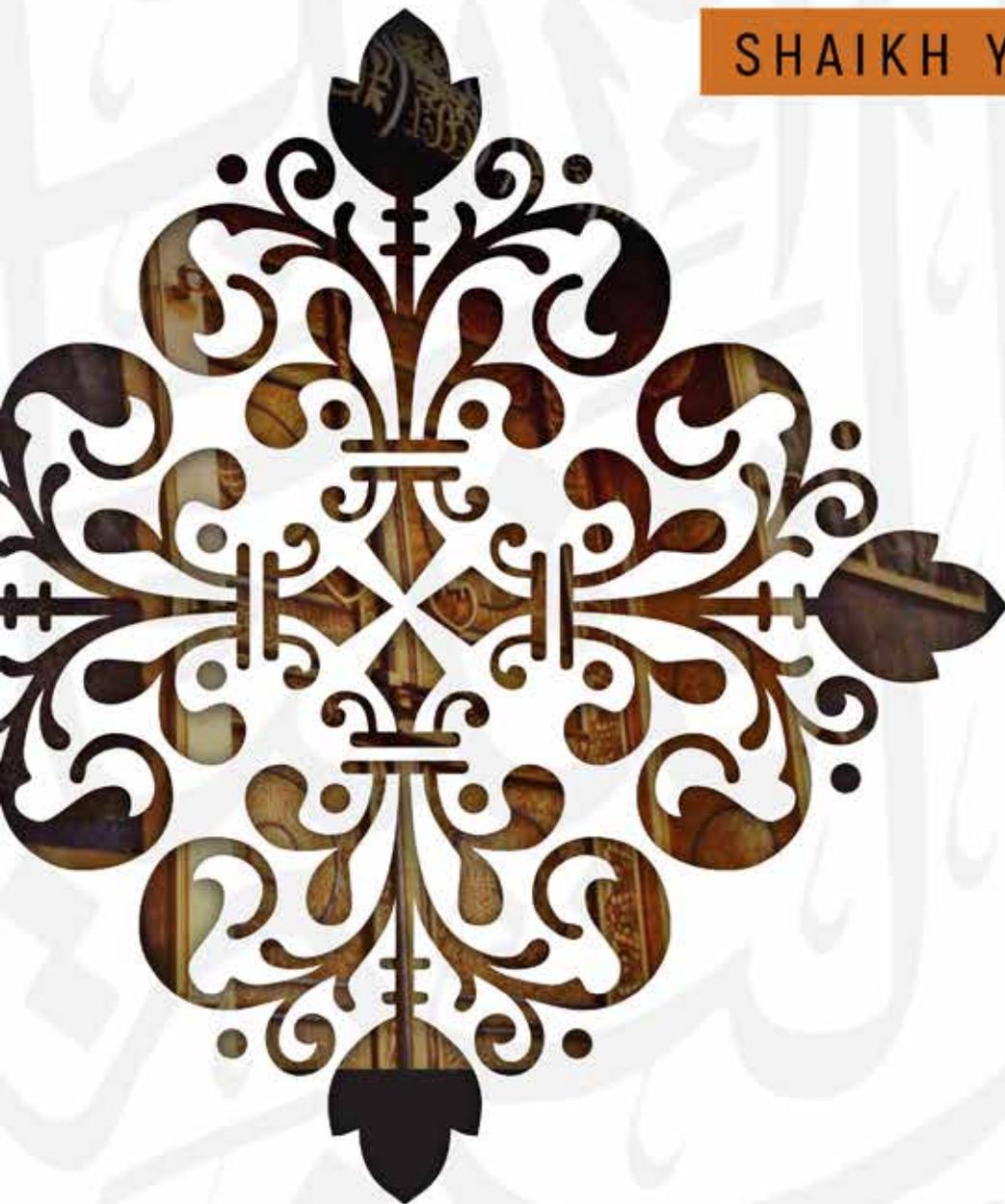


STUDY GUIDE

TELL US ABOUT
ISLAM

PART 2

SHAIKH YUSUF ESTES



COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TOPICS

1. Salvation
2. Ways to make up for your mistake
3. Different kinds of intercession
4. Pillars of Islam and Imaan
5. Signs of the Yawmul Qiyaamah
6. Meaning of Dhikr
7. Different interpretations of the word 'Dhikr'
8. Stories of the Prophets in the Qur'an
9. Introduction to the Qur'an

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Learn and understand about the pillars of Islam and Imaan
2. Learn about the different stories about the Prophets mentioned in the Qur'an
3. Learn about the Qur'an - its significance, how and why it was revealed, and its virtues



COURSE OUTLINE

QUESTION & ANSWER BUCKET

TRANSCRIPTS

ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

COURSE DURATION

Video	-	2 hours 20 min
Study Guide	-	45 min
Assessment	-	10 min
Total Duration	-	3 hours 15 min



LESSON 1

SALVATION





1 SALVATION

Salvation is related to a word called save. For example, you throwing a rope to save someone from drowning, that rope becomes their salvation.



Humans commit mistakes and sins, and so need to be forgiven for their sins to achieve salvation.

