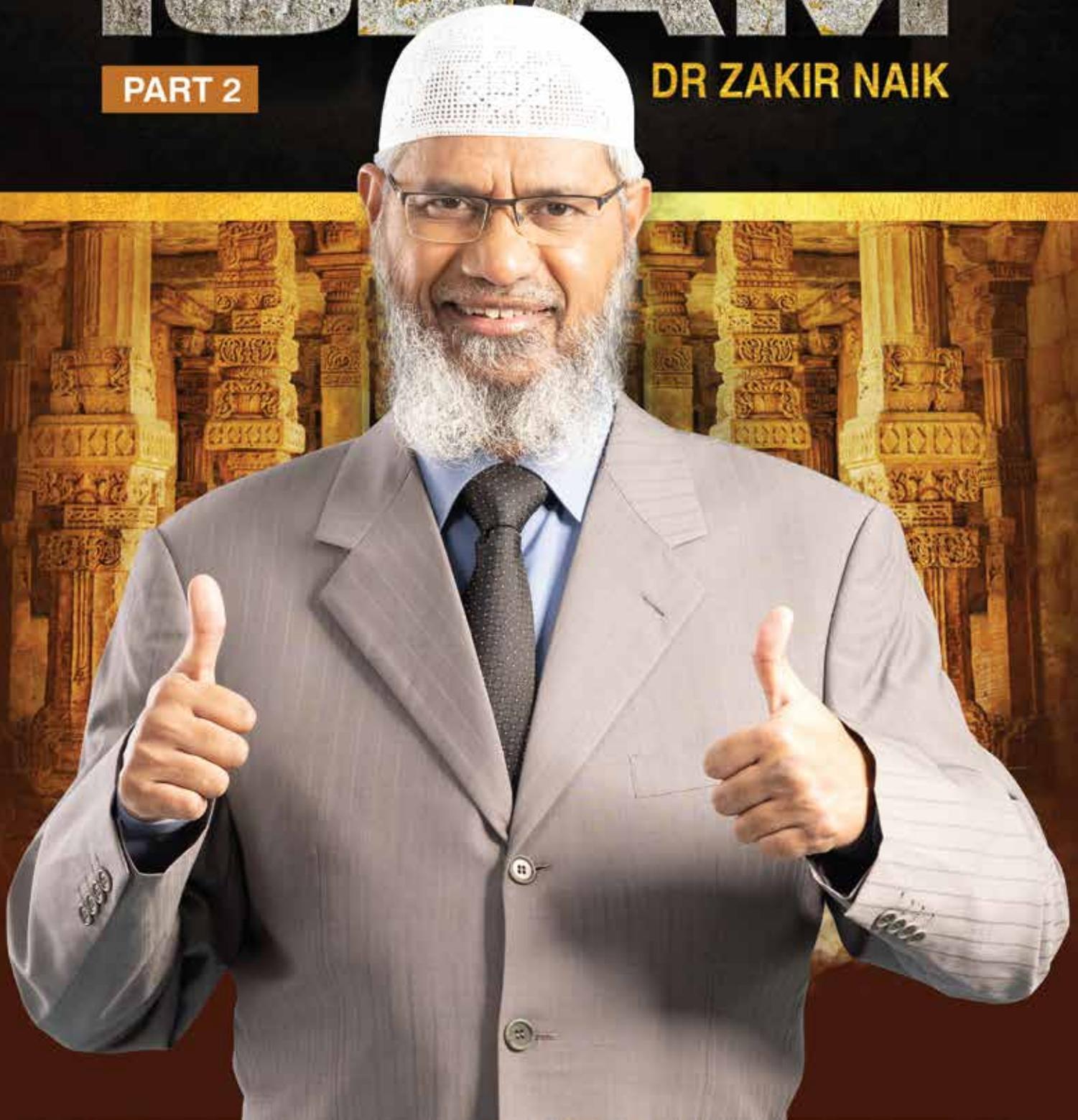


**STUDY GUIDE**

**SIMILARITIES  
BETWEEN  
HINDUISM  
AND  
ISLAM**

**PART 2**

**DR ZAKIR NAIK**

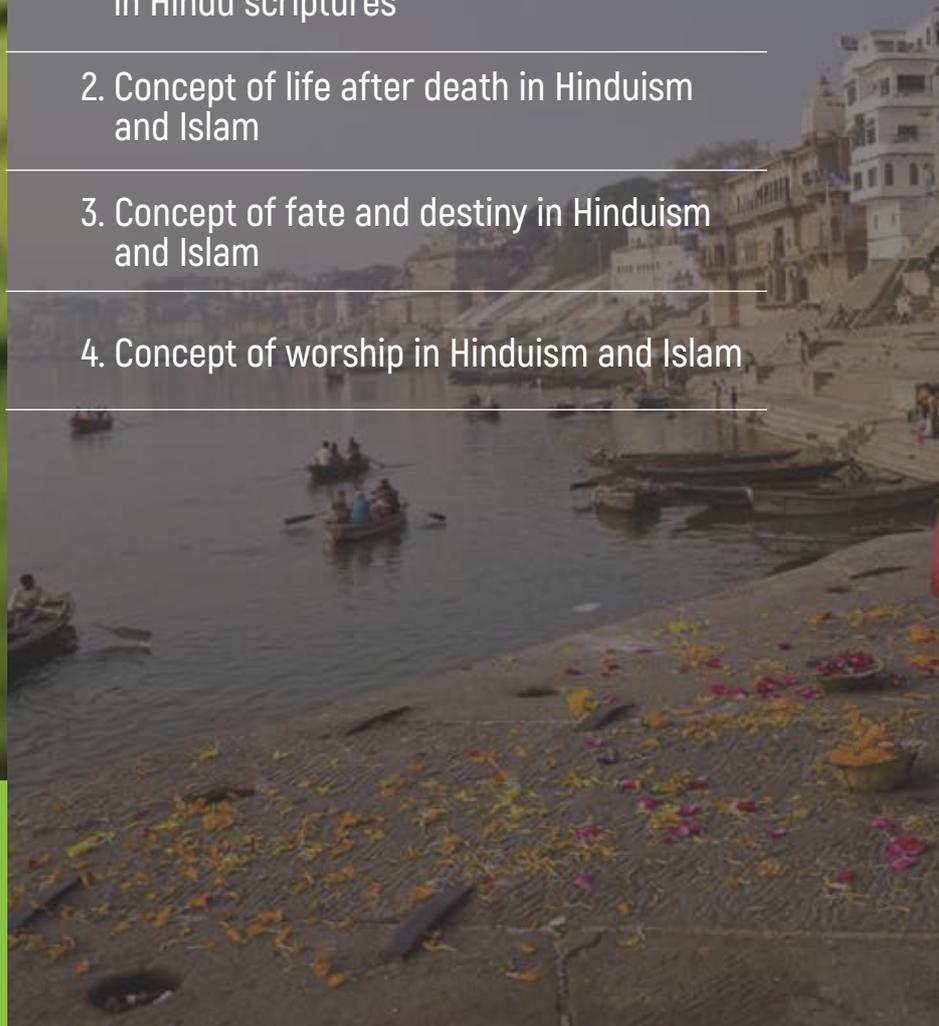




# COURSE OUTLINE

## Course Topics

1. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) prophesied in Hindu scriptures
2. Concept of life after death in Hinduism and Islam
3. Concept of fate and destiny in Hinduism and Islam
4. Concept of worship in Hinduism and Islam





## Course Objectives

1. To know the similarities between two major religions of the world, Hinduism and Islam
2. To do Da'wah with the Hindus based on the Qur'anic invitation to follow the commonalities
3. To enlighten the Muslims and the Hindus about those similarities which are not commonly known by all the followers

## Question and Answer Bucket

## Transcripts

## Additional Resources

Graphic Posts

## Assessment

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

## Course Duration

Video	- 1 hour 35 min
Study Guide	- 1 hour 30 min
Graphic Posters	- 15 min
Assessment	- 10 min
Total Duration	- 3 hours 30 min

## LESSON 1

# MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN THE HINDU SCRIPTURES – BHAVISHYA PURANA





I

# MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED IN HINDU SCRIPTURES

1

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

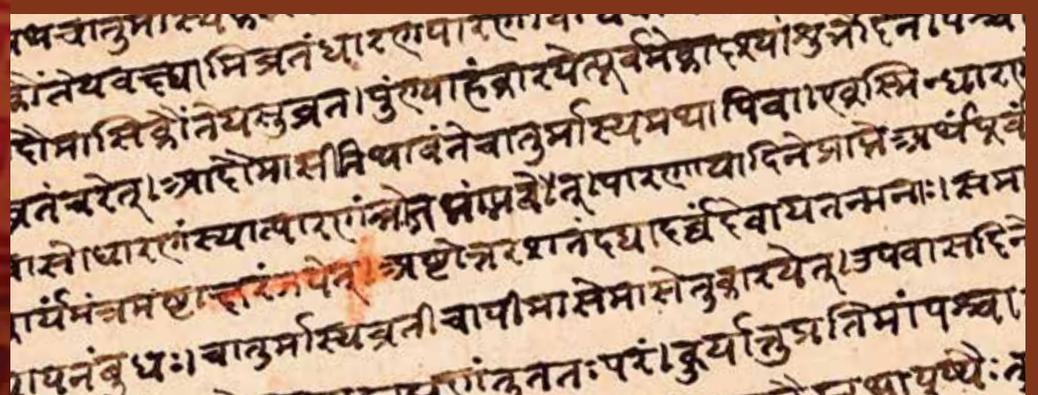
PROPHESED IN BHAVISHYA PURANA

A

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) WILL APPEAR  
FROM THE DESERT ALONG WITH HIS COMPANIONS

“A Maleccha (belonging to a foreign country and speaking foreign language) spiritual teacher will appear with his companions. His name will be Mahamad. Raja (Bhoj) after giving this Maha Dev Arab (of angelic disposition) a bath in the ‘Panch-gavya’ and the Ganges water, (i.e., purging him of all sins) will offer him the presents of his sincere devotion and showing him all reverence will say, “I make obeisance to thee. ‘O ye! the pride of mankind’, the dweller in Arabia, Ye have collected a great force to kill the Devil and you yourself have been protected from the Maleccha opponents.”

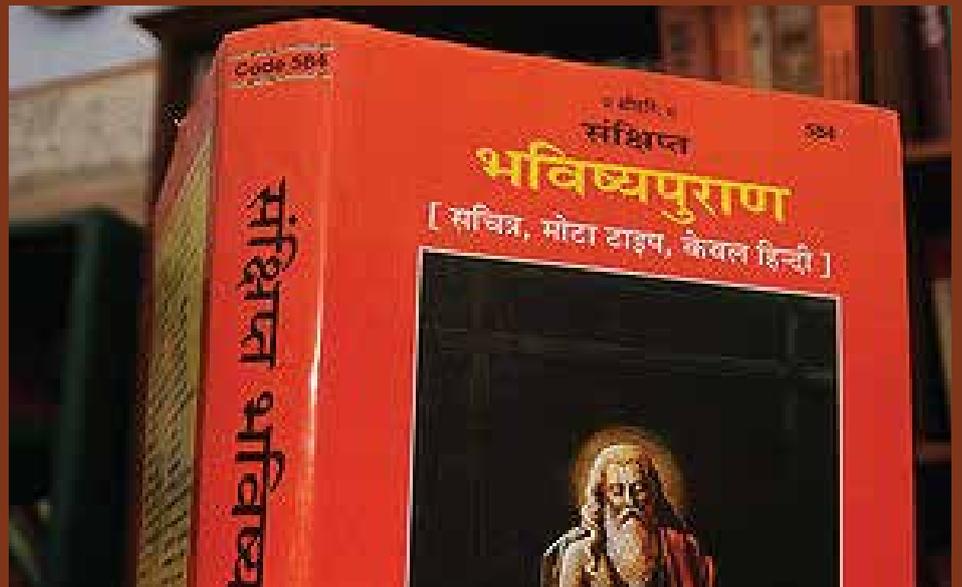
Bhavishya Purana, Prati Sarg Parv III, Khand 3, Adhyay 3, Shlokas 5 to 8





The Prophecy clearly states:

- i The name of the Prophet as 'Mahamad' (Muhammad).
- ii He will belong to Arabia, the Sanskrit word used here, 'Marusthal' means a sandy track of land or a desert.
- iii Special mention is made of the companions of the Prophet i.e., the Sahaabah. No other Prophet had more dedicated companions as Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
- iv He is referred as the pride of mankind, 'Parbatis Nath'.





The Glorious Qur'an reconfirms this in 2 verses:

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ



“And thou (standest) on an exalted standard of character.”

Al Qur'an 68:4



لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ



“You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah, a beautiful pattern (of conduct).”

Al Qur'an 33:21



- v He will kill the devil i.e., abolish idol worship and all sorts of vices.
- vi The Prophet (pbuh) will be given protection against his enemies.

Some people argue that Raja Bhoj mentioned in the prophecy lived in the 11th Century CE, 500 years after the advent of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and was the descendant in the 10th generation of Raja Shalivahan. These people fail to realize that there was not only one Raja by the name Bhoj. The Egyptian Monarchs were called as Pharaohs and the Roman Kings were known as Caesars, similarly, the Indian Rajas were given the title of 'Bhoj'. There were several Raja Bhoj who came before the one in the 11th Century CE.

The Prophet (pbuh) did not physically take a bath in Panchgavya and the water of Ganges. Since the water of Ganges is considered holy, taking bath in the Ganges is an idiom meaning washing away or made immune from all sorts of sins. Here the prophecy implies that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was sinless i.e., 'Maasoom'.





