

# MY BOOK THE QUR'AN



MY BOOK  
THE QUR'AN







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**My Book the Qur'an**

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## FOREWORD

Hi Kids,

It is our first duty to read, learn and understand our Holy book, the Quran which was sent to our beloved prophet Mohammad by Allah for man kind to settle peace, harmony, happiness, and to reach the straight path. We have to listen and understand its holy messages. We will have difficulty in understanding the Quran without adequate acknowledge. With the book in your hands; we have tried to relate what kind a book the Quran is, what it contents, how it has changed mankind and the society, lighting the way for earth and the afterlife, the prophets model struggles. The Qu'ran firstly introduces our creator. Relates how he created the universe, whole existance and the mankind. Teaches how to pray and worship to our God

Not only it shows goodness and beautiness but also gives advice to avoid wrong doing and hideousness. It introduces us to ourselves. It informs us the duty towards our family, society, the mankind and the other livings. We will be very happy, if we believe our book and follow its commands. Our God loves us very much, because he loves us, he sent Mohammad (pbuh) as a guide for mankind. He tought the holy book to him, and he shared what he had learnt. He showed the safe route to the mankind. We love our God very much. He tought love, created the universe and the contents just for us, gave life, health and happiness. We love whatever he created; the mankind, animals and the nature. We know that we are responsible towards them, and we are trying to accomplish our duties as far as we can.

Oh! Dear kids!

We are hoping that, you'll love this book, which we have prepared for you that guides you to understand our holy book the Qu'ran. We have tried to explain our holy book and describe its beautiness to you. Let's read our beautiful holy book and let's become beautiful. Let's establish a beautiful world. You are our future and we love you very much.

THE PRESIDENCY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS.

# MY BOOK THE QUR'AN



PUBLICATIONS OF PRESIDENCY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

ANKARA  
2008

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PART I

# HUMANS, THE MOST SUPERIOR OF CREATION

## *The Awaited Guests*

 ur planet has gone through long processes in readiness for the awaited guests.

The planet was then placed in orbit around the sun. It orbited around itself as well as around the sun.

Its orbiting speed around itself is such that it is in exact measure of the life needs of its guests. By orbiting around itself we have the formation of day and night; by orbiting the sun we have the formation of seasons.

Its distance from the sun is in perfect measure. If it was too close all forms of life would have incinerated. If it was too distant from the sun all forms of life would have frozen.

It was covered with an atmosphere that protected the planet from all forms of external danger.

It was created for the temporary life of the awaited guests.



*Surely We have created man in the most noble mould.*

(95/4)



*We are nearer to him than his jugular vein.*

(50/16)



*He is with you wheresoever you may be.*

(57/4)



❁❁❁❁❁❁  
*In the creation of  
 the heavens and  
 the earth; in the  
 alternation of night  
 and day; in the  
 sailing of the ships  
 through the ocean  
 for the benefit of  
 mankind; in the  
 water which Allah  
 sends down from  
 the sky and with  
 which He revives the  
 earth after its death,  
 and dispersing over  
 it all kinds of beasts;  
 in the ordinance  
 of the winds and  
 clouds that are  
 driven between  
 earth and sky: are  
 signs for people who  
 have sense.*

(2/164)



The planet has been decorated with countless beauties that no-one other than Allah has the power to know the exact number of.

The needs of the awaited guests were thought out to the finest detail- to the point where no stone had been left unturned.

Everything had been prepared, at last the awaited moment arrived.

The awaited guests were created and brought down to their beautiful place of residence.

The guests were outwardly beautiful.

They were different from other creatures.

They had will-power and intelligence. They had emotions. They were able to think and speak.

The Creator gave great value to the guests because He loved them very much.

## ***The Sun Rises for Us Everyday***

The universe has one Creator and that is Allah. There was only Allah and nothing else. Allah created the universe, planets, stars, moon and the sun. Allah gave life to everything.

Allah created the world for us and furnished it with mountains, valleys, oceans and rivers. Created the wind, soil, water and air. Created light, colour and sound. Created all living things: plants, birds, bugs and flowers for us. Created a variety of trees including those that bear fruit and those that do not. Allah created plants and flowers of different colours. Created ivy. Created animals ranging from an ant to an elephant.

Some are legless, some are four-legged and some are multi-legged. Gave birds wings with which to fly and fins for fish to swim . Taught bees how to make honey. Created whatever was needed for this world.



### *Everything came about because Allah said “Be”*

The sun rises for us everyday. The mornings are for us. The rivers flow for us, flowers blossom every spring for us and the birds sing their songs for us. We can never thank Allah enough for the love He shows us as a result of giving us so much value.

There are a variety of animals and plants of various colours and fruits of different flavour. Each of them beautiful, and each of them special in their own way. We realise how limited our sense of understanding is when we try to comprehend the beauty of the planet. The world is beautiful but human beings are more beautiful. A world that is this beautiful has been presented to serve one that is even more beautiful than itself. Human beings are the most beautiful and superior of all of Allah’s creations.

We believe in Allah who has created us from nothing, gave us hands and feet, eyes and ears and created us from a mother and father. This is because Allah exists and is One. Allah is able to create without the assistance of anyone or anything. Allah is not begotten nor does He beget. Allah does not have children and is not in need of them. We learn and know of Allah’s existence and Oneness, that He has no helper and is the sole Creator of the universe from our Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and the Holy Qur’an.

### *Worldly Life is a Journey*

Birth is the first step in this journey. Mankind continues step by step on this journey- he grows, develops and ages step by step. A time will come when his stay in this world will come to an end and death will eventuate. Humans are able to direct their lives with the unique gift of their intelligence. Despite this they have not been left to their own devices. Happiness in the life of this world cannot be achieved with the guidance of intelligence alone because the life of this world is also a testing ground for them.



*But His command, when He intends a thing, is only that he says unto it: Be! and it is.*

(36/82)



*You (Mohammad) cannot see any fault in the Beneficent One’s creation.*

(67/3)



*And He subjected to you the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. And the stars are (also) in subjection (to serve you) by His command. Surely in this there are signs for a people who use their intelligence.*

(16/12)

Just as there are those who guide us to the right path, there are also those who mislead us. Satan, the one who rebels against Allah's commandments, constantly tries to deceive mankind to do the same. Satan tries every trick to prevent humans from achieving a happy and peaceful life on earth. He deviates people from the right path by showing that which is ugly and wrong as something beautiful and desirable instead. As opposed to this Allah sent prophets to protect people from straying from the straight path as His show of love and care for us humans. Prophets teach Allah's religion and guide people to happiness. If we give heed to the teachings of the prophets we will be able to lead a happy life, if however we fall into the traps of Satan then we will be unhappy in the life of this world and the Hereafter.

## *Everything is Entrusted to Us*

Allah did not create us and this beautiful world in vain. Mankind has been given certain responsibilities. Everything; this world, every living thing within it and our lives are entrusted to us.

We have been given the gift of intelligence and consequently the ability to think and speak in order to carry out these responsibilities. In order to live in a more just and harmonious world we have been given the gift of mercy.

There are many forms of creatures, in many ways similar to us. Everything, including plants and flowers of every colour are living things also. Even if they do not look like us, they also have a life of their own and are living things as well. That is why we should





*The (true) religion in the sight of Allah is Islam.*

(3/19)



*Unto Him belongs whosoever is in the heavens and in the earth. All are obedient unto Him.*

(30/26)



try our very best never to harm any living thing because they are all entrusted to us. We can benefit from other living things if we treat them within the limits of ecological principles.

## ***The Road to Happiness is Religion***

It is Allah that knows us best because it is He who created us. Just as He loves us we also love Allah in return and all of His creation. Allah knows best what will cause our happiness and unhappiness for He wishes that we achieve happiness in the life of this world. He sent prophets so that we may be guided to a life of peace and happiness and be protected from committing bad deeds and evil acts. Although prophets are humans just like us they are chosen people. They are under special protection and guidance from Allah. Their duty is to teach us Allah's religion. Religious knowledge is our source of happiness, it shows the way to be in harmony with ones' Creator, and then to be at peace with oneself and those around them.

*For every nation  
there is a Messenger.*

(10/47)



*The names of the  
prophets mentioned  
in the Qur'an are:*

*Adam*

*Enoch*

*Noah*

*Hud*

*Salih*

*Abraham*

*Lot*

*Ishmael*

*Isaac*

*Jacop*

*Joseph*

*Job*

*Shu'aib*

*Moses*

*Aaron*

*David*

*Solomon*

*Elias*

*Elisha*

*Jonah*

*Ezekiel*

*Zacharia*

*John*

*Jesus*

*Mohammad (peace  
be upon them all)*

## ***From Prophet Adam to Prophet Mohammad***

Mankind has not been left unguided as Allah has sent down prophets. The ancestor of all mankind, the first man created as well as the first prophet sent, is Prophet Adam. As a result we are all the children of Adam. Many prophets have come and gone between Prophet Adam and Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). Our Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) is the last of Allah's prophets- there will be no other prophet to come.

We believe in all the prophets and we love each and every one of them the same as our Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) because they were all sent by Allah. They each came with the same message of truth. Their duty was to show mankind the right path. Since Allah is One, the religion that Allah has conveyed through His prophets is also one. That is why all the religions that have come from Allah is Islam and the prophets are all prophets of Islam.

Throughout history, mankind has managed to change the religion that came down to them. Prophets taught religion to the society in which they lived in. However, people have added their own beliefs and thoughts to Allah's religion after the death of the prophets sent down to them. It is in this way that they spoil Allah's religion. As a consequence Allah sent new prophets to warn mankind. This state of affairs continued until Prophet Mohammad (pbuh).

Every religion that Allah sent down is the same in essence. However, when the essence of a religion is tampered with, then the original intention of religion, which is the happiness of mankind, cannot be achieved. The outcome is that people will be deprived of Allah's religion. Allah has constantly reminded mankind of the importance of kindness and righteousness



by sending new prophets so that mankind would not be left uninformed.

Our religion Islam is the only religion left unchanged because the principles of our religion are written in our Holy Book- a Book that has not undergone any change whatsoever.

Now let's briefly get to know the Sacred Books.

## *Sacred Books*

Prophets are a bridge between us and Allah. Each prophet is a messenger that conveys Allah's message. Allah's message is conveyed to us through divine inspiration. Divine inspiration is news from Allah, they are Allah's Words. The collection of Allah's Words are known as Sacred Books. It is these Books that are given to prophets so that they may be guided to the right path.

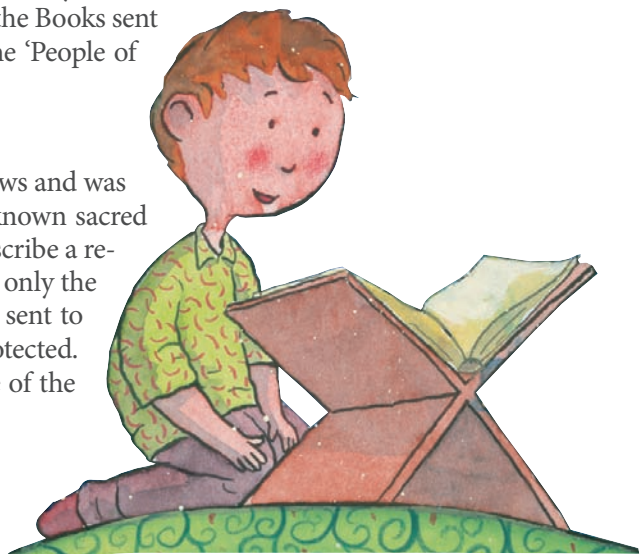
Allah gave books to some prophets while to others he gave booklets of only a few pages in length.

Today there are 4 great Books that are believed to have come from Allah. These are the Torah, Psalms, the Bible and our book, the Holy Qur'an. The Torah and Psalms belong to the Jews, the Bible belongs to the Christians, and the Holy Qur'an belongs to Muslims. Those who believe in the Books sent before the Holy Qur'an are known as the 'People of the Book'

### *The Torah*

The Torah is the sacred book of the Jews and was sent to Prophet Moses. It is the oldest known sacred book. Judaism is a term used both to describe a religion and a race. That is why Judaism is only the religion of the Jews. The original Torah sent to Prophet Moses has not been properly protected. People have tampered with the message of the Torah over time.

