



RED
Guide of
ISLAM
for Reverts
IsaCalling.com

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I thank Allah for guiding me while I was writing this book,
and I pray for Allah's mercy and blessings on prophets, and for me, and for all true slaves of Allah,
and I seek forgiveness of Allah for any mistakes I might have done in this book.

Various good things happened while writing this book, which I took as blessings and signs from Allah.
Signs that Allah is pleased by what is written in this book.

Like, Istikhara prayer was not in the original content of this book, and just when I was finalizing the book, somebody in a forum asked "How to perform Istikhara prayer?"

And the answer you find in this book was posted by an Islamic brother, whose name is mentioned.

For the entire week, while I was writing this book, I was freed from my day job very quickly,
which allowed me to concentrate on the book itself, without getting diverted by my day job,
and I did not take leave from my day job. Its just that work got completed extremely surprisingly quickly.

Some other content of the book got automatically collected, without me having to struggling to find it,
like the 99 names of Allah described in the book.

It was almost as if things were automatically coming to me, on their own.

I'm greatly thankful to Allah for the help,
the one who is Al-Awwal, the Al-Akhir, the Al-Ghaniyy, the Al-Barr,
and I bow down to him as he is Al-Malik, the Ar-Rehmaan, the Ar-Raheem

Its my sincere request to you to please read these names as regularly as possible, may be once every day
if possible, so that you can remember them and learn them by heart!

Other material which could not have been included in this book, like audio of Quran and videos, are made available on the website:

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Its written in Islamic books that prophet Isa (Jesus) will return back to this world. He probably will not be born under Islam, but he will soon start following Islam, as this is the religion which has been chosen for mankind by Allah.

The verse confirming this was revealed soon after the prophet delivered his last sermon:

" This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My Grace upon you, and have chosen Islam for you as your religion..."

Quran chapter 5 verse 3

And this was the very last verse that angel Gabriel (Jibril) brought to prophet Mohammad.

Its the duty of every Muslim to spread the word of GOD in Quran to as many people as one can.

Its also the duty of every Muslim to have respect for other books which also have message of GOD, brought by other prophets, and every true Muslim should refrain from disrespecting those books.

Do not try to find fault in any book which has message of GOD in it.

Follow the one that you want to, the one Allah has sent for you, the one he perfected for you!

And thats the bottom line.

The Messenger of Allah, sallallahu alayhi wasallam said:

"Religion is very easy, and whoever overburdens himself in his religion will not be able to continue in that way.

So you should not be extremists, but try to be near to perfection, and receive the good tidings that you will be rewarded."

This book has answers to questions common amongst Revert New Muslims

It answers:

What is ISLAM, and what should be the goal of any Muslim

Understanding ISLAM from the example of Life of Prophet Mohammad

How to accept Islam

5 basic pillars of ISLAM

Meaning of what you are reciting in Salat or Namaaz (daily 5 prayers), and Why is Salat so important

Proper way of reciting Salat or Namaaz, and what is Wudu

What are the benefits of fasting during the holy month of Ramadan. Who are allowed to skip fasting during Ramadan, & What is the proper way of fasting, and what to eat before and after the fast

What are the different sects of Islam and which one is best for you to follow

What are the sacred days under Islam and what is to be done on these days

99 names of Allah are mentioned in Quran, and which prophets are recognized in Quran

History of Islam

Last sermon of prophet Mohammad, the gist of Islam

Istikhara prayer to ask Allah's guidance and blessings in any matter

Common greetings of Islamic culture

What is ISLAM?

The term ISLAM simply means "Surrender and Peace" in Arabic language. As a religion, Islam means to surrender before GOD (Allah in Arabic language)

This is the ultimate goal of any muslim. That is to surrender before the will of GOD, and to accept whatever he sends your way, and find peace and satisfaction in it.

Anything that happens is GOD's wish

Anything that does not happen is also GOD's wish

My success are his glory

My failures are lessons from GOD,

and he watches whatever I do.

Islam recognizes only one GOD as true GOD, and he is the only one worthy of worship.

There is no other GOD, and there is none equal to him in glory.

These were the basic 2 principles of Islam.

According to Islam, we are all servants of GOD, including all animals, human beings and even prophets who came to us with a message from GOD.

It is important to remember that just because someone is a prophet, doesn't mean that he is superior in any way, or is worthy of worship. Not at all.

It simply means that the servant chosen to come as a prophet has been given a duty to deliver a message from his Master (GOD). The messenger himself is not the master.

In the last prayer led by prophet, soon before he left us, he himself said: "One of you slaves has been chosen by Allah to come to paradise." He was talking about himself when he said this.

Islam by the Example of Life of Prophet Mohammad

The life of prophet Mohammad is a perfect example of how much deeply one can follow Islam.

Now please remember, prophet Mohammad was not the only prophet sent by GOD. In fact, he was the last one. Many prophets were sent before him, which included Jesus, Moses, Abraham and many more.

So then why is the example of prophet Mohammad's life so important.

Prophet Mohammad was one of the prophets who received the message at a young age from GOD. Since then his life has been an example for others. Jesus (known as prophet ISA in Quran) also received the message at a young age, but he led a very difficult life, like a saint. This is difficult to follow for you and me. All of us cannot lead the life of a saint, can we?

Prophet Mohammad, on the other hand led a regular life, like you and me. He had wives. He had children. He had a business.

But within that regular lifestyle, he achieved a complete surrender to the will of Allah. Something that you and I can also do. This is why its important to understand Islam by using the example of his life.

In short, Mohammad, born in Mecca, was a trader, a merchant, and had a reputation of being an honest person. He was known for his truthfulness and honesty. He got married to lady Khadija who was a widow. Years after marriage he started receiving the message of GOD by the means of an angel Gabriel (Jibrel), which he sang, and are compiled as Quran, as we know it even today. He faced a lot of resistance from his existing community and was forced to leave the community after the death of his wife Khadija, and his uncle who brought him up after the death of his parents.. Based on his honest reputation, Prophet Mohammad found refuge in the city of Madina, which is where Islam found a foothold. Community of Mecca kept sending armies to attack and kill prophet Mohammad, over and over again. Upon command from GOD, people of Madina united into an army with prophet Mohammad leading it, surrounded Mecca. Mecca surrendered. Everyone inside Mecca feared that Mohammad will now kill them all, as vengeance to what they did to Mohammad and his family. Surprisingly, Prophet Mohammad forgave everyone. He continued his life normally, and people of Mecca, realizing their mistake, accepted Islam i.e worship of one true GOD alone.

A longer and more detailed glimpse into the life of prophet Mohammad is towards the end of this book, under "History of Islam"

Please remember that I will not list all small incidents from his life. As Islam grew, many scholars kept writing short legendary stories about the prophet's life, which made it very difficult to distinguish truth from stories.

My attempt in this book is to bring only the confirmed true incidents of prophet's life, which you and I can relate to as human beings, and can follow as an example in our own life. Follow with understanding. Don't just imitate, but understand.

Prophet himself said that I am just like you, a regular human being. I'm not divine. I don't do miracles. All I do is convey the message given to me by one true GOD. All I do is live my life according to the will of GOD, according to the will of Allah.

But first lets look into the 5 pillars of Islam.

1. Shahada (Declaration or Acceptance of one True GOD, also known as Kalima of Shahada)
2. Salat (Daily 5 prayers, also known as Namaaz)
3. Sawm (Fasting, specially during the holy month of Ramadan)
4. Zakat (Alms and charity)
5. Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca)

1st Pillar: Shahada

This is a one line sentence which you say and believe in as a muslim. Anyone who wants to accept Islam, must say and believe in this very sentence.

The sentence is:

There is only one true GOD, and I bear witness that he is the only one worthy of worship, and I accept that prophet is his messenger.

Arabic version of this sentence is:

La ilaha illa Allah, Muhammadur rasoolu Allah

Anyone who brings their faith in this very sentence, can believe it completely, is a Muslim.

This is the same sentence which is whispered in the ears of any new born child in a muslim family. And this is the same sentence which a muslim utters on his death bed.

There is no other requirement which you must fulfill to accept Islam.

Depending on the organization you visit, some will issue a certificate of acceptance, even give you a new muslim name, and others might not do any of these.

For example, the place where I accepted Islam, did not issue a certificate, and also did not give me a muslim name.

My muslim name was given to me by other scholars who guided me later. Its:

AlMahi Timus Sumit Kumar. Sumit Kumar was my birth name. AlMahi Timus was given to me as my Islamic name. Timus meaning Steel.

2nd Pillar: Salat:

Salat, daily 5 prayers, is the most important pillar of Islam.

You can do as much charity as you want, or anything else. But if you are not performing the daily prayers, then you are not fulfilling the primary duty. Prayers are to be offered in the direction of Kaabah (Mecca)

How important are the daily prayers can be understood by this small incident from the Life of Prophet Mohammad.

One day when prophet Mohammad was sleeping, he was woken up by the angel Gabriel, the one who was bringing all the commands of Allah to the prophet. The angel gave him a small horse angel to ride, which was slightly smaller than a horse, but had large wings like angels.

As the prophet sat on it, the horse angel galloped and soon prophet crossed the area of stars, and then heavens, and was finally brought before GOD himself.

It was here where GOD himself commanded the prophet to convey the message of daily offering of 50 prayers from muslims.

Prophet Mohammad bowed down and started his journey back to earth, along with the command given to him, directly by GOD himself.

On his way back, he was asked by prophet Moses to return back to GOD and request GOD to reduce the number of daily prayers, as the people on earth are weak and will not be able to offer 50 daily prayers. Prophet returned to GOD, and made the request.

Upon this request, GOD reduced the number of prayers to 5 daily prayers, but also said that anyone who offers daily 5 prayers will get the blessings equal to 50 daily prayers.

Every other command of Allah was brought to the prophet by Gabriel, except the command of daily 5 prayers. This was the only command that Allah directly gave himself.

This is how important this command is.

There is a sequence of body gestures, hand actions etc which form a part of the prayer. However, in case of sickness, in case of travel, or simply inability to perform the actions physically, one can even choose to offer the prayer sitting or lying down on the bed.

The most important things to remember during the prayers is cleanliness, and the prayer itself.

The process of cleaning is called Wudu, where you wash your hands (upto elbows), your face, your legs (upto knees), and clean your mouth with water.

Sometimes its not possible to wash yourself before each prayer. Like if you are in travel or in office etc.

In this case, wash your hands, or at least make sure they are clean, and also that your mouth is clean. Use a napkin. Its also recommended to have your body covered with proper and clean clothing, from shoulders to knees..

Each prayer has been allotted a time, and should be offered within that time period.

Its important to point out here that there are different opinions from scholars about missing a prayer (in the specified time) or skipping a prayer deliberately, reasons could be any. For example, you are in an office meeting, and you know its prayer time, but you cannot leave the meeting... What to do...

Stay calm, going by the word of prophet Mohammad himself:

"Whoever forgets a prayer, let him offer it as soon as he remembers, for there is no expiation for it other than that."

So according to prophet Mohammad, the prayer is important, time is not. If you missed the specified time of a prayer, don't think that you've missed the prayer. Do it now, right now!

There is no other way you can compensate for missing a prayer, except by offering it as soon as you can at a later time. No amount of good deeds, or charity compensates for a single missed prayer.

This is the main point. To offer the prayer, even if you forgot or were unable to offer it on the specified time. However, if you can, please try to offer the prayer at the specified time.

The prayer itself: First in English, then in Arabic

Allah is the greatest

All glory is for you Allah, all praises are for you Allah, and blessed is your name, and high is your majesty.
There is no one else worthy of worship except you Allah.

I seek Allah's protection from satan the acursed

In the name of Allah, the most compassionate, the most merciful.

Praise be to Allah, the lord of the Universe, the most compassionate, the most merciful, and master of the day of judgement.

It is only Allah I worship. It is Allah I seek help, protection and guidance from.

O Allah, please guide me to the straight path, the path of those you have blessed, and not of those who have deserved your rath or gone astray.

He is Allah, the only one. Allah helps, and does not need help.

He did not produce a child, and he is not born of anyone. There is none equal to him. All glory is for Allah.

Allah listens to those who praises him. All praises are for Allah, all glory is for Allah, the most high.

All compliments, all physical prayers, all worship is for Allah.

Peace be upon the prophet, and Allah's mercy and blessings be upon the prophet.

Peace be upon all true slaves of Allah, and Allah's mercy and blessings be upon all true slaves of Allah.

And I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah, and I accept that prophet is his slave, his messenger.

O Allah, please send grace and honour upon prophet, family, and true followers of prophet.

Just as you sent grace and honour upon Ibrahim, family, and true followers of Ibrahim.

Surely you are most praise worthy, the greatest

O Allah, please send your blessings upon prophet and true followers of prophet, just as you sent your blessings upon Ibrahim and true followers of Ibrahim.

Surely you are most praise worthy, the Exalted.

