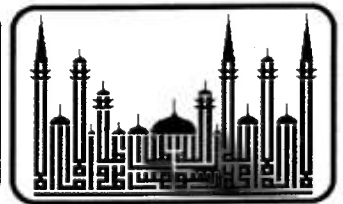




بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Perspectives



A bimonthly newsletter published by the Foundation for Islamic Knowledge \* May/August 2002, Safar/Jumada-II 1423 \* Vol. 8, No.2

## Editorial

Recent United Nations statistics about poverty and hunger in the world are staggering. More than 80% of the population of forty nine countries, designated as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), are poor - living on less than two dollars per day. Thirty four of the LDCs are in Africa. Sixty five percent of their population are extremely poor, surviving on less than a dollar a day. The number of people in extreme poverty in the world more than doubled in the last thirty years. According to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, their number has reached nearly 1.5 billion.

Three UN conferences have focused on the problems of LDCs, and the means to improve the plight of the inhabitants of those countries. However, an integrated plan which includes political and educational reforms, as well as more equitable distribution of wealth, is needed to combat poverty and eradicate hunger from the world.


Hunger threatens not only people's lives, but also their dignity. A serious and protracted lack of food breaks down the organism, generating apathy, a loss of a social sense, and indifference or even cruelty towards those who are weaker - particularly children and the elderly.

Islam's concern for the poor and the needy is so great that it established the institution of *Al-Zakah* (poor tax) الزكاة, as one of its pillars, to provide an effective framework for sharing of wealth and insuring social justice in the community and the nation.


In its broad scope, *zakah* deals with the fiscal policies of a state as it affects its moral and spiritual climate - a vehicle for social change, a source of its continuity, and a device for the safeguard of its ideological frontiers.

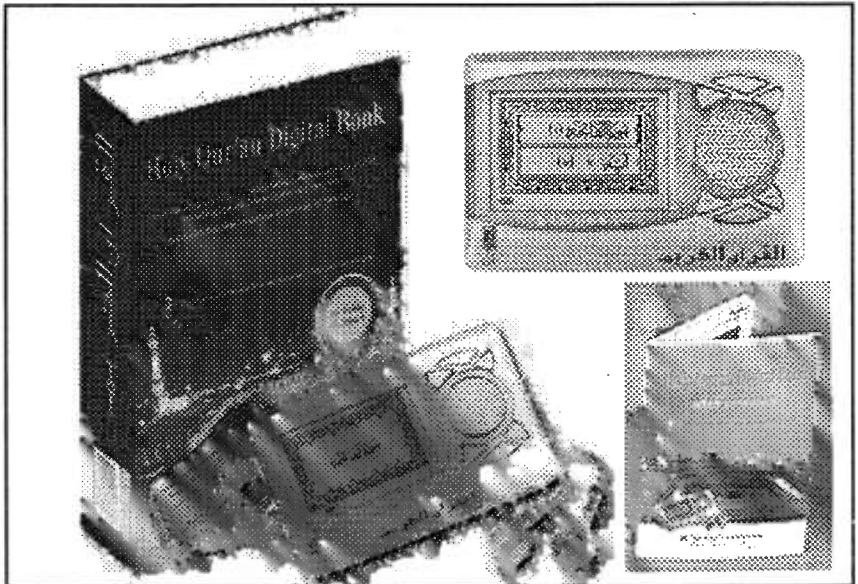
Poverty is a problem, but it is also a (social) sin. It is not solved only through a shift in the ownership of goods, but also through personal striving, aim and good will. Nothing would be done in the true sense of the word if there were change in the ownership of goods, but hatred, exploitation, and subjugation remained in people's souls. The *zakah* system aims at fostering goodwill between the rich and the poor.

We pray to Almighty Allah to guide the Muslim countries to demonstrate to the world the effectiveness of the *zakah* institution through proper application of it.