**B**

## PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) WILL GUIDE THE ENEMIES TO THE RIGHT PATH

“The Maleccha have spoiled the well-known land of the Arabs. Arya Dharma is not to be found in the country. Before also there appeared a misguided fiend whom I had killed; he has now again appeared being sent by a powerful enemy. To show these enemies the right path and to give them guidance the well-known Mahamad (Muhammad), who has been given by me the epithet of Brahma, is busy in bringing the ‘Pishachas’ to the right path. O Raja, You need not go to the land of the foolish Pishachas, you will be purified through my kindness even where you are. At night, he of the angelic disposition, the shrewd man, in the guise of a Pishacha said to Raja Bhoj, “O Raja your Arya Dharma has been made to prevail over all religions, but according to the commandments of Ishwar Parmatma, I shall enforce the strong creed of the meat eaters. My followers will be men circumcised, without a tail (on their heads), keeping beard, creating a revolution, announcing Adhaan (call for prayer) and will be eating all lawful things. They will eat all sorts of animals except swine. They will not seek purification from the holy shrubs but will be purified through warfare. On account of their fighting the irreligious nations, they will be known as Musalmaans. I shall be the originator of this religion of the meat-eating nations.”

Bhavishya Purana, Prati Sarg Parv III, Khand 3, Adhyay 3,  
Shlokas 10 to 27



The Prophecy clearly states:

- i The evil-doers have corrupted the Arab land.
- ii Arya Dharma is not found in that land.
- iii The present enemies will be destroyed just as the previous enemy like Abraha had perished.

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ  
أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضْلِيلٍ  
وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ  
تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ مِّن سِجِّيلٍ  
فَجَعَلَهُمْ كَعَصْفٍ مَّأْكُولٍ



“Did you not see how your Lord dealt with the companions of the elephant?” Did He not make their treacherous plan go astray? And He sent against them flights of birds striking them with stones of baked clay then did He make them like an empty field of stalk, straw, (of which the corn) has been eaten up.”

Al Qur'an 105:1-5

iv The Indian Raja need not go to Arab land since his purification will take place in India after the Musalmaans will arrive in India.

v The coming Prophet will attest the truth of the Aryan faith i.e., monotheism and will reform the misguided people.

vi The Prophet's followers will be circumcised, without a tail on the head, keeping a beard, and will create a great revolution.





- vii They will announce the Adhaan i.e., “call for prayer”.
- viii They will only eat lawful things and animals but will not eat pork.

**The Qur’an confirms this in no less than 4 different places:**

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْمَيْتَةُ وَالْدَّمُ وَلَحْمُ الْخِنْزِيرِ وَمَا أُهْلَ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ



“Forbidden to you (for food) are dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine and that on which has been invoked the name of other than Allah.”

Al Qur’an 2:173, 5:3, 6:145 & 16:115



ix

They will not purify with grass like the Hindus, but by means of sword they will fight their irreligious people.

x

They will be called as Musalmaan.

xi

They will be a meat-eating nation. The Qur'an confirms the eating of herbivorous animals.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَوْفُوا بِالْعُقُودِ ۗ أُحِلَّتْ لَكُمْ  
بِهَيْمَةَ الْأَنْعَامِ إِلَّا مَا يُثَلَّى عَلَيْكُمْ



“O you who believe! Fulfill (all) obligations. Lawful unto you (for food) are all four-footed animals with the exceptions named.”

Al Qur'an 5:1





وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ فِي الْأَنْعَامِ لَعِبْرَةً ۗ نُسْقِيكُمْ مِمَّا  
فِي بُطُونِهَا وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَنَافِعُ كَثِيرَةٌ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ



“And in cattle (too) you have an instructive example: From within their bodies, We produce (milk) for you to drink; there are, in them, (besides), numerous (other) benefits for you; and of their (meat) you eat.”

Al Qur'an 23:21





C

## MUSLIMS HAVE GOOD QUALITIES

ॐ

“Corruption and persecution are in seven sacred cities of Kashi. India is inhabited by Rakshas, Shabar, Bhil and other foolish people. In the land of ‘Malecchas’ the followers of the ‘Maleccha Dharma’ (Islam) are wise and brave people. All good qualities are found in Musalmaans and all sorts of vices have accumulated in the land of Aryas. Islam will rule in India and its islands. Having known these facts O Muni, glorify the name of thy Lord.”

Bhavishya Purana, Prati Sarg Parv III, Khand 1, Adhyay 3, Shlokas 21 to 23





The Qur'an confirms this:

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ  
الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ



“It is He Who has sent His messengers with guidance and the Religion of Truth, to proclaim it over all religions, even though the Pagans may detest (it).”

Al Qur'an 9:33 & 61:9

And a similar message with a different ending is repeated in the Qur'an:



وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا

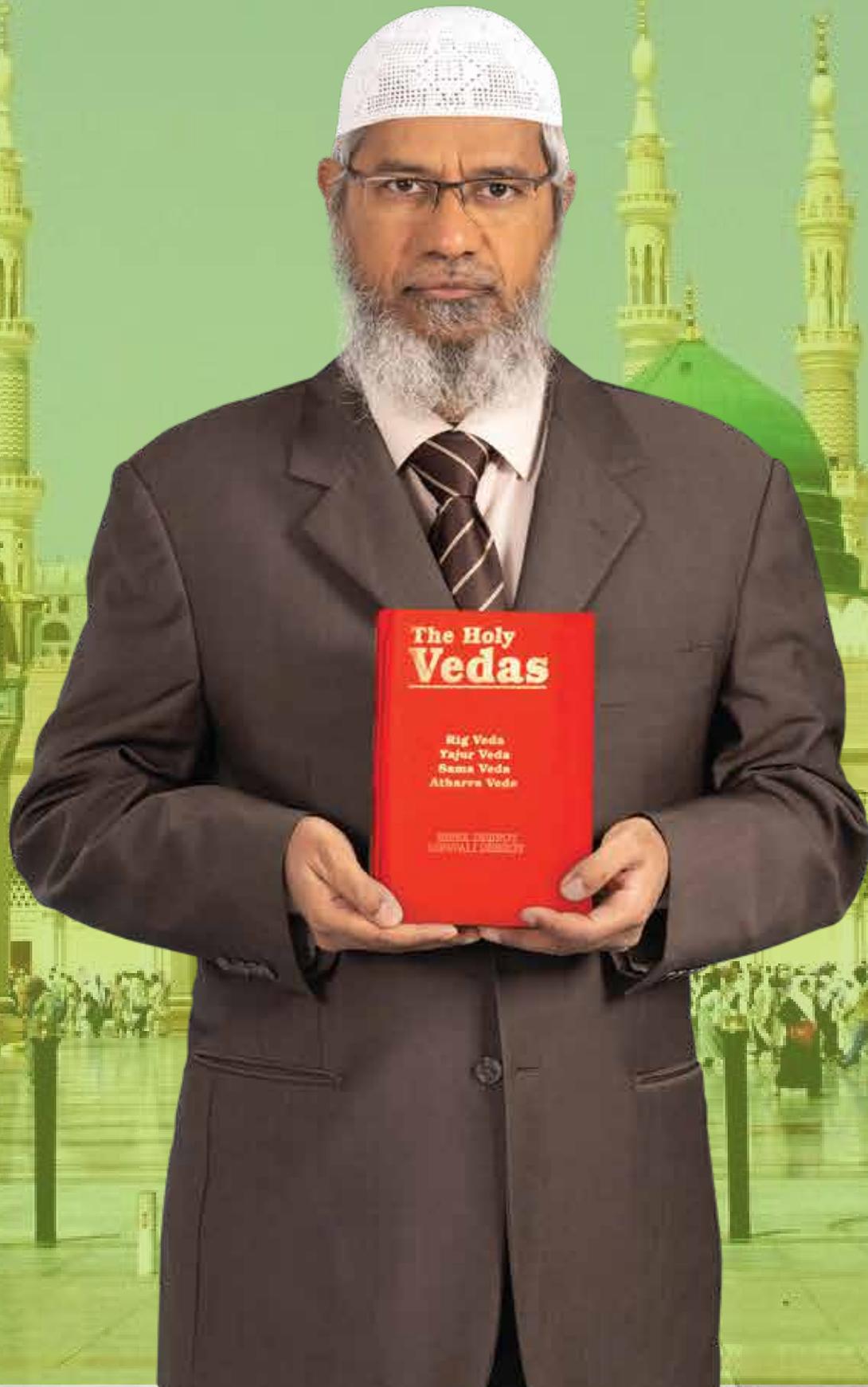


“And enough is Allah as a witness.”

Al Qur'an 48:28

## LESSON 2

# MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN THE HINDU SCRIPTURES – VEDAS





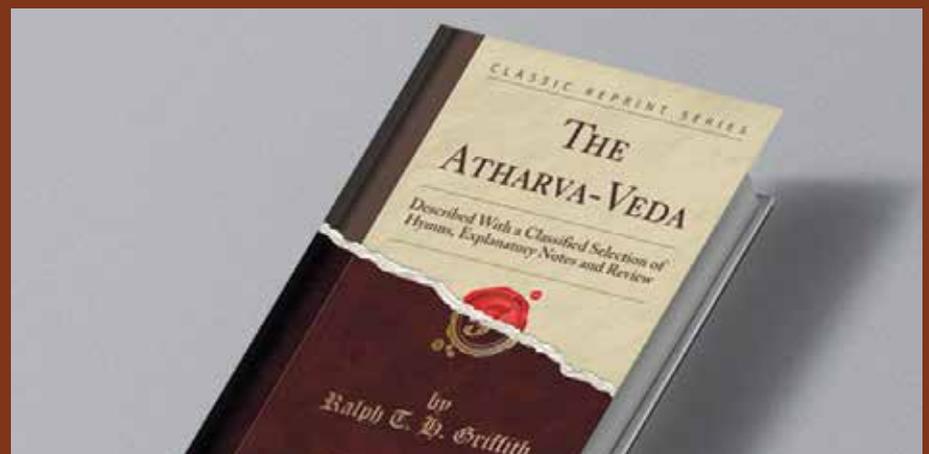
## 2

### PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED IN ATHARVA VEDA

#### A KUNTAP SUKTAS

Some Suktas (chapters) are known as 'Kuntap Sukt'. Kuntap means the consumer of misery and troubles. Thus meaning, the message of peace and safety, and if translated in Arabic means Islam.

Kuntap also means hidden glands in the abdomen. These mantras are called so probably because their true meaning was hidden and was to be revealed in future. Its hidden meaning is also connected with the naval or the middle point of the earth. Makkah is called the 'Ummul Qura', the mother of the towns or the naval of the earth. In many revealed books it was the first house of divine worship where God Almighty gave spiritual nourishment to the world.





إِنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ لَلَّذِي بِبَكَّةَ مُبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



“The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakkah (Makkah): Full of blessing and of guidance for all kinds of beings.”

Al Qur'an 3:96



Another name for Makkah is Bakkah. Thus, Kuntap stands for Makkah or Bakkah.

Several people have translated these Kuntap Suktas like M. Bloomfield, Prof Ralph Griffith, Pandit Rajaram, Pandit Khem Karan, etc.

The main points mentioned in the Kuntap Suktas that is Atharva Veda Book 20 Hymn 127 Verses 1-13 are:



### 1 Mantra

*He is Narashansah or the praised one (Muhammad).*

*He is Kaurama, the prince of peace or the emigrant, who is safe even amongst a host of 60,090 enemies.*

### 2 Mantra

*He is a camel-riding Rishi, whose chariot touches the heaven.*



### 3 Mantra

*He is Mamah Rishi who is given a hundred gold coins, ten chaplets (necklaces), three hundred good steeds and ten thousand cows.*

### 4 Mantra

*Vachyesv rebh, 'Oh! Ye who glorifies'*



### 5 Mantra

*The praying ones with their prayers hurry on like powerful bulls.*

### 6 Mantra

*Oh, you who praises, hold fast the wisdom which earns cows and good things. Disseminate this among the divine.*

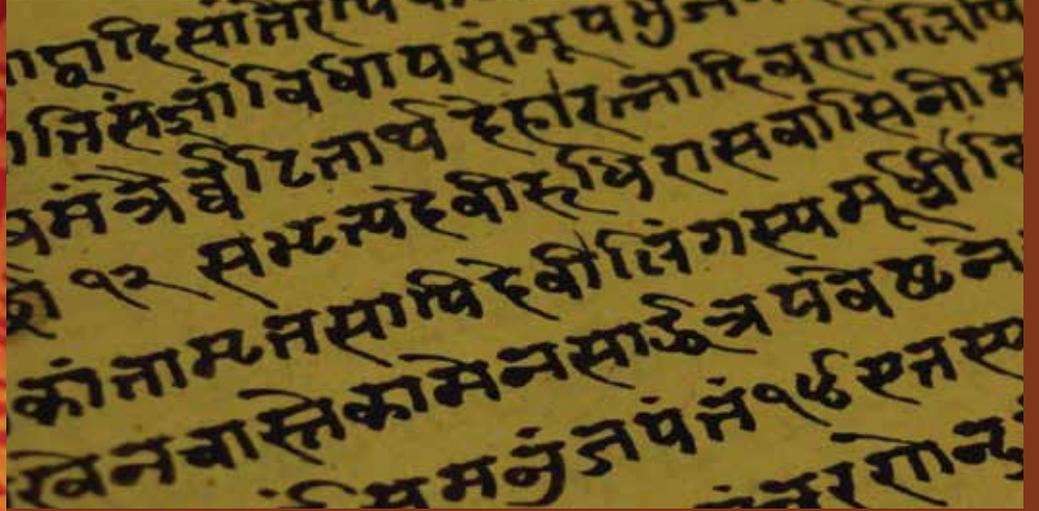
### 7 Mantra

*He is the king of the worlds, the best of men and a guide for the entire mankind.*

### 8-9 Mantra

*He has procured a secure dwelling for the people, gives protection to everybody and has spread peace in the world.*





#### 10 Mantra

*People thrive happily and prosper under his rule and from the depth of degradation they rise to the height of glory.*

#### 11 Mantra

*He is asked to wake up and warn the world.*

#### 12 Mantra

*He is extremely bountiful and very generous.*

#### 13 Mantra

*His followers have been saved from the hostility and robbery of the enemy and may the Master not be harmed.*



## 14 Mantra

*We glorify and praise the great hero with a song of praise and a prayer. Please accept this praise so that evil may not befall us.*

- i** The Sanskrit word 'Narashansah' means 'the Praised one' which is the literal translation of the Arabic word Muhammad (pbuh). The Sanskrit word 'Kaurama' also means an emigrant. The Prophet migrated from Makkah to Madinah and was thus also an emigrant. He will be protected from 60,090 enemies which was the approximate population of the enemies of the Prophet (pbuh) in Arabia.
- ii** The Prophet would ride a camel. This clearly indicates that it cannot be an Indian Rishi since it is forbidden for a Brahman to ride a camel.