In Arabic:

Allaahu Akbar (

Subhaanaka Allaahumma wabi hamdika wa tabaarakasmuka wa ta'aala jadduka wa laa ilaaha ghayruka.

A'oodhu billaahi minash-Shaytaanir-rajeem

Bismillaahir-Rahmaanir-Raheem

Alhamdul lillaahi rabbil 'aalameen; Ar-rahmaanir-raheem; Maaliki yawmiddeen; Iyyaaka na'budu wa iyyaaka nasta'een; Ihdinas-siraatal mustaqeem; Siraatalladheena an'amta 'alayhim; ghayril maghdubi 'alayhim; waladdaal-leen. Ameen

Qul huwallaahu 'ahad, Allaahus-Samad. Lam yalid walam yoolad. Walam yakullahu kufuwan ahad.

Subhaana Rabbi-yal Azeem:

Sami'a Allaahu liman hamidah:

Rabbanaa lakal hamdu:

Subhaana Rabbiyal A'ala: "

Athahiyyaatu lillaahi was-salawaatu wattayyibatu. Assalamu 'alaika ayyuhan-nabiyu warahmatullaahi wabarka'tuhu. Assalamu 'alaina wa'ala 'ibaadillaahis saa'liheen. Ash'had'u alla ilaha illallahu wa ash'hadu anna Muhammadan abd'uhu ea rasooluh.

Allaahumma salle 'alaa Muhammadin wa'ala 'aale Muhammadin kama sallaiyta 'alaa Ibraheema wa 'aAlaa Aale Ibraheema. Innaka Hameedum Majeed. Allaahumma baarik 'alaa Muhammadin wa 'alaa aale Muhammadin kama baarakta 'ala Ibraheema wa 'alaa Aale Ibraheema. Innaka Hameedum Majeed.

Assalamu 'alai'kum warah'matullaah:

There is something I'd like to bring up here, and some, may be most muslims will not agree with me.

I was born a hindu family, schooling in a christian missionary convent school, and later accepted Islam.

Because of this background I got the opportunity to study all those three major religions.

For most part, Christianity has been reduced to celebrations, parties, and songs. Very few follow the basic 12 commandments.

In hinduism, the holy books are written in an ancient language, and today at the time of worship, they still chant those same verses, in the same ancient language, without even understanding the meaning of what they are chanting, repeatedly.

Even if someone tells you the meaning, which is rare, still by the time you have recited the mantra a thousand times, you forget the meaning of what you were saying. You simply remember the mantra in the ancient language.

This is why if you are reciting daily prayers in Arabic language, and you do not speak Arabic, then I would say that you also read out the meaning of the Salat in your spoken language. You can do this soon after the prayer, or before the prayer.

This is so that you will not forget the meaning of what you said just now in a language you do not understand.

My idea is that if you do not have your heart in the prayer, then its just physical actions you did just now. Not a prayer. And if you do not know the meaning of what you said, how can you bring your heart in it?

GOD understands all languages. Allah does not need a specific language. He needs your feelings. Its You and I who need a language.

Consider this request of mine. Think about it. Everytime you remember Allah, everytime you offer him a prayer, everytime you praise him, everytime your emotions should be so strong that your eyes automatically start dropping tears. Tears of joy, tears of praise for him. That doesn't happen if you don't know the meaning of what you are saying, does it?

What is the specified time of Salat?

Five times specified for offering prayers are as follows:

1. Early morning, when there is still darkness in the sky, and the sun has not started to come up. This prayer is called Fazr, word meaning Dawn.
2. In the beginning of the noon, when sun has started to go down after touching its highest peak for the day. This is called Dhuhr, word meaning noon.
3. Second half of noon, when the evening has just started, but sun has not set. This is called Asr, meaning afternoon
4. In evening itself, when the sky is dark. This is called Maghrib, word meaning Evening
5. At night just before going to bed. This is called Isha, word meaning night.

As mentioned already, if you miss any, please offer the prayer as soon as you can do it.

There is no other way to compensate for a prayer.

These were said by prophet Mohammad himself.

No amount of charity, or fasting, or anything else can compensate for a prayer. And how can it?

Can anything else compensate for your emotions and feelings towards GOD?

I don't think so.

3rd Pillar: Sawm

These are the recommended fasts applicable to muslims.

Please note, people with medical conditions like diabetic, stomach ulcers, intestinal disorders, or other medical conditions should either consult their doctor before following these fasts, or not avoid food or water during the fast. You can refrain from other things which are also part of this fast, like refraining yourself from sinful acts of tongue (lieing, cursing, making false promises, back biting, or using abusive language), and refraining from sinful acts of body like fighting (unless in self-defence, or defending someone in need), refraining from sexual activities, and sins of mind like committing fraud (financial or otherwise).

Remember, the prophet himself said that "Religion is easy, and anyone who overburdens himself with religion cannot continue in that way..."

The benefit of fasting are said to be many like forgiveness from sins, increased devotion towards Allah, and health benefits. However, if your health is not permitting you to fast, then you can achieve these benefits via Salat, the daily 5 prayers, and also by refraining from other things mentioned above.

Daily 5 prayers are the best way to please GOD. Nothing comes close to those, neither fasting, nor charity.

As mentioned earlier, daily 5 prayers are so important that prophet was himself lifted to heavens and brought before Allah, and it was here by Allah directly, where he recieved the command of daily 5 prayers.

All other commands were brought to the prophet by the angel Gabriel (Jibrel), while the prophet was on earth itself.

It was only for the command of Salat that he was lifted to heavens, and GOD himself gave the command directly.

All able muslims must by all means do the fasts. Benefits of fasting in the holy month of Ramadan are many.

Before going ahead, understand why are the fasts of Ramadan so important.

Ramadan is the 9th month of Islamic lunar calendar.

It was in this month that first verses of Quran were revealed to the prophet.

Quran also highlights the importance of the month of Ramadan.

Chapter 2, Verse 185, of the Quran states:

The month of Ramadan is that in which was revealed the Quran;

a guidance for mankind, and clear proofs of the guidance,

and the criterion (of right and wrong).

And whosoever of you is present, let him fast the month,

and whosoever of you is sick or on a journey, a number of other days.

Allah desires for you ease; He desires not hardship for you;

and that you should complete the period, and that you should magnify Allah for having guided you,

and that perhaps you may be thankful.

Quran 2:185

It is believed that both good and bad deeds done in this month are magnified. This is why fasting is not just limited to controlling food intake, but also to controlling ones own character.

And if for some reason you cannot avoid food, then avoid sins of character, as mentioned above.

This is also the month where Muslims thank Allah, and magnify his glory by thanking him! This is said to be the "month when GOD showers his blessings"

The fast of Ramadan, also known as Ramazan or Ramadhan, begins at dawn and ends in the evening.

You are allowed to eat in the morning, and then only in the evening. The morning meal is called Suhoor, and evening meal is called Iftar.

Please note that people who are travelling, ill, women who are pregnant, or breast feeding, or in menstruation, should not follow the method of avoiding food and water.

However, all must try and follow the spiritual part of the fast. These include:

1. Offering daily prayers (may be even increasing them from 5 and doing more)
2. Recitation and learning of Quran
3. Refraining from sinful acts of tongue, body and mind.
4. Giving alms to poor

Unfortunately, these days as soon as you hear the term Ramadan, first thing that comes to mind is the part about refraining from food.

The other 4 parts are almost forgotten. Focus on these. Ramadan is incomplete without these.

Ramadan is all about attaining an even higher spiritual level, even more closeness to GOD, even more devotion towards GOD and his word.

Simply refraining from food is not going to do it, can it?

And even if you cannot follow the specified food habits during the month of Ramadan, you can still follow the other parts. You should by all means try to follow these other restrictions.

Returning back to following food and water restrictions.

Suhoor, as mentioned is the pre-fast meal. This meal is to be taken before the morning prayer (Fazr)

After having the meal, wait for a short while and then proceed into the morning prayer of Fazr.

Avoid having oily food in this meal or else you will feel thirsty during the rest of the day.

Also avoid a heavy meal because that will make you sleepy, and lazy.

Don't go too light either with cornflakes...

The best foods for this meal would be a combination of carbs, proteins and light fats.

For example sprouts, curd, porridge, fruits like bananas etc.

After this meal, you are not supposed to take food or water. And you must also observe the other spiritual restrictions as mentioned above.

Iftar, the meal soon after sunset, and just before the Mahrib (late evening) fourth prayer.

Its recommended to have something light in this meal, something with sugar, something which the body can adsorb quickly. For example, a bowl of curd, or fruits like grapes, dates, bananas etc.

Don't worry, this is not the final meal of the day. You can have a proper meal after the Mahrib prayer.

Most importantly, and I'm repeating this, during the day, do not lie, do not fight (unless in self-defence or defending someone in need), do not curse, do not use abusive language, do not get involved into sexual activities, and do not make false promises.

Try to read a chapter of Quran, learn it, offer additional prayers, offer alms to poor and the like.

All of these are a part of Ramadan. Its not just food control. According to me, these other things are more important.

Please note, although Ramadan is the holy month, but fasts can be observed on other days as well. They are not limited to just Ramadan.

4th Pillar: Zakat and Sadaqah (Alms and Charity)

Alms and charity form another pillar of Islam.

In Islam this is more important because Islam is a brotherhood.

It is the responsibility of other well-to-do brothers to help their brothers who are not doing as good financially.

In the very last sermon, prophet Mohammad said that Islam is a community of brothers. It is the responsibility of each brother to help other brothers as much as possible.

When you help other brothers with Zakat or with Sadaqah (alms, charity, physical help etc), then you are not just doing something good, but you are actually performing a duty. A duty that has been assigned to you by Allah himself when he made you capable.

By not doing Zakat and Sadaqah, you are actually running away from a responsibility that Allah has placed on your shoulders.

You are actually running away from a duty, a command of Allah.

These days various organizations accept Zakat. There must be one near you as well. Find it, and donate to it. This is the least you can do for your brotherhood.

I however, prefer to help a person in need directly. Donating money to an organisation is sort of like dumping your responsibility upon someone else's shoulders.

I don't know how they are using the money. I don't know if they are actually helping poor, or are they holding lavish celebration parties in the name of celebrating a day, or in the name of promotion of Islam.

So its best to do something yourself directly, instead of donating money to an organisation... (In my opinion)

You can do Zakat and Sadaqah in various ways.

For example, instead of giving the money directly to someone, you can pay school fees of a poor kid

You can cook food in your house, and then distribute the food to poor and needy.

I'd like to point out one more thing here.

Kindly distinguish between a lazy poor, and a needy poor.

Sometimes your money can get misused by the person to whom you gave it. They might use it on alcohol or even drugs. So its best to avoid giving money directly, but instead pay the school fee, or hospital bill etc.

The idea of Zakat and Sadaqah is to help a brother, not to spoil a brother.

Coming to the last pillar of Islam, the Hajj

5th Pillar: Hajj (The pilgrimage)

This is the sacred journey to Kaabah, Mecca, which must be undertaken by capable muslims at least once in a lifetime. Muslims who have undertaken this journey are known as Haji, and are socially respected within the society.

The word Hajj itself means "to intend a journey". The pilgrimidge is to be undertaken in the last month of Islamic lunar calendar between the dates 8th and 13th.

Each pilgrim walks 7 times in anti-clockwise direction around the Kaabah, touching the black stone, walks between the cliffs of Safa and Marwah, drinks from the sacred well of Zamzam, stands on the plains of mount Arafat (where prophet delivered his last sermon), and spends a night at Muzdalifa, and performs stoning of the pillars of satan.

After this pilgrims shave their heads, offer sacrifices of animals, and celebrate the 3 day Eid-Al-Adha.

Although women are allowed to simply trim the tips of their hairs, but the choice is completely their own.

All these actions are derived from the history of Islam, importance later elaborated in the section about the Life of Prophet Mohammad, in History of Islam.

Note, this journey can also be undertaken during any other time of the year, and is known as lesser pilgrimidge, which is not a substitute of Hajj.

Journey to Madina is not part of Hajj, but if you are already in Saudi, why not visit the mosque of prophet Mohammad in Madina too? Tomb of prophet is also located here.

All muslims who are physically and financially capable must undertake the pilgrimidge of Hajj at least once in their lifetime.

Different sects of Islam

It's said that by the time judgement day arrives, there will be 73 different sects of Islam, and out of all these, only Muslims from a single sect will deserve heavens. Rest 72 sects will deserve hell.

Today, nobody knows how many sects of Islam have already emerged. We do know some of the major ones, like Sunnis, Shias, Sufis etc... But there are many more smaller ones. Some known by the name of their scholars. Nobody knows how many are there in total.

How do you make sure that you are one of those who will deserve heavens?

The answer is really simple.

1. Follow Quran
2. Keep improving your devotion towards GOD
3. Refrain from sinful acts
4. Ask forgiveness from GOD if you accidentally committed a sin, and try to make sure you do not commit it again.

And most important, this is really most important, do not add partners with GOD.