Ameen 

## The Holy Qur'an Digital Book

This is one of a new generation of handheld and pocket size electronic devices for facilitating the learning of the Qur'an. It has the entire Qur'an audio recitation with the voices of Shaikh Abul-Rahman Al-Sudeis and Shaikh Saud Al-Shureim (the two Imams of *Al-Haram*). It has an LCD display in Arabic, an On-line audio-visual display, easy search for *Surahs* and verses, repetition of the required sentence for easy memorization, index of *Surah* names, book-marking of *Surahs* and verses that can be saved even after shutdown, FB and FF buttons for rewind and forward, pause and replay functions. Its size is 107.5 mm x 68 mm x 16.3 mm and weighs only 105 gm (including batteries). It was developed by **Harf Information technology** in Cairo, Egypt, Tel. (202) 275-9256, Fax. (202) 275-9261 and can be obtained from **ISNA Islamic Media store**, web site <http://www.isna.com/edhq.html>. 



## Reflections

Dr. Ahmed K. Noor

### Truthfulness

#### الصدق

Certain virtues, which affect people's behavior, and their standing, are highly regarded in all Divinely-ordained religions, as well as in many societies. Among these virtues are truthfulness, straightforwardness, honesty, decency, sincerity, mercy and humbleness. Islam endorsed these virtues and laid strong emphasis on them. The Prophet (PBUH) defined an important aspect of his mission as:

إنما بعثت لأتمم صالح الأخلاق .  
(البيهقي)

*I have been sent (with my message) in order to complement the best of virtues.*  
(Al-Baihaqi)

The aforementioned saying of the Prophet (PBUH), shows that the goal of his mission was to complement and perfect the best virtues which are upheld by all Divinely-ordained religions. This article focuses on the virtue of *Al-Sidq* or truthfulness. Specifically, the meaning, significance and some aspects of *Al-sidq* are described.

### Meaning of Al-Sidq

*Al-Sidq* (Truthfulness) is the conformity with fact(s) (or reality), and the avoidance of error (see the figure on page 3). The word *Sidq* and its derivatives appear 36 times in the Qur'an. Maintaining *Sidq* requires the person to strive hard to preserve integrity and to avoid lying and hypocrisy, even in difficult circumstances when a lie may cause a relief.

The word *Al-Sidq* is related to the Arabic word *Al-Haqq* (The fact, the reality), which appears 266 times in the Qur'an and is one of the Divine

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ .  
(سورة التوبة - آية ١١٩)

*O ye who believe! Have taqwa (consciousness of the presence) of Allah, and be with those who are truthful.*

(Qur'an 9:119)

attributes of Allah. Everything that Allah tells us is the absolute truth.

ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْحَقُّ .  
(سورة الحج - من آية ٦)

*This is so, because Allah is the Truth.*  
(Qur'an 22:6)

وَاللَّهُ يَقُولُ الْحَقَّ .  
(سورة الأحزاب - من آية ٤)

*But Allah tells (you) the truth.*  
(Qur'an 33:4)



*This is a day on which the truthful will benefit from their truth.*  
(Qur'an 5:119)

Moreover, truth is the basis of:

- The creation of Heavens and Earth.  
وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ .  
(سورة الأنعام - من آية ٧٣)

*It is He Who created the heavens and the earth in truth.*

(Qur'an 6:73)

- The revelation of the Qur'an.

نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ .  
(سورة آل عمران - من آية ٣)

*It is He Who sent down to you (step by step), in truth, the Book.*

(Qur'an 3:3)

- The judgment of Allah.

وَاللَّهُ يَقْضِي بِالْحَقِّ .  
(سورة غافر - من آية ٤)

*And Allah will judge with (justice and) Truth.*

(Qur'an 40:20)

Allah expects us to make truth and straight-dealing the regular order of life, and to base our talk and dealing on truth, and truth alone.

