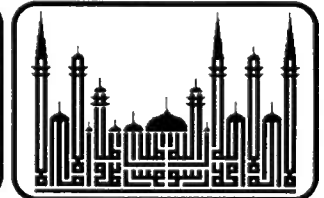


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Perspectives



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Editorial

The Holy Qur'an is a unique book of Divine guidance. It is not in itself a book of science, but rather, *a book of signs*. It contains more than 6000 signs, of which over 1000 deal with science, technology, and medical matters. Many of the verses dealing with signs record scientific and medical knowledge that modern science and medicine is only just discovering - 1400 years after the revelation of the Qur'an.

The Qur'an includes subjects as diverse as astronomy, biology, botany, genetics, physics, and earth science, with some stunningly advanced insights into the workings of nature that have only recently been confirmed by scientific research. In each case there is not long and detailed scientific information, but rather, a short summary of facts.

The expansion of the Universe, which is referred to in *Qur'an 51:47*, is the most imposing discovery of modern science. It is a firmly established concept, and the only debate centers around the way this is taking place. It was first suggested by the general theory of relativity and is backed up by physics in the examination of the galactic spectrum. Last April, scientists used a revolutionary new camera to obtain a snapshot of a young star, about 1,320 trillion miles from Earth in the constellation Centaurus, just starting its

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Software for calculating the beginning of lunar months

Islamic months start at sunset on the day of visual sighting of the lunar crescent. Some Muslim scholars hold the view that visual sighting is necessary to determine the start of a month. It is, however, useful to accurately predict when a crescent is likely to be visible in order to produce lunar calendars in advance. A computer program entitled "**MoonCalc version 4.0**" has been developed by Dr. Monzur Ahmed of Birmingham, United Kingdom to search the world locations which satisfy several visibility criteria for sighting the lunar crescent. The program provides world maps for the start of each lunar month, showing areas where the crescent is likely to be first sighted (see the bottom figure on this page for the start of Rabi' II, 1419 - July 24/25, 1998 - the different colored bands represent the age of the moon at sunset on the day of predicted sighting). The program is *(continued on page 5)*

FOR ISLAM

June <i>Safar/Rabi' I</i>							July <i>Rabi' I/Rabi' II</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11			6	7	8	9	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	RA	2	20	21	22	23	24	25	RS
28	29	30					24	25	26	27	28	29	30
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	28	29	30	31			
							2	3	4	5	6	7	

**Qibla
Direction**

**Use of Astronomy for
Those Who Believe**

Islamic Calendar for North America

35-40
hrs.

30-35
hrs.

25-30
hrs.

1998 Calendar
with Islamic Dates

1999 Calendar
with Islamic Dates

2000 Calendar
with Islamic Dates

Reflections

Dr. Ahmed K. Noor

Wahy (Inspiration)

الروحى

The Arabic word *Wahy* refers to secret inspiration, or hidden

information, إعلام بخفاء which is passed from the giver (the one who inspires) to the receiver (the one who is inspired with). The word *wahy* and its derivatives have been repeated seventy-eight times in the Qur'an. The Qur'an refers to two kinds of inspiration from Allah:

1) A verbal or literal inspiration by which the actual words of Allah are conveyed in human language (possibly through an angel), and
2) Instinctive inspiration by Allah to His creations. This includes a suggestion thrown by Allah into the heart or mind of a person, by which he/she understands the substance of the message, whether it is a command, a prohibition, or an explanation of a great truth. The first kind of inspiration includes divine revelation.

The Qur'an also uses *wahy* in reference to covert suggestions by evil ones (from humans and *shayateen*) - see the figure on page 3.

In this article, examples from the Qur'an are given to the two kinds of inspiration of Allah; as well as the inspiration of the evil ones.

Inspiration to Prophets

This includes verbal, literal inspiration, and revelation given to the prophets. The inspiration given to Prophet Noah (PBUH) is mentioned in *Surah 4*.