*Besides these names, there are 3 others, Uzeyir, Luqman and Zulkarneyn, that are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. There is no absolute certainty as to whether these three are prophets or not.*





*We have, without  
doubt, sent down  
the Reminder, and  
We preserve it .*  
(15/9)

### *Psalms*

It is the second of the Sacred Books sent down, and was sent down to Prophet David. A part of it is included in the Torah. It is not definitely known as to when it was first collected in book form. The Psalms are composed of chapters called “Ezmur”. It does not contain commandments or rules, instead it is a book containing advice in the form of poetry.

### *The Bible*

It is the Sacred Book of the Christians and was sent down to Prophet Jesus. It was not written during Jesus’s lifetime. A great number of men of religion wrote their own version of the Bible. Each of them accepted their own version as being correct. This state has been the cause of much confusion in belief and bloody wars throughout Christian history. In order to overcome this confusion and come up with a unified book, men of religion held a conference in Iznik, Turkey 325 years after Prophet Jesus’s birth. After many days of lengthy arguments they were able to reduce the number of books to 4. The present day Bible consists of the combination of these 4 books.

## *The Holy Qur’an*

The Holy Qur’an is the last Book sent down to mankind to guide them to the right path. There will not be another Sacred Book to come after it. The principles contained within it are valid till Judgement Day.

The most important difference between the Holy Qur’an and the other Sacred Books is the fact it was written during the lifetime of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). Furthermore, the Holy Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) made many memorise verses from the Qur’an/ made many people memorise the Holy Qur’an by heart. This deep-seated tradition has continued to this day and will continue from now on. When our Holy Prophet (pbuh) died a written form of the Qur’an was left in the hands of Muslims. In contrast, the Torah was written 700 years after Prophet



Moses's death and the Bible was compiled in book form between 100-150 years after the death of Jesus.

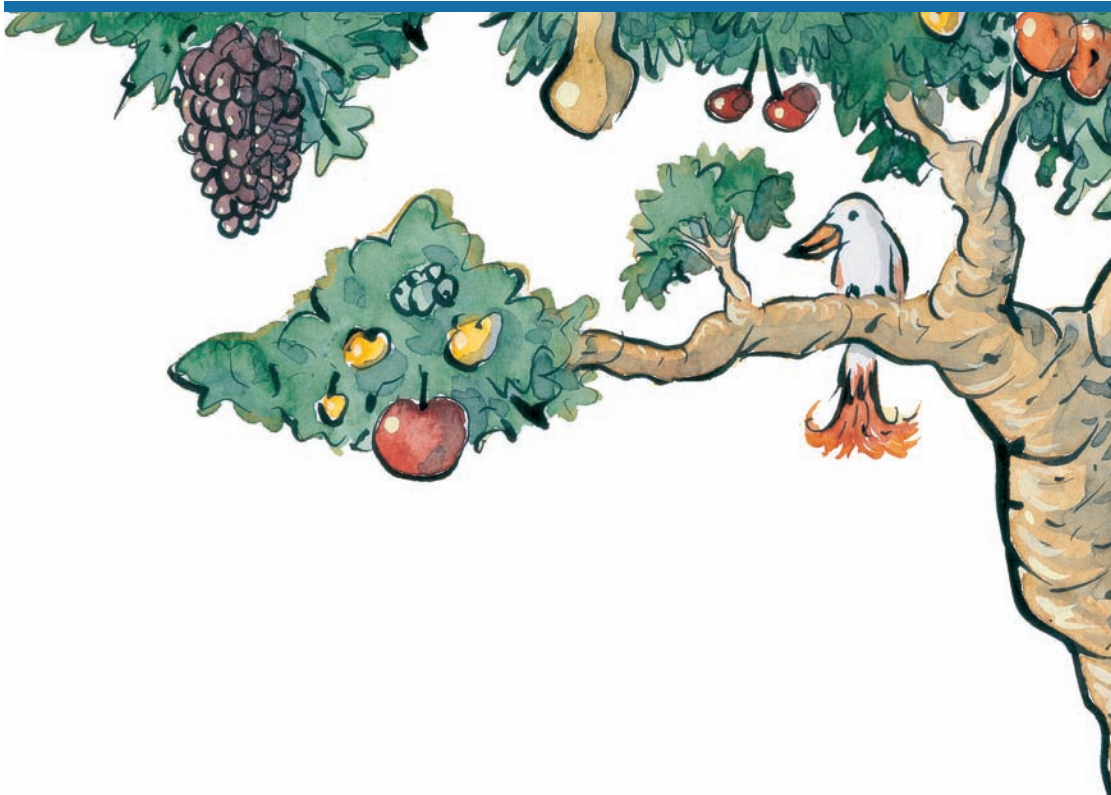
The Qur'an was not sent to a particular society and is not intended to apply to a particular period in time. Allah the Almighty has proclaimed that He will protect our Sacred Book, the Holy Qur'an, till Judgement Day. It is for this reason that no-one will have the power to change even a single letter of the Holy Qur'an. This is because it is a Book under protection.

As long as mankind progresses within the limits defined by Allah then they will earn His love. Allah is, He who is full of love and it is He who has placed love in the breasts of mankind. Just think about it, what could be a greater reward than earning the love of our Exalted Creator, the One that created all that is in the heavens and the earth and knows all that is known and unknown to us? Yes, we are the children of a civilisation based upon love.



*Who created me,  
and who guides me.  
And who feeds me  
and waters me. And  
when I sicken, then  
He heals me.*

(26/78-80)





*And your Lord inspired the bee, saying: "Build your homes in the mountains and in the trees, and the (hives) which men shall make. Then feed on every kind of fruit, and follow the paths of your Lord made smooth (for you)." There comes forth out of their bellies a fluid of many hues, wherein is healing for mankind. Indeed in this there is a sign for a people who give thought.*

(16/68-69)



## LET'S READ...

### A BEE, EXPLAINS THE CHAPTER BROUGHT DOWN IN ITS NAME

I'm a tiny honey bee. I'm one of the smallest creatures of the millions and billions of creatures created in this great big world of ours. Allah the Almighty has made special mention of me in the last of the Sacred Books sent down. With Allah's commandments, Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) gave one of the chapters in my name. I was very happy when I found out about this.

It is in this chapter that Allah the Almighty teaches me how to make a nest and honeycomb, how to collect pollen without losing my path (even if it's very far away), and how to make honey from them. We submit to these commandments by making incredible geometric patterns and behave in mathematical ratios.

First we make our architectural wonder called honeycomb out of hexagonal wax cells. After much hard work, effort and skill we turn pollen into honey within our bodies that we collect from many types of flowers. We then carefully fill each cell of the honeycomb with honey. We achieve all this work by working faultlessly and with all our might as a team with my other bee friends.

We work day and night to make that ever so delicious honey which at the same time is a source of cure for many illnesses. We will continue to work as such till the end of time. By using us as an example our Lord has shown that nothing is created in vain and that everything has intrinsic value and importance in nature. By observing the trees, the birds, the different coloured flowers, flowing rivers, and the beautiful stars in the sky, we are reminded by Allah, of the fact that infinite strength and power belongs only to Allah the Almighty Himself.

There's much to be done- we must all do our best to protect the unique balance in our planet in order to ensure the happiness of





each creature within it. Please let us not forget that! I hope that your curiosity will be aroused on these topics and that you will research them for yourselves. I hope that each time you see a bee, you will remember my words.

Well, I wonder how humans are supposed to show their submission to Allah? Have you ever wondered about that? To do this you must first read the Holy Qur'an many times over. There are many topics covered in just the chapter named after me. Let's have a look at this chapter.


You're wondering about the chapter in which my name is mentioned, aren't you? Well in that case let me tell you right away. Chapter Nahl takes its name from me. Nahl means "honey bee". This chapter is the 16th chapter of the Holy Qur'an and has 128 verses. These verses explain the beauty and balance between all that is created in the heavens and the earth, and how they all serve mankind. Importance is placed on mankind to think about these things and to worship Allah. Special attention is given to: what the end of those who disbelieve will be; the purpose of the Holy Qur'an; and the importance of thinking and using one's intelligence. In short, the following are the main topics emphasised in this chapter: belief, disbelief, justice, to do good, reason, to keep one's word, knowledge and patience.

By the way I'd like to share something with you before I finish off. Do you know how sensitive the Holy Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) was towards all living creatures? Even during times of war he told his soldiers and friends: "Do not kill animals or harm trees or plants. Do not attack children, women, non-Muslims in the midst of worship, and do not destroy places of worship". The world we live in today really is in need of such advice isn't it? I was very touched when I heard this. How can I not be when the Prophet (pbuh), who was sent as a mercy to the universe, gives importance to tiny creatures like us and recommends humans that we be treated with kindness.

PART II

# LET'S GET TO KNOW OUR BOOK

## *An Angel Came Down and Told Him to Read*

 Allah divinely inspired the first verses of the Holy Qur'an to our Prophet (pbuh) in the Hira Cave on Nur Mountain. Angel Jibril brought down the first five verses of Chapter Alaq beginning with the verse "Read!".

Our Prophet (pbuh) was 40 years old when the first divine inspiration came down to him. It was on Monday during the month of Ramadan, that is, the month we fast in. This event was the beginning of the divine inspiration that started in the year 610 and continued until the death of our Holy Prophet (pbuh). The night in which the Holy Qur'an started to be brought down is known as the 'Night of Power.' Muslims celebrate this night with prayer and worship.



*And when the  
Qur'an is recited,  
give ear to it and  
pay heed, that you  
may obtain mercy.*

(7/204)



## *The Beautiful Names of Our Book*

*The Holy Qur'an*- reading this *Book* is a form of worship.

*The Holy Qur'an* - it is *Furqan*. It distinguishes between true belief and superstitious belief, between right and wrong, and bad and good.



*Surely this Qur'an  
guides to that which  
is most right, and  
gives good tidings  
to the believers  
who do deeds of  
righteousness that  
theirs will be a great  
reward.*

(17/9)



*The Holy Qur'an* - it is *Nur* (Light). It will illuminate the path of mankind till Judgement Day.

*The Holy Qur'an* - it is a *Cure* for all types of moral corruption.

*The Holy Qur'an* - even when things get very dangerous it is a *Huda* (Guide).

*The Holy Qur'an* - it is a Book of *Remembrance* so that one may remember oneself and one's Creator.

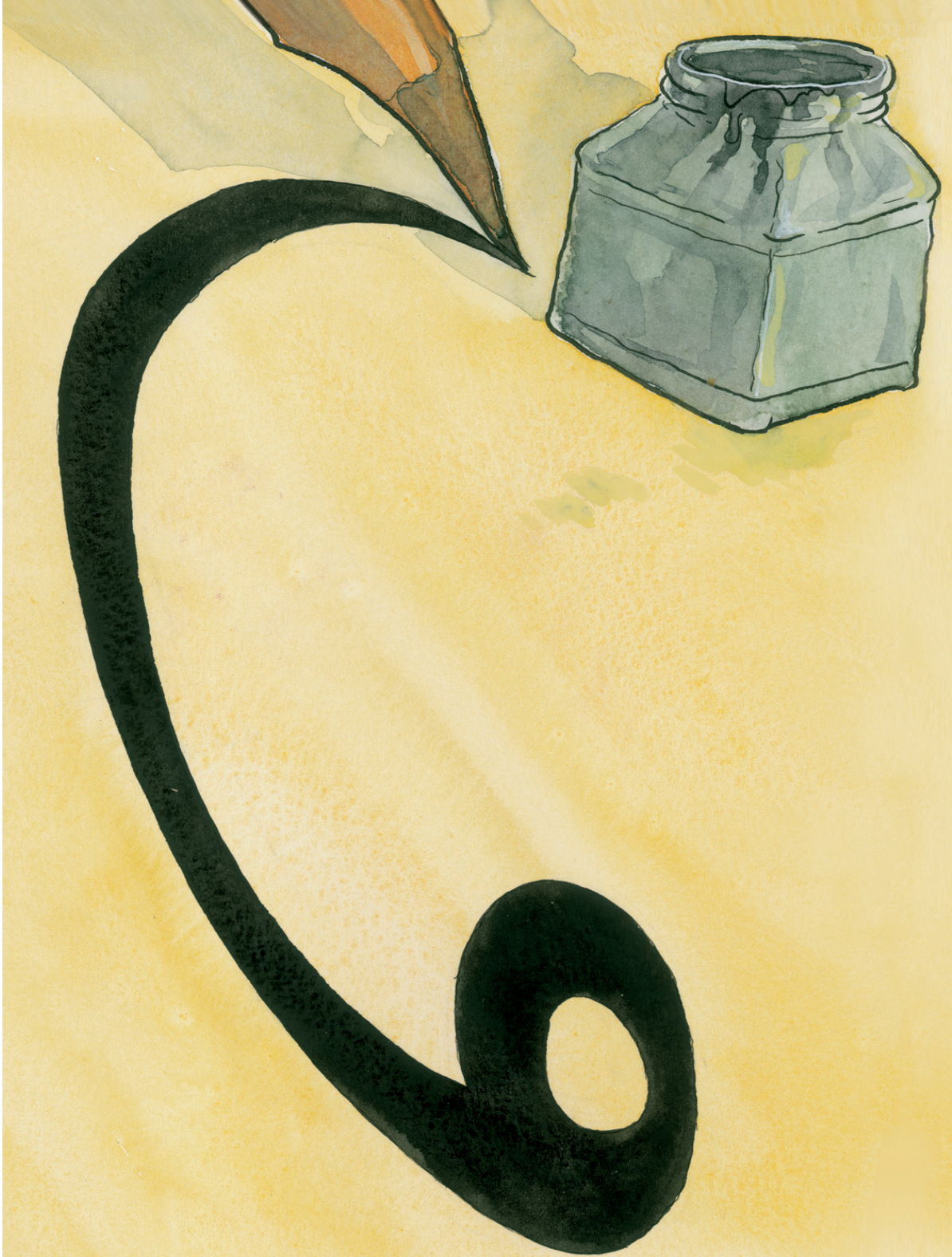
*The Holy Qur'an* - is Allah the Almighty's *Word*.