### Significance of Al-Sidq

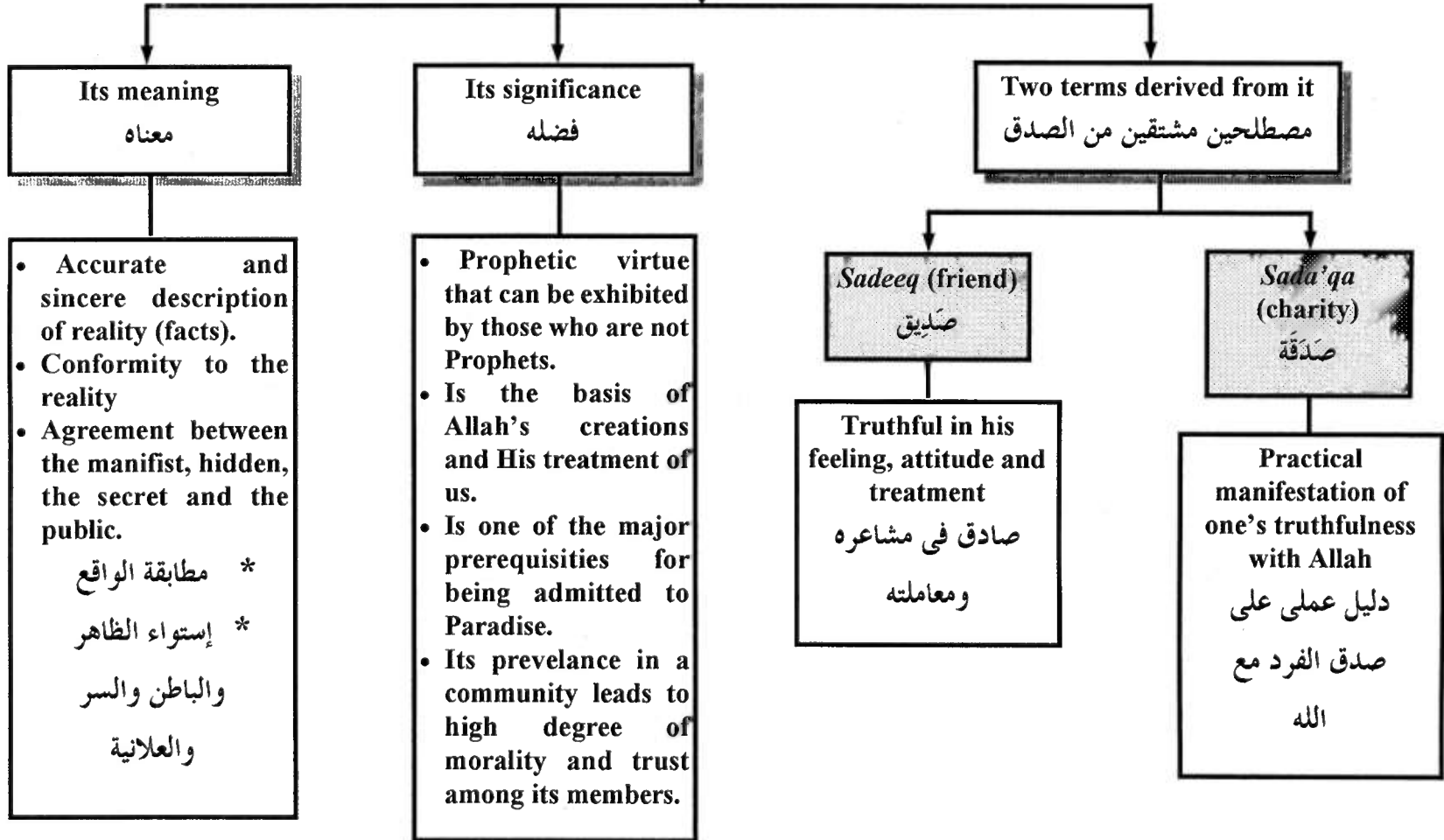
- The importance of *Al-Sidq* is best illustrated by the following two *Hadiths* (sayings) of the Prophet (PBUH):

