



Editorial

As Muslims we are always concerned about the lawful (*halal*) and the unlawful (*haram*). We are concerned about eating *halal* foods, drinking *halal* liquids, earning our living through *halal* work and methods, as well as spending our money, time, effort, and energy through *halal* approaches.

Several conscientious Muslims have compiled lists and written books enumerating *halal/haram* status of items for Muslim consumption. However, such lists/books become outdated shortly after their publication. The products researched today enjoying the *halal* status may change anytime to *haram* upon the inclusion of one, or more *haram* ingredients due to change in formulation and/or economic considerations. In the absence of any understanding and/or contract with the manufacturer, *haram* ingredients may find their way into the *halal* items, without any notice to the Muslim consumers.

With the grace of Allah, *the Islamic Food And Nutrition Council of America* (IFANCA) has been established to help Muslims in observing the Islamic dietary laws [for information about IFANCA, write to P.O. Box 425, Bedford Park, Illinois 60499, Tel (708) 233-1001, Fax (708) 233-1071]. Two major activities of IFANCA can be very helpful to the Muslims in the U.S. :

The first, is to compile a comprehensive list of *halal/haram* items, make it available on the Internet and continually update it. A partial list of *halal* and *haram* consumer products is now available on *David Kearns Islam Page* on the Internet. The URL address is : <http://www.gdol.com/~david/islam.html>.

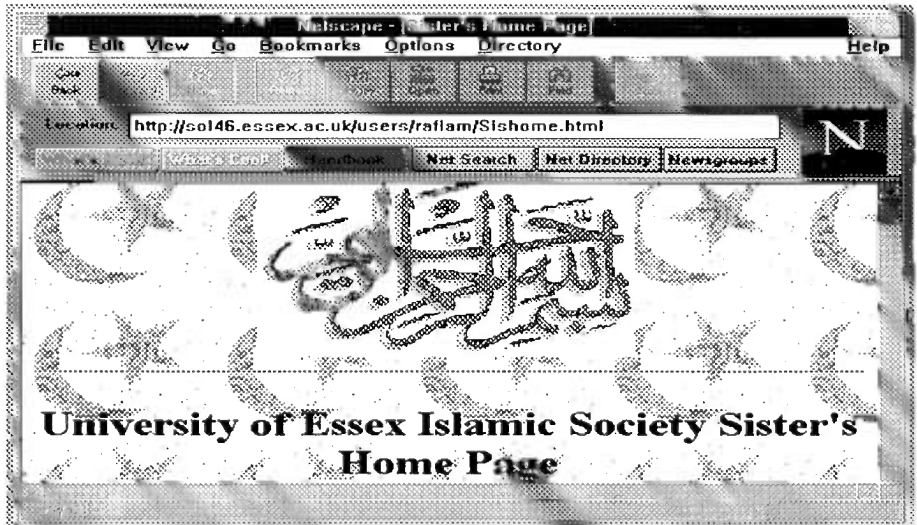
Sister's Home Page and Other Islamic Resources on the Internet

The Islamic Society of the University of Essex has established a sister's home page. The facility is intended to provide information on the subject of "Women and Islam", and other issues which are relevant to women in terms of worship (*Iba'dah*), hygiene, and legal rulings (*Fatwa*) for women (see top figure).

Other Islamic resources on the Internet include (see also the Editorial):

- *Azhar Mosque of the Internet* (URL Address is <http://thales.nmia.com/~mosque/>). It has the Mecca and Madina database (an 18 MB of information on Qur'an, Hadith and Islam for DOS environment). The database can be down loaded, subject to the conditions listed in the home page.

- *Islamic Texts and Resources MetaPage*, from the MSA of the University of Buffalo (<http://wings.buffalo.edu/student-life/sa/Muslim/isl/isl.html>). It has introductory texts on Islam; pamphlets by the Institute of Islamic Information and Education; archive of Islamic images; explanations and indices of the Qur'an and Hadith; as well as texts and information on Islamic thought (see bottom figure). □



Reflections

Dr. Ahmed K. Noor

Death and Life

الموت والحياة

The subjects of death and life have been the focus of much debate between many philosophers, scientists, educators and religious scholars, including Muslims. Many perplexing questions have been raised about the subjects including: What is life? Are there different forms of life? Does life exist on other planets, or in other solar systems? What is death? What happens at, and after, death? Why does the Qur'an mention death before life?

Before we attempt to answer these and similar questions, we have to recognize the fact that our knowledge about life is limited, and about death is extremely limited. Any authentic information about life and death should come from their creator, master and sustainer - Allah (swt). The objective of this article is to provide some facts about the subjects based on the Qur'an and the authentic traditions of the Prophet (pbuh).

