

# Islam

## A Brief Outline of Islam as Portrayed in the Noble Qur'an and Sunnah

This is an important book offering a concise introduction to Islam. It illustrates its most essential pillars, teachings, and beauties drawn from its original sources, namely the Noble Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunnah. This book is addressed to all legally competent individuals, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, in all of their respective languages, in all times and everywhere regardless of the changing circumstances.

(A copy including proofs from the Noble Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunnah)

### 1. Islam is the message of Allah to all people, as it is the eternal and the last of divine messages:

Islam is the message of Allah to all people as Allah Almighty says: {And We have not sent you except comprehensively to mankind as a bringer of good tidings and a warner. But most of the people do not know.} [Surat Saba': 28] He also says: {Say, [O Muhammad]: "O mankind, indeed I am the Messenger of Allah to you all..."} [Surat al-A'raf: 158] He also says: {O mankind, the Messenger has come to you with the truth from your Lord, so believe; it is better for you. But if you disbelieve - then, indeed, to Allah belongs whatever is in the heavens and earth. And ever is Allah Knowing and Wise.} [Surat an-Nisā': 170] Islam is the eternal and the last of all the divine messages as Allah Almighty says: {Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing.} [Surat al-Ahzāb: 40]

### 2. Islam, as a religion, is not exclusive to a specific ethnic group, rather it is the religion of Allah to all people:

Islam, as a religion, is not exclusive to a specific ethnic group, rather it is the religion of Allah to all people. The first command in the Noble Qur'an is the saying of Allah Almighty: {O mankind, worship your Lord, Who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 21] He also says: {O mankind, fear your Lord, Who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women...} [Surat an-Nisā': 1] Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) reported: "The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) delivered a speech on the Day of the Conquest of Makkah. He said: 'O people, verily Allah has removed the arrogance of the pre-Islamic period from you and its boasting of its forefathers. So, now there are two types of men: a man who is righteous, pious, and honorable in the sight of Allah, and a wicked man who is miserable and insignificant in the sight of Allah. People are the children of Adam and Allah created Adam from dust. Allah said: {O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most pious of you. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing and All-Aware.} [Surat al-Hujurat: 13]" [Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi: 3270] There is not a single command or law in the glorious Qur'an or a command of the honorable Messenger (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) privileging a specific group or tribe based on ethnicity, nationality, or gender.

### 3. Islam is the divine message sent to complement all the messages of the previous

## **prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) who were sent to their respective nations.**

Islam is the divine message sent to complement all the messages of the previous prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) who were sent to their respective nations as Allah Almighty says: {Indeed, We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], as We revealed to Noah and the prophets after him. And We revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, the Descendants, Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon, and to David We gave the book [of Psalms].} [Surat an-Nisā': 163] The religion that Allah revealed to Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is the same one that Allah legislated for the previous prophets as Allah Almighty says: {He has ordained for you of religion what He enjoined upon Noah and that which We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], and what We enjoined upon Abraham and Moses and Jesus - to establish the religion and not be divided therein. Difficult for those who associate others with Allah is that to which you invite them. Allah chooses for Himself whom He wills and guides to Himself whoever turns back [to Him].} [Surat ash-Shūra: 13] The religion that Allah revealed to Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) confirms the previous scriptures, such as the Torah and the Gospel before they were distorted. Allah Almighty says: {And that which We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], of the Book is the truth, confirming what was before it. Indeed, Allah, of His servants, is All-Aware and All-Seeing.} [Surat Fātir: 31]

## **4. The prophets (peace be upon them) share a single religion though expressed in different laws:**

The religion of all the prophets (peace be upon them) is one but their legislations are different. Allah Almighty says: {And We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it. So judge between them by what Allah has revealed and do not follow their inclinations away from what has come to you of the truth. To each of you We prescribed a law and a method. Had Allah willed, He would have made you one nation [united in religion], but [He intended] to test you in what He has given you; so race to [all that is] good. To Allah is your return all together, and He will [then] inform you concerning that over which you used to differ.} [Surat al-Mā'idah: 48] The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "I am the nearest to 'Isa (Jesus), son of Mary, among the whole of mankind in this worldly life and the Hereafter. Prophets are brothers in faith, having different mothers, yet their religion is one." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 3443]

## **5. Islam, like all the prophets Nūh (Noah), Ibrāhim (Abraham), Mūsa (Moses), Sulaymān (Solomon), Dāwūd (David), and 'Isa (Jesus) among others, calls to believing that the [true] Lord is Allah, the Creator, the Provider, the One Who gives life and the One Who takes it away, the Owner and Planner of everything, and the All-Kind and the All-Merciful.**

Islam, like all the prophets Noah, Abraham, Moses, Solomon, David, and Jesus among others, calls to believing that the [true] Lord is Allah, the Creator, the Provider, the One Who gives life and the One Who takes it away, the Owner and Planner of everything, and the All-Kind and the All-Merciful. Allah Almighty says: {O mankind, remember the favor of Allah upon you. Is there any creator other than Allah who provides for you from the heaven and earth? There is no deity except Him, so how are you deluded?} [Surat Fātir: 3] He also says: {Say: "Who provides for you from the heaven and the earth? Or who controls hearing and sight and who brings the living out of the dead and brings the dead out of the living and who arranges [every] matter?" They will say: "Allah", so say: "Then will you not fear Him?"} [Surat Yūnus: 31] Allah Almighty also says: {Is He [not best] Who begins creation and then repeats it and Who provides for you from the heaven and earth? Is there a deity with Allah? Say: "Produce your proof, if you should be truthful."} [Surat an-Naml: 64] All the prophets and messengers were tasked with calling to the worship of Allah alone as Allah Almighty says: {And We certainly sent into every nation a messenger, [saying]: "Worship Allah and avoid Tāghūt (false gods)." And among them were those whom Allah guided, and among them were those upon whom error was [deservedly] decreed. So proceed through the earth and observe how was the end of the deniers.} [Surat an-Nahl: 36] Allah Almighty also says: {And We sent not before you any messenger except that We revealed to him that: "There is no deity except Me, so worship Me."} [Surat al-Anbiyā': 25] Allah reported Noah (peace be upon him) saying: {...O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. Indeed, I fear for you the punishment of a tremendous Day.} [Surat al-A'rāf: 59] Allah reported Abraham (peace be upon him) saying: {And Abraham, when he said to his people: "Worship Allah and fear Him. That is best for you, if you should know."} [Surat al-'Ankabūt: 16] Allah reported Sālih (peace be upon him) saying: {...He said: "O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. There has come to you clear evidence from your Lord. This is the she-camel of Allah [sent] to you as a sign. So leave her to eat within Allah's land and do not touch her with harm, lest there seize you a painful punishment."} [Surat al-A'rāf: 73] Allah reported Shu'ayb (Jethro) (peace be upon him) saying: {...O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. There has come to you clear evidence from your Lord. So fulfill the measure and weight and do not deprive people of their due and cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. That is better for you, if you are believers.} [Surat al-A'rāf: 85] The first thing Allah Almighty said when He spoke to Moses (peace be upon him) was: {And I have chosen you, so listen to what is revealed [to you]. Indeed, I am Allah. There is no deity except Me, so worship Me and establish prayer for My remembrance.} [Surat Taha: 13-14] Allah informed about Moses (peace be upon him) that he sought His refuge saying: {...Indeed, I have sought refuge in my Lord and your Lord from every arrogant one who does not believe in the Day of Reckoning.} [Surat Ghāfir: 27] Allah reported Jesus (peace be upon him) saying: {Indeed, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is the straight path.} [Surat Āl 'Imrān: 51] Allah also reported Jesus (peace be upon him) saying: {..."O Children of Israel, worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Indeed, he who associates others with Allah - Allah has forbidden him Paradise, and his refuge is Hellfire. And there are not for the wrongdoers any helpers.} [Surat al-Mā'idah: 27] Even the Torah and the Gospel emphasize the importance of worshiping Allah alone. In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses (peace be upon him) said: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." Emphasis on monotheism is found in the Gospel of Mark where Jesus (peace be upon him) said: "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'" Allah Almighty clarified that all the prophets were sent to deliver this great mission, namely calling people to monotheism. Allah Almighty says: {And We certainly sent into every nation a messenger, [saying]: "Worship Allah and avoid Tāghūt (false gods)." And among them were those whom Allah guided, and among them were those upon whom error was [deservedly] decreed...} [Surat an-Nahl: 36] And Allah Almighty said: {Say, [O Muhammad]: "Have you considered that which you invoke besides Allah? Show me what they have created of the earth; or did they have partnership in [creation of] the heavens? Bring me a scripture [revealed] before this or a [remaining] trace of knowledge, if you should be truthful."} [Surat al-Ahqāf: 4] Shaykh Al-Sa'di (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: "It becomes evident that the polytheists failed to justify their polytheism with proofs. Instead, they relied on false thoughts, poor opinions, and flawed reason proved by investigating their conditions, sciences, and deeds and by consideration of their alleged deity, whom they spent their lifetimes worshiping. Has any of those deities availed them an iota in this life or in the Hereafter?" Taysir al-Karim al-Mannan: 779.

## 6. Allah Almighty is the Creator and the only One worthy of worship without associating anyone else alongside Him.

Allah Almighty is the Creator and the only One worthy of worship without associating anyone else alongside Him. Allah Almighty says: {O mankind, worship your Lord, Who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous. [He] Who made for you the earth a bed [spread out] and the sky a ceiling and sent down from the sky rain and brought forth thereby fruits as provision for you. So do not attribute to Allah equals while you know [that there is nothing similar to Him].} [Surat al-Baqarah: 21-22] The One Who created us and the generations before us, made the earth a bed spread out and the sky a ceiling for us, sent down from the sky rain, and brought forth thereby fruits as provision for us is the only One Who deserves to be worshiped. Allah Almighty says: {O mankind, remember the favor of Allah upon you. Is there any creator other than Allah who provides for you from the heaven and earth? There is no deity except Him, so how are you deluded?} [Surat Fātir: 3] The One Who creates and provides for us is the only One Who deserves to be worshiped. Allah Almighty says: {That is Allah, your Lord; there is no deity except Him, the Creator of all things, so worship Him. And He is Disposer of all things.} [Surat al-An'ām: 102] Anyone worshiped besides Allah is unworthy of worship because he does not possess an atom's weight in the heaven or on the earth. He is no partner of Allah, nor a helper, nor a supporter; so, how could such an alleged deity be called upon or made partner alongside Allah?! Allah Almighty says: {Say, [O Muhammad]: "Invoke those you claim [as deities] besides Allah." They do not possess an atom's weight [of ability] in the heavens or on the earth, and they do not have therein any partnership [with Him], nor is there for Him from among them any assistant.} [Surat Saba': 22] Allah Almighty is the One Who created these living beings out of nonexistence. Their very existence is a proof of His existence, Lordship, and deity. Allah Almighty says: {And of His signs is that He created you from dust; then, suddenly you were human beings dispersing [throughout the earth]. And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought. And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors. Indeed in that are signs for those of knowledge. And of His signs is your sleep by night and day and your seeking of His bounty. Indeed in that are signs for a people who listen. And of His signs is [that] He shows you the lightning [causing] fear and aspiration, and He sends down rain from the sky by which He brings to life the earth after its lifelessness. Indeed in that are signs for a people who use reason. And of His signs is that the heaven and earth remain by His command. Then when He calls you with a [single] call from the earth, immediately you will come forth. And to Him belongs whoever is in the heavens and earth. All are to Him devoutly obedient. And it is He Who begins creation; then He repeats it, and that is [even] easier for Him...} [Surat ar-Rūm: 20-27] Nimrod denied the existence of his Lord but Abraham (peace be upon him) said to him, as reported by Allah: {...Abraham said: "Indeed, Allah brings up the sun from the east, so bring it up from the west." So the disbeliever was overwhelmed [by astonishment], and Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 258] In the same manner, Abraham (peace be upon him) argued his case by showing that Allah is the One Who guides him, feeds him, gives him drink, cures him, causes him to die and brings him to life. Allah reported him saying: {Who created me, and He [it is Who] guides me. And it is He Who feeds me and gives me to drink. And when I am ill, it is He Who cures me. And Who will cause me to die and then bring me to life.} [Surat ash-Shu'arā': 78-81] Allah reported Moses's argument with the Pharaoh stating that the former's Lord is the One: {...Who gave everything its form and then guided it.} [Surat Taha: 50] Allah subjected everything in the heavens and on the earth for the human being and surrounded him with blessings so that he worships him and refrains from disbelief. Allah Almighty says: {Do you not see that Allah has made subject to you whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth and amply bestowed upon you His favors, [both] apparent and unapparent? But of the people is he who disputes about Allah without knowledge or guidance or an enlightening Book [from Him].} [Surat Luqmān: 20] Just as Allah subjected everything in the heavens and on the earth for the human being, He created and gave him everything he would need such as the hearing, sight, and heart to learn the knowledge that would benefit and guide him to his Lord and Creator. Allah Almighty says: {And Allah has extracted you from the wombs of your mothers not knowing

a thing, and He made for you hearing and vision and intellect that perhaps you would be grateful.}[Surat an-Nahl: 78]

Allah Almighty created all of those worlds as well as the human being and gave him everything he would need such as limbs and powers. Then He granted him everything that would aid him in worshiping Allah and in populating this earth. Afterward, Allah subjected to him everything in the heavens and on the earth.

Allah used His creation to prove His Lordship that mandates His right to be solely worshiped. Allah Almighty says:{Say: "Who provides for you from the heaven and the earth? Or who controls hearing and sight and who brings the living out of the dead and brings the dead out of the living and who arranges [every] matter?" They will say: "Allah", so say: "Then will you not fear Him?"}[Surat Yūnus: 31]Allah Almighty says:{Say, [O Muhammad]: "Have you considered that which you invoke besides Allah? Show me what they have created of the earth; or did they have partnership in [creation of] the heavens? Bring me a scripture [revealed] before this or a [remaining] trace of knowledge, if you should be truthful.}[Surat al-Ahqāf: 4]He also says:{He created the heavens without pillars that you see and has cast into the earth firmly set mountains, lest it should shift with you, and dispersed therein from every creature. And We sent down rain from the sky and made grow therein [plants] of every noble kind. This is the creation of Allah. So show Me what those other than Him have created. Rather, the wrongdoers are in clear error.}[Surat Luqmān: 10-11]Allah Almighty says:{Or were they created by nothing, or were they the creators [of themselves]?Or did they create the heavens and the earth? Rather, they are not certain.Or do they have the depositories [containing the provision] of your Lord? Or are they the controllers [of them]?}[Surat at-Tūr: 35-37]Shaykh Al-Sa'di said:"This constitutes a proof against them, leaving them with no choice but to submit to the truth or veer away from what is required by reason and religion."Tafsīr ibn Sa'di: 816.

## **7. Allah is the Creator of everything in the universe, both the visible and the invisible. Everything other than Him is created by Him. He created the heavens and the earth in six days.**

Allah Almighty is the Creator of everything in the universe, both the visible and the invisible. Everything besides Him is created by Him. Allah Almighty says:{Say: "Who is the Lord of the heavens and earth?" Say: "Allah." Say: "Have you then taken besides Him allies not possessing [even] for themselves any benefit or any harm?" Say: "Is the blind equivalent to the seeing? Or is darkness equivalent to light? Or have they attributed to Allah partners who created like His creation so that the creation [of each] seemed similar to them?" Say: "Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is the One, the Superb Vanquisher.}[Surat ar-Ra'd: 16] And Allah Almighty also says:{...And He creates that which you do not know.}[Surat an-Nahl: 8]Allah created the heavens and the earth in six days. Allah Almighty says:{It is He Who created the heavens and earth in six days and then established Himself above the Throne. He knows what penetrates into the earth and what emerges from it and what descends from the heaven and what ascends therein; and He is with you wherever you are. And Allah, of what you do, is All-Seeing.}[Surat al-Hadīd: 4]He also says:{And indeed We created the heavens and the earth and what is between them in six days and nothing of fatigue touched Us.}[Surat Qāf: 38]

## **8. Allah Almighty has no partner in His dominion, creation, disposal of affairs, or His right to worship.**

Allah Almighty is the Owner of Sovereignty. He has no partner in His creation, dominion, or disposal of affairs. Allah Almighty says: {Say, [O Muhammad]: "Have you considered that which you invoke besides Allah? Show me what they have created of the earth; or did they have partnership in [creation of] the heavens? Bring me a scripture [revealed] before this or a [remaining] trace of knowledge, if you should be truthful."} [Surat al-Ahqāf: 4] Shaykh Al-Sa'di (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: "It means ask those who associated partners alongside Allah and took deities that can neither harm nor benefit, give life nor cause death, let alone merit the right to be worshiped - just to emphasize the inability of their idols and how such idols are unworthy of worship - to {show me what they have created of the earth; or did they have partnership in [creation of] the heavens?} Have they created anything from the celestial bodies or the earth? Have they created mountains? Have they streamlined rivers? Have they resurrected an animal? Have they caused trees to grow? Have they aided in any manner in the creation of any of these? Certainly, they have done nothing by their own admission, let alone others. This is a decisive logical proof that the worship of anything besides Allah is false. The next step was mentioning the absence of textual evidence thus saying: {Bring me a scripture [revealed] before this} Book calling to polytheism {or a [remaining] trace of knowledge} inherited from the messengers commanding polytheism. It is well-known that they are incapable of producing proof that any of the messengers advocated polytheism. Exactly the opposite, we can guarantee with complete certainty that all the messengers called to monotheism and to the worship of their Lord alone and prohibited associating partners alongside Him. This is their greatest trace of knowledge we can identify them with." Tafsīr Ibn Sa'di: 779. Allah Almighty is the Owner of Sovereignty and none has a share in His dominion. Allah Almighty says: {Say: "O Allah, Owner of Sovereignty, You give sovereignty to whom You will and You take sovereignty away from whom You will. You honor whom You will and You humble whom You will. In Your hand is [all] good. Indeed, You are over all things competent."} [Surat Āl 'Imrān: 26] Allah Almighty expressed His full sovereignty on the Day of Judgment saying: {The Day they come forth nothing concerning them will be concealed from Allah. To whom belongs [all] sovereignty this Day? To Allah, the One, the Superb Vanquisher.} [Surat Ghāfir: 16] Allah Almighty has no partner in His dominion, creation, disposal of affairs, or His right to worship. Allah Almighty says: {And say: "Praise to Allah, Who has not taken a son and has had no partner in [His] dominion and has no [need of a] protector out of weakness; and glorify Him with [great] glorification."} [Surat al-Isrā': 111] Allah Almighty also says: {He to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and Who has not taken a son and has not had a partner in dominion and has created everything and determined it with [precise] determination.} [Surat al-Furqān: 2] He is the Owner while everything else is owned by Him. He is the Creator while everything else is created by Him. He is the One who manages all affairs. Therefore, a deity with this description must be worshiped while worshiping other than Him is indicative of flawed reason and mounts to polytheism that ruins one's life and Hereafter. Allah Almighty says: {They say: "Be Jews or Christians [so] you will be guided." Say: "Rather, [we follow] the religion of Abraham, inclining toward truth, and he was not of the polytheists."} [Surat al-Baqarah: 135] Allah Almighty also says: {And who is better in religion than one who submits himself to Allah while being a doer of good and follows the religion of Abraham, inclining toward truth? And Allah took Abraham as an intimate friend.} [Surat an-Nisā': 125] Allah Almighty clarified that anyone following a religion other than that of Abraham (peace be upon him) will befool himself. Allah Almighty says: {And who would be averse to the religion of Abraham except one who makes a fool of himself. And We had chosen him in this world, and indeed he, in the Hereafter, will be among the righteous.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 130]

## **9. Allah Almighty begot no one nor was He begotten. None is equivalent or similar to Him.**

Allah Almighty begot no one nor was He begotten. None is equivalent or similar to Him. Allah Almighty says: {Say: "He is Allah, [Who is] One, Allah, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is He begotten. Nor is there to Him any equivalent."} [Surat al-Ikhlās: 1-4] Allah Almighty also says: {Lord of the heavens and the earth and whatever is between them - so worship Him and have patience for His worship. Do you know of any similarity to Him?} [Surat Maryam: 65] Allah Almighty says: {[He is] Creator of the heavens and the earth. He has made for you from yourselves, mates, and among the cattle, mates; He multiplies you thereby. There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.} [Surat ash-Shūra: 11]

## **10. Allah Almighty does not assume any physical form nor is He embodied in any of His creation:**

Allah Almighty does not assume any physical form nor is He embodied in any of His creation, because Allah is the Creator while everything else is created. He is the One who will eternally last while everything else will die. Everything belongs to Him and He is the Owner of everything. Allah does not incarnate in any of His creation nor does any of His creation incarnate in His essence; Exalted and Glorified is He. Allah is greater and far exalted above everything else. Allah denied the claim that He incarnated in Jesus's form by saying: {They have certainly disbelieved who say that Allah is Christ, the son of Mary. Say: "Then who could prevent Allah at all if He had intended to destroy Christ, the son of Mary, or his mother or everyone on the earth?" And to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and whatever is between them. He creates what He wills, and Allah is over all things competent.} [Surat al-Mā'idah: 17] Allah Almighty also says: {And to Allah belongs the east and the west. So wherever you [might] turn, there is the Face of Allah. Indeed, Allah is All-Encompassing and All-Knowing. They say: "Allah has taken a son." Exalted is He! Rather, to Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and the earth. All are devoutly obedient to Him, Originator of the heavens and the earth. When He decrees a matter, He only says to it: "Be", and it is.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 115-117] Allah Almighty also says: {And they say: "The Most Compassionate has taken [for Himself] a son." You have done an atrocious thing. The heavens almost rupture therefrom and the earth splits open and the mountains collapse in devastation that they attribute a son to the Most Compassionate. And it is not appropriate for the Most Compassionate that He should take a son. There is no one in the heavens and earth but that he comes to the Most Compassionate as a servant. He has enumerated them and counted them a [full] counting. And all of them are coming to Him on the Day of Judgment alone.} [Surat Maryam: 88-95] And Allah Almighty said: {Allah - there is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the All-Sustainer of [all] existence. Neither drowsiness overtakes Him nor sleep. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is it that can intercede with Him except by His permission? He knows what is [presently] before them and what will be after them, and they encompass not a thing of His knowledge except for what He wills. His Kursi extends over the heavens and the earth, and their preservation tires Him not. And He is the High, the Magnificent.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 255] A deity with such description and a creation with such description, how could it be possible that Allah incarnates any of His creation, takes him as a son, or sets him as another god with Him?

## **11. Allah Almighty is Kind and Merciful to His servants, therefore, He sent messengers and revealed scriptures.**

Allah Almighty is Kind and Merciful to His servants. Out of such mercy, He sent them the messengers and revealed the scriptures to bring them out of the darkness of polytheism and disbelief to the light of monotheism and guidance. Allah Almighty says: {It is He Who sends down upon His Servant [Muhammad] verses of clear evidence that He may bring you out from darknesses into the light. And indeed, Allah is to you Kind and Merciful.} [Surat al-Hadīd: 9] Allah Almighty also says: {And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.} [Surat al-Anbiyā': 107] Allah commanded His Prophet to inform His servants that He is the All-Forgiving, the Most Merciful. Allah Almighty says: {[O Muhammad], inform My servants that it is I Who am the All-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.} [Surat al-Hijr: 49] One of the aspects of His kindness and mercy is alleviating distress and conferring blessings upon His servants. Allah Almighty says: {And if Allah should touch you with adversity, there is no remover of it except Him; and if He intends for you good, then there is no repeller of His bounty. He causes it to reach whom He wills of His servants. And He is the All-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.} [Surat Yūnus: 107]

**12. Allah is the Most Merciful Lord. He, alone, will hold His creation accountable on the Day of Judgment when He resurrects them all from their graves. Each individual will be recompensed depending on his deeds. Whoever does good deeds while being a believer will enjoy an eternal bliss whereas anyone who disbelieves and sins will suffer the painful punishment in the Hereafter.**

Allah is the Most Merciful Lord. He, alone, will hold His creation accountable on the Day of Judgment when He resurrects them all from their graves. Each individual will be recompensed depending on his deeds. Whoever does good deeds while being a believer will enjoy an eternal bliss whereas anyone who disbelieves and sins will suffer the painful punishment on the Day of Judgment. What proves the perfect justice, wisdom, and mercy of Allah towards His creation is that He made this life the abode of actions while another abode is designated for recompense, reckoning, and reward so that the doer of good reaps the reward of his goodness while the wrongdoer, oppressor, and transgressor suffer the punishment of their oppression. Because some people may deem it unlikely, Allah has provided many proofs indicating that resurrection is an indisputable fact. Allah Almighty says:{And of His signs is that you see the earth stilled, but when We send down upon it rain, it quivers and grows. Indeed, He Who has given it life is the Giver of Life to the dead. Indeed, He is over all things competent.}[Surat Fussilat: 39]Allah Almighty also says:{O People, if you should be in doubt about the Resurrection, then [consider that] indeed, We created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then from a clinging clot, and then from a lump of flesh, formed and unformed - that We may show you. And We settle in the wombs whom We will for a specified term, then We bring you out as a child, and then [We develop you] that you may reach your [time of] maturity. And among you is he who is taken in [early] death, and among you is he who is returned to the most decrepit [old] age so that he knows, after [once having] knowledge, nothing. And you see the earth barren, but when We send down upon it rain, it quivers and swells and grows [something] of every beautiful kind.}[Surat al-Hajj: 5]In this verse, Allah provided three logical proofs of resurrection. They are:

1. Allah Almighty created the human being the first time from dust. Since He created him from dust, He is certainly capable of bringing him back to life when he becomes dust.
2. The one who is capable of creating a human being out of a sperm-drop is definitely capable of bringing him back to life after his death.
3. The one who gave life to earth after it was dead is definitely capable of bringing people alive after their death. This verse contains a great proof of the miraculousness of the Qur'an, as it contained three incredibly logical proofs on such a great issue, though the verse itself is not long.

