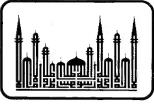


بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ Perspectives



A bimonthly newsletter published by Foundation for Islamic Knowledge *Dec. / Jan. 1997, Rajab thru Ramadan 1417 * Vol. 2, No.6

Editorial

The night of the 27th of Rajab brings to memory the great miracle which Allah (SWT) supported Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) with - the night journey (Isra'), his ascension to heaven (Mir'aj), and his advancing past Sidratil-Muntaha (Lote-tree of the utmost boundary), where even angel Jibril (Gabriel) could not go. Although this event happened over 1400 years ago - 16 months before the Hijrah (migration of the Prophet from Mecca to Medina), there are many lessons that we can learn from it, even today. Among these lessons are the following two:

First - Allah provides His Prophets, and His sincere servants, with means to carry out their mission of da'awa (invitation to the way of Allah). Only after they have exhausted all the means given to them, they receive the direct support, and the direct intervention, of Allah. Prophet Mohammad's compassionate wife - Khadijah, and his uncle Abu-Talib provided him with the comfort and tranquility at home, and the protection from the unbelievers of Mecca. He lost both of them in one year. He went to the city of Ta'if to get a listening ear, but the people there were no better than the people of Mecca. They repudiated and insulted him. When he exhausted all the means provided to him, and turned to Allah with du'a (supplication) for help, Allah responded by giving

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A Multimedia Software Package on Islam

The Islamic Scholar, version 2 is a software package combining Qur'an and Hadith with information on the holy prophets, Islamic history, Letters and treaties of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), Islamic terms, prominent Muslims (including the companions of the Prophet), and Muslim contributions to world civilization. The software is on a CD-ROM and a 3.5 in. diskette and runs on both Windows 3.1 and Windows '95. The Qur'an facility has the Arabic text, three English translations and full recitation by sheikh Abdul-Basit. The Hadith part has the five books of Bukhari, Muslim, Muwatta, Mishkat and Abu-Dawood. The program is developed by Par Excellence Software, Johannesburg, South Africa, and is distributed by Sharaaz and Associates, 59 Washington St., Suite #118, Santa Clara, CA 95050, Tel (408) 971-4846, Fax (408) 971-4165.





Reflections

Dr. Ahmed K. Noor

Articles of Faith

أركان الإيحان



The Arabic word Iman (faith) means to believe in things unseen - i.e., in things which cannot be perceived by our senses, and do not come within our human experience and observation. In the Islamic terminology the word Iman refers to the heartfelt belief in six facts, namely Allah (SWT); His angels; His books; His messengers; the day of judgment; and Al-Qadar (Divine measures) good and bad. The six facts constitute the Islamic creed and are referred to as the articles(or pillars) of faith. Few Muslims understand their full meaning and implications. In this article, an attempt is made to give some

of the implications of each [** of the six articles.

To begin with, the articles of faith are mentioned in the Qur'an, for example

ءَامَنَ الرَّسُولُ عَمَّا أُنزلَ إلَيْهِ مِن رَّبِّهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلُّ ءَامَنَ باللَّهِ وَمَلَآئِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ لاَ نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أحَدِ مِّن رُسُله.

(سورة البقرة - من آمة ٢٨٥)

"The messenger believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers, each one believes in Allah, His angels, His books, and His messengers. They say, (we make no distinction between one another of His messengers)."

(Qur'an 2:285)

وَمَن يَكْفُرُ بِاللَّهِ وَمِلاَّئِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْأَخِرِ فَقَدْ ضِلَّ ضَلَالًا

(سورة النساء - من آبة ١٣٦)

بشم اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ لَّيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَن تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُم. قَبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمُغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْأَخْوِ وَالْمُلَآئِكَةِ وِالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ . (سورة البقرة - من آية ١٧٧)

"It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces towards east or west; but it is righteousness to believe in Allah and the last day, and the angels, and the book, and the messengers." (Qur'an 2:177)

"And whosoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the last day, then indeed he has strayed far away." (Qur'an 4:136)

"Verily, We have created all things with due proportion and measure."