“A Brahman is prohibited from riding a camel or an ass and to bathe naked. He should purify himself by suppressing his breath.”

Sacred Books of the East, volume 25, Laws of Manu, pg 472, chapter 11 verse 202

iii

a

This mantra gave the Rishis name as ‘Mamah’. No rishi in India or any other Prophet had this name. ‘Mamah’ is derived from ‘Mah’ which means to esteem highly, to revere, to exalt etc. Bhavishya Purana gives the Prophet's name as “Mahamad” but this word according to Sanskrit grammar can also be used in the bad sense. It is incorrect to apply grammar to an Arabic word. Actually, ‘Mamah’ has the same meaning and somewhat similar pronunciation as the word Muhammad (pbuh).





**b** He is given 100 gold coins which refers to the believers and earlier companions of the Prophet (pbuh) during his turbulent Makkah life. Later on, due to persecution they migrated from Makkah to Abyssinia. Later when the Prophet (pbuh) migrated to Madinah all of them joined him there.



**c** The 10 chaplets or necklaces were the 10 best companions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) known as 'Al Asharah Al Mubashshiroon bil Jannah' (The ten bestowed with good news of Paradise). These were foretold in this world of their salvation in the Hereafter i.e., they were given the good news of entering Paradise by Prophet's (pbuh) own lips and after naming each one he said (in Paradise). They were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali, Talha, Zubair, Abdur Rahman Ibn Awf, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas, Saeed bin Zaid and Abu Ubaidah (may Allah be pleased with them).



**d** The third gift was 300 good steeds. These horses belonged to the Arab breed. The Sanskrit word “Arwah” means swift Arab horse. The 300 steeds refer to the 300 companions of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) who fought at the battle of Badr and came back victorious even though the enemies were thrice their number.

**e** The Sanskrit word “Go” is derived from “Gaw” which means “to go to war”. A cow is also called “Go” and is a symbol of war as well as peace. The 10,000 cows refer to the 10,000 companions who accompanied the Prophet (pbuh) when he entered Makkah during Fathul Makkah which was a unique victory in the history of mankind in which there was no bloodshed. The 10,000 companions were pious and compassionate like a cow and were at the same time strong and fierce.



مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ رُحَمَاءُ بَيْنَهُمْ



“Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and those who are with him are strong against unbelievers (but) compassionate amongst each other.”

Al Qur'an 48:29

iv This mantra calls the Prophet as ‘Rebh’ which means one who praises, which when translated into Arabic is ‘Ahmed’ which is another name for Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

v He and his followers are always mindful of their prayers even in the battlefield.

وَأَسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ



“Nay, seek (Allah’s) help with patience, perseverance and prayer.”

Al Qur'an 2:45 & 2:153





وَإِذَا كُنْتَ فِيهِمْ فَأَقَمْتَ لَهُمُ الصَّلَاةَ فَلْتَقُمْ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنْهُمْ  
مَعَكَ وَلْيَأْخُذُوا أَسْلِحَتَهُمْ فَإِذَا سَجَدُوا فَلْيَكُونُوا مِن  
وَرَائِكُمْ وَلْتَأْتِ طَائِفَةٌ أُخْرَىٰ لَمْ يُصَلُّوا فَلْيُصَلُّوا مَعَكَ  
وَلْيَأْخُذُوا حِذْرَهُمْ وَأَسْلِحَتَهُمْ



“When you (O Messenger) are with them, and stand to lead them in prayer, let one party of them stand up (in prayer) with you, taking their arms with them; when they finish their prostration, let them take their position in the rear. And let the other party come up which has not yet prayed and let them pray with you, taking all precautions and bearing arms.”

Al Qur'an 4:102





vi The wisdom mentioned in this mantra refers to the Glorious Qur'an. The Glorious Qur'an earns one good not only in this world but also in the Hereafter. The Prophet (pbuh) is asked to propagate amongst his companions. Many of whom memorised the Qur'an.

vii All the attributes in this mantra apply to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



“We sent thee not, but as a mercy for all creatures.”

Al Qur'an 21:107





وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا  
وَنَذِيرًا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ



“We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not.”

Al Qur'an 34:28

مُحَمَّدٌ  
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ



“And thou (standest) on an exalted standard of character.”

Al Qur'an 68:4



لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ



“You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah, a beautiful pattern (of conduct).”

Al Qur'an 33:21

viii  
ix

During the reconstruction of Ka'bah, the Prophet (pbuh) through his wisdom prevented a war between the Arab tribes. The Prophet (pbuh) not only gave peace to the Arab lands but also to the whole world. Even during the conquest of Makkah, the Prophet (pbuh) established peace without shedding a single drop of blood. He gave peace and shelter to the bitterest enemies and let them go by saying, “There shall be no reproof against you this day.”



x

The Arabs were the most ignorant people 1400 years ago and it was referred to as “Ayyamul Jahiliyyah”. The Prophet (pbuh) with his message brought prosperity and raised these ignorant people and made them the torch bearers.



xi This mantra gives the translation of a verse of the Glorious Qur'an:

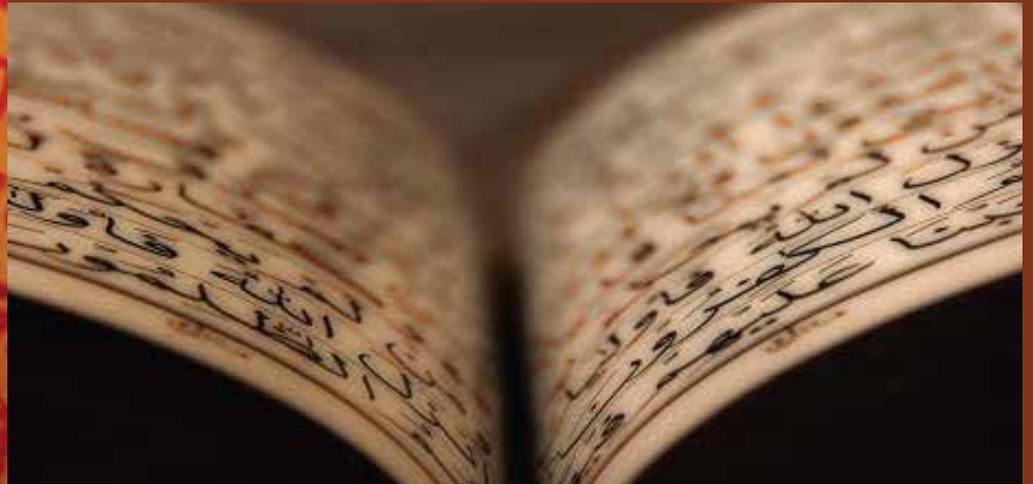
يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُدَّثِّرُ  
قُمْ فَأَنْذِرْ  
وَرَبَّكَ فَكَبِّرْ



“O you wrapped up (in a mantle)! Arise and deliver your warning! And your Lord do you magnify.”

Al Qur'an 74:1-3

The Prophet (pbuh) arose and warned the people and glorified the Lord.



xii The Glorious Qur'an says,

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ ۗ  
وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَأَنْفَضُوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ



“It is part of the mercy of Allah that you do deal gently with them. Were you severe or harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about you.”

Al Qur'an 3:159

It was due to the Prophet's (pbuh) kind heartedness, mercy and generosity that people flocked around him otherwise the stubborn Arabs could have never been won.

xiii This mantra is a prayer of the Rishi for the Prophet (pbuh), a similar prayer is found in the last chapter of the Glorious Qur'an:

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ  
مَلِكِ النَّاسِ  
إِلَهِ النَّاسِ  
مِن شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ  
الَّذِي يُوَسْوِسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ  
مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ





“Say: I seek refuge with Lord and Cherisher of mankind, the King (or Ruler) of mankind, the God (or Judge) of mankind, from the mischief of the Whisperer (of Evil), who withdraws (after his whisper), – (the same) who whispers into the hearts of mankind, – among jinns and among men.”

Al Qur'an 114:1-6

xiv In this last mantra, the Rishi of the Veda makes it compulsory for the followers of the Veda to praise Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and follow him so that they will be saved from the evil of this world.



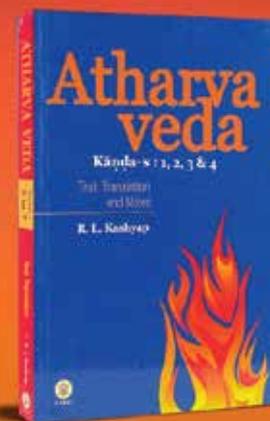


## B BATTLE OF THE ALLIES DESCRIBED IN THE ATHARVA VEDA



“Lord of the truthful! These libations drinks, these feats of bravery and the inspiring songs gladdened thee in the field of battle. When thou rendest vanquished without fight the ten thousand opponents of the praying one, the adoring one.”

Atharva Veda 20:21:6



- i This Prophecy of the Veda describes the well-known battle of Ahzab or the battle of the allies during the time of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The Prophet (pbuh) was victorious without an actual conflict which is mentioned in the Qur'an.

وَلَمَّا رَأَى الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الْأَحْزَابَ قَالُوا هَذَا مَا وَعَدَنَا اللَّهُ  
وَرَسُولُهُ وَصَدَقَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَمَا زَادَهُمْ إِلَّا إِيمَانًا وَتَسْلِيمًا



“When the believers saw the Confederate forces, they said: This is what Allah and His Messenger had promised us and Allah and His Messenger told us what was true. And it only added to their faith and their zeal in obedience.”

Al Qur'an 33:22

- ii The Sanskrit word 'karo' in the Mantra means the 'praising one' which when translated into Arabic means 'Ahmed', another name of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
- iii The 10,000 opponents mentioned in the mantra were the enemies of the Prophet (pbuh) and the Muslims were only 3000 in number.
- iv The last words of the Mantra 'Aprati ni Bashayah' means the defeat was given to the enemies without an actual fight.





## C THE ENEMIES DEFEATED IN THE CONQUEST OF MAKKAH



“You have O Indira, overthrown 20 kings and 60,099 men with an outstripping chariot wheel who came to fight the praised one or far famed (Muhammad) orphan.”

Atharva Veda 20:21:9



- i The approximate population of the enemies of the Prophet (pbuh) in Arabia was nearly 60,000.
- ii There were several clans in Arabia each having its own chief. Totally there were about 20 chiefs to rule the population of Arabia.
- iii An ‘Abandhu’ meaning a helpless man who was far famed and ‘Praised one’ [Muhammad (pbuh)] overcame his enemies with the help of God.



A similar prophecy is also found in Rig Veda, Book 1 Hymn 53 Verse 9.

The Sanskrit word used is 'Sushrama' which means praiseworthy or well praised, which in Arabic means Muhammad (pbuh).





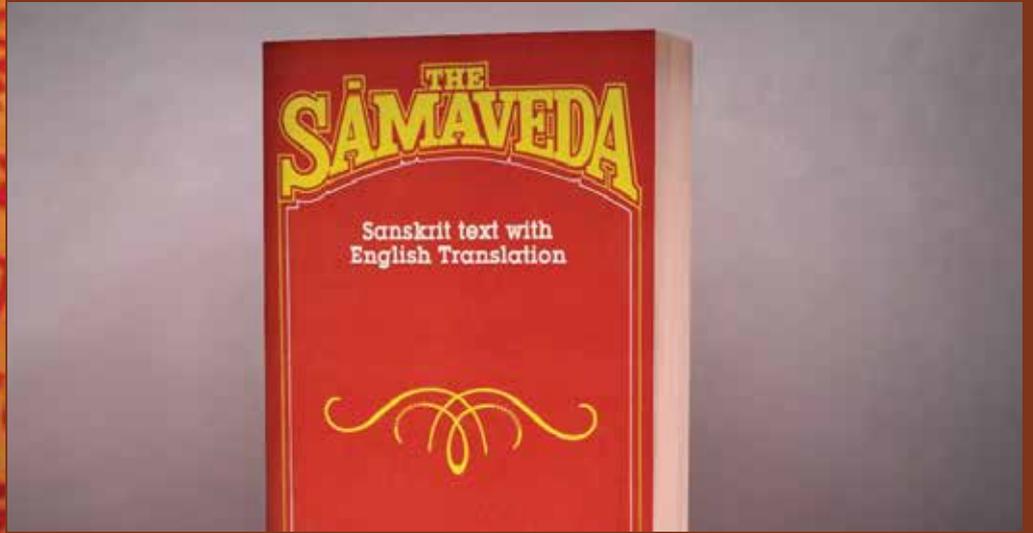
3

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED IN SAM VEDA



“Ahmed acquired from his Lord the knowledge of eternal law. I received light from him just as from the sun.”

Sam Veda 2:6:8



**The prophecy confirms –**

- i The name of the Prophet as ‘Ahmed’. Since Ahmed is an Arabic name, many translators misunderstood it to be ‘Ahm at hi’ and translated the mantra as, “I alone have acquired the real wisdom of my father.”