إِنَّا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ كَمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى نُوحٍ
وَالنَّبِيِّينَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ
وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطَ
وَعِيسَى وَأَيُّوبَ وَيُونُسَ وَهَارُونَ
وَسُلَيْمَانَ وَآدَمَ إِذْ وَجَّهْنَا دَاوُدَ زَبُورًا .
(سورة النساء - آية ١٦٣)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَمَا كَانَ لِنَبِيٍّ أَنْ يَكَلِّمَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَّا وَحْيًا أَوْ مِنْ وَرَائِ حِجَابٍ أَوْ
يُرْسِلَ رَسُولًا فَيُوحِيَ بِإِذْنِهِ مَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ حَكِيمٍ .
(سورة الشورى - آية ٥١)

"It is not fitting for any human being that Allah should speak to him unless (it be) by inspiration, or from behind a veil, or by sending of a Messenger to reveal, with Allah's permission, what Allah wills. Verily, He is most High, most Wise."
(Qur'an 42:51)

"We have sent you inspiration, as We sent it to Noah and the Messengers after him: We sent inspiration to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob and the tribes, to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon, and to David We gave the Psalms."
(Qur'an 4:163)

The same verse states the fact that inspiration of the same kind as that sent to Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was sent to many messengers, for Allah's message is one. Note that the inspiration given to the prophets does not necessarily mean a book. Some

body changed; and his knees became like rocks. If he was riding a camel at that time, the camel sat and cannot move. The inspiration (revelation) given to the Prophet (PBUH) is mentioned in several verses including Qur'an 4:163 and:

قُلِ اللَّهُ شَهِيدٌ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكُمْ وَأُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ
هَذَا الْقُرْآنُ .
(سورة الأنعام - من آية ١٩)

Say: "Allah is witness between me and you; this Qur'an has been revealed to me by inspiration."
(Qur'an 6:19)

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ أَحْسَنَ الْقَصَصِ بِمَا
أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ .
(سورة يوسف - من آية ٣)

"We do relate unto you the most beautiful of stories, in that We reveal to you this (portion of the) Qur'an."
(Qur'an 12:3)

كَذَلِكَ أَرْسَلْنَاكَ فِي أُمَّةٍ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ
قَبْلِهَا أُمَّمٌ لِنَلْتَلِمُوا عَلَيْهِمُ الَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا
إِلَيْكَ . (سورة الرعد - من آية ٣٠)

"Thus have We sent you amongst a people before whom (long since) have (other) peoples (gone and) passed away; in order that you might rehearse unto them what We send down unto you by inspiration."
(Qur'an 13:30)

وَاتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ كِتَابِ رَبِّكَ .
(سورة الكهف - من آية ٢٧)

"And recite (and teach) what has been revealed to you of the Book of your



It is only an Inspiration that is inspired.
(Qur'an 53:4)

messengers were mentioned by name in the cited verse, others are not mentioned by name. The list of Prophets is divided into three groups: the first group is *Ibrahim's family (Ibrahim, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob)*; the second group includes *Issa (Jesus - PBUH), Ayub (Job - PBUH), and Yunus (Jonah - PBUH)*; the third group includes *Haroun (Aaron - PBUH) and Solomon (PBUH)*, both great figures, but each subordinate to another figure, viz. Moses and David.

The revelation given to Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was through the angel *Jibreel (Gabriel)*. The Prophet (PBUH) used to hear a sound like that of a bell ringing when angel *Jibreel* approached him. The chemistry of his

Lord.”

(Qur'an 18:27)

اِثْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ .
(سورة العنكبوت - من آية ٤٥)

“Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration to you.” (Qur'an 29:45)

وَالَّذِي أُوحِيَنا إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ هُوَ
الْحَقُّ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ .
(سورة فاطر - من آية ٣١)

“That which We have revealed to you of the Book is the truth - confirming what was (revealed) before it.”

(Qur'an 35:31)

وَكَذَلِكَ أُوحِيَنا إِلَيْكَ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا
(سورة الشورى - من آية ٧)

“Thus have We sent by inspiration to you an Arabic Qur'an.” (Qur'an 42:7)

Instinctive Inspiration by Allah to His Creations

Examples of this kind of inspiration (i.e., suggestion or command) given by Allah to His creatures include inspirations given to Prophets, other human beings, bees, and inanimate

objects. Allah inspired Noah (PBUH) to construct the Ark.