The only way that humans can attain salvation is if they follow the teachings of Allah (swt), because He is our Creator and knows what is best for us.



"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided."

[Al Qur'an 3:103]

Similarly, Allah (swt) commands the Muslims to hold on firmly to the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah because they are what would lead one to salvation and success in this life and the Hereafter.





2

WAYS TO MAKE UP FOR YOUR MISTAKE

i Tawbah (repentance)

The Arabic word Tawbah means to go back, you go back to Allah and ask Him to forgive you.

When Allah (swt) created humans, He knew that we would make mistakes and commit sins and provided for us a way to seek forgiveness and be saved from the punishment in the Hereafter.





The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"All the sons of Adam are sinners, but the best of sinners are those who are given to repentance."

The Prophet (pbuh) taught us that though all humans are prone to sinning, the way for them to salvation is to seek Tawbah (repentance) for their sins, and then stop committing that act and mend your ways.





ii Expiation

When you are not forgiven for your sin, you have to make up for it in some other way; this is known as expiation.

For example, if you break something in someone's house and they are not ready to forgive you unless you make up for it, you must pay them for their damage. This payment of damages is your expiation for breaking their property.

Similarly, for certain acts only Tawbah (repentance) is not enough, but you must make up and expiate your sins.

If you kill a person accidentally, one needs to expiate for it even though it was an accident. One of the things you could do is to take care of the people that he/she was taking care of. So, if they had children, you must take care of his children, or if they were taking care of some orphans, you must take care of those orphans because you took away the person who took care of them.



iii **Maghfirah (forgiveness) of Allah (swt)**

Allah (swt) is Al Ghafoor (the Forgiver), so we ask Him to give us from His Maghfirah (forgiveness) and Rahmah (graciousness).

On the Day of Judgment, man will have so many mistakes that he will never be able to enter Jannah (Paradise) if Allah (swt) holds him/her to account.

But it is from the Maghfirah and Rahmah of Allah (swt) that one's good deeds will count ten or more and bad deeds only count once.



LESSON 2

INTERCESSION





3

DIFFERENT KINDS OF INTERCESSION

Among the different kinds of things that one can do to expiate for their sins and act as intercessors for them are:



i Read the Qur'an

Recitation of the Qur'an is one of the best acts that one can do for expiation of their sins and act as an intercessor for them on the Day of Judgement.



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"The one who was devoted to the Qur'an will be told on the Day of Resurrection: 'Recite and ascend (in ranks) as you used to recite when you were in the world. Your rank will be at the last Ayah you recite.'"



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"Whoever recites a letter from the Book of Allah, he will be credited with a good deed, and a good deed gets a ten-fold reward. I do not say that Alif-Laam-Meem is one letter, but Alif is a letter, Laam is a letter and Meem is a letter."



ii Performing good deeds

Every good deed that a person does is counted and rewarded for as ten good deeds and every evil deed is counted as only one deed, and therefore anytime one does an evil deed they should try to make up for it with a good deed.

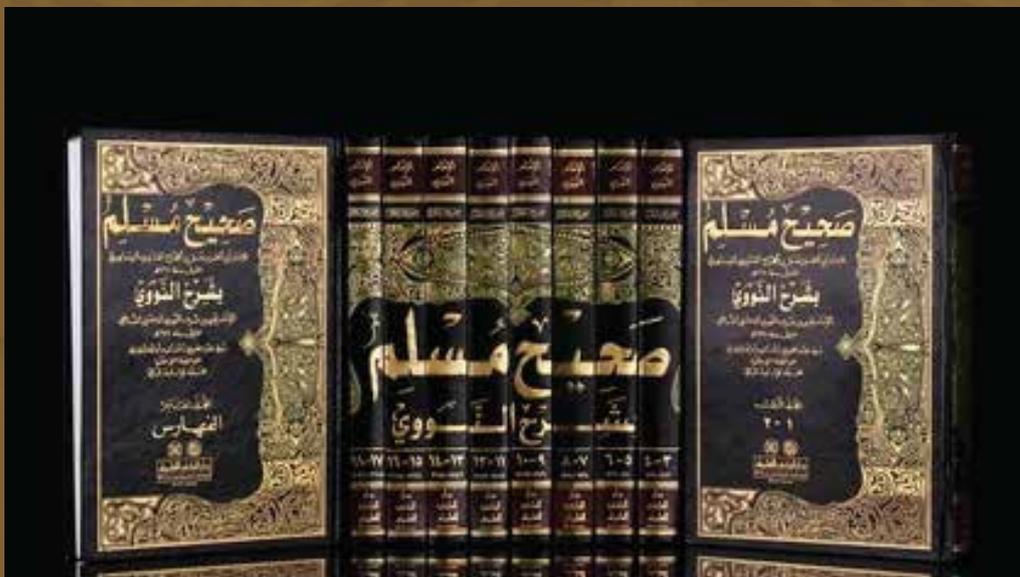
In fact, one is even rewarded for his Niyyah (intention) for good too, while a bad deed is not taken into account until one has committed that deed.