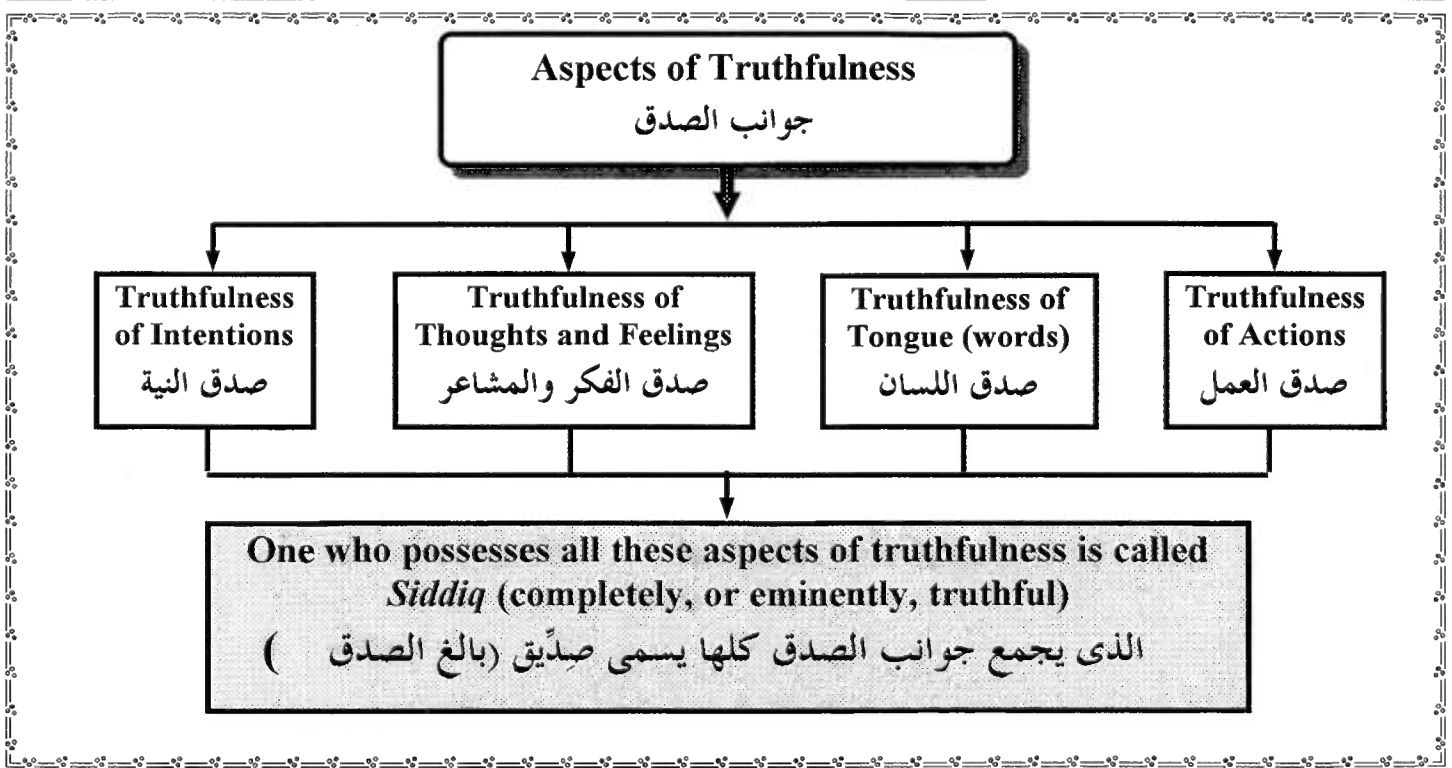
عليكم بالصدق فإن الصدق يهدي إلى البر وإن البر يهدي إلى الجنة وما يزال الرجل يصدق ويتحرى الصدق حتى يكتب عند الله صديقاً . وإياكم والكذب فإن الكذب يهدي إلى الفجور وإن الفجور يهدي إلى النار وما يزال الرجل يكذب ويتحرى الكذب حتى يكتب عند الله كذاباً .  
(صحيح البخاري و صحيح مسلم)

*Adhere to truthfulness, for truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to paradise. A man continues to maintain truthfulness until he is recorded in Allah's book as truthful. Refrain from lying, because lying leads to blatant evil, and evil leads to the hellfire. A man continues to lie until he is recorded in Allah's book*



## Al-Sidq (Truthfulness) الصدق





as a liar.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)