فَأَوْحِيَنا إِلَيْهِ أَنْ اصْنَعْ الْفُلْكَ
بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَوَحْيِنَا .
(سورة المؤمنون - من آية ٢٧)

So We inspired him (with this message); “construct the ark within Our sight and under Our guidance.” (Qur'an 23:27)

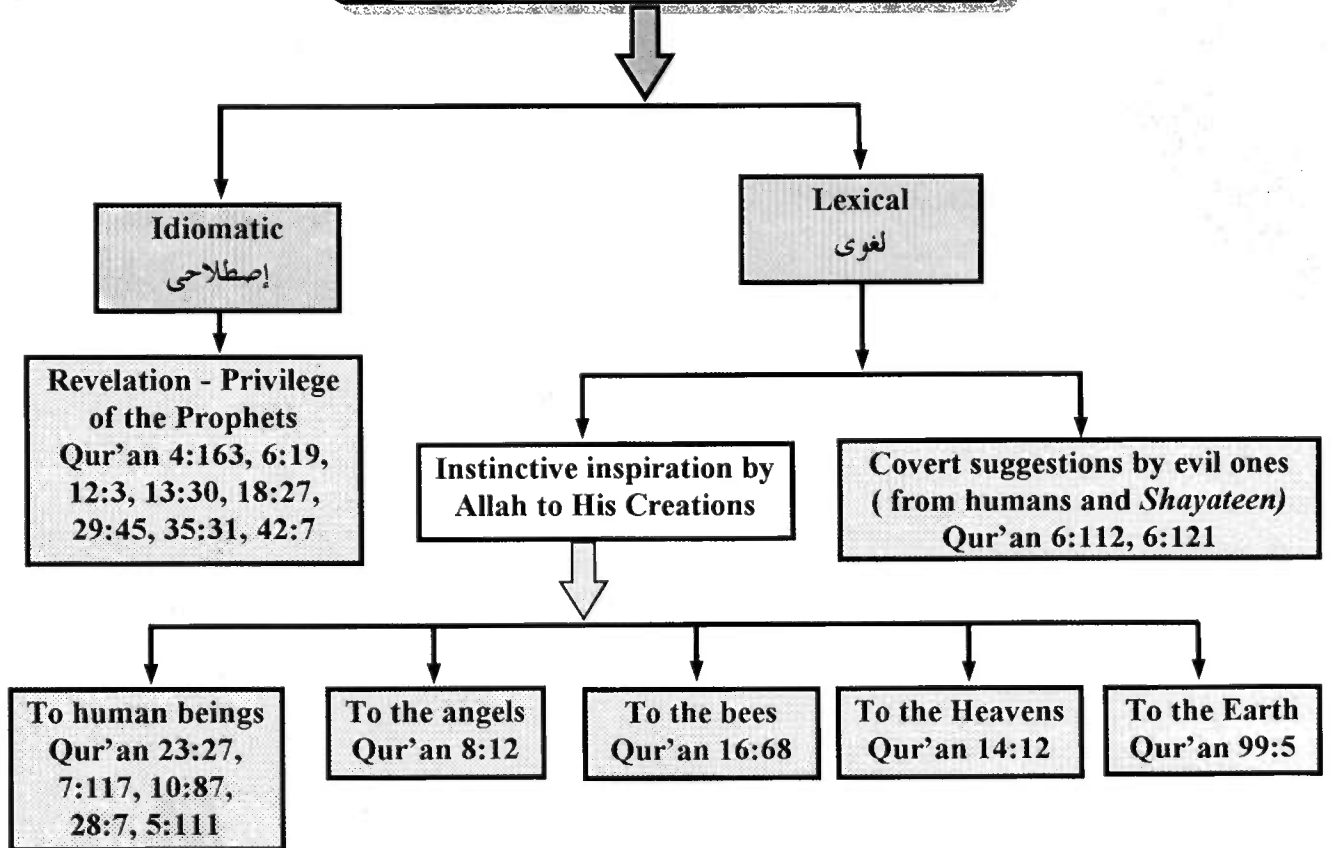
وَاصْنَعْ الْفُلْكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَوَحْيِنَا .
(سورة هود - من آية ٣٧)

Wahy : Secret inspiration, or hidden information, which is passed from the giver to the receiver.