Definition of Life and its Forms

Our definition of life is usually limited to its characteristics of feeling and moving. We classify the visible creations of Allah (swt) into : humans, animals, plants, and inanimate. The unseen creations of Allah include the angels and the jinn.

We think of the inanimate (such as heavens and mountains) as having no life. The Islamic view is that each of the creations of Allah (swt) has a life which suits its role in the universe, and can be different from the type (and form) of life of other creations. The inanimate has a type of life which we do not understand, but it is described in the Qur'an and in the traditions of the Prophet (pbuh). For example, the Qur'an refers to the fact that everything in heavens and on earth, including thunder and hills, are

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
﴿تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ . الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ
وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيُبْلِغَكُمْ إِلَيْكُمْ أَحْسَنَ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ﴾

(سورة الملك - آية ٢، ١)

"Blessed be He in Whose hand is the dominion, and He has power over all thing; He Who created death and life, that He may try you - which of you is best in deeds; and He is the Mighty, the Forgiving." (Qur'an 67:1-2)

celebrating the praises of Allah.

تَسْبِيحٌ لَهُ السَّمَوَاتُ السَّبْعُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَمَنْ فِيهِنَّ وَإِنْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا يُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِهِ
وَلَكِنْ لَا تَفْقَهُونَ تَسْبِيحَهُمْ

(سورة الاسراء - من آية ٤٤)

"The seven heavens and the earth, and all that is therein, declare His glory: there is not a thing but celebrates His praise; and yet you understand not how they declare His glory!." (Qur'an 17:44)

يُسَبِّحُ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي

الْأَرْضِ

(سورة الجمعة - من آية ١)

"Whatever is in the heavens and on earth does declare the praises and Glory of Allah." (Qur'an 62:1)

وَيُسَبِّحُ الرَّعْدُ بِحَمْدِهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ مِنْ

خِيفَتِهِ

(سورة الرعد - من آية ١٣)

"Nay, the thunder repeats His praises, and so do angels for awe of Him." (Qur'an 13:13)

وَسَخَّرْنَا مَعَ دَاوُدَ الْجِبَالَ يُسَبِّحْنَ وَالطَّيْرَ

(سورة الأنبياء - من آية ٧٩)

"It was our power that made the hills and the birds celebrate our praises, with David." (Qur'an 21:79)

The Qur'an also refers to rocks sinking from the fear of Allah (swt),

■ **Death is a state created by Allah (swt), in which life as we know it ceases, but existence does not cease.**

■ **At the moment of death we see things, and appreciate facts we could neither see nor appreciate before.**

the heavens and earth not shedding a tear over the destruction of Pharaoh and his people, and talking to Allah.

وَإِنَّ مِنْهَا لَمَّا يَلْبِطُ مِنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ

(سورة البقرة - من آية ٧٤)

"And others (among rocks) which sink for fear of Allah." (Qur'an 2:74)

فَمَا بَكَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ

(سورة الدخان - من آية ٢٩)

"And neither heaven nor earth shed a tear over them (Pharaoh and his people)." (Qur'an 44:29)

قَالْنَا أَتَيْنَا طَائِعِينَ

(سورة فصلت - من آية ١١)

"They (the sky and the earth) said : we do come (together), in willing obedience." (Qur'an 41:11)

So life is not confined to humans, animals, and plants on earth. Other forms of life do exist in the vast and spacious universe. Reference to living creatures scattered throughout the Universe is given in the Qur'an.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ

وَمَا بَثَّ فِيهِمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ وَهُوَ عَلَى

جَمْعِهِمْ إِذَا يَشَاءُ قَدِيرٌ

(سورة الشورى - آية ٢٩)

"And among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the creatures that He has scattered through them: and He Has power to gather them together when He wills." (Qur'an 42:29)

Death

Death is a creation of Allah (swt), just as life is (see the two verses cited at the beginning of the article). It is not merely a negative state. It is a state in

which life as we know it ceases, but existence does not cease. The Qur'an uses the term *Nafs* (soul) for the combination of the *Rooh* (spirit) and the *Jassad* (body) of the human being. The mechanism of the interaction between the *rooh* and the *jassad* when we are awake differs from that which exists when we are asleep. Still a different mechanism of interaction will take place in the hereafter. Death represents the end of all the free will that we possess in this life.

Two States of Death and Two States of Life

Allah (swt) tells us in the Qur'an that we were first dead then He gave us life, then He will cause us to die, and He will again bring us back to life.

كَيْفَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَكُنْتُمْ أَمْوَاتًا
فَأَحْيَاكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ
تُرْجَعُونَ (سورة البقرة - آية ٢٨)

"How can you reject the faith in Allah? - Seeing that you were dead (without life), and He gave you life; then will He cause you to die; and will again bring you to life (on the day of resurrection); and again to Him will you return." (Qur'an 2:28)

قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أَمَتْنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ وَأَحْيَيْتَنَا
اثْنَتَيْنِ

(سورة غافر - من آية ١١)

"They (the unbelievers) will say: Our lord! Twice have you made us dead (without life), and twice have you given us life." (Qur'an 40:11)

The first death in the cited verses refers to the fact that when Allah (swt) created Adam, He created all human beings as dead atoms. Allah (swt) gives life to these atoms through the interaction of males and females.

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ رَبُّكَ مِن بَنِي آدَمَ مِنْ ظُهُورِهِمْ
ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَأَشْهَدَهُمْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ أَلَسْتُ
بِرَبِّكُمْ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ شَهِدْنَا.

(سورة الأعراف - من آية ١٧٢)

"When your Lord drew forth from the children of Adam - from their loins-

their descendants, and made them testify concerning themselves (saying) : "Am I not your Lord (who cherishes and sustains you)?" - They said: "yes! we do testify!". (Qur'an 7:172)

We have been transformed from dead atoms to living beings. Then we will experience another death and another life. The second life - life in the hereafter- is the eternal life

وَإِنَّ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ لَهِيَ الْحَيَوَانُ لَوْ كَانُوا
يَعْلَمُونَ

(سورة العنكبوت - من آية ٦٤)

"But verily the home in the hereafter, - that is life indeed (i.e., the eternal life that will never end), if they but knew." (Qur'an 29:64)

What Happens at the Time of Death

The Qur'an tells us that at the moment of death we see things and appreciate facts we could neither see nor appreciate before, as if the veils were lifted from our eyes and faces.

لَقَدْ كُنْتَ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ هَذَا فَكَشَفْنَا عَنْكَ
غِطَاءَكَ فَبَصَرُكَ الْيَوْمَ حَدِيدٌ

(سورة ق - آية ٢٢)

"(It will be said:) You were heedless of this; now have We removed your veil, and sharp is your sight this day!" (Qur'an 50:22)

The dying person sees a replay of his/her entire life. Allah (swt) and His angels will be closer to him/her than their family members which might be surrounding them.

■ At the time of death, the angels of mercy surround the believers, greet them with peace, and give them the glad tidings of paradise, and the bliss that await them.

■ According to the Prophet (pbuh), recitation of the Surah entitled the Dominion (Qur'an 67) can protect us from the punishment in the grave.

فَلَوْلَا إِذَا بَلَغَتِ الْحُلُقُومَ ، وَأَنْتُمْ حِينِيذٍ
تَنْظُرُونَ ، وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْكُمْ وَلَكِنْ لَا
تُبْصِرُونَ

(سورة الواقعة - آية ٨٣-٨٥)

"Then why do you not (intervene) when (the spirit of the dying person) reaches the throat. And you the while (sit) looking on- But We are nearer to him/her than you, and you see not." (Qur'an 56:83-85)

At the time of death we will know the truth about the world of the unseen which Allah (swt) told us about. The unbelievers would wish to have an opportunity to return back to life to do righteous deeds.

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَهُمُ الْمَوْتُ قَالَ رَبِّ
ارْجِعْهُنَّ ، لَعَلِّي أَعْمَلُ صَالِحًا فِيمَا
تَرَكْتُ كَلَّا إِنَّهَا كَلِمَةٌ هُوَ قَائِلُهَا

(سورة المؤمنون - من آية ٩٩، ١٠٠)

"(In falsehood will they be) until, when death comes to one of them, he says: "O my Lord! send me back (to life), - in order that I may work righteousness in the things I neglected" - by no means! It is a word he says." (Qur'an 23:99-100)

What the Believers and Unbelievers Face at the Time of Death

The Qur'an describes to us what the believers and unbelievers face at the time of death. For the believers, the angels of mercy surround them, greet them with peace, and give them the glad tidings of the paradise, and the bliss that await them. It is a time of happiness and joy. Everyone wishes to be in that situation.

الَّذِينَ تَتَوَفَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ طَيِّبِينَ يَقُولُونَ سَلَامٌ
عَلَيْكُمْ ادْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ
(سورة النحل - آية ٣٢)

"Those whose lives the angels take in a state of purity, saying (to them) "Peace be on you; enter the garden, because of (the good) which you did (in the world)". (Qur'an 16:32)

The Prophet (pbuh) informed us that white-faced angels of mercy will come to the believers at the time of death to take their spirits and say: come out well pleased, and pleasing your Lord, be happy with rest and provision, and a Lord who is not angry with you. Those spirits will have a very pleasant smell, one resembling the best musk found on earth.