There is only one true GOD, and he is the only one worthy of worship.

In your prayers, do not ask help from anyone or anything else. Prayers are a way to remember GOD, and to seek his help.

That is the same line you said when you accepted Islam, didn't you?

That is the same line you say daily 5 times when you pray, don't you?

Believe it, follow it.

There is one more thing I'd like to bring up here, and again many muslims might not agree with me.

As I've already mentioned, I got a chance to study religion of hindus closely.

One thing that is very common in Hinduism is that they have forgotten their holy books, almost 99% hindus have forgotten their holy book.

What they are following is words of their so called gurus, who have lavish ashrams, and lavish lifestyles.

Most Hindus do not even know that the holy book of Mahabharatha is actually holy Vedas rewritten by Maharishi VedVyasa in the form of stories for easier understanding and easier recalling.

They simply consider Mahabharatha as a story book...

They took a small portion out of Mahabharatha, i.e Gita, and consider that holy.

All these gurus are making up their own "assumptions" about GOD and spreading those as true religion. 99% of these assumptions are far far far away from true GOD.

But people are following those, thinking they are following religion. They are following these because they themselves do not know about religion, or what GOD actually told them in the first place. They never read their original holy books.

In Christianity, sure most people still read their holy books, but you tell me, how many obey the 12 commandments given to Christians?

Respect your parents, purity until marriage, staying away from adultery, and the like...

Money collected for charity is being used in costly advertisements to collect more money... You see the irony?

Not only this, a major part of Christians have started believing that Jesus was GOD himself... That is like recognizing a partner to GOD, isn't it?

Something similar has started happening in Islam too. The extent of this corruption is very less at this point though.

Muslims still recognize Quran as their holy book, unlike hindus who have forgotten their holy book completely.

Muslims still follow a lot of what is written in their holy book, unlike Christians who read their holy book but are not even following the 12 commandments.

Unfortunately, a lot of what Muslims are following has become a chore. Like the fast of Ramadan mentioned earlier. Just refraining from food and water is not the complete fast. Refraining from food and water is merely a part of the fast.

The fast is complete when you are spiritually more stronger than before, and more devoted towards GOD.

You become spiritually stronger when you read and learn what is written in Quran, when you start believing that Islam is a brotherhood which is how prophet intended it to be.

A Brotherhood where brothers help each other. Brotherhood where more capable brothers help the less capable brother.

As a new revert, its your responsibility to save yourself from falling in the path of religion.

Don't let your religion become a chore for you.

Let it become a path for you. Path towards GOD.

Don't over burden yourself by performing chores of religion suggested by just anyone.

Understand why you are doing something. Ask for reasons about why this is important, ask what is the spiritual meaning of it, and once you understand its benefits, then its no longer a burden.

And verify the method against Quran. Always.

Both prophet and Quran testify that Allah wants things made easy for us.

Don't end up like those hindus who chant a mantra 1000 times, but cannot even tell the meaning of it.

This is the reason why their holy book got abolished.

Don't end up like those Christians who read Bible daily, but don't follow even the basics.

Don't end up like those muslims who burden themselves with chores.

Be of those muslims who read and understand quran, the message of GOD.

Be of those muslims who can guide others, and are themselves guided by Allah.

Be of those muslims who refrain from sins. Sins of body, mind, and tongue.

Be of those muslims who ask for forgiveness of their sins from Allah

Be of those muslims who promise not to repeat the sin again

Be of those muslims who worship only one true GOD

These are the muslims who are going to heavens.

These are the ones who will deserve heavens on judgement day.

Allah knows best!

Sacred days under Islam

There are 2 primary sacred days of Islam. They are:

1. Eid-Al-Fitr

2. Eid-Al-Adha

The word Eid means festival. Eid-Al-Fitr is celebrated at the end of Ramadan fasting month, and sweets are made and distributed amongst family and friends

Eid-Al-Adha is celebrated in the month of Hajj, and sacrifices are made on this day. Meat is cooked and distributed amongst family and friends.

Both those days are considered auspicious for doing charity (Zakat and sadaqah)

Both those days are considered auspicious for spiritual enlightenment as well. Reading, learning and understanding verses from Quran, offering additional prayers apart from daily 5, helping others should be observed during these days.

Apart from these some other days are also recognized as important. These are:

1. Al-Hijra

This was the day when prophet started his journey from Mecca to Madina, and is recognized as the beginning of the Islamic New Year

2. Lailat Al-Miraj

This was the day when prophet was taken for a journey of heavens and this was also when Allah himself commanded 50 daily prayers for muslims, which were later reduced to 5 upon request.

This is the 27th day of Rajab month. It'd be fruitful if you can offer additional prayers on this day with no other intentions, but simply to please Allah .

3. Lailat Al Qadr

27 day of the month of Ramadan

This was the day when the first verses of Quran were sent to prophet.

This day is also glorified in Quran in various verses.

Quran chapter 97:

1. Lo! We revealed it on the Night of Predestination.
2. Ah, what will convey unto thee what the Night of Power is!
3. The Night of Power is better than a thousand months.
4. The angels and the Spirit descend therein, by the permission of their Lord, with all decrees.
5. Peace until the rising of the dawn.

Best way to celebrate this day is by reading, learning, understanding Quran yourself, and asking forgiveness from Allah.

“Whoever establishes the prayers on the night of Qadr out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah’s rewards then all his past sins will be forgiven.”

(Bukhari Vol 1, Book 2: 34)

99 Names of Allah

1. Ar-Rahmaan

The Beneficent

He who wills goodness and mercy for all His creatures

2. Ar-Raheem

The Merciful

He who acts with extreme kindness

3. Al-Malik

The Eternal Lord

The Sovereign Lord, The One with the complete Dominion, the One Whose Dominion is clear from imperfection

4. Al-Quddus

The Most Sacred

The One who is pure from any imperfection and clear from children and adversaries

5. As-Salam

The Embodiment of Peace

The One who is free from every imperfection.

6. Al-Mu'min

The Infuser of Faith

The One who witnessed for Himself that no one is God but Him. And He witnessed for His believers that they are truthful in their belief that no one is

God but Him

7. Al-Muhaymin

The Preserver of Safety

The One who witnesses the saying and deeds of His creatures

8. Al-Aziz

The Mighty One

The Strong, The Defeater who is not defeated

9. Al-Jabbar

The Omnipotent One

The One that nothing happens in His Dominion except that which He willed

10. Al-Mutakabbir

The Dominant One

The One who is clear from the attributes of the creatures and from resembling them.

11. Al-Khaaliq

The Creator

The One who brings everything from non-existence to existence

12. Al-Baari

The Evolver

The Maker, The Creator who has the Power to turn the entities.

13. Al-Musawwir

The Flawless Shaper

The One who forms His creatures in different pictures.

14. Al-Ghaffaar

The Great Forgiver

The Forgiver, The One who forgives the sins of His slaves time and time again.

15. Al-Qahhaar

The All-Prevailing One

The Dominant, The One who has the perfect Power and is not unable over anything.

16. Al-Wahhab

The Supreme Bestower

The One who is Generous in giving plenty without any return. He is everything that benefits whether Halal or Haram.

17. Ar-Razzaq

The Total Provider

The Sustainer, The Provider.

18. Al-Fattah

The Supreme Solver

The Opener, The Reliever, The Judge, The One who opens for His slaves the closed worldly and religious matters.

19. Al-Alim

The All-Knowing One

The Knowledgeable; The One nothing is absent from His knowledge

20. Al-Qaabid

The Restricting One

The Constrictor, The Withholder, The One who constricts the sustenance by His wisdom and expands and widens it with His Generosity and Mercy.

21. Al-Baasit

The Extender

The Englarger, The One who constricts the sustenance by His wisdom and expands and widens it with His Generosity and Mercy.

22. Al-Khaafid

The Reducer

The Abaser, The One who lowers whoever He willed by His Destruction and raises whoever He willed by His Endowment.

23. Ar-Rafi

The Elevating One

The Exalter, The Elevator, The One who lowers whoever He willed by His Destruction and raises whoever He willed by His Endowment.

24. Al-Mu'izz

The Honourer-Bestower

He gives esteem to whoever He willed, hence there is no one to degrade Him; And He degrades whoever He willed, hence there is no one to give Him esteem.

25. Al-Muzil

The Abaser

The Dishonourer, The Humiliator, He gives esteem to whoever He willed, hence there is no one to degrade Him; And He degrades whoever He willed, hence there

is no one to give Him esteem.

26. As-Sami'

The All-Hearer

The Hearer, The One who Hears all things that are heard by His Eternal Hearing without an ear, instrument or organ.

27. Al-Baseer

The All-Seeing

The All-Noticing, The One who Sees all things that are seen by His Eternal Seeing without a pupil or any other instrument.

28. Al-Hakam

The Impartial Judge

The Judge, He is the Ruler and His judgment is His Word.

29. Al-Adl

The Embodiment of Justice

The Just, The One who is entitled to do what He does.

30. Al-Lateef

The Knower of Subtleties

The Subtle One, The Gracious, The One who is kind to His slaves and endows upon them.

31. Al-Khabeer

The All-Aware One

The One who knows the truth of things.

32. Al-Haleem

The Clement One

The Forebearing, The One who delays the punishment for those who deserve it and then He might forgive them.

33. Al-Azeem

The Magnificent One

The Great One, The Mighty, The One deserving the attributes of Exaltment, Glory, Extolment, and Purity from all imperfection.

34. Al-Ghafoor

The Great Forgiver

The All-Forgiving, The Forgiving, The One who forgives a lot.

35. Ash-Shakoor

The Acknowledging One

The Grateful, The Appreciative, The One who gives a lot of reward for a little obedience.

36. Al-Aliyy

The Sublime One

The Most High, The One who is clear from the attributes of the creatures.

37. Al-Kabeer

The Great One

The Most Great, The Great, The One who is greater than everything in status.

38. Al-Hafiz

The Guarding One

The Preserver, The Protector, The One who protects whatever and whoever He willed to protect.

39. Al-Muqet

The Sustaining One

The Maintainer, The Guardian, The Feeder, The One who has the Power.

40. Al-Haseeb

The Reckoning One

The Reckoner, The One who gives the satisfaction.

41. Al-Jaleel

The Majestic One

The Sublime One, The Beneficent, The One who is attributed with greatness of Power and Glory of status.

42. Al-Kareem

The Bountiful One

The Generous One, The Gracious, The One who is attributed with greatness of Power and Glory of status.

43. Ar-Raqeeb

The Watchful One

The Watcher, The One that nothing is absent from Him. Hence it's meaning is related to the attribute of Knowledge.

44. Al-Mujeeb

The Responding One

The Responsive, The Harkener, The One who answers the one in need if he asks Him and rescues the yearner if he calls upon Him.

45. Al-Waasi

The All-Pervading One

The Vast, The All-Embracing, The Knowledgeable.

46. Al-Hakeem

The Wise One

The Wise, The Judge of Judges, The One who is correct in His doings.

47. Al-Wadud

The Loving One

The One who loves His believing slaves and His believing slaves love Him. His love to His slaves is His Will to be merciful to them and praise them

48. Al-Majeed

The Glorious One

The Most Glorious One, The One who is with perfect Power, High Status, Compassion, Generosity and Kindness.

49. Al-Ba'ith

The Infuser of New Life

The Resurrector, The Raiser (from death), The One who resurrects His slaves after death for reward and/or punishment.

50. Ash-Shaheed

The All Observing Witness

The Witness, The One who nothing is absent from Him.

51. Al-Haqq

The Embodiment of Truth

The Truth, The True, The One who truly exists.

52. Al-Wakeel

The Universal Trustee

The Trustee, The One who gives the satisfaction and is relied upon.

53. Al-Qawwiyy

The Strong One

The Most Strong, The Strong, The One with the complete Power

54. Al-Mateen

The Firm One

The One with extreme Power which is un-interrupted and He does not get tired.

55. Al-Waliyy

The Protecting Associate

The Protecting Friend, The Supporter.

56. Al-Hameed

The Sole-Laudable One

The Praiseworthy, The praised One who deserves to be praised.

57. Al-Muhsee

The All-Enumerating One

The Counter, The Reckoner, The One who the count of things are known to him.

58. Al-Mubdi

The Originator

The One who started the human being. That is, He created him.

59. Al-Mueed

The Restorer

The Reproducer, The One who brings back the creatures after death

60. Al-Muhyi

The Maintainer of life

The Restorer, The Giver of Life, The One who took out a living human from semen that does not have a soul. He gives life by giving the souls back to the

worn out bodies on the resurrection day and He makes the hearts alive by the light of knowledge.

61. Al-Mumeet

The Inflictor of Death

The Creator of Death, The Destroyer, The One who renders the living dead.

62. Al-Hayy

The Eternally Living One

The Alive, The One attributed with a life that is unlike our life and is not that of a combination of soul, flesh or blood.

63. Al-Qayyoom

The Self-Subsisting One

The One who remains and does not end.

