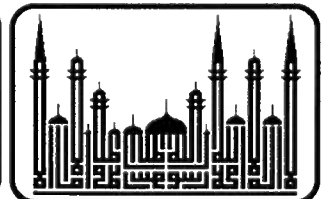


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Perspectives



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## Editorial

The month of Ramadan will start soon and will bring with it opportunity for spiritual training, revitalization, personal evaluation, acquiring the positive and undoing the wrong. By carefully following the intensive training provided by fasting, Ramadan leaves the Muslim in a state of mental and spiritual purification - reflecting true submission to Allah and the full implementation of the Sunnah of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

The month of Ramadan is a major opportunity for us to repent from our sins and to have them forgiven by Allah. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

من صام رمضان إيماناً  
واحْتِسَاباً ، غُفِرَ لَهُ ما تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ  
ذَنْبِهِ . (حديث شريف)

*Whoever observes the fast during the month of Ramadan, believing in Allah and seeking His rewards, will have his/her past sins forgiven.*

While feeling hungry and thirsty during this month, Muslims will think about the suffering, starving and insecure masses. Concerned about more than physical hunger, Muslims must be motivated to alleviate the pain by those who have not been able to drink from the ever-flowing spring of true and

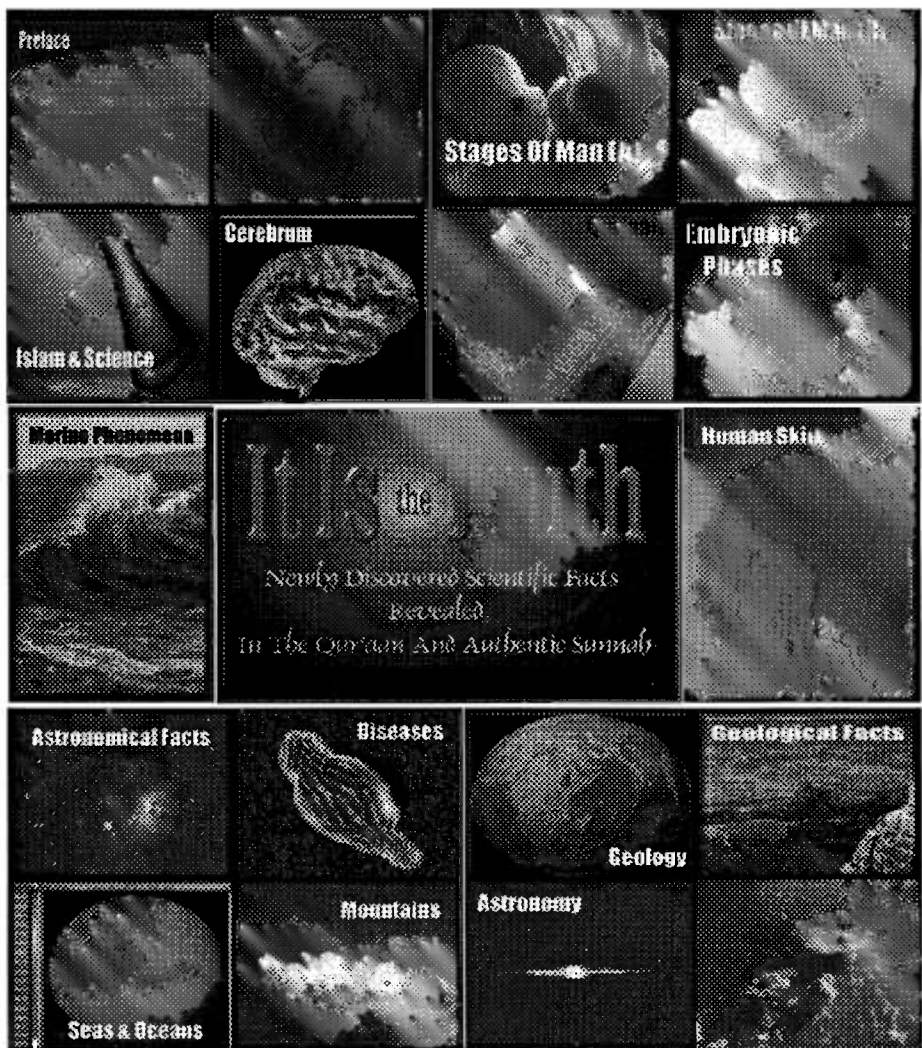
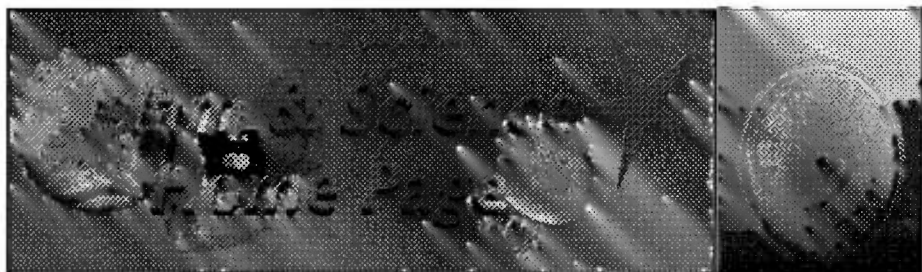
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## Islam and Science on the Internet