الوحي : إعلام بخفاء من الموحى إلى الموحى إليه

Qur'anic Usage of the Word Wahy

إستخدام القرآن لكلمة وحي



"But construct an Ark under Our eyes and Our inspiration". (Qur'an 11:37)

Allah inspired Prophet Moses to:

- throw his rod and it swallowed up all the falsehood of the sorcerers.

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَلْقِ عَصَاكَ
فَإِذَا هِيَ تَلْقَفُ مَا يَأْفِكُونَ .

(سورة الأعراف - آية ١١٧)

We revealed to Moses "throw your rod": and behold! it swallows up all the falsehoods which they fake!

(Qur'an 7:117)

- strike the rock with his rod, and out of it gushed forth twelve springs

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ إِذِ اسْتَسْقَاهُ
قَوْمُهُ أَنْ اضْرِبْ بِعَصَاكَ الْحَجَرَ
فَانبَجَسَتْ مِنْهُ اثْنَتَا عَشْرَةَ عَيْنًا .

(سورة الأعراف - من آية ١٦٠)

We directed Moses by inspiration, when his (thirsty) people asked him for water "Strike the rock with your staff", out of it there gushed forth twelve springs.

(Qur'an 7:160)

- travel by night with the Israelites, and strike a dry path for them in the sea

وَلَقَدْ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَسْرِ
بِعِبَادِي فَاضْرِبْ لَهُمْ طَرِيقًا فِي الْبَحْرِ
يَبْسًا لَّا تَخَافُ دَرْكًا وَلَا تُخْشَى .

(سورة طه - آية ٧٧)

We sent an inspiration to Moses: "Travel by night with My servants, and strike a dry path for them through the sea, without fear of being overtaken (by Pharaoh) and without (any other) fear."

(Qur'an 20:77)

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَسْرِ بِعِبَادِي
إِنَّكُمْ مُتَّبَعُونَ .

(سورة الشعراء - آية ٥٢)

By inspiration We told Moses; "Travel by night with My servants; for surely you shall be pursued."

(Qur'an 26:52)

- strike the sea with his rod to provide a passage for the Israelites

فَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ اضْرِبْ بِعَصَاكَ
الْبَحْرَ فَانْفَلَقَ .

(سورة الشعراء - من آية ٦٣)

Then We told Moses by inspiration: "strike the sea with your rod so it divided".

(Qur'an 26:63)

- provide dwellings for the Israelites in Egypt.

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ وَأَخِيهِ أَنْ تَبَوَّءَا
لِقَوْمِكُمَا بِمِصْرَ بُيُوتًا .

(سورة يونس - من آية ٨٧)

We inspired Moses and his brother with this message: "Provide dwellings for your people in Egypt".

(Qur'an 10:87)

Examples of inspirations given to other human beings are the inspiration given to the mother of Prophet Moses (PBUH) to throw Moses in the chest and throw the chest into the river.

إِذْ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّكَ مَا يُوحَى . أَنْ
أَقْذِفِيهِ فِي التَّابُوتِ فَاقْذِيفِيهِ فِي الْيَمِّ

(سورة طه - من آيات ٣٨ ، ٣٩)

Behold! We sent to your mother, by inspiration, the message: throw (the child) into chest, and throw (the chest) into the river.

(Qur'an 20:38-39)

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَرْضِعِيهِ
فَإِذَا خَفَتْ عَلَيْهِ فَأَلْقِيهِ فِي الْيَمِّ .

(سورة القصص - من آية ٧)

So We sent this inspiration to the mother of Moses; "suckle your child, but when you fear for him, then cast him into the river."

(Qur'an 28:7)

And the inspiration given to the disciples of Jesus (PBUH) to have faith in Allah and in Jesus.