The Prophet (pbuh) said that Allah (swt) said:

"Verily, Allah (swt) has ordered that the good and the bad deeds be written down. Then He explained it clearly how (to write): He who intends to do a good deed but he does not do it, then Allah records it for him as a full good deed, but if he carries out his intention, then Allah the Exalted, writes it down for him as from ten to seven hundred folds, and even more. But if he intends to do an evil act and has not done it, then Allah writes it down with Him as a full good deed, but if he intends it and has done it, Allah writes it down as one bad deed.





iii Du'a (supplication)

Everyone prays to Allah (swt) for their own forgiveness, but when one prays for others, Allah (swt) forgives you too along with them.

The Prophet (pbuh) said that whenever one supplicates and makes Du'a for somebody who's not there, then there's an angel behind them saying 'Aameen' and for him too and for her too.



We make sure to give everyone their rights, whether they be a Muslim or non-Muslim because though Allah will not accept their Du'a in the Hereafter, in this life he answers everyone and gives them their due right.



iv Intercession of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

The Prophet (pbuh) will intercede on behalf of the believers and ask Allah (swt) for their forgiveness on the Day of Judgement.



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

“Do you know what choice my Lord gave me on this night?’ We said: ‘Allah and His Messenger know best.’ He said: ‘He gave me the choice between admitting half of my nation to Paradise and intercession, and I chose intercession.’ We said: ‘O Messenger of Allah, pray that we will be among its people (the people for whom you will intercede).’ He said: ‘It is for every Muslim.’”

LESSON 3

HADITH JIBREEL





4

PILLARS OF ISLAM AND IMAAN



i Pillars of Islam

Islam is based upon five pillars:

a Shahaadah – La Ilaha Illallah Muhammad Ar Rasoolullah

The Shahaadah means to bear witness that there is none to worship except Allah and Muhammad is His messenger.



It is important to understand that only saying the Shahaadah out loud without understanding or practising it isn't beneficial for anyone, but for the Shahaadah to have its effect on a person, he must fulfil its necessary conditions. They are –

- knowledge
- certainty
- sincerity
- honesty and truthfulness
- love
- devotion to the Shahaadah
- submission to Allah





b Salaah

The second pillar of Islam are the five daily obligatory prayers enjoined upon Muslims by Allah (swt) during the Prophet's (pbuh) journey of Israa Wal Mi'raaj.



c Zakaat

The Arabic word Zakaat means purity, but when spoken in the context of the pillars of Islam, it indicates towards purification of wealth by giving away a fixed portion (2.5%) of one's surplus wealth to the poor, needy and other categories mentioned in the Qur'an.



d Sawm

The Arabic word Sawm typically means fasting, but when spoken in the context of the pillars of Islam, it indicates obligatory fasting in the month of Ramadhaan from dawn to dusk.

One does not eat or drink anything during this time period, and also avoids indulging in sinful acts.



e Hajj

Hajj refers to the pilgrimage Muslims must make to the Ka'bah in Makkah if he/she is physically and financially capable of that.



ii Pillars of Imaan

Imaan is based on six pillars:

a Belief in Allah



"[He is] Creator of the heavens and the earth. He has made for you from yourselves, mates, and among the cattle, mates; He multiplies you thereby. There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the Hearing, the Seeing."

Al Qur'an 42:11





The belief that Allah (swt) is the Only Creator, the only Sustainer, and the only One to turn to when you need anything.

He is the One who created everything and has knowledge of every beings' actions.



b Belief in Allah's Angels

Angels are a creation of Allah (swt) made up of light, and they must do what Allah (swt) commands them without any second thoughts or hesitations.