The relationship between Islam and science has been the subject of many discussions and studies by religious scholars and scientists. Several web sites on the internet provide information on the subject. Among these are (see the figure below): 1) **The Islam and science home page** (<http://www.ummah.org.uk/science>), and 2) **It is the truth**, (<http://www.it-is-truth.org>), which describe some of the scientific facts contained in the Qur'an. The first web page provides a real-time chat tool and links to other sources on Islam. ☐



## Reflections

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### Taqwa

## التقوى

Taqwa of Allah is an important characteristic which influences the daily activities, behavior, manners and characters of the true believer. A number of translations of the word Taqwa have been proposed, such as fear, piety, heeding and learning self restraint. In this article an attempt is made to provide a number of definitions for taqwa, to identify its components and to describe the significance and benefits of taqwa, on the basis of the Qur'an and the authentic sayings of the Prophet (PBUH).

### Meaning of the word Taqwa

The word Taqwa and its derivatives have been repeated 258 times in the Qur'an. It is derived from the Arabic verb *ittaqa'a* إتقا which means taking or using *wiqa'ya* وقاية (protection). In the human self there should be a device to protect from doing harm to one's own self and other fellow human beings, and to control the violation of the pure self created by Allah. Such protection would be produced when one is on the highest level of consciousness of the presence of Allah. And no one can reach such a level unless, and only after, he/she believes in Allah, has faith in Him and is aware of His power and His wisdom.

The attributes of Allah can be divided into two categories:

- a) Attributes of Beauty and Grace صفات جمال such as The Great Forgiver الرحمن الغفار , The Compassionate الرحيم , The Merciful الرحيم ; and b) Majestic Attributes صفات جلال such as The Dominant القهار , The compeller الجبار , The Humiliator المذل , The

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
وَلِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَقَدْ وَصَّيْنَا الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا  
الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ أَنْ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ .

(سورة النساء - من آية ١٣١)

"And to Allah belongs all that is in the heavens and on earth. And verily, We have directed the people of the Book before you, and you to have taqwa of Allah (be conscious of the presence of Allah and keep your duty to Him)."

(Qur'an 4:131)

Avenger المنتقم , and The Distresser الضار . Fear of the majestic attributes of Allah is one parameter which would contribute to the development of taqwa, by protecting oneself from Allah's displeasure and punishment, but fear itself is not taqwa. Piety and

people and stones." (Qur'an 2:24)

وَاتَّقُوا يَوْمًا تُزْجَعُونَ فِيهِ إِلَى اللَّهِ  
(سورة البقرة - من آية ٢٨١)

"And have taqwa of the day when you shall be brought back to Allah."

(Qur'an 2:281)



"For Allah loves those who have taqwa." (Qur'an 9:4)

righteousness are the functional products of taqwa. Taqwa may therefore be considered as the highest level of consciousness, or of being conscious of the presence of Allah. Other definitions for taqwa, proposed by Muslim scholars, are shown in the figure on page 3.

The Qur'an also refers to taqwa in the sense of fear of (and protecting one's own self from) a) the hellfire which Allah uses for punishing those who deliberately disobey Him, and b) the day we shall be brought back to Allah, when the guilty ones will not be helped by anyone.

فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ  
وَالْحِجَارَةُ .

(سورة البقرة - من آية ٢٤)

"Have taqwa of the Fire whose fuel is

### Characteristics of Muttaqeen

Muttaqeen are those who have taqwa, i.e. are conscious of the presence of Allah. Their characteristics are given in the following verses of the Qur'an (see the figure on page 3)

لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ  
الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ  
ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ  
وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ وَءَاتَى الْمَالَ  
عَلَى حُبِّهِ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَى وَالْيَتَامَى  
وَالْمَسَاكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ  
وَالسَّائِلِينَ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَأَقَامَ  
الصَّلَاةَ وَءَاتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَالْمُوفُونَ  
بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي  
الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ  
أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ  
الْمُتَّقُونَ .