وَإِذْ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ الْحَوَارِيِّينَ أَنْ ءَامِنُوا
بِي وَبِرَسُولِي قَالُوا ءَامِنَّا وَاشْهَدْ بِأَنَّنَا
مُسْلِمُونَ .

(سورة المائدة - آية ١١١)

"And behold! I inspired the disciples to have faith in Me and My messenger: They said: we have faith, and do you bear witness that we bow to Allah as Muslims." (Qur'an 5:111)

The inspiration to the angels to support the believers in the Battle of Badr, to smite the unbelievers above their necks and to smite all their fingertips off them is mentioned in Surah 8:

إِذْ يُوحَىٰ رَبُّكَ إِلَىٰ الْمَلَائِكَةِ أَنِّي مَعَكُمْ
فَتَثْبُتُوا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا سَأَلْتَنِي فِي قُلُوبِ
الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الرُّعْبَ فَاضْرِبُوا فَوْقَ
الْأَعْنَاقِ وَاضْرِبُوا مِنْهُمْ كُلَّ بَنَانٍ .
(سورة الأنفال - آية ١٢)

Remember your Lord inspired the angels (with the message): "I am with you; give firmness to the believers: I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers: smite them over the necks and smite all their finger-tips off them." (Qur'an 8:12)

The inspiration given to the bee to build its cells in hills, on trees, and in human habitation is mentioned in Surah 16:

وَأَوْحَىٰ رَبُّكَ إِلَى النَّحْلِ أَنْ اتَّخِذِي مِنَ
الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا وَمِنَ الشَّجَرِ وَمِمَّا يَعْرِشُونَ
(سورة النحل - آية ٦٨)

"And your Lord taught the bee to build its cells in hills, on trees, and in what they erect." (Qur'an 16:68)

The inspiration given to each heaven by Allah as to its duty and command, is mentioned in Surah 41:

وَأَوْحَىٰ فِي كُلِّ سَمَاءٍ أَمْرَهَا .

(سورة فصلت - من آية ١٢)

"And He assigned to each heaven its duty and command." (Qur'an 41:12)

When the earth is shaken to her utmost convulsion, on that day she will declare that Allah has given her "inspiration".

بِأَنَّ رَبَّكَ أَوْحَىٰ لَهَا .

(سورة الزلزلة - آية ٥)

"For that your Lord will have given her (the Earth) inspiration."

(Qur'an 99:5)

Covert suggestions given by evil ones

The inspiration given by the evil ones (*shayateen*), from the humans and the *jinns*, includes the flowery discourses aimed at deception, and the arguments aimed at poisoning the minds of the believers. These types of inspiration are mentioned in the following two verses:

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا
شَيَاطِينَ الْإِنْسِ وَالْجِنِّ يُوحِي بَعْضُهُمْ
إِلَى بَعْضٍ زُخْرُفَ الْقَوْلِ غُرُورًا .
(سورة الأنعام - من آية ١١٢)

Likewise did We make for every messenger an enemy, satans among humans and jinns, inspiring each other with flowery discourses by way of deception. (Qur'an 6:112)

وَإِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ لَيُوحُونَ إِلَى
أَوْلِيَائِهِمْ لِيُجَادِلُوكُمْ .
(سورة الأنعام - من آية ١٢١)

"But the satans ever inspire their friends (from humans) to dispute with you." (Qur'an 6:121)

There are some who claim falsely that they received inspiration from Allah. The Qur'an tells us about their condition at the time of death.