- ii Prophet (pbuh) was given eternal law i.e., Shariah.
- iii The Rishi was enlightened by the Shariah of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا  
وَنَذِيرًا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْمُونَ



“We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not.”

Al Qur'an 34:28

## 4

### A SIMILAR PROPHECY IS ALSO FOUND IN RIGVEDA BOOK I HYMN 53 VERSE 9

- i The Sanskrit word used is ‘Sushrama’ which means ‘praiseworthy’ or ‘well - praised’ which in Arabic means ‘Muhammad (pbuh)’.
- ii An ‘Abandhu’ meaning a ‘helpless man’ who was far famed and ‘Praised one’ i.e., ‘Muhammad (pbuh)’ overcame his enemies with the help of God.



5

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) DID NOT DRINK HIS MOTHER'S MILK



“He does not go to his mother for milk, his mother does not feed him milk and yet as soon as he is born, he takes up the noble assignment of prophethood.”

Samaveda Agni, Mantra 64

Samaveda Book 1 Chapter 2 Decade 2 Verse 2



Muhammad (pbuh) was an orphan and thus none of the wet nurses were interested in taking care of him. On the other hand, no mother was willing to give her child to Lady Halima because she did not seem to have enough milk. Thus, Lady Halima took Muhammad (pbuh) home for breast-feeding, and as soon as she began to breast-feed Muhammad (pbuh), there was a surge of milk in her breasts.



6

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED BY NAME AS 'AHMED'



Muhammed (pbuh) has been prophesied by name as 'Ahmed' in:

i

Yajurveda Chapter 31 Verse 18

ii

Rigveda Book 8 Hymn 6 Verse 10

iii

Atharvaveda Book 8 Chapter 5 Verse 16

iv

Atharvaveda Book 20 Chapter 126 Verse 14



v Samaveda Uttararchika Mantra 1500

vi Samaveda Part 2 Book 7 Chapter 1 Section 5 Verse 1

vii Samaveda Indra Chapter 2 Mantra 152

viii Samaveda Book 2 Chapter 2 Decade 1 Verse 8

मुहम्मद  
आखिरी पैग़म्बर



## 7

### MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED AS 'NARASHANSA'

The word 'Narashansa' is the combination of 'Nar' and 'Aashansa'; 'Nar' means 'man' and 'Aashansa' means 'praised', therefore 'Narashansa' means 'the praised man'.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is mentioned as 'Narashansa' in the Hindu scriptures in several places including:

i

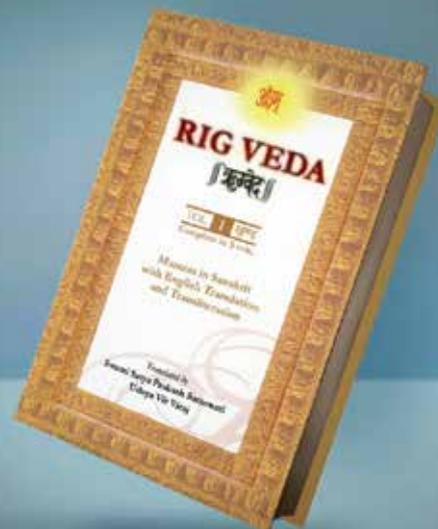
Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 13 Verse 3

ii

Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 18 Verse 9

iii

Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 106 Verse 4



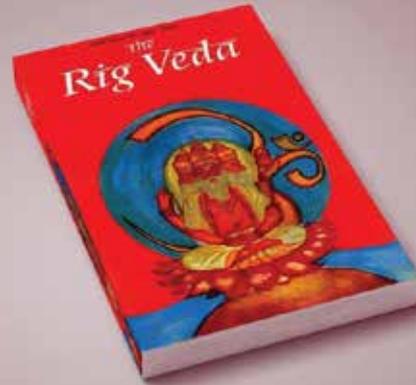


iv Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 142 Verse 3

v Rigveda Book 2 Hymn 3 Verse 2

vi Rigveda Book 3 Hymn 29 Verse 11

vii Rigveda Book 5 Hymn 5 Verse 2



viii Rigveda Book 7 Hymn 2 Verse 2

ix Rigveda Book 10 Hymn 64 Verse 3

x Rigveda Book 10 Hymn 182 Verse 2

xi Samaveda Uttararchika Mantra 1349



xii

Vajasaneya Samhita White Yajurveda  
Chapter 29 Verse 27

xiii

Taittiriya Samhita 1 Chapter 6 Verse 4

xiv

Taittiriya Samhita 1 Chapter 7 Verse 4

xv

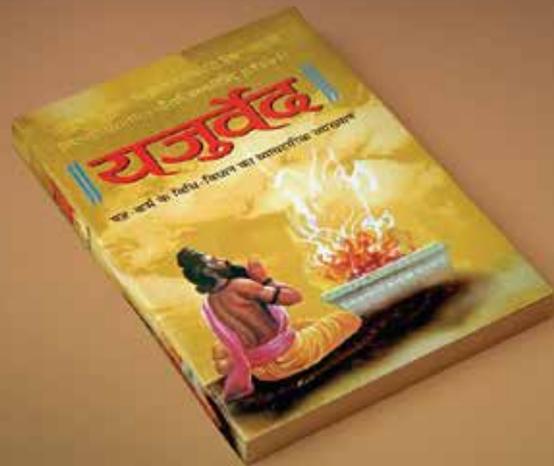
Yajurveda Chapter 20 Verse 37

xvi

Yajurveda Chapter 20 Verse 57

xvii

Yajurveda Chapter 21 Verse 31



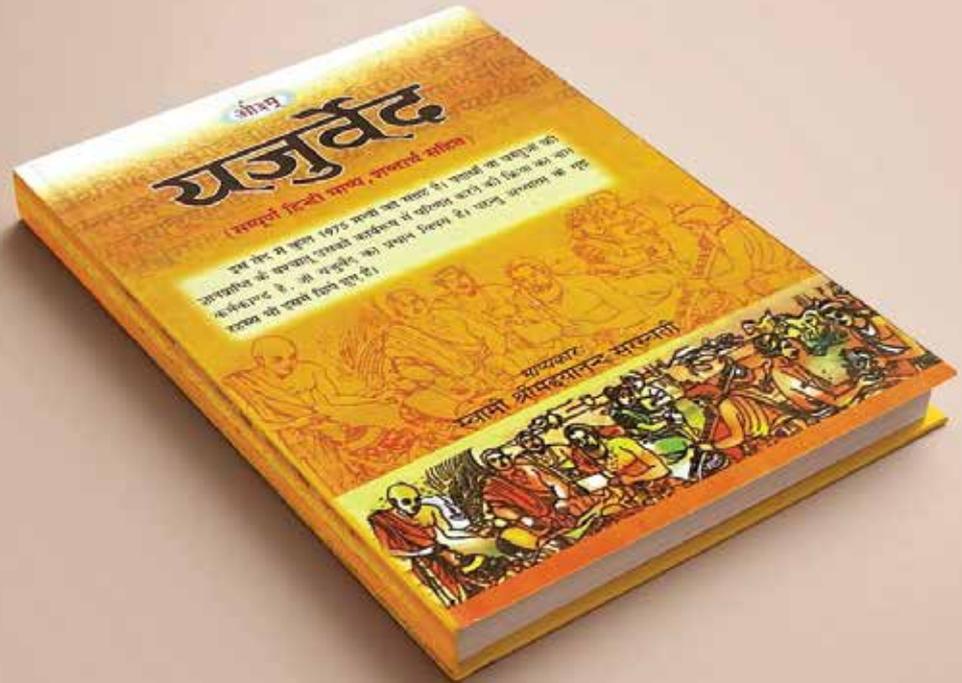


xviii Yajurveda Chapter 21 Verse 55

xix Yajurveda Chapter 28 Verse 2

xx Yajurveda Chapter 28 Verse 19

xxi Yajurveda Chapter 28 Verse 42



LESSON 3  
**MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN THE  
HINDU SCRIPTURES  
- KALKI AVATAAR**





8

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED AS 'KALKI AVATAAR'

“It is in the house of Vishnuyasa, the noble souled Brahmana chief of the village called Sambhala that Lord Kalki will be incarnated.”

“The Lord of the universe, endowed with eight spiritual powers and excellences was unsurpassed in splendour and glory.”

“Riding on a fleet horse called Devadatta, he would traverse over the whole earth or the horse; will massacre with his sword capable of subjugating the crores and crores of robbers and wicked miscreants who posed themselves as kings.”

Bhagwata Purana 12:2:18-20



“Then in the twilight of the Kali age, when kings will be as good as robbers, this protector of the world will be born of Vishnuyasa under the name Kalki.”

Bhagwata Purana 1:3:25



The description of the Kalki Avataar (i.e., the final Avataar) is also given in the verses of Kalki Purana Chapter 2 Verses 4, 5, 7, 11 & 15.



**A** FATHER'S NAME WILL BE VISHNUYASA –  
ABDULLAH (SERVANT OF ALLAH)



“He (Kalki) will be born in the home of Vishnuyasa (Abdullah) (in the family of) the Head Priest of Sambhaal (Land of peace or Darassalam or Makkah)”.

Kalki Purana 2:4

**B** HE WILL OVER POWER THE DEVIL WITH  
FOUR COMPANIONS



“O Deva (God), he along with the four companions he will destroy the devil.”

Kalki Purana 2:5

It is prophesied that Kalki Avataar, with four of his companions, will disarm Kali i.e. the devil. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), with his four most trusted companions, fought against the mischief and the evil of the devil. These four companions were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali (may Allah be pleased with them). These four companions later became the first four Khalifahs and spread the religion of Islam. In Islamic parlance these four are referred to as ‘the rightly guided Caliphs’.



## **C HE WILL BE HELPED BY THE ANGELS IN THE BATTLEFIELD**



**“He will be helped in the battlefield by the Devatas (angels).”**

Kalki Purana 2:7

The Kalki Avataar will be assisted by angels in the battlefield. In the battle of Badr, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was assisted by angels who descended from the heavens.

This is also mentioned in the Qur’an in: Surah Aali Imran Chapter 3 Verses 123-125 and Surah Al Anfaal Chapter 8 Verse 9.

## **D HIS MOTHER’S NAME WILL BE SUMATI – AAMINAH**



**“He will be born in the home of Vishnuyasa (Abdullah) in the womb of Sumati.”**

Kalki Purana 2:11

The name of his mother would be ‘Sumati’. The meaning of the word ‘Sumati’ or Somvati is ‘the bearer of peace’. The name of the mother of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was Aaminah which means exactly the same - “the bearer of peace”.



## E HE WILL BE BORN ON THE 12TH DAY OF MADHAV



“He will be born on the 12th day of Shukla Pakch of the month of Madhav (Vaisakh).”

Kalki Purana 2:15

The 12th day of the Shukla Pakch means the 12th day of the moon. Prophet Muhammad’s (pbuh) birthday is celebrated on the 12th day of Rabiul Awwal by a lunar calendar.

## F HE WILL BE THE ‘ANTIM’ OR FINAL AVATAAR

He has been described as the ‘Antim’ i.e., ‘the last and final’ of all the Avataars.

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن  
رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا





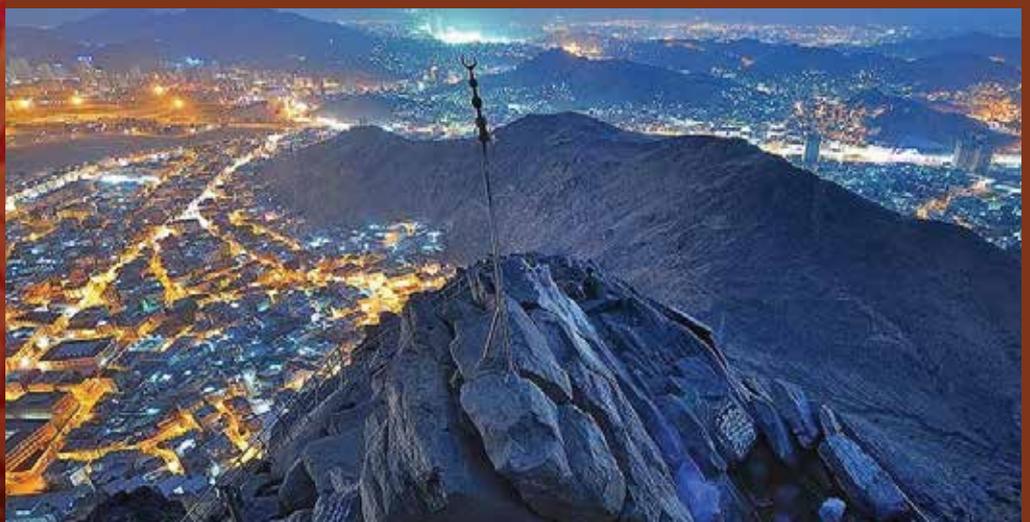
“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: And Allah has full knowledge of all things.”

Al Qur'an 33:40

Thus, the Qur'an states that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the seal, i.e., last and final Prophet of Allah.

## **G** WILL RECEIVE KNOWLEDGE ON THE MOUNTAIN FROM THE LORD AND THEN GO TOWARDS NORTH AND COME BACK

The Kalki Avataar will go to the mountain and receive knowledge from Parsuram, then go towards the north and come back. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did go to Jabl An Noor i.e., the Mountain of Light, where he received the first Revelation from Archangel Gabriel. Later he went north to Madeenah and then made a victorious return to Makkah.





## H HE WILL HAVE THE MOST GRACEFUL PERSONALITY

The Kalki Avataar will have unparalleled grace.

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ



“And thou standest on an exalted standard of character.”

Al Qur'an 68:4



## I ENDOWED WITH EIGHT SPECIAL QUALITIES

Kalki Avataar will be endowed with eight special qualities. These qualities are wisdom, respectable lineage, self-control, revealed knowledge, valour, measured speech, utmost charity, and gratitude. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had all these eight special qualities.