Allah Almighty also says:{The Day when We will fold the heaven like the folding of a [written] sheet for the records. As We began the first creation, We will repeat it. [That is] a promise binding upon Us. Indeed, We will do it.}[Surat al-Anbiyā': 104]Allah Almighty also says:{And he presents for Us an example and forgets his [own] creation. He says: "Who will give life to bones while they are disintegrated?" Say: "He will give them life Who produced them the first time; and He is, of all creation, All-Knowing.}"[Surat Yasīn: 78-79]Allah Almighty also says:{Are you a more difficult creation or is the heaven? Allah constructed it.He raised its ceiling and proportioned it.And He darkened its night and extracted its brightness.And after that He spread the earth.He extracted from it its water and its pasture,And the mountains He set firmly.}[Surat an-Nāzi'āt: 27-32]Allah clarified that the creation of the

human being is not as difficult as the creation of the heavens and the earth. So it is obvious that the one who is capable of creating the heavens and the earth is definitely capable of bringing the human being back to life.

### **13. Allah Almighty created Adam from dust and made his offspring reproduce after him. So, all people are equal in terms of their origin and there is no superiority for a particular gender over the other or an ethnic group over another except by means of piety.**

Allah Almighty created Adam from dust and made his offspring reproduce after him. So, all people are equal in terms of their origin and there is no superiority for a particular gender over the other or an ethnic group over another except by means of piety. Allah Almighty says: {O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most pious of you. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing and All-Aware.} [Surat al-Hujurāt: 13] Allah Almighty also says: {And Allah created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop; then He made you mates. And no female conceives nor does she give birth except with His knowledge. And no aged person is granted [additional] life nor is his lifespan lessened but that it is in a register. Indeed, that is easy for Allah.} [Surat Fātir: 11] Allah Almighty also says: {It is He Who created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then from a clinging clot; then He brings you out as a child; then [He develops you] that you reach your [time of] maturity, then [further] that you become elders. And among you is he who is taken in death before [that], so that you reach a specified term; and perhaps you will use reason.} [Surat Ghāfir: 67] Allah Almighty showed that He created the Messiah by the universal command in the same manner He created Adam from dust. Allah Almighty says: {Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him: "Be," and he was.} [Surat Āl 'Imrān: 59] In point number (2), I mentioned that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) clarified that people are equal and there is none superior to another except by piety.

### **14. Each newborn is born on Fitrah (a sound natural disposition).**

Each newborn is born with a sound natural disposition. Allah Almighty says: {So direct your face toward the religion, inclining to truth. [Adhere to] the Fitrah of Allah upon which He has created [all] people. No change should there be in the creation of Allah. That is the correct religion, but most of the people do not know.} [Surat ar-Rūm: 30] The "truth" is the religion of Abraham (peace be upon him). Allah Almighty says: {Then We revealed to you, [O Muhammad], to follow the religion of Abraham, inclining toward truth; and he was not of the polytheists.} [Surat an-Nahl: 123] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "There is no child but is born on Fitrah (sound natural inclination to the true religion). It is his parents who make him a Jew or a Christian or a Magian, just as beasts produce their young with their limbs perfect. Do you see anything deficient in them?" Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "{...The Fitrah of Allah upon which He has created [all] people. No change should there be in the creation of Allah. That is the correct religion, but most of the people do not know.} [Surat ar-Rūm: 30]" [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 4775] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Verily, my Lord has commanded me to teach you that which you do not know of what He has taught me today: 'Whatever wealth I have conferred upon My servant is lawful for him. I have created all My servants with a sound natural inclination to worship Me alone, but the devils came to them and turned them away from their religion, made unlawful for them what I have

made lawful for them, and commanded them to associate with Me in worship that for which I did not send down any authority.”[Narrated by Muslim: 2865]

## **15. No human being is born with an inherent sin nor does he inherit someone else’s sin.**

No human being is born with an inherent sin nor does he inherit someone else’s sin. Allah Almighty informed us that Adam (peace be upon him) regretted and repented after he and his wife Eve disobeyed the divine command and ate from the tree. He asked Allah for forgiveness and Allah inspired him to say good words and He accepted their repentance as a result. Allah Almighty says:{And We said: “O Adam, dwell, you and your wife, in Paradise and eat therefrom in [ease and] abundance from wherever you will. But do not approach this tree, lest you be among the wrongdoers.”But Satan caused them to slip out of it and removed them from that [condition] in which they had been. And We said: “Go down, [all of you], as enemies to one another, and you will have upon the earth a place of settlement and provision for a time.”Then Adam received from his Lord [some] words, and He accepted his repentance. Indeed, it is He Who is the Accepting of Repentance, the Most Merciful.We said: “Go down from it, all of you. And when guidance comes to you from Me, whoever follows My guidance - there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve.”}[Surat al-Baqarah: 35-38]Because Allah accepted the repentance of Adam (peace be upon him), then he was no longer carrying the burden of that sin nor was his offspring because the sin was forgiven by repentance. Moreover, the individual, in principle, is not responsible for the sins of others. Allah Almighty says:{...And every soul earns not [blame] except against itself, and no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return, and He will inform you concerning that over which you used to differ.}[Surat al-An‘ām: 164]Allah Almighty also says:{Whoever is guided is only guided for [the benefit of] his soul. And whoever errs only errs against it. And no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. And never would We punish until We sent a messenger.}[Surat al-Isrā’: 15]Allah Almighty also says:{And no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. And if a heavily laden soul calls [another] to [carry some of] its load, nothing of it will be carried, even if he should be a close relative. You can only warn those who fear their Lord unseen and have established prayer. And whoever purifies himself only purifies himself for [the benefit of] his soul. And to Allah is the [final] destination.}[Surat Fātir: 18]

## **16. The ultimate end of creating mankind is to worship Allah alone:**

The ultimate end of creating mankind is to worship Allah alone. Allah Almighty says:{And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me.}[Surat adh-Dhāriyāt: 56]

## **17. Islam has honored the human being, male and female, and has guaranteed him all of his rights. It has made him responsible for all of his choices, actions, and behavior, thus holding him accountable for any act that harms him or others.**

Islam has honored the human being, both males and females. Allah Almighty created the human to be His vicegerent on earth. Allah Almighty says:{And [mention, O Muhammad], when your Lord said to the angels: “Indeed, I will make upon the earth a successive authority”...}[Surat al-Baqarah: 30]This honor extends to all the offspring of Adam. Allah Almighty says:{And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred

them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference.}[Surat al-Isrā': 70]Allah Almighty also says:{We have certainly created man in the best stature;}[Surat at-Tīn: 4]Allah prohibited the human from surrendering himself in humiliation to a deity or a master other than Allah. Allah Almighty says:{And [yet], among the people are those who take other than Allah as equals [to Him]. They love them as they [should] love Allah. But those who believe are stronger in love for Allah. And if only they who have wronged would consider [that] when they see the punishment, [they will be certain] that all power belongs to Allah and that Allah is severe in punishment. When those who have been followed disassociate themselves from those who followed [them], and they [all] see the punishment, then all their relations will be cut off from them.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 165-166]Allah Almighty clarified the state of the followers and the ones followed in falsehood saying:{Those who were arrogant will say to those who were oppressed: "Did we avert you from guidance after it had come to you? Rather, you were criminals."Those who were oppressed will say to those who were arrogant: "Rather, [it was your] conspiracy of night and day when you were ordering us to disbelieve in Allah and attribute to Him equals." But they will [all] confide regret when they see the punishment; and We will put shackles on the necks of those who disbelieved. Will they be recompensed except for what they used to do?}[Surat Saba': 32-33]Out of Allah's perfect justice on the Day of Judgment, He will make the misguiding preachers and scholars bear the burden of their sins as well as the burdens of the sins of those whom they misguided [by speaking] without knowledge. Allah Almighty says:{That they may bear their own burdens in full on the Day of Judgment and some of the burdens of those whom they misguide without knowledge. Unquestionably, evil is that which they bear.}[Surat an-Nahl: 25]Islam has guaranteed man his full rights in this world and in the Hereafter, and the greatest of those rights is the right of Allah on people and the right of people on Allah. Mu'ādh (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: "I was riding behind the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). He said: 'O Mu'ādh!' I replied: 'At your beck and call.' He repeated it three times and said: 'Do you know what is Allah's right upon His servants?' I said: 'No.' He said: 'Allah's right upon His servants is that they worship Him alone and associate none with Him in worship.' Then he proceeded for a while and then said: 'O Mu'ādh!' I replied: 'At your beck and call.' He said: 'Do you know what is the right of the servants upon Allah if they do that? He will not punish them.'"[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6840]Islam has also guaranteed man the protection of his true religion, children, wealth, and honor. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"Verily Allah has made your blood, your properties, and your honor as sacred and inviolable as the sanctity of this day of yours, in this month of yours and in this town of yours." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6501]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) announced this great covenant in his Farewell Hajj that was attended by more than a hundred thousand Companions. He stressed the importance of this command on the Day of Nahr (day of slaughtering sacrificial animals, 10th of Dhul-Hijjah). Furthermore, Islam has made man responsible for all of his choices, deeds, and behavior. Allah Almighty says:{And [for] every person We have imposed his fate upon his neck, and We will produce for him on the Day of Judgment a record which he will encounter spread open. [It will be said]: "Read your record. Sufficient is yourself against you this Day as accountant.}"[Surat al-Isrā': 13-14]In other words, any good or bad deed is bound by its doer and cannot be transferred to someone else because the individual cannot be held accountable for someone else's deeds nor will anyone else be held accountable for his deeds. Allah Almighty says:{O mankind, indeed you are laboring toward your Lord with [great] exertion and will meet it.}[Surat al-Inshiqāq: 6]And Allah Almighty said:{Whoever does righteousness - it is for his [own] soul; and whoever does evil [does so] against it. And your Lord is not ever unjust to [His] servants.}[Surat Fussilat: 46]Islam holds one accountable for any act that harms himself or others. Allah Almighty says:{And whoever commits a sin only earns it against himself. And Allah is ever All-Knowing and All-Wise.}[Surat an-Nisā': 111]Allah Almighty also says:{Because of that, We decreed upon the Children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land – it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one – it is as if he had saved mankind entirely...}[Surat al-Mā'idah: 32]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"No soul gets killed wrongfully without the first son of Adam taking share of the guilt for its blood because he was the first to commit a murder." [Narrated by Muslim: 5150]

## **18. Islam made men and women equal in terms of their respective responsibilities, reward, and punishment.**

Islam made men and women equal in terms of their respective responsibilities, reward, and punishment. Allah Almighty says:{And whoever does righteous deeds, whether male or female, while being a believer - those will enter Paradise and will not be wronged, [even as much as] the speck on a date seed.}[Surat an-Nisā': 124]Allah Almighty also says:{Whoever does righteous deeds, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do.}[Surat an-Nahl: 97]Allah Almighty also says:{Whoever does an evil deed will not be recompensed except by the like thereof; but whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - those will enter Paradise, being given provision therein without account.}[Surat Ghāfir: 40]Allah Almighty also says:{Indeed, the Muslim men and Muslim women, the believing men and believing women, the obedient men and obedient women, the truthful men and truthful women, the patient men and patient women, the humble men and humble women, the charitable men and charitable women, the fasting men and fasting women, the men who guard their private parts and the women who do so, and the men who remember Allah often and the women who do so - for them Allah has prepared forgiveness and a great reward.}[Surat al-Ahzāb: 35]

## **19. Islam honors women and considers them the counterparts of men. It also mandated financial provision on the man if he is capable. The father is obligated to spend on his daughter, the son on his mother if he is adult and capable, and the husband on his wife.**

Islam considers women the counterparts of men. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Women are the counterparts of men." [Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi: 113] As an aspect of honoring women, Islam has made it obligatory on the son to provide for his mother if he is financially capable. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "The hand which gives is the upper hand. Start with those for whom you are responsible: your mother, your father, your sister, your brother, then your relatives in order of their closeness to you." [Narrated by Ahmad] The status of the parents [in Islam] will be discussed further in point number (29). Another aspect of honoring women in Islam is that the husband is obligated to provide for his wife if he is financially capable. Allah Almighty says: {Let a man of wealth spend from his wealth, and he whose provision is restricted - let him spend from what Allah has given him. Allah does not charge a soul except [according to] what He has given it. Allah will bring about, after hardship, ease.} [Surat at-Talāq: 7] A man asked the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him): "What is the right of the wife on her husband?" He replied: "You feed her when you eat and provide clothing for her when you do so for yourself, and neither slap her face nor speak to her in a foul language." [Narrated by Ahmad] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) explained some of the rights of wives on their husbands saying: "You [men] are responsible for providing them with food and clothing in a fitting manner." [Narrated by Muslim] The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) also said: "It is a sufficient sin for a man to neglect those whom he maintains." [Narrated by Ahmad] Al-Khattābi stated: "Whom he maintain' applies to anyone whose provision is obligatory on him. In other words, if a person wishes to spend money in charity, he should not do so with the money barely sufficient to cover the expenses of his family. Though one seeks the reward in giving out charity, but, in this case, it turns out to be a sin because he would drive his family into deprivation." Moreover, the father is required to

provide for his daughter, which is yet another aspect of honoring women in Islam. Allah Almighty says: {Mothers may breastfeed their children two complete years for whoever wishes to complete the nursing [period]. Upon the father is the mothers' provision and their clothing according to what is acceptable...} [Surat al-Baqarah: 233] In this verse, Allah mandated upon the father to feed and provide clothing for his newborn child according to what is acceptable. Allah Almighty says: {...And if they breastfeed for you, then give them their payment...} [Surat at-Talāq: 6] In this verse, Allah made the fare of breastfeeding the child obligatory on the father, which indicates that the father is required to provide for his child, male or female. In the following Hadīth, there is evidence that financial maintenance of the wife and her children is the responsibility of the father. 'Ā'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) reported: "Hind told the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) that Sufyān (her husband) is a stingy man and she needs to take from his money [to support herself and the children]. The Prophet answered: 'Take what is sufficient for you and your children according to what is acceptable.'" [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri] The honorable Prophet highlighted the virtue of providing for daughters and sisters. He (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Anyone who financially maintains two or three daughters or two or three sisters until they are married or until he dies will be with me like this - and he pointed with his middle and index fingers." [Al-Silsilah al-Sahīhah: 296]

## **20. Death is not the ultimate end but rather a transition from the abode of labor to the abode of recompense. Death befalls both the body and the soul such that the latter disengages from the body at the time of death, only to return to it following the resurrection on the Day of Judgment. The soul does not move to another body after death nor is it reincarnated in a different body.**

Death is not the ultimate end. Allah Almighty says: {Say: "The angel of death, who has been entrusted with you, will take you. Then to your Lord you will be returned."} [Surat as-Sajdah: 11] Death befalls both the body and the soul such that the latter disengages from the body at the time of death, only to return to it following the resurrection on the Day of Judgment. Allah Almighty says: {Allah takes the souls at the time of their death, and those that do not die [He takes] during their sleep. Then He keeps those for which He has decreed death and releases the others for a specified term. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.} [Surat az-Zumar: 42] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "When the soul is taken, the sight follows it." [Narrated by Muslim: 920] After death, the human being moves from the world of labor to the world of recompense. Allah Almighty says: {To Him is your return all together. [It is] the promise of Allah [which is] truth. Indeed, He begins the [process of] creation and then repeats it that He may reward those who believed and did righteous deeds, in justice. But those who disbelieved will have a drink of scalding water and a painful punishment for what they used to deny.} [Surat Yūnus: 4]

The soul does not move to another body after death nor is it reincarnated in a different body. The claim of reincarnation is not the product of either reason or perception. In addition, there is no single text reported from the prophets (peace be upon them) that attests to this doctrine.

## **21. Islam calls to believing in the major pillars of faith: belief in Allah and His angels, the**

**scriptures such as the Torah, the Gospel, the Psalms (before their distortion), and the Qur'an. It also calls to believing in all the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) and that Muhammad is their seal. Furthermore, Islam calls to believing in the Last Day because assuming this worldly life is the end, life and existence would have been absolutely purposeless. It also calls to believing in destiny and fate.**

Islam calls to believing in the major pillars of faith, to which all prophets and messengers called, and they are:

First: Having faith in Allah as a Lord, a Creator, a Provider, and a Disposer of the affairs of this universe. Allah alone deserves to be worshiped and the worship of any deity besides Him is invalid because every other deity is false; therefore, worship is suitable only for Him. This has been detailed earlier in point number (8).

Allah Almighty mentioned those major pillars in various verses in the Noble Qur'an. For example, Allah Almighty says: {The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying]: "We make no distinction between any of His messengers." And they say: "We hear and we obey. [We seek] Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the [final] destination."}[Surat al-Baqarah: 285] Allah Almighty also says: {Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves; [and who] establishes prayer and gives Zakah; [those who] fulfill their promise when they promise; and [those who] are patient in poverty and hardship and during battle. Those are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the pious.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 177] Allah Almighty invited us to believe in those pillars and made it clear that denying them leads one far astray. Allah Almighty says: {O you who believe, believe in Allah and His Messenger and the Book that He sent down upon His Messenger and the Scripture which He sent down before. And whoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day has certainly gone far astray.}[Surat an-Nisā': 136] 'Umar ibn al-Khattāb (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: "While we were sitting with the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) one day, a man wearing an extremely white garment and who had extremely black hair, and who did not have any traces of travel, came to us. None of us knew him. He sat with the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) so close that their knees touched. He placed his hands on his thighs and said: 'O Muhammad, tell me about Islam.' The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: 'Islam is to testify that there is no deity worthy of worship besides Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, establish prayer, give Zakah, fast Ramadān, and perform Hajj if you are able.' The man said: 'You have stated the truth.' We wondered at how he asked him and then declared him as having told the truth. Then, he said: 'Tell me about faith.' The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: 'It is to believe in Allah, His angels, Books, messengers, the Last Day, and fate with the good and bad aspects thereof.' The man said: 'You have stated the truth. Tell me about Ihsān (perfection).' The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: 'It is to worship Allah as if you see Him. If you cannot see Him, He Sees you.'" [Narrated by Muslim: 8] In

this Hadīth, Jibrīl (Gabriel) (peace be upon him) came to Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and asked him about the levels of religion, namely Islam, faith, and Ihsān. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) answered him and then informed his Companions that Gabriel (peace be upon him) came to teach them their religion. This is simply what Islam is; a divine message sent through Gabriel, conveyed to people by Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), and preserved by the Companions (may Allah be pleased with them), who conveyed it to people after the death of the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him).

Second: Having faith in the angels, who are part of the unseen world and whom Allah created in a specific form. He charged them with immense tasks, the greatest of which is delivering the divine messages to the prophets and messengers. The greatest among the angels is Gabriel (peace be upon him). One of the proofs showing how Gabriel delivered the revelation to the messengers (peace be upon them) is the saying of Allah Almighty: {He sends down the angels, with the inspiration of His command, upon whom He wills of His servants, [telling them]: "Warn that there is no deity except Me; so fear Me."} [Surat an-Nahl: 2] Allah Almighty also says: {And indeed, the Qur'an is the revelation of the Lord of the worlds. Brought down by the Trustworthy Spirit [Gabriel] Upon your heart, [O Muhammad] – that you may be of the warners. In a clear Arabic language. And indeed, it is [mentioned] in the scriptures of former peoples.} [Surat ash-Shu'arā': 192-196]

Third: Having faith in the divine scriptures such as the Torah, the Gospel, the Psalms - before they were distorted - and finally the Qur'an. Allah Almighty says: {O you who believe, believe in Allah and His Messenger and the Book that He sent down upon His Messenger and the Scripture which He sent down before. And whoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day has certainly gone far astray.} [Surat an-Nisā': 136] Allah Almighty also says: {He has sent down upon you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming what was before it. And He revealed the Torah and the Gospel earlier as guidance for people. And He revealed the Qur'an. Indeed, those who disbelieve in the verses of Allah will have a severe punishment, and Allah is All-Mighty, the Owner of Retribution.} [Surat Āl 'Imrān: 3-4] Allah Almighty also says: {The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying]: "We make no distinction between any of His messengers." And they say: "We hear and we obey. [We seek] Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the [final] destination."} [Surat al-Baqarah: 285] And Allah Almighty said: {Say: "We have believed in Allah and in what was revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Descendants, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims [submitting] to Him."} [Surat Āl 'Imrān: 84]

Fourth: Having faith in all the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them). One must believe in all of them and that they were sent by Allah to deliver to their respective nations the messages of Allah, His religion, and laws. Allah Almighty says: {Say, [O believers]: "We have believed in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Descendants and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him."} [Surat al-Baqarah: 136] Allah Almighty also says: {The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying]: "We make no distinction between any of His messengers." And they say: "We hear and we obey. [We seek] Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the [final] destination."} [Surat al-Baqarah: 285] Allah Almighty also says: {Say: "We have believed in Allah and in what was revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Descendants, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims [submitting] to Him."} [Surat Āl 'Imrān: 84]

One must also believe that Muhammad is the seal of all the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them). Allah Almighty says: {And [recall, O People of the Book], when Allah took the covenant of the prophets, [saying]: "Whatever I give you of the Scripture and wisdom and then there comes to you a messenger confirming what is with you, you [must] believe in him and support him." [Allah] said: "Have you acknowledged and taken upon that My commitment?" They said: "We have acknowledged it." He said: "Then bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses."} [Surat Āl 'Imrān: 81]