(Our'an 54:49)

When the Prophet (PBUH) was asked about the definition of Iman (faith) by angel Jibril (who came in the form of a man) he replied:

participate in His attribute of divinity, or in the rights He has over His creatures). توحيد الألوهية

His names and His attributes. He is characterized by every perfection, and exalted above imperfection, or impossibility. His attributes include honor, might, invincibility, justice, wisdom. mercy, forbearance, clemency, and powers of creation, cherishing, sustaining, guarding, and توحيد الأسماء والصفات protecting.

There are numerous verses in the Holy Our'an which give evidence of Allah's

> existence, His signs, His creations, and His Few attributes. examples are given subsequently.

> > أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمُ الْخَالِقُونَ .

(سورة الطور -

"Were they created by nothing, or were they themselves the creators."

(Qur'an 52:35)

والأَرْضَ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ .

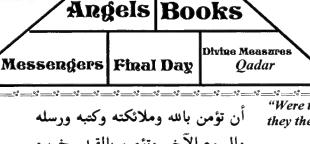
(سورة لقمان - من آية ٢٥)

"And if you were to ask them (who have created the heavens and the earth?), they will certainly say Allah." (Qur'an 31:25)

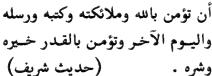
اللهُ الَّـذِي خَلَقَ السَّهَاوَاتِ وَ الأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَافِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ .

(سورة السجدة - من آية ٤)

"Allah is He who has created the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them in six days,"



Allak



"Faith is to believe in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, the final day, and the divine measures-good or bad."

1. Belief in Allah

Belief in Allah (SWT) is the foundation of the Islamic ideology. To believe in Allah means to believe in:

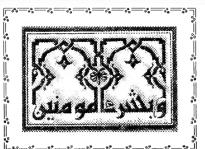
- His existence, omnipresence and uniqueness.
- His Lordship, omnipotence and توحيد الربوبية .dominion
- His sole Godhood (no one else

أركان الإيمان Articles of Faith

- Allah, the Almighty, the Supreme. الله
- His existence and omnipresence
- His Lordship, omnipresence, and dominion توحيد الربوبية
- His sole Godhood توحيد
 الألوهية
- His names and Attributes توحيد الأسماء والصفات
- His Messengers رسله
- Message they brought comes from Allah
- Messengers whose names are mentioned in the Our'an
- All what the Qur'an tells us about them
- Obey them and follow the code of life they brought

- His Angels ملائكته
- Their existence
- The ones whose names are mentioned, or referred to, in the Our'an
- Qualities of some mentioned in the Qur'an
- Duties assigned to some of them

- His Books کتبه
- Divine revelations came from Allah
- Books mentioned in the Our'an
- Contents of original revelations
- Follow commands of Allah in these books
- Final Day اليوم الآخر
- Resurrection
- Rewards and punishment for good & sinful deeds
- Heaven and Hell



Divine measures and Destiny-Qadar Good and

القدر Evil

- All matters pertaining to our life are known to Allah
- Everything decreed by Allah is recorded with Him
- Everything that happens to us is in accordance with Allah's will
- The entire universe is created by Allah and Allah alone

(Qur'an 32:4)

وَإِلَمْكُمُ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ لاًّ إِلَهَ إِلاًّ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ

(سورة البقرة - آية ١٦٣)

"And your God is one God (Allah),

there is none that has the right to be worshipped but He, the Most beneficent, the Most merciful." (Qur'an 2:163)



قُل لَّوْ كَانَ مَعَهُ ءَالِمَةٌ كَمَا يَقُولُونَ إِذَا لَا تَتُولُونَ إِذَا لَا بَتَغَوْا إِلَى ذِى الْعَرْشِ سَبِيلاً . (سهرة الإسراء - آمة ٤٢)

"Say: if there had been other gods along with Him as they assert, then

(Qur'an 7:180)

they would certainly have sought out a way to the Lord of the Throne." (Our'an 17:42)

وَلِلَهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى فَاذَعُوهُ بِهَا . (المورة الأعراف - من آية ١٨٠) "And the Most beautiful names belong to Allah, so call on Him by them."

There are many important consequences to believing in Allah, including:

- To free one's conscience from worship and servitude to anyone or anything but Allah - the one true God.
- 2 To follow the code of life which He has selected for us, thereby attaining success in the present world and the one to come, and
- 3 To put one's trust in Allah and accept what He chooses for us.