(سورة البقرة - آية ١٧٧)

"It is not righteousness that you 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; To spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who

## Definitions of *Taqwa* and Characteristics of *Muttaqeen* (those who have *taqwa*) تعريفات التقوى وصفات المتقين

### Definitions of *Taqwa* تعريفات التقوى

### Characteristics of *Muttaqeen* صفات المتقين

Abstaining from all sinful and evil deeds which Allah has forbidden and performing all good deeds which He has ordained.

ترك ما حرم الله وأداء ما افترض الله

Performing what Allah has ordained, with clear vision from Him, seeking His rewards, and abstain from what Allah has forbidden with clear vision from Him, fearing His punishment.

العمل بطاعة الله على نور من الله رجاء ثواب الله، وترك معصية الله على نور من الله مخافة عقاب الله

Demonstration of the sincerity of belief - actions are manifestations of the utterance of belief.

صدق الإيمان - إنسجام حركة الحياة مع واقع الإيمان

According to Ali ibn Abi Talib:  
• To fear Allah the Beneficent.  
• Work according to Divine revelations.  
• Be content with what one has.  
• Prepare for the day departing this world.

تعريف على ابن أبي طالب  
الخوف من الجليل، والعمل بالتنزيل، والقناعة بالقليل، والإستعداد ليوم الرحيل

**Believe in:**

- Allah
  - the final day
  - the angels
  - the books
  - the prophets
- Spend out of Love for Allah for:** their kin, the orphans, the needy, the wayfarer, those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves.

**Are steadfast in prayers.**

**Give Zakah.**

**Fulfill the contract they make.**

**Are firm and patient in pain and adversity and throughout periods of panic.** (Qur'an 2:177)

**Believe in:**

- the unseen
- what the revelation to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the revelations before him.
- certainly of the hereafter.

**Spend of what Allah bestowed on them**

**Establish regular prayers** (Qur'an 2:1-4)

- Spend in the way of Allah while at ease or in adversity.
- restrain their anger and pardon people.
- When they commit an indecency or do injustice to their souls, they remember Allah and ask forgiveness for sins, and do not knowingly persist in what they have done. (Qur'an 3:133-135)

The ones who have *Taqwa* are not seen where Allah has forbidden them to be, are not missed where Allah commanded them to be.

المتقى لا يراه ربه حيث نهاه ولا يفقده حيث أمره

The ones who have *taqwa* disassociate themselves of all acts of all acts of *shirk* and hypocrisy. المتقى يتبرأ من الشرك والنفاق

ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and give Zakah, to fulfill the contracts which you have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the ones who have taqwa.” (Qur'an 2:177)

السم . ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ . الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ . وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ مِن قَبْلِكَ وَبِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ . (سورة البقرة - آيات ١ إلى ٤)

“A. L. M. This is the Book; In it is guidance sure, without doubt, to those who have taqwa; Who believe in the Unseen, are steadfast in prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them; And who believe in the Revelation sent to you, and sent before your time, and (in their hearts) have assurance of the Hereafter.”

(Qur'an 2:1 - 4)

وَسَارِعُوا إِلَى مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ . الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ فِي السَّرَّاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَالْكَاطِمِينَ الْغَيْظِ وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ . وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا فَعَلُوا فَاحِشَةً أَوْ ظَلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ ذَكَرُوا اللَّهَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُوا لِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَمَن يَغْفِرِ اللَّهُ لَن يَكُنِ اللَّهُ لِيُصِرُّوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلُوا وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ .

(سورة آل عمران -

آيات ١٣٣ - ١٣٥)

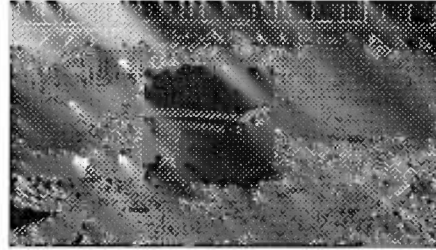
“Be quick in the race for forgiveness from your Lord and for a Garden whose width is that (of the whole) of the Heavens and of the earth, prepared

for those who have taqwa, - Those who spend (freely) whether in prosperity, or in adversity; who restrain anger, and pardon (all) people; - for Allah loves those who do good:- And those who, having done an act of indecency or wronged their own souls Remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their sins, - And who can forgive sins except Allah?- And are never obstinate in persisting knowingly in (the wrong) they have done.” (Qur'an 3:133-135)

### Rewards for Muttaqeen

Several verses in the Qur'an list the rewards, bliss, heavenly pleasures and Gardens promised to Muttaqeen (those who have taqwa), including (see the figure on page 7):

1. The assurance that Allah is with them and loves them.



إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ مُحْسِنُونَ .