إذا حضر المؤمن ، أتته ملائكة الرحمة

بحريرة بيضاء ، فيقولون: أخرجي راضية

مرضيا عنك، الى روح وربحان ورب غير

غضبان ، فيخرج كأطيب ريح المسك.

By contrast Allah (swt) sends the angels of punishment to the dying unbelievers. They do not greet them. They smite their faces and their backs. They warn them of the penalty of the blazing fire which awaits them.

وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذْ يَتَوَفَّى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الْمَلَائِكَةُ

يَضْرِبُونَ وُجُوهَهُمْ وَأَدْبَارَهُمْ وَذُوقُوا

عَذَابَ الْحَرِيقِ

(سورة الأنفال - آية ٥٠)

"If you could see, when the angels take the spirits of the unbelievers (at death), (how) that smite their faces and their backs (saying): taste the penalty of the blazing fire." (Qur'an 8:50)

The Prophet (pbuh) informed us that the angels of punishment will come to the unbelievers to take their spirits and say: come out to Allah's curse and anger, to the punishment of Allah. Those spirits will have a very foul smell.

وان الكافر اذا حضر أته ملائكة

العذاب بمسح ، فيقولون: أخرجي

ساخطة مسخوطا عليك ، الى عذاب الله

The unbelievers at the time of their death will wish they were never born. It is a very sad picture. All their pleasures in the worldly life cannot compensate for one moment of the severe punishment which awaits them.

Period Spent in the Grave

The period spent in the the grave is

referred to in the Qur'an as *Barzakh* (transition).

وَمِنْ وَرَائِهِمْ بَرْزَخٌ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ

(سورة المؤمنون - من آية ١٠٠)

"Before them is a partition till the day they are raised up." (Qur'an 23:100)

The Barzakh is the state in which the person will be after death and before judgment. The time is suspended during that period.

وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ يُنْفِثُ الْمُجْرِمُونَ مَلْبِثًا

غَيْرَ سَاعَةٍ

(سورة الروم - من آية ٥٥)

"On the day that the hour (of reckoning) will be established the transgressors will swear that they tarried but an hour." (Qur'an 30:55)

In the grave the spirit and the body are separated from one another. However, there will be frequent visitations of the spirit to the grave for reward or punishment.

Allah (swt) tells us that the punishment of the people of Pharaoh in the grave includes being brought in front of the fire every morning and every evening during their stay in the grave.

النَّارُ يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَيْهَا غُدُوًّا وَعَشِيًّا وَيَوْمَ

تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ أَدْخِلُوا آلَ فِرْعَوْنَ أَشَدَّ

العذاب

(سورة غافر - آية ٤٦)

"In front of the fire will they be brought morning and evening; and (the sentence will be) on the day that judgment will be established : Cast you people of Pharaoh into the severest penalty!" (Qur'an 40:46)

The Prophet (pbuh) instructed us to seek refuge in Allah from the Punishment of the grave. Recitation of the Surah entitled the Dominion (Qur'an 67) can protect us from that punishment, as described in the two prophetic sayings:

إستجبروا بالله من عذاب القبر ، فإن

عذاب القبر حق

سورة تبارك هي المانعة من عذاب القبر

Shouldn't we think about our stay in the grave, about standing before Allah (swt) alone on the day of judgment, and about the eternal life that will follow? If we truly believe in death, judgment and the hereafter, we will devote many of the resources and talents which Allah endowed us with to what pleases Him and is most beneficial to us at those times. We will be able to follow the recommendations of the Prophet (pbuh):

كن في الدنيا كأنك غريب ، أو عابر

سبيل

Go through this worldly life as if you were a stranger, or a wayfarer.

أكثرُوا ذكر هازم اللذات : الموت

Remember frequently the conqueror of all pleasures: Death.

We will be able to curb and subdue our lower desires and appetites in this world.

I pray to Almighty Allah to give us the guidance and the strength to adhere to the Qur'an and the Sunnah in our life, and to protect us from the temptations of Satan, and from the punishment of the grave. Ameen □

Supplication

The Prophet (pbuh) recommended that after the second part of *Tashahud* we make the following supplication:

اللهم إني أعوذ بك من عذاب جهنم ، ومن

عذاب القبر، ومن فتنة الحيا والممات ،

ومن شر فتنة المسيح الدجال

O Allah! I seek refuge in You from the punishment in the Hell fire, from the punishment in grave, from the deceit of life and death, and from the deceit of the false Messiah.



A Muslim Guide to Food

Ingredients

The following list of *halal/ mash-booh/ haram* ingredients and additives is taken from the book *(A Muslim Guide to Food Ingredients, by Dr. A.H.Sakr)*. The symbols used between parentheses are : *AL* (Alcohol), *AN* (Animal origin), *H* (health reasons), and *P* (plant origin).

