



## Reflections

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### Na'r of the hereafter (hellfire)

## نار الآخرة

According to the *Shari'ah* (the Sacred law), the *Na'r* of the hereafter (hell fire) is the place that Allah has prepared for punishing and tormenting the unbelievers, sinners and disobedient. There are no words that can adequately explain the severity of the punishment in Hell. Many books and articles have been written about the subject. In this article an attempt is made to give brief and simple descriptions of some aspects of the *Na'r* of the hereafter, as presented in the *Qur'an* and the authentic *hadiths* (sayings of the Prophet - PBUH).

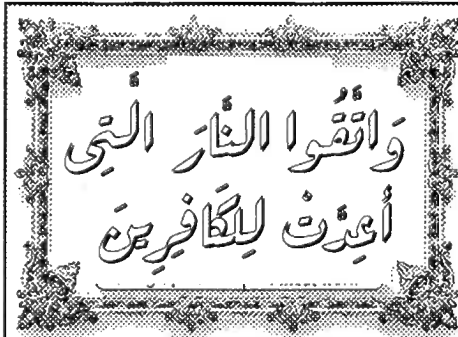
### The Arabic word *Na'r* نار in the *Qur'an*

The word *Na'r* (fire) نار and its derivatives are mentioned 145 times in the *Qur'an*. Different categories of fire are mentioned, including (see the figure on page 3): the pure flame of fire used in creating the species of *Jinn* الجن (including *Iblis* إبليس); the smokeless flame used to protect regions beyond the realm of heavens and earth from *jinns* and humans who try to penetrate them (i.e., try to escape the accountability of Allah); fire on earth, including the fire that the unbelievers tried to burn Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) in, and the fire which the people of the ditch burned the helpless believers in; and the *Na'r* of the hereafter (hellfire), which is the focus of the present article. In addition to the word *Na'r*, other names are given in the *Qur'an* for the *Na'r* of the hereafter, including *Ja'hannam* جهنم (Hell), *حجيم*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا  
النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَّا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ  
مَّا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ . (سورة التحريم - آية ٦)

*O ye who believe! Save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is humans and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe, who flinch not (from executing) the commands they receive from Allah, but do (precisely) what they are commanded. (Qur'an 66:6)*

*Ja'heem* (Hell/blazing fire), *Sa'eer* سعير (blazing flame), *Saq'ar* سقر (flame of hell), *Huta'mah* حطمة (crushing place), *Latha'* لظى (flame of blazing fire) and *Ha'wiyah* هاوية (very deep, bottomless pit).



*And fear (guard yourselves against) the Fire, which is prepared for the disbelievers. (Qur'an 3:131)*

### Brief description of the hellfire

Among the descriptions of the hell fire given in the *Qur'an* and *hadiths* are the following (see the figure on page 5):

- It has seven gates. The sinners will be divided into different groups (categories) and each group will enter through one of the seven gates.

لَهَا سَبْعَةُ أَبْوَابٍ لِّكُلِّ بَابٍ مِّنْهُمْ  
جُزْءٌ مَّقْسُومٌ .

(سورة الحجر - آية ٤٤)

*To it are seven Gates: for each of those Gates is a (special) class (of sinners) assigned. (Qur'an 15:44)*

- It has nineteen fierce and stern keepers (angels) who will administer

punishment to the sinners, without showing any pity for them (Qur'an 66:6 - top of the page). One of the keepers is the angel *Ma'lek*.

عَلَيْهَا تِسْعَةَ عَشَرَ .

(سورة المدثر - آية ٣٠)

*Over it are Nineteen. (Qur'an 74:30)*

وَنَادُوا يَا مَالِكُ لِيَقْضِ عَلَيْنَا  
رَبُّكَ قَالَ إِنَّكُمْ مَا كُنتُمْ .

(سورة الزخرف - آية ٧٧)

*They will cry: "O Malek! Would that your Lord put an end to us!" He will say, "Nay, but you shall abide!"*

(Qur'an 43:77)

- Its fuel will be humans and stones (Qur'an 2:24, 66:6)

وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ .

(سورة البقرة - من آية ٢٤)

(سورة التحريم - من آية ٦)

- It has seventy thousand reins, and every rein is pulled by one thousand angels.

يُوتَىٰ بِهِمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ سَبْعُونَ  
أَلْفَ زَمَامٍ مَّعَ كُلِّ زَمَامٍ سَبْعُونَ  
أَلْفَ مَلَكٍ يَجُرُونَهَا .

(صحيح مسلم)

*Ja'hannam will be brought on that day. It has seventy thousand reins, and every rein is pulled by one thousand angels.*

(Sahih Muslim)

- It is very deep. It takes the traveler seventy years to reach its bottom.