C Belief in the Holy Scriptures

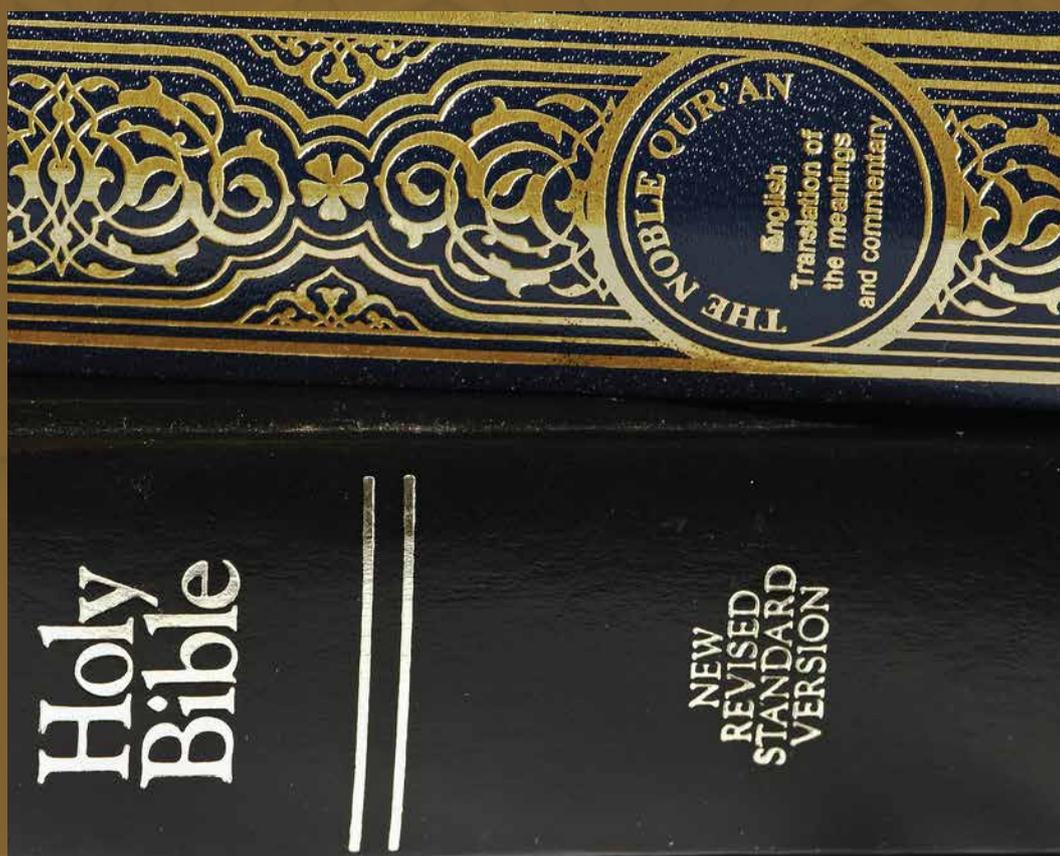
Among the Holy Scriptures sent down by Allah (swt) upon His messengers were the Torah, Zabur, Injeel, and the Qur'an.

The Torah also known as the Old Testament in current times was the revelation sent down to Musa (pbuh).

The Zabur – Psalms or Songs of David was the revelation sent down upon Dawood (pbuh).

The Injeel also known as the Gospel was the revelation sent down upon Isa (pbuh).

The Qur'an was the revelation sent down upon Muhammad (pbuh).





d Belief in the Messengers

Allah (swt) has been sending prophets and messengers ever since the beginning of human beings to guide them towards the right path. There were more than 124,000 messengers sent by Allah (swt), but we have been informed of only twenty-five prophets by their names, and they all called to the same message of Tawheed, Laa Ilaaha Illallah – there's no god but Allah.





e Belief in the Last Day

The Day of Judgement is known as the 'Yawmul Hisaab' in Arabic because every person shall be held accountable for their actions and deeds of this life.

It is also known as the Day of Resurrection, because everyone from the first man (Adam (pbuh)) to the last child born would be resurrected from their death and stand before Allah (swt) for their accountability.





f Belief in Qadr – both good and bad

The belief in Qadr (fate) means to believe that everything that happens, the good and the bad are all in the plan of Allah (swt). Allah (swt) knows about it before it happens, and there's nothing we can do about it except trying to do what we are commanded by Allah and abstain from what we are prohibited, and then it's up to Allah to judge.





iii Ihsaan

The Prophet (pbuh) defined Ihsaan as "It is that you should serve Allah as though you could see Him, for though you cannot see Him yet He sees you."

Ihsaan is to always think about Allah (swt) and remember that he is really is as close in his seeing of you as your own sight. Don't forget that Allah (swt) is watching you.

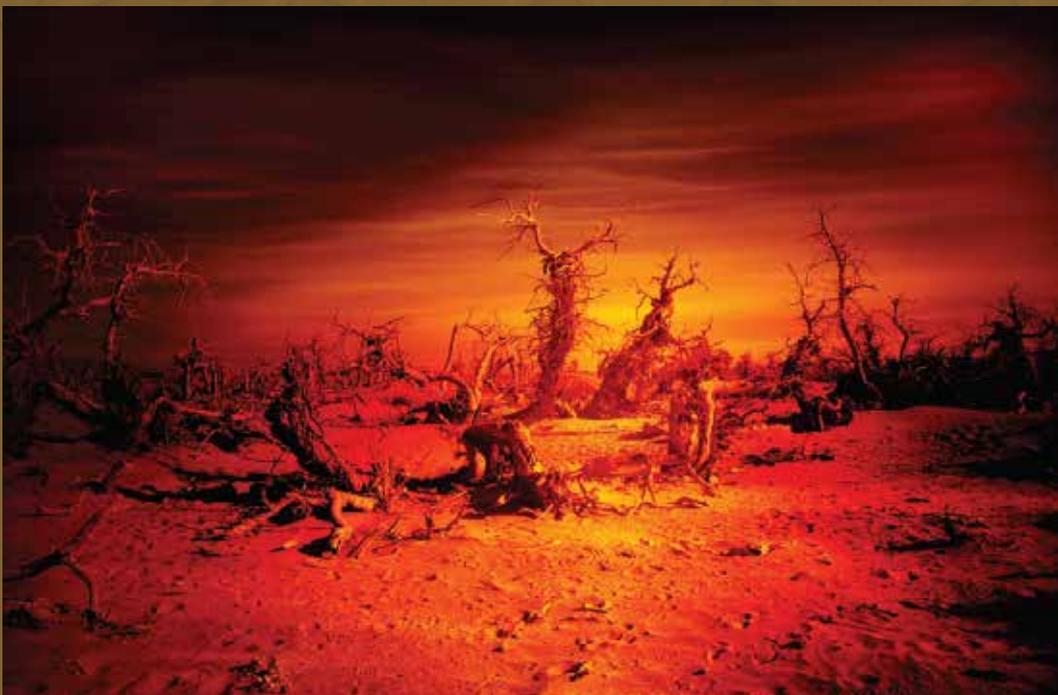




5

SIGNS OF THE YAWMUL QIYAAMAHA

No one knows about when the Day of Judgement shall occur except Allah (swt), and Allah (swt) through his Prophet (pbuh) has informed us of the minor and major signs that shall occur before the Day of Judgement.