LAWFUL (*Halal*)

ADDITIVES

Natural: sugar, salt, honey, adipic acid, vinegar, citric acid, black pepper, mustard

Synthetic: sodium bicarbonate, calcium chloride, calcium silicate, silicon dioxide, sodium benzoate, sodium citrate, acetic acid

AGAR
ALANINE (*P*)
AMYLOSE
ANTIOXIDANTS
Ascorbic Acid (Vitamin C)
ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS
Sorbitol, mannitol
AVIDIN
BAKING SODA
BENZOATE (Benzoic acid)
BRAN
BUTYRIC ACID
CARBOHYDRATES (*P*)
CALCIFEROL (Vitamin D)
CAROTENOID
CARRAGEENAN
CASEIN
CELLULOSE
CHOCOLATE LIQUOR
CHOLINE
CITRIC ACID
DEXTRIN; DEXTROSE
DIGLYCERIDES (*P*)
EMULSIFIERS (*P*)
ERGOSTEROL
FARINA
FATTY ACIDS (*P*)
FIBERS
FICIN
FOLIC ACID (*P*)
FRUCTOSE
GALACTOSE
GELATIN (Seaweeds or beef-knox)
GLIADIN (Gluten)
GLUCOSE (Dextrose)
GLYCERIDE (*P*)
GUMS
HEMICELLULOSE
HYDROGENATED OILS
INOSITOL (*P*)
INULIN
IODINE
LACTIC ACID
LACTOSE
LANOLIN
LECITHIN (*P*)
LIPIDS (*P*)
LYSINE
MALT

MALTOSE
MOLASSES
MONOGLYCERIDE (*P*)
MONOSACCHARIDE
OLEIC ACID (*P*)
PASTEURIZATION
PANTOTHENIC ACID
PAPAIN
PARA AMINO BENZOIC ACID (PABA)
PECTIN (*P*)
POLYSACCHARIDE (*P*)
POLYUNSATURATED FATTY ACIDS (*P*)
PROPIONIC ACID
RENNET (Microbial) (*P*)
RENNIN (Microbial) (*P*)
RIBOFLAVIN (*P*)
ROUGHAGE
SHORTENINGS (*P*)
SORBIC ACID
SORBITOL
STARCH
STIMULANTS
SUCROSE
SUET
SWEETENERS (natural)
TALLOW
TANNIC ACID
THIAMIN (*P*)
TONIC (no alcohol)
TAPIOCA
TRYPSIN (no pork)
VANILLA
VANILLIC ACID
VANILLIN
VINEGAR
VITAMIN TABLETS (A,D,E,C)
ZEIN

GLYCEROL (*AN*)
GLYCOGEN (*AN*)
HISTAMINE
HORMONES (*AN*)
INSULIN (*AN*)
INOSITOL (*AN*)
KERATIN (*AN*)
LIMIT DEXTRIN (*AN*)
LIPIDS (*AN*)
MONOGLYCERIDE (*AN*)
NIACIN (*AN*)
OLEIC ACID (*AN*)
OXALIC ACID (*AN*)
PEPSIN (*AN*)
PABA (*AN*)
PHOSPHOLIPID (*AN*)
PHOSPHORIC ACID (*H*)
PHYTIC ACID (*H*)
POLYSACCHARIDE (Glycogen)
POLYUNSATURATED FATTY ACIDS (*AN*)
RENNET (*AN*)
RENNIN (*AN*)
RIBOFLAVIN (*AN*)
SHORTENINGS (*AN*)
STIMULANTS (*H*)
SWEETENER (*H*)
TARTARIC ACID (*AL*)
TEA (*H*)
THIAMIN (*AN*)
TONIC (*AL*)
TRYPSIN (*AN*)
URIC ACID (*AN*)
WATER (soft, carbonated) (*H*)
WHEY (animal pepsin or rennin)
YEAST (brewer's beer products)

UNLAWFUL (*Haram*)

ADDITIVES

Saccharine, sodium nitrate and nitrite (*H*)
ALCOHOL
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS
Cyclamates, saccharine, aspartame
BACON, BACON BITS
BLOOD
CIDER (*AL*)
COCAINE (*H*)
CODEINE (*H*)
COLLAGEN (Hog)
COLORING EXTRACTS (Synthetics) (*H*)
DEAD ANIMALS
DES (female sex hormone)
EST (female hormone)
ETHYLENE OXIDE
FERMENTED MALT (*AL*)
GELATIN (Hog)
HAM (Hog)
INSULIN (Porcine)
LARD (Hog)
MEATS - Carnivorous (*AN*)
PEPSIN (Hog)
PORK
SHORTENING (*AN*)
VANILLA EXTRACT (*AL*)
VANILLIN EXTRACT (*AL*)
VITAMIN CAPSULES (A,E,K) (*AN*)
WINE