### i Wisdom

He was very wise. It is no wonder that several people approached him for guidance, even before he claimed to be a prophet.

### ii Respectable lineage

He belonged to the noble tribe of Quraysh who were the caretakers of the sacred Ka'bah.

### iii Self-control

He was the best example of self-control. From history, we learn that his enemies on many occasions tried to instigate him. However, he was always patient and responded wisely.

### iv Revealed knowledge

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) received the last and final revelation of God, which is the Glorious Qur'an through Arch-angel Gabriel.

### v Valour

Muhammad (pbuh) possessed great physical strength and courage. He took active part in the battles against his enemies and most of such battles were fought in self-defence against aggression by the other party.



#### vi Measured speech

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) spoke with emphasis and deliberation that people could not forget what he said. In his intercourse with others, he would sit silent among his companions for a long time but when he spoke his speech was eloquent and full of meaning and advice.

#### vii Utmost Charity

Muhammad (pbuh) was very charitable and never disappointed anyone who asked for help even in situations when he himself was in financial difficulties. Many poor people lived only on his generosity.

#### viii Gratefulness

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was known for his gratefulness. He showed immense gratitude to the Ansaars i.e., the Muslims from the city of Madeenah.





## J TEACHER OF THE WORLD

The Kalki Avataar will be the saviour of the world i.e., he will guide and teach the world. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did not only guide and save the Arabs but the whole humankind.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا  
وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ



“We have not sent thee but as a universal Messenger to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not.”

Al Qur'an 34:28





## **K** SHIVA WILL PRESENT A STEED TO KALKI AVATAAR

It is prophesied that Shiva will present an extraordinary steed to the Kalki Avataar. Muhammad (pbuh) received a steed from Almighty God, which was known as 'Buraq' and whose speed transcended time.



## **L** HE WILL RIDE A HORSE AND CARRY A SWORD

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) received a heavenly steed from Almighty God called 'Buraq' on which he made his heavenly journey known as 'Me'raaj' or the 'Ascension to the heavens'. Moreover, we also learn from the history of the Prophet (pbuh) that he himself took part in battles, most of which were fought in self-defence, and on many such occasions, he rode a horse and carried a sword in his hand.



## **M** HE WILL SUBDUE THE WICKED

It is mentioned that Kalki Avataar will subdue the wicked. It was prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who purified (transformed) bandits and miscreants and established them on the path of truth. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) came at a time, which was known as 'Ayyamul Jahiliyah', which means the 'age or era of ignorance'. People indulged in various types of vices. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) brought them from darkness to light.



References and quotations regarding prophecies in Hindu Scriptures of the advent of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) are taken from the book:

*'Muhammad in the Vedas and the Puranas'* by Ved Prakash Upadhyay, 1998 – Nooruddin Publishers, Kuala Lumpur.

## LESSON 4

# CONCEPT OF LIFE AFTER DEATH & DESTINY IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM





II

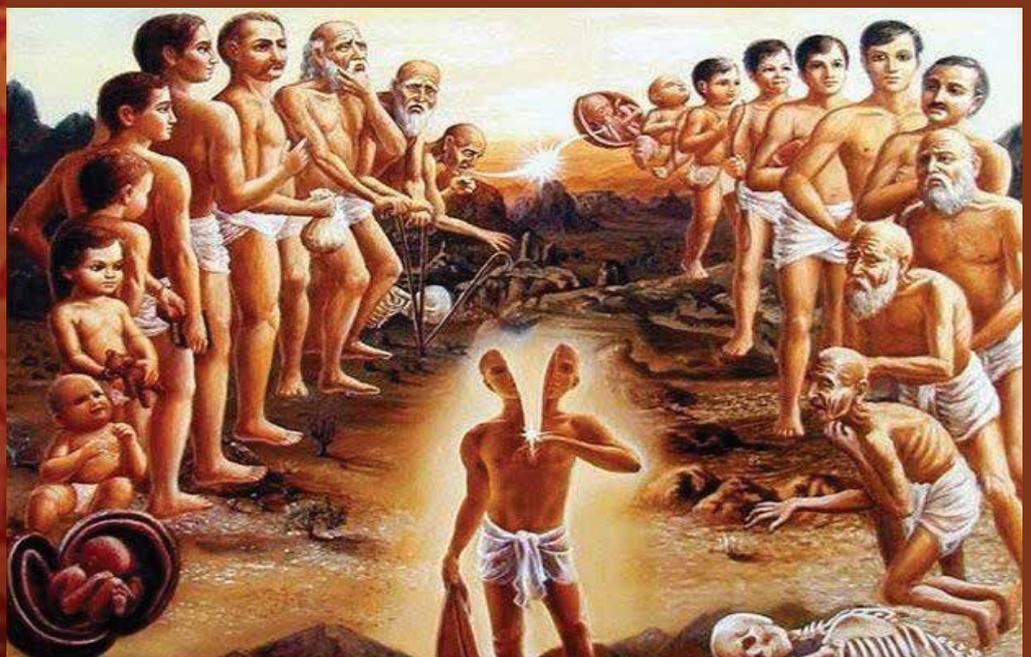
## CONCEPT OF LIFE AFTER DEATH IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

1

### LIFE AFTER DEATH IN HINDUISM

#### A CONCEPT OF REBIRTH IN HINDUISM – REINCARNATION OR TRANSMIGRATION OF SOULS

Most of the Hindus believe in the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth, which is called 'Samsara'. 'Samsara' or the doctrine of rebirth is also known as the theory of reincarnation or transmigration of the soul. This doctrine is considered to be the basic tenet of Hinduism. According to the doctrine of rebirth, differences between individuals, even at the time of their birth are due to their past 'Karma' i.e., actions done in the past birth.





For example, if one child is born healthy while another is handicapped or blind, the differences are attributed to their deeds in their previous lives. Those who believe in this theory reason that since all actions may not bear fruit in this life, there must be another life for facing or reaping the consequences of one's actions.

**i** Soul changes bodies like we change garments.



**“As a person puts on new garments, giving up old ones, the soul similarly accepts new material bodies, giving up the old and useless ones.”**

Bhagavad Gita 2:22

**ii** Soul changes bodies like caterpillar draws to another grass blade.



**“As a Caterpillar which has wriggled to the top of a blade of grass draws itself over to a new blade, so does the soul, after it has put aside its body draws itself over to a new existence.”**

Brhadaranyaka Upanishad 4:4:3





## **B 'KARMA' – THE LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT**

'Karma' means act, deed, action, or activity and refers not only to action undertaken by the body but also to those undertaken by the mind. 'Karma' is actually action and reaction or the law of cause and effect. It is explained by the saying, "As we sow, so shall we reap". A farmer cannot sow wheat and expect rice to grow. Similarly, every good thought, word or deed begets a similar reaction which affects our next life, and every unkind thought, harsh word and evil deed comes back to harm us in this life or in the next life.



## **C 'DHARMA' – RIGHTEOUS DUTIES**

'Dharma' means what is right or righteous duties. This includes what is right for the individual, family, the class, or caste and also for the universe itself. In order to achieve good Karma, life should be lived according to Dharma, otherwise it will result in bad Karma. Dharma affects both, the present life, and the future as well.

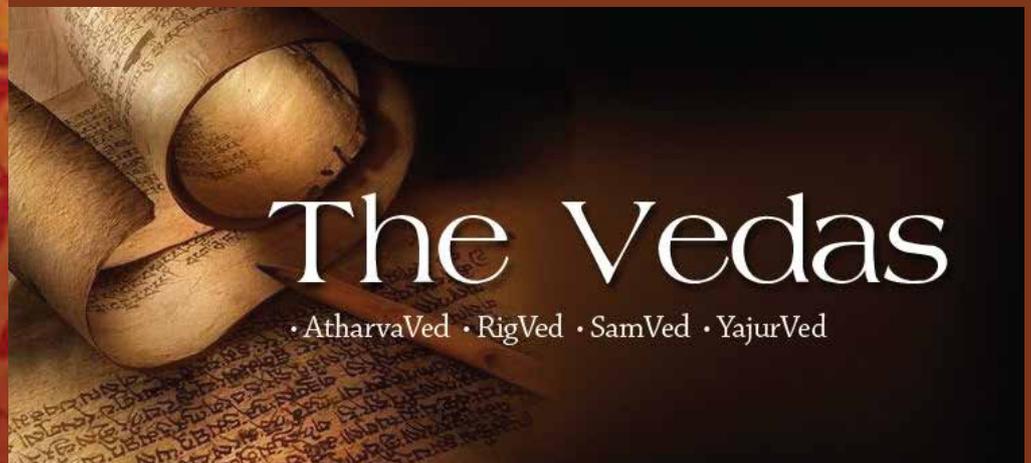


## **D 'MOKSHA' – LIBERATION FROM THE CYCLE OF REBIRTH**

'Moksha' means liberation from the cycle of rebirth or of 'Samsara'. The ultimate aim of every Hindu is that one day the cycle of rebirth will be over, and he will not have to be reborn again. This can only happen if there is no karma to cause an individual to be reborn i.e., it loses its good and bad karma.

## **E REBIRTH IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE VEDAS**

The important point worth noting is that the doctrine of rebirth is not postulated, propounded nor even mentioned anywhere in what are considered to be the most authentic Hindu scriptures i.e., the Vedas. The Vedas make no mention of the entire concept of transmigration of souls.

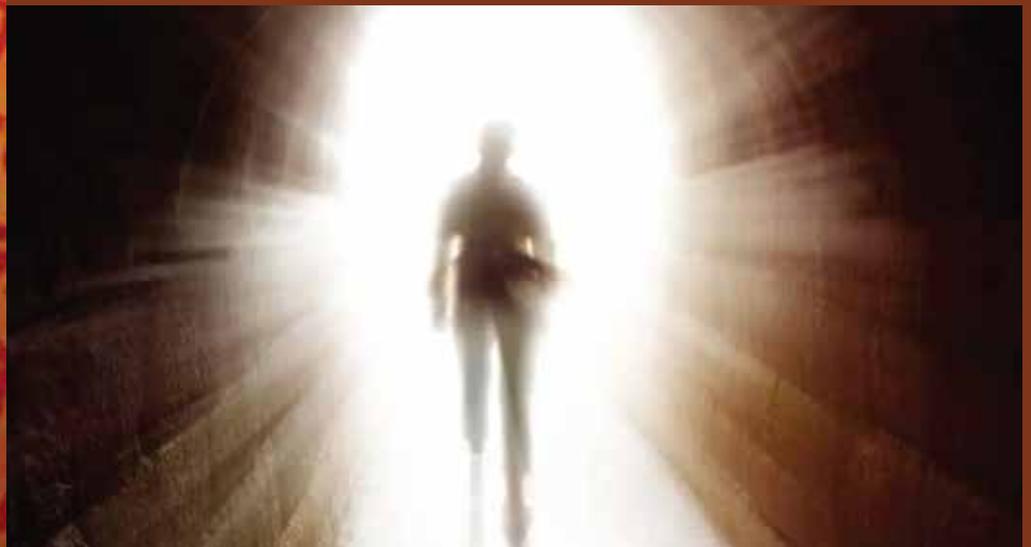




F

## 'PUNARJANAM' DOES NOT MEAN CYCLE OF REBIRTH BUT MEANS 'LIFE AFTER DEATH'

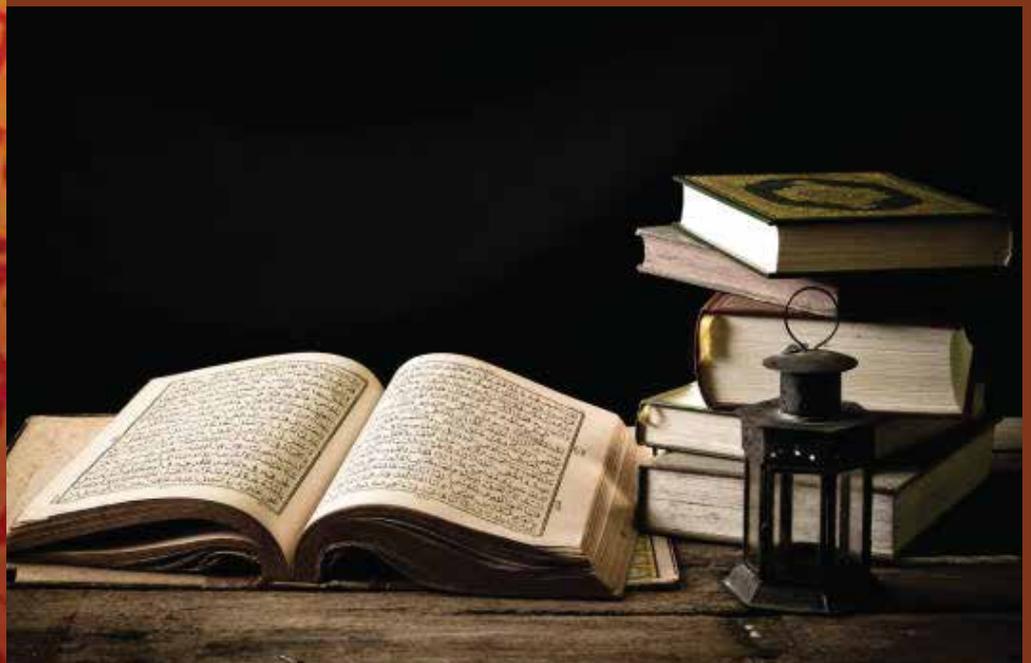
The common word used for the doctrine of rebirth is 'Punarjanam'. In Sanskrit 'Punar' or 'Puna', means, 'next time' or 'again' and 'Janam' means 'life'. Therefore 'Punarjanam' means 'next life' or 'life of the Hereafter'. It does not mean coming to life on earth again and again as a living creature. If one reads many of the references to 'Punarjanam' in Hindu Scriptures besides the Vedas, keeping the life in the Hereafter in mind, one gets the concept of the next life but not of rebirths or of life again and again. This is true for several quotations of the Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads which speak of Punarjanam.