i Arabs competing to build the tallest towers

The Prophet (pbuh) informed us that among the signs of the Day of Judgement would be that the Arabs would compete against each other to build the tallest buildings.

Today, if one goes to Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia or other Arab countries, all of them are building tall buildings and competing against each other to see who can build the tallest.



ii Slave gives birth to her own master

Initially it does not make sense that how can a woman's baby turn into her own master, but if one analyses the current situation deeply, they will understand the meaning behind the words.



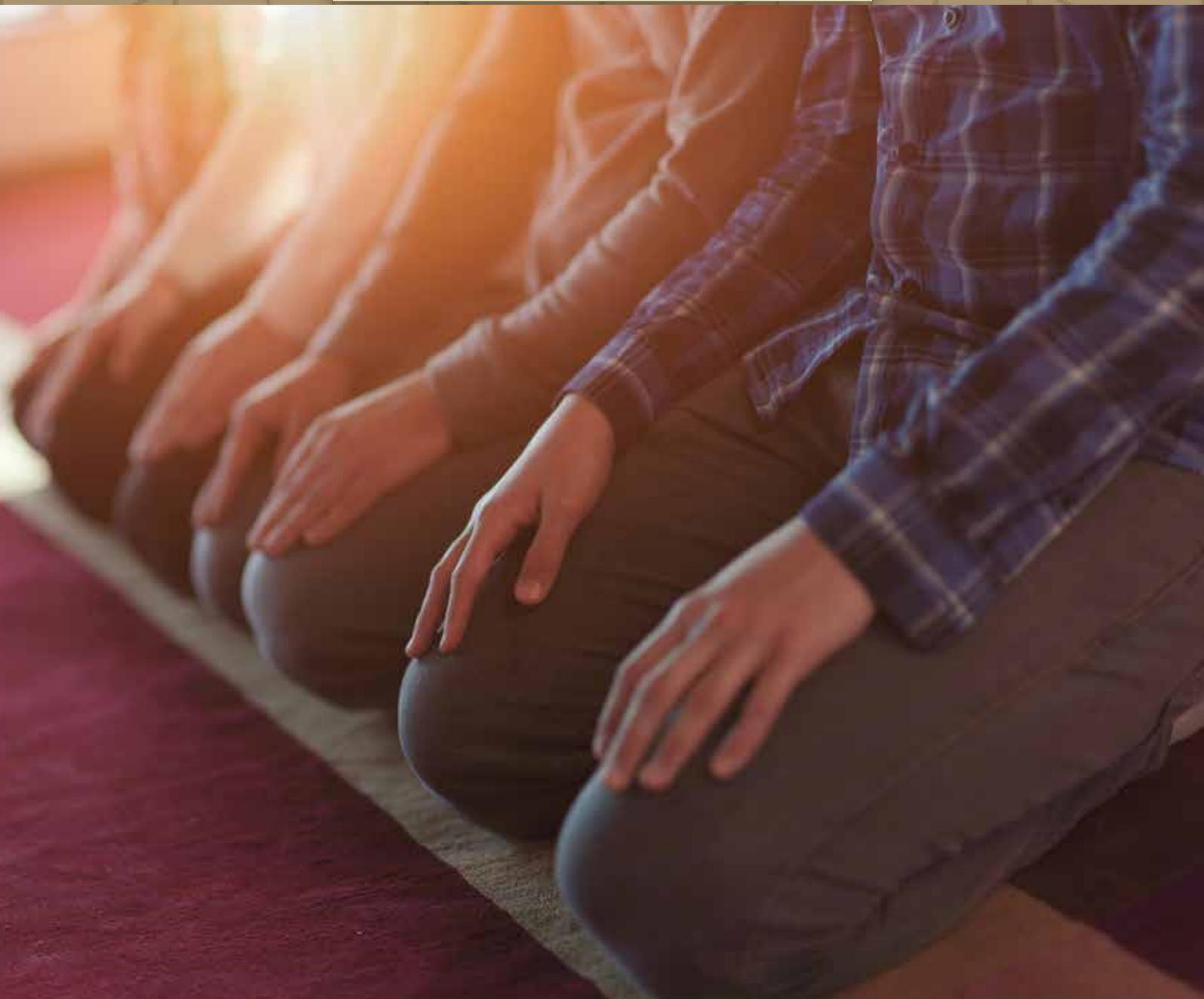
Nowadays, we see the children telling their parents to do stuff for them, and the parents aren't allowed to scold, spank their child, or discipline them.