64. Al-Waajid

The Pointing One

The Perceiver, The Finder, The Rich who is never poor. Al-Wajd is Richness.

65. Al-Maajid

The All-Noble One

The Glorious, He who is Most Glorious.

66. Al-Waahid

The Only One

The Unique, The One, The One without a partner

67. Al-Ahad

The Sole One

The One

68. As-Samad

The Supreme Provider

The Eternal, The Independent, The Master who is relied upon in matters and reverted to in ones needs.

69. Al-Qadir

The Omnipotent One

The Able, The Capable, The One attributed with Power.

70. Al-Muqtadir

The All Authoritative One

The Powerful, The Dominant, The One with the perfect Power that nothing is withheld from Him.

71. Al-Muqaddim

The Expediting One

The Expediter, The Promoter, The One who puts things in their right places. He makes ahead what He wills and delays what He wills.

72. Al-Mu'akhhir

The Procrastinator

The Delayer, the Retarder, The One who puts things in their right places. He makes ahead what He wills and delays what He wills.

73. Al-Awwal

The Very First

The First, The One whose Existence is without a beginning.

74. Al-Akhir

The Infinite Last One

The Last, The One whose Existence is without an end.

75. Az-Zaahir

The Perceptible

The Manifest, The One that nothing is above Him and nothing is underneath Him, hence He exists without a place. He, The Exalted, His Existence is obvious

by proofs and He is clear from the delusions of attributes of bodies.

76. Al-Baatin

The Imperceptible

The Hidden, The One that nothing is above Him and nothing is underneath Him, hence He exists without a place. He, The Exalted, His Existence is obvious

by proofs and He is clear from the delusions of attributes of bodies.

77. Al-Waali

The Holder of Supreme Authority

The Governor, The One who owns things and manages them.

78. Al-Mutaali

The Extremely Exalted One

The Most Exalted, The High Exalted, The One who is clear from the attributes of the creation.

79. Al-Barr

The Fountain-Head of Truth

The Source of All Goodness, The Righteous, The One who is kind to His creatures, who covered them with His sustenance and specified whoever He willed among

them by His support, protection, and special mercy.

80. Al-Tawwaab

The Ever-Acceptor of Repentance

The Relenting, The One who grants repentance to whoever He willed among His creatures and accepts his repentance.

81. Al-Muntaqim

The Retaliator

The Avenger, The One who victoriously prevails over His enemies and punishes them for their sins. It may mean the One who destroys them.

82. Al-Afuww

The Supreme Pardoner

The Forgiver, The One with wide forgiveness.

83. Ar-Ra'oof

The Benign One

The Compassionate, The One with extreme Mercy. The Mercy of Allah is His will to endow upon whoever He willed among His creatures.

84. Maalik-ul-Mulk

The Eternal Possessor of Sovereignty

The One who controls the Dominion and gives dominion to whoever He willed.

85. Zul-Jalaali-wal-Ikram

The Possessor of Majesty and Honour

The Lord of Majesty and Bounty, The One who deserves to be Exalted and not denied.

86. Al-Muqsit

The Just One

The Equitable, The One who is Just in His judgment.

87. Al-Jaami'

The Assembler of Scattered Creations

The Gatherer, The One who gathers the creatures on a day that there is no doubt about, that is the Day of Judgment.

88. Al-Ghaniyy

The Self-Sufficient One

The One who does not need the creation.

89.Al-Mughni

The Bestower of Sufficiency

The Enricher, The One who satisfies the necessities of the creatures.

90.Al-Maani'

The Preventer

The Withholder.

91.Ad-Daarr

The Distressor

The One who makes harm reach to whoever He willed and benefit to whoever He willed.

92.An-Naafi'

The Bestower of Benefits

The Propitious, The One who makes harm reach to whoever He willed and benefit to whoever He willed.

93.An-Noor

The Prime Light

The Light, The One who guides.

94.Al-Haadi

The Provider of Guidance

The Guide, The One whom with His Guidance His believers were guided, and with His Guidance the living beings have been guided to what is beneficial for them and protected from what is harmful to them.

95.Al-Badi'

The Unique One

The Incomparable, The One who created the creation and formed it without any preceding example.

96.Al-Baaqi

The Ever Surviving One

The Everlasting, The One that the state of non-existence is impossible for Him.

97.Al-Waaris

The Eternal Inheritor

The Heir, The One whose Existence remains.

98.Ar-Rasheed

The Guide to Path of Rectitude

The Guide to the Right Path, The One who guides.

99.As-Saboor

The Extensively Enduring One

The Patient, The One who does not quickly punish the sinners...

Allah hu Akbar Allah

I bow down to the one true GOD, who is known by many names,

is Al-Awwa and Al-Akhir and Al-Ghaniyy,

and he is As-Shakoor, and Al-Wahab,

and I am the slave of Al-Malik who is Ar-Rehmaan and Ar-Raheem

Names of prophets mentioned in Quran

1. Adam as (Adam)
2. Idris as (Enoch)
3. Noah as (Nuh)
4. Hud as (Hud)
5. Shaleh as (Saleh)
6. Ibrahim as (Abraham)
7. Lut as (Lot)
8. Ismail as (Ishmael)
9. Ishaq as (Issac)
10. Yaqub as (Jacob)
11. Yusuf as (Joseph)
12. Ayyub as (Job)

13. Shu'aib as (Jethro)

14. Musa as (Moses)

15. Harun as (Aaron)

16. Dzulkifli as (Ezekiel) ??

17. Dawud as (David)

18. Sulaiman as (Soloman)

19. Ilyas as (Elijah)

20. Alyas'a as (Elisha)

21. Yunus as (Jonah)

22. Zakaria as (Zachariah)

23. Yahya as (John)

24. Isa as (Jesus)

25. Muhammad saw

I thank all these prophets, who brought the message of the one true GOD, and blessed mankind.

In the next section of this book we will read the history of Islam, which includes the story of most of these prophets, including story of prophet Mohammad, prophet Ibrahim, prophet Ismail, prophet Ishaq, prophet Musa, and prophet Isa.

History of Islam

History of Islam starts at the first man on earth, Adam. Even prophet Mohammad never claimed that he is bringing a new religion on earth. He always said that he is simply bringing back the religion of Adam, the religion of Ibrahim, the religion of one true GOD.

Ibrahim, when he was 86 years old, was called out by GOD. When he came out, he was asked to look at the sky and count the stars. As he looked up, he heard a voice saying:

And these many will be your seed.

Ibrahim told about this incident to his wife, who was 76 years old at that time, and was way past beyond the age of bearing a child.

So she gave her maid Hagar to Ibrahim, with whom Ibrahim had a child later. The child was named Ismail, upon command from GOD.

After the birth of the child, Ibrahim's wife told Ibrahim to send away Hagar from their house. Ibrahim loved the child very much and was extremely reluctant upon this request from his wife.

But GOD asked him to do as his wife has asked, and not to worry about the well being of the child. As a result Hagar was sent away.

She reached a place called Mecca, which was a narrow valley.

Both she and her infant child were thirsty, but there was no sign of water anywhere. She placed the child on the ground, and climbed up on a small cliff, trying to look for some help.

As she could not see any, she moved towards another point and looked for help in that direction. But all in vain. She returned back to the previous point and tried again in the previous direction. This process kept on going for a while.

Without realizing, Hagar has walked between these 2 points 7 times. Out of tiredness and thirst, she sat on a rock, and it was this when she heard a loud voice:

Do not worry. GOD has heard the cries of your child.

Arise and hold your child up, for I will make a nation for him.

She looked towards her child, who was crying loudly, and she saw a spring of water emerging out of sand.

She drank from it, and her child drank from it.

This spring of water was later known as the well of Zamzam, the well inside Kabaah.

The two points on the cliff, between which she walked 7 times are known as the cliffs of Safa and Marwah, between which pilgrims of Hajj walk even today.

Back at home Ibrahim's wife also gave birth to a boy child. He was named Ishaq.

Commanded by GOD, Ibrahim came to visit Hagar and his son Ismail.

It was here when he and his son Ismail constructed Kabaah, as per the instructions by GOD.

Its name, Kabaah, comes from the Arabic word for cube, as does its shape. The four corners of Kabaah point in the four directions of the compass. Please remember, there were no compasses at that time.

In the eastern corner of Kabaah is placed a celestial stone, known as the black stone. Its believed that an angel brought it from a nearby mountain called Abu Kubez, where it was preserved since it came upon earth.

Its also believed that when it came upon earth, the stone was whiter than white, but the sins of mankind turned it black.

Now you know the importance of the pilgrimidge of Hajj, drinking from the Zamzam well, walking between the cliff points, touching the black stone while going around Kabaah!

As the tribe of Ismail grew, people started to live in far away places. It became difficult to visit Kabaah regularly. So they took stones from Mecca, as a remembrance. Eventually, idols started getting carved out of those stones. Travellers could now carry their "GOD" with them whenever on journey. Small and large idols started getting made for keeping in houses. Everytime someone goes out of the house, or returns back, they would touch the idol and ask for blessings. It is reported that about 360 different idols were placed inside Kabaah and worshipped, by the time prophet Mohammad was born.

At this time, the society of Mecca too had divided opinions about worshipping idols. Mecca was a place which fell on a trade route. Traders and travellers from various tribes travelled on the path, and rested in Mecca. They brought gifts and donations along with them as offerings to the holy Kabaah.

The tribe of Kureshe, which had the responsibility of taking care of Kabaah did not want to offend their rich visitors. This was why they wanted to have idols within Kabaah. But a small orthodox group was against this. Being small and powerless, the group slowly became an outcaste in the society of Mecca.

Although not a very strong one, but a belief existed around Mecca and in Israel that a prophet is soon to come on earth.

Grandfather of prophet Mohammad, Abu Mutalib, who was from Kureshe, was not fond of idols in Kabaah, but the rest of the senior tribesmen ignored his opinion on this matter.

He got one of his son, Abdul, married to Amina, and an year later she was pregnant. It was during this time when Abdul decided to take a journey, unaware that this would be his last journey. He fell sick during his journey, and passed away.

After a short while, Amina gave birth to a boy child. He was named Mohammad Abdulla. It is reported that the boy had a black mole on his back, between, or almost between his shoulders. The seal of prophethood!

In those days, there was a tradition that all infants were to be sent to desert for a short while. The belief being that desert is a pure place, and the air is good for infants, and that it provides them resistance and protection from early childhood diseases, and prepares them for a tough desert life.

Child Mohammad Abdulla was no exception. He too was adopted by a tribes woman named Halima, who took care of him for the next 2 years, and is known as the mother who breast fed child Mohammad.

After 2 years have passed away, she returned to Mecca and requested mother of child Mohammad, Amina, to allow her to take care of child Mohammad for a few more years. She did not want to leave child Mohammad. After some persuasion, Amina agreed.

Halima also had a son of her own. One day the two boys were playing in the desert, when Halima's own son came running to his parents, and screamed:

Two men dressed in white have caught Mohammad, and have split open his chest. They are searching for something inside his chest with their hands.

Upon hearing this, both Halima and her husband ran towards the place where the two boys were playing. There they found child Mohammad lying on the ground, slightly pale, but with no marks of any blood or scars on his chest. The only mark on his body was the mole on his back, close to between his shoulders, but that has been there since his birth, they thought...

Scared by this incident, they took child Mohammad back to his mother and asked her to take him back. Amina surprised, asked her the reason. Just a few months back Halima was persuading her to allow child Mohammad to stay with her, and today she is returning him. Amina wanted to know the reason. As Halima told her the reason, Amina agreed to take back her child.

Years later, prophet Mohammad recalled the incident and described it as:

Me and my foster brother were playing. Just then 2 men approached us. They were dressed in clothes whiter than white. Their hairs and beard blacker than black.

They took me and placed me on the ground, and then they split open my chest. They washed my heart with snow like material they had brought with them. I saw them wash off a black spot from my heart.

When child Mohammad was 6 years old, his mother Amina fell sick and she too passed away. Child Mohammad was adopted by his grandfather, Abu Mutalib, who loved him just as he loved his son, Abdulla, father of child Mohammad. A few years later, he too passed away, and custody of child Mohammad was given to his uncle, Abu Talib, another son of Abu Mutalib, and brother of child Mohammad's father.

Its said that he was so deeply loved by his uncle and his uncle's wife, that they can let their own children sleep hungry, but not child Mohammad. Abu Talib too was a trader, and he would take child Mohammad along with him on his journey.

It was on one such journey that they met a monk, who was shocked as soon as he looked at child Mohammad. He asked Abu Talib:

Who is this child?

Abu Talib replied, he is my son.

The monk said, that cannot be true. According to me his father is not in this world.

Abu Talib replied, yes that is true. He is the son my brother. Both his parents have passed away, and I and my wife are taking care of him.

The monk asked child Mohammad to show him his back. Child Mohammad took off the cloak he wore, and the monk's face glowed with joy when he saw the mole on the back of the child, close to between his shoulders. The seal of prophethood!