Islam mandates belief in all the prophets and messengers in general, including their seal, Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). Allah Almighty says: {Say: "O People of the Book, you are [standing] on nothing until you uphold [the law of] the Torah, the Gospel, and what has been revealed to you from your Lord" ...} [Surat al-Mā'idah: 68] Allah Almighty also says: {Say: "O People of the Book, come to a word that is equitable

between us and you - that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of Allah.” But if they turn away, then say: “Bear witness that we are Muslims [submitting to Him].”}[Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 64]Disbelieving in a single prophet entails disbelief in all the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them). Hence, Allah informed us of His judgment on the nation of Noah (peace be upon him):{The people of Noah denied the messengers.}[Surat ash-Shu‘arā’: 105]It is well-known that Noah (peace be upon him) had not been preceded by any messenger. However, when his people denied and rejected him, that entailed their denial and rejection of all the [succeeding] prophets and messengers because they share the same call and goal.Fifth: Having faith in the Last Day, namely the Day of Judgment. At the end of this worldly life, Allah will command the angel Isrāfīl (peace be upon him) to blow the trumpet that will put everyone Allah wills to death. Allah Almighty says:{And the trumpet will be blown, and whoever is in the heavens and whoever is on the earth will fall dead except whom Allah wills. Then it will be blown again, and at once they will be standing, looking on.}[Surat az-Zumar: 68]After everything in the heavens and the earth dies except those whom Allah wills, Allah will fold the heavens and the earth as indicated in His saying:{The Day when We will fold the heaven like the folding of a [written] sheet for the records. As We began the first creation, We will repeat it. [That is] a promise binding upon Us. Indeed, We will do it.}[Surat al-Anbiyā’: 104]Allah Almighty also says:{They have not appraised Allah with true appraisal, while the earth entirely will be [within] His grip on the Day of Judgment, and the heavens will be folded in His right hand. Exalted is He and high above what they associate with Him.}[Surat az-Zumar: 67]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:“Allah Almighty will fold the heavens on the Day of Judgment and then take them in His right hand and say: ‘I am the King. Where are the mighty ones? Where are the arrogant ones?’ Then, He will fold the earth and take it in His left (hand) and say: ‘I am the King. Where are the mighty ones? Where are the arrogant ones?’”[Narrated by Muslim]Allah will then command the angel to blow the trumpet once again, after which everyone will stand and look on. Allah Almighty says:{...Then it will be blown again, and at once they will be standing, looking on.}[Surat az-Zumar: 68]After Allah resurrects all creation, He will gather them for reckoning. Allah Almighty says:{On the Day the earth breaks away from them [and they emerge] rapidly; that is a gathering easy for Us.}[Surat Qāf: 44]Allah Almighty also says:{The Day they come forth nothing concerning them will be concealed from Allah. To whom belongs [all] sovereignty this Day? To Allah, the One, the Superb Vanquisher.}[Surat Ghāfir: 16]On this Day, Allah will hold all people accountable for their deeds. He will claim the right of the oppressed from their oppressors, and every human being will be recompensed according to his own deeds. Allah Almighty says:{This Day every soul will be recompensed for what it earned. No injustice today! Indeed, Allah is swift in account.}[Surat Ghāfir: 17]Allah Almighty also says:{Indeed, Allah does not do injustice, [even] as much as an atom’s weight; while if there is a good deed, He multiplies it and gives from Himself a great reward.}[Surat an-Nisā’: 40]Allah Almighty also says: {So whoever does an atom’s weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom’s weight of evil will see it.}[Surat az-Zalzalah: 7-8]Allah Almighty also says:{And We place the scales of justice for the Day of Judgment, so no soul will be treated unjustly at all. And if there is [even] the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it forth. And sufficient are We as accountant.}[Surat al-Anbiyā’: 47]After resurrection and reckoning, recompense ensues; good deeds will be rewarded with eternal unceasing bliss, whereas evil deeds and disbelief will lead its doer to punishment. Allah Almighty says:[All] sovereignty that Day is for Allah; He will judge between them. So they who believed and did righteous deeds will be in the Gardens of Pleasure. And they who disbelieved and denied Our signs - for those there will be a humiliating punishment.}[Surat al-Hajj: 56-57]It is acknowledged that had this worldly life been the final destination, the whole notion of existence and life itself would have been purely futile. Allah Almighty says:{Then did you think that We created you uselessly and that to Us you would not be returned?}[Surat al-Mu‘minūn: 115]Sixth: Having faith in destiny and fate. One must believe that Allah knows everything: the past, the present, and the future of this universe. He recorded all of this before the creation of the heavens and the earth. Allah Almighty says:{And with Him are the keys of the unseen; none knows them except Him. And He knows what is on the land and in the sea. Not a leaf falls but that He knows it. And no grain is there within the darknesses of the earth and no moist or dry [thing] but that it is [written] in a clear record.}[Surat al-An‘ām: 59]In addition, one must believe that Allah has encompassed all things in knowledge. Allah Almighty says:{It is Allah Who has created seven heavens and of the earth, the like of them. [His] command descends among them so you may know that Allah is over all things competent and that Allah has encompassed all things in knowledge.}[Surat at-Talāq: 12]Nothing happens in this universe without His will, as He created it and facilitated its occurrence. Allah Almighty says:{He to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and Who has not

taken a son and has not had a partner in dominion and has created each thing and determined it with [precise] determination.}[Surat al-Furqān: 2]His actions are infused with utmost wisdom that falls beyond people's knowledge. Allah Almighty says:{Extensive wisdom - but warning does not avail [them].}[Surat al-Qamr: 5]Allah Almighty also says:{And it is He Who begins creation; then He repeats it, and that is [even] easier for Him. To Him belongs the highest attribute in the heavens and earth. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.}[Surat ar-Rūm: 27]Allah Almighty described Himself with wisdom and named Himself the All-Wise. Allah Almighty says:{Allah bears witness that there is no deity except Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge - [that He is] maintaining [creation] in justice. There is no deity except Him, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.}[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 18]Allah Almighty reported that Jesus (peace be upon him) will implore Him on the Day of Judgment saying:{If You should punish them - indeed they are Your servants; but if You forgive them - indeed it is You Who is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.}[Surat al-Mā'idah: 118]Allah said to Moses (peace be upon him) when He called upon him at the Mount Tūr:{O Moses, indeed it is I - Allah, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.}[Surat an-Naml: 9]Allah Almighty described the glorious Qur'an with wisdom:{Alif, Lām, Ra. [This is] a Book whose verses are perfected and then presented in detail from [One Who is] All-Wise and All-Aware.}[Surat Hūd: 1]Allah Almighty also says:{That is from what your Lord has revealed to you, [O Muhammad], of wisdom. And, [O mankind], do not make [as equal] with Allah another deity, lest you be thrown into Hell, blamed and banished.}[Surat al-Isrā': 39]

## **22. All the prophets (peace be upon them) are infallible in what they convey from Allah and they are protected against committing anything that may contradict reason or violate upright morals. The prophets are tasked with conveying the commands of Allah to His servants. They possess nothing of the qualities of Lordship or deity. Instead, they are merely humans to whom Allah Almighty sent His revelation.**

All the prophets (peace be upon them) are infallible in what they convey from Allah because He chooses the best of His creation to convey His messages. Allah Almighty says:{Allah chooses from the angels messengers and from the people. Indeed, Allah is All-Hearing and All-Seeing.}[Surat al-Hajj: 75]And Allah Almighty said:{Indeed, Allah chose Adam and Noah and the family of Abraham and the family of 'Imrān over the worlds.}[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 33]And Allah Almighty said:{[Allah] said: "O Moses, I have chosen you over the people with My messages and My words [to you]. So take what I have given you and be among the grateful.}"[Surat al-A'rāf: 144]The Messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them) knew that the inspiration they received was the divine revelation. They watched the angels delivering the revelation. Allah Almighty says:{[He is] Knower of the unseen, and He does not disclose His [knowledge of the] unseen to anyone.Except whom He has approved of messengers, and indeed, He sends before him [i.e. each messenger] and behind him observersThat He may know that they have conveyed the messages of their Lord; and He has encompassed whatever is with them and has enumerated all things in number.}[Surat al-Jinn: 26-28]Allah commanded them to convey His messages as He says:{O Messenger, announce that which has been revealed to you from your Lord, and if you do not, then you have not conveyed His message. And Allah will protect you from the people. Indeed, Allah does not guide the disbelieving people.}[Surat al-Mā'idah: 67]And Allah Almighty said:{[We sent] messengers as bringers of good tidings and warners so that mankind will have no argument against Allah after the messengers. And ever is Allah All-Mighty and All-Wise.}[Surat an-Nisā': 165]The

messengers (peace be upon them) fear Allah the most so they neither add nor remove anything from His messages. Allah Almighty says:{And if he [i.e. Muhammad] had made up about Us some false sayings,We would have seized him by the right hand;Then We would have cut from him the aorta.And none of you could have withheld Us from (punishing) him.}[Surat al-Hāqqah: 44-47]Ibn Kathīr (may Allah have mercy upon him) commented:“Had Muhammad (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) been as they claim: an impostor who would add or remove anything from the message or forge anything and attribute it to Allah - which he was not - We [i.e. Allah] would have hastened his punishment. Thus, Allah says: {We would have seized him by the right hand}. It was said that it means We would take retribution from him by the right hand because it has a relatively more power. It was also said that it means we would seize him by his right hand.”And Allah Almighty said:{And [beware the Day] when Allah will say: “O Jesus, Son of Mary, did you say to the people: ‘Take me and my mother as deities besides Allah?’” He will say: “Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right. If I had said it, You would have known it. You know what is within myself, and I do not know what is within Yourself. Indeed, it is You Who is Knower of the unseen. I said not to them except what You commanded me - to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. And I was a witness over them as long as I was among them; but when You took me up, You were the Observer over them, and You are, over all things, Witness.}[Surat al-Mā’idah: 116-117]Out of Allah’s favor upon His prophets and messengers (peace be upon them), He grants them steadfastness during their mission. Allah Almighty says:{...He said: “Indeed, I call Allah to witness, and witness yourselves that I am free from whatever you associate with Allah other than Him. So plot against me all together; then do not give me respite.Indeed, I have relied upon Allah, my Lord and your Lord. There is no creature but that He holds it by its forelock [i.e. controls it]. Indeed, my Lord is on a path [that is] straight.”}[Surat Hūd: 54-56]Allah Almighty also says:{And indeed, they were about to tempt you away from that which We revealed to you in order to [make] you invent about Us something else; and then they would have taken you as a friend.And if We had not granted you steadfastness, you would have almost inclined to them a little.Then [if you had], We would have made you taste double [punishment in] life and double [after] death. Then you would not find for yourself against Us a helper.}[Surat al-Isrā’: 73-75]The above verses prove that the Qur’an is a revelation from the Lord of the worlds because had it been produced by Prophet Muhammad (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him), he would not have inserted such an address to himself.Allah Almighty protects His messengers from people as He says:{O Messenger, announce that which has been revealed to you from your Lord, and if you do not, then you have not conveyed His message. And Allah will protect you from the people. Indeed, Allah does not guide the disbelieving people.}[Surat al-Mā’idah: 67]Allah Almighty also says:{And recite to them the news of Noah, when he said to his people: “O my people, if my residence and my reminding of the signs of Allah has become burdensome upon you - then I have relied upon Allah. So resolve upon your plan and [call upon] your associates. Then let not your plan be obscure to you. Then carry it out upon me and do not give me respite.}[Surat Yūnus: 71]Allah Almighty reported the statement of Moses (peace be upon him):{They said: “Our Lord, indeed we are afraid that he will hasten [punishment] against us or that he will transgress.” [Allah] said: “Fear not. Indeed, I am with you both; I hear and I see.”}[Surat Taha: 45-46]Allah Almighty made it clear that He protects His prophets (peace be upon them) against their enemies who cannot harm them a bit. Allah Almighty informed that He preserves His revelation against addition and omission. Allah Almighty says:{Indeed, it is We Who sent down the Qur’an and indeed, We will be its guardian.}[Surat al-Hijr: 9]The prophets (peace be upon them) are protected against making any action in conflict with reason or morals. Allah Almighty expresses His praise of Prophet Muhammad’s morals saying:{And indeed, you are of a great moral character.}[Surat al-Qalam: 4]Allah Almighty says about him:{And your companion is not [at all] mad.}[Surat at-Takwīr: 22]The purpose of this protection is to enable the prophets to deliver the message in the best manner possible. They are tasked with conveying the commands of Allah to His servants. They possess no attribute of Lordship or deity, rather, they are like any other human except that they receive the revelation of Allah. Allah Almighty says:{Their Messengers said to them: “Indeed we are only human beings like yourselves, but Allah bestows His favor on those of His servants whom He wills. It does not lie in our power to produce any authority except by the leave of Allah. It is in Allah that the believers should put their trust.”}[Surat Ibrāhim: 11]Allah commanded His Prophet Muhammad (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) to say to his people:{Say: “I am only a man like you, to whom has been revealed that your god is one God. So whoever would hope for the meeting with his Lord - let him do righteous work and not associate in the worship of his Lord anyone.”}[Surat al-Kahf: 110]

**23. Islam calls to dedicating the main pillars of worship to Allah alone such as the prayer that involves standing, bowing, prostrating, remembering and praising Allah, and supplicating Him. The prayer is observed five times a day and it erases all differences as the rich and the poor, the boss and the employee all stand in one row in prayer. Another main act of worship is Zakah that involves paying a small portion of money in accordance with the conditions and the standard measures designated by Allah. The rich are obligated to pay it to the poor among others and it is payable once a year. The third pillar is fasting that involves refraining from all acts that invalidate it throughout the day in Ramadān. It fosters determination and patience in the soul. Lastly, observing Hajj by heading towards the House of Allah in Makkah once in a lifetime for whoever is capable. In Hajj, everyone is equal in standing before Allah Almighty as it erases all differences and affiliations.**

Islam calls to worshiping Allah via the major acts of worship as well as other acts of worship. Allah mandated these major acts of worship on all prophets and messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them). They are as follows:

First: Prayer: Allah ordained prayer on all Muslims as well as on all the prophets and messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them). He commanded His Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) to purify His House for those who perform Tawāf (circumambulation of the Ka'bah) and those who are praying, bowing, and prostrating. Allah Almighty says: {And [mention] when We made the House a place of return for the people and [a place of] security. And take, [O believers], from the standing place of Abraham a place of prayer. And We charged Abraham and Ishmael, [saying]: "Purify My House for those who perform Tawāf and those who are staying [there] for worship and those who bow and prostrate [in prayer]."} [Surat al-Baqarah: 125] Allah mandated it on Moses the first time He called upon him. Allah Almighty says: {Indeed, I am your Lord, so remove your sandals. Indeed, you are in the

blessed valley of Tuwa. And I have chosen you, so listen to what is revealed [to you]. Indeed, I am Allah. There is no deity except Me, so worship Me and establish prayer for My remembrance.}[Surat Taha: 12-14]The Messiah, Jesus (peace be upon him), informed that Allah commanded him to pray and pay Zakah as mentioned in Allah's Almighty saying:{And He has made me blessed wherever I am and has enjoined upon me prayer and Zakah as long as I remain alive.}[Surat Maryam: 31]In Islam, prayer consists of standing, bowing, prostrating, remembering Allah, and praising Him. It is observed five times a day. Allah Almighty says:{Maintain with care the [obligatory] prayers and [in particular] the middle prayer and stand before Allah, devoutly obedient.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 238]Allah Almighty also says:{Establish prayer at the decline of the sun [from its meridian] until the darkness of the night and [also] the Qur'an of dawn. Indeed, the recitation of dawn is ever witnessed.}[Surat al-Isrā': 78]The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) also said:"As for bowing, glorify the Lord therein, and as for prostration, strive hard in supplication for it is more likely that you will receive an answer."[Narrated by Muslim]Second: Zakah: Allah obligated the payment of Zakah on Muslims as well as on all the previous prophets and messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them). It is a small amount of money to be given out in accordance with designated measures and conditions set by Allah. It is obligatory to be paid by the rich to the poor and other categories and it is paid once a year. Allah Almighty says:{Take, [O, Muhammad], from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them increase, and invoke [Allah's blessings] upon them. Indeed, your invocations are reassurance for them. And Allah is All-Hearing and All-Knowing.}[Surat at-Tawbah: 103]When the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) dispatched Mu'adh (may Allah be pleased with him) to Yemen, he instructed him saying:"You will go to people from the People of the Book. Invite them to the testimony that there is no god worthy of worship but Allah and that I am the Messenger of Allah. If they obey you in that, tell them that Allah Almighty made obligatory on them five prayers every day and night. If they obey you in that, tell them that Allah made obligatory on them Zakah to be taken from the rich among them and given back to the poor among them. If they obey you in that, do not ever approach their precious properties and beware of the supplication of an oppressed person, for there is no barrier between it and Allah Almighty."[Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi: 625]Third: Fasting: Allah ordained fasting on Muslims as well as on all the previous prophets and messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them). Allah Almighty says:{O you who believe, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 183]Fasting is to abstain from what would break one's fast during the day throughout the month of Ramadān. Fasting fosters determination and patience in one's soul. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"Allah Almighty says: 'It is Me Who shall give reward for fasting as it is done for My sake alone, for one abandons his lust and food and drink for My sake. Fasting is, indeed, a shield. There are two moments of joy for the fasting person: when he breaks his fast and when he meets his Lord.'"[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 7492]Fourth: Hajj: Allah ordained Hajj on Muslims as well as on all the previous prophets and messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them). He commanded His Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) to call out for Hajj. Allah Almighty says:{And proclaim to the people the Hajj [pilgrimage]; they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant pass.}[Surat al-Hajj: 27]Allah commanded him to purify His ancient House for the pilgrims, as in His Almighty saying:{And [mention, O Muhammad], when We designated for Abraham the site of the House, [saying]: "Do not associate anything with Me and purify My House for those who perform Tawāf and those who are staying [there] for worship and those who bow and prostrate [in prayer]."}[Surat al-Hajj: 26]Hajj is to head towards the House of Allah located in Makkah to perform certain rituals once in a lifetime. It is to be performed by those capable physically and financially. Allah Almighty says:{...And [due] to Allah from the people is a pilgrimage to the House - for whoever is able to find thereto a way. But whoever disbelieves - then indeed, Allah is free from need of the worlds.}[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 97]In Hajj, the Muslim pilgrims gather in a single location and sincerely worship the Creator, Glorified is He. All pilgrims perform the rites of Hajj in a similar manner, thus removing all the differences related to the environment, culture, and living standard.

**24. One of the most unique features of the acts of worship in Islam is that Allah Almighty legislated their manner of performance, times,**

**and conditions and His Messenger (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) conveyed them, thus leaving no room for any human interference in the process, neither by increase nor decrease. All the prophets (peace be upon them) called to those major acts of worship.**

One of the most unique features of the acts of worship in Islam is that Allah Almighty legislated their manner of performance, times, and conditions and His Messenger (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) conveyed them, thus leaving no room for any human interference in the process, neither by increase nor decrease. Allah Almighty says: {...This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as a religion...}[Surat al-Mā'idah: 3]Allah Almighty also says: {So adhere to that which is revealed to you. Indeed, you are on a straight path.}[Surat az-Zukhruf: 43]Allah Almighty says about prayer: {And when you have completed the prayer, remember Allah standing, sitting, or [lying] on your sides. But when you become secure, re-establish [regular] prayer. Indeed, prayer has been decreed upon the believers a decree of specified times.}[Surat an-Nisā': 103]Allah Almighty says about the categories of people deserving Zakah: {Zakah expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those employed to collect [Zakah] and for bringing hearts together [for Islam] and for freeing captives [or slaves] and for those in debt and for the cause of Allah and for the [stranded] traveler - an obligation [imposed] by Allah. And Allah is All-Knowing and All-Wise.}[Surat at-Tawbah: 60]Allah Almighty says about fasting: {The month of Ramadān [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 185]Allah Almighty says about Hajj: {Hajj is [during] well-known months, so whoever has made Hajj obligatory upon himself therein [by entering the state of Ihrām], there is [to be for him] no sexual relations and no disobedience and no disputing during Hajj. And whatever good you do - Allah knows it. And take provisions, but indeed, the best provision is fear of Allah. And fear Me, O you of understanding.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 197]All of those great acts of worship were advocated and preached by all the prophets (peace be upon them).

**25. The Messenger of Islam is Muhammad ibn 'Abdullah, a descendant of Ismā'il (Ishmael), son of Abraham (peace be upon them). He was born in 571 AD in Makkah where his mission as a prophet began. He migrated to Madinah and he had never participated in any polytheistic act with his people though he joined them in honorable acts only. He enjoyed an upright moral character before he was tasked with the**

**mission, which earned him the title of the Trustworthy. Allah tasked him with the mission at the age of forty and supported him with great miracles, the greatest of which is the Noble Qur'an that is considered the most sublime sign of the prophets and the only remaining sign until today. After Allah completed the religion and the Messenger (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) conveyed it fully, he died at the age of sixty-three and was buried in Madinah. He (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is the seal of the prophets and messengers. Allah sent him with guidance and the religion of truth to bring people out of the darkness of paganism, disbelief, and ignorance to the light of Tawhīd (monotheism) and faith. Allah bears witness that He sent him to invite people to Allah by His permission.**

The Messenger of Islam is Muhammad ibn 'Abdullah, a descendant of Ishmael, son of Abraham (peace be upon them). He was born in 571 AD in Makkah where his mission as a prophet began. He migrated to Madinah and his people used to call him "the trustworthy". He had never participated in any polytheistic act with his people though he joined them in honorable acts only. He enjoyed an upright moral character before he was tasked with the mission. Allah Almighty described him saying: {And indeed you are of a great moral character.} [Surat al-Qalam: 4] Allah tasked him with the mission at the age of forty and supported him with great miracles, the greatest of which is the Noble Qur'an. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Every prophet was given miracles because of which people believed, but what I have been given is divine revelation which Allah revealed to me. So, I hope that my followers will outnumber the followers of the other prophets on the Day of Judgment." [Narrated by Al-Bukhārī] The glorious Qur'an is the revelation of Allah to His Messenger (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). Allah described it saying: {This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for the pious.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 2] Allah Almighty also says about it: {Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an? If it had been from [any] other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction.} [Surat an-Nisā': 82] Allah challenged both the humans and jinn to produce a similar version of the Qur'an as indicated in Allah's saying: {Say: "If mankind and the jinn gathered in order to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like of it, even if they were to each other assistants."} [Surat al-Isrā': 88] He even reduced the challenge to just ten surahs saying: {Or do

they say: "He invented it"? Say: "Then bring ten surahs like it that have been invented and call upon [for assistance] whomever you can besides Allah, if you should be truthful.")[Surat Hūd: 13]The challenge was reduced yet once again to just a single surah, as Allah Almighty said:{And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down upon Our Servant [Muhammad], then produce a surah the like thereof and call upon your witnesses other than Allah, if you should be truthful.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 23]

The glorious Qur'an is the revelation of Allah to His Messenger (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). Allah described it saying:

{This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for the pious.}

[Surat al-Baqarah: 2]

Allah Almighty also says about it:

{Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an? If it had been from [any] other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 82]

Allah challenged both the humans and jinn to produce a similar version of the Qur'an as indicated in Allah's saying:

{Say: "If mankind and the jinn gathered in order to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like of it, even if they were to each other assistants."}

[Surat al-Isrā': 88]

He even reduced the challenge to just ten surahs saying:

{Or do they say: "He invented it"? Say: "Then bring ten surahs like it that have been invented and call upon [for assistance] whomever you can besides Allah, if you should be truthful."}

[Surat Hūd: 13]

The challenge was reduced yet once again to just a single surah, as Allah Almighty said:

{And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down upon Our Servant [Muhammad], then produce a surah the like thereof and call upon your witnesses other than Allah, if you should be truthful.}

[Surat al-Baqarah: 23]

The glorious Qur'an is the only remaining sign of the prophets' signs until today. After Allah completed the religion and the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) conveyed it fully, he died at the age of sixty-three and was buried in Madinah.

Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is the seal of the prophets and messengers. Allah Almighty says:{Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And Allah is All-Knowing of everything.}[Surat al-Ahzāb: 40]Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"My similitude in comparison with the other prophets before me is that of a man who has built a house nicely and beautifully, except for the place of one brick in a corner. The people go about it and wonder at its beauty, but say: 'Would that this brick be put in its place!' So I am that brick, and I am the last of the prophets."[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri]In the Gospel, the Messiah (peace be upon him) foretold the good news of the emergence of Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him):"Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?" In today's Torah, there is a statement made by Allah to Moses (peace be upon him) saying: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord."Allah sent Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) with guidance and the religion of the truth. He attested to him that he is committed to the truth and that He sent Him as a caller to Him by His permission. Allah Almighty says:{But Allah bears witness to that which He has revealed to you. He has sent it down with His

knowledge, and the angels bear witness [as well]. And sufficient is Allah as Witness.}[Surat an-Nisā': 166]Allah Almighty also says:{It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth to manifest it over all religion. And sufficient is Allah as Witness.}[Surat al-Fat-h: 28]Allah sent him with guidance to bring people out of the darkness of paganism, disbelief, and ignorance to the light of Tawhīd (monotheism) and faith. Allah Almighty says:{By which Allah guides those who pursue His pleasure to the ways of peace and brings them out from darkneses into the light, by His permission, and guides them to a straight path.}[Surat al-Mā'idah: 16]Allah Almighty also says:{Alif, Lām, Ra. [This is] a Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], that you might bring mankind out of darkneses into the light by permission of their Lord - to the path of the All-Mighty, the Praiseworthy -}[Surat Ibrāhim: 1]

{Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And Allah is All-Knowing of everything.}

[Surat al-Ahzāb: 40]

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"My similitude in comparison with the other prophets before me is that of a man who has built a house nicely and beautifully, except for the place of one brick in a corner. The people go about it and wonder at its beauty, but say: 'Would that this brick be put in its place!' So I am that brick, and I am the last of the prophets."

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri]

In the Gospel, the Messiah (peace be upon him) foretold the good news of the emergence of Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him):

"Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?" In today's Torah, there is a statement made by Allah to Moses (peace be upon him) saying: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord."