Also, due to the parents being busy and away all day from their children gives them a guilty feeling of not spending adequate time with their children, and therefore try to pamper them with treats or any other way possible which the child may demand of them.



LESSON 4

**DHIKR -
REMEMBRANCE
OF ALLAH**





6

MEANING OF DHIKR

The linguistic meaning of the word Dhikr is to keep something in mind, but from an Islamic perspective, Dhikr is to keep the remembrance of Allah (swt) in one's heart and mind for any action that he/she may do.





“When trouble touches a man, He cries unto Us (in all postures) - lying down on his side, or sitting, or standing. But when We have solved his trouble, he passes on his way as if he had never cried to Us for a trouble that touched him! thus do the deeds of transgressors seem fair in their eyes!”

Al Qur'an 10:12



Similar to the actions of the unbelievers, usually if we're having a good time and having fun, we're not thinking about Allah (swt), but when we're in trouble and something's really bothering us, we think about Allah. But, ideally a Muslim should be thinking and remembering Allah (swt) all the time, whether in times of happiness or times of grief.



7

DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF THE WORD 'DHIKR'

Among the different interpretations of the word Dhikr are:

i Qur'an

Though in linguistic interpretations the Arabic word Qur'an means recitation, but when one recites the Qur'an, he/she is indulging in Dhikr.



"Those who believe, and whose hearts find satisfaction in the remembrance of Allah: for without doubt in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find satisfaction."

Al Qur'an 13:28





ii Salaah (prayer)



When one performs Salaah, it is too a form of remembrance of Allah (swt).

You are remembering Allah (swt) and your body too is doing Dhikr with you standing and bowing and prostrating on the ground.

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said that one's body has rights over him, and part of giving the body its rights is to let the body make Dhikr with you in the Salaah.



iii Du'as after Salaah

After one completes their prayer, the Dhikr isn't over. There are the prescribed Sunnah Adhkaar that one should recite after the Tasleem.

Also, one should perform the Astaghfaar (Astagfirullah – asking Allah for forgiveness) after every Salaah.

The Prophet (pbuh) said that the best Dhikr is 'Laa ilaaha illallah' and the best Du'a is 'Astagfirullah'.



LESSON 5

**STORIES OF
THE PROPHETS
IN THE QUR'AN**





8

STORIES OF THE PROPHETS IN THE QUR'AN



i Story of Musa (pbuh) speaking to Allah (swt)

When Allah (swt) had summoned Musa (pbuh) to Mount Sinai, He gave him the commandments and spoke to him directly and without any intermediaries between them.

When Musa (pbuh) descended from the mount and came back to his people, he found them worshipping a calf that they had made out of from melting their gold.



They melted their gold, gave it the shape of a calf, and started worshipping it because they had seen others performing the same actions.



Allah (swt) caused the wind to blow through the calf's mouth in such a way that it sounded like the calf made a 'Moo' sound when the wind blew, making the people believe that the calf was alive.

When Musa (pbuh) saw this, he was enraged and threw down the tablets of commandments that he had for his people.

(Refer to – Al Qur'an 7:148-150)



ii The Ark of Nooh (pbuh)

The people of Nooh (pbuh) made statues of the righteous people amongst them because they wanted their next generations to know about them and emulate their actions. However, as time went by, people gave them names and gradually started worshipping those statues and idols instead of Allah (swt).

Nooh (pbuh) did Da'awah for 950 years and tried to get his people to pay heed to his words and accept the message of worshipping Allah (swt) only without associating any partners and idols with Him in worship, but except a few people who believed and joined him in the Ark, most of them (including his son) paid no heed to his warnings and continued worshipping the idols.





When he warned them of the punishment with a great flood advised them to join him in the Ark, they side-lined him and made fun of him.

When commanded by Allah (swt), Nooh (pbuh) gathered the pairs of different things and animals in the Ark and asked all the believers to join him in the Ark, to save them from the punishment that would descend on the unbelievers.



When the punishment of Allah (swt) descended on the unbelievers, water came from every direction and flooded the entire area sparing no one except those who joined Nooh (pbuh) in the Ark.

[Refer to – Al Qur'an 11: 36-44]



iii **Yusuf (pbuh) – thrown in the well by his brothers**

Yusuf's (pbuh) brothers were jealous of him because they felt that their father loved and cared for him more than them.

Their jealousy got the better of them and they planned to take him out one day and get rid of him by dumping him in a well where he would be picked up by a passing by caravan.

Though their father, Yaqoob (pbuh) worried for his safety due to his brothers' negligence, they convinced him of his safety and took Yusuf (pbuh) along with them.





On their way, they made plans about to get rid of Yusuf (pbuh) and convince their father that though they tried their best, there was nothing that they could do to save him.

They agreed to push him down a well and return to their father with his bloodied shirt and blame the wolf for it.

[Refer to – Al Qur'an 12:7-18]





iv Miracles of Isa (pbuh)

Among the miracles of Isa (pbuh) are

- He was born miraculously
- He spoke from his cradle
- He brought the dead back to life with Allah's (swt) permission.
- He healed the blind and the lepers with the permission of Allah (swt).