اضمنوا لي سِتًّا مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ  
أَضْمَنْ لَكُمْ الْجَنَّةَ : اصْدُقُوا إِذَا  
حَدَّثْتُمْ وَأَوْفُوا إِذَا وَعَدْتُمْ وَأَدُّوا إِذَا  
أُؤْتِمِنْتُمْ واحفظوا فروجكم  
وغضوا أبصاركم وكفوا أيديكم  
(مسند الإمام أحمد)

Guarantee for me six aspects of your behavior, I guarantee for you Paradise. When you speak, tell the truth; when you promise, fulfill your promise; when you are entrusted, render back the trust to those who entrusted you; guard your private part; lower your gaze; and keep your hands (from harming others).

(Musnad Al-Imam Ahmad)

Note in the first Hadith (saying) how the Prophet (PBUH) describes each action leading to another. When a person maintains honesty and truthfulness, they become characteristics of all his/her actions, and he/she is righteous. If the person maintain these characteristics, he/she is certain to be admitted to paradise.

Conversely, lying leads to evil, since a liar thinks that he/she can cover up

evil actions by lying. If he/she succeeds once, he/she is encouraged to do it again. Thus, evil practices become a habit, leading him/her to the hellfire.

In the second Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) identifies telling the truth as the first among six prerequisites for entering paradise.



• *Al-Sidq* leads to tranquillity. When the individuals of a community adopt the characteristic of *Al-Sidq*, the community will enjoy the benefits of trust, confidence and tranquillity. By contrast, when the individuals do not adopt *Al-Sidq* and resort to lying, not only will they suffer and be losers, but they will create suspicion and harm the entire community. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

دَعِ مَا يَرِيْبُكَ إِلَى مَا لَا يَرِيْبُكَ  
فَإِنَّ الصِّدْقَ طُمَأْنِينَةٌ وَإِنَّ  
الْكَذِبَ رَيْبَةٌ .

(سنن الترمذی)

Give up what is doubtful to you for that which is not doubtful; for truth is peace of mind and falsehood is doubt.

(Sunan Al-Termithi)

• *Al-Sidq* is the basis of *Iman* (belief). By contrast, lying is the basis of hypocrisy.

لَيَجْزِيَّ اللَّهُ الصَّادِقِينَ بِصِدْقِهِمْ  
وَيُعَذِّبُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ إِنْ شَاءَ أَوْ  
يَتُوبَ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنْ اللَّهُ كَانَ غَفُورًا  
رَحِيمًا .

(سورة الأحزاب - آية ٢٤)

That Allah may reward the men of Truth for their truth, and punish the hypocrites if that be His Will, or turn to them in Mercy: for Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

(Qur'an 33:24)

The Prophet (PBUH) identified lying as one of the characteristics of a hypocrite.

آيَةُ الْمُنَافِقِ ثَلَاثٌ : إِذَا حَدَّثَ  
كَذَّبَ وَإِذَا وَعَدَ أَخْلَفَ وَإِذَا أُؤْتِمِنَ  
خَانَ .

(صحيح البخارى وصحيح مسلم)

There are three signs of a hypocrite: When he speaks, he lies; when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and when he is trusted, he betrays his trust.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)

### Aspects of Al-Sidq

The aspects of Al-Sidq that a practicing Muslim is expected to maintain include Al-Sidq of ( see the figure on page 4):

- ⇒ Intentions,
- ⇒ Thoughts and feelings,
- ⇒ Tongue (words), and
- ⇒ Actions

The Qur'an refers to the combination of all these aspects of Al-Sidq as a prophetic virtue.

وَأَذْكُرُ فِي الْكِتَابِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ صِدِّيقًا نَبِيًّا .

(سورة مريم - آية ٤١)

(Also) mention in the Book (the story of) Abraham: He was a man of truth (and sincerity), a Prophet.

(Qur'an 19:41)

وَأَذْكُرُ فِي الْكِتَابِ إِدْرِيسَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ صِدِّيقًا نَبِيًّا .