2. Belief in the Angels

The angels are unseen creation of Allah who were created before all other living creations. They were created from light and are capable of changing form to assume various shapes and appearances. They are honored servants of Allah who glorify Him day and night, obey His commands, and never commit sins.

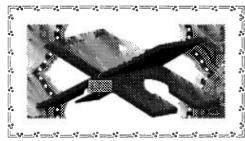
"They (i.e., the angels) glorify His praises night and day, they never slacken." (Qur'an 21:20)

"They flinch not (from executing) the commands they receive from Allah, but do (precisely) what they are commanded." (Qur'an 66:6) To believe in the angels means to believe in:

- a Their existence
- b The angels who are either mentioned or referred to individually in the Qur'an (Jibril -Gabriel, Mika'il, Israfil, Azra'il, Munkar, Nakir, Ridwan, Malik, and

the two scribes who record one's good and bad deeds, each of whom is called a present observer), as well as other angels mentioned collectively.

The characteristics of the angels that we are taught in the Qur'an and in the authentic sayings of the Prophet (PBUH). For example, the Prophet (PBUH) informed us that he saw Jibril having six hundred wings. Allah (SWT) has commanded some of the angels to come to earth in the form of humans. For example, Jibril came to the Prophet (PBUH) in the form of a man and asked questions about Islam, Iman, Ihsan, and the hour



and its signs. Angels went to prophet *Ibrahim* (PBUH) in the form of men to give him glad tidings of a son, before destroying the villages of the People of prophet *Loot* (PBUH).

The assignment given to some of the angels. For example, Allah assigned Jibril (Gabriel) to relay his message to the Prophets; Mika'il (Michael) is entrusted with the sustenance of creatures; Israfil is assigned to sound the soor (trumpet) twice - first at the end of the present world, and second at the time of resurrection; Ridwan and Malik are the custodians of heaven and hell: the recorders- two angels are assigned to every human to record his/her good and bad deeds; an angel is assigned to take the spirit of every human at death; angels are assigned to ask every person after death about his/her Rabb (Lord), Prophet, and Deen.

Among the important consequences of believing in the angels is to believe in the power of Allah, who fully controls this universe. When the Prophet (PBUH) ascended to heaven and visited Al-Ba'it Al-Ma'amoor (the heavenly

Ka'aba), he found seventy thousand different angels going in every day. Also, we should be thankful to Allah for His care: sending the angels to record our deeds and to take care of some of our needs.

Belief in Allah's Books

Belief in the books of Allah means believing in the divine guidance of Allah which includes:

- Belief that the divine books came from Allah (SWT).
- b Belief in the books which Allah mentioned in the Qur'an Suhuf (scrolls) revealed to Ibrahim; Torah revealed to Prophet Moussa; Zaboor (Psalms) given to Prophet Daw'ood; the Injil revealed to Prophet Issa; and the Quran revealed to Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

"And this is in the scrolls of the earliest (revelations). The scrolls of Abraham and Moses."

(Qur'an 87:18,19)

"It was We who revealed the Torah (to Moses): therein was guidance and light." (Qur'an 5:44)

"And We gave David the Psalms."
(Our'an 17:55)

"We send him (i.e. Jesus) the Gospel; therein was guidance and light." (Qur'an 5:46)

"It is We who have sent down the Qur'an to you by stages."

(Qur'an 76:23)

- c Belief in the contents of these books as originally revealed by Allah.
- d Following the commands of Allah given in these books (when not abrogated by later revelation). The Qur'an, as Allah (SWT) intended it to be, contains the authentic divine guidance for all human beings.

إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْءَانَ يَهْدِى لِلَّتِي هِيَ أُقْوَمُ (سورة الإسراء - من آية ٩)

"Verily this Qur'an does guide to that which is most right (or stable)."

(Qur'an 17:9)

4. Belief in Allah's Messengers

The messengers are men who, through inspiration from Allah, received guidance to convey to their people at different times. All the messengers were supported by signs and miracles from Allah. Belief in the messengers includes:

- a Belief that the message they brought is truly coming from Allah.
- b Belief in the twenty-five messengers whose names are mentioned in the Qur'an including the five major prophets

أولى العزم من الرسل

Nooh, Ibrahim, Moussa, Issa, and Mohammad (peace be upon them).