(Refer to – Al Qur'an 3:48-50)



Isa (pbuh) didn't say that I am Allah and fear me, but rather he preached the same message as all the other prophets. He preached the message of worshipping Allah (swt) alone and warned them against associating any partners in worship with Him.



v Hijrah of the Prophet (pbuh) from Makkah to Madinah

When the Quraysh planned to kill the Prophet (pbuh), he was commanded by Allah (swt) to do Hijrah from Makkah to Madinah. The Prophet (pbuh) asked his cousin Ali (ra) to lie in his bed instead of him so that he could return their trusts the next day because he was travelling to Madinah.

When the tribe members came to kill the Prophet (pbuh) in his bed, they discovered Ali (ra) in his bed and that the Prophet (pbuh) had already left for Madinah with Abu Bakr (ra).





Seeing the people at the mouth of the cave, Abu Bakr (ra) was scared for the safety of the Prophet (pbuh) and remained as quiet as he could.

In fact, even when a scorpion bit him, he didn't make a single sound because he didn't want to disturb the Prophet's (pbuh) sleep.

When the Prophet (pbuh) woke up and saw his condition, he inquired with him about what had happened and healed his sting by the will of Allah (swt) and continued with their journey.

When they finally got to Madinah, the people were happy and welcomed the Prophet (pbuh) to Madinah.

[Refer to – Al Qur'an 9:40]



LESSON 6

**QUR'AN -
THE LAST
REVELATION
FROM ALLAH (SWT)**





9

INTRODUCTION TO THE QUR'AN

i What is the Qur'an?

The Arabic word Qur'an come from the root Qa Ra Aa, which in linguistic terms means to read, and Islamically, it is the revelation sent down by Allah (swt) upon His Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) through angel Jibreel (pbuh).

Though many people wrongly consider the book we hold between our hands as the Qur'an, the correct interpretation would be that the book we hold in our hands is the 'Mushaf' and when it is recited out loud, it is considered as the Qur'an.





ii Why is the Qur'an in Arabic language?

The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic because it was revealed amongst the Arabs, and because it is one of the Semitic languages and the language of the prophets.

Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic are all languages from the same source going back to the time of Abraham (pbuh) and even further back to Adam (pbuh) himself.

Therefore, only when recited in Arabic, it is known as the Qur'an, and otherwise it is known as the translation of the Qur'an.





iii Revelation of the Qur'an

The Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) over a period of twenty-three years, the first of which was revealed through Jibreel (pbuh) on the Laylatul Qadr (the night of power) in the month of Ramadhaan, when the Prophet (pbuh) was meditating in the cave of Hira.

Sometime there would be a long gap between revelations and Prophet (pbuh) would worry about why he was not receiving a revelation, and other times when they would have a big difficulty or not knowing what to do, the revelation would come and tell them what to do.

Sometimes it would surprise him, and it would tell him to abstain from doing something that he was doing. So, the Prophet (pbuh), just like all the rest of the people had to listen to Qur'an for instruction.

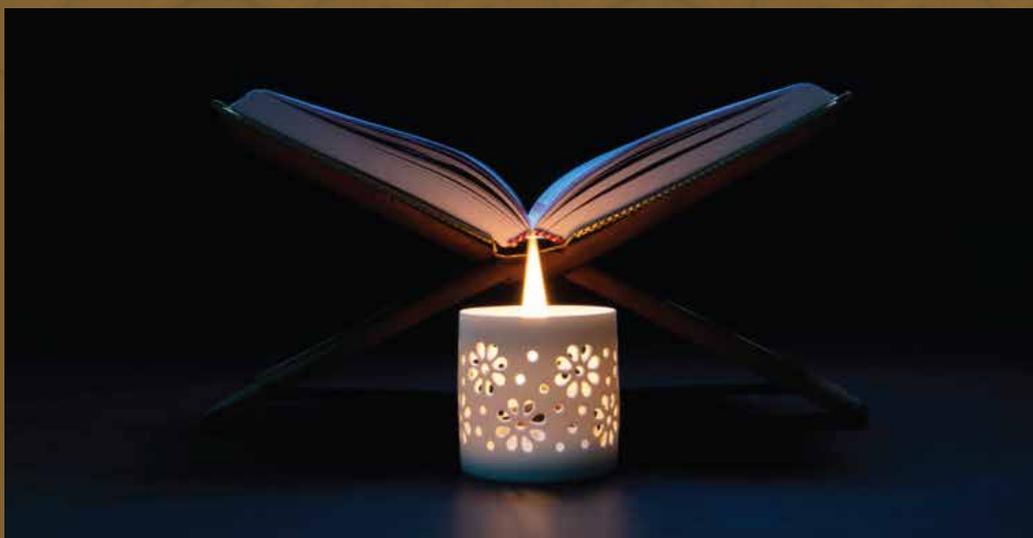




Aa'ishah (ra) said that when Al-Haarith (ra) asked the Prophet (pbuh) about how the revelation would come to him, the Prophet (pbuh) replied:



"Sometimes it is like the ringing of a bell, and this is the most difficult. When it parts from me, I have grasped what is said. Other times the angel comes in the form of a man and speaks to me, and I grasp whatever he says."