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا
أَوْ قَالَ أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ وَلَمْ يُوحَ إِلَيْهِ شَيْءٌ
وَمَنْ قَالَ سَأُنزِلُ مِثْلَ مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ
وَلَوْ تَرَى إِذِ الظَّالِمُونَ فِي غَمَرَاتِ الْمَوْتِ
وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ بَاسِطُوا أَيْدِيهِمْ أَخْرَجُوا
أَنْفُسَكُمْ الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا
كُنْتُمْ تَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ .
(سورة الأنعام - من آية ٩٣)

And who can be more unjust than one who invents a lie against Allah, or says, "I have received inspiration" when he has received none; and who says "I will reveal the like of what Allah has revealed". And if you could but see when the wicked are in the agonies of death, while the angels are stretching forth their hands (saying),

"Deliver your souls; this day you shall be recompensed with the torment of degradation because of what you used to utter against Allah other than the truth." (Qur'an 6:93)

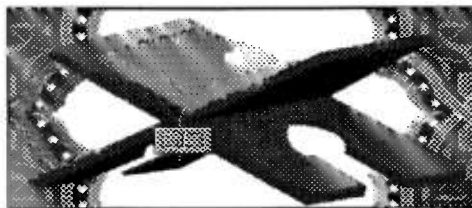
Example of Allah's inspiration given to sincere believers

Allah's inspiration can be given to sincere believers. The example of *Umar* (may Allah be pleased with him) standing to deliver the sermon, when through the inspiration of Allah, he saw hundreds of miles away the Muslim's army about to be surrounded by their enemy. The only way out for the Muslims was to go towards a hill. *Umar* said to the commander of the Muslims in an audible voice: "Go to the hill, *Sariya*". Again, through the inspiration of Allah, the commander, *Sariya*, heard *Umar*, went to the hill and saved the Muslims.

In a *hadith Qudsi* we are told that if we perform all the obligatory duties (*fara'id*) to Allah, and seek the pleasure of Allah by performing, in addition, some of the optional acts of worship (*Nawa'fil*), then Allah will love us. When Allah loves us, He takes control of our senses, and direct them towards what is most beneficial to us, in both the present world and the one to come.

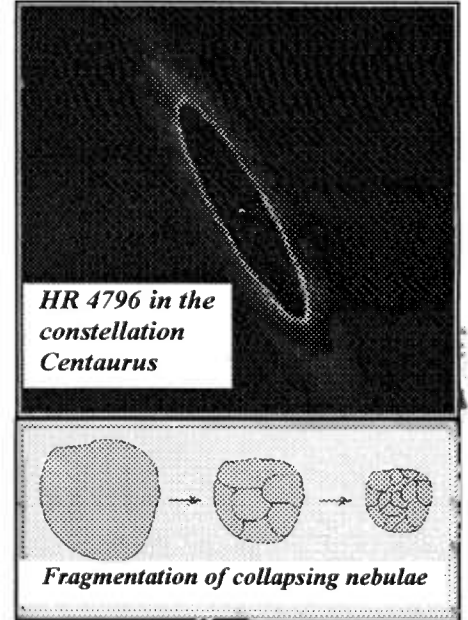
ما تقرب إلى عبدى بشيء أحب إلى مما
افترضته عليه ، وما يزال عبدى
يتقرب إلى بالنوافل حتى أحبه ، فإذا
أحبيته كنت سمعه الذى يسمع به ،
وبصره الذى يبصر به ، ويده التى
يبطش بها ، ورجله التى يمشى بها ،
وإن سألنى لأعطينه ، وإن استعاذنى
لأعيذنه . (حديث قدسى)

We pray to Allah to make us among those whom He love, and those who receive His inspiration and His guidance. Ameen ☐



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Editorial

earth-like planetary family (see figure below).



These discoveries, and many more that will come in sha'a Allah, incite us to reflect on the signs of Allah.

سَنُرِيهِمْ آيَاتِنَا فِي الْأَفَاقِ وَفِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ
حَتَّى يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ .
(سورة فصلت - من آية ٥٣)

We will show them our signs in the vast regions of the universe, and in their own selves, until it becomes manifest to them that this (the Qur'an) is the truth." (Qur'an 41:53)