إِنَّ قَعْرَ جَهَنَّمَ لَسَبْعُونَ خَرِيفًا

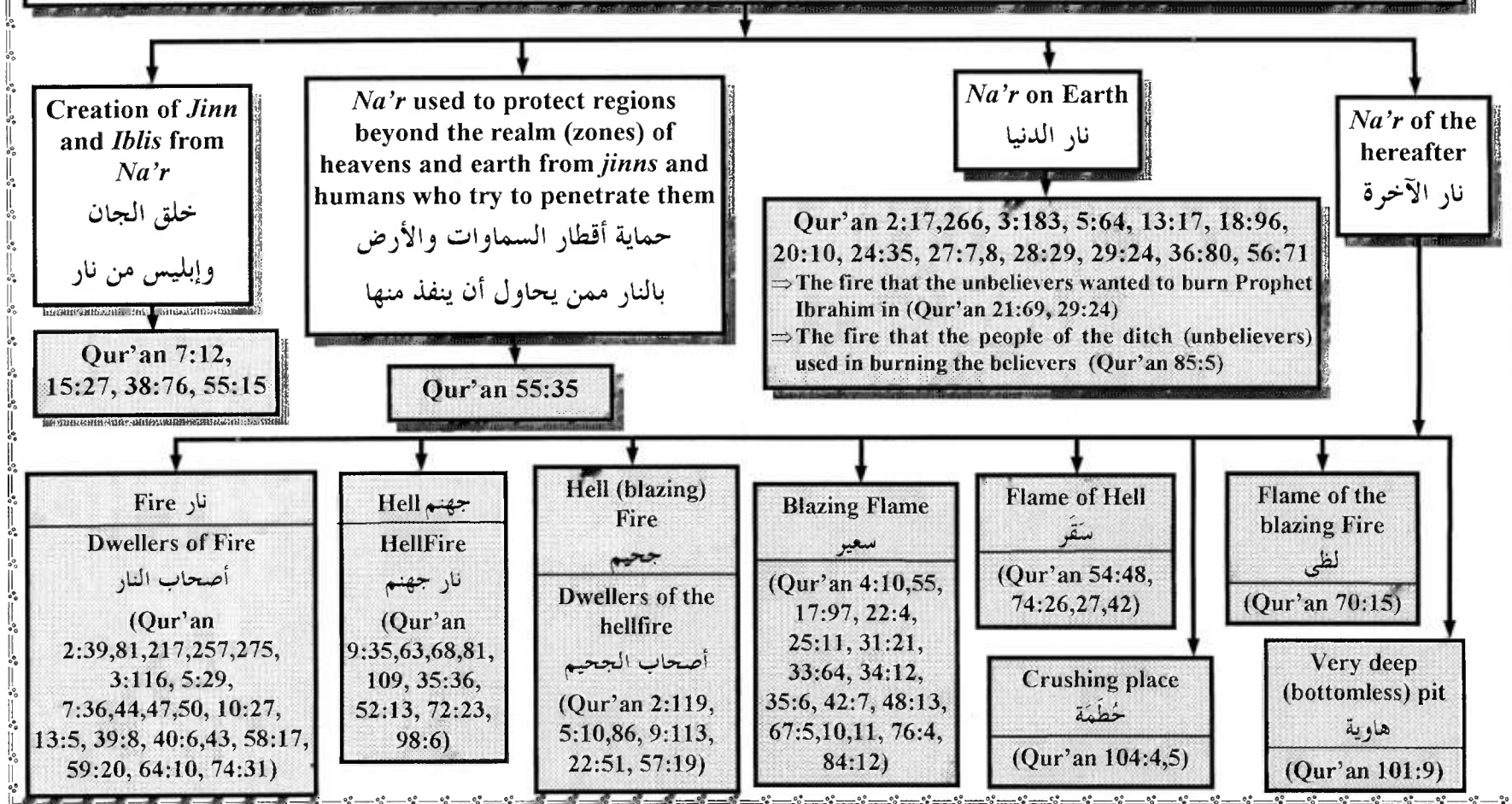
(صحيح مسلم)

## Al-Na'r (Fire) as mentioned in the Qur'an

Definitions: Fire in the language is the luminous element that burns. In religion, hellfire is the place which Allah has prepared for punishing and tormenting the unbelievers and sinners.

كلمة النار كما ذكرت في القرآن

النار في اللغة هي العنصر الشفاف المحرق - نار الآخرة في الشرع هي الدار التي أعدها الله لعقاب الكافرين بأصناف من العذاب والنكال



- When Hell sees sinners from a far place, it makes raging and roaring noise.

إِذَا رَأَتْهُمْ مِنْ مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ سَمِعُوا لَهَا تَغِيْظًا وَزَفِيرًا .

(سورة الفرقان - آية ١٢)

*When it sees them from a place far off, they will hear its fury and raging sigh.*

(Qur'an 25:12)

- The Fire, which awaits the unbelievers and sinners, is seventy times more severe than anything similar to it in this world. It throws off sparks, each spark will be like a castle. It burns to ashes whoever is cast into it.

إِنَّهَا تَزْمِي بِشَرِّرٍ كَالْقَصْرِ .

(سورة المرسلات - آية ٣٢)

*Indeed it throws about sparks (huge) as forts.*

(Qur'an 77:32)

لَا تُبْقِي وَلَا تَذَرُ .

(سورة المدثر - آية ٢٨)

*It spares not (any sinner), nor does it leave (anything unburned).*

(Qur'an 74:28)

- There will be canopies of fire covering the sinners from above them and also from beneath them.

لَهُمْ مِنْ فَوْقِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ مِنَ النَّارِ

وَمِنْ تَحْتِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ ذَلِكَ يُخَوِّفُ

اللَّهُ بِهِ عِبَادَهُ يَا عِبَادِ فَاتَّقُونِ .

(سورة الزمر - آية ١٦)

*They shall have layers of Fire above them, and layers (of fire) below them: with this does Allah warn off His servants: "O My servants! Then fear you Me!"*

(Qur'an 39:16)

- Everytime the Fire dies down, it will be made to blaze up again.