SUSPECTED (*Mash-booh*)

ADDITIVES

Yeast (brewer's) (*AL*)
Sodium nitrate, nitrite (*H*)
Phosphoric acid (*H*)
Alanine (*AN*)
ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS (*H*)
BEVERAGES (Non-alcoholic) (*H*)
BHA,BHT
BILE SALTS (*AN*)
BIOTIN (*AN*)
CAFFEINE (*H*)
CARBOHYDRATES (*AN*)
CHELATE (*AN*)
CHOLESTEROL (*AN*)
COFFEE (*H*)
COLORING EXTRACTS (*H*)
COBALAMINE (*AN*)
CYSTEINE (*AN*)
CYSTINE (*AN*)
DIGLYCERIDES (*AN*)
DIURETICS (*H*)
EDTA (*H*)
EMULSIFIERS (*AN*)
ENZYMES (*AN*)
FATTY ACIDS (*AN*)
FLAVORING EXTRACTS (*H*)
FOLIC ACID (*AN*)
GALLIC ACID (*H*)
GELATIN (*AN*)
GLYCERIDE (*AN*)

Facts about the Quran

The Qur'an is the direct word of Allah (swt), revealed on Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) through the angel Jibreel over a period of 23 years; 13 years in Mecca and 10 years in Medina. Statistical data about the Qur'an is available in the form of tables and graphical charts in a number of computer programs. The bar chart shown below is an edited version of the one in *Al-Qur'an Al-Karim* data base (see page 7 of the last issue of Perspectives).

The Surahs are arranged in the sequence of their revelation. The white bars represent the 86 Surahs revealed in Mecca, and the black bars represent the 28 Surahs revealed in Medina. The height of each bar represents the number of verses of the associated Surah (the numbers listed on the vertical axis on the left). The numbers listed on the top of some of the bars, and on the left of the Surahs' names indicate the order of revelation of the associated Surahs. The numbers between parentheses (to the right of the Surahs' names) indicate the current order of the Surahs in the Qur'an. Note that the current sequence of the Surahs in the Qur'an is what Allah (swt) intended it to be, to provide universal guidance for all generations till the day of judgment.

The focus of the Meccan Surahs is on the major articles of the Islamic creed (the meaning, significance, and practical

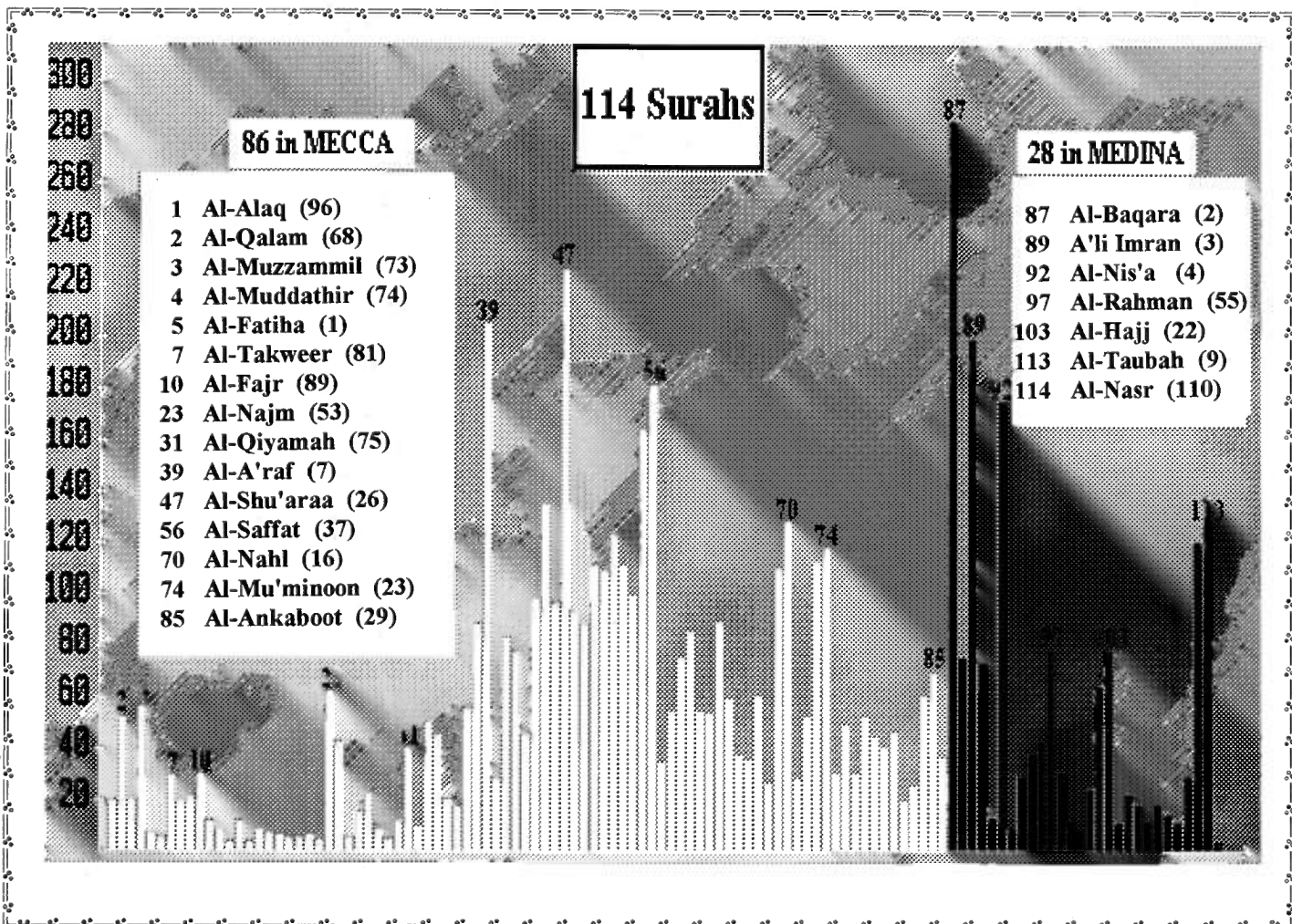
implications of *Tawheed*). By contrast, the Surahs revealed in Medina set the principles and methods of organizing a community and building up a state. The framework for the different systems of government is contained in these Surahs.