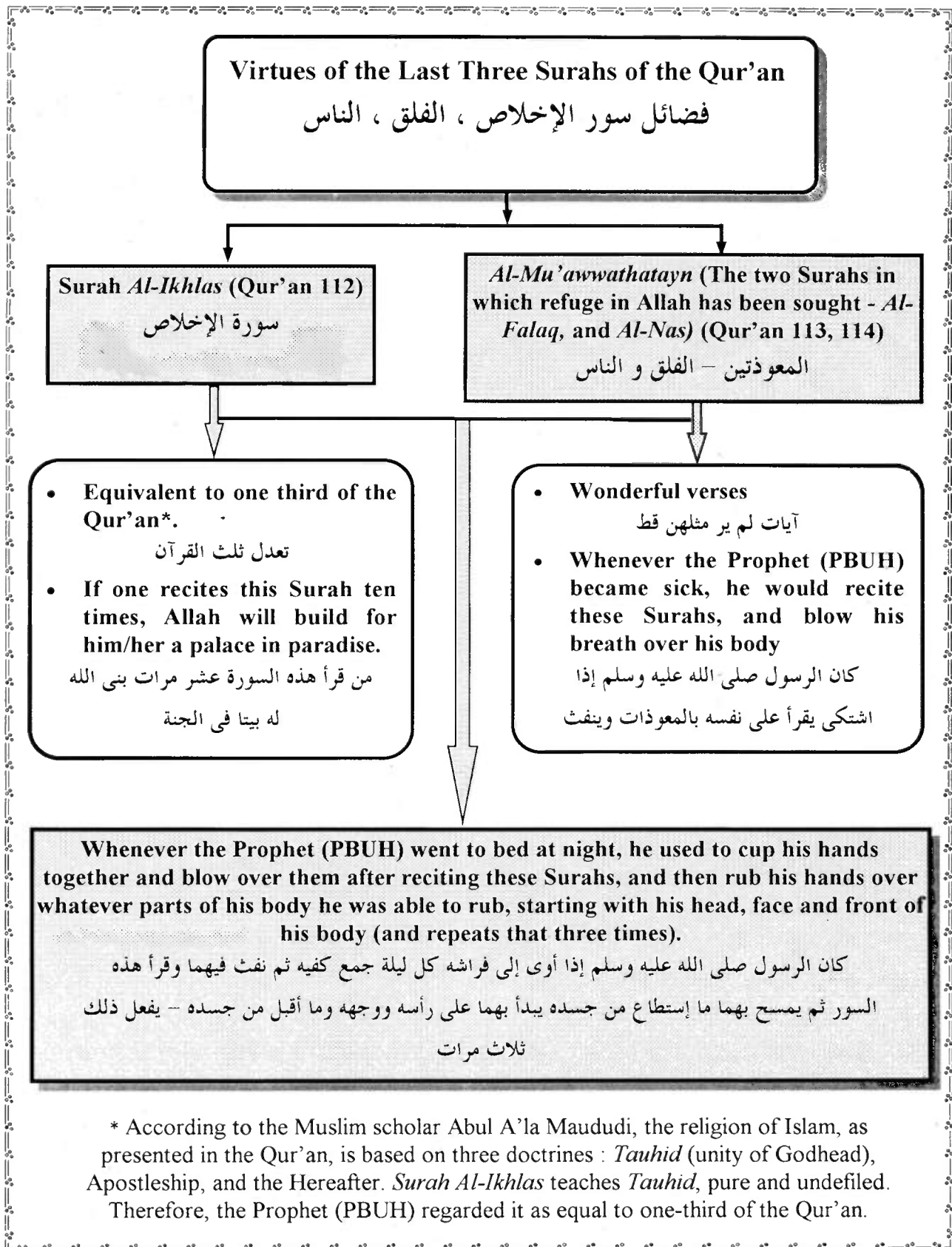
We pray to Almighty Allah to give us the guidance and the wisdom to benefit from the signs of the Qur'an.

Ameen ☐

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Software for calculating the beginning of lunar months

free and can be downloaded from the internet (URL address <http://www.ummah.org.uk/software/>). Other web sites provide Islamic calendars (<http://www.erols.com/shaukat/shaukat.html>) and Georgian-Hijri date conversion facilities (<http://bert.cs.pitt.edu/~tawfig/convert/convert.cgi>). ☐



Virtues of Special Surahs and verses from the Qur'an - based on Authentic Sayings of the Prophet (PBUH)

فضائل سور وآيات مخصوصة من القرآن