## ***The Beautiful Verses Came Down One by One***

Each sentence of *the Holy Qur'an* is known as a verse. Verses can be as short as a few letters to a page in length. There are 6236 verses in *the Holy Qur'an*.

*The Qur'an* did not come down as a whole to our Prophet (pbuh), instead it came down in parts. Some verses generally came down after certain incidents in order to shed light on the matter concerned. This process continued for 23 years. The reason for this was so that the information could be better comprehended and easily digested. Just as we grow day by day, and a house is built brick by brick, and a seedling gradually grows taller, *the Qur'an* was similarly completed.

Of the 23 years of prophethood given to Prophet Mohammad (pbuh), 13 years were spent in Mecca and 10 years in Madinah. That is why the verses that came down in Mecca are known as 'Mecca verses', and the verses that came down in Madinah are known as 'Madinah verses'. The verses that came down in Mecca deal more with the principles of belief, belief in the afterlife and the principles of good manners and conduct. In contrast, the verses that came down in Madinah generally deal with family matters and societal issues.







Sections composed of verses are known as surahs (chapters). There are 114 surahs in *the Qur'an*. Surahs, like verses, can sometimes be short or long in length. For example Surah Baqara is 48 pages in length and is the longest surah in *the Qur'an*. In contrast there is a surah that is only a sentence in length, eg Surah Kawthar. Thus, verses make up surahs and surahs make up *the Qur'an*.

### ***The Beginning of All Actions is Bismillah (In the Name of Allah)***

Every chapter of *the Qur'an*, with the exception of one, begins with Besmele. Just as we read the Besmele (In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful) before reading *the Qur'an*, we must also say Besmele before each action in our daily lives. Besmele is 'Bismillahir-Rahmanir Raheem' or 'Bismillah' in short. It means 'In the Name of Rahman (the Compassionate) and Rahim (the Merciful). When we recite Allah's name before starting a task, Allah will ease that task for us. We should recite the Besmele before eating, going to school, doing our schoolwork or sleeping. The Besmele should always be recited by Muslims. Shops should be opened and journeys should be begun with the Besmele, as it is one of the founding symbols of our culture.

### ***The Names of the Verses***

Each chapter of the Qur'an has a title of its own. Sometimes chapters are named after prophets eg Abraham, Joseph and Mohammad; sometimes they are named after astronomical phenomena eg stars (Nejm), moon (Qamar) and sun (Shams); sometimes they are named after the first word or letter of the chapter eg Ta-ha, Ya-sin, Qaf, Sad. Sometimes chapters are named after events in the life of our Prophet eg Isra, Mujadili, and Hujurat; sometimes they are related to mankind eg Insan, Mary; sometimes the chapters are named after groups eg Jin, Munafikun; sometimes they are named after the afterlife



Kiyama, Naba, Takvir, and sometimes they are named after animals eg spiders (Ankebut), bees (Nahl) and ants (Naml). One of the chapters takes its name from a fig tree (Tin).

## *Chapters from the Holy Qur'an*

The Bismele is the key to the Qur'an and Chapter Fatiha is its door. Fatiha means 'opener'. It is the essence of the Qur'an. This chapter explains that it is only Allah that is worthy of praise and glorification and it is only Allah that we should worship and seek help from.

Fatiha is the most recited chapter in our daily lives, our 5 daily ritual worship and invocations. We read this chapter at the end of our prayers as well as the prayers we send to the souls of our deceased ones.

The second most commonly read chapter of the Qur'an is Ikhlas. Ikhlas means to be sincere, and to act in ways that are



*In the name of Allah,  
the Compassionate,  
the Merciful*

*Say: "He is Allah, the  
One!*

*Allah, the eternally  
Besought of all!*


*He begat none. Nor  
was He begotten.*

*And there is none  
comparable to Him!*

(112/1-4)





  
*In the name  
of Allah, the  
Compassionate, the  
Merciful  
Praise be to Allah,  
the Lord of the  
Worlds;  
The Compassionate,  
the Merciful;  
Master of the Day of  
Judgement;  
You alone do we  
worship, and to You  
alone we pray for  
help;  
Guide us to the  
Straight Path;  
The way of those  
whom You have  
favoured;  
Not of those who  
have incurred Your  
wrath. Nor of those  
who go astray.*

(1/1-7)



in accordance with Islam. It is in this chapter that Allah most concisely introduces and explains Himself. It is for this reason that this chapter is known as the essence of monotheism.

One of the most widely read chapters of the Qur'an is Yasin. It is accepted that the word Yasin means "Oh Mankind". It is said to be the heart of the Qur'an. It is one of the most widely read chapters of the Qur'an amongst Muslims. It is particularly read on Friday evenings and during the visitation of graves. The topics covered in this chapter includes the principles of Islamic belief, the Oneness of Allah and the evidence showing Allah's strength, the creation of mankind and resurrection after death.

Chapter Rahman is also a very commonly read chapter. Chapter Rahman (one of Allah's beautiful names) is named so because it begins with the word Rahman. Rahman means one that is merciful to all of creation. This chapter mentions the principles of Islamic manners, evidence and proof of Allah's strength and Oneness, and the countless blessings bestowed upon mankind.

## *Sections of the Qur'an*

*The Qur'an*, in addition to verses and chapters, is also separated into parts. The separation of *the Qur'an* into these parts enables us to read it with ease. Each part consists of 20 pages and the count starts from the beginning of *the Qur'an*. The beginning of each part is usually symbolised by a picture of a rose. There are 30 in total of these sections in the Qur'an.

## *Spoken Words are Temporary, Written Text is Permanent*

Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) used to get literate Muslims to write down the divinely inspired verses that came down in





parts. Those who write the Qur'an are known as 'scribes of divine inspiration'. Their duty was to write down each verse, and they wrote these without any error. Amongst these were Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman, Ali, and Zeyd bin Sabit. It is thanks to them that the Qur'an has been passed down to our day without losing its fidelity.

The head of all Muslims after our Prophet (pbuh) was Abu Bakr. It was during his term that Omar proposed the Qur'an be put together in book form. The Qur'an was put together in the witness of those known as Hafyz (those who know the Qur'an off by heart). The first book form of the Qur'an is known as 'Mushaf'. It stayed in the possession of Abu Bakr till he died. This particular Qur'an was inherited by Omar, then the wife of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh), Hafsa (daughter of Omar) and then Othman.

Islamic boundaries greatly broadened during the reign of Othman. During that time a lot of people converted to Islam and in this way the population increased and the borders broadened even further. The increasing demand for copies of the Qur'an in those places was met by making copies using the original Qur'an. These books were then sent to the 7 biggest cities in the country. Copies of the Qur'an that we have at home today have been taken from that original copy.

### ***The Nightingales of the Qur'an - Those Who Know the Qur'an Off by Heart***

Those who have memorised the Qur'an are known as 'Hafyz'. Their effort is indeed very valuable. They are known as the 'walking Qur'an' as a result of memorising it. Some of us prefer to call them the 'living Qur'an' instead.

Nowadays there is almost one hafyz in every street of Turkey who has memorised the Qur'an off by heart. Even if there isn't a hafyz then one can certainly find an ashir. To read an ashir means that one can read a section of the Qur'an off by heart.



## *To Read the Qur'an from Cover to Cover*

Hatim means to read the Qur'an from beginning to end. Every year our Holy Prophet (pbuh) used to read all the verses that came down to him to that day to Angel Jibril on each Ramadan night. Angel Jibril used to read the verses back to him. In this way our Prophet (pbuh) and the Angel that brought the message via divine inspiration read the Qur'an to each other by reciprocating the verses. When the Prophet (pbuh) read, the Angel listened. When the Angel read, the Prophet (pbuh) listened. This is known as mukabala or 'reciprocal reading.' This practice has led to the tradition of 'reciprocal reading' amongst Muslims, as well as being an important factor in our Holy Book remaining unchanged to this day.

This is one of the reasons why we give great importance to reading the Qur'an from cover to cover during the fasting month of Ramadan. In remembrance of this important event between our Prophet (pbuh) and Angel Jibril, we also read the Qur'an from cover to cover while fasting during the month of Ramadan.

## *The Art and Address of Calligraphy - Istanbul*

An art has been especially developed to write the Qur'an in the most beautiful way. This art is known as calligraphy, and those in this profession are known as calligraphers.

This writing requires special pens and materials, and there are certain rules of writing and styles of writing that must be adhered to in this art. One must learn from the master in the trade in order to be a good calligrapher. One cannot get enough of looking at a Qur'an that has been written in calligraphy. A Qur'an in this form has pages full of beautiful writings and colours of so many sorts.



**Our Holy Prophet (pbuh) said:**

*"The best of you are those who learn and those who teach the Qur'an."*

(Buhari, "The Virtues of the Qur'an", 21)





**Our Prophet  
(pbuh) says:**

*“Islam is based on 5 basic principles: to witness that there is no God except Allah and to bear witness that Mohammad (pbuh) is His Messenger; to do the 5 daily ritual prayers; to give alms; to perform the pilgrimage; and to fast during the month of Ramadan.”*

(Buhari, “The Faith”, 2)



In the Turkish culture value is also given to signs of any form written in calligraphy in addition to that found in the Qur’an. These signs mostly have the names ‘Allah’ and ‘Mohammad’ written on them. Most of our homes and mosques are decorated with these names. The best examples of the art of calligraphy have been achieved by our ancestors (Turks). This is the reason why there is the famous saying that “The Qur’an came down in Mecca, was read in Egypt, and written in Istanbul.” There are many copies of the Qur’an written in calligraphy. The one that we have today is written by the calligrapher Hafyz Osman.

## ***To Read the Holy Qur’an Well***

The Qur’an is the best of books. There is no book greater than the Qur’an. There are no words more beautiful than that in the Qur’an. We Muslims try to read it in the best way that we can and we feel great happiness in doing so.

Initially there were no reading signs in the Qur’an but as Islam spread and the number of new Muslims grew, they came across certain difficulties when trying to read the Qur’an. In order to overcome these difficulties reading signs were placed. These really eased the task of reading the Qur’an.

It is also an art to be able to read the Qur’an well. A person reading the Qur’an with a great voice can profoundly affect those around them. Obviously not everyone can read that well. Our responsibility is to read as correctly and as well as we can.

Before reading the Qur’an we must get our ablution and then say “A`uwudhu billah iminash Shaitan ir Rajeem.”, the meaning of which is: “ I seek refuge with Allah (The All Hearing, The All-Knowing) from Satan, the rejected.” This is followed by: “Bismillahir-Rahmanir Raheem.” (In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful). We increase in beauty as we make an effort to read the Qur’an well. We add beauty to our already existing beauty.