كُلَّمَا خَبَتْ زِدْنَاهُمْ سَعِيرًا .

(سورة بني إسرائيل - من آية ٩٧)

*Every time it shows abatement, We shall increase for them the fierceness of the Fire.*

(Qur'an 17:97)

- The cursed infernal tree of Zaqqum grows at the bottom of the Hell. The shoots of its fruits stalks are like the

heads of devils:

أَذَلِكْ خَيْرٌ نَزْلًا أَمْ شَجَرَةُ الرَّقُومِ .

إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهَا فِتْنَةً لِلظَّالِمِينَ .

إِنَّهَا شَجَرَةٌ تَخْرُجُ فِي أَصْلِ

الْجَحِيمِ . طَلْعُهَا كَأَنَّهُ رُءُوسُ

الشَّيَاطِينِ . (سورة الصافات -

آيات ٦٢ إلى ٦٥)

*Is that the better entertainment or the Tree of Zaqqum? For We have truly made it (as) a trial for the wrong-doers.*

*For it is a tree that springs out of the bottom of Hellfire: The shoots of its fruit-stalks are like the heads of devils.*

(Qur'an 37:62-65)

### الصراط Al-Sirat

Is the bridge spanning the breadth of hell. It is sharper than a sword and finer than a hair. All humans have to go over it.

وَإِنْ مِنْكُمْ إِلَّا وَارِدُهَا كَانَ عَلَى

رَبِّكَ حَتْمًا مَقْضِيًّا .

(سورة مريم - آية ٧١)

*Not one of you but will pass over it: this is, with your Lord, a Decree which must be accomplished.*

(Qur'an 19:71)

By the Grace of Allah, the believers will be able to cross the bridge with varying speeds, according to their good deeds. The unbelievers feet shall slip and they will plunge into hell. The description of what happens on that bridge is given in the following hadith:

تُرْسَلُ الأمانه والرحم فتقومان

جنبتن الصراط يمينا وشمالا

فيمر أولكم كالبرق (ألم تروا إلى

البرق كيف يمر ويرجع في طرفه عين)

ثم كمر السريح ثم كمر الطير

وشد الرجال تجري بهم أعمالهم

ونبيكم قائم على الصراط يقول

رب سلم سلم حتى تعجز أعمال

العباد حتى يجيء الرجل فلا

يستطيع السير إلا زحفا وفي

حافتي الصراط كلاليب معلقة

مأمورة بأخذ من أمرت به

فمخدوش ناج ومكدوش في

النار .

(صحيح مسلم)

*The trust and kinship will be put on the sides of the bridge. The first ones will cross as quickly as the wink of an eye (lightening speed), the next ones will cross it with the speed of wind, the following ones with the speed of flying birds (the speed of each person will be proportional to his/her good deeds),*

*The Prophet (PBUH) will be saying: Peace! Peace my Lord. Some people will be crawling over the bridge. There are hooks (clamps) hanging on the bridge that will try to grab the passers by. Some of the passers by will be injured by the hooks but are able to cross the bridge, others will plunge into hell.*

*(Sahih Muslim)*

### The dwellers (inhabitants) of the hellfire

The Qur'an and sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) identify the dwellers of the hell fire. These include (see the figure on page 7):

- Jinns and humans

وَلَقَدْ ذَرَأْنَا لِجَهَنَّمَ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ

الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنْسِ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَا

يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ لَا

يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ آذَانٌ لَا

يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا أُولَئِكَ كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ

هُمْ أَضَلُّ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْغَافِلُونَ .

(سورة الأعراف - آية ١٧٩)

*Many are the jinns and humans We have made for Hell: they have hearts wherewith they understand not, eyes wherewith they see not, and ears*

## Brief description of the hell fire

وصف مختصر لنار الآخرة - نار جهنم

Its depth, gates,  
guardians and reins  
عمقها و أبوابها وحراسها  
و زمامها

- It takes the traveler seventy years to reach its bottom.
- Has seven gates.
- Has nineteen guardians (angels).
- Has seventy thousand reins, and every rein is pulled by one thousand angels.

Its trees, food and drink  
أشجارها وطعامها وشرابها

- The tree of *zaqqum* شجرة الزقوم (cursed infernal tree) grows at the bottom of hell. Its cluster (of fruits) looks like devils' heads.
- Its food will choke the dwellers. It includes thorns, which neither fatten nor avail against hunger, and the corruption from the washing of wounds.
- Its drinks include boiling festering (tainted) water and intensely cold drink.

Its fire  
نارها

- Layers of fire above its dwellers, and layers below them.
- When the dwellers approach it, from a distance, they will hear its fury and its raging sigh.
- The smoke will encompass the dwellers around. They will not find any refuge from it.
- It breaks (those thrown into it) to pieces.
- Everytime it dies down, it will be made to blaze up again.

*Al-Sirat* (the bridge spanning the  
breadth of hell)  
الصراط - جسر ممدود على متن جهنم

- Finer than a hair and sharper than a sword.
- The trust and kinship will be put on its sides (because of their importance).
- All humans have to go over it.
- It has hooks that try to grab the passers by.
- Believers will be able to cross it by Allah's Grace, each according to his/her rank (in faith) and deeds:
  - ⇒ Some with lightening speed.
  - ⇒ Some with the speed of wind.
  - ⇒ Some with the speed of flying birds.
  - ⇒ Some will crawl over it.
- The unbelievers will not cross it, but will plunge into Hell.



wherewith they hear not. They are like cattle, nay more misguided; for they are heedless (of warning).

