and said: “Shall we forsake our deities for the sake of a distracted poet (37:35-36)?” Further tells that: When Allah alone is mentioned, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter contract with bitterness, but when deities apart from Allah are mentioned, they are filled with joy (39:45) (the polytheists). Moving on, Quran mentions people who, when asked: “What drove you to Hell?” They will answer: “We were not among those who observed Prayer, and we did not feed the poor, and we indulged in vain talk with those who indulged in vain talk, and we gave the lie to the Day

of Judgement until the inevitable event overtook us" (74:42-47). Quran further mentions a group in verses (2:8-10): Then there are some who say, "We believe in Allah and the Last Day", whereas they do not believe at all. They thus try to deceive Allah and the Believers, but they succeed in deceiving none except themselves and they realize it not. In their hearts is a disease which Allah has increased all the more and a painful doom is in store for them for the lie they utter. O Allah! We seek Your refuge from being from these categories, and disassociate ourselves from them. Further flipping through the pages of the Quran, it mentions: There are some others who have confessed their sins: they have a mixed record of deeds, good and bad. It may be that Allah will turn to them again with kindness for He is Forbearing and Compassionate (9:102). Ah, this is the nearest group that fits my character. O Allah, forgive me, guide me and make me the leader of the guided ones. Amin! O readers, think and consider which group you belong to? Let us rectify our character before it is too late.

Supplication

O Allah, let Your Peace and blessing be upon Mohammed^(SAW) and the family of Mohammed^(SAW). Truly, You are Praiseworthy and Glorious. O Allah, I ask You by virtue of the fact that all praise is due to You, there is no deity but You, You are the Merciful, the Beneficent One, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. O Lord of Majesty and Splendour, O the Living One, O the Eternal One, O You Who holds the heavens and the earth, You suffice me, there is no deity except You. I have put my trust in You and You are the Lord of the Great Throne, and I only call out to You. O Allah, make me so that I fear You as if I see You, because one day I have to meet You. Help me to be pious, and do not afflict me with Your torment. O Allah, grant me the strength to love You with all my heart, and to please You through my endeavors. O Allah, forgive the small and big sins of my parents, mine, my wife, my children, my siblings, relatives, friends, those who asked me for prayer and all the believers. Help us to walk on the straight path, to be from the guided ones, purify our intentions and deeds just for You, fulfill our good legitimate needs, and grant us all perfect health, correct our affairs, create love and affection for each other,

grant us humility in our prayers and worships, and accept them. Fill our hearts with Your fear and make us your patient and grateful servant. Amin! O Allah, I ask for repentance before death, I ask for relief at the time of death, I ask for forgiveness and relief after death, I ask for redemption and success in heaven and deliverance from hell. Amin!

O Allah, I am Your slave, son of Your male and female slave, my forelock is in Your hand, Your Command over me is forever executed and Your Decree over me is Just. I ask You by every name belonging to You which You named Yourself, or revealed it in Your Book, or You taught it to any of Your creation, or You have preserved it in the knowledge of the unseen, that You make the Quran the life of my heart and the light of my breast, and a departure for my sorrow and a release for my anxiety. O Allah, the Lord of Majesty and Bounty, You are my Lord, You created me from dust, keep me steadfast in Your covenant and promise, so that I only invoke You in all situations. I humbly affirm all the blessings You bestowed upon me. I plead guilty for my sins, have mercy upon me. O Lord, I acknowledge that my sins are unforgivable, and I also know that Your mercy is far greater than my sins, Your love for me is greater than seventy fold then love of a mother. O my lord, how can I despair of your mercy, please forgive me, for no one can forgive except you. O Master, if you do not forgive me, then I have no one to turn to. O Beloved, my hope is in Your mercy, so please do not leave me helpless, You are my saviour and my final abode is in Your Hand. O Lord, I am walking blindly, please guide me, and be my most beloved. Bestow Your honour upon me, for I am in need of it. O my Lord, I am wandering in darkness, so guide me and help me to make you my most beloved. Make me honorable with you, thou I am not worthy of it but am in need it. O my Lord, guide me and give me hope in Your path. I am at Your door step weeping, accept me as your imbecile slave, O Lord, I am not your rebel, do not count me among the rebels. My life has flown past in sins, O beloved, please do not deprive me of Your mercy. O Allah, I'm seventy years old, my time of departing is near, my body aches and I am getting weaker. O Allah, I lay in prostration to You, my limbs, my bones, my mass have subdued to You. O Allah, forgive this despicable slave of Yours. O my Merciful Lord,

make me from those who will see Your Illuminated Majestic Perfection in the Paradise. O my Lord, my only desire is to be from the ones whom You blessed. O Allah, keep me alive if living is better for me, for my religion, my worldly life and the Hereafter, give me death if dying is better for me, for my religion, my worldly life and the Hereafter. O Allah, I seek Your Paradise, and ask for sayings and deeds that will bring me closer to it. O Merciful, I seek refuge from Your Hellfire, and ask for sayings and deeds that will distance me from it. O Allah, make everything good for me, and what you have ordained for me, make its end good. O Allah, make me only Your needy, only Yours, only Yours. O Allah, make my last breath be on Islam such that You are pleased with me. O Allah, send peace and blessings on Mohammed(SAW). Amin!