The first six Surahs revealed are (with the English translation of the name, and the present order shown between square brackets): *Al-Alaq* [The Clot - 96]; *Al-Qalam* [The Pen - 68]; *Al-Muzzammil* [folded in Garment - 73]; *Al-Muddathir* [One Wrapped up - 74]; *Al-Fatiha* [The Opening Chapter - 1]; and *Al-Lahab* [Flame - 111].

The last three Surahs revealed are: *Al-Mai'dah* [The Table Spread - 5]; *Al-Taubah* [Repentance - 9]; and *Al-Nasr* [Help - 110].

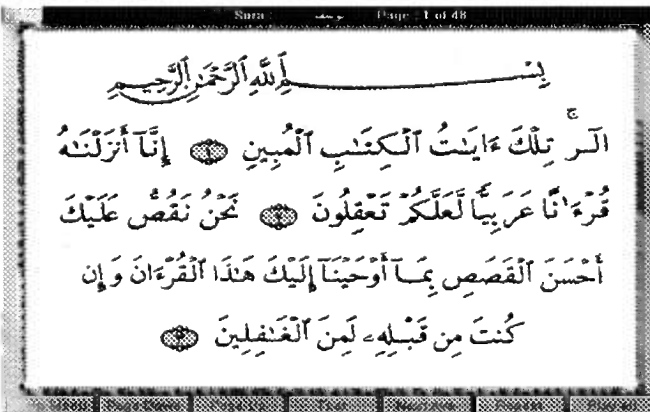
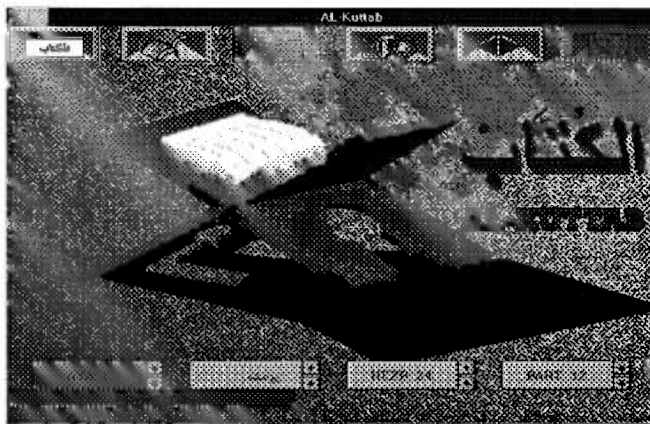
The longest four Surahs, according to the number of verses, are: *Al-Baqara* [Cow - 2] - 286 verses; *Al-Shu'araa* [The poets - 26] - 227 verses; *Al-A'raf* [The Heights - 7] - 206 verses, and *A'li-Imran* [The Family of Imran - 3] - 200 verses. Surah *Al-Baqara* has the largest number of words (6,144 words).

The shortest three Surahs, each having 3 verses, are: *Al-Asr* [Time Through the Ages 103]; *Al-Kawthar* [Abundance - 108]; and *Al-Nasr* [Help - 110]. Surah *Al-Kawthar* has the least number of words among all the surahs of the Qur'an (10 words).