In another Hadith, describing the difficulty of the descent of Divine revelation upon the Prophet (pbuh),



Aaishah (ra) said,

"Indeed, I saw the Prophet (pbuh) being inspired Divinely on a very cold day and noticed the sweat dripping from his forehead."



Ubaadah bin As-Saamit (ra) said:



"Whenever the Prophet (pbuh) received Divine Revelation, he felt its rigour and his complexion would change."





iv **Compilation of the Qur'an**

A lot of people wonder about who actually compiled the Qur'an and wrote it down since the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad (pbuh) over a period of 23 years in bits and pieces (sometimes a whole Surah would come and sometimes just a few words) and he could neither read nor write.

The Prophet (pbuh) like most of the people during his time had excellent memory, helping him memorised whatever part of the Qur'an that was revealed to him by the will of Allah (swt).



He further taught it to his Sahaabah (ra), some of whom wrote it down of different types of things (animal skins, flat rocks, palm leaves, etc.) because they knew to read and write.



Further, those who learnt from the Prophet (pbuh) would share it with others so that they could memorise it too and pass it on further.

But the compilation of the Qur'an itself, was done at the very end of the life of the Prophet (pbuh). Jibreel (pbuh) came to the Prophet (pbuh) and recited the Qur'an with the Prophet (pbuh) in its final form as Allah (swt) wanted it to be.



Fatimah (ra) reported that the Prophet (pbuh) said:



"Gabriel would come to me to revise the Qur'an once every year. This year he revised with me twice. I do not think it means anything but that my term will come to an end."



v Makki (Makkan) and Madani (Madinan) Surahs

The Surahs are classified as a Makkan or a Madinan Surah based on the time and the place they were revealed at.

The Surahs that were revealed to the Prophet (pbuh) before his Hijrah to Madinah are known as Makkan Surahs, and the Surahs that were revealed to the Prophet (pbuh) after his Hijrah to Madinah are known as Madinan Surahs.

Further, this distinction is also made due to the different topics that the Qur'an dealt with in these different eras according to the needs of the people; it focussed more on the belief of one God, the Hereafter etc. during the Makkan era, while it focused on obligation, good manners, and self-defence in the Madinan era.





vi What are the first verses to be revealed?

The first verses of the Qur'an that were revealed to the Prophet (pbuh) were from first five verses of Surah Al 'Alaq.



"Proclaim! (or read!) in the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, Who created- Created man, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood.

Proclaim! And your Lord is Most Bountiful,

He Who taught (the use of) the pen, Taught man that which he knew not."

Al Qur'an 96:1-5



**QUESTION
& ANSWER
BUCKET**





Q1 WHAT DOES ISLAM SAY ABOUT KEEPING DOGS?

ANSWER

Islam permits one to keep a dog if it has a necessary purpose like a guard dog, or a shepherd dog to take care of one's animals, a guide dog for the blind etc.

But, it is important to note that it must be kept out of one house and place of prayer, and also wash yourself off or anything else that it might have licked according to the guidelines mentioned in Hadith.



The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"The purification of the utensil belonging to any one of you, after it is licked by a dog, lies in washing it seven times, using sand for the first time."



Q2

EXPLAIN THE WORDINGS OF THE ADHAAN WITH THEIR MEANINGS

ANSWER

The wordings of the Adhaan in Arabic with their meanings are as follows:

- Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar – Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest
- Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar – Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest
- Ash hadu An Laa Ilaaha Illallah – I bear witness, there's none to worship except Allah
- Ash hadu An Laa Ilaaha Illallah – I bear witness, there's none to worship except Allah
- Ash hadu Anna Muhammadar Rasoolullah – I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah
- Ash hadu Anna Muhammadar Rasoolullah – I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah
- Hayya 'Alas Salaah – Come quickly to the Salah
- Hayya 'Alas Salaah – Come quickly to the Salah



- Hayya 'Alal Falaah – Come quickly to the Success
- Hayya 'Alal Falaah – Come quickly to the Success
- Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar – Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest
- Laa Ilaaha Illallah – There is no god to worship except Allah



Q3

WHY WERE ADAM (PBUH) AND HAWWA (PBUH) REMOVED FROM JANNAH?

ANSWER

When Allah (swt) had put Adam (pbuh) and Hawwa (pbuh) in Jannah, He allowed them to enjoy all of its bounties, but forbade them from having the fruits of a specific tree.

Adam (pbuh) and Hawwa (pbuh) were mindful of the command of Allah (swt) and stayed away from the specific tree, but the Shaitaan envied them and plotted to have them thrown out of Jannah.

He tempted them with lies and false promises and got them to disobey Allah (swt) commands, and therefore, when Adam (pbuh) and Hawwa (pbuh) disobeyed the command of Allah (swt) and ate of the tree, Allah (swt) punished them by removing them from Jannah and sending them on the Earth.

(Refer to – Al Qur'an 7:19-25)

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