(سورة مريم - آية ٥٦)

Also mention in the Book Idris (Enoch): He was a man of truth (and sincerity), (and) a prophet.

(Qur'an 19:56)

A person who combines all the aspects of Al-Sidq, listed in the figure on page 4, is called *Siddiq* (completely truthful). The rank of such a person with Allah will be immediately after that of the prophets, and before that of the martyrs and the righteous.

وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَالصَّالِحِينَ وَحَسُنَ أُولَئِكَ رَفِيقًا .

(سورة النساء - آية ٦٩)

All who obey Allah and the Messenger are in the company of those on whom is the Grace of Allah, of the Prophets (who teach), the Sincere (lovers of Truth), the martyrs, and the Righteous (who do good). And how excellent these companions are!

(Qur'an 4:69)

### Sidq of Intentions

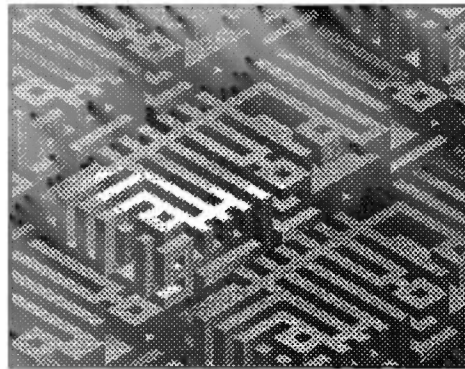
Having the truthful (and sincere) intentions to please Allah can reward the ordinary, everyday deeds the same as the acts of worship.

مَنْ سَأَلَ اللَّهَ الشَّهَادَةَ بِصِدْقٍ بَلَّغَهُ اللَّهُ مَنَازِلَ الشَّهَدَاءِ وَإِنْ مَاتَ عَلَى فِرَاشِهِ .

(صحيح مسلم)

Anyone who truthfully (sincerely) asks Allah for martyrdom Allah will grant him/her the rank of martyrs, even if he/she dies on his/her bed.

(Sahih-Muslim)



### Sidq of the tongue (words)

This includes saying the truth and only the truth:

> About Allah, the Qur'an, the Prophet (PBUH) and his *Sunnah* (traditions) - i.e., not giving wrong interpretations of the verses of the Qur'an, or relaying fabricated *hadiths* to others. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

مَنْ كَذَبَ عَلَيَّ مُتَعَمِّدًا فَلْيَتَّبِعُوا مَقْعَدَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ .

(صحيح مسلم)

The one who deliberately forges a lie

against me let him/her have his abode in hell.

(Sahih Muslim)

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أُولَئِكَ يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَى رَبِّهِمْ وَيَقُولُ الْأَشْهَادُ هَؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا عَلَى رَبِّهِمْ أَلَا لَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ .

(سورة هود - آية ١٨)

Who does more wrong than those who forge a lie against Allah? They will be brought before their Lord, and the witnesses will say, "These are the ones who lied against their Lord! Behold! the Curse of Allah is on those who do wrong!

(Qur'an 11:18)

وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ تَرَى الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ وُجُوهُهُم مُّسْوَدَّةٌ أَلَيْسَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَثْوًى لِّلْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ .

(سورة الزمر - آية ٦٠)

On the Day of judgment will you see those who told lies against Allah; their faces will be turned black; is there not in Hell an abode for the haughty?

(Qur'an 39:60)

> About business and trade. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

الْبَيْعَانِ بِالْخِيَارِ مَا لَمْ يَتَفَرَّقَا فَإِنْ صَدَقَا وَبَيَّنَّا بَوْرِكَ لِهَآءِ فِي بَيْعِهِمَا وَإِنْ كَتَمَا وَكَذَبَا مُجِئَتْ بَرَكَةٌ بَيْعِهِمَا .

(صحيح البخارى وصحيح مسلم)

Both parties in a business transaction have a right to annul it so long as they have not separated; and if they tell the truth and make everything clear to each other (i.e., the seller and the buyer speak the truth, the seller with regard to what is purchased, and the buyer with regard to the money) they will be blessed in their transaction, but if they conceal anything and lie, the blessing

on their transaction will be eliminated.  
(Sahih Al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)  
> In the witness stand. The Prophet (PBUH) stated that saying falsehood, and witnessing falsehood, are major sins.