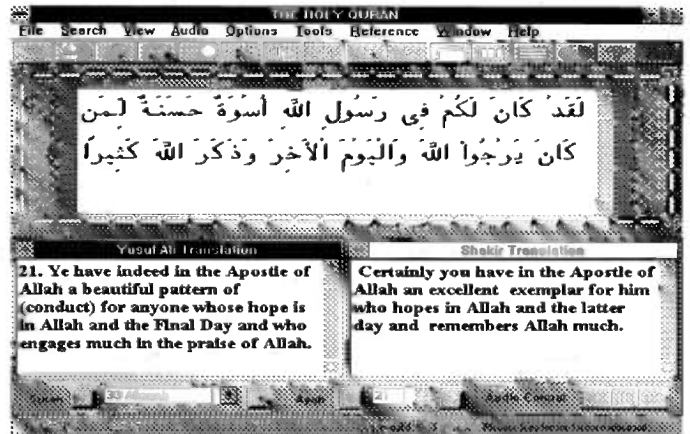


Multimedia Programs of the Qur'an on CD-ROM

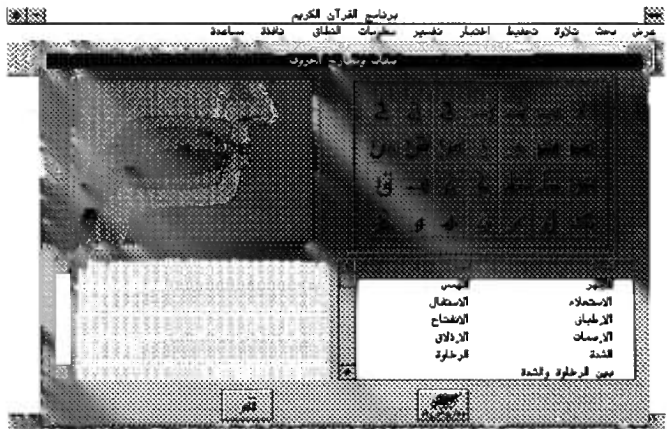
With the Grace of Allah, Multimedia Programs of the entire Qur'an are now available on CD-ROM for the IBM PC. Three of these programs are described in this issue. The three programs require four MB of memory. The first program is "*Al-Kuttab*", which requires two MB of hard disk space, windows 3.1 with Arabic support, and sound blaster. The recitation is made by Sheikh M. Kh. Al-Hossari. The program has search facility in Arabic (by words). A copy file command allows the sound to be copied on the hard disk. The next upgrade will contain meanings of words, Arabic interpretation, and English translation. The program is available from *Khalifa Computer Company*, P.O. Box 23759, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, Tel. 011 971 654 1533, Fax 011 971 654 9553. (see the two figures below).



The second program is an upgraded version of "*Al-Qur'an Al-Kareem*", which requires 3MB of hard disk space, windows 3.1 English version, and sound interface adapter. The recitation is made by Sheikh M. Kh. Al-Hossari. The program has three English translations by Yusuf Ali, Pickthall, and Shakir, phonetic pronunciation guide (in English), Turkish and Malaysian translations, User selectable display fonts in Arabic and English, and search facility for Arabic words or characters, as well as Qur'an dictionary search. It Also has Audio dialing box to control the number of times the verse is recited and the time between the successive recitations. The program is available from *Micro Systems International*, 505 S. Neil, Champaign, IL. 61820, Tel. (217) 356-7226, Fax (217) 356-4501 (see figure).



The third program is "*Al-Qur'an*" which requires 8MB of hard disk space, Sakhr Arabic Windows - version 4.0, and sound blaster. The recitation is made by Sheikh Al-Huthaifi. The program has elaborate search facility by words (or their roots), group of words, or subject. It has Arabic interpretation based on Tafseer Al-Jalalien, and English translation. The program also has a facility for teaching the correct pronunciation of letters (using pictorial and vocal efforts - see figure below). The program is available from *Sakhr Software Co.*, Free Zone Nasr City, P.O. Box 5189 H. West Code 11771 Cairo, Tel 011 202 274 99929, Fax 011 202 274 0044. □



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Editorial

The second activity is to start a positive dialogue, an educational interaction with the food industry. Such dialogue will enable the food industry to learn about Islamic dietary laws and eating habits. A likely outcome is that the food industry may realize that substituting certain ingredients in their products to accommodate Muslim consumers can possibly increase their market share, and their profits.

But for IFANCA to accomplish these tasks, it needs the support and the help of all of us. We pray to Almighty Allah (swt) to guide us for receiving *halal* products, and to protect us from everything which is *haram*. Ameen □