## *An Influential Book*

Our beloved Prophet (pbuh) used to read the Qur'an with his beautiful voice every evening in his courtyard when he lived in Mecca. The Qur'an used to leave such an impact on people that even non-believing Meccans would secretly come out at night to listen to the reading of it. One evening, as usual, three leading Meccans secretly came to listen to the Prophet (pbuh) recite the Qur'an. They came across each other as they were heading for home. They couldn't tell each other that the reason why they were there was to listen to the reading of the Qur'an. However, they each knew the reality of the situation. Fancy denying the Qur'an and yet be coming in secret to listen to its recitation. How would they explain themselves if anyone heard about it? They each gave their word to never come and listen to the reading of the Qur'an again- after all what if someone were to see them? However, they could not resist the temptation and returned secretly again the next day. The Qur'an was able to, in this way, profoundly affect even those who denied it.

## *The Holy Qur'an Openly Tells the Truth*

The Qur'an is a book that everyone can easily read, learn and understand. Our Book explains things in ways that we can understand easily. Its most important characteristic is that it can be read and memorised with ease. There is no other book in the world that can claim to have the same characteristics.

Sometimes stories are used in order for us to better understand certain messages. These stories provide advice, just as there is a moral in every fable.

Sometimes its hard to understand certain verses. In those instances one can refer to books that deal specifically with the interpretation of the Qur'an which provide an in depth explanation of the Qur'an. Then there is the translation of the Qur'an into other languages, for example an English



*When you recite the Qur'an seek refuge in Allah from Satan the accursed.*

(16/98)







translation of the Qur'an. Tefsir, on the other hand, is a detailed interpretation of each verse in the Qur'an.

If we need to understand what a verse is trying to say then tefsir books must be resorted to. If it is the English meaning that we are, for example, interested in then we would resort to the English translation of the Qur'an. For instance, if we want to know the meaning of the first verse of Chapter Fatiha, 'Al-hamdu lillahi rabb al-alameen,' which is recited in each of the 5 daily prayers, we would find that it means, "Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds." However, if we are interested in finding out the meaning in more detail we would refer to a tefsir book.

## ***It is a Book that Brings People Out of the Darkness***

*The Qur'an* invites mankind to that which is most correct and beautiful. Those who give heed to it will be saved from a world of darkness filled with injustice, oppression and manners that are incompatible with honour and self-respect. Those who follow its lead will protect the weak, orphan and destitute. Selfish and miserly people can only escape their bad habits with the guidance of the Qur'an.

Muslims who adopt the principles in the Qur'an will respect the rights their neighbours. People would earn their living through legal means; they would steer away from lying, cheating and all forms of unlawful acts. Lies would be replaced with honesty, hypocrisy with sincerity, boasting and pride with humility, and selfishness with self-sacrifice.

Women who were previously denied their worth, gained their respect with the Qur'an. It is thanks to the Qur'an that people realised that both male and female children are gifts from Allah. People also learned to approach the disabled with mercy, to help them and to integrate them into society- thanks



to *the Qur'an*. It gave hope to humanity as it paved the way to freedom to that shameful part of human history known as slavery.

*The Qur'an* dawned upon mankind like the sun. It is with the Qur'an that light replaces darkness and divine light replaces oppression. With it came justice, peace, law and order. With it virtuous people increased in number.

*The Qur'an* taught people how to protect themselves from wrong-doing.

*The Qur'an* taught people how to share.

*The Qur'an* taught people friendship and brotherhood.

*The Qur'an* taught peace and love.

*The Qur'an* taught people how to be civil.





## LET'S READ...

### AN ANT EXPLAINS A CHAPTER BROUGHT DOWN IN ITS NAME

As you know Allah the Almighty sent down verses to our be-loved Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). These verses were then put together to form the Holy Qur'an. Chapter Naml (The Ant) explains the incident between my ant ancestors and Prophet Solomon.

Let me introduce myself to you. I'm a tiny little ant. Allah the Almighty gave me great importance by mentioning my name in the Holy Qur'an. I cannot tell you how happy I am as a result of this. Moreover, we are also one of the animals that have been forbidden from being killed. Even lighting a fire near our nests has been forbidden.

Let's all try and understand the 27th chapter of the Qur'an titled The Ant. This chapter has 93 verses. The main topics discussed are: the importance of faith, the importance of worshipping Allah the Almighty, to believe in divine inspiration, that knowledge of things that are unknown and unseen by us can only be known by Almighty Allah, that all forms of blessing and sustenance is bestowed by Allah and that for these we must be thankful to Allah. The incident that took place between Belkys (Queen of Sheba) and Prophet Solomon as well as the things that Prophets Moses, Salih, and Lot went through is also mentioned in this chapter. You see all of these are mentioned in the chapter titled in my name. Some people refuse to believe in Allah despite the lessons contained in the stories, and the variety of blessings and beauty that surrounds us. I am thankful to Allah each time I remember them.

Let me tell you a little bit about ants before telling you the story of Prophet Solomon. I am sure you are going to be amazed as you read on.



Ants can be classified into three different classes: the queen ant, male ants and worker ants. Each one of us is aware of our duty as soon as we come into being. Unlike you we have no need for school, education, exams or reports because we get these directly from our Lord.

Despite the fact that Allah the Almighty has created us as tiny flimsy creatures, we have also been given, among many, the special characteristics of being organised, making detailed calculations, being diligent and being able to divide up our duties. Conditions of life are indeed very difficult for ants. It can take hours for us to carry a grain of wheat. This is the reason why Allah has wished for us to live in colonies which number in the hundreds of thousands. Similar to other creatures we've been adorned with distinct abilities and beauty that aid us in adapting to the conditions we find ourselves in.

Our underground nests are connected through tunnels as a means of protection from the many things that threaten our survival. Sometimes these include humans and rain. This is dangerous for us as we do not know how to swim and can drown very easily. And oh those humans! Sometimes they step on us with or without realising it. If only they would watch where they are going these things wouldn't happen to us. I would like you all to be more careful in the future.

Now let's get to the story. Allah the Almighty put a great deal of creatures at the service of Prophet Solomon. The winds carried him wherever he wanted, the birds collected knowledge for him, the mountains chanted Allah's name with him, and alot of creatures worked in his service. Allah the Almighty gave Prophet Solomon, besides the gift of prophethood, vast knowledge, governance, treasures, and knowledge and understanding of the language of birds and other creatures. Even though he had been bestowed with these gifts he did not act proud because he was able to



Till, when they reached the Valley of the Ants, an ant exclaimed: "O ants! Enter your dwellings lest Solomon and his armies crush you, unperceiving." And (Solomon) smiled, laughing at her speech, and said: "My Lord, arouse me to be thankful for Your favour wherewith You have favoured me and my parents, and to do good that shall be pleasing unto You, and include me in (the number of) Your righteous slaves."

(27/18-19)



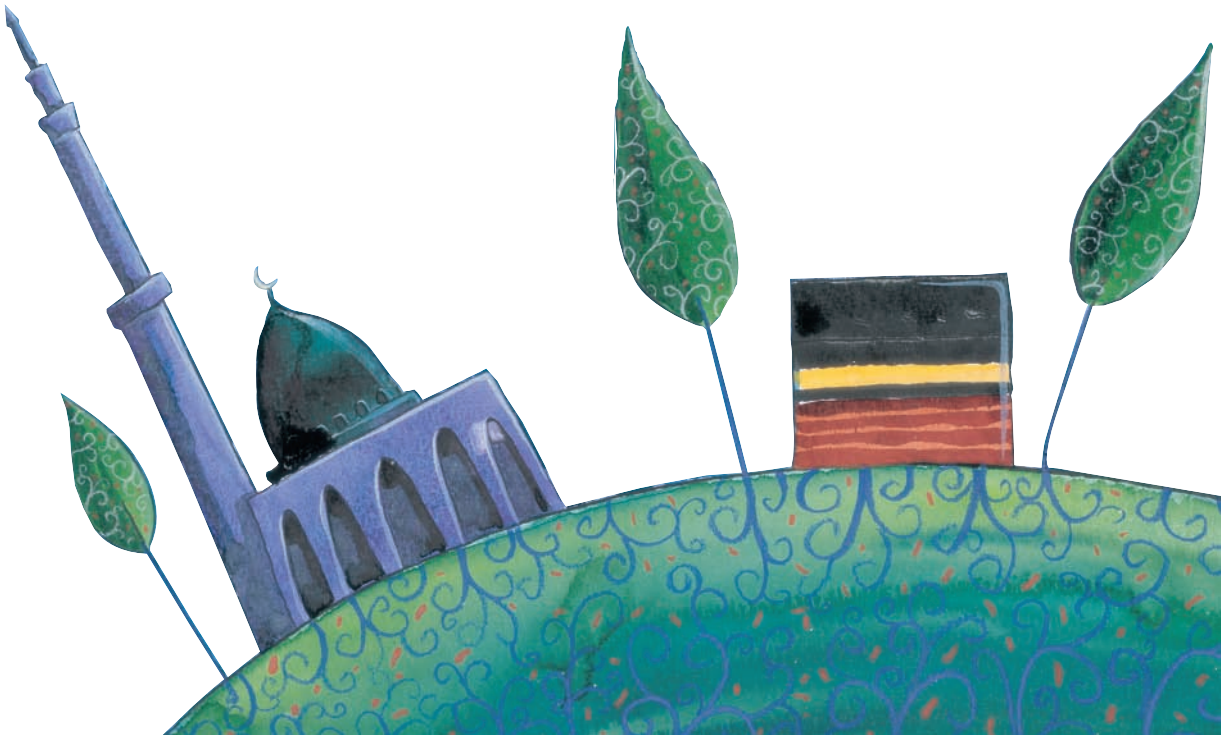




comprehend the fact that these were all indeed gifts from Allah. He had such a merciful nature that he would not even step on ants that were crossing the road from one side to the other.

Prophet Solomon prayed for himself and his family, that they may be given opportunities and strength to do good works that would please Allah so that his family and himself would be amongst the good servants of Allah in heaven.

This chapter of the Qur'an proves that every creature shows obedience to Allah. Therefore humans should realise that this planet does not belong to them and that they have no right to harm a single creature in it. Humans need to be aware of all creatures; ants, bees, birds, insects and learn to share the planet with them.



PART III

# WHAT DOES THE HOLY QUR'AN CONTAIN?

## *The Main Topics Covered in the Holy Qur'an*

The main topics covered in the Qur'an are Allah and people. It teaches us our duties towards our parents, family, towards others and other living creatures and our environment. The Qur'an guides us to the right path and tells us to be obedient to Allah and our Prophet (pbuh).

The Qur'an deals with a variety of topics; besides verses on worship and principles of good manners there are many verses dealing with social issues such as eating, drinking, marriage, economic and social relationships. In addition, stories of prophets and past civilisations are included so that we may be able to draw lessons from them.

## *The Holy Qur'an Teaches Us the Principles of Faith*

The most important call of the Qur'an is that of belief. It



*Serve Allah, and do not ascribe partners to Him. And show kindness to your parents, and to your close kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbour who is of kin, and the neighbour who is not of kin, and the fellow-traveller and the wayfarer and (the bondsmen) whom your right hands possess. Surely Allah does not love the arrogant, the boastful.*

(4/36)





❁❁❁❁❁❁

*O you who believe!  
Let not a group  
mock another group;  
it may be that these  
are better than  
they; nor should  
women mock other  
women, it may be  
that these are better  
than they. Do not  
taunt one another  
nor call one another  
by nicknames. It is  
an evil thing (to be  
called a) bad name  
after faith. Those  
who do not desist  
are wrongdoers.*

(49/11)

❁❁❁❁❁❁

teaches us what to believe in within this framework. The most important of these is the belief in Allah and His Oneness, followed by belief in His Angels, Books, Prophets, the Hereafter and Predestination. These all depend on believing in Allah.

The Qur'an invites mankind to Islam. It explains the rewards for those that believe and the dire consequences for those that do not. There are examples of incidents connected to these from the past in the Qur'an.

The Qur'an gives the greatest importance to the belief in one God (monotheism). That is, to believe in Allah and His Oneness, to know Allah and to not worship any other form of power. Those who accept Islamic monotheism should not worship idols or seek their help. Besides it would not suit an intelligent person to worship and seek help from lifeless pieces of rock. Only the uninformed and ignorant would do such a thing. Those who know Allah properly are the ones who are able to better comprehend Allah's commandments.