(Qur'an 7:179)

- The unbelievers, polytheists, hypocrites and those who disobey and oppose Allah and His messenger. They will be among the permanent dwellers of hell. The hypocrites will be consigned to the bottom depth of hell.

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتِ  
وَالْكُفَّارَ نَارَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا  
هِيَ حَسْبُهُمْ وَلَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ وَلَهُمْ  
عَذَابٌ مُّقِيمٌ .

(سورة التوبة - آية ٦٨)

Allah has promised the hypocrites men and women, and the rejecters, of faith, the Fire of Hell: therein shall they dwell: sufficient is it for them: for them is the curse of Allah, and an enduring punishment.

(Qur'an 9:68)

إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ فِي الدَّرَكِ الْأَسْفَلِ مِنَ  
النَّارِ وَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُمْ نَصِيرًا .  
(سورة النساء - آية ١٤٥)

The Hypocrites will be in the lowest depths of the Fire: no helper will you find for them.

(Qur'an 4:145)

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ  
الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي نَارِ  
جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أُولَئِكَ هُمْ  
شَرُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ .

(سورة البينة - آية ٦)

Those who disbelieve, among the people of the book and among the polytheists, will be in hellfire, to dwell therein (for aye). They are the worst of creatures.

(Qur'an 98:6)

وَمَنْ يَعْصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَتَعَدَّ  
حُدُودَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ نَارًا خَالِدًا فِيهَا  
وَلَهُ عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ .

(سورة النساء - آية ١٤)

But those who disobey Allah and His

messenger and transgress His limits will be admitted to a Fire, to abide therein: and they shall have a humiliating punishment.

(Qur'an 4:14)

أَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّهُ مَنْ يُحَادِدِ اللَّهَ  
وَرَسُولَهُ فَأَنَّ لَهُ نَارَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدًا  
فِيهَا ذَلِكَ الْخِزْيُ الْعَظِيمُ .

(سورة التوبة - آية ٦٣)

Know they not that whoever opposes and shows hostility to Allah and His messenger, is the Fire of Hell? Wherein they shall dwell. That is the supreme disgrace.

(Qur'an 9:63)

- Among the humans identified as dwellers of hell are the unbelievers from the people of Noah; the wives of Prophets Noah and Lut; Pharaoh and his people and Abu Lahab.

مِمَّا خَطِيئَاتِهِمْ أُغْرِقُوا فَأَدْخَلُوا  
نَارًا فَلَمْ يَجِدُوا لَهُمْ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ  
أَنْصَارًا . (سورة نوح - آية ٢٥)

Because of their sins they (people of Noah) were drowned (in the flood), and were made to enter the Fire and they found in lieu of Allah none to help them.

(Qur'an 71:25)

ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا  
امْرَأَتِ نُوحٍ وَامْرَأَتِ لُوطٍ كَانَتَا  
تَحْتَ عَبْدَيْنِ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا صَالِحَيْنِ  
فَخَانَتَاهُمَا فَلَمْ يَغْنَبْنَا عَنْهُمَا مِنْ  
اللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَقِيلَ ادْخُلَا النَّارَ مَعَ  
الدَّاخِلِينَ .

(سورة التحريم - آية ١٠)

Allah sets forth, for an example to the unbelievers, the wife of Noah and the wife of Lut: they were (respectively) under two of our righteous servants but they both betrayed their (husbands by rejecting their doctrine), and they profited nothing before Allah on their account, but were told: "Enter you the Fire along with (others) that enter!"

(Qur'an 66:10)

النَّارُ يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَيْهَا غُدُوًّا  
وَعَشِيًّا وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ  
أَدْخِلُوا آلَ فِرْعَوْنَ أَشَدَّ الْعَذَابِ  
(سورة غافر - آية ٤٦)

In front of the Fire will they be brought, morning and evening: and (the sentence will be) on the day when the Hour comes to pass: "Cast you the people of Pharaoh into the severest penalty".

(Qur'an 40:46)

يَقْدُمُ قَوْمَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَأَوْرَدَهُمُ  
النَّارَ وَبِئْسَ الْوِزْدُ الْمَوْرُودُ .

(سورة هود - آية ٩٨)

He (Pharaoh) will go before his people on the day of Judgment, and lead them into the Fire, but woeful indeed will be the place to which they are led!

(Qur'an 11:98)

تَبَّتْ يَدَا أَبِي لَهَبٍ وَتَبَّ . مَا أَغْنَى  
عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا كَسَبَ . سَيَصْلَى  
نَارًا ذَاتَ لَهَبٍ .

(سورة المسد - آيات ١ إلى ٣)

Perish the hands of Abu Lahab (the father of flame)! Perish he! No profit to him from all his wealth, and all his gains! Burnt soon will he be in a Fire of blazing flame!