This concept of repeated births or of cycle of rebirth was developed after the Vedic period. This doctrine was included by humans in subsequent Hindu scriptures including the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and the Puranas in a conscious attempt to rationalise and explain the differences between different individuals at birth and the different circumstances in which people find themselves in, with the concept that Almighty God is not unjust. So, to say that since God is not unjust, the inequalities and differences between people are due to their deeds in their past lives.

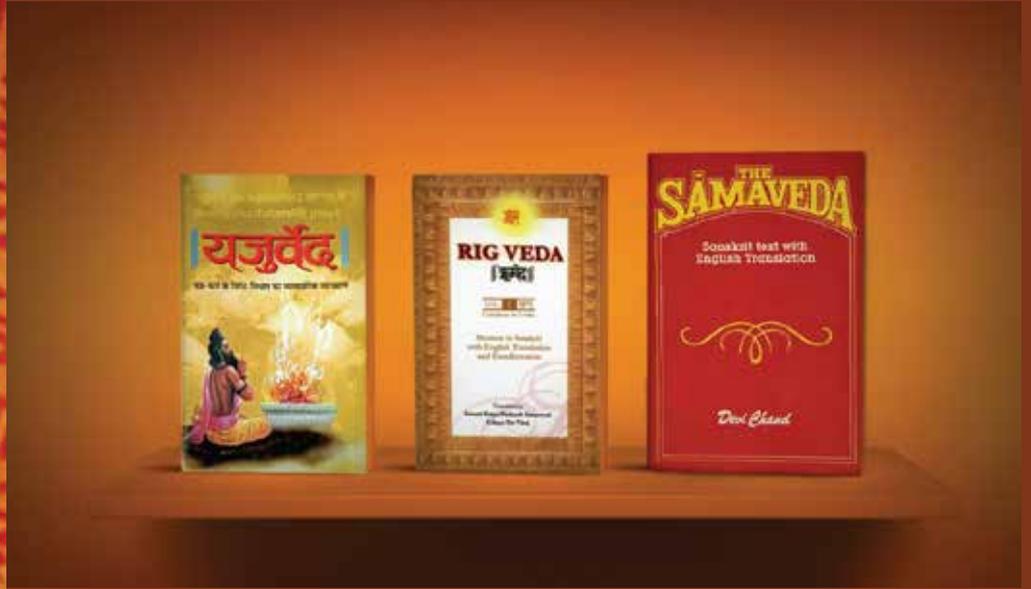
Islam has a rational answer to this which we shall discuss later In Sha Allah.





## G LIFE AFTER DEATH IN THE VEDAS

There is reference to life after death in the Vedas.



### i Sukritamu Lokam – the world of the virtuous



“The unborn portion, burn that, Agni, with thy heat; let thy flame, thy splendour, consume it; with those glorious members which thou hast given him, Jatavedas, bear him to the world (of the virtuous).”

Rigveda 10:16:4

The Sanskrit word ‘Sukritamu Lokam’ means ‘the world of the virtuous’ or ‘region of the pious’ referring to the Hereafter.



ii A new body in Hereafter



“... Putting on (Celestial) life, let the remains (of bodily like) depart: let him, Jatavedas be associated with a body.”

Rigveda 10:16:5

This verse too refers to a second life i.e., life after death.





## H PARADISE – ‘SWARG’ IN THE VEDAS

‘Swarg’ i.e., Paradise, is described in several places in the Vedas.

### i Pleasures of Paradise



“May all these streams of butter, with their banks of honey, flowing with distilled water, and milk and curds and water reach thee in domestic life enhancing thy pleasure. May thou acquire completely these things strengthening the soul in diverse ways.”

Atharvaveda 4:34:6 (Translation by Devi Chand)



“Having pools of clarified butter, stocks of sweet honey, and having exhilarating drinks for water, full of milk and curds, may all these streams flow to us in the world of happiness swelling sweetly. May our lakes full of lotuses be situated near us.”

Atharvaveda 4:34:6 (Translation by Veda Prakash)





## ii World of happiness



“Bereft of physical bodies, pure, cleansed with the wind, brilliant, they go to a brilliant world. The fire does not cause burning in their male organ. In the world of happiness they get plenty of women.”

Atharvaveda 4:34:2



## iii World of light and emancipation



“May the realised ones, first of all, take the vital breath under their control from the limbs in which it has been circulating. Go to heaven stay firm with all the parts of your body. Attain the world of light and emancipation, following the path of the enlightened ones (your predecessors).”

Atharvaveda 2:34:5



#### iv Abode of happiness



“O both of you, start to accomplish it, make determined effort to accomplish it. Those having unflinching faith attain this abode of happiness. Whatever ripe offerings you have made in fire of sacrifice, may both, the husband and wife, stand united to guard them with care.”

Atharvaveda 6:122:3

#### v Rejoice in heaven with God



“O Aila, the loud-sounding clouds, these divines say to you, since you are indeed subject to death, let your progeny propitiate your revered cosmic forces with oblations, then alone you shall rejoice (with me) in heaven.”

Rigveda 10:95:18





## I HELL – ‘NARK’ IN THE VEDAS

‘Nark’ or ‘Hell’ is also described in the Vedas and the Sanskrit word used is ‘Narakasthanam’.

i Hellfire for those who disregard the commands of God



“May the bounteous fire-divine, consume them with his fiercely glowing sharp jaws – like flames, who disregard the commandments and steadfast laws of most venerable and sagacious Lord.”

Rigveda 4:5:4





2

## LIFE AFTER DEATH IN ISLAM

**A** LIVE ONCE IN THIS WORLD AND THEN BE RESURRECTED IN THE HEREAFTER

كَيْفَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَكُنْتُمْ أَمْوَاتًا  
فَأَحْيَاكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ



“How can you reject the faith in Allah? Seeing that you were without life, and He gave you life; then will He cause you to die and will again bring you to life; and again, to Him will you return.”

Al Qur'an 2:28

Islam states that a human being comes into this world only once, and after he dies, he is again resurrected on the Day of Judgement. Depending on his deeds he will either dwell in heaven (Paradise) or he will dwell in Hell.





## **B THIS LIFE IS A TEST FOR THE HEREAFTER**

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ  
أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ



**“He who created Death and Life, that He may try which of you is best in deed; and He is the exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving.”**

Al Qur'an 67:2

This life that we lead in this world is a test for the Hereafter. If we follow the commandments of the Almighty Creator and pass His test, we shall by His Mercy In Sha Allah enter Paradise, which is eternal bliss. If we do not follow the commandments of our Creator and fail the test, then we shall be put into Hell.





## C PARADISE – ‘JANNAH’

Jannah i.e., Paradise is a place of perpetual bliss. In Arabic, ‘Jannah’ literally means ‘the garden’. The Qur’an describes Paradise in great detail, such as gardens underneath which rivers run. It contains rivers of milk unchanging in flavour and rivers of purified honey. In Paradise is fruit of every kind. No fatigue shall be felt in Paradise neither shall there be any idle talk. There shall be no cause of sin, difficulty, anxiety, trouble, or hardship. Paradise shall thus have peace and bliss.



Paradise is described in several verses of the Qur’an including:

i

Surah Aali Imran Chapter 3 Verse 15

ii

Surah Aali Imran Chapter 3 Verse 198



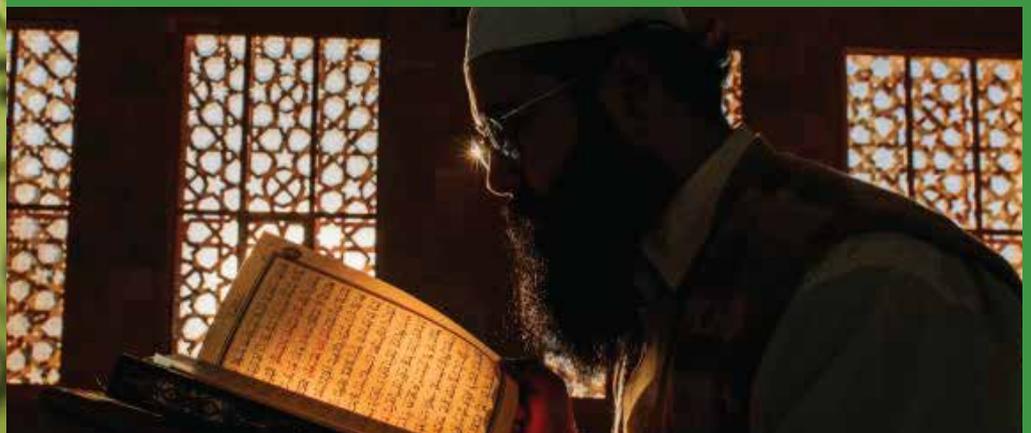
iii Surah An Nisa' Chapter 4 Verse 57

iv Surah Al Ma'idah Chapter 5 Verse 119

v Surah At Tawbah Chapter 9 Verse 72

vi Surah Al Hijr Chapter 15 Verses 45-48

vii Surah Al Kahf Chapter 18 Verse 31



viii Surah Al Hajj Chapter 22 Verse 23

xi Surah Faatir Chapter 35 Verse 33-35

x Surah Yaa Seen Chapter 36 Verses 55-58



xi Surah As Saaffaat Chapter 37 Verses 41-49

xii Surah Az Zukhruf Chapter 43 Verses 68-73

xiii Surah Ad Dukhaan Chapter 37 Verses 51-57

xiv Surah Muhammad Chapter 47 Verse 15

xv Surah At Toor Chapter 52 Verses 17-24

xvi Surah Ar Rahmaan Chapter 55 Verses 46-77

xvii Surah Al Waaqi'ah Chapter 56 Verses 11-38



## D HELL – ‘JAHANNAM’

Hell is a place of torment where evildoers undergo the most terrible pain and suffering caused by being burnt by Hellfire, a fire whose fuel is men and stones. Further, the Qur’an states that as many times as their skins are burnt, the residents of Hell shall be given fresh skin so that they feel the pain.



Hell is described in several Verses of the Qur’an including:

- i Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 24
- ii Surah An Nisa’ Chapter 4 Verse 56
- iii Surah Ibraheem Chapter 14 Verses 16-17
- iv Surah Al Hajj Chapter 22 Verses 19-22
- v Surah Faatir Chapter 35 Verses 36-37



### III

## CONCEPT OF FATE AND DESTINY IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

### 1

#### LOGICAL CONCEPT FOR DIFFERENCES IN DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS



#### A

#### THE CONCEPT OF 'SAMSAARA' IS NOT TO BE FOUND IN THE VEDAS

In Hinduism the differences in two individuals at birth is explained by stating past Karma i.e. actions of the previous life, as the cause of the differences. There is no scientific or logical proof or evidence for the cycle of rebirth.

Individual differences are not due to transmigration of souls or 'Samsara'. These beliefs were added on in subsequent scriptures like the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Puranas and the Manusmriti. The repetitive cycle of birth and death, birth and death, was unknown and unheard of in the Vedic period.



## **B** HOW DOES ISLAM EXPLAIN THESE DIFFERENCES?

The Islamic explanation for these differences in different individuals is given in Surah Al Mulk:

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ  
أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ



“He who created death and life, that He may try which of you is best in Deed; and He is the Exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving.”

Al Qur'an 67:2

This life that we live is the test for the Hereafter.



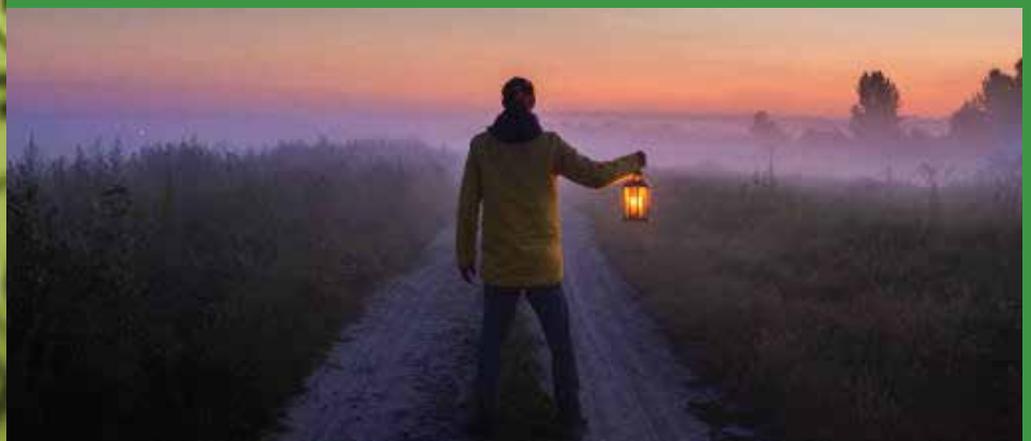


## 2

# DESTINY

### A CONCEPT OF DESTINY – ‘QADR’ IN ISLAM

‘Qadr’ is the concept of ‘destiny’. Certain aspects of human life are predestined by our Creator Almighty Allah. For example, where and when will a person be born, the surroundings and conditions in which he will be born, how long will he live and where and when will he die. These are predetermined by the Creator.



### B CONCEPT OF DESTINY IN HINDUISM

The Concept of Destiny in Hinduism is somewhat similar to that of Islam.