Because our Book gives such great importance to monotheism we could say that this is at the very heart of the Qur'an. If one acts in ways that damages their belief in the Oneness of Allah then great harm will come to them from this. This would be very similar to the eventual death of a person whose heart has stopped- so too would a weakened belief lead to its eventual loss.

We must reflect our belief with our words and actions; we must steer away from bad habits and all things unlawful. We can prove this by doing good works. Every good deed is counted as virtuous acts.

Once a person puts his or her belief into practice he or she

will lean towards good acts and stay away from harmful ones. This is a natural consequence of belief. This is because a believing person would make a special effort to live within the measures outlined in the Qur'an. This would naturally make that person a sensitive Muslim who would be loved by all, one that would make him or her do good and stay away from doing wrong.

The Qur'an tells about the temporary nature of worldly life, resurrection after death, and how we are accountable for our actions in the Hereafter. There are many warnings in this regard. Endless blessings are promised to those who live their lives in accordance with the commandments of Allah. We learn about the temporary nature of the life of this world and the endless nature of the Hereafter. Every person will be given the like of what they earned in their worldly life. This is the reason why the Qur'an constantly reminds us of the Hereafter.

## *The Holy Qur'an Teaches Us How to Worship*

The Qur'an commands us to worship Allah and teaches us the principles of worship. However we learn how to read and understand the Qur'an and the mechanics of how to pray and worship through the example of our Prophet (pbuh). He achieved this through being a living example. Moreover we not only learn how to worship from him but we also learn all the other principles of our religion. His life and character are the best examples for us. Our beloved Prophet (pbuh) said, "Do your 5 daily prayers as I do, perform your Haj (pilgrimage) duty as I do."

The 5 daily ritual prayers are part of our daily worship. It



*O you who believe!  
Follow not the  
steps of Satan, for  
whosoever will  
follow the steps of  
Satan; surely he  
will enjoin on him  
what is indecent  
and blameworthy  
(wickedness).*

(24/21)



❁❁❁  
*Allah commands  
 justice and kindness  
 and charity to  
 one's kindred, and  
 forbids indecency,  
 wickedness and  
 oppression. He  
 admonishes you so  
 that you may take  
 heed.*

(16/90)

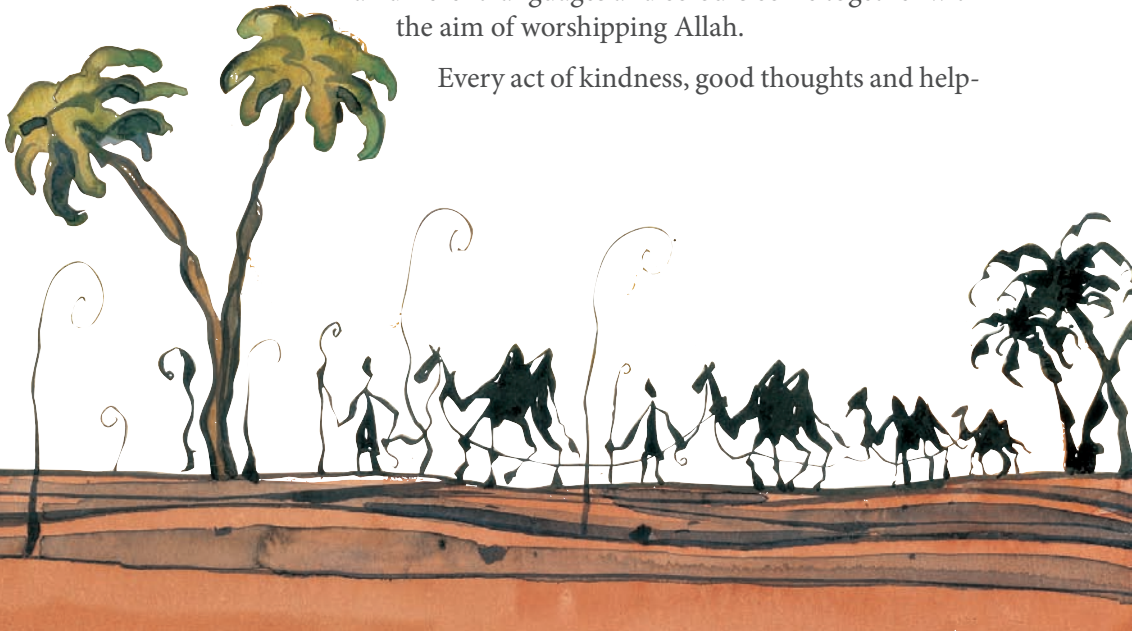


maintains our ties with our great Lord. This ritual prayer is in every way a means of cleanliness. We cleanse our bodies by doing the required ritual wash (ablution). A person who turns his face towards the Kaba 5 times a day would be protected from all types of wrongs.

Ramadan fasting is obligatory once a year. There are many physical and spiritual benefits of fasting. Almsgiving is a type of worship that is also material in nature. Well-off Muslims give a particular portion of their income once a year to those less well-off than themselves. This teaches individuals to share and to provide the necessary social networking to look after those less well-off in society.

The Haj worship is also obligatory upon all well-off Muslims. It is a once in a lifetime worship that is a must for those who have enough wealth to visit Mecca, the city in which our Prophet (pbuh) was born, and the surrounding sacred sites within defined codes of conduct. Muslims from around the globe, of all different languages and colours come together with the aim of worshipping Allah.

Every act of kindness, good thoughts and help-



ing those in need are also forms of worship. To water a thirsty plant, to feed a hungry cat, to bandage a bird's broken wing are all considered acts of worship. This is because when we show affection to other creatures and act kindly towards them we do so without expecting anything in return. All creatures are created by Allah and we love the created as an expression of our love for the Creator.

All types of worship brings us closer to Allah. Humans are made up of a body and soul. Just as our bodies need food, water and sleep so does the soul have needs of its own. We meet the needs of our souls through worship. By doing so, we will have performed our duty towards Allah as well as nourishing our souls. Worship strengthens our belief, heightens our souls and implants the love of Allah in our hearts.

## *The Holy Qur'an Teaches Us How to Invoke Prayer*

Our Lord teaches us how to pray to Him in the Qur'an, and many beautiful examples of these can be found in the Qur'an. It is with these prayers that we thank Allah for the countless blessings He has bestowed upon us. Whenever we are in dire straits we open our hands in prayer to Allah. Our Almighty Lord hears our prayers and accepts the prayers that we make with all our hearts.

Prayer is the essence of all worship. It creates a very strong bond between Allah and ourselves. Just as He knows the hidden secrets in our hearts, He also sees and hears us when we are in desperate need and helps us in those times, for He does not wish for us to be troubled.

It is up to us to turn towards our Lord and pray with all our



*O our Lord! Forgive me, and my parents, and the believers on the day when the Reckoning will be established!"*

(14/41)



*We have enjoined  
man to treat his  
parents with  
kindness.*  
(46/15)

hearts. Our Lord, who knows all that is hidden and all that is apparent, gives importance to what is contained in our hearts, not our outward appearance.

## *The Holy Qur'an Teaches Us Proper Conduct*

The Qur'an explains the principles of proper conduct and recommends that we abide by them in order to achieve happiness. Examples of good conduct that lead to worldly happiness and bliss in the Hereafter include: kindness to parents, relatives and those in need; to help the stranded; to not be wasteful; to keep one's word; to be trustworthy; to stay away from harmful behaviour; to not have one's eye on the wealth of orphans; and to not be a threat or harm to anyone's life or property. It commands love, respect, brotherhood, equality and honesty. It also commands us to uphold justice, to be charitable, to show solidarity, to not be divisive, to complete every task in the best way possible and to be hard-working and generous. To fear trespassing the limits set by Allah, to always do good deeds, to keep one's word and be honourable are codes of conduct that are greatly emphasised in the Qur'an.

The safeguarding of justice is one of the principles that is most emphasised in the Qur'an. Justice means to protect everyone's rights. Our Lord commands us to act justly to people irrespective of their religion, language or race. It is because of this warning that Muslims have lived in harmony with people of different nationalities and religions throughout their history. Our ancestors never forced Christians and Jews under their reign to change their faiths and always gave them the freedom to practice their religion.

A person's spiritual beauty comes from good conduct, as

those of good character are also beautiful on the inside. The best of mankind are those who believe and follow the path of Allah and our Prophet (pbuh), and are of good character.

The Qur'an wishes us to stay away from bad habits such as lying, fakeness, deception, selfishness, looking down on others, and uttering words of unkindness and ugliness. As a result, the Qur'an teaches us the required codes of behaviour in order for mankind to live in peace and happiness.

Mankind has wide-ranging responsibilities placed upon him—ranging from those towards himself to those towards his Lord. The responsibility towards our Creator is achieved through worship, and the responsibility towards others is completed through showing respect towards their rights.

### ***The Holy Qur'an Teaches Us that which is Canonically Lawful and Unlawful, Good and Bad, Right and Wrong***

The Qur'an teaches that Allah has declared which as lawful and unlawful, that which is right and wrong, for goodness to be widespread and for acts of evil to be avoided. Good deeds bring peace whereas acts of wrong darken the soul.

The Qur'an gives great importance and value to lawful means of earning and useful deeds. It commands that we earn our living through fair means, and that we eat and drink things that are clean in nature. It forbids eating pork and the meat of dead animals. It orders us to stay away from alcohol and drugs. It considers it a great sin to earn one's means through bribery, stealing, blackmarketing, interest, gambling and pick-pocketing.

❁❁❁❁❁❁

*Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you show kindness to your parents. If either or both of them attain old age with you, (show no sign of impatience, and) do not (even) say “fie” to them; nor rebuke them, but speak kind words to them.*

(17/23)

❁❁❁❁❁❁

The Qur'an commands that we exhibit a high standard of behaviour towards everyone and forbids oppression, injustice, finding fault in people, making fun of people, patronising people, wrongly accusing people and name-calling. Thus it desires an exemplary society built upon people who are clean, trusting, mutually respect one another and one that is at peace with each other.

The Qur'an wishes for us to be at peace with ourselves, our neighbours and those around us. It advises us to stay away from actions that hurt or disturb others. It always wants us to be on the side of goodness and to help those in need by starting with those that are closest to us.

## ***The Holy Qur'an Gives Importance to Family Life***

The Holy Qur'an gives great attention to the importance of family in society. In order for there to be love, respect and peace within families, each member needs to fulfil their duties. It recommends that children be raised as well-behaved individuals who respect their parents. It gives importance to ties with relations. It commands that we take ownership of the poor and orphan and look after them.

## ***The Holy Qur'an Teaches Us to Love***

The Qur'an commands that we love and respect our family and parents because it is our parents who have brought us into this world. This is the reason why we must show love and respect to our parents, brothers and sisters.

The Qur'an commands that we love and get along with our relatives. We should also love our neighbours and get along









❁❁❁❁❁❁  
*Verily in the  
 Messenger of Allah  
 you have a good  
 example.*  
 (33/21)



with them as well. We must help them and be there for them in their hard times as we live in such close proximity to them. We reduce their pain by sharing it and increase their happiness by sharing it with them. The Qur'an wants us to love all people irrespective of their race, colour, physical appearance or their lineage because it is Allah who created them all.

No-one is superior over each other, however, superiority can be achieved through not rebelling against Allah, by earning His love, and being close to Him. It is in our hands to live happily by loving each other. What has fighting and war ever brought to mankind besides misery? Nothing is more precious than human life. Our Great Book tells us that to save one life is the like saving all of mankind and to kill one is the like killing all of mankind. The Qur'an tells us to help the destitute, stranded and homeless because it is our duty to be humane to them. The Qur'an commands that we love all of creation-living and non-living. We love the stars that shine at night, the moon, the sun, the rain and the wind that plays with our hair. We love the roaring rivers, colourful flowers, daisies, butterflies and the birds that chirp in the trees. They remind us of our Helper. They remind us that the most valuable of all creation are human beings.

We are commanded to love Allah, the One, who created us in the best of forms, because everything in the world has been created for us. We love our Lord who loves us very much. We also love our Holy Book that teaches us knowledge and love.

We are told through the Qur'an that children should be loved. They are raised with love by their mothers and are always in great need of love. Especially babies- it's as if they've been created just to be loved. Just as plants need soil and water to live, so do children need love. This is the reason why the

Qur'an tells us to give more love and ownership to motherless children and orphans.