He said to Abu Talib, take care of this boy, for GOD has a lot decided for this boy. Hide him from the tribe of Israel, for if they know what I know, then this boy will get in danger.

Child Mohammad grew up to be a honest trader, like his uncle. His honesty was praised in the entire tribe of Mecca.

People would hand over their products to him without hesitation, for they knew he is truthful, honest. He is AlAmeen, the just one, the true one!

His popularity was also known by a lady of the tribe, Khadija. She was a 2 time widow. After the death of her second husband, she was making her livelihood by providing products to traders, who sold those products for a profit while on their trade journey.

Aware of the honesty of trader Mohammad, she asked her servant to go and ask Mohammad to come and meet her.

When trader Mohammad came, she was caught up by the glow of his face, the bright shine of his eyes. She handed some of the products she has made and asked him to sell those the next time when he goes on his trade journey. Trader Mohammad agreed.

After returning from his journey, trader Mohammad went to the house of lady Khadija, and handed her a handsome profit. Much better profits than she has ever made. Lady Khadija was delighted!

After only a short while after this incident, she sent her servant again to trader Mohammad, but this time with an indirect marriage proposal.

Trader Mohammad, although 25 years old, and 15 years younger than lady Khadija, agreed for the marriage. They both got married, and in the coming years became parents of beautiful girls.

For the next few years, their life went ahead as usual. Each year, in the month of Ramadan, trader Mohammad would go into solitude, up into a cave in a nearby mountain.

While researching for this book I came across articles where its said that the month of Ramadan is recognized as holy by not just Muslims, but also by Christians and Jews. The name is different of course, but the belief is the same. Its said that prophet Musa (Moses) also recieved his revelations from GOD in this time period itself.

This time period of the year has been considered holy since the time of Ibrahim (Abraham)

By the way, hindus also consider an entire month holy, which is known as "the month of Savan", and its duration is also pretty much during this time period only.

There is a spiritual aura around this time period in almost all religions of the world.

Now you know why its important to perform spiritual fastings during this time period of the year. The time of Ramadan!

On a day in this month, when trader Mohammad was in solitude in a cave, it was then when he suddenly heard a voice saying:

Recite!

Trader Mohammad replied, I don't know what to recite.

The voice said again, Recite!

Trader Mohammad replied again, I don't know what to recite.

Trader Mohammad heard the voice again, but this time as if someone is holding him very tightly, and the voice said loudly: Recite!

Trader Mohammad, struggling and grasping for air replied, I don't know what to recite.

It was then when he heard the very first verses of what will be later known as Quran.

The verses were of chapter 96 of Quran:

1. Read: In the name of thy Lord Who createth,
2. Createth man from a clot.
3. Read: And thy Lord is the Most Bounteous,
4. Who teacheth by the pen,
5. Teacheth man that which he knew not.
6. Nay, but verily man is rebellious
7. That he thinketh himself independent!
8. Lo! unto thy Lord is the return.
9. Hast thou seen him who dissuadeth
10. A slave when he prayeth?
11. Hast thou seen if he relieth on the guidance
12. Or enjoineeth piety?
13. Hast thou seen if he denieth and is froward?
14. Is he then unaware that Allah seeth?
15. Nay, but if he cease not We will seize him by the forelock -
16. The lying, sinful forelock -
17. Then let him call upon his henchmen!
18. We will call the guards of hell.
19. Nay, Obey not thou him. But prostrate thyself, and draw near.

These words stuck in the mind of trader Mohammad, but scared from the experience, and almost squeezed out of his life, he ran out of the cave. As he ran down the slope of the mountain, about half way he heard the same loud voice again:

O Mohammad, I am angel Jibril (Gabriel), and you are the messenger of GOD, who GOD has sent on this earth to deliver his message to the people of this world.

As trader looked up in the direction of the voice, he saw a large angel covering entire horizon from North to South, from East to West. For a while he was mesmerized, but soon ran down the slope and straight to his home. Upon reaching his house he went to his bed, and in a dim voice said:

Cover me, cover me Khadija, cover me.

Something is happening to me, cover me...

Imagine the condition of lady Khadija at that time. She has already lost her husband twice, and now "prophet" Mohammad, her third husband, is also in a bad condition. His heart is throbbing badly, he is sweating, shivering, scared.

She covered him, took care of him, and she sat beside him all that time.

Once prophet Mohammad felt a little normal, she asked him what happened. Prophet told her everything. She immediately took him to her cousin Waraqa, who is old and blind now. He had accepted Christianity and was aware of incidents from the life of prophet Isa (Jesus), and about the angels who brought him messages.

He immediately recognized that this is the same angel, and that Mohammad is a prophet, a messenger of GOD. He told everything he knew to prophet Mohammad, which relaxed prophet a little bit.

At least its not something bad that is happening to him. Its not a jin, its really an angel.

After this incident, for the next six months, prophet had no contact with the angel, and also did not receive any revelations. He kept thinking, what am I supposed to do with these few lines. Did I offend the angel? Has GOD forsaken me?

And then one day, angel Gabriel came upon the prophet once again.

The verses revealed were of chapter 93:

1. By the morning hours
2. And by the night when it is stillest,
3. Thy Lord hath not forsaken thee nor doth He hate thee,
4. And verily the latter portion will be better for thee than the former,
5. And verily thy Lord will give unto thee so that thou wilt be content.
6. Did He not find thee an orphan and protect ?
7. Did He not find thee wandering and direct ?
8. Did He not find thee destitute and enrich ?
9. Therefor the orphan oppress not,
10. Therefor the beggar drive not away,
11. Therefor of the bounty of thy Lord be thy discourse.

At this point, its important to tell you that Quran has 2 types of verses.

1. Verses that came directly as a revelation
2. Verses that came as an answer to a question

Both the verses are word of Allah, but verses that came as an answer could be or could "not" be specific to time, individual, or community. For example, verses related to slavery were time specific. You don't have slaves now, do you?

If you are ever in doubt, talk to a learned follower of Islam, and Allah shall guide you.

The revelations themselves were revealed in 2 different ways to the prophet.

1. The angel came upon the prophet, and he heard the revelation in a loud voice which resembled ringing of a large bell

2. The angel came to the prophet in a human like form and revealed the verse to him like 2 humans normally talk.

The first one was very hard upon the prophet.

Narrated Aisha: Al Harith bin Hisham asked the Prophet, "How does the divine inspiration come to you?"

Prophet replied,

"In all these ways:

The Angel sometimes comes to me with a voice which resembles the sound of a ringing bell, and when this state abandons me, I remember what the Angel has said, and this type of Divine Inspiration is the hardest on me.

and sometimes the Angel comes to me in the shape of a man and talks to me, and I understand and remember what he says."

[Sahih al-Bukhari:3215]

After these verses were revealed to the prophet, angel Gabriel also showed the prophet the method of washing before prayers, and the method of offering a prayer to GOD.

Prophet saw the method and then repeated it as he saw it. He then went home and taught the method to his wife Khadija, and both of them prayed together.

He also revealed the method to his close friend Abu Bakar, and his cousins. They all accepted Islam and started learning the verses that the angel had brought.

These were amongst the first followers of Islam after prophet Mohammad started preaching Islam.

Soon after this many more people started following prophet Mohammad into Islam.

In the beginning, Kureshe, the care takers of Kabah, did not react to what prophet was preaching. But soon they realised that what prophet Mohammad is preaching is against their customs and traditions.

Prophet Mohammad was preaching oneness of one true GOD. He preached not to worship idols. He preached not to invent partners to GOD.

Like already mentioned, Kureshe were known for their hospitality amongst other Arabic tribes. Hospitality not just in lavish food, water, trade, but also in terms of welcoming "idols of lords" brought in by various travellers.

Kureshe feared that this time when traders will come in, they will see a Kabah which does not approve of their lords and idols of their lords. This will be seen as an insult, and soon Mecca might get abandoned by these traders. Traders, who are a source of wealth. Wealth, which is a source of power. Power, which is a source of dominance.

Because of the fear of Abu Talib, uncle of prophet Mohammad, who is a rich and respected member of Kureshe, Kureshe cannot directly stop prophet. So they came up with a plan.

This time when traders will come in, men appointed by Kureshe will warn those traders against prophet Mohammad, for they knew how winning and pleasant prophet is. They did exactly this.

Men were made to stand outside the gates of the city, and as traders started coming in, these men would warn and scare those traders and would ask them to stay away from "the magician Mohammad."

One such trader even stuffed his ears with cotton so that words of prophet Mohammad will not fall on his ears. As he entered Kabah, he saw prophet Mohammad getting ready for his prayers inside Kabah. At first he thought of returning and coming later. But then he thought to himself:

I'm a learned man of reasoning. I'm not a child who just a few words can command. So what if he says something. If I feel that its not worthy of listening, I'll move away.

As prophet started praying, and started reciting verses of Quran, this trader started getting more and more attracted towards what the prophet was saying. He pulled out the stuffed cotton from his ears and went close to the prophet. After the prayer when prophet left, he followed prophet to his house. There he asked him about what the prophet was reciting. Prophet Mohammad told him everything.

This trader thanked prophet Mohammad for all the information, and when he returned back to his tribe, he sang verses of Quran he had learned. A lot of his tribesmen accepted Islam, but for those who did not, the trader got angry at them. He returned back to Mecca and asked prophet to put a curse upon those disbelievers.

Prophet, instead, prayed for forgiveness and prayed so that those disbelievers can have better understanding, and can be from amongst the blessed ones!

Another incident which shows how humble prophet Mohammad was, is of the time when one of his uncle, Abu Hamza accepted Islam.

One day prophet Mohammad sat out side Kabah, when grandson of a Kureshe leader came along. His name was Abu Jaal. Upon seeing prophet Mohammad, he stirred out as much abuse as he could have. Prophet heard everything, but did not even say a single word. Not even a single one. He simply stood up and went towards his home.

Soon after this his uncle Abu Hamza returned from hunting, who had his bow on his shoulder, he was a strongly built man, with a large frame. Before going back to his house, he came to Kabah to pay his

respects. A lady from a nearby house saw him and called him. She told him all about the incident that has just happened. She told him how Abu Jaal had insulted his brother's son Mohammad, and also told him how prophet Mohammad did not even respond to the abuse.

Abu Hamza, furious upon hearing this, asked the lady where Abu Jal was. The lady pointed at the mosque.

Prophet's uncle entered the mosque and went straight towards Abu Jaal. He struck Abu Jaal with his bow, and shouted loudly:

Now I'm one of the Muslims. Next time you want to bash out at Mohammad, consider coming to me first.

Imagine the harshness of those words that Abu Jaal would have said to prophet Mohammad. Words upon hearing which prophet's uncle got so furious. Words that were not even able to shake prophet Mohammad even a little bit... This was the humbleness of prophet Mohammad!

After this time, for a short while, a lot of people reverted to Islam. And this kept growing the resentment amongst Kureshe.

People of Mecca have now started torturing their slaves, in an attempt to make them denounce Islam.

Some slaves were pinned down on the ground, in hot sun, with heavy rocks placed on their chest and stomach. They were kept in this position until sunset, or until they denounced Islam, or until they died.

Some others were brutally beaten. "Summaya" was the first lady who lost her life for Islam. She was brutally beaten in public, tortured, and killed.

After this incident, a lot of the followers of Islam were sent to king of Abasania by prophet Mohammad himself, where they found shelter for themselves, and a peaceful living.

Back in Mecca however, a couple of incidents made things even harder for prophet. In 619 AD, his beloved wife Khadija passed away, soon to be followed by his uncle Abu Talib. Two of his most loving companions have gone.

Incidents that followed after this were nothing less than a living horror. Rarely did a day pass by when someone or the other did not insult the prophet in one way or other. There was a time when he was praying, and someone threw left overs of a sheep intestines on him, all covered with blood and filth. Another time someone threw a handful of dirt on him. Prophet did not respond to such insults, but all such incidents broke the hearts of his loved ones.

One night, prophet went to the mosque to pray. After his prayers he sat there for a while, and gradually fell asleep.

He was woken up by the angel Gabriel, who took him out of the mosque. Outside the mosque stood an angel horse, slightly smaller than a full horse, but larger than a mule. The angel horse had large wings. Gabriel asked prophet to sit on it. As prophet sat on it, the angel horse galloped at a speed faster than wind.

The horse angel first took him to the temple of Jerusalem, where he met a family of prophets, Ibrahim, Musa, Jesus and more. They all prayed there and then the horse angel took him towards stars. After crossing the domain of stars, the horse angel stood at a door.

And angel Gabriel knocked on the door. Who is it, said a voice from inside.

Its Gabriel, along with Mohammad, replied Gabriel.

Has he been given the mission, asked the voice again.

And Gabriel replied with a yes.

Upon this, the door opened. This was the first heaven.

Here Gabriel introduced prophet to prophet Adam, who was in his angelic form.