أَلَا أَنْبِئُكُمْ بِأَكْبَرِ الْكِبَائِرِ  
(قلنا بلى يا رسول الله) قال :  
الإشراك بالله وعقوق الوالدين وكان  
مُتَكِبِّئًا فجلس فقال ألا وقول الزور  
وشهادة الزور ألا وقول الزور  
وشهادة الزور (فما زال يقولها حتى  
قلت لا يسكت) .

(صحيح البخارى)

Do I tell you about the major sins?  
Associating partners with Allah and  
Unkindness to parents. He (the Prophet  
- PBUH) was leaning on something then  
he sat down and said: And saying  
falsehood (lying), and witness  
falsehood. (He kept repeating it until  
the companions wished he would not  
repeat it anymore).

(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

> To the children.

عبد الله بن عامر قال دعنتى أُمى  
يوما ورسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم  
قاعد فى بيتنا فقالت ها تعال  
أعطيك فقال لها رسول الله صلى الله  
عليه وسلم وما أردت أن تعطيه قالت  
أعطيه تمرًا فقال رسول الله صلى  
الله عليه وسلم أما إنك لو لم تعطه  
شيئا كُتِبَتْ عليك كَذِبَةٌ .  
(سنن أبى داود)

Abdullah Ibn Amir, a young companion  
of the Prophet said: My mother called  
me one day when Allah's messenger  
(peace be upon him) was in our house.  
She said "Come and I will give you  
something". Allah's Messenger (PBUH)  
asked her "What do you intend to give  
him?" She said; "I want to give him  
dates". The Prophet said: "If you were  
not to give him something, your

statement would be recorded against  
you as a lie".

(Sunan Abi Dawood)

> Even when joking. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

أَنَا زَعِيمٌ بِبَيْتِ فِى رِبْضِ الْجَنَّةِ  
لِمَنْ تَرَكَ الْمِرَاءَ وَإِنْ كَانَ مُجْحَقًا  
وَبَيْتِ فِى وَسْطِ الْجَنَّةِ لِمَنْ تَرَكَ  
الْكَذْبَ وَإِنْ كَانَ مَازِحًا وَبَيْتِ فِى  
أَعْلَى الْجَنَّةِ لِمَنْ حَسَنَ خُلُقَهُ  
(سنن أبى داود)

I guarantee abode within the boundary  
of Paradise for one who gives up  
arguing off, even if he is right; and I  
guarantee a home in the middle of  
Paradise for that who abandons lying  
even for the sake of fun; and I  
guarantee the sublime portion of  
Paradise for one whose conduct is  
excellent.

(Sunan Abi Dawood)

### Sidq of Actions

The Qur'an states that the prerequisites for being a true believer are the integrity and truthfulness of intentions, feelings, words and actions. It Also regards such a degree of integrity and truthfulness as the basis of happiness in both the present and next worlds. Examples include:

- The supplication which Allah has taught Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) before Hijrah, which emphasizes the importance of following the truth, wherever and in whatever condition the person is. If one migrates to a place, he/she should migrate for the sake of the truth, and wherever one goes, he/she should go for the sake of truth.

وَقُلْ رَبِّ أَدْخِلْنِي مُدْخَلَ صِدْقٍ  
وَأَخْرِجْنِي مُخْرَجَ صِدْقٍ وَاجْعَلْ  
لِي مِنْ لَدُنْكَ سُلْطَانًا نَصِيرًا .  
(سورة الإسراء - آية ٨٠)

Say: "O my Lord! Let my entry be by  
the Gate of truth and honor, and  
likewise my exit by the Gate of truth  
and honor; and grant me from You an

authority to help (me).

(Qur'an 17:80)

- The Supplication of Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH), in which he asked Allah to enable him to perform such high deeds that his life should become a model of truthfulness, and a source of light, for others for all times to come, and that he should be counted among the benefactors of humanity.