Children are sinless and pure when they are born. Their coming is declared as good news in the Qur'an. Each one of them is good news- good news from Allah! They are a gift from our Almighty Creator. The Qur'an refers to them as a source of light for our eyes. A source of light for parents, grandparents and everyone alike. According to the Qur'an, they are the decoration of life itself. They are a living example of the finest detail of Allah's art.

Our beloved Prophet (pbuh) loved children very much and gave great importance to them. If he heard a child cry, he would quickly finish his prayer to attend to them so that their pain would not be prolonged. He would sit them on his lap and say "They are the fragrance of heaven!". He could not tolerate them being hurt. He especially could not tolerate the sadness of orphans. He would place them on his back, play games and joke around with them. He would greet them and ask them of their well-being. He would hug, caress and kiss them, carry them on his back and join in their games. He would deeply feel their pain. It is through the example set by our Prophet (pbuh) and the Qur'an that adults learned how to act towards children.

## *Advice to Children From the Holy Qur'an*

Prophet Abraham enjoined the same upon his children, and so did Prophet Jacob: "O my children, Allah has chosen for you the true faith (of Islam), so do not die except in the faith (of Islam)." Or were you present when death came to Jacob? He said to his sons, "What will you worship when I am gone?"

❁❁❁❁❁❁

*And when the children among you come of age (puberty), let them ask leave (to come into your presence), as they who were before them asked it. Thus does Allah make clear to you His signs, and Allah is Knower, Wise.*

(24/59)



They answered: “We shall worship your God and the God of your forefathers Abraham, Ishmael, and Isaac: the one (true) God. To Him we are submitted.” (2/132-133)

And remember when Luqman said to his son, when he was exhorting him: “O my son! Ascribe no partners unto Allah, because to ascribe partners (unto Him) is a tremendous wrong.”

And We have enjoined upon man concerning his parents; his mother bears him in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Give thanks unto Me and unto your parents. Unto me is the journeying. But if they strive with you to make you ascribe unto Me as partner that of which you have no knowledge, then obey them not. Consort with them in the world kindly, and follow the path of him who repents unto Me. Then unto Me will be your return, and I shall tell you what you used to do.

“O my son! Though it be but the weight of a grain of mustard seed and though it be in a rock, or in the heavens or in the earth, Allah will bring it forth. Truly, Allah is Subtle, Aware.

O my son! Establish worship and enjoin kindness and forbid iniquity, and persevere whatever may befall you. For surely that is of the steadfast heart of things. Turn not your cheek in scorn toward folk, nor walk with insolence in the land. For Allah loves not each arrogant boaster.

Be modest in your bearing (walk) and subdue your voice. Lo! the harshest of all voices is the voice of the donkey.” (31/13-19).

## LET'S READ...

### A SPIDER EXPLAINS THE CHAPTER IN ITS NAME

I'm a little spider. Don't be so quick to squirm. I know a lot of you don't particularly like my appearance, in fact a lot of you are scared of me. However, do not forget that nothing is created in vain. Allah mentions me in the Qur'an and Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) named the 29th chapter after me Ankabut (The Spider) with Allah's permission. Let me briefly explain this chapter to you.

Chapter Ankabut (The Spider) has 69 verses. Among the main topics covered in this chapter are belief in Allah, the importance of obedience to parents, the tragic end of those who do wrong, and the rewarding end of those who believe and do good works. Furthermore, the chapter emphasises the fact that the 5 daily ritual prayers are a hindrance to wrongdoing, that belief in Allah is a major form of worship, and that people forget to remember and pray to Allah when their lives are comfortable. The fact that every living thing will eventually die, that lying is a very ugly act and that everyone will be accountable for their own deeds is also mentioned. It is again in this chapter that the stories of Prophets Noah, Abraham, Lot, Shu'aib and Hud are mentioned.

Now let's come to the relevance between this chapter and me. This chapter takes its name from verse 41 which likens a spider web to the weakness of false belief and values in the face of truth. Ankabut means female spider. Female spiders kill their mates after spinning their web. Flies and insects that come in contact with the web fall into this trap; the thickness of an individual thread is stronger than that of steel of similar thickness.



*The likeness of those who choose other patrons than Allah is as the likeness of the spider when she takes unto herself a house, and assuredly the frailest of all houses is the spider's house, if they but knew.*

(29/41)





Most people don't realise we make mathematical and geometric calculations of the place where we plan to weave our web. The web we spin is our bed, our means of communication, our warning system, as well as our protection. Even though our web is strong enough for us, its weakness is a reality known by all. Our webs provide no protection or shade- it only takes a slight wind or a light touch to ruin it.

Well you see, the fact that certain incidents are mentioned, the types of messages contained in the chapter, and the fact that it revolves around these similarities is the reason why the symbol of the spider is accepted for the chapter. Just as the web is weak in nature, so is the situation of those who rely on the help and support of those other than Allah. Most people consider actual strength and power to be in certain things. Majority of people accept status and wealth to be the most important form of strength. They devote their lives to this end, while others devote their lives in the name of useless knowledge. Some consider violence above all else, when in fact they should realise that actual strength is in the One who created them.

Allah likens the situation of these people to that of the fragility of a web in the face of a slight touch or blow. Actual strength and power is in Allah's friendship. No matter how seemingly powerful things other than Allah may seem, their worth is that of a spider's web in Allah's sight. Do they not know that Allah used a mosquito to put an end to King Nemrut and even fooled those who came armed to the cave where Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) hid by putting a web at the entrance of the cave and prevented them from killing him. Actually they know it all too well, but it would not serve their purpose to admit it.



Actually while I'm at it, let me share a particular incident with you that makes me most happy. I am the spider that was given the all-important task of weaving the web at the entrance of the cave where Prophet Mohammad (pbuh), and his companion Abu Bakr, hid while they were making the sacred migration from Mecca to Medinah. A cause of even greater happiness is the fact that I saw the glowing face of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). They were the happiest 3 days of my life. This is indeed a source of much happiness for me!


You also will be able to overcome all difficulties if you only trust in and rely on Allah's strength. Seek refuge only in Almighty Allah as there is no helper and true friend other than Him.



PART IV

# MORAL OF THE STORY

## *First Man, First Prophet*

llah first created Adam and then Eve. He made them partners for each other and taught them each others' name. He taught them how to learn and recognise all things. Adam was given the duty of prophethood. We are all the offsprings of the children of Adam and Eve who spread across different places on the face of the planet and spoke different languages and formed different races. Both black and white multiplied from Adam and Eve. Blondes and brunettes alike are all children of Adam and Eve. We all have one heart, two hands and feet despite the differences in the colour of our hair and eyes and the different languages we all speak. Furthermore, we all have one brain. It is the Qur'an that teaches us all of these. If this information was not in the Qur'an we would not have known how we were created, how we multiplied, and why we spread across different places on the planet. We know from the Qur'an that the whole planet has been created for the service of mankind.



Angels and spirits (demons) were created before Prophet Adam. When Allah told the angels that he was going to create humans they said to their Lord; “We are your slaves. We praise and glorify You. The truth is we fear that the humans you are going to create will cause bloodshed and disorder.” Allah said that He has knowledge of things they do not and then created Adam from mud and gave life to him.

Allah taught the names of all things to Adam, eg the sun, wind, soil, flowers and birds. He taught him the names of absolutely everything created. The angels, however, were deprived of such knowledge. He made Adam and his offspring superior to the rest of creation. Allah asked Adam to name the names of all creatures. When Prophet Adam did so, with the order of Allah, all the angels prostrated in acceptance of his superiority over themselves. It was only Satan who disobeyed Allah’s command and refused to accept Adam’s superiority over himself. Satan said Adam was inferior to him since Adam was created from mud and he was created from fire. He rebelled against Allah by claiming superiority over Adam. Both fire and mud are created by Allah; how could fire then be more superior to mud? Adam was not more superior because he was created from mud, but was more superior because he was given the gifts of intelligence and will.

Allah cursed the rebelling and boasting Satan till Judgement Day and gave him respite till the Day of Resurrection. Instead of apologising for his mistake he stubbornly continued to rebel against Allah. He vowed to do everything in his power to prevent mankind from doing any form of good work. Thus he is the enemy of all things that are good and beautiful.



Allah created Eve after Adam and made her his partner. He then put the two of them in heaven. He forbade them to eat the fruit of a certain tree in heaven. Moreover, He warned them to stay away from Satan as he is the enemy of mankind.

Satan fooled them into believing they would be immortalised if they ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. Adam and Eve realised they had done something terribly wrong and regretted it. Because they had been tricked by Satan they were afraid that they too would spend eternity in hell. Allah forgave them by accepting their repentance and brought them down to earth. In this way the beginning of mankind's life on earth began.

Adam and Eve wished for children so Allah gave them many male and female offsprings, and in this way the number of humans multiplied. Adam was a prophet to his children and Allah protected him from the tricks of Satan.

Of the children of Adam Abel and Cain made a vow to make a sacrifice to Allah. Abel's vow was accepted whereas Cain's was not. Satan filled Cain's heart with hate and jealousy towards his brother. In the end Cain murdered his brother. It was the first time blood was spilt on the face of the Earth. Satan was very happy about the murder committed. Cain didn't know what to do with his brother's corpse. While in this state of confusion he saw a crow dig a hole with its feet and bury a dead crow. It dawned on Cain that he could do the same. He dug a hole in the ground and buried his brother. Since that day all dead people have been buried in the same way.

Prophet Adam eventually died and he too was buried.







Prophet Adam was the first human created and is consequently the ancestor of all mankind. He was the first to wear clothes, plough and sow the field and taught his children what he knew. He advised them to be good people who do good works and greet others with the Islamic greeting (selam).

Prophet Adam is our first prophet and his life is best explained in the Qur'an.

## *Noah's Ark*

Many years have passed since then. The human population increased right across the planet after Prophet Adam's death. They formed societies, and with time they steered away from the prophet's path and worshipped idols. They worshipped as Lords statues they had carved with their own hands. They forgot that they were the children of Adam. The strong and wealthy started oppressing the weak and helpless. Their hearts hardened and they forgot to be merciful and do good works. In short, there was no peace and happiness left in society. Out of that community, Allah chose Noah for prophethood. Noah was a just and trustworthy person who was loved by all. He would help those in need as much as he could and was not afraid to speak the truth.

After becoming a prophet he called the people of the community he lived in to believe in Allah and to be His slave only. He told them that he was just a warner and that as long as they continued doing things that Allah was displeased with they would be deprived of peace and happiness. Not only did they not believe in his worthy call they also started making fun of Noah and those who followed him. They said, "You're



human just like us, why should we believe you?”. Despite his incredible efforts very few ended up believing in Allah. The rest of them continued to worship idols, committed wrongs and oppressed the weak. Those who refused to believe accused Noah with madness and did all they could do to prevent his call from being spread. They pressured Noah and the believers and threatened them with death. He continued with patience to give good advice to his community.

The hardened hearts of the leaders and the wealthy of the city did not soften as they continued to stubbornly disbelieve. Noah opened his hands in prayer and said, “O Lord, they are falsifying my words, help me!”. The disbelievers challenged Prophet Noah, by saying “Let’s see the Lord that you seek help from punish us.” It was becoming impossible for Prophet Noah and the believers to endure the oppression they were under. As a result of this Prophet Noah prayed as follows: “O Lord, save me and the believers!”. Allah told Noah to build an ark. He then taught Prophet Noah how to build one as no-one had ever built one to that day. He built a huge ark from trees in the forest. Allah wanted Noah to call all the believers to the ark once it had been built. In addition, He commanded Noah to bring a pair of every animal onto the ark. The disbelievers were unaware of the soon to be evident disaster. The sky was filled with dark clouds and lightening the next day. Before long rain started to pour down from the sky. It rained non-stop. Everywhere was covered with water. The disbelievers ran towards the mountains, however this was not enough to save them. It rained so much that there was not an inch of soil left exposed. All the disbelievers who had made fun of Noah’s ark drowned.





After days of deluge, the clouds dispersed and the rain stopped. The sun generously spread its light on earth.

The mountains and valleys were once again exposed as the water level slowly receded. Allah had saved a handful of people who had believed in him. It is for this reason that Noah, after Adam, is considered the second ancestor of mankind.

Noah is our prophet. He was the first person to build a ship and his life is best explained in the Qur'an.