Allah sent Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) with guidance and the religion of the truth. He attested to him that he is committed to the truth and that He sent Him as a caller to Him by His permission. Allah Almighty says:

{But Allah bears witness to that which He has revealed to you. He has sent it down with His knowledge, and the angels bear witness [as well]. And sufficient is Allah as Witness.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 166]

Allah Almighty also says:

{It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth to manifest it over all religion. And sufficient is Allah as Witness.}

[Surat al-Fat-h: 28]

Allah sent him with guidance to bring people out of the darkness of paganism, disbelief, and ignorance to the light of Tawhīd (monotheism) and faith. Allah Almighty says:

{By which Allah guides those who pursue His pleasure to the ways of peace and brings them out from darkneses into the light, by His permission, and guides them to a straight path.}

[Surat al-Mā'idah: 16]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Alif, Lām, Ra. [This is] a Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], that you might bring mankind out of darkneses into the light by permission of their Lord - to the path of the All-Mighty, the Praiseworthy -}

[Surat Ibrāhim: 1]

## **26. The Shariah of Islam brought by Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is the seal of the divine messages and laws. It is the Shariah of perfection and reforming people's religion and worldly affairs. Its priority is protecting people's religions, lives, properties, minds, and offspring. It abrogates all the previous laws just as all the messages beforehand abrogated one another.**

The Shariah of Islam brought by Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is the seal of the divine messages and laws. Allah perfected the religion by this message and completed the favor on people by the mission of Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). Allah Almighty says:{...This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion...}[Surat al-Mā'idah: 3]The Shariah of Islam is the epitome of perfection and it entails reforming people's lives and religion because it encompasses all the good in the previous divine messages but outclasses them in perfection and completion. Allah Almighty says:{Indeed, this Qur'an guides to that which is most suitable and gives good tidings to the believers who do righteous deeds that they will have a great reward.}[Surat al-Isrā': 9]The Shariah of Islam removes the shackles that were present in the previous nations. Allah Almighty says:{Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them. So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him - it is those who will be the successful.}[Surat al-A'rāf: 157]The Shariah of Islam abrogates all the previous scriptural laws as Allah Almighty said:{And We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it. So judge between them by what Allah has revealed and do not follow their inclinations away from what has come to you of the truth. To each of you We prescribed a law and a method. Had Allah willed, He would have made you one nation [united in religion], but [He intended] to test you in what He has given you; so race to [all that is] good. To Allah is your return all together, and He will [then] inform you concerning that over which you used to differ.}[Surat al-Mā'idah: 48]The Noble Qur'an, inclusive of Shariah, confirms, judges, and abrogates all the previous scriptures.

{...This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion...}

[Surat al-Mā'idah: 3]

The Shariah of Islam is the epitome of perfection and it entails reforming people's lives and religion because it encompasses all the good in the previous divine messages but outclasses them in perfection and completion. Allah Almighty says:

{Indeed, this Qur'an guides to that which is most suitable and gives good tidings to the believers who do righteous deeds that they will have a great reward.}

[Surat al-Isrā': 9]

The Shariah of Islam removes the shackles that were present in the previous nations. Allah Almighty says:

{Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them. So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him - it is those who will be the successful.}

[Surat al-A'rāf: 157]

The Shariah of Islam abrogates all the previous scriptural laws as Allah Almighty said:

{And We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it. So judge between them by what Allah has revealed and do not follow their inclinations away from what has come to you of the truth. To each of you We prescribed a law and a method. Had Allah willed, He would have made you one nation [united in religion], but [He intended] to test you in what He has given you; so race to [all that is] good. To Allah is your return all together, and He will [then] inform you concerning that over which you used to differ.}

[Surat al-Mā'idah: 48]

The Noble Qur'an, inclusive of Shariah, confirms, judges, and abrogates all the previous scriptures.

## **27. Allah Almighty accepts no other religion but Islam that was brought by Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and whoever embraces a different religion, it will not be accepted from him.**

After the mission of Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), Allah Almighty accepts no other religion but Islam, and anyone who embraces a different religion, it will not be accepted from him. Allah Almighty says: {And whoever desires other than Islam as religion - never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers.} [Surat Āl 'Imrān: 85] Allah Almighty also says: {Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam. And those who were given the Scripture did not differ except after knowledge had come to them - out of jealous animosity between themselves. And whoever disbelieves in the verses of Allah, then indeed, Allah is swift in [taking] account.} [Surat Āl 'Imrān: 19] Islam is the religion of Abraham (peace be upon him). Allah Almighty says: {And who would be averse to the religion of Abraham except one who makes a fool of himself. And We had chosen him in this world, and indeed he, in the Hereafter, will be among the righteous.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 130] Allah Almighty also says: {And who is better in religion than one who submits himself to Allah while being a doer of good and follows the religion of Abraham, inclining toward truth? And Allah took Abraham as an intimate friend.} [Surat an-Nisā': 125] Allah commanded His Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) to say: {Say: "Indeed, my Lord has guided me to a straight path - a correct religion - the way of Abraham, inclining toward truth. And he was not among those who associated others with Allah."} [Surat al-An'ām: 161]

Allah Almighty says:

{And whoever desires other than Islam as religion - never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers.}

[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 85]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam. And those who were given the Scripture did not differ except after knowledge had come to them - out of jealous animosity between themselves. And whoever disbelieves in the verses of Allah , then indeed, Allah is swift in [taking] account.}

[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 19]

Islam is the religion of Abraham (peace be upon him). Allah Almighty says:

{And who would be averse to the religion of Abraham except one who makes a fool of himself. And We had chosen him in this world, and indeed he, in the Hereafter, will be among the righteous.}

[Surat al-Baqarah: 130]

Allah Almighty also says:

{And who is better in religion than one who submits himself to Allah while being a doer of good and follows the religion of Abraham, inclining toward truth? And Allah took Abraham as an intimate friend.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 125]

Allah commanded His Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) to say:

{Say: "Indeed, my Lord has guided me to a straight path - a correct religion - the way of Abraham, inclining toward truth. And he was not among those who associated others with Allah."}

[Surat al-An'ām: 161]

**28. The Noble Qur'an is the Book that Allah revealed to His Messenger Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). It is the speech of Allah, Lord of the worlds. He challenged with it both the humans and jinn to produce something similar or even a chapter thereof, which is a persisting challenge until today. The Noble Qur'an answers important questions puzzling millions of people. The Noble Qur'an is preserved in the Arabic language in the same format it was first revealed; no letter is omitted from it and it is printed and circulated. It is a great and miraculous Book worthy of reading or reading the translation of its meanings. Likewise, the Sunnah, teachings, and biography of the**

**Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) are also preserved and reported through a chain of reliable narrators. It is also printed in the Arabic language spoken by the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and translated to many other languages. Both the Noble Qur'an and Sunnah of the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) constitute together the sole source of the rulings and legislations of Islam. Islam cannot be taken from the conduct of its adopters, rather it should be taken from the divine revelation; namely the Great Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunnah.**

The Noble Qur'an is the Book that Allah revealed to the Arab Messenger Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). It is the speech of Allah, Lord of the worlds. Allah Almighty says: {And indeed, the Qur'an is the revelation of the Lord of the worlds. Brought down [in revelation] by the Trustworthy Spirit [Gabriel] Upon your heart, [O Muhammad] – that you may be of the warners. In a clear Arabic language.} [Surat ash-Shu'arā': 192-195] Allah Almighty also says: {And indeed, [O Muhammad], you receive the Qur'an from One Wise and Knowing.} [Surat an-Naml: 6] This Noble Qur'an is a revelation from Allah. It confirms the previous divine scriptures. Allah Almighty says: {And it was not [possible] for this Qur'an to be produced by other than Allah, but [it is] a confirmation of what was before it and a detailed explanation of the [former] Scripture, about which there is no doubt, from the Lord of the worlds.} [Surat Yūnus: 37] The glorious Qur'an elucidates most of the religious issues upon which the Jews and Christians disagreed. Allah Almighty says: {Indeed, this Qur'an relates to the Children of Israel most of that over which they disagree.} [Surat an-Naml: 76] The glorious Qur'an contains substantial proofs offering an irrefutable argument against all people as far as learning about the facts related to Allah Almighty, His religion, and recompense are concerned. Allah Almighty says: {And We have certainly presented for the people in this Qur'an from every [kind of] example - that they might remember.} [Surat az-Zumar: 27] And Allah Almighty said: {...And We have sent down to you the Book as clarification for all things and as guidance and mercy and good tidings for the Muslims.} [Surat an-Nahl: 89] The Noble Qur'an answers many critical questions that puzzle millions of people. The Noble Qur'an clarifies, for instance, how Allah created the heavens and the earth. Allah Almighty says: {Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and We separated them and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe?} [Surat al-Anbiyā': 30] It also clarifies how Allah created the human being. Allah Almighty says: {O People, if you should be in doubt about the Resurrection, then [consider that] indeed, We created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then from a clinging clot, and then from a lump of flesh, formed and unformed - that We may show you. And We settle in the wombs whom We will for a specified term, then We bring you out as a child, and then [We develop you] that you may reach your [time of] maturity. And among you is he who is taken in [early] death, and among you is he who is returned to the most decrepit [old] age so that he knows, after [once having] knowledge, nothing. And you see the earth barren, but when We

send down upon it rain, it quivers and swells and grows [something] of every beautiful kind.}[Surat al-Hajj: 5] It also explains man's destiny and the reward of the doer of good and the doer of evil in the Hereafter. I have provided the relevant proofs on this issue in point number (20). Moreover, it explains how this existence has been produced, and whether that was done by mere chance or for a noble purpose. Allah Almighty says: {Do they not look into the realm of the heavens and the earth and everything that Allah has created and [think] that perhaps their appointed time has come near? So in what statement hereafter will they believe?}[Surat al-A'raf: 185] And Allah Almighty said: {Then did you think that We created you uselessly and that to Us you would not be returned?}[Surat al-Mu'minun: 115] The glorious Qur'an is still preserved in the language it was first revealed in. Allah Almighty says: {Indeed, it is We Who sent down the Qur'an and indeed, We will be its guardian.}[Surat al-Hijr: 9] There has not been any omission of even a single letter. It is impossible to find any contradiction, deficiency, or change in the Qur'an. Allah Almighty says: {Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an? If it had been from [any] other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction.}[Surat an-Nisā': 82] It is printed and circulated. It is a great and miraculous Book worthy of reading, listening to, or reading the translation of its meanings. Likewise, the Sunnah, teachings, and biography of Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) are also preserved and reported through a chain of reliable narrators. It is also printed in the Arabic language spoken by the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and translated to many other languages. Both the Noble Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) constitute together the sole source of the rulings and legislations of Islam. Islam cannot be taken from the conduct of its adopters, rather it should be taken from the divine revelation; namely the Great Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunnah. Allah Almighty says about the Qur'an: {Indeed, those who disbelieve in the message after it has come to them. And indeed, it is a mighty Book. Falsehood cannot approach it from before it or from behind it; [it is] a revelation from a [Lord who is] All-Wise and Praiseworthy.}[Surat Fussilat: 41-42] Allah Almighty says about the Prophetic Sunnah, which is also a revelation from Him: {...And whatever the Messenger has given you - take; and what he has forbidden you - refrain from. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty.}[Surat al-Hashr: 7]

{And indeed, the Qur'an is the revelation of the Lord of the worlds.

Brought down [in revelation] by the Trustworthy Spirit [Gabriel]

Upon your heart, [O Muhammad] – that you may be of the warners.

In a clear Arabic language.}

[Surat ash-Shu'arā': 192-195]

Allah Almighty also says:

{And indeed, [O Muhammad], you receive the Qur'an from One Wise and Knowing.}

[Surat an-Naml: 6]

This Noble Qur'an is a revelation from Allah. It confirms the previous divine scriptures. Allah Almighty says:

{And it was not [possible] for this Qur'an to be produced by other than Allah, but [it is] a confirmation of what was before it and a detailed explanation of the [former] Scripture, about which there is no doubt, from the Lord of the worlds.}

[Surat Yūnus: 37]

The glorious Qur'an elucidates most of the religious issues upon which the Jews and Christians disagreed. Allah Almighty says:

{Indeed, this Qur'an relates to the Children of Israel most of that over which they disagree.}

[Surat an-Naml: 76]

The glorious Qur'an contains substantial proofs offering an irrefutable argument against all people as far as learning about the facts related to Allah Almighty, His religion, and recompense are concerned. Allah Almighty says:

{And We have certainly presented for the people in this Qur'an from every [kind of] example - that they might remember.}

[Surat az-Zumar: 27]

And Allah Almighty said:

{...And We have sent down to you the Book as clarification for all things and as guidance and mercy and good tidings for the Muslims.}

[Surat an-Nahl: 89]

The Noble Qur'an answers many critical questions that puzzle millions of people. The Noble Qur'an clarifies, for instance, how Allah created the heavens and the earth. Allah Almighty says:

{Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and We separated them and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe?}

[Surat al-Anbiyā': 30]

It also clarifies how Allah created the human being. Allah Almighty says:

{O People, if you should be in doubt about the Resurrection, then [consider that] indeed, We created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then from a clinging clot, and then from a lump of flesh, formed and unformed - that We may show you. And We settle in the wombs whom We will for a specified term, then We bring you out as a child, and then [We develop you] that you may reach your [time of] maturity. And among you is he who is taken in [early] death, and among you is he who is returned to the most decrepit [old] age so that he knows, after [once having] knowledge, nothing. And you see the earth barren, but when We send down upon it rain, it quivers and swells and grows [something] of every beautiful kind.}

[Surat al-Hajj: 5] It also explains man's destiny and the reward of the doer of good and the doer of evil in the Hereafter. I have provided the relevant proofs on this issue in point number (20). Moreover, it explains how this existence has been produced, and whether that was done by mere chance or for a noble purpose.

Allah Almighty says:

{Do they not look into the realm of the heavens and the earth and everything that Allah has created and [think] that perhaps their appointed time has come near? So in what statement hereafter will they believe?}

[Surat al-A'rāf: 185]

And Allah Almighty said:

{Then did you think that We created you uselessly and that to Us you would not be returned?}

[Surat al-Mu'minūn: 115]

The glorious Qur'an is still preserved in the language it was first revealed in. Allah Almighty says:

{Indeed, it is We Who sent down the Qur'an and indeed, We will be its guardian.}

[Surat al-Hijr: 9]

There has not been any omission of even a single letter. It is impossible to find any contradiction, deficiency, or change in the Qur'an. Allah Almighty says:

{Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an? If it had been from [any] other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 82]

It is printed and circulated. It is a great and miraculous Book worthy of reading, listening to, or reading the translation of its meanings. Likewise, the Sunnah, teachings, and biography of Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) are also preserved and reported through a chain of reliable narrators. It is also printed in the Arabic language spoken by the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and translated to many other languages. Both the Noble Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) constitute together the sole source of the rulings and legislations of Islam. Islam cannot be taken from the conduct of its adopters, rather it should be taken from the divine revelation; namely the Great Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunnah. Allah Almighty says about the Qur'an:

{Indeed, those who disbelieve in the message after it has come to them. And indeed, it is a mighty Book. Falsehood cannot approach it from before it or from behind it; [it is] a revelation from a [Lord who is] All-Wise and Praiseworthy.}

[Surat Fussilat: 41-42]

Allah Almighty says about the Prophetic Sunnah, which is also a revelation from Him:

{...And whatever the Messenger has given you - take; and what he has forbidden you - refrain from. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty.}

[Surat al-Hashr: 7]

## **29. Islam instructs kindness to parents even if they are non-Muslims and it also instructs good treatment of children.**

Islam instructs kindness to parents as Allah Almighty says: {Your Lord has commanded that you should worship none but Him, and that you be kind to your parents. If either or both of them reach old age with you, say no word that shows impatience with them, and do not be harsh with them, but speak to them respectfully.} [Surat al-Isrā': 23] Allah Almighty also says: {We enjoined upon man to be dutiful to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning lasted two years: Give thanks to Me and to your parents. To Me is your ultimate return.} [Surat Luqmān: 14] Allah Almighty also says: {And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful and kind to his parents. His mother bears him with hardship. And she brings him forth with hardship, and the bearing of him, and the weaning of him is thirty months, till when he attains full strength and reaches forty years, he says: "My Lord, grant me the power and ability that I may be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and that I may do righteous good deeds that please You, and make my offspring good. Truly, I have turned to You in repentance, and truly, I am one of the Muslims (submitting to Your Will)."} [Surat al-Ahqāf: 15] Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: "A man came to the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and said: 'O Messenger of Allah, who is the most entitled among people to my good companionship?' He said: 'Your mother.' The man said: 'Who comes next?' He said: 'Your mother.' The man asked again: 'Who comes next?' He replied: 'Your mother.' The man further said: 'Who comes next?' He said: 'Your father.'" [Narrated by Muslim] This instruction of kindness to parents applies to both Muslim as well as non-Muslim parents: Asmā' bint Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with her and her father) reported: "My mother, who was a polytheist, came to visit me with her son during the period of the peace treaty between Quraysh and the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). I went to seek the advice of the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) saying: 'My mother came willingly; should I maintain a good relation with her?' He replied: 'Yes, maintain a good relation with her.'" [Narrated by Al-Bukhārī] Even if the parents worked diligently to convert their son/daughter from Islam to disbelief, Islam still commands the individual to disobey them [on this issue] and remain a believer though treat them kindly and respectfully. Allah Almighty says: {But if they endeavor to make you associate with Me that of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them but accompany them in [this] world with appropriate kindness and follow the way of those who turn back to Me [in repentance]. Then to Me will be your return, and I

will inform you about what you used to do.}[Surat Luqmān: 15]Islam does not forbid the Muslim to maintain good relations with his non-Muslim relatives or non-relatives as long as they are not combatant non-Muslims. Allah Almighty says:{Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.}[Surat al-Mumtahanah: 8]Islam commands kindness to children, the pinnacle of which is teaching them the rights of their Lord on them, as the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said to his cousin 'Abdullah ibn 'Abbās (may Allah be pleased with him and his father):“O boy, shall I teach you words that Allah will benefit you with?’ I said: ‘Of course.’ He said: ‘Be mindful of Allah and Allah will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him in front of you. Be mindful of Allah during ease and He will ease your condition during adversity. If you ask, then ask Allah [alone]; and if you seek help, then seek help from Allah [alone].”[Narrated by Ahmad: 4/287]Allah commanded the parents to teach their children what would benefit them in their religious and worldly life. Allah Almighty says:{O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded.}[Surat at-Tahrīm: 6]'Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) commented on{protect yourselves and your families from a Fire}saying: “Discipline and teach them.”The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) ordered the father to teach his children prayer so that they grow up accustomed to it. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:“Order your children to pray at the age of seven.”[Narrated by Abu Dāwūd]The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) also said:“All of you are guardians and are responsible for your subjects. The ruler is a guardian and is responsible for his subjects; the man is a guardian of his family and is responsible for his subjects; the woman is a guardian in her husband's house and is responsible for her subjects; the servant is a guardian of his master's property and is responsible for his subjects. So, all of you are guardians and are responsible for your subjects.”[Sahīh Ibn Hibbān: 4490]Islam commanded the father to provide a livelihood for his children and household - part of this is discussed earlier in point number (18). The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) illustrated the merit of providing for the children saying:“The best dinar a man spends is: a dinar that he spends on his family, a dinar that he spends on his riding animal in the cause of Allah, and a dinar that he spends on his companions in the cause of Allah.” Abu Qilābah (one of the narrators) said: “He began with the dependents.” Then he said: “And who is greater in reward than a man who spends on his young dependents, by virtue of which Allah saves them from want or brings them benefit and makes them rich.”[Narrated by Muslim: 994]

{Your Lord has commanded that you should worship none but Him, and that you be kind to your parents. If either or both of them reach old age with you, say no word that shows impatience with them, and do not be harsh with them, but speak to them respectfully.}

[Surat al-Isrā': 23]

Allah Almighty also says:

{We enjoined upon man to be dutiful to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning lasted two years: Give thanks to Me and to your parents. To Me is your ultimate return.}

[Surat Luqmān: 14]

Allah Almighty also says:

{And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful and kind to his parents. His mother bears him with hardship. And she brings him forth with hardship, and the bearing of him, and the weaning of him is thirty months, till when he attains full strength and reaches forty years, he says: “My Lord, grant me the power and ability that I may be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and that I may do righteous good deeds that please You, and make my offspring good. Truly, I have turned to You in repentance, and truly, I am one of the Muslims (submitting to Your Will).”}

[Surat al-Ahqāf: 15]

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: “A man came to the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and said: ‘O Messenger of Allah, who is the most entitled among people to my good companionship?’ He said: ‘Your mother.’ The man said: ‘Who comes next?’

He said: 'Your mother.' The man asked again: 'Who comes next?' He replied: 'Your mother.' The man further said: 'Who comes next?' He said: 'Your father.'"

[Narrated by Muslim]

This instruction of kindness to parents applies to both Muslim as well as non-Muslim parents:

Asmā' bint Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with her and her father) reported: "My mother, who was a polytheist, came to visit me with her son during the period of the peace treaty between Quraysh and the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). I went to seek the advice of the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) saying: 'My mother came willingly; should I maintain a good relation with her?' He replied: 'Yes, maintain a good relation with her.'"

[Narrated by Al-Bukhārī]

Even if the parents worked diligently to convert their son/daughter from Islam to disbelief, Islam still commands the individual to disobey them [on this issue] and remain a believer though treat them kindly and respectfully. Allah Almighty says:

{But if they endeavor to make you associate with Me that of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them but accompany them in [this] world with appropriate kindness and follow the way of those who turn back to Me [in repentance]. Then to Me will be your return, and I will inform you about what you used to do.}

[Surat Luqmān: 15]

Islam does not forbid the Muslim to maintain good relations with his non-Muslim relatives or non-relatives as long as they are not combatant non-Muslims. Allah Almighty says:

{Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.}

[Surat al-Mumtahanah: 8]

Islam commands kindness to children, the pinnacle of which is teaching them the rights of their Lord on them, as the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said to his cousin 'Abdullah ibn 'Abbās (may Allah be pleased with him and his father):

"O boy, shall I teach you words that Allah will benefit you with?' I said: 'Of course.' He said: 'Be mindful of Allah and Allah will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him in front of you. Be mindful of Allah during ease and He will ease your condition during adversity. If you ask, then ask Allah [alone]; and if you seek help, then seek help from Allah [alone]."

[Narrated by Ahmad: 4/287]

Allah commanded the parents to teach their children what would benefit them in their religious and worldly life. Allah Almighty says:

{O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded.}

[Surat at-Tahrīm: 6]

'Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) commented on

{protect yourselves and your families from a Fire}

saying: "Discipline and teach them."

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) ordered the father to teach his children prayer so that they grow up accustomed to it. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Order your children to pray at the age of seven.”

[Narrated by Abu Dāwūd]

The Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) also said:

“All of you are guardians and are responsible for your subjects. The ruler is a guardian and is responsible for his subjects; the man is a guardian of his family and is responsible for his subjects; the woman is a guardian in her husband’s house and is responsible for her subjects; the servant is a guardian of his master’s property and is responsible for his subjects. So, all of you are guardians and are responsible for your subjects.”

[Sahīh Ibn Hibbān: 4490]

Islam commanded the father to provide a livelihood for his children and household - part of this is discussed earlier in point number (18). The Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) illustrated the merit of providing for the children saying:

“The best dinar a man spends is: a dinar that he spends on his family, a dinar that he spends on his riding animal in the cause of Allah, and a dinar that he spends on his companions in the cause of Allah.” Abu Qilābah (one of the narrators) said: “He began with the dependents.” Then he said: “And who is greater in reward than a man who spends on his young dependents, by virtue of which Allah saves them from want or brings them benefit and makes them rich.”

[Narrated by Muslim: 994]

## **30. Islam instructs the individual to observe fairness in words and deeds even with the enemies.**

Allah Almighty is Just with regards to His actions and disposal of the affairs of His servants. His commands, prohibitions, creation, and destiny follow a straight path. Allah Almighty says: {Allah bears witness that there is no deity except Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge - [that He is] maintaining [creation] in justice. There is no deity except Him, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.} [Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 18] Allah orders justice in His saying: {Say, [O Muhammad]: “My Lord has ordered justice...”} [Surat al-A‘rāf: 29] All the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) called to justice as Allah Almighty said: {We have already sent Our messengers with clear evidences and sent down with them the Scripture and the balance that the people may maintain [their affairs] in justice...} [Surat al-Hadīd: 25] The “balance” here refers to justice in words and acts. Islam orders fairness in words and acts even with the enemies. Allah Almighty says: {O you who believe, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, with what you do, All-Aware.} [Surat an-Nisā’: 135] Allah Almighty also says: {...And do not let the hatred of a people for having obstructed you from the Sacred Mosque lead you to transgress. And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty.} [Surat al-Mā’idah: 2] He also says: {O you who believe, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to piety...} [Surat al-Mā’idah: 8] Do you find in any of today’s man-made laws or other religions such a command to speak the truth even if it is against oneself, parents, or relatives?! Islam commands justice with both the enemy and the friend. The Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) ordered treating the children fairly. ‘Āmir reported: “I heard Al-Nu‘mān ibn Bashīr (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) saying while he was on the pulpit: ‘My father gave me a gift. ‘Amrah bint Rawāhah (his mother) said: “I would not agree to this unless you make the Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) a witness to it.” My father went to the Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) and said: “I gave a gift to my son from ‘Amrah bint Rawāhah, but she ordered me to make you, O Messenger of Allah, a witness to it.” The Prophet (may

Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) asked: "Have you given the like of it to all of your children?" He replied in the negative. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Then fear Allah and treat your children equally." My father then returned and took back his gift." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 2587]

{Allah bears witness that there is no deity except Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge - [that He is] maintaining [creation] in justice. There is no deity except Him, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.}

[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 18]

Allah orders justice in His saying:

{Say, [O Muhammad]: "My Lord has ordered justice..."}

[Surat al-A'rāf: 29]

All the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) called to justice as Allah Almighty said:

{We have already sent Our messengers with clear evidences and sent down with them the Scripture and the balance that the people may maintain [their affairs] in justice...}

[Surat al-Hadīd: 25]

The "balance" here refers to justice in words and acts.