(Qur'an 111:1 to 3)

- The temporary dwellers of hell, who are admitted to paradise are called by the dwellers of paradise Al-Jahann'amiyoon الجهنميون :

يَخْرُجُ قَوْمٌ مِنَ النَّارِ بَعْدَ مَا مَسَّهُمْ  
مِنْهَا سَفْعٌ فَيَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ  
فَيُسَمَّيْنَهُمْ أَهْلَ الْجَنَّةِ الْجَهَنَّمِيِّينَ  
(صحيح البخارى)

Some people will be permitted to leave the hell after spending some time there. They will be admitted to paradise and the dwellers of paradise will call them al-Jahann'amiyeen.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

- Any person who has an atom's weight of belief in his/her heart will

## The dwellers of the hellfire and brief description of their condition there

أصحاب النار ووصف مختصر لأحوالهم

### Who are they?

من هم ؟

- Include humans and *Jinns*.
- Unbelievers.
- Hypocrites.
- Polytheists (those who commit *shirk* - associating partners with Allah).
- Those who invent lies against Allah or the Prophet (PBUH).
- The sinful, who disobey Allah and His messenger (PBUH), or are too proud to worship Allah.
- Those who do mischief on Earth.
- Among the ones listed in the Qur'an are the following:
  - ⇒ Unbelievers among the people of Noah.
  - ⇒ The wives of Prophets Noah and Lut.
  - ⇒ Pharaoh and his people.
  - ⇒ Abu-Lahab.

### Permanent and temporary dwellers

الخالدون في النار  
والجهنميون - الذين  
يدخلون الجنة بعد  
قضاء فترة في النار

- Permanent dwellers include the unbelievers.
- Temporary dwellers include the sinful among the believers.

### Their conditions

أحوالهم

- Suffering from humiliating punishment.
- They will be seized and dragged into the midst of the blazing fire on their faces - blind, dumb and deaf.
- Will not be able to ward off the fire from their faces and their backs. The fire will boil their insides.
- Their garments are made of liquid pitch *قطران*, and they will be whipped with iron rods.
- Heavy fetters, yokes and chains shall be on their necks.
- boiling water will be poured over their heads, with it shall be melted what is in their bellies, as well as their skins.
- Their skins, as often as they are thoroughly burned, shall be exchanged for other skins so that they taste the penalty.

### Least tortured person among the dwellers of hell

أهون أهل النار

- Under his/her feet will be placed two live coals, which make his/her head boil (he/she will think it is the severest punishment).

be permitted to leave hell.

يُخْرَجُ مِنَ النَّارِ مَنْ كَانَ فِي قَلْبِهِ  
مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ .  
(سنن الترمذی)

### Conditions of the dwellers of hell

- They will receive disgraceful torment.

وَيَوْمَ يُعْرَضُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا عَلَى  
النَّارِ أَذْهَبْتُمْ طَيِّبَاتِكُمْ فِي  
حَيَاتِكُمْ الدُّنْيَا وَاسْتَمْتَعْتُمْ بِهَا  
فَالْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا  
كُنْتُمْ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ  
الْحَقِّ وَبِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَفْسُقُونَ .  
(سورة الأحقاف - آية ٢٠)

*And on the Day that the unbelievers will be placed before the Fire, (it will be said to them): "You squandered your good things in the life of the world, and you took your pleasure out of them: but to-day shall you be recompensed with a chastisement of humiliation: For that you were arrogant on earth without just cause, and that you (ever) transgressed."*

(Qur'an 46:20)

- Iron collars will be rounded over their necks. They will be seized by their forelocks and their feet, and dragged along the boiling water and then in the fire on their faces (they will go between the hellfire and boiling hot water)

إِذِ الْأَغْلَالُ فِي أَعْنَاقِهِمْ وَالسَّلَاسِلُ  
يُسْحَبُونَ . فِي الْحَمِيمِ ثُمَّ فِي  
النَّارِ يُسْجَرُونَ .  
(سورة غافر - آيات ٧١ و ٧٢)

*When the yokes (shall be) round their necks, and the chains; they shall be dragged along- in the boiling fetid fluid; then in the fire shall they be burned.*

(Qur'an 40:71,72)

يُعْرَفُ الْمُجْرِمُونَ بِسِيمَاهُمْ فَيُؤْخَذُ  
بِالنَّوَاصِي وَالْأَقْدَامِ .

(سورة الرحمن - آية ٤١)

*(For) the sinners will be known by their marks: and they will be seized by their forelocks and their feet.*

(Qur'an 55:41)

يَوْمَ يُسْحَبُونَ فِي النَّارِ عَلَى وُجُوهِهِمْ  
ذُوقُوا مَسَّ سَقَرَ .

(سورة القمر - آية ٤٨)

*The Day they will be dragged through the fire on their faces, (they will hear:) "Taste you the touch of Hell!"*

(Qur'an 54:48)

يَطُوفُونَ بَيْنَهَا وَبَيْنَ حَمِيمٍ آِنٍ .  
(سورة الرحمن - آية ٤٤)

*They will go between it (Hell) and the boiling hot water.*

(Qur'an 55:44)

- Their garment are made of fire and liquid pitch.

فَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا قُطِعَتْ لَهُمْ ثِيَابٌ مِّنْ  
نَّارٍ يُصَبُّ مِنْ فَوْقِ رُءُوسِهِمُ الْحَمِيمُ  
(سورة الحج - من آية ١٩)

*As for those who disbelieve, for them will be cut out a garment of fire: over their heads will be poured out boiling water.*

(Qur'an 22:19)

سَرَابِيلُهُمْ مِّنْ قَطْرَانٍ وَتَعَشَى  
وُجُوهُهُمْ النَّارُ .  
(سورة إبراهيم - آية ٥٠)

*Their garments of liquid pitch, and fire will cover their faces.*

(Qur'an 14:50)

- As often as their skins are consumed, the skins will be replaced by fresh skins so that they may taste the torment in full.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا سَوْفَ  
نُضَلِّيهِمْ نَارًا كَلَّمَآ نَضِجَتْ جُلُودُهُمْ  
بَدَلْنَاهُمْ جُلُودًا غَيْرَهَا لِيَذُوقُوا  
العَذَابَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا .  
(سورة النساء - آية ٥٦)

*Those who reject Our signs. We shall soon cast into the fire: as often as their skins are roasted through. We shall change them for fresh skins, that they may taste the chastisement: for Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise.*

(Qur'an 4:56)

This verse refers to the sensory characteristic of the skin (the fact that the receptor of pain sensation is the skin).