وَاجْعَلْ لِي لِسَانَ صِدْقٍ فِى  
الْآخِرِينَ .

(سورة الشعراء - آية ٨٤)

Grant me honorable mention on the  
tongue of truth in the later  
generations.

(Qur'an 26:84)

- Allah described the special stations and provisions that He prepared for the true and sincere believers in the present world in several verses, including the following:

وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنَّ لَهُمْ قَدَمٌ  
صِدْقٍ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ .

(سورة يونس - من آية ٢)

And give to those who believe the  
good tidings that they will have a true,  
sure footing in the sight of their Lord.

(Qur'an 10:2)

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِى جَنَّاتٍ وَنَهْرٍ .  
فِى مَقْعَدِ صِدْقٍ عِنْدَ مَلِكٍ  
مُقْتَدِرٍ .

(سورة القمر - آيات ٥٤ و ٥٥)

The ones who have taqwa  
(consciousness of the presence of  
Allah) are in the Gardens and rivers.  
On the seats of truthfulness in the  
Presence of a Mighty King

(Qur'an 54:54,55)

I pray to Almighty Allah to give us  
the strength and the support to seek the  
truth, and to maintain honesty and  
truthfulness in our intentions, our  
thoughts and feelings, our words, our  
decisions and our actions; and to be  
recorded in Allah's book as truthful.

Ameen



## Miracles Provided by Allah to Adam

معجزات الله لآدم عليه السلام

<p>Created with the hands of (directly by) Allah خلقه الله تعالى بيده مباشرة</p>	<p>All humans were created at the same time of creating Adam (as dead atoms) الله خلق البشر جميعا وقت خلق آدم - كذرات ميتة</p>	<p>The angels and Iblis ordered (by Allah) to make <i>Sujood</i> (prostrate) to Adam أمر الله تعالى الملائكة وإبليس بالسجود له</p>	<p>Iblis was kicked out of the Garden because of his refusal to make <i>Sujood</i> to Adam طرد إبليس من الجنة لتكبره ورفضه السجود لآدم عليه السلام</p>
<p>قَالَ يَا إِبْلِيسُ مَا مَنَعَكَ أَنْ تَسْجُدَ لِمَا خَلَقْتُ بِإِيْدِي أَسْتَكَبِرْتَ أَمْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الْعَالِينَ. (سورة ص - آية ٧٥)</p> <p><i>(Allah) said: O Iblis! What prevents you from prostrating yourself to one whom I have created with My hands? Are you haughty? Or are you one of the high (and mighty) ones?</i> (Qur'an 38:75)</p>	<p>وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَاكُمْ ثُمَّ صَوَّرْنَاكُمْ . (سورة الأعراف - من آية ١١)</p> <p><i>It is We Who created you and then gave you shape.</i> (Qur'an 7:11)</p> <p>وَإِذْ أَخَذَ رَبُّكَ مِنْ بَنِي آدَمَ مِنْ ظُهُورِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَأَشْهَدَهُمْ عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ . (سورة الأعراف - من آية ١٧٢)</p> <p><i>When your Lord drew forth from the children of Adam from their loins their descendants, and made them testify concerning themselves.</i> (Qur'an 7:172)</p>	<p>فَإِذَا سَوَّيْتُهُ وَنَفَخْتُ فِيهِ مِنْ رُوحِي فَقَعُوا لَهُ سَاجِدِينَ . (سورة ص - آية ٧٢)</p> <p><i>When I have fashioned him and breathed into him of My spirit, fall you down in prostration unto him.</i> (Qur'an 38:72)</p>	<p>قَالَ فَاهْبِطْ مِنْهَا فَمَا يَكُونُ لَكَ أَنْ تَتَكَبَّرَ فِيهَا فَاخْرُجْ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الصَّاغِرِينَ . (سورة الأعراف - آية ١٣)</p> <p><i>(Allah) said: "Get you (O Iblis) down from it: it is not for you to be arrogant here: get out, for you are of those humiliated and disgraced."</i> (Qur'an 7:13)</p>