Islam orders fairness in words and acts even with the enemies. Allah Almighty says:

{O you who believe, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, with what you do, All-Aware.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 135]

Allah Almighty also says:

{...And do not let the hatred of a people for having obstructed you from the Sacred Mosque lead you to transgress. And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty.}

[Surat al-Mā'idah: 2]

He also says:

{O you who believe, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to piety...}

[Surat al-Mā'idah: 8]

Do you find in any of today's man-made laws or other religions such a command to speak the truth even if it is against oneself, parents, or relatives?! Islam commands justice with both the enemy and the friend.

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) ordered treating the children fairly.

'Āmir reported: "I heard Al-Nu'mān ibn Bashīr (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) saying while he was on the pulpit: 'My father gave me a gift. 'Amrah bint Rawāhah (his mother) said: "I would not agree to this unless you make the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) a witness to it." My father went to the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and said: "I gave a gift to my son from 'Amrah bint Rawāhah, but she ordered me to make you, O Messenger of Allah, a witness to it." The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) asked: "Have you given the like of it to all of your children?" He replied in the negative. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Then fear Allah and treat your children equally." My father then returned and took back his gift.'"

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 2587]

Justice is the only means to secure the stability of people and countries. Without it, people will not feel safe about their religions, their lives, children, honor, properties, and countries. For this reason, the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) ordered Muslims to migrate to Abyssinia after they were persecuted at the hands of the disbelievers in Makkah. The reason for choosing Abyssinia was that its king was just and none was wronged under his rule.

## **31. Islam commands kindness to all people and it advocates noble morals and virtuous deeds.**

Islam instructs kindness to all people as Allah Almighty said: {Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving [help] to relatives...} [Surat an-Nahl: 90] Allah Almighty also says: {Who spend [in the cause of Allah] during ease and hardship and who restrain anger and who pardon the people - and Allah loves the doers of good.} [Surat Āl 'Imrān: 134] The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Verily, Allah has enjoined kindness in all things; so when you kill, kill in a good way; and when you slaughter, slaughter in a good way. Let one of you sharpen his blade and spare the slaughtered animal the suffering." [Narrated by Muslim: 1955] Islam advocates noble morals and virtuous deeds. Allah Almighty describes the character of Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) saying: {Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them. So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him - it is those who will be the successful.} [Surat al-A'rāf: 157] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "O 'Ā'ishah, indeed, Allah is gentle and He loves gentleness, and He gives for gentleness what He does not give for violence and what He does not give for anything else." [Narrated by Muslim: 2593] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) also said: "Allah has forbidden you to be undutiful to your mothers, to bury your daughters alive, to withhold (what you should give), or demand (what you do not deserve). And Allah has disliked that you engage in gossip, ask too many questions, or waste your property." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 2408] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "You will not enter Paradise until you believe and you will not believe until you love one another. Shall I tell you of something which, if you do, will make you love one another? Spread the greeting of peace among yourselves." [Narrated by Muslim: 54]

{Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving [help] to relatives...}

[Surat an-Nahl: 90]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Who spend [in the cause of Allah] during ease and hardship and who restrain anger and who pardon the people - and Allah loves the doers of good.}

[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 134]

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Verily, Allah has enjoined kindness in all things; so when you kill, kill in a good way; and when you slaughter, slaughter in a good way. Let one of you sharpen his blade and spare the slaughtered animal the suffering."

[Narrated by Muslim: 1955]

Islam advocates noble morals and virtuous deeds. Allah Almighty describes the character of Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) saying:

{Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and

makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them. So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him - it is those who will be the successful.}

[Surat al-A'rāf: 157]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“O 'Ā'ishah, indeed, Allah is gentle and He loves gentleness, and He gives for gentleness what He does not give for violence and what He does not give for anything else.”

[Narrated by Muslim: 2593]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) also said:

“Allah has forbidden you to be undutiful to your mothers, to bury your daughters alive, to withhold (what you should give), or demand (what you do not deserve). And Allah has disliked that you engage in gossip, ask too many questions, or waste your property.”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 2408]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“You will not enter Paradise until you believe and you will not believe until you love one another. Shall I tell you of something which, if you do, will make you love one another? Spread the greeting of peace among yourselves.”

[Narrated by Muslim: 54]

## **32. Islam instructs the adoption of praiseworthy morals such as honesty, fulfillment of trusts, chastity, modesty, bravery, generosity, aiding the needy, helping the distressed, feeding the hungry, treating neighbors kindly, maintaining kinship ties, and being kind to animals.**

Islam instructs the adoption of praiseworthy morals. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:“I have been sent to perfect noble morals.”[Sahīh al-Adab al-Mufrad: 207]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) also said:“Indeed, among the most beloved and nearest of you to me on the Day of Judgment are those of you who have the best morals, and, indeed, the most hated of you to me and farthest from me on the Day of Judgment are the talkative, the pompous, and the Mutafayhiqūn.” They asked: “O Messenger of Allah, we know the talkative and the pompous, but we do not know who the Mutafayhiqūn are.” He replied: “The arrogant.”[Al-Silsilah al-Sahīhah: 791]‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) reported: “The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) was neither obscene, nor would he use obscene language, and he used to say: ‘Verily, the best of you are those who have the best morals.’”[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 3559]There are many other verses and Hadīths that prove, in general terms, that Islam encourages noble morals and virtuous deeds.Islam prescribes the adoption of truthfulness. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:“Adhere to truthfulness, for truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise. A man will keep speaking the truth and striving to speak the truth until he will be recorded with Allah as the most truthful.”[Narrated by Muslim: 2607]Islam prescribes fulfilling the trust. Allah Almighty says:{Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due...}[Surat an-Nisā': 58]Islam prescribes the

adoption of chastity. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "There are three kinds of people for whom it is a right upon Allah to help them: one of them is the one getting married who intends chastity." [Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi: 1655] The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) used to supplicate saying: "Allāhumma inni as'aluka al-huda wa at-tuqa wa al-'afāf wa al-ghina (O Allah, I ask You for guidance, piety, chastity, and freedom from want)." [Narrated by Muslim: 2721] Islam prescribes modesty. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Modesty brings nothing but good." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6117] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) also said: "Each religion has its own distinctive moral; and modesty is that of Islam." [Narrated by Al-Bayhaqi in Shu'ab al-Imān: 6/2619] Islam also prescribes bravery. Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: "The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) was the best, the bravest, and the most generous of all people. Once when the people of Madinah got frightened, the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) rode a horse and went ahead of them." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 2820] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) used to seek refuge in Allah from cowardice by saying: "Allāhumma inn a'ūdhu bika min al-jubn (O Allah, I seek refuge in You from cowardice)." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6374] Furthermore, Islam prescribes generosity. Allah Almighty says: {The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is All-Encompassing and All-Knowing.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 261] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) was well-known for his generosity. Ibn 'Abbās (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) reported: "The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) was the most generous of people, and he used to be more generous than ever in Ramadān when Gabriel would meet him. Gabriel (peace be upon him) used to meet him every night during Ramadān to revise the Qur'an with him and when Gabriel met him, he was more generous than the fast wind." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 1902] Other mandatory morals that Islam prescribes are: aiding the needy, helping the distressed, feeding the hungry, treating neighbors kindly, maintaining kinship ties, and being kind to animals. 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) reported: "A man asked the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him): 'Which deed in Islam is the best?' He said: 'Feeding people and extending the greeting of peace to those you know and those you do not know.'" [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 12] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "While a man was walking on a road, he became very thirsty. He found a well and went down in it and drank. When he came out, there was a dog panting and eating moist earth out of thirst. The man said: 'This dog is so thirsty just as I was.' So, he went down into the well, filled his shoe with water and held it with his mouth until he climbed out. Then, he gave the dog water to drink. Allah accepted his deed and, thus, forgave him." They said: "O Messenger of Allah, are we rewarded for taking care of animals?" He said: "Yes, there is a reward for (quenching the thirst of) every living being." [Sahīh Ibn Hibbān: 544] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "The one who looks after a widow and a needy person is like one who performs Jihad in the cause of Allah, or one who regularly observes voluntary prayer at night and fasting during the day." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 5353] Islam stresses the relatives' rights and mandates maintaining kinship ties. Allah Almighty says: {The Prophet is more worthy of the believers than themselves, and his wives are [in the position of] their mothers. And those of [blood] relationship are more entitled [to inheritance] in the decree of Allah than the [other] believers and the emigrants, except that you may do to your close associates a kindness [through bequest]. That was in the Book inscribed.} [Surat al-Ahzāb: 6] It also warns against severing kinship ties, considering it on a par with causing mischief on earth. Allah Almighty says: {So would you perhaps, if you turned away, cause corruption on earth and sever your kinship ties? Those [who do so] are the ones that Allah has cursed, so He deafened them and blinded their vision.} [Surat Muhammad: 22-23] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "The one who severs kinship ties will not be admitted to Paradise." [Narrated by Muslim: 2556] The relatives with whom ties must be maintained are: the parents, brothers, sisters, paternal uncles and aunts, and maternal uncles and aunts. Similarly, Islam emphasizes the right of the neighbor even if he was a non-Muslim. Allah Almighty says: {Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful.} [Surat an-Nisā': 36] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Gabriel kept

enjoining the good treatment of neighbors until I thought he would make neighbors heirs.”[Narrated by Abu Dāwūd: 5152]

“I have been sent to perfect noble morals.”

[Sahīh al-Adab al-Mufrad: 207]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) also said:

“Indeed, among the most beloved and nearest of you to me on the Day of Judgment are those of you who have the best morals, and, indeed, the most hated of you to me and farthest from me on the Day of Judgment are the talkative, the pompous, and the Mutafayhiqūn.” They asked: “O Messenger of Allah, we know the talkative and the pompous, but we do not know who the Mutafayhiqūn are.” He replied: “The arrogant.”

[Al-Silsilah al-Sahīhah: 791]

‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) reported: “The Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) was neither obscene, nor would he use obscene language, and he used to say: ‘Verily, the best of you are those who have the best morals.’”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 3559]

There are many other verses and Hadīths that prove, in general terms, that Islam encourages noble morals and virtuous deeds.

Islam prescribes the adoption of truthfulness. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Adhere to truthfulness, for truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise. A man will keep speaking the truth and striving to speak the truth until he will be recorded with Allah as the most truthful.”

[Narrated by Muslim: 2607]

Islam prescribes fulfilling the trust. Allah Almighty says:

{Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due...}

[Surat an-Nisā’: 58]

Islam prescribes the adoption of chastity. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“There are three kinds of people for whom it is a right upon Allah to help them: one of them is the one getting married who intends chastity.”

[Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi: 1655]

The Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) used to supplicate saying:

“Allāhumma inni as’aluka al-huda wa at-tuqa wa al-‘afāf wa al-ghina (O Allah, I ask You for guidance, piety, chastity, and freedom from want).”

[Narrated by Muslim: 2721]

Islam prescribes modesty. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Modesty brings nothing but good.”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6117]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) also said:

“Each religion has its own distinctive moral; and modesty is that of Islam.”

[Narrated by Al-Bayhaqi in Shu'ab al-Imān: 6/2619]

Islam also prescribes bravery. Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) reported:

“The Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) was the best, the bravest, and the most generous of all people. Once when the people of Madinah got frightened, the Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) rode a horse and went ahead of them.”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 2820]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) used to seek refuge in Allah from cowardice by saying:

“Allāhumma inn a’ūdhu bika min al-jubn (O Allah, I seek refuge in You from cowardice).”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6374]

Furthermore, Islam prescribes generosity. Allah Almighty says:

{The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is All-Encompassing and All-Knowing.}

[Surat al-Baqarah: 261]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) was well-known for his generosity. Ibn ‘Abbās (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) reported:

“The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) was the most generous of people, and he used to be more generous than ever in Ramadān when Gabriel would meet him. Gabriel (peace be upon him) used to meet him every night during Ramadān to revise the Qur’an with him and when Gabriel met him, he was more generous than the fast wind.”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 1902]

Other mandatory morals that Islam prescribes are: aiding the needy, helping the distressed, feeding the hungry, treating neighbors kindly, maintaining kinship ties, and being kind to animals.

‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) reported: “A man asked the Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him): ‘Which deed in Islam is the best?’ He said: ‘Feeding people and extending the greeting of peace to those you know and those you do not know.’”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 12]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“While a man was walking on a road, he became very thirsty. He found a well and went down in it and drank. When he came out, there was a dog panting and eating moist earth out of thirst. The man said: ‘This dog is so thirsty just as I was.’ So, he went down into the well, filled his shoe with water and held it with his mouth until he climbed out. Then, he gave the dog water to drink. Allah accepted his deed and, thus, forgave him.” They said: “O Messenger of Allah, are we rewarded for taking care of animals?” He said: “Yes, there is a reward for (quenching the thirst of) every living being.”

[Sahīh Ibn Hibbān: 544]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“The one who looks after a widow and a needy person is like one who performs Jihad in the cause of Allah, or one who regularly observes voluntary prayer at night and fasting during the day.”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 5353]

Islam stresses the relatives’ rights and mandates maintaining kinship ties. Allah Almighty says:

{The Prophet is more worthy of the believers than themselves, and his wives are [in the position of] their mothers. And those of [blood] relationship are more entitled [to inheritance] in the decree of Allah than the [other] believers and the emigrants, except that you may do to your close associates a kindness [through bequest]. That was in the Book inscribed.}

[Surat al-Ahzāb: 6]

It also warns against severing kinship ties, considering it on a par with causing mischief on earth. Allah Almighty says:

{So would you perhaps, if you turned away, cause corruption on earth and sever your kinship ties?

Those [who do so] are the ones that Allah has cursed, so He deafened them and blinded their vision.}

[Surat Muhammad: 22-23]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "The one who severs kinship ties will not be admitted to Paradise."

[Narrated by Muslim: 2556]

The relatives with whom ties must be maintained are: the parents, brothers, sisters, paternal uncles and aunts, and maternal uncles and aunts.

Similarly, Islam emphasizes the right of the neighbor even if he was a non-Muslim. Allah Almighty says:

{Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 36]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Gabriel kept enjoining the good treatment of neighbors until I thought he would make neighbors heirs."

[Narrated by Abu Dāwūd: 5152]

### **33. Islam made lawful good food and drink. It prescribes the purification of the heart, the body, and the house, which is why it made marriage lawful. Allah commanded all the prophets (peace be upon them) with those commands as they call to all sorts of good.**

Islam made lawful good food and drink. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Indeed, Allah is good and accepts only what is good. And Allah commanded the believers with what He commanded the messengers. He says: {O messengers, eat from the good foods and work righteousness. Indeed, I, of what you do, am Knowing.} [Surat al-Mu'minūn: 51] And He says: {O you who believe, eat from the good things which We have provided for you and be grateful to Allah if it is [indeed] Him that you worship.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 172]" He then mentioned a person who travels for so long that his hair is disheveled and covered with dust. He lifts his hand toward the sky (saying): 'O Allah, O Allah', but his food is unlawful, his drink is unlawful, and his clothing is unlawful, and he has been nourished by the unlawful. So how can his supplication be accepted?" [Narrated by Muslim: 1015] Allah Almighty also says: {Say: "Who has forbidden the adornment of Allah which He has produced for His servants and the good [lawful] things of provision?" Say: "They are for those who believed during

the life of this world, exclusively [for them] on the Day of Judgment.” Thus do We detail the verses for a people who know.}[Surat al-A'rāf: 32]Islam prescribes the purification of the heart, the body, and the house, which is why it made marriage lawful. Allah commanded all the prophets (peace be upon them) with those commands as they call to all sorts of good.{And Allah has made for you from yourselves mates and has made for you from your mates sons and grandchildren and has provided for you from the good things. Then in falsehood do they believe and in the favor of Allah they disbelieve?}[Surat an-Nahl: 72]Allah Almighty also says:{And your clothing purify.And uncleanliness avoid.[Surat al-Muddaththir: 4-5]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:“He who has in his heart an atom's weight of arrogance will not enter Paradise.” Someone said: “One likes to wear beautiful clothes and shoes?” The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: “Indeed, Allah is beautiful and He loves beauty. Arrogance means rejecting the truth and despising people.”[Narrated by Muslim: 91]

“Indeed, Allah is good and accepts only what is good. And Allah commanded the believers with what He commanded the messengers. He says: {O messengers, eat from the good foods and work righteousness. Indeed, I, of what you do, am Knowing.} [Surat al-Mu'minūn: 51] And He says: {O you who believe, eat from the good things which We have provided for you and be grateful to Allah if it is [indeed] Him that you worship.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 172]” He then mentioned a person who travels for so long that his hair is disheveled and covered with dust. He lifts his hand toward the sky (saying): ‘O Allah, O Allah’, but his food is unlawful, his drink is unlawful, and his clothing is unlawful, and he has been nourished by the unlawful. So how can his supplication be accepted?”

[Narrated by Muslim: 1015]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Say: “Who has forbidden the adornment of Allah which He has produced for His servants and the good [lawful] things of provision?” Say: “They are for those who believed during the life of this world, exclusively [for them] on the Day of Judgment.” Thus do We detail the verses for a people who know.}

[Surat al-A'rāf: 32]

Islam prescribes the purification of the heart, the body, and the house, which is why it made marriage lawful. Allah commanded all the prophets (peace be upon them) with those commands as they call to all sorts of good.

{And Allah has made for you from yourselves mates and has made for you from your mates sons and grandchildren and has provided for you from the good things. Then in falsehood do they believe and in the favor of Allah they disbelieve?}

[Surat an-Nahl: 72]

Allah Almighty also says:

{And your clothing purify.

And uncleanliness avoid.

[Surat al-Muddaththir: 4-5]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“He who has in his heart an atom's weight of arrogance will not enter Paradise.” Someone said: “One likes to wear beautiful clothes and shoes?” The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: “Indeed, Allah is beautiful and He loves beauty. Arrogance means rejecting the truth and despising people.”

[Narrated by Muslim: 91]

## **34. Islam prohibits the cardinal sins such as polytheism, disbelief, worship of idols,**

**attributing something to Allah without knowledge, killing of children or an inviolable soul, causing mischief on earth, magic, apparent and hidden indecencies, adultery, sodomy, usury, and eating a dead animal or animals slaughtered for the sake of idols. Furthermore, Allah prohibited eating the flesh of swine, all the impurities, consuming the property of an orphan, defrauding in measures and weights, and severing kinship ties. All the prophets (peace be upon them) unanimously agreed on forbidding the above prohibitions.**

Islam prohibits the cardinal sins such as polytheism, disbelief, worship of idols, attributing something to Allah without knowledge, and the killing of children. Allah Almighty said: {Say: "Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited to you. [He commands] that you not associate anything with Him, and to parents, good treatment, and do not kill your children out of poverty; We will provide for you and them. And do not approach immoralities - what is apparent of them and what is concealed. And do not kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed] except by [legal] right. This has He instructed you that you may use reason." And do not approach the orphan's property except in a way that is best until he reaches maturity. And give full measure and weight in justice. We do not charge any soul except [with that within] its capacity. And when you testify, be just, even if [it concerns] a near relative. And the covenant of Allah fulfill. This has He instructed you that you may remember.} [Surat al-An'ām: 151-152] Allah Almighty also says: {Say: "My Lord has only forbidden immoralities - what is apparent of them and what is concealed - and sin, and oppression without right, and that you associate with Allah that for which He has not sent down authority, and that you say about Allah that which you do not know."} [Surat al-A'rāf: 33] Islam prohibits the killing of the inviolable soul. Allah Almighty says: {And do not kill the soul which Allah has forbidden, except by right. And whoever is killed unjustly - We have given his heir authority, but let him not exceed limits in [the matter of] taking life. Indeed, he has been supported [by the law].} [Surat al-Isrā': 33] Allah Almighty also says: {And those who do not invoke with Allah another deity or kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed], except by right, and do not commit unlawful sexual intercourse. And whoever should do that will meet a penalty.} [Surat al-Furqān: 68] Islam prohibits causing mischief on earth. Allah Almighty says: {And cause not mischief upon the earth after its reformation...} [Surat al-A'rāf: 56] Allah Almighty reported the statement of Shu'ayb to his people: {...O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. There has come to you clear evidence from your Lord. So fulfill the measure and weight and do not deprive people of their due and cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. That is better for you, if you should be believers.} [Surat al-A'rāf: 85] Islam prohibits magic as Allah Almighty said: {And throw what is in your right hand; it will swallow up what they have crafted. What they have crafted is but the trick of a magician, and the magician will not succeed wherever he is.} [Surat Taha: 69] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Avoid the seven destructive sins." They said: "O Messenger of Allah, what are they?" He said: "Associating partners with Allah; magic (sorcery); killing a person whom Allah has prohibited killing except by legal right; consuming usury; devouring the property of an orphan; fleeing from the battlefield; slandering chaste, innocent and believing women." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6857] Islam prohibits apparent and hidden indecencies, adultery, and sodomy; and the proofs of which are mentioned at the

beginning of this point. Islam also forbids usury as Allah Almighty said: {O you who believe, fear Allah and give up what remains [due to you] of interest, if you should be believers. And if you do not, then be informed of a war [against you] from Allah and His Messenger. But if you repent, you may have your principal - [thus] you do no wrong, nor are you wronged.} [Surat al-Baqarah: 278-279] Allah has not promised warring a sinner except the consumer of usury because it involves the destruction of religions, homes, properties, and souls. In addition, Islam prohibits eating a dead animal, animals slaughtered for the sake of others than Allah, and the flesh of swine. Allah Almighty says: {Prohibited to you are dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and that which has been dedicated to other than Allah, and [those animals] killed by strangling or by a violent blow or by a head-long fall or by the goring of horns, and those from which a wild animal has eaten, except what you [are able to] slaughter [before its death], and those which are sacrificed on stone altars, and [prohibited is] that you seek decision through divining arrows. That is grave disobedience...} [Surat al-Mā'idah: 3] Islam also prohibits the consumption of intoxicants and all kinds of impurities and filth as Allah Almighty said: {O you who believe, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone altars [to other than Allah], and divining arrows are but defilement from the devil's work, so avoid it that you may be successful. The devil only wants to cause between you animosity and hatred through intoxicants and gambling and to avert you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. So will you not desist?} [Surat al-Mā'idah: 90-91] It is previously mentioned in point number (31) how the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is described in the Torah as the one who prohibits impurities. Allah Almighty says: {Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them...} [Surat al-A'raf: 157] Islam prohibits the unlawful consumption of the orphan's property. Allah Almighty says: {And give to the orphans their properties and do not substitute the defective [of your own] for the good [of theirs]. And do not consume their properties into your own. Indeed, that is ever a great sin.} [Surat an-Nisā': 2] Allah Almighty also says: {Indeed, those who devour the property of orphans unjustly are only consuming into their bellies fire. And they will be burned in a Blaze.} [Surat an-Nisā': 10] Islam prohibits defrauding in measures and weights. Allah Almighty says: {Woe to those who give less [than due]. Who, when they take a measure from people, take in full. But if they give by measure or by weight to them, they give less than due. Do they not think that they will be resurrected?} [Surat al-Mutaffifin: 1-4]

{Say: "Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited to you. [He commands] that you not associate anything with Him, and to parents, good treatment, and do not kill your children out of poverty; We will provide for you and them. And do not approach immoralities - what is apparent of them and what is concealed. And do not kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed] except by [legal] right. This has He instructed you that you may use reason."

And do not approach the orphan's property except in a way that is best until he reaches maturity. And give full measure and weight in justice. We do not charge any soul except [with that within] its capacity. And when you testify, be just, even if [it concerns] a near relative. And the covenant of Allah fulfill. This has He instructed you that you may remember.}

[Surat al-An'ām: 151-152]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Say: "My Lord has only forbidden immoralities - what is apparent of them and what is concealed - and sin, and oppression without right, and that you associate with Allah that for which He has not sent down authority, and that you say about Allah that which you do not know."}

[Surat al-A'raf: 33]

Islam prohibits the killing of the inviolable soul. Allah Almighty says:

{And do not kill the soul which Allah has forbidden, except by right. And whoever is killed unjustly - We have given his heir authority, but let him not exceed limits in [the matter of] taking life. Indeed, he has been supported [by the law].}

[Surat al-Isrā': 33]

Allah Almighty also says:

{And those who do not invoke with Allah another deity or kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed], except by right, and do not commit unlawful sexual intercourse. And whoever should do that will meet a penalty.}

[Surat al-Furqān: 68]

Islam prohibits causing mischief on earth. Allah Almighty says:

{And cause not mischief upon the earth after its reformation...}

[Surat al-A'rāf: 56]

Allah Almighty reported the statement of Shu'ayb to his people:

{...O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. There has come to you clear evidence from your Lord. So fulfill the measure and weight and do not deprive people of their due and cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. That is better for you, if you should be believers.}

[Surat al-A'rāf: 85]

Islam prohibits magic as Allah Almighty said:

{And throw what is in your right hand; it will swallow up what they have crafted. What they have crafted is but the trick of a magician, and the magician will not succeed wherever he is.}

[Surat Taha: 69]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Avoid the seven destructive sins." They said: "O Messenger of Allah, what are they?" He said: "Associating partners with Allah; magic (sorcery); killing a person whom Allah has prohibited killing except by legal right; consuming usury; devouring the property of an orphan; fleeing from the battlefield; slandering chaste, innocent and believing women."