### The food and drink of the dwellers of hell

- Their food will include the fruits of the tree of Zaqquq, which are like molten brass that boils in their insides like the boiling of scalding water; the corruption from the washing of wounds; thorny dry grass and choking food.

إِنَّ شَجَرَةَ الزُّقُومِ . طَعَامُ الْآثِمِينَ .  
كَالْمُهْلِ يَغْلِي فِي الْبُطُونِ .  
كَغَلَى الْحَمِيمِ .  
(سورة الدخان - آيات ٤٣)

(إلى ٤٦)

*Verily the tree of Zaqquq will be the food of the sinful, like molten brass, it will boil in their insides, like the boiling of scalding water.*

(Qur'an 44:43 to 46)

وَلَا طَعَامٌ إِلَّا مِنْ غَسَلِينَ . لَا  
يَأْكُلُهُ إِلَّا الْخَاطِئُونَ .  
(سورة الحاقة آيات ٣٦ و ٣٧)

*Nor has he any food except the fowl pus from the washing of wounds, which none do eat but those in sin.*

(Qur'an 69:36,37)

لَيْسَ لَهُمْ طَعَامٌ إِلَّا مِنْ ضَرِيعٍ .  
لَا يُشْمِنُ وَلَا يُغْنِي مِنْ جُوعٍ .  
(سورة الغاشية - آيات ٦ و ٧)

*No food will be for them but a bitter Dhari. Which will neither nourish nor satisfy hunger.*

(Qur'an 88:6,7)





وَطَعَامًا ذَا غُصَّةٍ وَعَذَابًا أَلِيمًا .  
(سورة المزمل - آية ١٣)

And a food that chokes and a chastisement grievous. (Qur'an 73:13)

- Their drinks include boiling fluids that cut up their bowels (to pieces), intensely cold drinks and tainted festering water.

لَهُمْ شَرَابٌ مِّنْ حَمِيمٍ وَعَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْفُرُونَ .

(سورة الأنعام - من آية ٧٠)

(سورة يونس - من آية ٤)

They will have for drink (only) boiling fluid, and for punishment one most grievous: for they persisted in rejecting Allah. (Qur'an 6:70 & 10:4)

وَسَقُوا مَاءً حَمِيمًا فَقَطَّعَ أَمْعَاءَهُمْ .

(سورة محمد من آية ١٥)

They will be given to drink, boiling water, so that it cuts up their bowels (to pieces). (Qur'an 47:15)

لَا يَذُوقُونَ فِيهَا بَرْدًا وَلَا شَرَابًا . إِلَّا حَمِيمًا وَغَسَّاقًا .

(سورة النبأ - آيات ٢٤ و ٢٥)

Nothing cool shall they taste therein, nor any drink, save a boiling fluid and a fluid, dark, murky, intensely cold. (Qur'an 78:24,25)

مَنْ ذُرِّيَّتِهِ جَهَنَّمَ يُسْقَى مِنْ مَّاءٍ صَدِيدٍ .

(سورة إبراهيم - آية ١٦)

In front of such a one is Hell, and he/she is given, for drink, boiling fetid water.

(Qur'an 14:16)

#### Least tortured person among the dwellers of hell

Punishments in the hellfire will be in various categories. The minimal

punishment is described in the following *hadith*:

إِنَّ أَهْوَنَ أَهْلِ النَّارِ عَذَابًا مِنْ لَدُنْ نَعْلَانٍ وَشِرَاكَانَ مِنْ نَارٍ يَغْلِي مِنْهُمَا دِمَاغُهُ كَمَا يَغْلِي الْمِرْجَلُ مَا يَبْزَى أَنْ أَحَدًا أَشَدُّ مِنْهُ عَذَابًا وَإِنَّهُ لَأَهْوَنُهُمْ عَذَابًا .

(صحيح مسلم)

The least tortured person among the dwellers of hell is a person that will have two live coals placed under his/her feet which make his/her brain boils. He/she will think it is the severest punishment, but in fact it is the lightest punishment. (Sahih Muslim)

#### Qur'anic Supplications

Allah (SWT) taught us the following supplications in the Qur'an:

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ .  
(سورة البقرة - من آية ٢٠١)

Our Lord! Give us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and save us from the torment of the Fire. (Qur'an 2:201)

رَبَّنَا إِنَّا أَمْنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ .  
(سورة آل عمران - من آية ١٦)

Our Lord! We have indeed believed: forgive us, then, our sins, and save us from the agony of the Fire. (Qur'an 3:16)

رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ .  
(سورة آل عمران - من آية ١٩١)

Our Lord! You have not created (all) this without purpose, Glory to You! Give us salvation from the torment of

the Fire.