(سورة النحل - آية ١٢٨)

“Truly, Allah is with those who have taqwa, and those who do good.”

(Qur'an 16:128)

2. Receiving the help, protection and guidance of Allah.

وَاللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ .

(سورة الجاثية - من آية ١٩)

“Allah is the protector of those who have taqwa.”

(Qur'an 45:19)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن تَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ فُرْقَانًا .

(سورة الأنفال - من آية ٢٩)

“O ye who believe! if you have taqwa of Allah, He will grant you a criterion (to judge between right and wrong).”

(Qur'an 8:29)

3. Receiving blessings from heaven and earth.

وَلَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ الْقُرَى ءَامَنُوا وَاتَّقَوْا لَفَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَرَكَاتٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ .

(سورة الأعراف - من آية ٩٦)

“If the people of the towns had but believed and had taqwa, We should indeed Have opened out to them (all kinds of) blessings from heaven and earth.”

(Qur'an 7:96)

4. Preparing a way for them out of every difficulty, providing them from (sources) they never could imagine, and making matters easy for them.

وَمَن يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِن حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ . (سورة الطلاق - من آيات ٢ ، ٣)

“And whosoever has taqwa for Allah, He will prepare a way for him to get out (from every difficulty) and He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine (or expect).”

(Qur'an 65:2,3)

وَمَن يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مِّنْ أَمْرِهِ يُسْرًا . (سورة الطلاق - من آية ٤)

“And whosoever has taqwa for Allah, He will make matters easy for him.”

(Qur'an 65:4)

5. Expiating for their sins and receiving forgiveness from Allah.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وءَامِنُوا بِرَسُولِهِ يُؤْتِكُمْ كِفْلَيْنِ مِّن رَّحْمَتِهِ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ نُورًا تَمْشُونَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ . (سورة الحديد - آية ٢٨)

“O you who believe, have taqwa of

## Types of Fasting أنواع الصيام

### Mandatory فرض

- *Ramadan*. صوم رمضان
- For fulfilling a vow. صوم النذر
- For Atonement /expiation صوم الكفارات
- \* Intentional breaking of fast of *Ramadan* (by committing coitus).
- \* Breaking a valid oath.
- \* For killing (by mistake).
- \* During pilgrimage (if the person cannot afford the sacrifice).
- \* Hunting during pilgrimage.

### Supererogatory تطوع

- *Shawwal* (six days).
- *Muharram* (especially 10th, and possibly 9th and 11th).
- *Zul-Hijjah* (especially the day of *Arafat* - for non-pilgrims).
- *Sha'aban* (as many days as possible).
- Mondays and Thursdays.
- Three days of every month (13,14, and 15)
- Fasting every other day (fasting of Prophet *Dawood*)

### Forbidden/Disliked

#### منهى عنه

- Days of *Eid-ul-Fitr* and *Eid-ul-Adha*.
- Days of *Tashreeq* (11 to 13th of *Zul-Hijjah*).
- To single out Fridays, or Saturdays as days of fasting.
- Day of doubt (about the beginning of *Ramadan*).
- Perpetual fast.
- صوم الدهر
- Continuous fast of days and nights, without break.
- وصال الصوم

## Goals/Benefits of Fasting فوائد الصيام

### Spiritual

- Achieving *Taqwa* (consciousness of the presence of Allah); and pleasing Allah.
- Demonstrating submission and loyalty to Allah, and developing a sense of complete obedience to Him.
- Providing an opportunity to repent from one's sins and to have them forgiven by Allah.

### Moral

- Acquiring and strengthening will power, and patience.
- Relieving the individual from life's distractions, and making him/her appreciative of the gifts of Allah that one takes for granted.