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6857]

Islam prohibits apparent and hidden indecencies, adultery, and sodomy; and the proofs of which are mentioned at the beginning of this point. Islam also forbids usury as Allah Almighty said:

{O you who believe, fear Allah and give up what remains [due to you] of interest, if you should be believers.

And if you do not, then be informed of a war [against you] from Allah and His Messenger. But if you repent, you may have your principal - [thus] you do no wrong, nor are you wronged.}

[Surat al-Baqarah: 278-279]

Allah has not promised warring a sinner except the consumer of usury because it involves the destruction of religions, homes, properties, and souls.

In addition, Islam prohibits eating a dead animal, animals slaughtered for the sake of others than Allah, and the flesh of swine. Allah Almighty says:

{Prohibited to you are dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and that which has been dedicated to other than Allah, and [those animals] killed by strangling or by a violent blow or by a head-long fall or by the goring of horns, and those from which a wild animal has eaten, except what you [are able to] slaughter [before its death], and those which are sacrificed on stone altars, and [prohibited is] that you seek decision through divining arrows. That is grave disobedience...}

[Surat al-Mā'idah: 3]

Islam also prohibits the consumption of intoxicants and all kinds of impurities and filth as Allah Almighty said:

{O you who believe, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone altars [to other than Allah], and divining arrows are but defilement from the devil's work, so avoid it that you may be successful.

The devil only wants to cause between you animosity and hatred through intoxicants and gambling and to avert you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. So will you not desist?}

[Surat al-Mā'idah: 90-91]

It is previously mentioned in point number (31) how the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is described in the Torah as the one who prohibits impurities. Allah Almighty says:

{Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them...}

[Surat al-A'rāf: 157]

Islam prohibits the unlawful consumption of the orphan's property. Allah Almighty says:

{And give to the orphans their properties and do not substitute the defective [of your own] for the good [of theirs]. And do not consume their properties into your own. Indeed, that is ever a great sin.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 2]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Indeed, those who devour the property of orphans unjustly are only consuming into their bellies fire. And they will be burned in a Blaze.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 10]

Islam prohibits defrauding in measures and weights. Allah Almighty says:

{Woe to those who give less [than due].

Who, when they take a measure from people, take in full.

But if they give by measure or by weight to them, they give less than due.

Do they not think that they will be resurrected?}

[Surat al-Mutaffifin: 1-4]

Islam also prohibits severing kinship ties and its proofs from the Qur'an and Sunnah are discussed in point number (31). In short, all the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) agreed on prohibiting the above prohibitions.

## **35. Islam forbids the disgraceful traits such as lying, cheating, betrayal, treason, deception, envy, malicious scheming, theft, transgression, oppression, and every other evil trait.**

Generally speaking, Islam prohibits any blameworthy trait as Allah Almighty says:{And do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people and do not walk through the earth exultantly. Indeed, Allah does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful.}[Surat Luqmān: 18]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"Indeed, among the most beloved and nearest of you to me on the Day of Judgment are those of you who have the best morals, and, indeed, the most hated of you to me and farthest from me on the Day of Judgment are the talkative, the pompous, and the Mutafayhiqūn." They asked: "O Messenger of Allah, we know the talkative and the pompous, but we do not know who

the Mutafayhiqūn are.” He replied: “The arrogant.”[Al-Silsilah al-Sahīhah: 791]Islam prohibits lying as Allah Almighty says:{...Indeed, Allah does not guide one who is a transgressor and a liar.}[Surat Ghāfir: 28]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:“Beware of lying, for indeed lying leads to immorality, and immorality leads to Hellfire, and a man would continue to lie and be keen on lying until he is recorded in the sight of Allah as a liar.”[Narrated by Muslim: 2607]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:“Signs of the hypocrite are three: when he speaks, he lies; when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and when he is entrusted with something, he betrays the trust.”[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6095]Islam prohibits cheating:According to the Hadīth: “The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) happened to pass by a heap of food (corn). He thrust his hand in that (heap) and his fingers were moistened. He said: ‘O owner of the food, What is this?’ He replied: ‘O Messenger of Allah, these have been drenched by rainfall.’ He (the Prophet) remarked: ‘Why did you not place this (the drenched part of the heap) on the top so that people could see it? He who cheats is not of me (is not my follower).”[Narrated by Muslim: 102]Islam prohibits treachery, betrayal, and deception. Allah Almighty says:{O you who believe, do not betray Allah and the Messenger or betray your trusts while you know [the consequence].}[Surat al-Anfāl: 27]And Allah Almighty said:{Those who fulfill the covenant of Allah and do not break the contract.}[Surat ar-Ra’d: 20]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) used to tell his dispatched armies whenever they started a campaign:“Fight, but do not steal from the spoils of war, do not be treacherous, do not mutilate, and do not kill children.”[Narrated by Muslim: 1731]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:“Whoever has the following four (characteristics) will be a sheer hypocrite and whoever has one of the following four characteristics will have one characteristic of hypocrisy unless and until he gives it up: whenever he is entrusted, he betrays, whenever he speaks, he lies, whenever he makes a covenant, he proves treacherous, and whenever he quarrels, he deviates from the truth.”[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 34]Islam prohibits envy as Allah Almighty says:{Or do they envy people for what Allah has given them of His bounty? But We had already given the family of Abraham the Scripture and wisdom and conferred upon them a great kingdom.}[Surat an-Nisā’: 54]Allah Almighty also says:{Many of the People of the Book wish they could turn you back to disbelief after you have believed, out of envy from themselves [even] after the truth has become clear to them. So pardon and overlook until Allah delivers His command. Indeed, Allah is over all things competent.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 109]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:“The disease of the nations before you is creeping towards you: envy and hatred, it is the Hāliqah (shaver). I do not speak of what shaves the hair, but what shaves the religion. By the One in Whose Hand my soul is, you will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will not believe until you love each other. Shall I tell you what will strengthen that for you? Spread the greeting of peace among each other.”[Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi: 2510]Islam prohibits conspiring as Allah Almighty says:{And thus We have placed within every city the greatest of its criminals to conspire therein. But they conspire not except against themselves, and they perceive [it] not.}[Surat al-An’ām: 123]Allah Almighty reported that the Jews conspired to murder the Messiah (peace be upon him) but Allah turned their evil scheming against them, for indeed evil scheming harms none but its plotter. Allah Almighty says:{But when Jesus felt [persistence in] disbelief from them, he said: “Who are my supporters for [the cause of] Allah ?” The disciples said: “We are supporters for Allah. We have believed in Allah and testify that we are Muslims [submitting to Him].Our Lord, we have believed in what You revealed and have followed the messenger [Jesus], so register us among the witnesses [to truth].”And they [the disbelievers] schemed but Allah also schemed; Allah is the best of schemers.[Mention] when Allah said: “O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you [in submission to Allah alone] superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Judgment. Then to Me is your return, and I will judge between you concerning that in which you used to differ.}[Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 52-55]In addition, Allah Almighty reported that the nation of Prophet Sālih (peace be upon him) wanted to kill him through evil scheming but Allah reoriented their scheming towards them and destroyed them entirely. Allah Almighty says:{They said: “Take a mutual oath by Allah that we will kill him by night, he and his family. Then we will say to his executor: ‘We did not witness the destruction of his family, and indeed, we are truthful.’”And they planned a plan, and We planned a plan, while they perceived not.Then look how was the outcome of their plan - that We destroyed them and their people, all.}[Surat an-Naml: 49-51]Islam prohibits theft. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:“An adulterer is not a believer at the time of committing adultery, a thief is not a believer at the time of committing theft, and a drinker is not a believer at the time of drinking. And there is still an opportunity for

repentance.”[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6810]Islam prohibits transgression as Allah Almighty says:{Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded.}[Surat an-Nahl: 90]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:“Verily, Allah revealed to me that you must be humble, so that no one oppresses another or boasts of oneself before another.”[Narrated by Abu Dāwūd: 4895]Islam prohibits oppression as Allah Almighty says:{...And Allah does not like the oppressors.}[Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 57]And Allah Almighty said:{...Surely the oppressors shall not attain success.}[Surat al-An‘ām: 21]And Allah Almighty said:{...As for the oppressors, He has prepared for them a painful punishment.}[Surat al-Insān: 31]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:“There are three kinds of people whose supplication is not rejected: the just ruler, the fasting person until he breaks his fast, and the supplication of the oppressed person whose supplication is raised up above the clouds and the gates of heaven are opened for it and the Almighty Lord says: ‘By My might, I shall surely aid you, even if it should be after a while.’”[Narrated by Muslim briefly in a slightly different wording: 2749; Al-Tirmidhi in a slightly different wording: 2526; and the above wording is narrated by Ahmad: 8043]When the Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) dispatched Mu‘ādh to Yemen, he said to him:“Beware of the supplication of an oppressed person; for there is no barrier between it and Allah.”[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 1496]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:“Beware, if anyone wrongs a safety-promised non-Muslim (Mu‘āhid), or diminishes his right, or forces him to work beyond his capacity, or takes from him anything without his consent, I shall be his adversary on the Day of Judgment.”[Sunan Abu Dāwūd: 3052]As you have seen, Islam prohibits every evil trait and oppressive or transgressive treatment.

{And do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people and do not walk through the earth exultantly. Indeed, Allah does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful.}

[Surat Luqmān: 18]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Indeed, among the most beloved and nearest of you to me on the Day of Judgment are those of you who have the best morals, and, indeed, the most hated of you to me and farthest from me on the Day of Judgment are the talkative, the pompous, and the Mutafayhiqūn.” They asked: “O Messenger of Allah, we know the talkative and the pompous, but we do not know who the Mutafayhiqūn are.” He replied: “The arrogant.”

[Al-Silsilah al-Sahīhah: 791]

Islam prohibits lying as Allah Almighty says:

{...Indeed, Allah does not guide one who is a transgressor and a liar.}

[Surat Ghāfir: 28]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Beware of lying, for indeed lying leads to immorality, and immorality leads to Hellfire, and a man would continue to lie and be keen on lying until he is recorded in the sight of Allah as a liar.”

[Narrated by Muslim: 2607]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Signs of the hypocrite are three: when he speaks, he lies; when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and when he is entrusted with something, he betrays the trust.”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6095]

Islam prohibits cheating:

According to the Hadīth: “The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) happened to pass by a heap of food (corn). He thrust his hand in that (heap) and his fingers were moistened. He said: ‘O owner of the food, What is this?’ He replied: ‘O Messenger of Allah, these have

been drenched by rainfall.' He (the Prophet) remarked: 'Why did you not place this (the drenched part of the heap) on the top so that people could see it? He who cheats is not of me (is not my follower).'"

[Narrated by Muslim: 102]

Islam prohibits treachery, betrayal, and deception. Allah Almighty says:

{O you who believe, do not betray Allah and the Messenger or betray your trusts while you know [the consequence].}

[Surat al-Anfāl: 27]

And Allah Almighty said:

{Those who fulfill the covenant of Allah and do not break the contract.}

[Surat ar-Ra'd: 20]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) used to tell his dispatched armies whenever they started a campaign:

"Fight, but do not steal from the spoils of war, do not be treacherous, do not mutilate, and do not kill children."

[Narrated by Muslim: 1731]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Whoever has the following four (characteristics) will be a sheer hypocrite and whoever has one of the following four characteristics will have one characteristic of hypocrisy unless and until he gives it up: whenever he is entrusted, he betrays, whenever he speaks, he lies, whenever he makes a covenant, he proves treacherous, and whenever he quarrels, he deviates from the truth."

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 34]

Islam prohibits envy as Allah Almighty says:

{Or do they envy people for what Allah has given them of His bounty? But We had already given the family of Abraham the Scripture and wisdom and conferred upon them a great kingdom.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 54]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Many of the People of the Book wish they could turn you back to disbelief after you have believed, out of envy from themselves [even] after the truth has become clear to them. So pardon and overlook until Allah delivers His command. Indeed, Allah is over all things competent.}

[Surat al-Baqarah: 109]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"The disease of the nations before you is creeping towards you: envy and hatred, it is the Hāliqah (shaver). I do not speak of what shaves the hair, but what shaves the religion. By the One in Whose Hand my soul is, you will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will not believe until you love each other. Shall I tell you what will strengthen that for you? Spread the greeting of peace among each other."

[Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi: 2510]

Islam prohibits conspiring as Allah Almighty says:

{And thus We have placed within every city the greatest of its criminals to conspire therein. But they conspire not except against themselves, and they perceive [it] not.}

[Surat al-An'ām: 123]

Allah Almighty reported that the Jews conspired to murder the Messiah (peace be upon him) but Allah turned their evil scheming against them, for indeed evil scheming harms none but its plotter. Allah Almighty says:

{But when Jesus felt [persistence in] disbelief from them, he said: “Who are my supporters for [the cause of] Allah ?” The disciples said: “We are supporters for Allah. We have believed in Allah and testify that we are Muslims [submitting to Him].

Our Lord, we have believed in what You revealed and have followed the messenger [Jesus], so register us among the witnesses [to truth].”

And they [the disbelievers] schemed but Allah also schemed; Allah is the best of schemers.

[Mention] when Allah said: “O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you [in submission to Allah alone] superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Judgment. Then to Me is your return, and I will judge between you concerning that in which you used to differ.}

[Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 52-55]

In addition, Allah Almighty reported that the nation of Prophet Sālih (peace be upon him) wanted to kill him through evil scheming but Allah reoriented their scheming towards them and destroyed them entirely. Allah Almighty says:

{They said: “Take a mutual oath by Allah that we will kill him by night, he and his family. Then we will say to his executor: ‘We did not witness the destruction of his family, and indeed, we are truthful.’”

And they planned a plan, and We planned a plan, while they perceived not.

Then look how was the outcome of their plan - that We destroyed them and their people, all.}

[Surat an-Naml: 49-51]

Islam prohibits theft. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“An adulterer is not a believer at the time of committing adultery, a thief is not a believer at the time of committing theft, and a drinker is not a believer at the time of drinking. And there is still an opportunity for repentance.”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6810]

Islam prohibits transgression as Allah Almighty says:

{Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded.}

[Surat an-Nahl: 90]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Verily, Allah revealed to me that you must be humble, so that no one oppresses another or boasts of oneself before another.”

[Narrated by Abu Dāwūd: 4895]

Islam prohibits oppression as Allah Almighty says:

{...And Allah does not like the oppressors.}

[Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 57]

And Allah Almighty said:

{...Surely the oppressors shall not attain success.}

[Surat al-An‘ām: 21]

And Allah Almighty said:

{...As for the oppressors, He has prepared for them a painful punishment.}

[Surat al-Insān: 31]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"There are three kinds of people whose supplication is not rejected: the just ruler, the fasting person until he breaks his fast, and the supplication of the oppressed person whose supplication is raised up above the clouds and the gates of heaven are opened for it and the Almighty Lord says: 'By My might, I shall surely aid you, even if it should be after a while.'"

[Narrated by Muslim briefly in a slightly different wording: 2749; Al-Tirmidhi in a slightly different wording: 2526; and the above wording is narrated by Ahmad: 8043]

When the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) dispatched Mu'ādh to Yemen, he said to him:

"Beware of the supplication of an oppressed person; for there is no barrier between it and Allah."

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 1496]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Beware, if anyone wrongs a safety-promised non-Muslim (Mu'āhid), or diminishes his right, or forces him to work beyond his capacity, or takes from him anything without his consent, I shall be his adversary on the Day of Judgment."

[Sunan Abu Dāwūd: 3052]

As you have seen, Islam prohibits every evil trait and oppressive or transgressive treatment.

## **36. Islam prohibits financial transactions involving usury, harm, deception, oppression, cheating, or causing catastrophic consequences to societies, peoples, and individuals.**

Islam prohibits financial transactions involving usury, harm, deception, oppression, cheating, or causing catastrophic consequences to societies, peoples, and individuals. The supporting verses and Hadīths prohibiting usury, oppression, cheating, and causing mischief on earth are previously mentioned in the beginning of this point. Allah Almighty says: {And those who harm the believing men and the believing women for [something] other than what they have earned have certainly born upon themselves a slander and manifest sin.} [Surat al-Ahzāb: 58] Allah Almighty also says: {Whoever does righteousness - it is for his [own] self; and whoever does evil [does so] against it. And your Lord is not ever unjust to [His] servants.} [Surat Fussilat: 46] In the Sunnah, it is reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) prescribed that there should be neither harm nor a reciprocation of harm. [Sunan Abu Dāwūd] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should not harm his neighbor; whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should honor his guest; and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or keep silent." Another narration reads: "let him be kind to his neighbor." [Narrated by Muslim: 47] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "A woman was tormented because of a cat which she had kept locked up until it died, and she was thrown into Hell for that. She neither gave it food or drink when she locked it up nor freed it so that it would eat from the vermin of the earth." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 3482] The above Hadīth is about someone who harmed a cat, how grave would the punishment of the one harming people be? Ibn 'Umar reported that the

Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) ascended the pulpit and said loudly: "O you who accepted Islam with your tongue, while faith has not reached your heart, do not harm the Muslims, nor revile them, nor spy on them to expose their secrets. For, indeed, whoever tries to expose his Muslim brother's secrets, Allah exposes his secrets wide open even if he were in the depth of his house." He (the narrator) said: "One day Ibn 'Umar looked at the House - or the Ka'bah - and said: 'How great you are and how sacred you are! The believer is more inviolable in the sight of Allah than you.'" [Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi: 2032; Ibn Hibbān: 5763] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should not harm his neighbor; whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should honor his guest; and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or keep silent." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6018] Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Do you know who is the bankrupt?" They said: "O Messenger of Allah, the bankrupt among us is the one who has neither money nor property." He said: "Verily, the bankrupt of my Ummah is the one who comes on the Day of Judgment with fasting, prayers, and Zakah, but also with insults, slander, and consuming wealth unlawfully. Each of these (whom he insulted, slandered, and consumed his wealth unlawfully) will be given from his good deeds. If his good deeds run out before justice is fulfilled, then some of their sins will be cast upon him and he will be thrown into Hellfire." [Narrated by Muslim: 2581; Al-Tirmidhi: 2418; and Ahmad narrated the above wording: 8029] The Messenger of Allah said: "There was a branch of a tree that harmed people. A man removed it, so he was admitted to Paradise." [Al-Bukhāri narrated its meaning: 652; Muslim: 1914; Ibn Mājah: 3682; and Ahmad: 10432] The above wording is narrated by Ahmad and Ibn Mājah. It is clear how removing any harm from the road will admit its doer to Paradise; so, how about the individual who harms people and ruins their lives?!

The supporting verses and Hadīths prohibiting usury, oppression, cheating, and causing mischief on earth are previously mentioned in the beginning of this point. Allah Almighty says:

{And those who harm the believing men and the believing women for [something] other than what they have earned have certainly born upon themselves a slander and manifest sin.}

[Surat al-Ahzāb: 58]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Whoever does righteousness - it is for his [own] self; and whoever does evil [does so] against it. And your Lord is not ever unjust to [His] servants.}

[Surat Fussilat: 46]

In the Sunnah, it is reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) prescribed that there should be neither harm nor a reciprocation of harm.

[Sunan Abu Dāwūd]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should not harm his neighbor; whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should honor his guest; and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or keep silent." Another narration reads: "let him be kind to his neighbor."

[Narrated by Muslim: 47]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"A woman was tormented because of a cat which she had kept locked up until it died, and she was thrown into Hell for that. She neither gave it food or drink when she locked it up nor freed it so that it would eat from the vermin of the earth."

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 3482]

The above Hadīth is about someone who harmed a cat, how grave would the punishment of the one harming people be? Ibn 'Umar reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) ascended the pulpit and said loudly:

“O you who accepted Islam with your tongue, while faith has not reached your heart, do not harm the Muslims, nor revile them, nor spy on them to expose their secrets. For, indeed, whoever tries to expose his Muslim brother's secrets, Allah exposes his secrets wide open even if he were in the depth of his house.” He (the narrator) said: “One day Ibn 'Umar looked at the House - or the Ka'bah - and said: 'How great you are and how sacred you are! The believer is more inviolable in the sight of Allah than you.'”

[Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi: 2032; Ibn Hibbān: 5763]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should not harm his neighbor; whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should honor his guest; and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or keep silent.”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhārī: 6018]

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: “Do you know who is the bankrupt?” They said: “O Messenger of Allah, the bankrupt among us is the one who has neither money nor property.” He said: “Verily, the bankrupt of my Ummah is the one who comes on the Day of Judgment with fasting, prayers, and Zakah, but also with insults, slander, and consuming wealth unlawfully. Each of these (whom he insulted, slandered, and consumed his wealth unlawfully) will be given from his good deeds. If his good deeds run out before justice is fulfilled, then some of their sins will be cast upon him and he will be thrown into Hellfire.”

[Narrated by Muslim: 2581; Al-Tirmidhi: 2418; and Ahmad narrated the above wording: 8029]

The Messenger of Allah said:

“There was a branch of a tree that harmed people. A man removed it, so he was admitted to Paradise.”

[Al-Bukhārī narrated its meaning: 652; Muslim: 1914; Ibn Mājah: 3682; and Ahmad: 10432] The above wording is narrated by Ahmad and Ibn Mājah. It is clear how removing any harm from the road will admit its doer to Paradise; so, how about the individual who harms people and ruins their lives?!

**37. Islam contains teachings to preserve reason and prohibits what damages it such as consuming intoxicants. Islam elevated the status of reason such that it constitutes the backbone of legal competence. It freed reason from the shackles of mythology and idolatry. Islam has no secrets or rulings that are exclusive to a certain class, rather all of its rulings and laws are consistent with sound reason and comply with justice and wisdom.**

Islam contains teachings to preserve and elevate the status of reason as Allah Almighty says: {...Indeed, the hearing, the sight, and the heart - about all those [one] will be questioned.}[Surat al-Isrā': 36]It is, therefore, obligatory upon the individual to preserve his mind. For this reason, Islam prohibits intoxicants and drugs. As for the prohibition of intoxicants, I have mentioned it in point number (34). There are many Qur'anic verses that end with: {...so that you may understand.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 242]Allah Almighty also says: {And the worldly life is not but amusement and diversion; but the home of the Hereafter is best for those who fear Allah, so will you not reason?}[Surat al-An'ām: 32]Allah Almighty also says: {Indeed, We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'an that you might understand.}[Surat Yūsuf: 2]Allah Almighty clarified that guidance and wisdom prove fruitful only to people of reason. Allah Almighty says: {He gives wisdom to whom He wills, and whoever has been given wisdom has certainly been given much good. And none will remember except those of understanding.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 269]Accordingly, Islam has hinged legal competence on the possession of reason [i.e. sanity]. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "There are three (types of people) whose actions are not recorded by the Pen: the sleeper till he awakes, the minor till he reaches puberty, and the insane till he regains his sanity." [Al-Bukhāri narrated it in a Mu'allaq (suspended passive form) in an emphatic language: 5269; Abu Dāwūd narrated the above wording with a connected chain of transmission: 4402; Al-Tirmidhi: 1423; Al-Nasā'i in Al-Sunan al-Kubra: 7346; Ahmad in a slightly different wording: 956; and Ibn Mājah narrated it briefly: 2042]Islam freed reason from the shackles of mythology and idolatry. Allah Almighty said about the mythologically-driven previous nations and their rejection of the truth brought from Allah: {And similarly, We did not send before you any warner into a city except that its affluent said: "Indeed, we found our fathers upon a religion, and we are, in their footsteps, following.}"[Surat az-Zukhruf: 23]Allah Almighty reported the statement of Abraham (peace be upon him) to his nation: {...What are these statues to which you are devoted? They said: "We found our fathers worshiping them.}"[Surat al-Anbiyā': 52-53]Islam orders people to relinquish the worship of idols and give up their belief in myths inherited from their forefathers. People must follow instead the path of the messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them). In Islam there are no secrets or rulings exclusive to a specific social class. 'Ali ibn Abu Tālib (may Allah be pleased with him), cousin of the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and his son-in-law, was asked whether the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) had showed special favor to them by (disclosing to him) anything (which he kept secret from others). He said: "He did not favor us by anything that he did not make public except that which is in the sheath of this sword of mine." He brought out a document on which it was written: "May Allah curse the one who slaughters (a sacrifice) for the sake of other than Allah, may Allah curse the one who steals the boundary markers, may Allah curse the one who curses his father, and may Allah curse the one who gives refuge to a heretic innovator." [Narrated by Muslim: 1978]Notably, all the rulings and laws of Islam are compatible with sound reason and are consistent with the requirements of justice and wisdom.