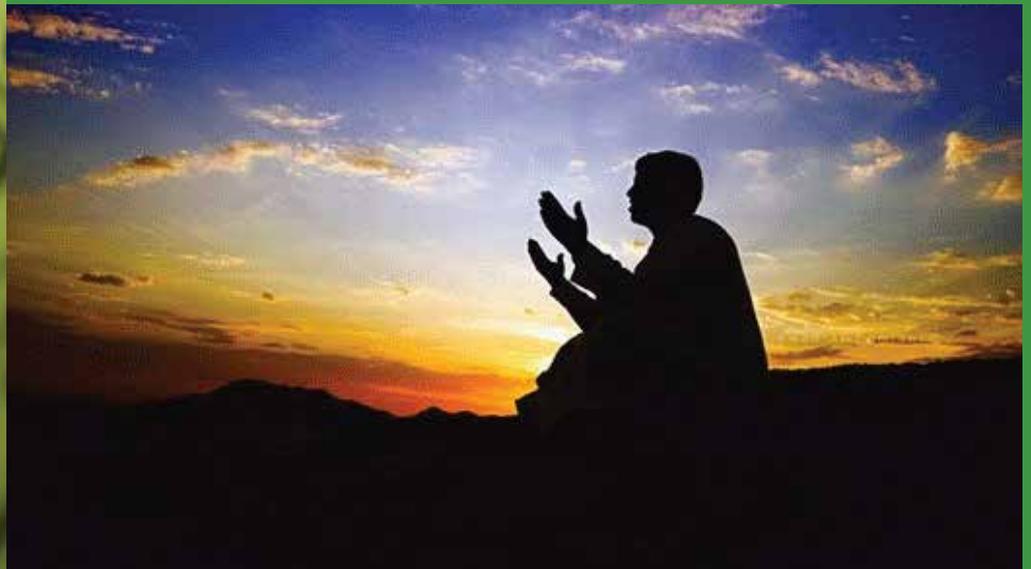
## C PRESENT CONDITIONS ARE A TEST

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَنْ تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُمْ مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ  
قَبْلِكُمْ مَسَّتْهُمُ الْبَأْسَاءُ وَالضَّرَّاءُ وَزُلْزِلُوا حَتَّى يَقُولَ الرَّسُولُ  
وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ مَتَى نَصُرُ اللَّهُ ۗ أَلَا إِنَّ نَصْرَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ



“Or do you think that ye shall enter the Garden (of Bliss) without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? They encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even The Messenger and those of faith who were with him cried: ‘When (will come) the help of Allah?’ Ah! Verily, the help of Allah is (always) near!”

Al Qur’an 2:214





ii أَحْسَبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُشْرِكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا ءَامَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ



“Do men think that they will be left alone on saying, ‘we believe’, and that they will not be tested?”

Al Qur’an 29:2

iii كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ۗ وَنَبْلُوكُم بِالشَّرِّ وَالْخَيْرِ فِتْنَةً ۗ وَإِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ



“Every soul shall have a taste of death: and We test you by evil and by good by way of trial – to Us must you return.”

Al Qur’an 21:35



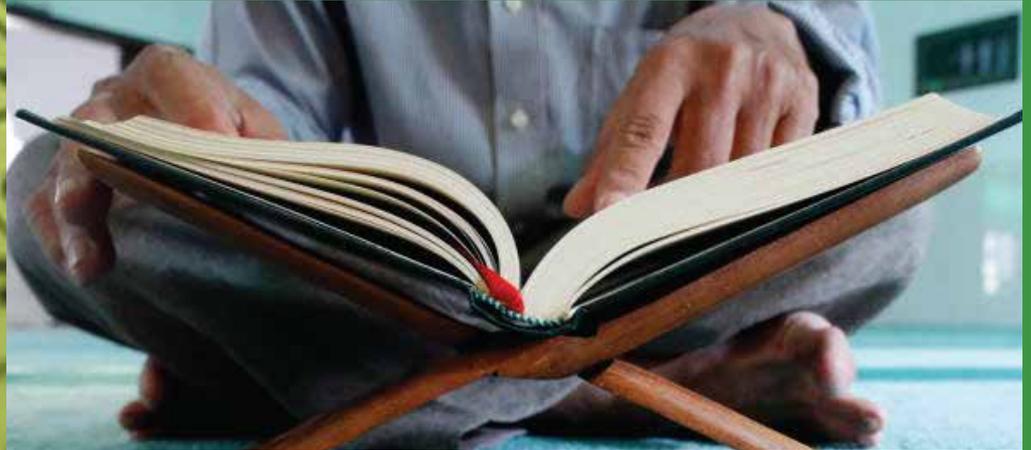


iv  
وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ  
مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ



“Be sure we shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil) but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere.”

Al Qur'an 2:155



v  
وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ  
وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ



“And know you that your possessions and your progeny are but a trial; and that it is Allah with whom lies your highest reward.”

Al Qur'an 8:28



## **D** JUDGEMENT WILL BE BASED ON THE FACILITY PROVIDED



Each and every human being undergoes a test in this world. The test that each individual undergoes differs from person to person, depending upon the comforts and the conditions in which Allah puts an individual. He passes His judgment accordingly. For example, if a teacher sets a difficult examination paper, the assessment and evaluation of the answer sheets is usually lenient. On the other hand, if the teacher sets an easy examination paper, the assessment and evaluation is strict.

Similarly, some human beings are born in rich families while some others are born in poor families. Islam instructs every rich Muslim, who has a saving of more than Nisaab level (i.e., 85 gms of gold) to give 2.5% of his excess wealth in obligatory charity every lunar year. This is called the system of 'Zakaah' in Islam.



Some rich persons may be giving the minimum required charity; some may be giving less than what is required while others may not be giving at all. Thus, for rich men, some may get full marks in Zakaah i.e., charity, some may get less while some may get nil. On the other hand, a poor person who has a saving of less than 85 gms of gold gets full marks in Zakaah, because he does not have to give this compulsory charity.

Any normal human being would like to be rich and not poor. Some may appreciate the rich people and sympathise with the poor, not knowing that the same wealth may take that person to Hell if he does not give charity and due to this wealth, he falls prey to temptations of character. Poverty for the poor man may be an easy path to Paradise if he follows the other commandments of Almighty God. The converse may be true. A wealthy man may earn Paradise by his philanthropy and humility, while a poor person who covets luxuries and hence resorts to unfair means to get them may be in trouble on the Day of Judgement.



## **E CHILDREN BORN WITH CONGENITAL DEFECTS ARE A TEST FOR THEIR PARENTS**

Some children are born healthy while others are born handicapped or with a congenital defect. Irrespective of whether a child is born healthy or handicapped, in Islam he is 'Ma'soom' i.e., sinless. There is no question of the child being handicapped due to a carried forward baggage of past sins from 'a previous life'. Such a belief will not inculcate a charitable attitude in others. Others might say that the child deserves his birth defects or the handicap since it is a result of his 'bad Karma'.



Islam states that such handicaps are a type of test for the parents whether they are yet thankful towards their Creator or not. Do they retain their patience? Do they continue to persevere? There is a famous saying that a person was sad because he had no shoes to wear until he saw a person who had no feet.



وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ  
وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ



“And know you that your possessions and your progeny are but a trial; and that it is Allah with Whom lies your highest reward.”

Al Qur'an 8:28

Allah (swt) may be testing the parents whether they yet are thankful to their Creator or not. May be the parents are righteous and pious and deserve Jannah. If Allah wants to give them a higher place in Jannah, He will test them further, for example by giving a handicapped child. Yet if they are thankful to their Creator, they will deserve a higher reward i.e., the Jannatul Firdous.

There is a general rule that the more difficult the test, higher is the reward. To pass graduation in Arts and Commerce is relatively easy and if you pass you are called as a graduate without any special title but if you graduate in the field of medicine which is comparatively a much more difficult examination, besides becoming a graduate you are also called a ‘doctor’ and the title ‘Dr’ is put in front of your name.



## **F** THE LIFE IS A TEST FOR THE HEREAFTER



In the same way Allah (swt) tests different people in different ways, some with health, some with disease, some with wealth, some with poverty, some with more intelligence, some with less, and depending upon the facilities and faculties He gives an individual, He tests accordingly.

Thus, the main reason for the differences amongst human beings is that this life is a test for the Hereafter. Life after death is mentioned in the Qur'an as well as the Vedas.

## LESSON 5

# CONCEPT OF WORSHIP IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM





## IV

# CONCEPT OF WORSHIP IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

## 1

### PILLARS OF ISLAM

Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said:

“Islam is based on (the following) five (principles):

1. To testify that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah and that Muhammad (pbuh) is the slave and messenger of Allah
2. Iqaamatus Salaah (to perform and establish prayers)
3. To pay Zakaat
4. To perform Hajj (i.e., pilgrimage to Makkah)
5. To observe Saum (i.e., fast) during the month of Ramadhaan.”



Sahih Al Bukhari – Vol 1 Hadith 7



## **A** TESTIMONY OF FAITH

The first pillar of Islam i.e., to declare, proclaim, testify, and bear witness that no entity, deity or concept is worthy of worship, devotion, obedience and submission except Allah (swt) and to declare, proclaim, testify and bear witness that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the last and final Messenger of Allah. This pillar of Islam has already been discussed in the pillars of Imaan.



## **B** SALAAH

### **i** The second Pillar of Islam is Salaah

‘Salaah’ is usually translated in English as ‘prayer’. To pray means to beseech or to ask for help. In Salaah we Muslims do not merely ask for help from Almighty Allah, but we also praise Him and receive guidance from Him. I personally prefer describing it as ‘programming towards righteousness’. To appreciate this better, consider that during Salaah, after Surah Al Faatihah, an Imaam may recite:



يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ  
رَجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



“O you who believe! Intoxicants and gambling, (dedication of) stones, and (divination by) arrows, are an abomination – of satan’s handiwork; eschew such (abomination), that you may prosper.”

Al Qur’an 5:90

Allah (swt) guides us through this verse of the Qur’an, which is recited by the Imaam during Salaah that we should not imbibe intoxicants, we should not indulge in gambling, idol worship or fortune telling. All these are satan’s handiwork and we should abstain from these if we wish to prosper.

The English word ‘prayer’ does not denote the complete meaning of ‘Salaah’ in its full and true sense.



**ii** Prayer restrains you from shameful and unjust deeds

أَتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ  
عَلَىٰ إِنِّ الصَّلَاةَ تَهَيَّئُ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ  
وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ



“Recite what is sent of the book by inspiration to thee and establish regular Prayer: for prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds; and remembrance of Allah is the greatest (thing of life) without doubt. And Allah knows the (deeds) that you do.”

Al Qur'an 29:45

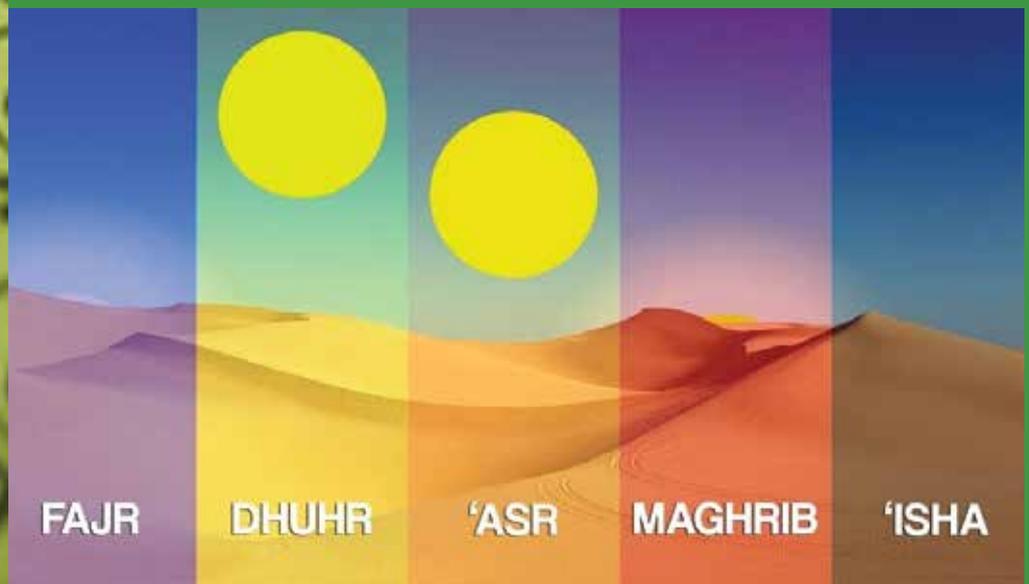




### iii Five times Salaah for healthy souls

For a healthy body, humans require about three meals a day. In a similar manner, for a healthy soul, it is required that we offer Salaah a minimum of five times everyday.

Our Creator Allah (swt) has prescribed a minimum of five times Salaah a day for humans in Surah Al Israa' Chapter 17 Verse 78 and in Surah Taa Haa Chapter 20 Verse 130.



### iv Prostration is the most important part of Salaah

The most important part of Salaah is the 'Sujood' i.e., prostration.



يَمْزِيْمٌ أَقْنَتِي لِرَبِّكِ وَأَسْجُدِي وَأَرْكَعِي مَعَ الرَّاكِعِيْنَ



“O Mary! Worship your Lord devoutly: prostrate yourself and bow down (in prayer) with those who bow down.”

Al Qur'an 3:43

a

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوا أَرْكَعُوا وَأَسْجُدُوا  
وَأَعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمْ وَأَفْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



“O you who believe! Bow down, prostrate yourselves, And adore your Lord; and do good; That you may prosper.”