Prophet said: As-salamu allaykum warah matullah

And Adam replied with: Wa allaykum Salam

(English meaning: Peace and mercy of Allah be upon you)

After this Gabriel took prophet to the second heaven, where he met Jesus and John (Isa and Yahya)

Then to the third heaven where he met prophet Joseph (Yusuf), who prophet described as if Joseph was given half the beauty of the world!

In the fourth heaven prophet met with prophet Aaron (Harun)

And in the sixth prophet Mohammad met with prophet Musa (Moses)

Prophet Musa told him:

You are given a great responsibility in such a young age, but you'll have a larger group of followers than mine!

They both greeted each other, and then prophet was taken to the seventh heaven, where he met prophet Ibrahim (Abraham)

Remember it was prophet Ibrahim who actually constructed Kabah along with his two sons Ismail and Ishaq, who are also both prophets.

He was kneeling before al-Bayt al-Mamoor, the house of angels, equivalent of Kabah in heavens.

Prophet said that house of angels is visited by a new group of 70,000 angels everyday. And how long this has been going on, nobody knows.

Wait for a second here, and think of the Might of GOD!

After this Gabriel took the prophet to the tree from which all knowledge flows, beyond which is the Al-Kursi, the Throne of Allah!

Here he heard a voice, the voice of Allah, which commanded an offering of 50 daily prayers from Muslims.

After bowing down to GOD, who is

Al-Wahab, the Al-Akhir, Al-Ghaniyy, the Al-Malik, the Ar-Rehmaan, the Ar-Raheem, Allahu Akbar prophet started his journey back to earth.

As he passed the 6th heaven, prophet Musa stopped him and asked him what Allah has commanded for Muslims. Prophet Mohammad told him that Allah has commanded 50 daily prayers from Muslims.

Prophet Musa said, I have seen the people of earth. They are weak. They will not be able to offer 50 daily prayers. Return back to Allah and request him to reduce the number of prayers.

Prophet Mohammad returned to Allah, and made the request. Allah reduced 5 prayers from out of 50, and commanded a total of 45 daily prayers.

On his way back, prophet Mohammad again met prophet Musa, who asked prophet Mohammad to return again, and to request more grant from Allah.

This process kept going on for a while, until Allah reduced the total number of prayers to just 5. But also said that whoever will offer daily 5 prayers, will be blessed with the rewards of 50 daily prayers offered!

When prophet Mohammad passed by prophet Musa this time, prophet Musa again asked prophet Mohammad to return and to request further grant from Allah. This time however, prophet Mohammad replied,

I am too embarrassed to return back now...

And prophet Mohammad continued his journey back to earth.

How right was prophet Musa in his understanding of men of earth...

How many Muslims do we know who offer 5 daily prayers? 5 daily Salat...

And this is when prophet himself told us:

"Whoever forgets a prayer, let him offer it as soon as he remembers, for there is no expiation for it other than that."

You missed a prayer, you forgot a prayer, do it now. Right now. Don't look at the face of a clock to offer a prayer.

Do your duty, and leave the rest for Allah.

Allah is all-wise, all-knowing, all-forgiving, all-merciful!

But you do your part with utmost sincerity. That's all he wants from you!

Now you've seen the importance of 5 daily offerings of prayers. You also know that this is the only command for which prophet was himself lifted to heavens, and was brought before GOD.

And the command itself was given by GOD himself!

The next day prophet revealed what he saw last night before his followers. They were delighted. Thee news also reached Kureshe. They too were filled with joy, but not for the reasons believers were filled with joy.

Kureshe were happy because they have finally found something that would once and for all prove that prophet Mohammad was telling a lie.

They gathered everyone, and called for prophet Mohammad also.

When prophet came, they asked him about what happened last night. Prophet repeated the entire incident.

Abu Jaal from Kureshe pointed at him and said:

Look there is a man who is telling you a lie.

Abu Jaal from Kureshe asked the people, How many days does it take to reach Jerusalem?

People replied, one month

Abu Jaal said:

And yet this man says that he has been to Jerusalem in a night and returned.

He then looked at the prophet and asked him:

Do you have any proof that you were in Jerusalem last night?

Prophet replied:

Yes. On my way back from Jerusalem, I came across a group of traders, one of whom had lost his way, and I told him the right direction.

That group of traders shall reach Mecca within 7 days time.

Prophet also described what the group carried with them, how many men were in the group.

Upon hearing this, leaders of Kureshe said:

Ok, we will wait for 7 days, and if no traders reach here within that time, then punishment shall be yours.

Within the next 7 days, a group of traders reached Mecca, carrying the same products as prophet had described. There were the same number of men in the group as prophet had told them earlier.

One of the man even recognized the prophet and thanked him for guiding him in the right direction.

Soon after this incident, a lot of men accepted Islam. This raged Kureshe. Their tortures on people of Islam increased many folds.

One more thing happened during this time. News of a prophet having come to Mecca reached Madina. Madina at that time was divided into small tribes.

3 major tribes were that of Arab, and 2 were of Jews. And there were serious disputes amongst these tribes.

Hoping that a prophet can solve their problems, people from these tribes came to visit prophet Mohammad. They requested him to come to Madina, live with them, and help them. Prophet agreed. He then first sent his followers to Madina. Gradually entire city of Mecca started becoming vacant. Almost one third of the city got vacated in a short time.

This further raged Kureshe, and they called for a secret meeting. In this meeting they took the decision to kill prophet Mohammad.

Soon Gabriel came to prophet, and told him what he had to do next.

When prophet's best of the friend, Abu Bakar came to ask for prophet's permission so he too can leave for Madina, prophet said:

You shall wait, for you shall have a companion.

Abu Bakar immediately understood that prophet was talking about himself. He returned home and started feeding and preparing his 2 camels for the long journey.

Finally, the day came for when the murder was planned. Men chosen to kill prophet waited for him outside his house, but prophet had already left, without them knowing about it. Prophet had reached the house of Abu Bakar, from where both of them rode on camels towards a mountain range near Mecca. The mountain range had a lot of caves, and this would be a good hiding place for a while to escape from anyone who tries to follow them, thinking that they had left for Madina.

As expected, as soon as Kureshe found that prophet had escaped, they immediately announced a reward of 100 camels to anyone who could find prophet Mohammad. Horse men immediately took to every direction.

A small group of horse men also reached near the caves where prophet and Abu Bakar were hiding.

Early that morning, They were able to hear foot steps of men who were coming closer. Prophet and Abu Bakar, both were hiding deep in the cave. It was almost sure that they will be found. Its only a matter of minutes.

Those men came outside the cave, and prophet and Abu Bakar both heard these words:

How can anyone be inside this cave? This cave probably has not been used in months...

Both prophet and Abu Bakar were surprised because they have been hiding in this cave for the last 2-3 days. When the men left, they both came outside. To their surprise, they saw a thick spider web right on the entrance of the cave. It was so large that it had covered the mouth of the cave completely. Just last night they were both resting outside the cave, and there was nothing there... How did this thick spider web "appear" overnight, they thought.

They both thanked Allah, and after waiting for a while, they too left the place, and started their journey towards Madina.

Upon reaching Madina, they were greeted warmly, and everyone wanted prophet Mohammad to stay in their house. But prophet said, I will stay wherever Allah will want me to.

His camel kept walking through the entire area of Madina, and finally stopped at a place. Prophet got down and asked:

Who owns this place?

The place was owned by 2 orphan brothers. Prophet asked them to sell the place to him. They both replied:

You are a prophet. Its an honour for us that you have selected our land. How can we take money from you?

Upon this prophet said that he won't stay on this land until the 2 brothers take appropriate price of that land from the prophet. After some hesitation, the brothers agreed, and prophet bought the land from them.

He then constructed a mosque on that land. This is the mosque which is known as the mosque of Prophet Mohammad.

During your journey of Hajj, please find some time to visit this mosque as well.

This journey of prophet Mohammad from Mecca to Madina is called Hijra. The term meaning, journey from a difficult place to a place where peace can be found.

Soon Islam got established firmly in Madina, and people would gather around the place where the mosque was being constructed for daily 5 prayers.

However, people would judge the time using sun at that time, and opinions of various people differed. Some would come sooner, others came late and joined the prayers while others were in the middle of it.

So it was heard when a need arose for a "call to prayer"

After considering various methods, a decision was reached where a person with a loud voice will give out the call. He'd say:

Allahu Akbar (GOD is great)

(Repeated 4 times)

I bare witness that there is no GOD, but one true GOD

I bear witness that prophet is his messenger

(These repeated twice)

Come on to the prayer, come on to the salvation, for GOD is most great

There is no GOD but one true GOD

These are the same words you hear even today, said daily 5 times from a mosque near you.

The decision was reached upon based on a dream seen by 2 different people within Madina. They both saw the same dream, on the same night.

After a while, prophet was told in a dream to remarry. The girl the angels kept showing him as his wife was Aisha, daughter of Abu Bakar, his best of the friends.

Prophet was very hesitant about these dreams, but then he was told by angel that Aisha is the one who will accompany the prophet to heavens. Upon this he agreed and told Abu Bakar about it.

Abu Bakar agreed immediately without no hesitation at all, and so did Aisha. Since her early childhood, she has been seeing her parents paying a lot of respect to one man, and one man only, and that was the prophet.

At the time of her marriage, Aisha was 19 years old. She herself mentioned in Hadiths that she had been seeing prophet as her father's best friend since childhood, i.e. since the age of 5-6 years. Marriage of prophet to Aisha happened in the 13th year of Islam in Madina. Meaning at that time Aisha was 18-19 years old.

You might come across many stories and articles where you'll read that prophet married Aisha at the age of 6 or 9, and you might even hear it from Muslims, but this is mostly because of translation errors that happened while converting Hadiths from Arabic to English.

In this book, my attempt has been to bring only verified information before you, which is why I checked various sources and found that the age of Aisha at the time of her wedding with prophet was 19, and not 9 or 6 as you might read, or might have already read.

The primary source has been the Hadith of Bukhari, which I've used here in this book as well at various places as reference.

After this marriage, prophet also got married 9 more times, but Aisha was his only wife who was a virgin, neither a widow, nor a divorced woman. And she was the one who accompanied him to heavens.

Contributions of Aisha to Islam are no less than prophet himself, if not more.

A lot of what we know about the prophet is because of her. Because of things she got documented. Even in this book itself I have used references from documented narrations of Aisha herself.

Like the place where its mentioned how revelations came upon the prophet. Aisha was the one who had the courage to ask this question to the prophet, and none other.

Its because of her that we know that revelations came upon the prophet in 2 ways.

1. When the angel came directly upon him, and prophet would hear a heavy voice.
2. When the angel would appear in a human form and would talk to the prophet.

It was Aisha who started the first school for girls in Islam.

It was she who teached Islam to many even after prophet had left us physically.

Without her, our knowledge of Islam would be incomplete.

Although prophet had left Mecca, but Kureshe still saw him as a threat to their religion, and even to their tribe. Because of this growing hatred, they kept launching small attacks on travellers from Madina. Even kept stopping other Arabian tribes from going to Madina, sometimes with force, sometimes with threats, and some other times with gifts.

It was then that first revelations related to "who can fight" were revealed to the prophet.

Following this were battles, some small, some large, including the first battle of Islam, the battle of Badr. It was reported by both sides that armies of angels fought this battle alongside prophet Mohammad.

Angels who rode on horses. Horses whose hoofs did not touch ground. Horses whose flapping wings made a terrifying sound, like that of steel chains being dragged on stone.

Abu Jaal, one of the worst of the enemies of Islam perished in this battle.

When the news of a shameful defeat reached Mecca, Kureshe decided to organize an army larger than it has ever been organized by Arabs before.

It was not long when prophet recieved a letter from one of his uncle, who was still in Mecca, warning him of a large army, 3000 men strong, is moving towards Madina.

Although 3000 does not seem like a large number for today, but considering that armies of Islam were only about 300 men strong at that time, 3000 seemed like an unconquerable enemy.

At first a decision was made to stay inside Madina and to force the enemy to return from within the city walls. But later it was decided that armies of Islam would go out and fight the battle. Even after various attempts, only an army 1000 men strong was organized.

When armies were prepared to march, only prophet was the mounted warrior, who sat on a camel, with a spear in his hand, and his bow on his shoulder.

He did this to mark himself as the prime target of the enemy army. If you would have read Alexander the Great or Julius Caesar, then you would know that this was something they used to do. Julius wore a purple cloak to mark himself as the prime target of the enemy, and Alexander used to wear a red feather on his helmet to mark himself as the prime target.

Upon reaching the battlefield, one third of the armies of Islam fled in fear, and now prophet was left with just 700 men in the battlefield, against an army of 3000 strong.

In the beginning of the battle, even these 700 men proved to be a difficult battle to fight against, and enemies of Islam seemed to be going in retreat, even a rout. But then the archers prophet had placed to guard a point, and had been instructed not to leave the point, got indulged into looting the spoils of war. It was at this point that enemies of Islam returned and got the overhand.