{...Indeed, the hearing, the sight, and the heart - about all those [one] will be questioned.}

[Surat al-Isrā': 36]

It is, therefore, obligatory upon the individual to preserve his mind. For this reason, Islam prohibits intoxicants and drugs. As for the prohibition of intoxicants, I have mentioned it in point number (34). There are many Qur'anic verses that end with:

{...so that you may understand.}

[Surat al-Baqarah: 242]

Allah Almighty also says:

{And the worldly life is not but amusement and diversion; but the home of the Hereafter is best for those who fear Allah, so will you not reason?}

[Surat al-An'ām: 32]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Indeed, We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'an that you might understand.}

[Surat Yūsuf: 2]

Allah Almighty clarified that guidance and wisdom prove fruitful only to people of reason. Allah Almighty says:

{He gives wisdom to whom He wills, and whoever has been given wisdom has certainly been given much good. And none will remember except those of understanding.}

[Surat al-Baqarah: 269]

Accordingly, Islam has hinged legal competence on the possession of reason [i.e. sanity]. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"There are three (types of people) whose actions are not recorded by the Pen: the sleeper till he awakes, the minor till he reaches puberty, and the insane till he regains his sanity."

[Al-Bukhāri narrated it in a Mu'allaq (suspended passive form) in an emphatic language: 5269; Abu Dāwūd narrated the above wording with a connected chain of transmission: 4402; Al-Tirmidhi: 1423; Al-Nasā'i in Al-Sunan al-Kubra: 7346; Ahmad in a slightly different wording: 956; and Ibn Mājah narrated it briefly: 2042]

Islam freed reason from the shackles of mythology and idolatry. Allah Almighty said about the mythologically-driven previous nations and their rejection of the truth brought from Allah:

{And similarly, We did not send before you any warner into a city except that its affluent said: "Indeed, we found our fathers upon a religion, and we are, in their footsteps, following."}

[Surat az-Zukhruf: 23]

Allah Almighty reported the statement of Abraham (peace be upon him) to his nation:

{...What are these statues to which you are devoted?

They said: "We found our fathers worshipping them."}

[Surat al-Anbiyā': 52-53]

Islam orders people to relinquish the worship of idols and give up their belief in myths inherited from their forefathers. People must follow instead the path of the messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them).

In Islam there are no secrets or rulings exclusive to a specific social class.

'Ali ibn Abu Tālib (may Allah be pleased with him), cousin of the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and his son-in-law, was asked whether the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) had showed special favor to them by (disclosing to him) anything (which he kept secret from others). He said: "He did not favor us by anything that he did not made public except that which is in the sheath of this sword of mine." He brought out a document on which it was written: "May Allah curse the one who slaughters (a sacrifice) for the sake of other than Allah, may Allah curse the one who steals the boundary markers, may Allah curse the one who curses his father, and may Allah curse the one who gives refuge to a heretic innovator."

[Narrated by Muslim: 1978]

Notably, all the rulings and laws of Islam are compatible with sound reason and are consistent with the requirements of justice and wisdom.

**38. If the followers of false religions failed to recognize the contradictions and irrational issues therein, the clergy would successfully convince them that religion is above reason as**

**the latter has no role in understanding the religion. Islam, on the other hand, considers religion a light showing reason its path. False religions wish that man would relinquish reason to be their obedient follower, whereas Islam fosters reason so that the individual recognizes the true nature of everything around him.**

If the followers of false religions failed to recognize the contradictions and irrational issues therein, the clergy would successfully convince them that religion is above reason as the latter has no role in understanding the religion. Islam, on the other hand, considers religion a light showing reason its path. False religions wish that man would relinquish reason to be their obedient follower, whereas Islam fosters reason so that the individual recognizes the true nature of everything around him. Allah Almighty says:{And thus We have revealed to you an inspiration of Our command. You did not know what is the Book or [what is] faith, but We have made it a light by which We guide whom We will of Our servants. And indeed, [O Muhammad], you guide to a straight path}[Surat ash-Shūra: 52]The divine revelation conveyed proofs and arguments convincing enough to guide sound reason to the truth it has been aspiring to learn and believe in. Allah Almighty says:{O mankind, there has come to you a conclusive proof from your Lord, and We have sent down to you a clear light.}[Surat an-Nisā': 174]Allah Almighty wants for the human being to live in the light of guidance, knowledge, and truth. On the other hand, the devils and tyrants wish for him to live in the darkness of disbelief, ignorance, and deviance. Allah Almighty says:{Allah is the ally of the believers - He brings them out of darkneses into light. As for the disbelievers, their allies are false gods who lead them out of light into darkneses...}[Surat al-Baqarah: 257]

{And thus We have revealed to you an inspiration of Our command. You did not know what is the Book or [what is] faith, but We have made it a light by which We guide whom We will of Our servants. And indeed, [O Muhammad], you guide to a straight path}

[Surat ash-Shūra: 52]

The divine revelation conveyed proofs and arguments convincing enough to guide sound reason to the truth it has been aspiring to learn and believe in. Allah Almighty says:

{O mankind, there has come to you a conclusive proof from your Lord, and We have sent down to you a clear light.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 174]

Allah Almighty wants for the human being to live in the light of guidance, knowledge, and truth. On the other hand, the devils and tyrants wish for him to live in the darkness of disbelief, ignorance, and deviance. Allah Almighty says:

{Allah is the ally of the believers - He brings them out of darkneses into light. As for the disbelievers, their allies are false gods who lead them out of light into darkneses...}

[Surat al-Baqarah: 257]

**39. Islam reveres sound knowledge, encourages impartial scientific research, and**

## **advocates pondering deliberately on ourselves and on the universe around us. The sound scientific results are consistent with the guidelines of Islam.**

Islam reveres sound knowledge as Allah Almighty says: {...Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. And Allah is All-Aware of what you do.}[Surat al-Mujādilah: 11]Allah lined up the testimony of scholars on par with His own testimony and that of the angels, all of whom testify to the greatest existing fact. Allah Almighty says: {Allah bears witness that there is no deity except Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge - [that He is] maintaining [creation] in justice. There is no deity except Him, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.}[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 18]This reflects the high status of scholars in Islam. Allah ordered His Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) to seek increase in nothing but knowledge, as in His Almighty saying: {...And say: "My Lord, increase me in knowledge."}[Surat Taha: 114]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Whoever follows a path in pursuit of knowledge, Allah will facilitate for him a path to Paradise. Indeed, the angels lower their wings for the seeker of knowledge out of pleasure with what he does. Verily, the inhabitants of the heavens and the earth, even the fish in the water, ask forgiveness from Allah for the knowledge seeker. The superiority of a scholar over a devout worshiper is like the superiority of the moon over the rest of the planets. Indeed, the scholars are the inheritors of the prophets, who bequeath neither a dinar nor a dirham, only knowledge. So whoever acquires it has actually taken abundant wealth." [Narrated by Abu Dāwūd: 3641; Al-Tirmidhi: 2682; Ibn Mājah narrated the above wording: 223; and Ahmad: 21715]Islam does encourage impartial scientific research. It also calls for deliberate reflection on our own selves and the universe around us. Allah Almighty says: {We will show them Our signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that it is the truth. But is it not sufficient concerning your Lord that He is, over all things, a Witness?}[Surat Fussilat: 53]He also says: {Do they not look into the realm of the heavens and the earth and everything that Allah has created and [think] that perhaps their appointed time has come near? So in what statement hereafter will they believe?}[Surat al-A'rāf: 185]Allah Almighty also says: {Have they not traveled through the earth and observed how was the end of those before them? They were greater than them in power, and they plowed the earth and built it up more than they have built it up, and their messengers came to them with clear signs. And Allah would not ever wrong them, but they were wronging themselves.}[Surat ar-Rūm: 9]Sound scientific results are not expected to conflict with Islam. For example, the Qur'an provided accurate details on certain issues one thousand four hundred years ago though modern science only recently arrived at conclusions concurring those details. The scientific results were in agreement with the Qur'an such as the creation of a fetus in the womb of his mother. Allah Almighty says: {And indeed We created man (Adam) out of an extract of clay. Then We placed him as a sperm-drop in a firm lodging. Then We made the sperm-drop into a clinging clot, and We made the clot into a lump [of flesh], and We made [from] the lump, bones, and We covered the bones with flesh; then We developed him into another creation. So blessed is Allah, the best of creators.}[Surat al-Mu'minūn: 12-14]

{...Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. And Allah is All-Aware of what you do.}

[Surat al-Mujādilah: 11]

Allah lined up the testimony of scholars on par with His own testimony and that of the angels, all of whom testify to the greatest existing fact. Allah Almighty says:

{Allah bears witness that there is no deity except Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge - [that He is] maintaining [creation] in justice. There is no deity except Him, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.}

[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 18]

This reflects the high status of scholars in Islam. Allah ordered His Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) to seek increase in nothing but knowledge, as in His Almighty saying:

{...And say: "My Lord, increase me in knowledge."}

[Surat Taha: 114]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Whoever follows a path in pursuit of knowledge, Allah will facilitate for him a path to Paradise. Indeed, the angels lower their wings for the seeker of knowledge out of pleasure with what he does. Verily, the inhabitants of the heavens and the earth, even the fish in the water, ask forgiveness from Allah for the knowledge seeker. The superiority of a scholar over a devout worshiper is like the superiority of the moon over the rest of the planets. Indeed, the scholars are the inheritors of the prophets, who bequeath neither a dinar nor a dirham, only knowledge. So whoever acquires it has actually taken abundant wealth."

[Narrated by Abu Dāwūd: 3641; Al-Tirmidhi: 2682; Ibn Mājah narrated the above wording: 223; and Ahmad: 21715]

Islam does encourage impartial scientific research. It also calls for deliberate reflection on our own selves and the universe around us. Allah Almighty says:

{We will show them Our signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that it is the truth. But is it not sufficient concerning your Lord that He is, over all things, a Witness?}

[Surat Fussilat: 53]

He also says:

{Do they not look into the realm of the heavens and the earth and everything that Allah has created and [think] that perhaps their appointed time has come near? So in what statement hereafter will they believe?}

[Surat al-A'rāf: 185]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Have they not traveled through the earth and observed how was the end of those before them? They were greater than them in power, and they plowed the earth and built it up more than they have built it up, and their messengers came to them with clear signs. And Allah would not ever wrong them, but they were wronging themselves.}

[Surat ar-Rūm: 9]

Sound scientific results are not expected to conflict with Islam. For example, the Qur'an provided accurate details on certain issues one thousand four hundred years ago though modern science only recently arrived at conclusions concurring those details. The scientific results were in agreement with the Qur'an such as the creation of a fetus in the womb of his mother. Allah Almighty says:

{And indeed We created man (Adam) out of an extract of clay.

Then We placed him as a sperm-drop in a firm lodging.

Then We made the sperm-drop into a clinging clot, and We made the clot into a lump [of flesh], and We made [from] the lump, bones, and We covered the bones with flesh; then We developed him into another creation. So blessed is Allah, the best of creators.}

[Surat al-Mu'minūn: 12-14]

**40. Allah only accepts and rewards the deeds, in the Hereafter, of those who believe in Him, obey Him, and believe in His messengers**

**(peace be upon them). Allah does not accept the acts of worship except the ones He legislated. So, how could one hope to secure the reward of Allah while disbelieving in Him? Allah does not accept the faith of anyone except those who believe in all the prophets (peace be upon them) and in the message of Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him).**

Allah only accepts and rewards the deeds, in the Hereafter, of those who believe in Him, obey Him, and believe in His messengers (peace be upon them). Allah Almighty says:{Whoever should desire the immediate - We hasten for him from it what We will to whom We intend. Then We have made for him Hellfire, which he will [enter to] burn, censured and banished. But whoever desires the Hereafter and exerts the effort due to it while he is a believer - it is those whose effort is ever appreciated [by Allah].}[Surat al-Isrā': 18-19]Allah Almighty also says:{So whoever does righteous deeds while he is a believer - no denial will there be for his effort, and indeed We, of it, are recorders.}[Surat al-Anbiyā': 94]The only acts of worship Allah accepts are the ones He legislated as in His Almighty saying:{...So whoever would hope for the meeting with his Lord - let him do righteous work and not associate in the worship of his Lord anyone.}[Surat al-Kahf: 110]It is clear that a deed cannot be righteous unless it is legislated by Allah and one offers it with full sincerity to Allah while believing in Allah and His prophets and messengers (peace be upon them). In contrast, deeds that violate this description will find the destiny Allah Almighty designated in the following verse:{And We will regard what they have done of deeds and make them as dust dispersed.}[Surat al-Furqān: 23]Allah Almighty also says:{[Some] faces, that Day, will be humbled, Working [hard] and exhausted. They will enter in the hot blazing Fire.}[Surat al-Ghāshiyah: 2-4]Those people are humbled and exhausted from labor though, unfortunately, will enter Hellfire because their deeds veered off Allah's guidance. Their deeds were not only unordained by Allah, but they also performed false acts of worship and followed the heads of misguidance who fabricated for them false religions. So, in short, the only righteous deed accepted by Allah is what is in compliance with what the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) brought. It is inconceivable that one disbelieves in Allah yet hopes for His reward. Moreover, Allah does not accept the belief of anyone unless he believes in all the prophets (peace be upon them) and the message of Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). Some proofs of this fact have already been discussed in point number (20). Allah Almighty says:{The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying]: "We make no distinction between any of His messengers." And they say: "We hear and we obey. [We seek] Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the [final] destination.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 285]Allah Almighty also says:{O you who believe, believe in Allah and His Messenger and the Book that He sent down upon His Messenger and the Scripture which He sent down before. And whoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day has certainly gone far astray.}[Surat an-Nisā': 136]Allah Almighty also says:{And [recall, O People of the Book], when Allah took the covenant of the prophets, [saying]: "Whatever I give you of the Scripture and wisdom and then there comes to you a messenger confirming what is with you, you [must] believe in him and support him." [Allah] said: "Have you acknowledged and taken upon that My commitment?" They said: "We have acknowledged it." He said: "Then bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses.}[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 81]

{Whoever should desire the immediate - We hasten for him from it what We will to whom We intend. Then We have made for him Hellfire, which he will [enter to] burn, censured and banished.

But whoever desires the Hereafter and exerts the effort due to it while he is a believer - it is those whose effort is ever appreciated [by Allah].}

[Surat al-Isrā': 18-19]

Allah Almighty also says:

{So whoever does righteous deeds while he is a believer - no denial will there be for his effort, and indeed We, of it, are recorders.}

[Surat al-Anbiyā': 94]

The only acts of worship Allah accepts are the ones He legislated as in His Almighty saying:

{...So whoever would hope for the meeting with his Lord - let him do righteous work and not associate in the worship of his Lord anyone.}

[Surat al-Kahf: 110]

It is clear that a deed cannot be righteous unless it is legislated by Allah and one offers it with full sincerity to Allah while believing in Allah and His prophets and messengers (peace be upon them). In contrast, deeds that violate this description will find the destiny Allah Almighty designated in the following verse:

{And We will regard what they have done of deeds and make them as dust dispersed.}

[Surat al-Furqān: 23]

Allah Almighty also says:

{[Some] faces, that Day, will be humbled,

Working [hard] and exhausted.

They will enter in the hot blazing Fire.}

[Surat al-Ghāshiyah: 2-4]

Those people are humbled and exhausted from labor though, unfortunately, will enter Hellfire because their deeds veered off Allah's guidance. Their deeds were not only unordained by Allah, but they also performed false acts of worship and followed the heads of misguidance who fabricated for them false religions. So, in short, the only righteous deed accepted by Allah is what is in compliance with what the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) brought. It is inconceivable that one disbelieves in Allah yet hopes for His reward.

Moreover, Allah does not accept the belief of anyone unless he believes in all the prophets (peace be upon them) and the message of Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). Some proofs of this fact have already been discussed in point number (20). Allah Almighty says:

{The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying]: "We make no distinction between any of His messengers." And they say: "We hear and we obey. [We seek] Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the [final] destination."}

[Surat al-Baqarah: 285]

Allah Almighty also says:

{O you who believe, believe in Allah and His Messenger and the Book that He sent down upon His Messenger and the Scripture which He sent down before. And whoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day has certainly gone far astray.}

[Surat an-Nisā': 136]

Allah Almighty also says:

{And [recall, O People of the Book], when Allah took the covenant of the prophets, [saying]: “Whatever I give you of the Scripture and wisdom and then there comes to you a messenger confirming what is with you, you [must] believe in him and support him.” [Allah] said: “Have you acknowledged and taken upon that My commitment?” They said: “We have acknowledged it.” He said: “Then bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses.”}

[Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 81]

**41. The ultimate goal of all the divine messages is to elevate the human being to the level of a sincere servant of Allah, Lord of the worlds, and to free him from servitude to humans, materialism, or mythology. As you can see, Islam does not sanctify people nor does it elevate them beyond their status nor does it take them as deities.**

The ultimate goal of all the divine messages is to elevate the human being to the level of a sincere servant of Allah, Lord of the worlds, and to free him from servitude to humans, materialism, or mythology. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said: “Miserable is the worshiper of the dinar and dirham, and the worshiper of the striped silk cloak. If he is given anything, he is satisfied; but if he is not given, he is unsatisfied.” [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6435] A sound person would not submit himself except to Allah; neither wealth, prestige, high position, nor a tribe can enslave him. Consider the following story to realize the condition of people before and after the message of Islam. When the early Muslims migrated to Abyssinia and the king there, Al-Najāshi, asked them: “What is that religion that made you leave your people while rejecting to embrace my religion or any of the religions of these nations?” Ja’far ibn Abu Tālib answered saying: “O king, we were plunged in the depth of ignorance. We worshiped idols, we ate dead animals, we committed immoralities, we severed kinship ties, and we were evil neighbors. The powerful of us devoured the weak. We remained in such a condition until Allah raised among us a man of whose birth, truthfulness, honesty, and chastity we were aware. He called us to believe in the oneness of Allah and to worship Him alone, and to relinquish what we and our forefathers used to worship other than Allah of the idols and stones. He enjoined us to speak the truth, to fulfill the trust, to maintain kinship ties, and to be kind to neighbors. He prohibited us from indulging in the unlawful, from killing, from immoralities, from false testimony, from unlawfully consuming the property of the orphan, and from slandering chaste women. He ordered us to worship Allah alone without associating anything with Him, to offer prayers, to pay Zakah, and to observe fasting.” He then enumerated the teachings of Islam and added: “We believed and followed him; so, we now worship Allah alone without associating partners with Him. We made unlawful that which he made unlawful for us and we made lawful that which he made lawful for us...” [Ahmad narrated it in a slightly different wording: 1740; Abu Nu’aym narrated a brief version in Hilyat al-Awliyā’: 1/115] As you can obviously note, Islam does not sanctify human beings nor does it elevate them beyond their due status, nor does it make them gods and deities. Allah Almighty says: {Say: “O People of the Book, come to a word that is equitable between us and you - that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of Allah.” But if they turn away, then say: “Bear witness that we are Muslims [submitting to Him].”} [Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 64] Allah Almighty also says: {Nor could he order you to take the angels and prophets as lords. Would he order you to disbelieve after you had been Muslims?} [Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 80] The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said: “Do not exaggerate in praising me as the Christians exaggerated in praising the son of Mary, for I am only His slave. So, call me the slave of Allah and His messenger.” [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 3445]

“Miserable is the worshiper of the dinar and dirham, and the worshiper of the striped silk cloak. If he is given anything, he is satisfied; but if he is not given, he is unsatisfied.”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 6435]

A sound person would not submit himself except to Allah; neither wealth, prestige, high position, nor a tribe can enslave him. Consider the following story to realize the condition of people before and after the message of Islam.

When the early Muslims migrated to Abyssinia and the king there, Al-Najāshi, asked them:

“What is that religion that made you leave your people while rejecting to embrace my religion or any of the religions of these nations?”

Ja'far ibn Abu Tālib answered saying:

“O king, we were plunged in the depth of ignorance. We worshiped idols, we ate dead animals, we committed immoralities, we severed kinship ties, and we were evil neighbors. The powerful of us devoured the weak. We remained in such a condition until Allah raised among us a man of whose birth, truthfulness, honesty, and chastity we were aware. He called us to believe in the oneness of Allah and to worship Him alone, and to relinquish what we and our forefathers used to worship other than Allah of the idols and stones. He enjoined us to speak the truth, to fulfill the trust, to maintain kinship ties, and to be kind to neighbors. He prohibited us from indulging in the unlawful, from killing, from immoralities, from false testimony, from unlawfully consuming the property of the orphan, and from slandering chaste women. He ordered us to worship Allah alone without associating anything with Him, to offer prayers, to pay Zakah, and to observe fasting.” He then enumerated the teachings of Islam and added: “We believed and followed him; so, we now worship Allah alone without associating partners with Him. We made unlawful that which he made unlawful for us and we made lawful that which he made lawful for us...”

[Ahmad narrated it in a slightly different wording: 1740; Abu Nu'aym narrated a brief version in Hilyat al-Awliyā': 1/115]

As you can obviously note, Islam does not sanctify human beings nor does it elevate them beyond their due status, nor does it make them gods and deities.

Allah Almighty says:

{Say: “O People of the Book, come to a word that is equitable between us and you - that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of Allah.” But if they turn away, then say: “Bear witness that we are Muslims [submitting to Him].”}

[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 64]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Nor could he order you to take the angels and prophets as lords. Would he order you to disbelieve after you had been Muslims?}

[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 80]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Do not exaggerate in praising me as the Christians exaggerated in praising the son of Mary, for I am only His slave. So, call me the slave of Allah and His messenger.”

[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri: 3445]

**42. Allah legislated repentance in Islam. It is when the individual turns to his Lord and abandons his sin. Just as Islam erases**

# whatever sins existed prior to embracing it, so does repentance. So, it is pointless to admit one's sins before any human being.

Allah legislated repentance in Islam. It is when the individual turns to his Lord and abandons his sin. Allah Almighty says: {...And turn to Allah in repentance, all of you, O believers, that you might succeed.}[Surat an-Nūr: 31]Allah Almighty also says:{Do they not know that it is Allah Who accepts repentance from His servants and receives charities and that it is Allah Who is the Accepting of repentance, the Most Merciful?}[Surat at-Tawbah: 104]Allah Almighty also says:{And it is He Who accepts repentance from His servants and pardons misdeeds, and He knows what you do.}[Surat ash-Shūrā: 25]The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"Indeed, Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His believing servant than a person who loses his riding animal, carrying his food and drink, in a desert. He sleeps and then gets up and goes in search for it until he is stricken with thirst. Then, he says to himself: 'I will go back to the place where I have been and sleep there till I die.' He places his head upon his forearm waiting for death. And when he gets up, lo! There is before him his riding animal with his provision of food and drink. So, Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His believing servant than this man is pleased with his riding animal and provision."[Narrated by Muslim: 2744]Just as Islam erases whatever sins existed prior to embracing it, so does repentance. So, it is pointless to admit one's sins before any human being. Allah Almighty says:{Say to those who have disbelieved [that] if they cease, what has previously occurred will be forgiven for them. But if they return [to hostility] - then the precedent of the former [rebellious] peoples has already taken place.}[Surat al-Anfāl: 38]Allah also invited the Christians to repent as in His Almighty saying:{So will they not repent to Allah and seek His forgiveness? And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.}[Surat al-Mā'idah: 74]Broadly, Allah invited all sinners to repent as in His Almighty saying:{Say: "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He Who is the All-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.}"[Surat az-Zumar: 53]Interestingly, when 'Amr ibn al-'Ās intended to embrace Islam, he was afraid his past sins would not be forgiven. He narrated this situation saying:"When Allah Almighty instilled the love of Islam in my heart, I came to the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) to pledge allegiance to him. He stretched out his hand to me so I said: 'O Messenger of Allah, I would not pledge allegiance to you unless you forgive my past sins.' He (the Prophet) said: 'O 'Amr, are you not aware of the fact that migration wipes out all the previous sins? O 'Amr, are you not aware that Islam wipes out all the previous sins.'"[The long version is narrated by Muslim: 121 and the above wording is narrated by Ahmad: 17827]

{...And turn to Allah in repentance, all of you, O believers, that you might succeed.}

[Surat an-Nūr: 31]

Allah Almighty also says:

{Do they not know that it is Allah Who accepts repentance from His servants and receives charities and that it is Allah Who is the Accepting of repentance, the Most Merciful?}

[Surat at-Tawbah: 104]

Allah Almighty also says:

{And it is He Who accepts repentance from His servants and pardons misdeeds, and He knows what you do.}

[Surat ash-Shūrā: 25]

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Indeed, Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His believing servant than a person who loses his riding animal, carrying his food and drink, in a desert. He sleeps and then gets up and goes in search for it until he is stricken with thirst. Then, he says to himself: 'I will go back to the place where I have

been and sleep there till I die.' He places his head upon his forearm waiting for death. And when he gets up, lo! There is before him his riding animal with his provision of food and drink. So, Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His believing servant than this man is pleased with his riding animal and provision."