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِن النَّبِيِّينَ مِيثَاقَهُمْ وَمِنكَ وَمِن نُّوحٍ وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ وَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُم مِّيثَقًا غَلِيظًا . (سورة الأحزاب - آية ٧)

"And remember We took from the prophets their covenant; and from you, from Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus the son of Mary: We took from them a solemn covenant."

(Qur'an 33:7)

شَرَعَ لَكُم مِّنَ الدِّينِ مَاوَصَّى بِهِ نُوحًا وَالَّذِى أَوْحِيْنَا بِهِ وَالَّذِى أَوْحِيْنَا إِلَيْكَ وَمَا وَصَّيْنَا بِهِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى .

"The same religion has He established for you as that which He enjoined on Noah - The which We have sent by inspiration to you - and that We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus." (Qur'an 42:13)

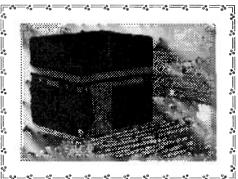
c Belief in other messengers whose

names are not mentioned in the Our'an

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلاً مَّن قَبْلِكَ مِنْهُم مَّن قَصْضنَا عَلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُم مَّن لَّمْ نَقْصُض عَلَيْكَ .

"We did aforetime send messengers before you: of them there are some whose story We have revealed to you, and some whose story We have not related to you." (Our'an 40:78)

- d To belief in all what was related by Allah in the Qur'an about His messengers.
- e To follow the code of life which they brought to us from Allah.



5. Belief in the Final Day

The final day is a day which is not followed by a night. To belief in the final day means to be convinced that it will come to pass, with all its implications including:

a Resurrection of the dead, their reckoning.

"Again, on the day of judgment, will ye be raised up"

(Qur'an 23:16)

b The weighing of the good deeds against the sinful ones for each individual.

"For those things that are good remove those that are evil."

(Qur'an 11:114)

الالكالت التالت التاكم

"Then it will be for Us to call them to account." (Qur'an 88:26)

c Passing over the high, narrow bridge that spans the *Sirat* (hell fire).

وَإِن مُنكُمْ إِلاَّ وَارِدُهَا كَانَ عَلَى رَبِّكَ حَبَّا مَقْضِيًّا .

"Not one of you but will pass over if: this is with your Lord, a decree which must be accomplished."

(Qur'an 19:71)

d Heaven and Hell.

"Only the one who is saved far from the hell fire and admitted to the garden will have succeeded."

(Qur'an 3:185)

Among the important consequences of believing in the final day are: the incentive for doing good, the deterrent against committing sins, and the patient perseverance for enduring the difficulties in this life.

Belief in *Qadar*, its Good and Evil

The Arabic word *Qadar* as used in the Qur'an means divine measures and proportions. It is sometimes translated as divine destiny, divine decree, eternal will, predestination, or fate. The Arabic word *Qada'a* refers to the (instance of) occurrence of *Qadar*, i.e. it is the thing willed. To believe in *Qadar* means:

a To be convinced that Allah (SWT) has ordained both good and evil in past eternity before creating the human beings.

"And the command of Allah is a decree determined." (Qur'an 33:38)

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Brief Fasting Guide

Essential Elments

- ♦ Intention (before dawn.
- ♦ Complete abstinence from all things that nullify the fast.

Recommended Acts

- ◆ Eating a predawn meal (sahoor).
- ◆ Hastening in breaking the fast at sunset.
- ♦ Making supplication at breaking the fast, and while fasting.
- ♦ Refraining from performing any actions that do not befit fasting.
- ◆ Being generous, and studing the Our'an.
- ◆ Striving to perform as many acts of worship as possible, especially the last ten days of Ramadan.

Permissible Acts

- ♦ Pouring water over oneself and bathing.
- ♦ Applying kohl, eye drops, or anything else in the eyes.
- Cupping to drain blood.
- ♦ Rinsing the mouth and nostrils with water.
- ♦ Kissing the spouse (if one is able to control himself/herself)

Prophetic Supplication at the time of breaking the fast

دعاء الإفطار

ذهب الظمأ ، وإبتلت العروق وثبت الأجر إن شاء الله

"The thirst has gone, the glands are wet and, Allah willing, the reward is confirmed."