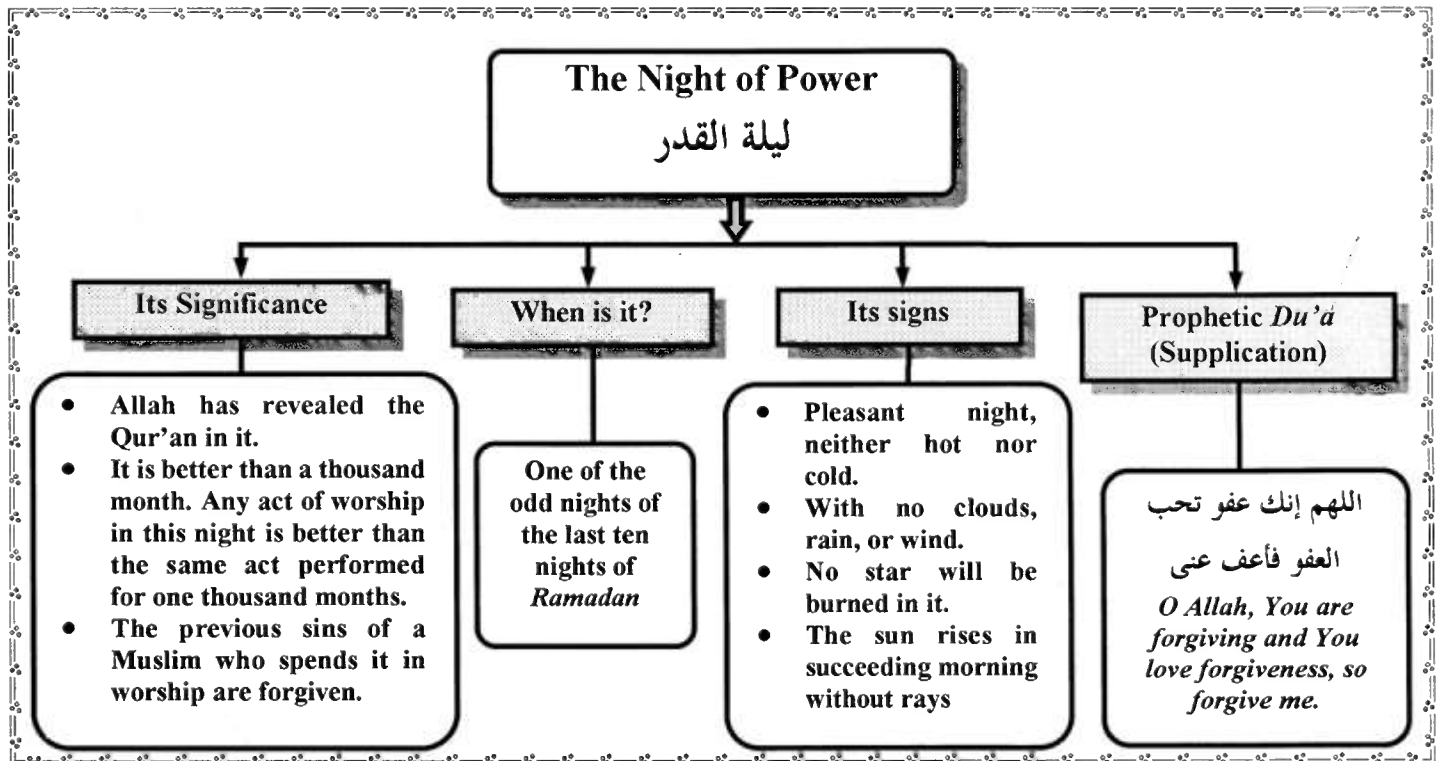
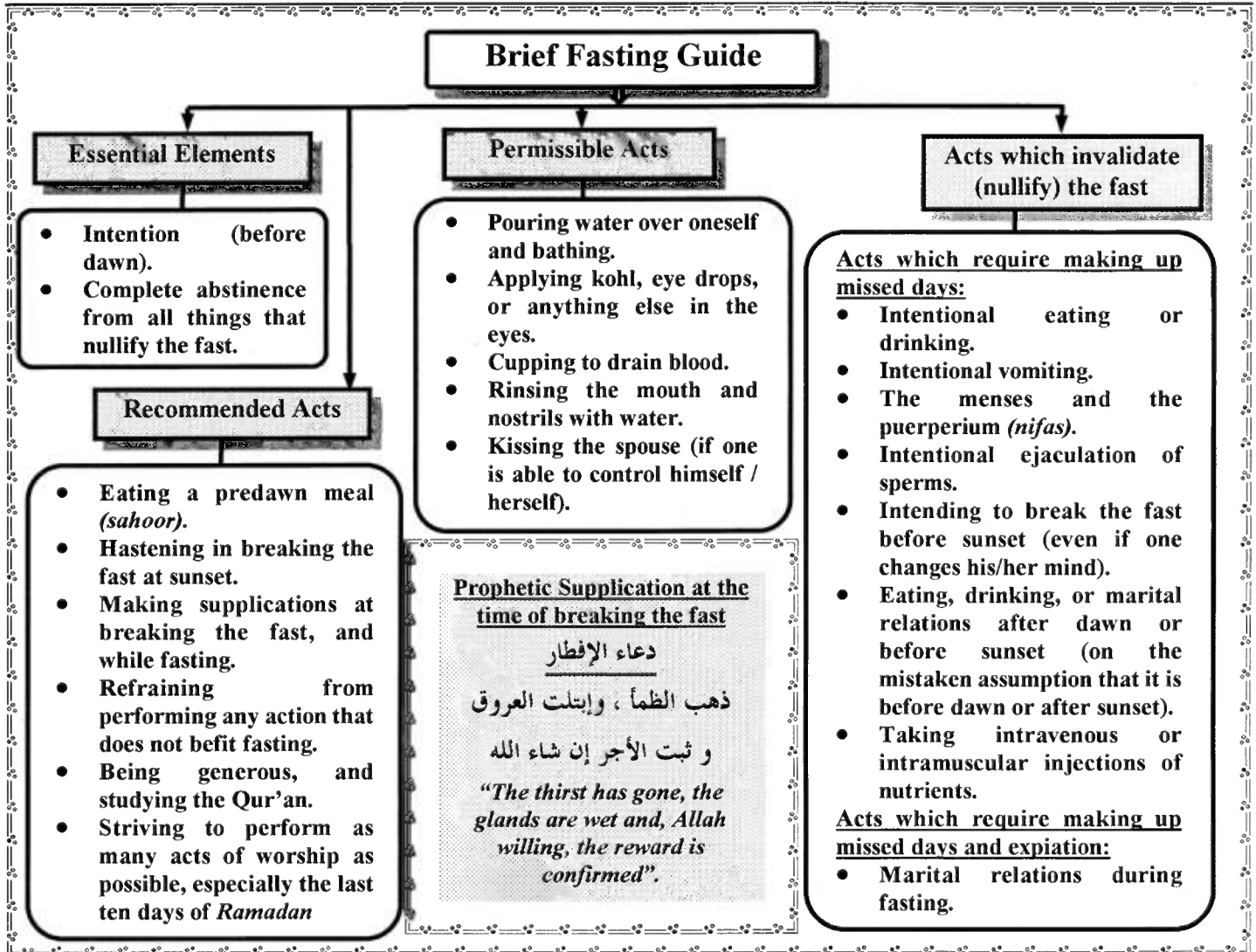
### Social