## *A Garden of Roses from Fire*

Mankind increased in numbers after Prophet Noah. They built new cities and started living in communities. As time passed people started straying away from the right path that the prophets had taught them and started doing wrong things and worshipping others as Lords. Allah sent many prophets to mankind to remind them of their great religion. Prophet Abraham was one of those prophets. He was sent as a prophet to the people of a city known as Babil, which partly belongs to the Anatolian region of modern day Turkey. These people worshipped the sun, the moon, the stars, and statues that they had carved with their own hands.

One night before becoming a prophet, Abraham looked at the stars and moon and thought, "How could it be that people worship these as their Lord?". The stars that twinkled in the night and the moon that decorated the sky disappeared in the light of day. "The sun and moon that appears and disappears could not be my Lord", he said. He was constantly in a state of contemplation. One day he woke up and watched the sunrise. The sun was shining with all its beauty. He watched it the



whole day. The sun started to slip away as night approached, so Abraham thought this could not be the Lord of mankind. He was finding it hard to understand people. There had to be an Almighty Creator who created everything; the sun, the moon and the stars. He thought about it for days and in the end believed in Allah as the Creator of the universe.

Prophet Abraham was of excellent character. He was kind, generous, hospitable and loved looking after the poor. Just like the prophets before him, Allah called him and his people to do good works and to give up their bad ways.

Prophet Abraham's father was an idol-worshipper. This situation was most upsetting for Abraham. One day he said to his father, "My dear father, why do you worship these statues that cannot hear, see, or be of any benefit to you? My dear father, Allah is One, He has no partner and there is none like unto Him." His father reacted angrily to these words and threw him out of his house as he said, "How could you deny our Lords?" Despite his father's brute behaviour Prophet Abraham prayed to Allah to forgive his father and guide him to the right path.

Prophet Abraham did not give up and continued to tirelessly explain to his people to only worship Allah and never to worship idols.

Nemrut, the King of Babil, was a merciless person. People stayed away from the call of Abraham through fear of him. One day Abraham went to Nemrut to invite him to believe in Allah. Nemrut said in a very self-conceited way: "I am the Lord of this country, who is your Lord?" Prophet Abraham said, "My Lord is Allah. He kills and resurrects." In response to this Nemrut asked that the two people who had been sentenced to



death be brought forth to him. He ordered his soldiers to kill one of the prisoners and to let the other go free. He turned to Prophet Abraham and said, "See? I too can kill and resurrect." Abraham replied, "My Lord raises the sun from the east. If you have the power make it rise from the west." Even though Nemrut was lost for words he still refused to believe in Allah.

There was a huge temple in the city of Babil where townfolk would bring gifts to their idols and pray for their help. One day Abraham secretly entered the temple when the people of the town were besides themselves with entertainment at the local fair. He broke each of the idols with an axe, except the largest of the lot. He then hung the axe around the largest idol and left the temple without being seen. The people of Babil were horrified in the face of what they saw when they returned to the temple after the fair. They wondered as to who could be responsible for what they saw. They started to suspect Prophet Abraham as they knew he did not believe in idols. They immediately called Abraham and asked him if he broke the idols. Abraham replied, "Can it be the one with the axe around its neck? Let's ask it, maybe it saw who did it." They were all astonished at his response and took one look at the idol and another look at Abraham. One of them said, "Don't make fun of us Abraham. You know very well that they are lifeless. It neither sees nor speaks, so how is it supposed to know who did it?" In response to this Abraham said, "That's all very well but why do you worship idols that do not have the ability to see, speak or protect themselves? Believe in the Lord of the universe, Allah." These words profoundly affected those at the temple. Word started to spread throughout the town about the incident. Some gave up idolatry and started



to believe in Allah. Nemrut became very angry once he found out about this.

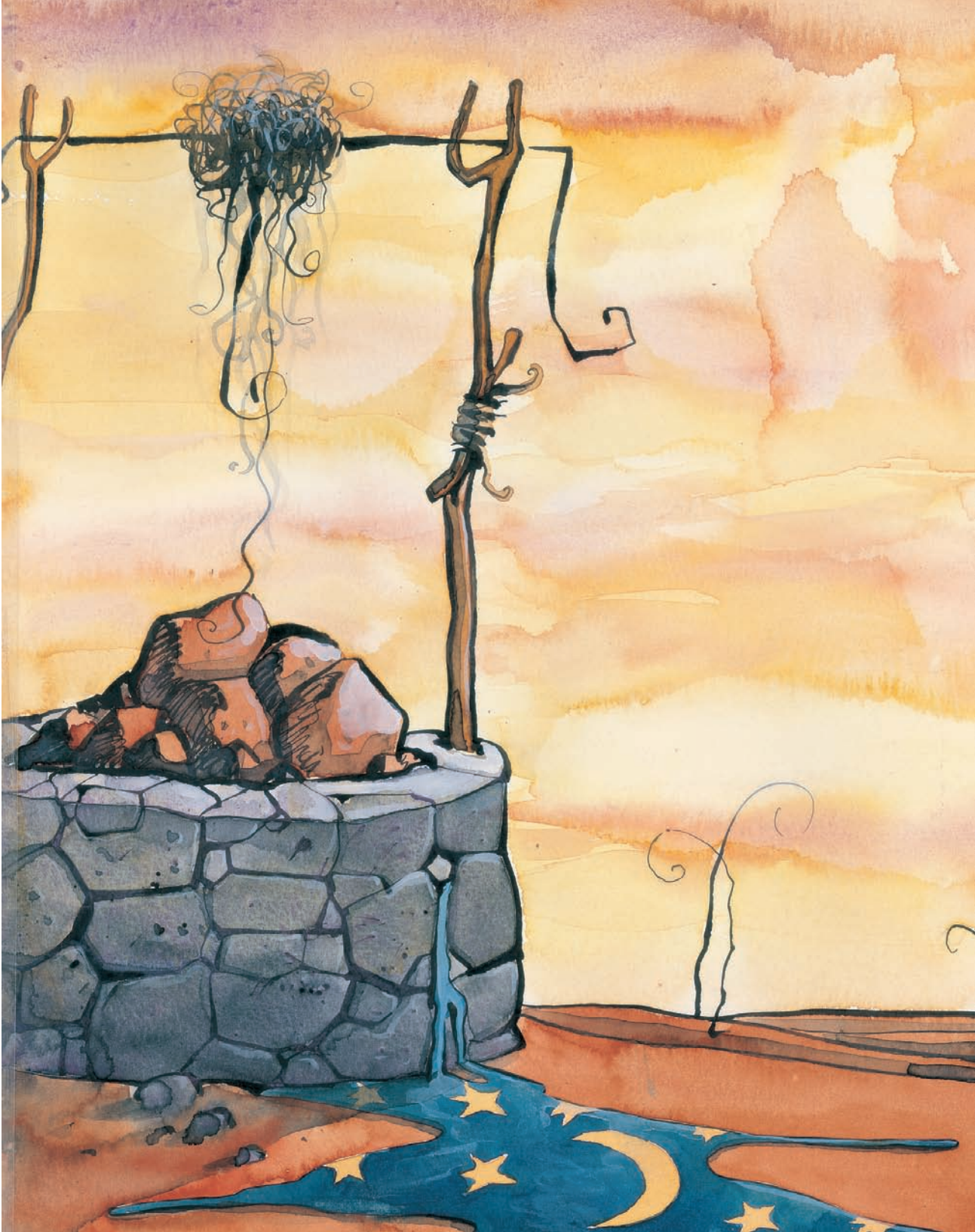
He concluded that the only way to get rid of Abraham was to kill him. He decided to throw him into fire in order to intimidate the believers. The collected firewood was piled up like a mountain in the city square. Prophet Abraham knew Allah would protect him. Nemrut glanced at Prophet Abraham in the hope that his fear would make him give up his belief. However Abraham stood straight and tall without even the slightest fear or anxiety. The people of the town circled around the fire. Abraham was then thrown in the middle of the raging flames. Everyone held their breaths as they watched. The flames instantly turned into a rose garden. While the eyes of the believers shone with happiness, Nemrut and the disbelievers nearly swallowed their tongues. Allah ordered the fire not to burn Abraham. Fire that burns everything else became a cool rose garden for Abraham. Prophet Abraham was deeply thankful to his Lord for His miracle.

The disbelievers lost the courage to harm Abraham after that incident.

Prophet Abraham migrated to Egypt in order to call people to Allah's way. He had two sons, named Ishmael and Isaac. Allah gave prophethood to both of them.

Prophet Abraham rebuilt the sacred Kaba on its original foundation with his son Ishmael, which was first constructed by Prophet Adam.

Abraham and his son Ishmael are our prophets. Their lives are best explained in the Holy Qur'an.







## *The Most Beautifulest of the Beautiful - Joseph*

Jacob is Prophet Abraham's grandson and a prophet sent to the people of Canon. He had 12 sons. Joseph was the 11th and Benjamin was the youngest of them all.

Joseph was the most beautiful child in the world. His father Jacob spent a lot of time with him because he lost his mother at a very young age. He was adored by all as he was such a loveable child. However, his step-brothers were jealous of the attention their father gave him.

One night Joseph saw a very interesting dream. In this dream 11 stars, the sun and the moon were all prostrating to him. He explained his dream to his father who was deeply affected by this beautiful dream and started to cry. He held his son tightly as he knew that his son would be a prophet in the future. His father frequently reminded him not to tell his brothers of his dream because he was fearful of the harm that would come to Joseph from them.

He never left Joseph in anyone's care as a result of these fears. Joseph's brothers learnt of his dream after some time had passed. This increased their jealousy even more. They secretly planned amongst themselves to get rid of Joseph once and for all. They asked their father's permission to go to the forest. Prophet Jacob did not give permission for Joseph to go to the forest with them. However, his sons insisted and said, "Dad there's so many of us- do you think we're not going to be able to protect Joseph? Please give us permission to all go together." Jacob felt helpless and gave Joseph permission to go with his brothers. They all set off together. They were



quite some distance away from home and not a soul was in sight. They could now get rid of Joseph. His brothers mercilessly threw him into a well. Joseph escaped from drowning by holding onto a rock on the side of the well. In the meantime the brothers thought about how they could lie their way out of the situation. In the end they decided to wipe the blood of an animal they had hunted in the forest on Joseph's shirt. They came home crying with the bloodied shirt in their hands. They said, "Dad, Joseph was attacked by a wolf while we were engrossed in play. We tried with all our might but we couldn't save him. We could only find his bloodied shirt." When Prophet Joseph noticed that there was not a single tear in the shirt he realised that harm had come to Joseph from his brothers. He was so upset that he told them to leave his sight without even looking at them. He felt deep pain as his eyes welled with tears.

Joseph waited helplessly in the well until he was saved by a caravan of travellers on their way to Egypt. Once they reached Egypt the people of the caravan sold him as a servant to the house of the vizier of Egypt.

When Joseph grew up and became a young man the vizier's wife became profoundly affected by his beauty and fell in love with him. She made immoral offers to him when no-one was around. Joseph did not accept these disgusting offers because he was a very clean and highly moral person. When she couldn't get what she wanted from him she complained about Joseph to her husband and had him unjustly imprisoned.

Joseph was imprisoned for many years. Allah taught Joseph how to interpret dreams. He correctly interpreted the dreams of the inmates. Allah gave him the duty of prophethood so that he could call people to the right path.





One night the ruler of Egypt saw 7 thin cows eat 7 fleshy ones. There were 7 green ears of grain next to 7 dry ones. No one was able to interpret this dream in Egypt. A person who had become acquainted with Joseph while in prison told the ruler of Joseph's ability to interpret dreams. They immediately took him out of jail for him to interpret the dream. Prophet Joseph said that it indicated a huge drought in the future and that the necessary precautions needed to be taken. The ruler decided to make Joseph the head of treasury as difficult times were ahead of Egypt.

Prophet Joseph stored a portion of the harvest in the 7 years of abundance they experienced. Drought set in 7 years later. People started pouring in from neighbouring countries to buy crop from Egypt. His brothers left their youngest brother Benjamin with their father and came to buy food from Egypt. They did not recognise Joseph but he recognised his brothers. He told them to bring their youngest brother otherwise he would not give them anything to eat in their next visit. He also gave them back the money they had given him for their purchase. His brothers brought Benjamin with them in their next visit to Egypt. Prophet Joseph explained to Benjamin all that had happened to him and they hugged each other with joy. He made plans for Benjamin to be left in Egypt. He had someone put in the ruler's valuable belongings into Benjamin's bag as his brothers were leaving the city. They were stopped in their journey and searched by guards the next day. The ruler's missing items were found in Benjamin's bag. They captured him and the efforts of his brothers to save him were left in vain. They had no choice but to leave Benjamin behind. They explained all that had happened to their father when they returned home. As if it wasn't enough that Jacob



had been separated from Joseph, he was now separated from Benjamin as well. He lost his eyesight from the pain of crying for them. Even so he never lost hope as he said, "It is now up to me to show patience. I know that Allah will one day return my children to me. He is All-knowing."