Al Qur'an 22:77

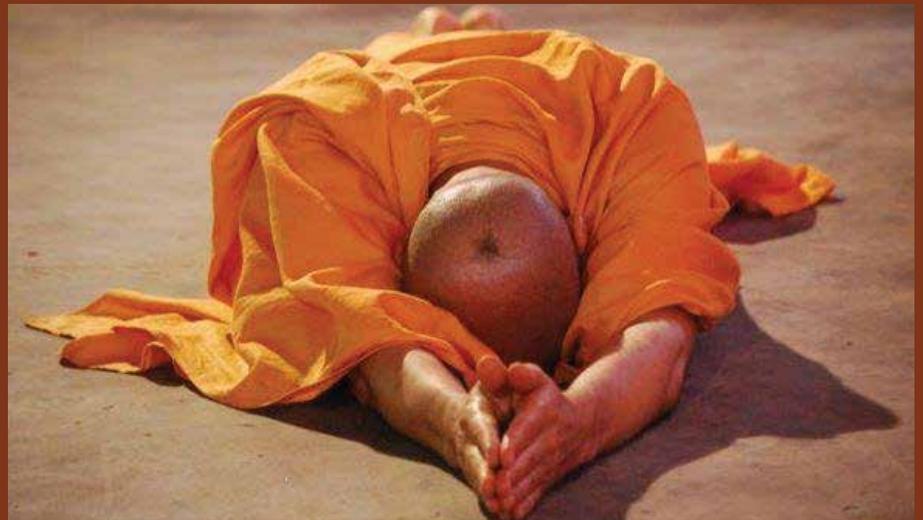
b





**v** One of the types of prayers in Hinduism is 'Shashtang'

There are various different types of prayers and modes of worship in Hinduism. One of the types is 'Shashtang'. The word 'Shashtang' is made up of 'sa' and 'asht' which means eight and 'ang' means 'parts of the body'. Thus 'Shashtang' is a mode of worship touching eight parts of the body. The best way a person can do this is like Muslims prostrate in their Salaah, touching their forehead, nose, two hands, two knees and two feet.





**vi Idol worship is prohibited in Hinduism**

Idol worship, though very common amongst the Hindus, is prohibited in Hinduism.



**“Those whose intelligence has been stolen by material desires surrender unto demigods.”**

Bhagavad Gita 7:20



**“There is no image of Him.”**

Yajurveda 32:3 and Shwetashvatara Upanishad 4:19



**“They enter darkness those who worship Asambhuti i.e., natural things (e.g., air, water, fire, etc.). They sink deeper in darkness those who worship Sambhuti i.e., created things (e.g., table, chair, car, idol, etc.).”**

Yajurveda 40:9



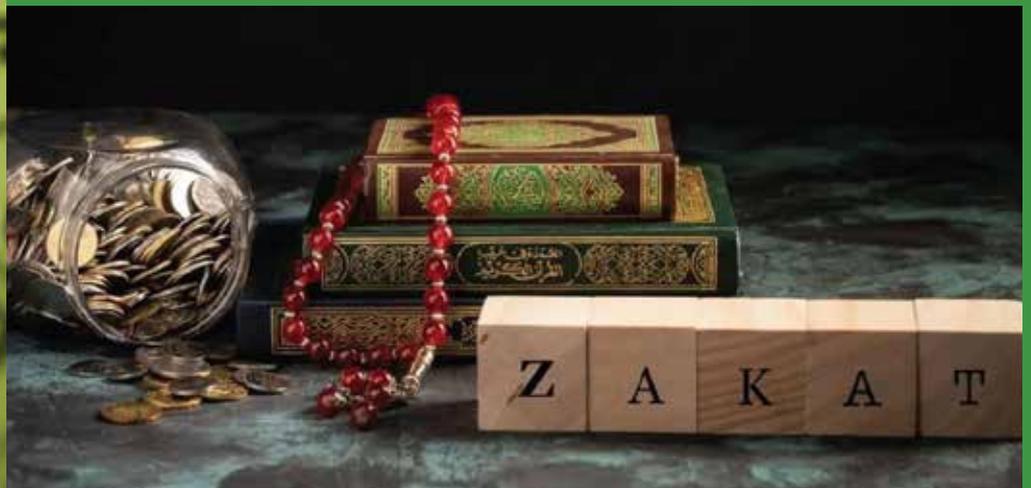
## **C** ZAKAAH

### **i** 'Zakaah' means 'purification' and 'growth'

'Zakaah' is the third pillar of Islam which means 'purification' and 'growth'

### **ii** 2.5% in charity

Every rich Muslim who has a saving which is equal to or more than the minimum level called 'Nisaab' which is 85 gms of gold, should give 2.5% of his excess wealth in charity every lunar year.



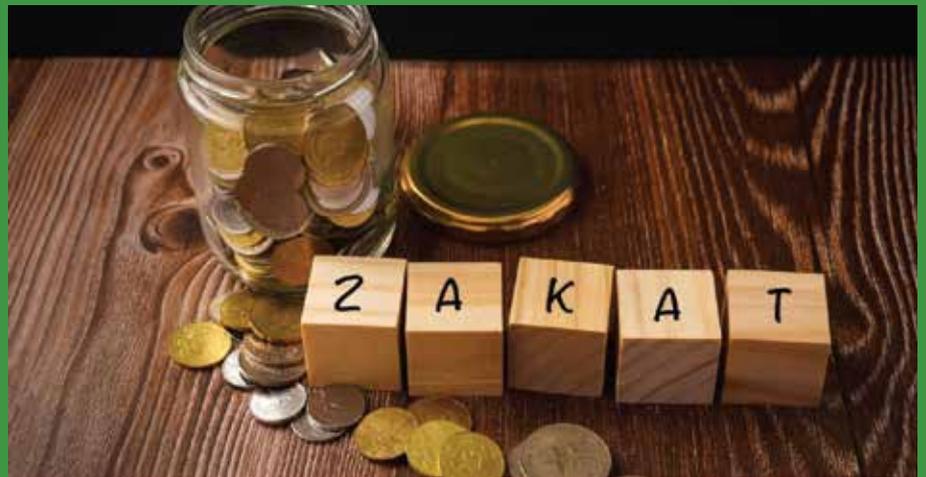
### **ii** If all rich give Zakaah no one will die of hunger

If every rich human being gives Zakaah, then poverty will be eradicated from this world. There will not be a single human being who will die of hunger.



iv Zakaah ensures that wealth does not circulate only amongst the rich

One of the reasons for Zakaah is mentioned in Surah Al Hashr:



كَيْ لَا يَكُونَ دُولَةً بَيْنَ الْأَغْنِيَاءِ مِنْكُمْ



“In order that it (wealth) may not (merely) circulate between the wealthy amongst you.”

Al Qur'an 59:7



#### iv Charity in Hinduism

Charity is also prescribed in Hinduism.

“Let the rich satisfy the poor implorer and bend his eye upon a longer pathway. Riches now come to one, now to another, and like the wheels of cars are ever rolling.”

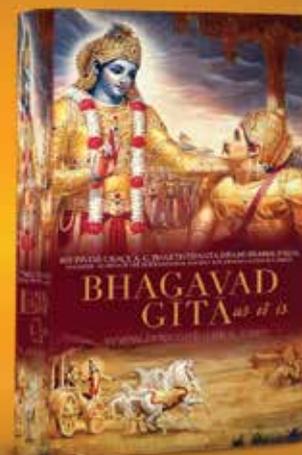
Rigveda 10:117:5  
(Translation by Ralph Griffith)



“It is expected of every rich man to satisfy the poor implorer; let the rich person have a distant vision (for a rich of today may not remain rich tomorrow). Remember that riches revolve from one man to another, as revolve the wheels of a chariot.”

Rigveda 10:117:5  
(Translation by Satyaprakash Sarasvati & Satyakam Vidyalankar)

ii Charity has been prescribed in Bhagavad Gita in several places including Chapter 17 Verse 20 and Chapter 16 Verse 1.





## **D** 'SAUM'– FASTING

### **i** 'Saum' or 'fasting', is the fourth pillar of Islam

Every healthy adult Muslim is supposed to abstain from eating, drinking and sex, from dawn to sunset, in the complete lunar month of Rama-dhaan.

### **ii** Fasting prescribed for self-restraint

The reason for fasting has been mentioned in the Qur'an:

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





“O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you that you may (learn) self-restraint.”

Al Qur'an 2:183

Today, psychologists inform us that if a person can control his hunger, it is very likely that he will be able to control most of his desires.

### iii Fasting discourages alcoholism, smoking and other addictions

Fasting for one complete month is a good opportunity for giving up one's wrong habits. If a person can abstain from drinking alcohol, from dawn to sunset, he can very well abstain from alcohol from the cradle to the grave. If a person can abstain from smoking, from dawn to sunset, he can very well abstain from smoking from the cradle to the grave.





#### iv Medical benefits of Islamic Fasting

There are various medical benefits of fasting. Fasting increases the absorption of the intestine; it also decreases the cholesterol level.





## v Fasting in Hinduism

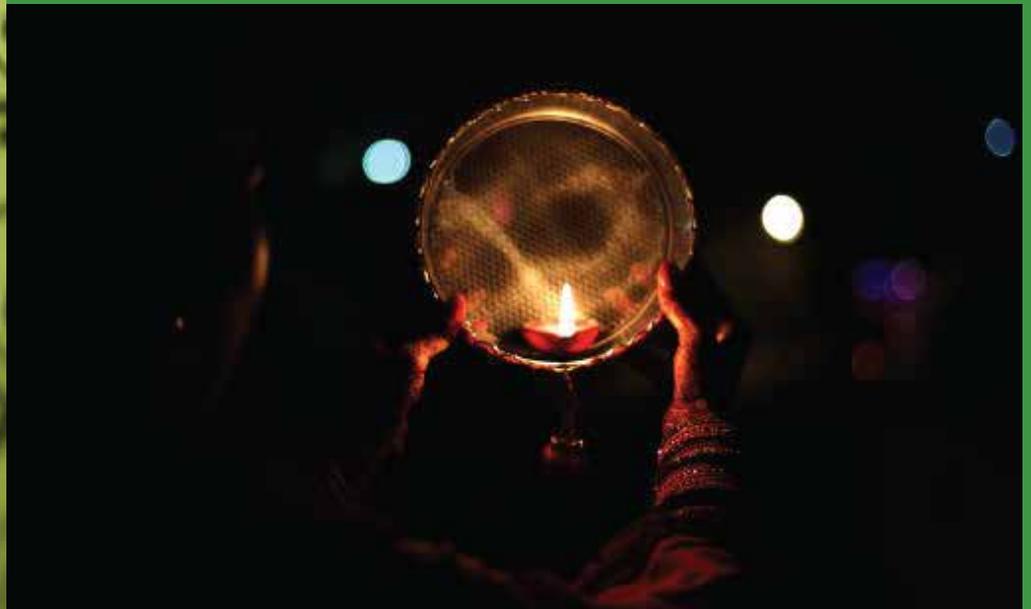
There are different types and methods of fasting in Hinduism.

i



“Fasting has been prescribed for a month for purification.”

Manusmriti 6:24  
(Manusmriti edited by Dr R. N. Sharma)



ii Fasting has also been prescribed in Manusmriti Chapter 4 Verse 222 and Manusmriti Chapter 11 Verse 204



### iii Pilgrimage in Hinduism

- a There are various places of pilgrimage in Hinduism. One of the sacred places mentioned is:



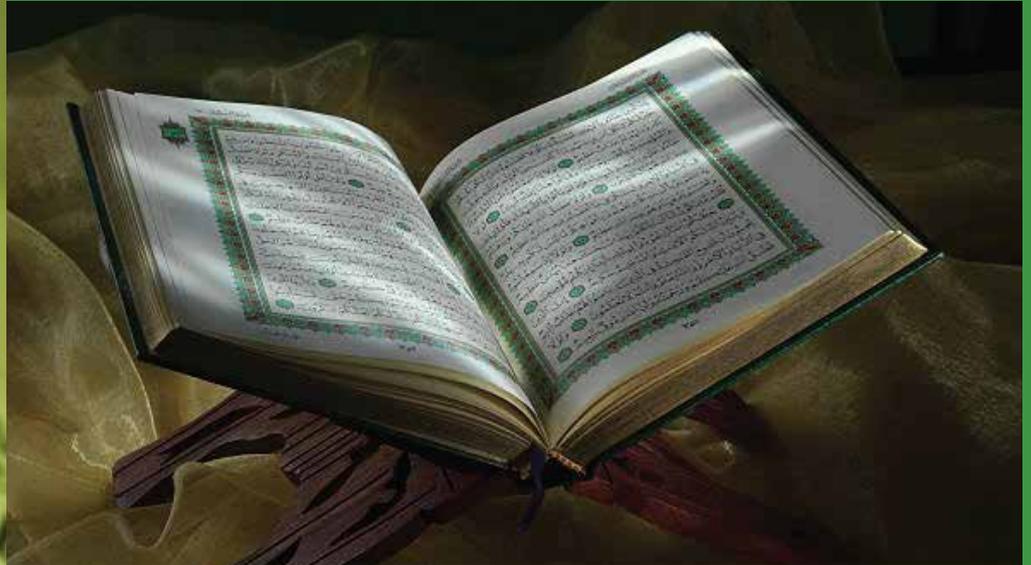
“Ilaspada which is situated at Nabhaprithvi.”

Rigveda 3:29:4

‘Ila’ means ‘God’ or ‘Allah’, and ‘spad’ means ‘place’, therefore ‘Ilaspada’ means ‘place of God’. ‘Nabha’ means centre and ‘prithvi’ means ‘earth’. Thus, this verse of the Veda prescribes pilgrimage to a place of God situated at the center of the earth.

The Sanskrit-English dictionary (M. Monier Williams – edition 2002) states that “Ilaspada is ‘Name of a Tirtha’ i.e., place of pilgrimage – however its location is not known”.





According to the Qur'an:

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ  
لَلَّذِي بِبَكَّةَ مُبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



“The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakkah; full of blessing and of guidance for all kinds of beings.”

Al Qur'an 3:96

‘Bakkah’ is another name for Makkah, and we know today that Makkah is situated at the center of the earth.

- ii Makkah is also mentioned as ‘Ilaspada’ i.e., Allah’s holy place in Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 128 Verse 1.

 [www.alhidaayah.com](http://www.alhidaayah.com)

 [www.peacetv.tv](http://www.peacetv.tv)

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