- Experiencing the hardship of the poor and the needy, and sympathizing with them.
- Reminding Muslims of their brotherhood / Sisterhood and unity.

### Physical/ Medical

- Helping the defense and endurance mechanism of the body.
- Rejuvenation of the brain.
- Safest way of dieting.

Fasting is a multipurpose training program promoting spiritual, mental, psychological and physical health



## Rewards for *Muttaqeen*

جزاء المتقين

In the present Life

في الدنيا

In the hereafter

في الآخرة

Allah will be with them (Qur'an 2:194, 9:36, 9:123, 16:128) الله معهم

and Love them (3:76, 9:4, 9:7) يحبهم الله

Receiving the help and protection of Allah  
(Qur'an 45:19)

يتولاهم الله

Receiving light of knowledge and vision and  
guidance from Allah (Qur'an 57:28, 8:29)

الهداية بنور الله وفرقانه

Blessing from the heavens and earth  
(Qur'an 7:96)

بركات من السماء والأرض

Providing for them from sources they  
never could imagine (Qur'an 65:3)

رزق من حيث لا يحتسبوا

Success (Qur'an 3:130, 3:200, 5:100)

الفلاح

Making matters easy for them (Qur'an 65:4)

تيسير أمورهم

Making a way for them out of every  
difficulty (Qur'an 65:2)

مخرج من كل ضيق

Protecting the weak offspring they leave  
behind (Qur'an 4:9)

حماية الذرية الضعيفة

Receiving the mercy of Allah (Qur'an 6:155, 7:63,  
7:156, 49:10)

الدخول في رحمة الله

Double portion of Allah's mercy (Qur'an 57:28)

كفلين من رحمة الله

Expiating for the sins and forgiveness from Allah  
(Qur'an 8:29, 57:28)

تكفير السيئات والمغفرة من الله

Being saved, and far removed from the hell fire  
(Qur'an 19:72, 39:61, 92:17)