Abu Hamza, the uncle of prophet who once had beaten up Abu Jaal for insulting prophet Mohammad lost his life in this battle. Prophet himself got injured, and fell down. Upon seeing the prophet fall, armies of Islam retreated, imagining the worst that prophet had been killed.

They retreated into a high point on a cliff and enemies of Islam won't take the risk of fighting an up hill battle.

After a short while when prophet regained his concious, he heard loud threats and calls coming from down the cliff, to which he responded:

GOD is all highest, supreme in majesty! We are not equal. Dead of mine are in heavens, yours are in hell.

To which voice of Abu Sufian from down the cliff responded:

We shall meet again next year.

To which prophet Mohammad's response was:

That is binding.

Next year was a year of drought, and Kureshe knew that there will be no fodder for their camels and horses to eat on the way. But they did not want the blame to fall upon them. Blame of first proposing a battle, and then running away from it. They wanted the blame to fall upon prophet Mohammad.

So they sent a man from Mecca towards Madina. He was supposed to be a well wisher of the people of Islam.

When he reached, he told prophet Mohammad that Kureshe had gathered a huge army, larger than ever, and are preparing for the battle. He said:

So I request you to stay in Madina, and not go into the battlefield, or else none of you come back alive.

Prophet Mohammad heard him, and decided that he would still keep his word. He gathered an army 1500 strong and marched towards the promised battlefield.

Kureshe never came, and word spread in Arabia that prophet Mohammad had kept his word.

Kureshe, humiliated, planned another attack, and this time on Madina itself.

They started forming alliances, preparing an army, even larger than before.

The total size of their army came close to 10,000 men strong. This included around 4000 men of their own, and rest from alliances.

News of this reached prophet Mohammad too. He had a week's time to prepare. Like always, he called upon all members for a consultation, and a possible suggestion or an opinion.

One solution suggested by a man named Salman Farsi was to dig trenches around the city, so that the charging army won't be able to attack directly.

His name Farsi literally meant that he was from Persia, and not an Arab. He was a converted Christian, who was sold as slave to Jews. He was someone who had long heard about a prophet in the coming, which is why he left his house and ended up becoming a slave in Madina.

When prophet reached Madina, he too approached the prophet and offered him some food in alms. Accepting the alms, prophet distributed the food amongst his companions, but did not eat it himself.

He then came to the prophet again with some food, and this time instead of giving the food as alms, he gifted the food to the prophet. Prophet again distributed the food amongst his companions, but this time, he too had some of the food.

As soon as Salman saw this, he was overjoyed. The reason for his joy was not that prophet ate the food he had gifted him, but another.

As a Christian, he spent a lot of time studying under an old saint. It was this saint who had told him that there are 3 signs in the man who is a prophet. They are:

1. He would accept alms, but he won't himself use any of what is given in alms.
2. He would accept gifts, and would use what is given in gifts to him.
3. He would have the seal of prophethood on his back, close to between his shoulders.

The first two conditions have been met, and now Salman needed to confirm the third. To do this, Salman went and stood behind the prophet, hoping that may be prophet's garment will slide a little and he would have a glimpse of the back of prophet.

At that time, prophet was wearing 2 pieces of cloth. One was covering his lower body, below his waist, and the other was wrapped around him covering his shoulders and chest and back, like a shawl.

Prophet, as though understanding what Salman wanted, allowed his upper garment to slide down a little bit.

And there it was, the mole between his shoulders, on his back. The seal of prophethood!

Upon seeing this third sign, Salman fell in front of the prophet and requested him to accept him into Islam. Prophet did, and then he also asked the owner of Salman to free Salman from slavery. For this, the owner asked a lot of price, which was paid to him by the prophet.

It is this same Salman Farsi, who has now suggested a solution to this situation, which seemed like an unconquerable mountain.

There was very little time left, and within a week forces of enemies of Islam would reach Madina. So prophet called upon all able bodied men and women to help dig the trench around the city.

The city was already protected on two sides by 2 ranges of black rock, and it would be impossible for the Kureshe to attack the city from the third direction. To do this the attacking armies would have to around one range of black rock, which would take weeks of travel. So the trench needed to be dug on just one side.

Everyone helped as much as they can, and Salman was said to be doing the job equal to that of 10 men, on his own!

Both the groups, people who migrated from Mecca, and people of Madina, would claim Salman saying:

He is one of helpers. He is one of immigrants.

Upon this prophet once replied:

He is one of us Muslims!

About a week later, armies of enemies of Islam reached, but they were shocked to see a deep and broad trench dug between them and Madina. Crossing this trench seemed impossible, specially in the hail of arrows that fell upon them as soon as they would get close to the trench...

All they could do is wait behind the trench, hoping that people of Madina would surrender. The food inside Madina had to end sometime... What they did not know was that Madina had already harvested this year's harvest, and that they had their stocks full of grain.

On the other hand, because there was nothing to eat outside Madina, so it was the armies of enemies of Islam who were left hungry.

Their horses perished, their men perished, their camels perished, and in about 2 weeks, this army of 10,000 men looked like a group of hungry slaves. It was on this night that cold winds started blowing, which soon turned into a storm, and destroyed what was left of armies of enemies of Islam.

The next morning, out of hunger, out of fear, out of cold winds and no shelter, men started running back towards Mecca, specially the allies who were promised a big loot of the spoils of war, but were instead met with hunger and death. Before noon, the entire area behind the trench was empty, and word spread in entire Arabia that armies of Islam had defeated armies of enemies of Islam, which were 10,000 strong. Stronger than any army that Arabia had ever seen, or dreamt of.

A little while after this prophet saw a dream where he saw himself with a shaven head, dressed in white, circling Kabah. He understood the sign that GOD wants him to do a lesser pilgrimage.

He told about this to others in Madina, and a group of about 1000 men and women prepared to go along with the prophet to the lesser pilgrimage.

When this news reached Kureshe, they immediately called a meeting and decided that in no case would they allow prophet Mohammad to enter Mecca for a lesser pilgrimage.

To stop the pilgrims in their way, Kureshe sent an army of 200 horsemen to block their way. When prophet Mohammad found out about this, he asked one of the pilgrims with him to guide them towards Mecca from a different route.

Completely bypassing the army which stood between them and Mecca, the pilgrims reached outside Mecca. Here an ally of Kureshe met prophet Mohammad, and prophet Mohammad made it very clear to them that he is not here to fight, but just as a service to GOD.

The allies of Kureshe took this message back to Kureshe. Upon this, Kureshe one of their own member to discuss the terms on which prophet Mohammad would be allowed inside Mecca. The intention here was very clear. To define a set of terms so humiliating that a battle would break out. Then Kureshe could easily slaughter prophet Mohammad along with all those who accompany him.

After some talk, terms of the treaty were agreed upon. Then prophet Mohammad asked his son-in-law, Ali, to write down the terms.

He dictated:

Bismilla Ar-Rehmaan Ar-Raheem

(In the name of Allah, the most compassionate, the most merciful)

As soon as members of Kureshe heard this, they objected to it, and asked Ali to write:

In the name of the lord of Kureshe

All the people who accompanied prophet Mohammad objected to it, but prophet calmed them all, and asked Ali to write what members of Kureshe have asked him to write. And so Ali wrote.

Then Ali wrote:

This is a treaty between Mohammad, the messenger of GOD, and members of Kureshe...

Upon this Kureshe again objected, and asked Ali to write:

This is a treaty between Mohammad, son of Abdulla, and members of Kureshe...

Ali and all others who accompanied prophet objected to it again, but again prophet calmed them all, and asked Ali to strike out what he had written and write what Kureshe asked him to write.

Ali was hesitant, so prophet Mohammad asked Ali to point at the words Kureshe are objecting to. He did, and prophet himself struck those words off.

Prophet Mohammad asked Ali to point at the words because he himself could not read or write, so there was no way that prophet Mohammad could have struck those words on his own, without any help.

Then treaty continued.

The terms agreed upon were:

1. Mohammad will not enter Mecca as long as Kureshe are in Mecca. At the time of pilgrimage, Kureshe will leave Mecca for 3 days and 3 nights, which is when Mohammad can enter Mecca.
2. There will be no battles between them for the next 10 years. And if either of the two participants of this agreement attack the other, then the other one is free from the clauses of this agreement.
3. During this time if Kureshe captures anyone from amongst the followers of Mohammad, then that person will not be returned to Mohammad.
4. During this time if Mohammad captures anyone from those of Kureshe, then Mohammad will have to return them back to Kureshe.

These terms simply meant that prophet and his followers will have to return back to Madina without visiting Kabah.

This brought upon a sense of sorrow and resentment amongst all the people who accompanied prophet. Sensing this, prophet asked the people to shave off their hairs, clean themselves, and wear white clothes of pilgrims, and then make their sacrifices there itself. This was traditionally wrong because according to the religion of Abraham (Ibrahim), sacrifices had to be made within the sacred premises.

As a result nobody moved, but looked at the prophet in dismay.

So prophet continued and performed his sacrifices. Upon seeing this, everyone hurried to perform their sacrifices.

Some of them however did not shaved off their heads completely. They simply trimmed their hairs a little bit, for they knew that this is a substitute to completely shaving their heads.

Soon after this prophet said: GOD have mercy on those who shaved their heads.

When people heard this, they shouted in resentment: And also on those who trimmed their hairs

But the prophet simply repeated what he had earlier said.

People again shouted out the same as they have done before.

This time prophet said: GOD have mercy upon those who have shaven off their head, and also on those who trimmed their hairs

When prophet came back into his tent, he was asked as to why he did not say it the first time?

And prophet replied:

Because those who shaved their heads had no doubt that their pilgrimage was complete.

It was only a few minutes after this that a strong wind blew and lifted all the hairs into the sacred area inside Mecca.

Everyone rejoiced and took this as a message that their pilgrimage had been accepted by GOD. They also felt a little shame for doubting the word of prophet Mohammad.

In the year to come, prophet again started for his lesser pilgrimage, and this time when they reached Mecca, according to the treaty, Kureshe had to vacate Mecca. Kureshe did so, and went up to a nearby mountain, from where they had a clear view of Mecca and Kabah.

Prophet, along with his thousands of followers entered Mecca, circled around Kabah 7 times, and then walked between the cliffs of Safa and Marwah 7 times, and performed his sacrifices. At prayer time, he asked Bilaal to give out the call for prayer. Bilaal was the same man who used to give call for prayer in Madina as well, as he had a loud and clear voice.

The Kureshe who were watching all of this from a nearby mountain grabbed hold of their heads as soon as they saw Bilaal on top of mosque, giving out the call for prayer.

What seemed like a victorious treaty just one year back, now seems like a heart wrenching defeat, as a slave was standing on top of the mosque and calling others for prayer.

They now regretted having signed the treaty in the first place.

Islam has given equal rights to everyone, men women, slaves, or just anyone else. They all have equal rights under Islam because all humans are equal before GOD!

A short while later, after prophet had returned to Madina with his followers, a small battle broke out between armies of Islam and allies of Kureshe. Not only did Kureshe help their allies with weapons, but also with warriors.

When this news reached the prophet, he ordered his men to prepare for battle.

When asked about who the army will attack, he simply refused to tell. Everyone was made to think that the attack will be on the allies of Kureshe, who have just attacked followers of Islam. Although Kureshe had broken the treaty, still attack on Mecca was unthinkable at this time.

Allies of prophet Mohammad were called upon, and an army 10,000 men strong was arranged. Only a few who were very close to the prophet knew about where the army was heading towards. It was only when they had been on the route to Mecca, did they realize that its Mecca which is going to feel the force of this army.

Kureshe also found out now that prophet is leading a large army towards Mecca, but they could not do anything. The army soon reached very close to Mecca, which is when Kureshe sent out a member of theirs to go and negotiate with the prophet. The negotiators ended up accepting Islam, after which they returned and called out for a gathering of the people of Mecca. There one of them announced:

Prophet Mohammad has surrounded Mecca with a large army. An army that Mecca cannot resist. I have requested prophet to spare the lives of the people of Mecca.

And he had promised me that anyone who is inside my house will be spared.

People shouted, How big is your house. How many of us can go in there, its not enough.

The announcer then replied, and those who will be inside the mosque will also be spared.

How many of us can be inside the mosque at the same time, shouted the people.

He then replied, and all those who will be inside their own houses will also be spared.

As soon as people heard this, they all ran for their houses, and some towards the mosque.

A few hours later, prophet divided his army into 4, and gave them orders to enter Mecca from 4 directions. He himself was leading one part of these 4.

Only one part out of these 4 faced a little resistance, which was cleared as quickly as it arose.

Except the people who were a part of this resisting army, nobody else was hurt or attacked. Prophet had kept his word.

Prophet then entered Kabah, and got all the idols removed from Kabah. He then told people to stop worshipping idols, and to start worshipping one true GOD.