(Qur'an 3:191)

رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ مَنْ تُدْخِلِ النَّارَ فَقَدْ أَخْرَجْتَهُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ .  
(سورة آل عمران - آية ١٩٢)

Our Lord! any whom You does admit to the Fire, truly You have disgraced him/her, and never will the wrong-doers find any helpers!

(Qur'an 3:192)

I pray to Almighty Allah to show us the right as right and give us the strength to follow it; to show us the falsehood as falsehood and give us the strength to avoid it; and to keep the hell-fire far from us and to save us from its punishment. Ameen

#### Important Dates

1422

Ramadan 1, ...November 17, 2001

Eid-ul Fitr .....December 16, 2001

Eid-ul Adha ....February 23, 2002

1423

Muharram 1 .....March 16, 2002

Ramadan 1, .....November 6, 2002

Eid-ul Fitr .....December 6, 2002

Eid-ul Adha ....February 12, 2003

1424

Muharram 1 .....March 4, 2003

Ramadan 1 .....October 27, 2003

Eid-ul Fitr .....November 25, 2003

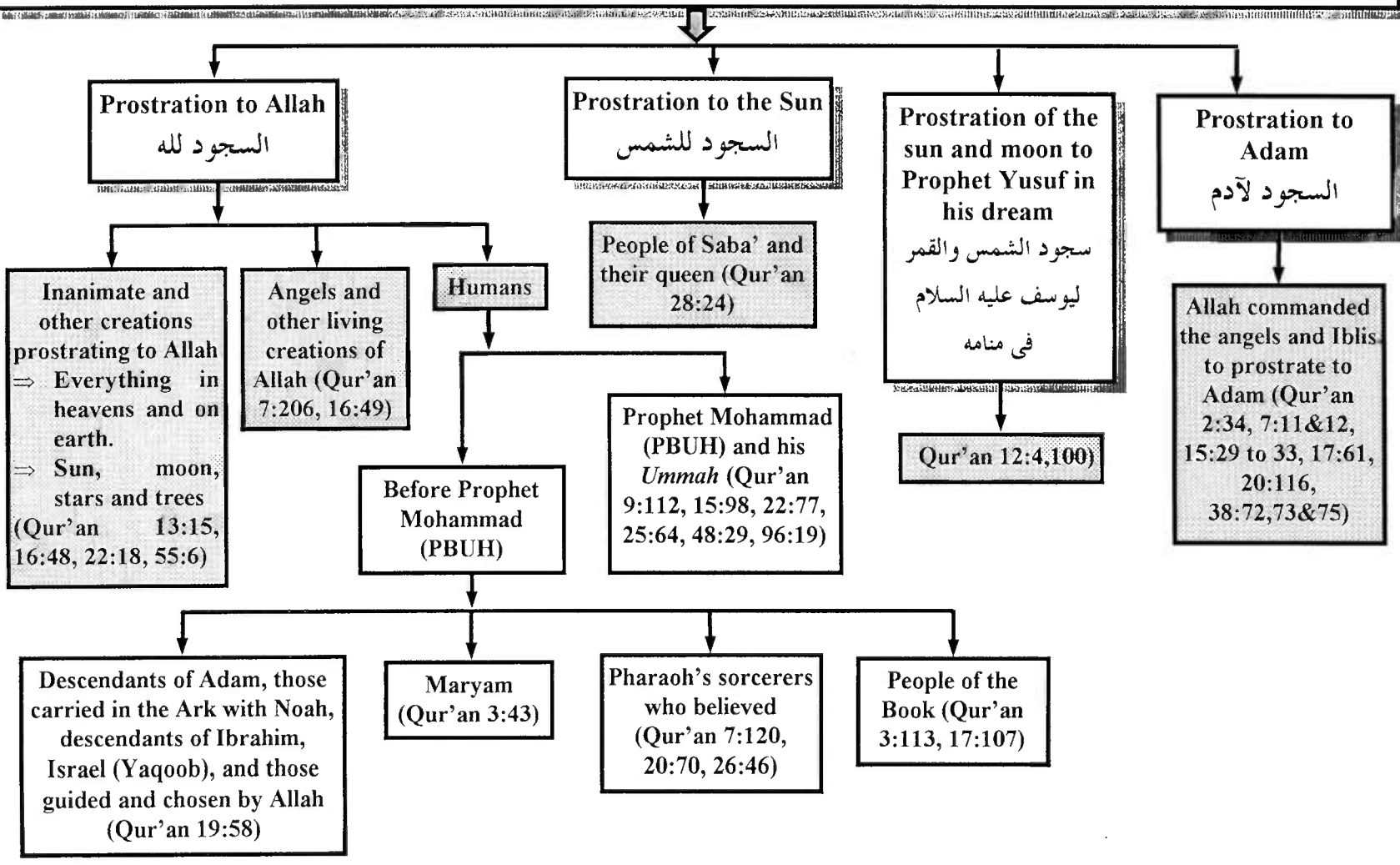
Eid-ul Adha ..... February 1, 2004

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

### Qur'anic usage of the word *Sujood* (Prostration)

*Sujood* of the creations refers to their submission, subjugation and surrender; and *Sujood* of the human refers to putting his/her forehead on the ground