[Narrated by Muslim: 2744]

Just as Islam erases whatever sins existed prior to embracing it, so does repentance. So, it is pointless to admit one's sins before any human being. Allah Almighty says:

{Say to those who have disbelieved [that] if they cease, what has previously occurred will be forgiven for them. But if they return [to hostility] - then the precedent of the former [rebellious] peoples has already taken place.}

[Surat al-Anfāl: 38]

Allah also invited the Christians to repent as in His Almighty saying:

{So will they not repent to Allah and seek His forgiveness? And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.}

[Surat al-Mā'idah: 74]

Broadly, Allah invited all sinners to repent as in His Almighty saying:

{Say: "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He Who is the All-Forgiving, the Most Merciful."}

[Surat az-Zumar: 53]

Interestingly, when 'Amr ibn al-'Ās intended to embrace Islam, he was afraid his past sins would not be forgiven. He narrated this situation saying:

"When Allah Almighty instilled the love of Islam in my heart, I came to the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) to pledge allegiance to him. He stretched out his hand to me so I said: 'O Messenger of Allah, I would not pledge allegiance to you unless you forgive my past sins.' He (the Prophet) said: 'O 'Amr, are you not aware of the fact that migration wipes out all the previous sins? O 'Amr, are you not aware that Islam wipes out all the previous sins.'"

[The long version is narrated by Muslim: 121 and the above wording is narrated by Ahmad: 17827]

## **43. In Islam, the relationship between the individual and Allah is direct and needless of intermediaries. Islam prohibits making humans gods or associates with Allah in His Lordship or in His right to worship.**

In Islam, there is no need to admit one's sins before any human being because the relationship is direct between the individual and Allah without the need for an intermediary. As already mentioned in point number (36), Allah Almighty invites all people to repent and return to Him. Allah Almighty also forbade taking prophets or angels as intermediaries between Him and His servants. Allah Almighty says:{Nor could he order you to take the angels and prophets as lords. Would he order you to disbelief after you had been Muslims?}[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 80]Islam, as you see, prohibits taking humans as deities or associating them as partners with Allah in His Lordship or in His right to worship. Allah Almighty says about the Christians:{They have taken their rabbis and monks as lords besides Allah, and [also] the Messiah, the son of Mary. And they were not commanded except to worship one God; there is no deity except Him. Exalted is He above whatever they associate with Him.}[Surat at-Tawbah: 31]Allah

condemned the disbelievers' act of taking intermediaries to reach Him. Allah Almighty says:{Unquestionably, for Allah is the pure religion. And those who take protectors besides Him [say]: "We only worship them that they may bring us nearer to Allah in position." Indeed, Allah will judge between them concerning that over which they differ. Indeed, Allah does not guide he who is a liar and [confirmed] disbeliever.}[Surat az-Zumar: 3]Allah clarified that the idolaters of the pre-Islamic era used to take intermediaries between them and Allah while claiming that they bring them closer to Allah.And since Allah forbade taking the prophets or the angels as intermediaries between Him and His servants, it obviously indicates that others are excluded as well even though the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) are known for their hastening to get closer to Allah. Allah Almighty informed us of the state of the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) saying:{...Indeed, they used to hasten to good deeds and supplicate Us in hope and fear, and they were to Us humbly submissive.}[Surat al-Anbiyā': 90]He also says:{Those whom they invoke seek means of access to their Lord, [striving as to] which of them would be nearest, and they hope for His mercy and fear His punishment. Indeed, the punishment of your Lord is ever feared.}[Surat al-Isrā': 57]In other words, those (i.e. prophets and righteous people) whom you call upon besides Allah seek closeness to Him, hope for His mercy, and fear His punishment; so, how is it conceivable to seek their help rather than Allah?

{Nor could he order you to take the angels and prophets as lords. Would he order you to disbelief after you had been Muslims?}

[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 80]

Islam, as you see, prohibits taking humans as deities or associating them as partners with Allah in His Lordship or in His right to worship. Allah Almighty says about the Christians:

{They have taken their rabbis and monks as lords besides Allah, and [also] the Messiah, the son of Mary. And they were not commanded except to worship one God; there is no deity except Him. Exalted is He above whatever they associate with Him.}

[Surat at-Tawbah: 31]

Allah condemned the disbelievers' act of taking intermediaries to reach Him. Allah Almighty says:

{Unquestionably, for Allah is the pure religion. And those who take protectors besides Him [say]: "We only worship them that they may bring us nearer to Allah in position." Indeed, Allah will judge between them concerning that over which they differ. Indeed, Allah does not guide he who is a liar and [confirmed] disbeliever.}

[Surat az-Zumar: 3]

Allah clarified that the idolaters of the pre-Islamic era used to take intermediaries between them and Allah while claiming that they bring them closer to Allah.

And since Allah forbade taking the prophets or the angels as intermediaries between Him and His servants, it obviously indicates that others are excluded as well even though the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) are known for their hastening to get closer to Allah. Allah Almighty informed us of the state of the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) saying:

{...Indeed, they used to hasten to good deeds and supplicate Us in hope and fear, and they were to Us humbly submissive.}

[Surat al-Anbiyā': 90]

He also says:

{Those whom they invoke seek means of access to their Lord, [striving as to] which of them would be nearest, and they hope for His mercy and fear His punishment. Indeed, the punishment of your Lord is ever feared.}

[Surat al-Isrā': 57]

In other words, those (i.e. prophets and righteous people) whom you call upon besides Allah seek closeness to Him, hope for His mercy, and fear His punishment; so, how is it conceivable to seek their help rather than Allah?

**44. In conclusion, we should remember that people, and the human society in general, given their different times, national allegiances, and countries, are different in their ideologies, goals, environments, and actions. Hence, they needed a guide to lead them, a system to unify them, and a ruler to protect them. The honorable messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them) undertook those duties by a revelation from Allah Almighty. They guided people to the path of good and guidance, united them on the Shariah of Allah, and judged with the truth among them. The conditions of people would be reformed depending on the extent of their response to the guidance of those messengers and the proximity of their time to the era of the divine messages. Allah sealed the messages with that of Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and destined it for eternity. Allah has made it a guidance, mercy, and light for people to guide them to Him.**

In conclusion, we should remember that people, and the human society in general, given their different times, national allegiances, and countries, are different in their ideologies, goals, environments, and actions. Hence, they needed a guide to lead them, a system to unify them, and a ruler to protect them. The honorable messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them) undertook those duties by a revelation from Allah Almighty. They guided people to the path of good and guidance, united them on the Shariah of Allah, and judged with the truth among them. The conditions of people would be reformed depending on the extent of their response to the guidance of those messengers and the proximity of their time to the era of the divine messages. After deviance and ignorance prevailed alongside the worship of idols, Allah sent His Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings

be upon him) with guidance and the religion of truth to bring people out of the darkness of disbelief, ignorance, and idolatry to faith and guidance.

**45. Therefore, I call you, O human, to believe in Allah truthfully without the influence of tradition and customs. You must know that you will return to your Lord after your death. You should ponder on your own self and on the horizons around you. Embrace Islam and you shall secure happiness in this worldly life and the Hereafter. If you desire to embrace Islam, all you must do is testify that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. You must dissociate yourself from anything worshiped besides Allah and you must believe that Allah is the One to resurrect those in the graves. Also, you must believe that reckoning and recompense are real. Once you utter this testimony, you become a Muslim. The next step is to worship Allah in the manner He prescribed by observing prayer, paying Zakah, fasting, and performing Hajj if you are capable financially and physically.**

Therefore, I call upon you, O human, to believe in Allah truthfully without the influence of tradition and customs as Allah Almighty invites you in His saying: {Say: "I only advise you of one [thing] - that you stand for Allah, [seeking truth] in pairs and individually, and then give thought." There is not in your companion any madness. He is only a warner to you before a severe punishment.} [Surat Saba': 46] You must know that you will return to your Lord after your death; Allah Almighty says: {And that there is not for man except that [good] for which he strives. And that his striving is going to be seen. Then he will be recompensed for it with the fullest recompense. And that to your Lord is the finality.} [Surat an-Najm: 39-42] You should ponder on your own self and on the horizons around you. Allah Almighty says: {Do they not look into the realm of the heavens and the earth and everything that Allah has created and [think] that perhaps their appointed time has come near? So in what statement hereafter will they believe?} [Surat al-A'raf: 185] Embrace Islam and you shall secure happiness in this worldly life and the Hereafter. If you desire to embrace Islam, all you must do is testify that there is no god worthy of worship

except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. When the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) dispatched Mu'adh to Yemen, he said to him: "You will go to people from the People of the Book. Invite them to the testimony that there is no god worthy of worship but Allah and that I am the Messenger of Allah. If they obey you in that, tell them that Allah Almighty made obligatory on them five prayers every day and night. If they obey you in that, tell them that Allah made obligatory on them Zakah to be taken from the rich among them and given back to the poor among them. If they obey you in that, do not ever approach their precious properties." [Narrated by Muslim: 19] You must dissociate yourself from anything worshiped besides Allah, which is the purest religion [Hanifiyyah] of Abraham (peace be upon him). Allah Almighty says: {There has already been for you an excellent pattern in Abraham and those with him, when they said to their people: "Indeed, we are disassociated from you and from whatever you worship other than Allah. We have denied you, and there has appeared between us and you animosity and hatred forever until you believe in Allah alone"...} [Surat al-Mumtahanah: 4] You must believe that Allah is the One Who will resurrect people from their graves as Allah Almighty says: {That is because Allah is the Truth and because He gives life to the dead and because He is over all things competent. And [that they may know] that the Hour is coming - no doubt about it - and that Allah will resurrect those in the graves.} [Surat al-Hajj: 6-7] Also, you must believe that reckoning and recompense are real as Allah Almighty says: {And Allah created the heavens and earth in truth and so that every soul may be recompensed for what it has earned, and they will not be wronged.} [Surat al-Jathiyah: 22]

{Say: "I only advise you of one [thing] - that you stand for Allah, [seeking truth] in pairs and individually, and then give thought." There is not in your companion any madness. He is only a warner to you before a severe punishment.}

[Surat Saba': 46]

You must know that you will return to your Lord after your death; Allah Almighty says:

{And that there is not for man except that [good] for which he strives.

And that his striving is going to be seen.

Then he will be recompensed for it with the fullest recompense.

And that to your Lord is the finality.}

[Surat an-Najm: 39-42]

You should ponder on your own self and on the horizons around you. Allah Almighty says:

{Do they not look into the realm of the heavens and the earth and everything that Allah has created and [think] that perhaps their appointed time has come near? So in what statement hereafter will they believe?}

[Surat al-A'raf: 185]

Embrace Islam and you shall secure happiness in this worldly life and the Hereafter. If you desire to embrace Islam, all you must do is testify that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.

When the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) dispatched Mu'adh to Yemen, he said to him:

"You will go to people from the People of the Book. Invite them to the testimony that there is no god worthy of worship but Allah and that I am the Messenger of Allah. If they obey you in that, tell them that Allah Almighty made obligatory on them five prayers every day and night. If they obey you in that, tell them that Allah made obligatory on them Zakah to be taken from the rich among them and given back to the poor among them. If they obey you in that, do not ever approach their precious properties."

[Narrated by Muslim: 19]

You must dissociate yourself from anything worshiped besides Allah, which is the purest religion [Hanifiyyah] of Abraham (peace be upon him). Allah Almighty says:

{There has already been for you an excellent pattern in Abraham and those with him, when they said to their people: "Indeed, we are disassociated from you and from whatever you worship other than Allah. We have denied you, and there has appeared between us and you animosity and hatred forever until you believe in Allah alone"...}

[Surat al-Mumtahanah: 4]

You must believe that Allah is the One Who will resurrect people from their graves as Allah Almighty says:

{That is because Allah is the Truth and because He gives life to the dead and because He is over all things competent.

And [that they may know] that the Hour is coming - no doubt about it - and that Allah will resurrect those in the graves.}

[Surat al-Hajj: 6-7]

Also, you must believe that reckoning and recompense are real as Allah Almighty says:

{And Allah created the heavens and earth in truth and so that every soul may be recompensed for what it has earned, and they will not be wronged.}

[Surat al-Jāthiyah: 22]

Once you profess this testimony, you become a Muslim and must follow it with worshiping Allah in the manner He prescribed by performing prayer, paying Zakah, fasting, and performing Hajj if you are financially and physically capable.

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Islam.....	1
A Brief Outline of Islam as Portrayed in the Noble Qur'an and Sunnah .....	1
1. Islam is the message of Allah to all people, as it is the eternal and the last of divine messages:.....	1
2. Islam, as a religion, is not exclusive to a specific ethnic group, rather it is the religion of Allah to all people:.....	1
3. Islam is the divine message sent to complement all the messages of the previous prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) who were sent to their respective nations.....	1
4. The prophets (peace be upon them) share a single religion though expressed in different laws: .....	2
5. Islam, like all the prophets Nūh (Noah), Ibrāhim (Abraham), Mūsa (Moses), Sulaymān (Solomon), Dāwūd (David), and 'Isa (Jesus) among others, calls to believing that the [true] Lord is Allah, the Creator, the Provider, the One Who gives life and the One Who takes it away, the Owner and Planner of everything, and the All-Kind and the All-Merciful. ....	2
6. Allah Almighty is the Creator and the only One worthy of worship without associating anyone else alongside Him. ....	4
7. Allah is the Creator of everything in the universe, both the visible and the invisible. Everything other than Him is created by Him. He created the heavens and the earth in six days. ....	5
8. Allah Almighty has no partner in His dominion, creation, disposal of affairs, or His right to worship. ....	5
9. Allah Almighty begot no one nor was He begotten. None is equivalent or similar to Him.....	6
10. Allah Almighty does not assume any physical form nor is He embodied in any of His creation: .....	7
11. Allah Almighty is Kind and Merciful to His servants, therefore, He sent messengers and revealed scriptures.....	7
12. Allah is the Most Merciful Lord. He, alone, will hold His creation accountable on the Day of Judgment when He resurrects them all from their graves. Each individual will be recompensed depending on his deeds. Whoever does good deeds while being a believer will enjoy an eternal bliss whereas anyone who disbelieves and sins will suffer the painful punishment in the Hereafter. ....	8
13. Allah Almighty created Adam from dust and made his offspring reproduce after him. So, all people are equal in terms of their origin and there is no superiority for a particular gender over the other or an ethnic group over another except by means of piety. ....	9
14. Each newborn is born on Fitrah (a sound natural disposition). ....	9
15. No human being is born with an inherent sin nor does he inherit someone else's sin.....	10
16. The ultimate end of creating mankind is to worship Allah alone:.....	10
17. Islam has honored the human being, male and female, and has guaranteed him all of his rights. It has made him responsible for all of his choices, actions, and behavior, thus holding him accountable for any act that harms him or others. ....	10
18. Islam made men and women equal in terms of their respective responsibilities, reward, and punishment.....	12
19. Islam honors women and considers them the counterparts of men. It also mandated financial provision on the man if he is capable. The father is obligated to spend on his daughter, the son on his mother if he is adult and capable, and the husband on his wife. ....	12
20. Death is not the ultimate end but rather a transition from the abode of labor to the abode of recompense. Death befalls both the body and the soul such that the latter disengages from the body at the time of death, only to return to it following the resurrection on the Day of Judgment. The soul does not move to another body after death nor is it reincarnated in a different body. ....	13

21. Islam calls to believing in the major pillars of faith: belief in Allah and His angels, the scriptures such as the Torah, the Gospel, the Psalms (before their distortion), and the Qur'an. It also calls to believing in all the prophets and messengers (peace be upon them) and that Muhammad is their seal. Furthermore, Islam calls to believing in the Last Day because assuming this worldly life is the end, life and existence would have been absolutely purposeless. It also calls to believing in destiny and fate. 13
22. All the prophets (peace be upon them) are infallible in what they convey from Allah and they are protected against committing anything that may contradict reason or violate upright morals. The prophets are tasked with conveying the commands of Allah to His servants. They possess nothing of the qualities of Lordship or deity. Instead, they are merely humans to whom Allah Almighty sent His revelation..... 17
23. Islam calls to dedicating the main pillars of worship to Allah alone such as the prayer that involves standing, bowing, prostrating, remembering and praising Allah, and supplicating Him. The prayer is observed five times a day and it erases all differences as the rich and the poor, the boss and the employee all stand in one row in prayer. Another main act of worship is Zakah that involves paying a small portion of money in accordance with the conditions and the standard measures designated by Allah. The rich are obligated to pay it to the poor among others and it is payable once a year. The third pillar is fasting that involves refraining from all acts that invalidate it throughout the day in Ramadān. It fosters determination and patience in the soul. Lastly, observing Hajj by heading towards the House of Allah in Makkah once in a lifetime for whoever is capable. In Hajj, everyone is equal in standing before Allah Almighty as it erases all differences and affiliations. .... 19
24. One of the most unique features of the acts of worship in Islam is that Allah Almighty legislated their manner of performance, times, and conditions and His Messenger (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) conveyed them, thus leaving no room for any human interference in the process, neither by increase nor decrease. All the prophets (peace be upon them) called to those major acts of worship. .... 20
25. The Messenger of Islam is Muhammad ibn 'Abdullah, a descendant of Ismā'il (Ishmael), son of Abraham (peace be upon them). He was born in 571 AD in Makkah where his mission as a prophet began. He migrated to Madinah and he had never participated in any polytheistic act with his people though he joined them in honorable acts only. He enjoyed an upright moral character before he was tasked with the mission, which earned him the title of the Trustworthy. Allah tasked him with the mission at the age of forty and supported him with great miracles, the greatest of which is the Noble Qur'an that is considered the most sublime sign of the prophets and the only remaining sign until today. After Allah completed the religion and the Messenger (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) conveyed it fully, he died at the age of sixty-three and was buried in Madinah. He (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is the seal of the prophets and messengers. Allah sent him with guidance and the religion of truth to bring people out of the darkness of paganism, disbelief, and ignorance to the light of Tawhīd (monotheism) and faith. Allah bears witness that He sent him to invite people to Allah by His permission..... 21
26. The Shariah of Islam brought by Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is the seal of the divine messages and laws. It is the Shariah of perfection and reforming people's religion and worldly affairs. Its priority is protecting people's religions, lives, properties, minds, and offspring. It abrogates all the previous laws just as all the messages beforehand abrogated one another..... 25
27. Allah Almighty accepts no other religion but Islam that was brought by Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and whoever embraces a different religion, it will not be accepted from him..... 26
28. The Noble Qur'an is the Book that Allah revealed to His Messenger Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). It is the speech of Allah, Lord of the worlds. He challenged with it both the humans and jinn to produce something similar or even a chapter thereof, which is a persisting challenge until today. The Noble Qur'an answers important questions puzzling millions of people. The Noble Qur'an is preserved in the Arabic language in the same format it was first revealed; no letter is omitted from it and it is printed and circulated. It is a great and miraculous Book worthy of reading or reading the translation of its meanings. Likewise, the Sunnah, teachings, and biography of

the Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) are also preserved and reported through a chain of reliable narrators. It is also printed in the Arabic language spoken by the Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) and translated to many other languages. Both the Noble Qur’an and Sunnah of the Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) constitute together the sole source of the rulings and legislations of Islam. Islam cannot be taken from the conduct of its adopters, rather it should be taken from the divine revelation; namely the Great Qur’an and the Prophetic Sunnah..... 27

29. Islam instructs kindness to parents even if they are non-Muslims and it also instructs good treatment of children. .... 31

30. Islam instructs the individual to observe fairness in words and deeds even with the enemies. .... 34

31. Islam commands kindness to all people and it advocates noble morals and virtuous deeds. .... 36

32. Islam instructs the adoption of praiseworthy morals such as honesty, fulfillment of trusts, chastity, modesty, bravery, generosity, aiding the needy, helping the distressed, feeding the hungry, treating neighbors kindly, maintaining kinship ties, and being kind to animals..... 37

33. Islam made lawful good food and drink. It prescribes the purification of the heart, the body, and the house, which is why it made marriage lawful. Allah commanded all the prophets (peace be upon them) with those commands as they call to all sorts of good. .... 41

34. Islam prohibits the cardinal sins such as polytheism, disbelief, worship of idols, attributing something to Allah without knowledge, killing of children or an inviolable soul, causing mischief on earth, magic, apparent and hidden indecencies, adultery, sodomy, usury, and eating a dead animal or animals slaughtered for the sake of idols. Furthermore, Allah prohibited eating the flesh of swine, all the impurities, consuming the property of an orphan, defrauding in measures and weights, and severing kinship ties. All the prophets (peace be upon them) unanimously agreed on forbidding the above prohibitions. .... 42

35. Islam forbids the disgraceful traits such as lying, cheating, betrayal, treason, deception, envy, malicious scheming, theft, transgression, oppression, and every other evil trait..... 46

36. Islam prohibits financial transactions involving usury, harm, deception, oppression, cheating, or causing catastrophic consequences to societies, peoples, and individuals. .... 51

37. Islam contains teachings to preserve reason and prohibits what damages it such as consuming intoxicants. Islam elevated the status of reason such that it constitutes the backbone of legal competence. It freed reason from the shackles of mythology and idolatry. Islam has no secrets or rulings that are exclusive to a certain class, rather all of its rulings and laws are consistent with sound reason and comply with justice and wisdom..... 53

38. If the followers of false religions failed to recognize the contradictions and irrational issues therein, the clergy would successfully convince them that religion is above reason as the latter has no role in understanding the religion. Islam, on the other hand, considers religion a light showing reason its path. False religions wish that man would relinquish reason to be their obedient follower, whereas Islam fosters reason so that the individual recognizes the true nature of everything around him..... 55

39. Islam reveres sound knowledge, encourages impartial scientific research, and advocates pondering deliberately on ourselves and on the universe around us. The sound scientific results are consistent with the guidelines of Islam..... 56

40. Allah only accepts and rewards the deeds, in the Hereafter, of those who believe in Him, obey Him, and believe in His messengers (peace be upon them). Allah does not accept the acts of worship except the ones He legislated. So, how could one hope to secure the reward of Allah while disbelieving in Him? Allah does not accept the faith of anyone except those who believe in all the prophets (peace be upon them) and in the message of Muhammad (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him). .... 58

41. The ultimate goal of all the divine messages is to elevate the human being to the level of a sincere servant of Allah, Lord of the worlds, and to free him from servitude to humans, materialism, or

- mythology. As you can see, Islam does not sanctify people nor does it elevate them beyond their status nor does it take them as deities..... 61
42. Allah legislated repentance in Islam. It is when the individual turns to his Lord and abandons his sin. Just as Islam erases whatever sins existed prior to embracing it, so does repentance. So, it is pointless to admit one's sins before any human being. .... 62
43. In Islam, the relationship between the individual and Allah is direct and needless of intermediaries. Islam prohibits making humans gods or associates with Allah in His Lordship or in His right to worship. .... 64
44. In conclusion, we should remember that people, and the human society in general, given their different times, national allegiances, and countries, are different in their ideologies, goals, environments, and actions. Hence, they needed a guide to lead them, a system to unify them, and a ruler to protect them. The honorable messengers (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them) undertook those duties by a revelation from Allah Almighty. They guided people to the path of good and guidance, united them on the Shariah of Allah, and judged with the truth among them. The conditions of people would be reformed depending on the extent of their response to the guidance of those messengers and the proximity of their time to the era of the divine messages. Allah sealed the messages with that of Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and destined it for eternity. Allah has made it a guidance, mercy, and light for people to guide them to Him. .... 66
45. Therefore, I call you, O human, to believe in Allah truthfully without the influence of tradition and customs. You must know that you will return to your Lord after your death. You should ponder on your own self and on the horizons around you. Embrace Islam and you shall secure happiness in this worldly life and the Hereafter. If you desire to embrace Islam, all you must do is testify that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. You must dissociate yourself from anything worshiped besides Allah and you must believe that Allah is the One to resurrect those in the graves. Also, you must believe that reckoning and recompense are real. Once you utter this testimony, you become a Muslim. The next step is to worship Allah in the manner He prescribed by observing prayer, paying Zakah, fasting, and performing Hajj if you are capable financially and physically..... 67