His armies then left Mecca and rested between the hills of Safa and Marwah.

People came in hundreds and in thousands to him on their own and accepted Islam. These were the people who had always wanted to accept Islam, but were scared of Kureshe, could not have dared to go against them. But now they are free, and hence they came and accepted Islam. Soon many more people followed them. Gradually entire Mecca had accepted Islam, and then prophet asked people to remove idols from their houses as well, which they did.

Most of the people simply accepted Islam because they now realized how kind the prophet is. They had tortured him, tortured his followers, insulted them, forced them to leave Mecca, and still the prophet promised to spare their lives!

Although some books written about prophet Mohammad claim that as soon as he removed idols from Kabah, he immediately ordered his men to go and remove idols from houses of people as well, and that to make them accept Islam.

This assumption cannot be more false.

So far, in this entire history of Islam, did you even come across one single person who was forced to accept Islam?

In Madina, where people respected and loved prophet with whole of their heart, even there nobody was forced to accept Islam. Jews and christians also lived in Madina, and whoever accepted Islam on

their own, only they were the ones who came to be known as Muslims. Rest maintained their own religions, and were protected in Madina.

Remember the "Christian slave" Salman who gave the idea of digging trenches when armies of Kureshe were about to attack Madina?

He accepted Islam on his own, after testing and confirming that prophet really is a prophet, didn't he?

If not even slaves were forced to accept Islam, and they did it on their own, with their own choice, then doesn't this statement sound false that prophet converted people of Mecca by force?

A lot of propaganda has been spread about Islam, and the prophet of Islam, and the purpose of this book is just to guide you in the right direction. To bring truth before you, and simple pure truth, nothing else.

Soon after this prophet returned to Madina and his army followed him.

Questions of Gabriel to the prophet:

It was in Madina when one day prophet was sitting in the mosque along with some of his followers, when a man entered the mosque. His clothes were whiter than white, and his beard blacker than black. His clothes had no signs of dust or travel, and yet nobody recognized him.

He came and sat just opposite to the prophet, their knees touching, and he asked:

What is surrender, Islam?

Prophet replied: Islam is to believe in one true GOD, and to believe that Mohammad is GOD's messenger, and to offer prayers with sincerity, and to honour Ramadan by fasting and controlling sins, and to attain spiritual heights while doing so.

You are right, said the man. All who sat there were amazed by the behaviour of this man who was questioning prophet Mohammad like a teacher and verifying his answers.

Then the man asked: What is Faith, Iman?

And the prophet replied: Faith is to believe in GOD, his angels, his messengers, his books, and to know that whatever happens is GOD's will, and whatever does not happen is also GOD's will.

The man verifying the answer said, you are correct.

Then he asked: What is excellence of prayer, Isan?

And prophet replied: To pray as if you are seeing GOD, and knowing that GOD is seeing you even if you are not able to see GOD.

The man replied, correct again!

Then he asked: What are the signs of the last hour? (Judgement day)

To which prophet replied: When

men would construct very tall buildings, which are not made to live in, but simply to show off,

and when slave girls will give birth to their own mistresses,

and when corruption will become the norm of the day,

and when pious will be laughed upon,
that is when one should know that the hour is fast approaching.

The man replied, you are right again!

After this the man left, and after a short while one of the men who sat there and had witnessed the whole incident, asked prophet:

O prophet, who was this man, who question you in this way?

To which prophet replied: That was Gabriel (angel Jibril), who came here to teach you your religion.

Then one year, soon after Restoring the Religion of Abraham (Ibrahim), to its pure form, one day prophet told his close followers that time has come for him to leave this world.

When the time of Hajj arrived, prophet returned, and returned with 30,000 followers of his. Some from Madina, and lot from neighbouring tribes.

They did not have weapons with them. They had animals they have purchased for the sacred sacrifice.

It was during this journey when prophet delivered his last sermon. The sermon is translated and is in this book for you to read.

He then, along with all his followers did the pilgrimage, the Hajj.

After this he returned to Madina. And only after a short time, he fell ill. He had a sevre headache, and a high fever.

Slowly, the fever and headache grew to the point where he was no longer to walk on his own. With the help of two of his followers, he went to the mosque, and offered his prayers. In his last prayer, he asked his closest friend Abu Bakar to lead the prayer instead of the prophet himself. It was also this when prophet asked to wall up all the doors that opened into the mosque from neighbouring houses, except the door from the house of Abu Bakar.

After completing his prayers, prophet returned to the house of his wife, the one whose turn it was, but all the wives gave up their right of spending time with him, and asked him to stay with Aisha, for they knew how much he loved her, and wanted to be with her in his last days.

Next day, in the morning, his fever shot up very high, and his head ached a lot. Soon he lost consciousness. For a while Aisha thought that prophet has left. But then prophet opened his eyes in an hour. She immediately remembered a conversation she once had with the prophet, wherein prophet told her that no prophet is taken off this world until he is shown his place in the heavens, and given a choice either to live in heavens or remain in this world amongst his followers.

She heard the prophet utter these words:

O Supreme GOD, it is you who I want to be with.

She immediately knew that the prophet had made a choice and that the time is not far away.

These were the last words she heard him speak. He soon closed his eyes again, and people who sat outside Aisha's house were informed that prophet has left us.

People wept, and his wives wept too. Everyone tried to calm the other, but was drenching their clothes in their own tears.

Prophet was buried, and entire Madina gathered to get a last glimpse of his, and nobody could stop their tears, for they were the ones who loved the messenger of GOD most truly.

And when one of the prophet's wives asked the other to stop crying, as prophet is in a better place, she replied:

I cry not because prophet had left us, for I know that he is in a much better place in heavens than any place in this world, but I cry because a string from heavens has been cut from this world. A door of heavens has been shut. The door of prophets...

And truly, the door of prophets has been shut.

Prophet Mohammad was the last of the prophets sent by GOD.

The last one sent out of mercy of GOD...

2 prophets, known to you, would return to earth, with the 3 marks of prophethood. But they won't be sent out of mercy. They won't come to teach a new religion. They won't come to wash off your sins.

They return to strengthen the disbelieve of disbelievers, and to strengthen the believe of believers!

The last sermon of Prophet Mohammad

After praising, and thanking God, the Prophet, said:

O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again.

Therefore, listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today.

O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust.

Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners.

Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you.

Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord,

and that He will indeed reckon your deeds.

God has forbidden you to take interest,
therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived.

Your capital, however, is yours to keep.

You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity.

God has Judged that there shall be no interest,
and that all the interest due to Abdul Mutalib shall henceforth be waived...

Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion.

He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things,
so beware of following him in small things.

O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women,
but they also have rights over you.

Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under a trust from God and with His permission.

If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness.

Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers.

And it is your right that they do not make friends with
any one of whom you do not approve,
as well as never to be unchaste.

O People, listen to me in earnest, worship God, perform your five daily prayers,
fast during the month of Ramadan, and offer Zakat.

Perform Hajj if you have the means.

All mankind is from Adam and Eve.

An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab.

A white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white,
except by piety and good action.

Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood.

Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim
unless it was given freely and willingly.

Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves.

Remember, one day you will appear before God and answer for your deeds.

So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me in mercy,
and no new faith will be born.

Reason well, therefore, O people, and understand words which I convey to you.

I leave behind me two things,
the Quran and example of my life,
and if you follow these you will never go astray.

All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others
and those to others again,

and it may be that the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly.

Be my witness, O God, that I have conveyed your message to your people.

Thus the beloved Prophet completed his Final Sermon, and upon it, near the summit of Arafat, the revelation came down:

" This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My Grace upon you, and have chosen Islam for you as your religion..."

Quran chapter 5 verse 3

Istikharah Prayer:

Istikharah Prayer, prayer that asks for Allah's guidance in any and every matter.

A brother named "Yusuf Olayanju" taught me this.

"Istikharah" means to seek goodness from Allah (Exalted is He),

meaning when one intends to do an important task they do istikhara before the task.

The one who does the istikhara is as if they request Allah Almighty that,

O the Knower of Unseen (Exalted is He) guide me if this task is better for me or not?

Such a powerful tool we have been given, to admit our complete lack of knowledge, power, ability, and sight,

and the absolute dominance of Allah the Almighty in all these abilities.

This powerful prayer can be used rightfully, to seek Allah's assistance in making decisions, concerning school, getting a job, getting married, going to Hajj, or maybe even choosing a house.

We should also say the dua with firm conviction, not begging or pleading, but asking Allah clearly for guidance.

How to perform Istikharah prayer?

Istikharah prayer should be followed by your daily prayer.

Its suggested to read an additional surah of Quran before you make Istikharah prayer

Recite 3 times:

"Astag-firul-laah"

I seek forgiveness from Allah

Recite 3 times:

"Al-hamdu-lil-laah"

All praise be to Allah

Convey Durood upon our beloved Prophet

"Allahumma salli alaa Sayidinaa Muhammadi(w)'n wa alaa aaali Sayidinaa Muhammadi(w)'n wa baarik wa sallim"

(O Allah, shower your mercy and blessings upon Prophets, and the followers of your Prophets

Duaa for Istikharah prayer itself:

O Allah! I ask guidance from Your knowledge,

And Power from Your Might

and I ask for Your great blessings.

You are capable and I am not.

You know and I do not

and You know the unseen.

O Allah! If You know that this job is good for my religion and my subsistence

and in my Hereafter–

(or say: If it is better for my present and later needs)

Then You ordain it for me and make it easy for me to get,

And then bless me in it,

and if You know that what I ask is harmful to me In my religion

and subsistence and in the Hereafter

(or say: If it is worse for my present and later needs)

Then keep it away from me,

and let me be away from it.

And ordain for me whatever is good for me,

And make me satisfied with it.

The Prophet added that then the person should mention his need, immediately followed by the prayer.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari – Book 21 Hadith 263)

If performing the prayer before sleeping then, if possible,

sleep with wudu, facing Qibla.

Patiently wait for Allah's signs,
and continue to ask for Allah's guidance,
and In'Shaa'Allah a solution will be found.

Note: Arabic version, along with English translation can be listened to at:

<http://www.IsaCalling.com/audio>

(under Islamic prayers section)

Common Islamic Greetings:

Some of the common greetings of Islamic culture are:

When you meet someone:

As-Salam allaykum

Peace and mercy of Allah be upon you

The response to this is:

Wa allaykum As-Salam (Extended forms include "Wa alaykumu As-salam wa rahmatullah)

Peace and mercy be unto you too

Jazak Allah Khair

Generally said instead of thankyou, means: May Allah reward you with good

Wa iyyakum AmanAllah

Meaning, Allah blessings be unto you as well

This is generally used in response to Jazak Allah Khair

I thank Allah for guiding me while I was writing this book,
and I pray for Allah's mercy and blessings on prophets, and for me, and for all true slaves of Allah,
and I seek forgiveness of Allah for any mistakes I might have done in this book.

Various good things happened while writing this book, which I took as blessings and signs from Allah.
Signs that Allah is pleased by what is written in this book.

Like, Istikhara prayer was not in the original content of this book, and just when I was finalizing the book, somebody in a forum asked "How to perform Istikhara prayer?"

And the answer you find in this book was posted by an Islamic brother, whose name is mentioned.

For the entire week, while I was writing this book, I was freed from my day job very quickly,
which allowed me to concentrate on the book itself, without getting diverted by my day job,
and I did not take leave from my day job. Its just that work got completed extremely surprisingly quickly.

Some other content of the book got automatically collected, without me having to struggling to find it, like the 99 names of Allah described in the book.

It was almost as if things were automatically coming to me, on their own.

I'm greatly thankful to Allah for the help,
the one who is Al-Awwal, the Al-Akhir, the Al-Ghaniyy, the Al-Barr,
and I bow down to the him as he is Al-Malik, the Ar-Rehmaan, the Ar-Raheem

Its my sincere request to you to please read these names as regularly as possible, may be once every day if possible, so that you can remember them and learn them by heart!

Other material which could not have been included in this book, like audio of Quran and videos, are made available on the website:

www.IsaCalling.com

Its written in Islamic books that prophet Isa (Jesus) will return back to this world. He probably will not be born under Islam, but he will soon start following Islam, as this is the religion which has been chosen for mankind by Allah.

The verse confirming this was revealed soon after the prophet delivered his last sermon:

" This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My Grace upon you,
and have chosen Islam for you as your religion..."

Quran chapter 5 verse 3

And this was the very last verse that angel Gabriel (Jibril) brought to prophet Mohammad.

Its the duty of every Muslim to spread the word of GOD in Quran to as many people as one can.

Its also the duty of every Muslim to have respect for other books which also have message of GOD, and every true Muslim should refrain from disrespecting those books.

Do not try to find fault in any book which has message of GOD in it.

Follow the one that you want to, the one Allah has sent for you, the one he perfected for you!

And thats the bottom line.

Updated version of this book is available at:

<http://www.IsaCalling.com/read/Info/>

May Allah bless all his true slaves.

Ameen