النجاة من النار والبعد عنها

Pure spouses (Qur'an 3:15) أزواج مطهرة

- Gardens underneath which rivers flow (Qur'an 3:15, 3:198, 13:35) جنات تجري من تحتها الأنهار
- Gardens of eternity (Qur'an 16:31) جنات عدن
- Garden as wide as the heavens and the earth (Qur'an 3:133) جنة عرضها السماوات والأرض
- Lofty rooms; one above another under which rivers flow (Qur'an 39:20) غرف من فوقها غرف مبنية تجري من تحتها الأنهار
- Gardens of Delight (Qur'an 68:34) جنات النعيم

Continued from page 4

### Taqwa

*Allah, and believe in His messenger, He will give you a double portion of His mercy, and He will give you light by which you shall walk (straight in your path) and He will forgive you. And Allah is oft-forgiving, Most merciful.”* (Qur'an 57:28)

6. Gardens of eternity, pure spouses and Allah's pleasure.

لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَأَزْوَاجٌ مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ .

(سورة آل عمران - من آية ١٥)

*“For those who have taqwa there are gardens with their Lord, underneath which rivers flow. Therein (is their) eternal (home); with spouses purified and the good pleasure of Allah.”*

(Qur'an 3:15)

### How much taqwa do we owe Allah?

The answer to this question is given in three verses:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ .

(سورة آل عمران - آية ١٠٢)

*“O ye who believe, have taqwa of Allah, as should be due to Him, and die not except in a state of complete submission (to Allah).”*

(Qur'an 3:102)

لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا .

(سورة البقرة - من آية ٢٨٦)

*“On no soul does Allah place a burden greater than it can bear.”*

(Qur'an 2:286)



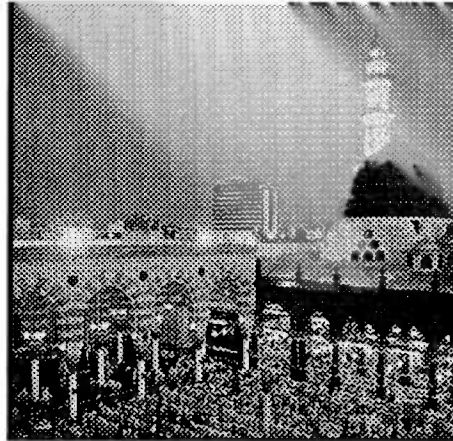
فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ وَأَسْمَعُوا وَأَطِيعُوا .

(سورة التغابن - من آية ١٦)

*“So have taqwa of Allah as much as you can; listen and obey.”*

(Qur'an 64:16)

The first verse sets an ideal which every believer should try to attain. The second verse lays down the principle that no one has been required to exert himself/herself beyond his/her power and ability. The third verse enjoins every believer to try to attain piety and consciousness of Allah as far as he/she can.



Allah uses taqwa as the only basis of superiority and excellence of one person over others.

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ .

(سورة الحجرات - من آية ١٣)

*“Verily, the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is the one who has the most taqwa.”*

(Qur'an 49:13)

The Prophet (PBUH) said:

إِتَّقِ اللَّهَ حَيْثَمَا كُنْتَ ، وَأَتَّبِعِ السَّبِيلَةَ الْحَسَنَةَ تَمَحُّهَا ، وَخَالِقِ النَّاسَ بِخُلُقٍ حَسَنٍ .

(حديث شريف)

*Have taqwa of Allah (Be conscious of the presence of Allah) wherever you are, and follow the sinful deed with a good deed, it will wipe its effect, and treat people well.*

### Fasting and Taqwa

The relationship between fasting and taqwa is described in the following verse.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ .

(سورة البقرة - آية ١٨٣)

*“O ye who believe! fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you that you may become muttaqeen.”* (Qur'an 2:183)

If one goes through the fasting of Ramadan and carefully observes the objectives of fasting and strives hard to perfect his/her fasting (by controlling all aspects of his/her behavior), he/she is likely to come out of it a revolved and changed one. So fasting can be viewed as a practical means of transformation of believers مؤمنين to the higher spiritual level of muttaqeen.

We pray to almighty Allah to give us the strength and the support to practice the full meaning of taqwa in every aspect of our life. Ameen ☐