After some time had passed his brothers went to Egypt to bring Benjamin back. They went up to Prophet Joseph and asked if he could forgive and free their brother Benjamin. Joseph responded by asking, "What did you do to your brother Joseph?" Fear overcame them, however Joseph forgave his brothers despite what they had done to him. He said, "Take my shirt to my father, he will recognise me by my fragrance," and he bade them goodbye. Prophet Jacob pressed Joseph's shirt to his chest and longingly sniffed it. He wiped the shirt on his eyes and face. It was at that moment that Almighty Allah rewarded him for his patience by giving back his vision. They all went to Egypt together. Joseph said, "My dear father, my Lord has made that dream that I had seen some time ago come true. Thanks be to Allah."

Prophet Joseph justly governed the people of Egypt for many years. He was a prophet as well as a guide to them. He always called people to do good things.

Jacob and Joseph are both our prophets. Their lives are best explained in the Qur'an.

## ***A Baby in the Water - Prophet Moses***

The lineage of Prophet Jacob is known as the Israelites. They settled and increased in numbers in Egypt after Prophet Joseph. The Pharaoh who governed Egypt treated the Israelites



unfairly and made them work as slaves. One day the Pharaoh saw a dream where flames reduced his throne to ashes. They interpreted this dream as one of the sons of the Israelites bringing the demise of Pharaoh's throne. The Pharaoh mercilessly ordered that all male children born that year be killed. Moses was one of those babies born that year. As his mother fluttered in a state of panic to save her child a divine inspiration came to her from Allah: "When you fear for his safety put him on the river. Do not be upset and do not fear as We are going to return him to you."

Moses's mother breastfed him. She kissed her beloved baby for the last time as she put him in a wooden cradle and left him on the River Nile in her Lord's care. Moses's sister was still a child. She too quietly watched her brother flow away in the wooden cradle on the water.

Baby Moses in the cradle was carried to Pharaoh's castle with the flow of the river. Pharaoh's wife saw the cradle on the water as she was wondering near the river. When she got to the cradle she pulled the cover and saw a beautiful baby sleeping. She immediately took him into her arms and warmed to him as if he was her own baby. She took the baby to the Pharaoh and asked for his life to be spared. She managed to convince the Pharaoh and from that day on Moses lived in the palace with them as if he were their child. They now needed a foster mother to breastfeed him. However, Moses did not accept anyone's breast milk. Moses's sister told them that she knew of someone that he would not reject. As soon as Moses's mother found out about the situation she came to the palace and told them that she could breastfeed him. Moses accepted his mother's milk and in this way grew up with his mother in Pharaoh's palace. When Moses grew up he went to Prophet Shu'aib's country and





became a shepherd for a while. His honesty and good character deeply impacted those around him. He married Prophet Shu'aib's daughter.

Moses and his wife decided to return to Egypt. When they got to Mount Tur he was given the duty of prophethood through divine inspiration. Allah the Almighty wanted him to go to the Pharaoh to explain the religion of truth to him.

Moses went to the Pharaoh with his brother Aaron, who was also a prophet. Prophet Moses invited him to accept the Oneness of Allah, to only be His servant and asked him to stop mistreating the Israelites. However, Pharaoh rejected the invitation. He asked Moses to perform a miracle to prove his prophethood. When Moses threw the cane in his hand, it turned into a gigantic snake. The Pharaoh thought this was magic and called his magicians and said, "Get rid of Moses's magic immediately." The magicians used all their skills and talents but Moses's cane undid them all. When the magicians realised that Moses was performing a miracle, not magic, they all believed in Allah. However the Pharaoh still did not believe in Allah. Moses decided to take his people out of Egypt. When Pharaoh heard news of this he went after them with his army and cornered them on the coast of the Red Sea. Moses prayed for Allah's help. Allah ordered him to strike the cane in his hand on the water. When Moses did so the Red Sea split in two. Moses and his people walked to the other coast through the path that had opened for them in the sea. When the Pharaoh and his army tried to do the same the sea rejoined and they all drowned under colossal waves. In this way Allah protected the believers from the harm of the disbelievers.

Prophet Moses's lifelong struggle was to have his people believe in Allah alone and not to associate partners with Him.



Moses is our prophet and his life is best explained in the Qur'an.

## ***Metal Craftsman: Prophet David***

Allah chose David as a prophet and sent the Psalms down to him. He is well-known for his amazing voice. That is why in the Turkish culture we say that a person with a beautiful voice has a 'Davidy' voice. He affected all those around him when he prayed with his beautiful voice.

Allah not only taught religious knowledge to the prophets He chose but He also taught them life-related knowledge. Allah taught Prophet David how to soften and give shape to iron. He was the first expert on iron. His people were able to protect themselves from their enemies through iron armour.

David is our prophet and his life is best explained in the Qur'an.

## ***A Prophet that Spoke with Birds: Prophet Solomon***

Allah chose Solomon as a prophet after Prophet David.

Prophet Solomon wanted Allah to make him a magnificent ruler. Allah accepted his prayer and taught him the language of the animals and birds. He was also given power and control over the winds. He was a major ruler over all creatures.

Solomon's army included birds as well. One day when he went out to war with his army one of the birds disappeared. Solomon called the bird back and asked it the reason for its



disappearance. The bird explained that it brought news from a female ruler named Belkys from Sheba- that the folk of this town were worshipping the sun.

Prophet Solomon sent Belkys a letter explaining the existence and Oneness of Allah. He invited them to only worship Allah. Belkys gathered her viziers and asked for their opinion after reading the letter to them. They suggested declaring war on Solomon.

Belkys did not want to make war with Prophet Solomon and sent him gifts instead. Belkys decided to visit him in his palace as he did not accept her gifts. Prophet Solomon brought Belkys's throne to his castle before she arrived. She was astonished when she saw her throne on arrival. Moreover, she was profoundly affected by Prophet Solomon's crystal palace over water. Belkys realised that a person could only be given such power through Allah and gave up worshipping the sun and believed in the Lord of the worlds- Allah.

Prophet Solomon ruled people and other creatures with justice during his reign.

Solomon is our prophet and his life is best explained in the Qur'an.

### ***A Baby Speaks: Jesus, Son of Mary***

Mary was well known by all as a person of high character and honour. She was from the distinguished Imran family. Allah sent Angel Gabriel to her in the form of a man. When Mary saw him and didn't recognise him, she asked him to fear Allah and not harm her. Gabriel said, "I am a Messenger of Allah. I have been sent with good news of a beautiful baby boy for



you.” Mary was most confused as she replied, “I am not married. I am not an immoral woman, how could I have a child?” Gabriel said, “Yes this is very easy for the Lord of the worlds. Allah created your son Jesus as a miracle for mankind. Allah has power over all things.”

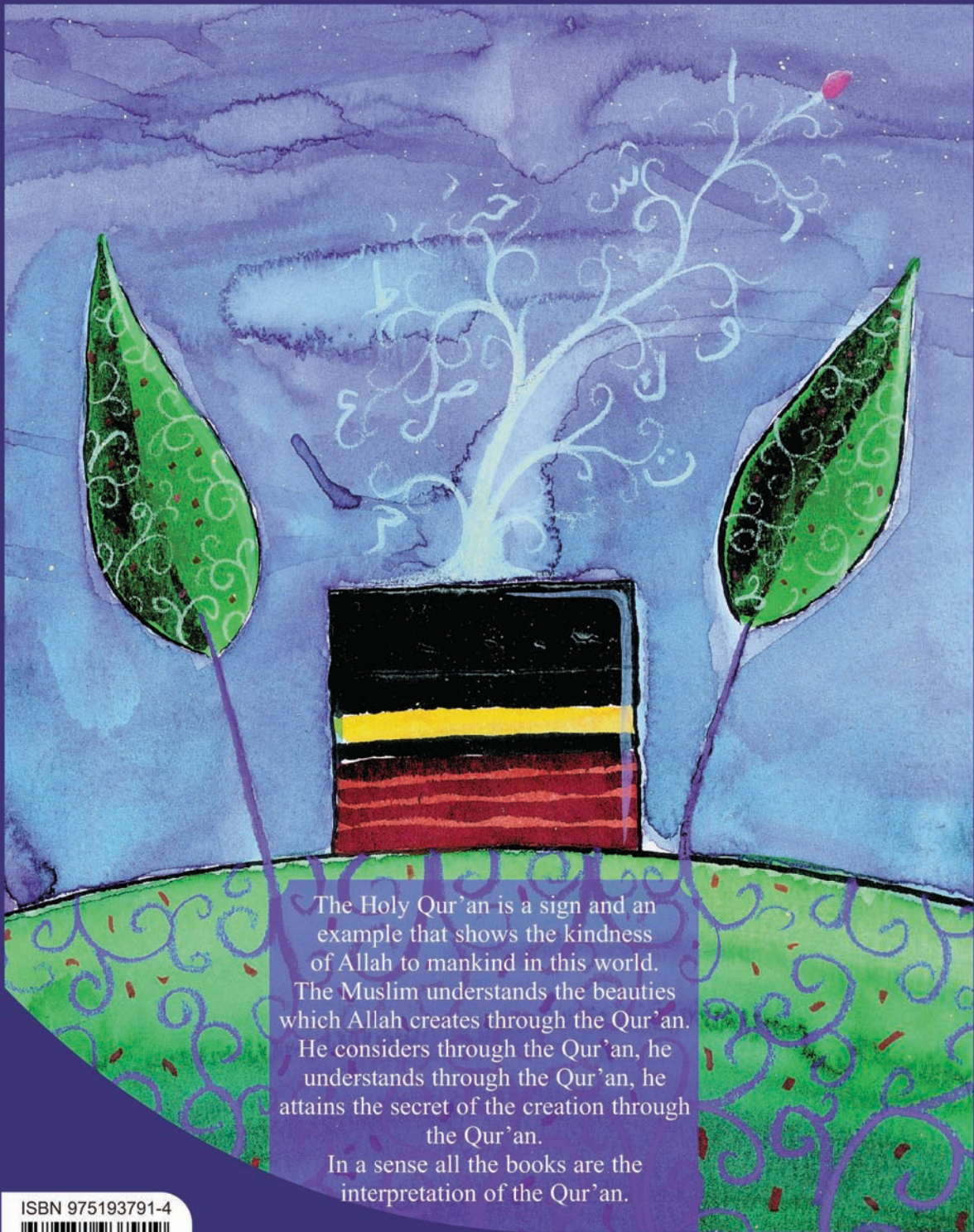
### *Days and months passed*

When it came time to give birth, Mary went to a place far from everyone and gave birth to Jesus under a date tree. She came home with her baby in her arms. There were hard days ahead of her. People were shocked and amazed that Mary should bear a child before marriage, and they looked down on her as they said, “Oh Mary, what an ugly thing it is that you have done!” Mary said, “I didn’t do anything to be ashamed of. Baby Jesus is Allah’s miracle. Ask him if you don’t believe me.” They knew well that a baby could not speak, however a miracle occurred and baby Jesus said, “I am a prophet of Allah who sent me to guide mankind to the right path. He wanted me to be a good child and has protected me from all things excessive. Allah has granted me beautiful things in my birth and is going to grant me beautiful things in my death and resurrection.” People were stunned that a baby could speak. They gave up blaming Mary and left her alone.

When Jesus grew up he, like the prophets before him, called people to believe in the Oneness of Allah, to do good works and to stay away from bad deeds. Those who did not believe in his sacred call persecuted Jesus and his companions. Allah, however, protected his prophets and believers from the harm of disbelievers.

Jesus is our prophet and his life is best explained in the Qur’an.





The Holy Qur'an is a sign and an example that shows the kindness of Allah to mankind in this world. The Muslim understands the beauties which Allah creates through the Qur'an. He considers through the Qur'an, he understands through the Qur'an, he attains the secret of the creation through the Qur'an.

In a sense all the books are the interpretation of the Qur'an.

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(İngilizce)

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