(nullify) the Fast

Acts which Invalidate

Acts which require making up missed days:

- Intentional eating or drinking.
- Intentional vomiting.
- ♦ The menses and the puerperium (nifas).
- ◆ Intentional ejaculation of sperms.
- ◆ Intending to break the fast before sunset (even if one changes his/her mind).
- ♦ Eating, drinking, or marital relations after dawn or before sunset (on the mistaken assumption that it is before dawn or after sunset).
- ◆ Taking intravenous or intramuscular injections of nutrients.

Acts which require making up missed days and expiation:

♦ Marital relations during fasting.

The Night of Power ليلة القدر Prophetic Du'a Its Significance When is it? Its signs (Supplication) • Allah has revealed the Our'an in it. One of the Pleasent night. • It is better than a اللهم إنك عفو neither hot nor cold. odd nights thousand month. Any act of تحب العفو فأعف • With no clouds, rain, of the last worship in this night is or wind. ten nights better than the same act • No star will be of performed for one thousand burned in it. Ramadan months. O Allah, You are • The sun rises in the • The previous sins of a forgiving and You succeeding morning love forgiveness, so Muslim who spends it in without rays. forgive me. worship are forgiven.

Continued from page 5
Articles of Faith

"Verily, for all things has Allah appointed a due proportion." (Qur'an 65:3)

b Nothing in existence lies outside the eternal will of Allah.

"And there is nothing hidden in heaven or earth, but is (recorded) in a clear record." (Qur'an 27:75)

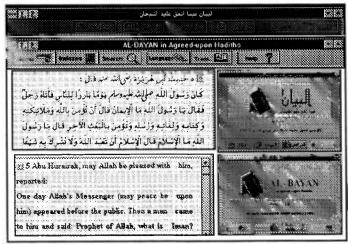
c Allah the creator of everything in this universe. Human beings are held responsible only for the choices they make. Early Muslims used to define *Qadar* as "What comes to you was not going to miss you, and what misses you was not coming to you".

Say: "Nothing will happen to us except what Allah has decreed for us: He is our protector": and on Allah let the believers put their trust. (Qur'an 9:51)

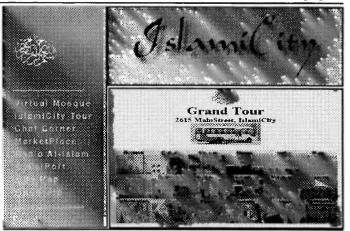
I pray to Almighty Allah to give us the wisdom to appreciate the meaning and implications of each of these beliefs, and the strength to mold our attitudes, behaviors, likes, and dislikes accordingly. Ameen n

Islamic Software and New Facilities on the Internet

Al-Bayan multilingual program provides more than 1700 hadiths, agreed-upon by the two *Imams Bukhari*, and *Muslim*, in Arabic, English, and Malay. It provides facilities for indexing, morphological, and thematic search. The program is available from **Digitek**, **Falls Church**, **VA**, **Tel.** (703) 883-0134 (see the figure below).



The Internet site of IslamiCity has recently been expanded. It includes a virtual Mosque, IslamiCity tour, chat corner, Radio Al-Islam, and Cyber Port.



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Editorial

him direct support and comfort through the miracle that no human being could witness. The Prophet (PBUH) was taken at night on a journey from the sacred mosque of Mecca to the farthest mosque in Jerusalem, ascended to heaven, and returned back to Mecca before dawn.

"So that We may show to him some of Our signs."

(Qur'an 17:1)

Second - the importance of salah (prayers). Salah is the cornerstone of Islam, the symbol of our servitude, and a direct communication link to Allah. It is the only act of worship for which the command was given directly by Allah (SWT) to the Prophet (PBUH) during Mir'aj - not through the angel Jibril. Among the sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) concerning the importance of prayers are:

"The first thing that about which a person will be called to account out of his/her actions on the day of judgment is prayers. If it is good, all the rest of the deeds will be considered good. If it is not defective, all the deeds will be considered defective."

"Between the individual and shirk (associating partners with Allah) and Kufr (disbelief), is to leave out prayers."

We should do our utmost to establish, observe, guard, and perfect our prayers.

Expected Dates of Ramadan and Eid

Ramadan 1st, 1417......January 10, 1997 Eid-ul-Fitr.....February 9, 1997