Continued from page 1

### Editorial

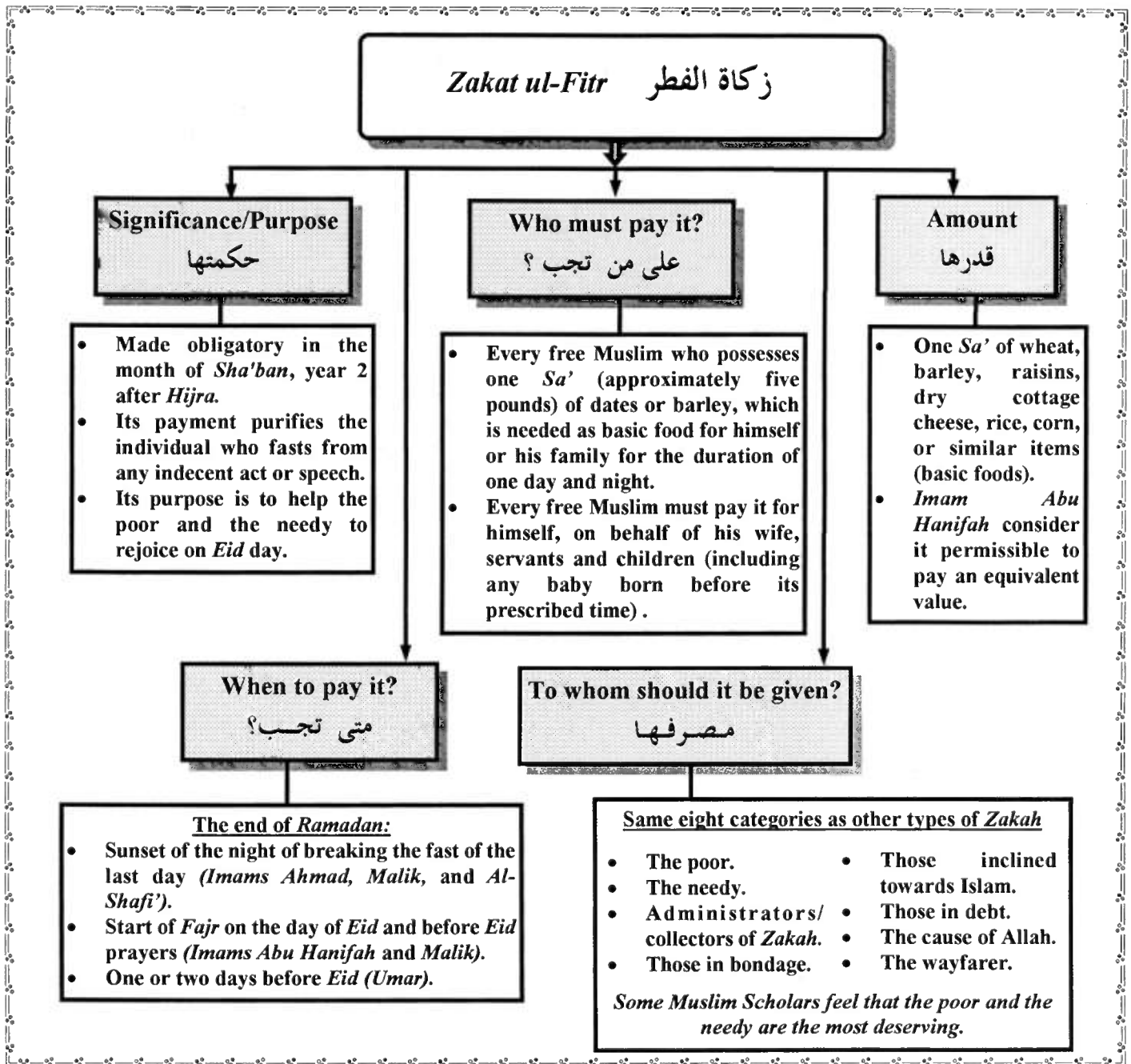
complete submission to Allah.

This month of sacrifice and giving, provides a starting point for Muslims to become ever-forthcoming in offering whatever Allah has blessed them with in the betterment of the society at large. The spirit of giving taught by the Prophet (PBUH) should reach beyond material help and Muslims should reach out to make significant positive impact on the society.

Information about Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr is available on the internet (see, for example, <http://www.ummah.net/Ramadhan/> and the International Journal of Ramadan Fasting Research - <http://www.cyberplanet.net/ains/ramadan.htm>).

May Allah grant us all the opportunity to benefit from the fasting of Ramadan. The foundation for Islamic Knowledge and Perspectives wish you, your family and all Muslims a fulfilling Ramadan and a blessed Eid-ul-Fitr. ☐





## Important Dates

	1419		1420
Ramadan 1.....	December 20, 98	Muharram 1 .....	April 17, 99
Eid ul-Fitr .....	January 19, 99	Ramadan 1 .....	December 10, 99
Eid ul-Adha .....	March 28,99	Eid ul-Fitr .....	January 8, 2000
		Eid ul-Adha .....	March 17, 2000

*Note: Please contact the national organizations listed on the back page for confirmation about these dates.*