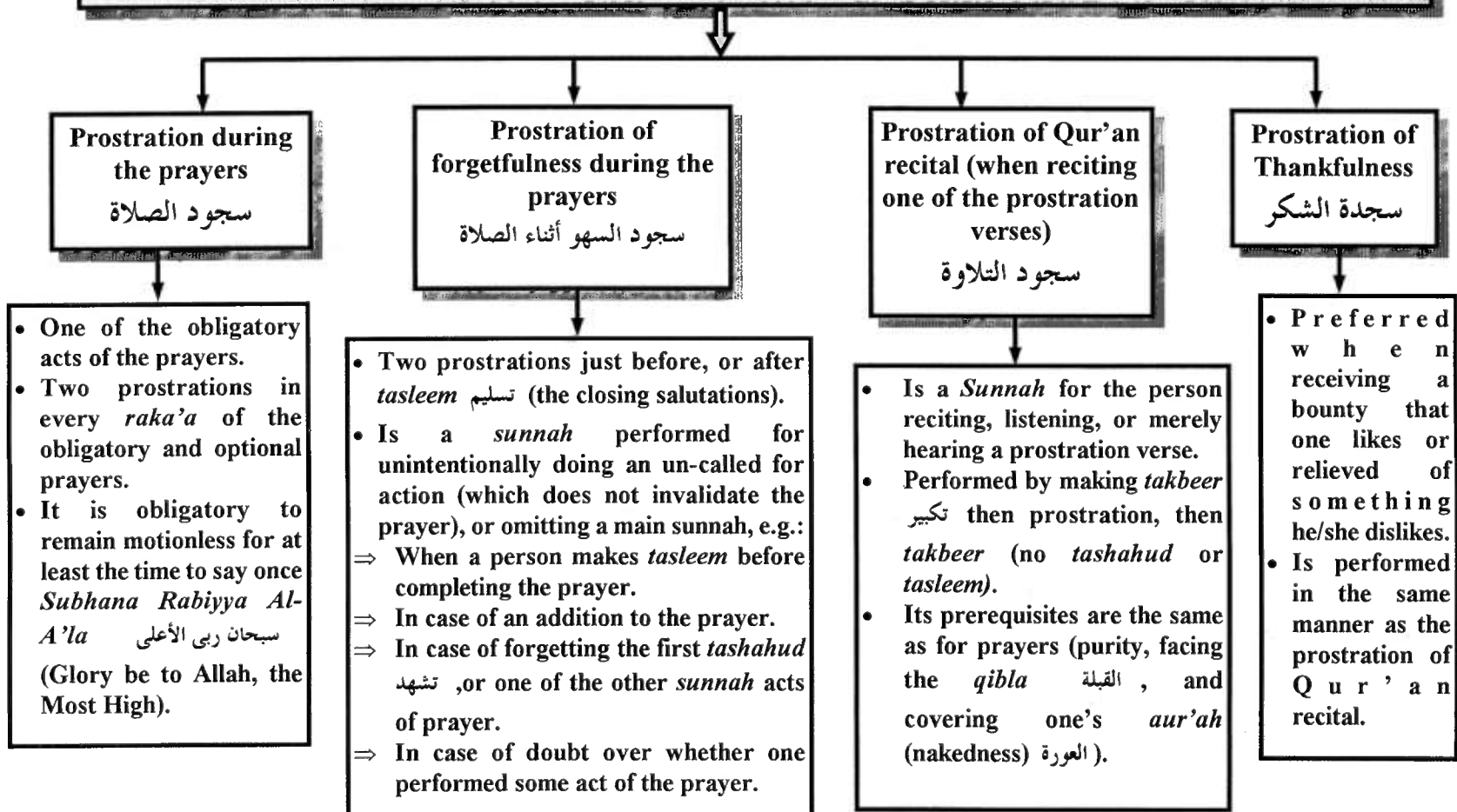
كلمة السجود في القرآن - السجود للمخلوقات معناه الخضوع والإنقياد ومعناه للبشر وضع الجبهة على الأرض



## Types of *Sujood* (Prostration) to Allah أنواع السجود لله

*Sujood* refers to the act of having seven parts of the body touching the ground: the face (the forehead and the nose), palms (fingers together and extended towards the direction of *qiblah*), knees and feet.

في السجود سبعة أعضاء تسجد: الوجه (الجبهة والأنف) والكفان والركبتان والقدمان



- One of the obligatory acts of the prayers.
- Two prostrations in every *raka'a* of the obligatory and optional prayers.
- It is obligatory to remain motionless for at least the time to say once *Subhana Rabiyya Al-A'la* سبحان ربي الأعلى (Glory be to Allah, the Most High).

- Two prostrations just before, or after *tasleem* تسليم (the closing salutations).
- Is a *sunnah* performed for unintentionally doing an un-called for action (which does not invalidate the prayer), or omitting a main *sunnah*, e.g.:
  - ⇒ When a person makes *tasleem* before completing the prayer.
  - ⇒ In case of an addition to the prayer.
  - ⇒ In case of forgetting the first *tashahud* تشهد, or one of the other *sunnah* acts of prayer.
  - ⇒ In case of doubt over whether one performed some act of the prayer.

- Is a *Sunnah* for the person reciting, listening, or merely hearing a prostration verse.
- Performed by making *takbeer* تكبير then prostration, then *takbeer* (no *tashahud* or *tasleem*).
- Its prerequisites are the same as for prayers (purity, facing the *qibla* القبلة, and covering one's *aur'ah* العورة (nakedness)).

- Preferred when receiving a bounty that one likes or relieved of something he/she dislikes.
- Is performed in the same manner as the prostration of Qur'an recital.