

## CHAPTER ONE

# ALLAH ﷻ (ﷻ, The Glorified and The Exalted)

Allah ﷻ is the Name of the One and Only True God we worship.

Allah ﷻ is **al-Khaliq**, The Creator of everything.

Allah ﷻ is Most Powerful.

**Allahu Akbar**, Allah ﷻ is The Greatest.

Allah ﷻ has ninety-nine Most Beautiful Names.

The three Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ in **Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim** are **Allah, ar-Rahman** (The Beneficent) and **ar-Rahim** (The Merciful).

Allah ﷻ is **Ghafur ur-Rahim** (The Forgiving, The Merciful).

Allah ﷻ sent Prophets (Alayhimussalam, peace be upon them) to teach people about the religion of Islam.

Allah ﷻ sent about a hundred and twenty-four thousand Prophets (Alayhimussalam). They taught the people to worship only One God, Allah, and to become good and pious.

Allah ﷻ sent Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) as His most beloved and final Prophet.

Allah ﷻ revealed four Books in this world: Taurat, Zabur, Injil and Qur'an.

Allah ﷻ sent the Holy Qur'an to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ).

Allah ﷻ sent the Qur'an in the month of Ramadan.

The first person Allah ﷻ created is Prophet Adam (Alayhissalam, peace be upon him).

The first woman Allah ﷻ created is Sayyida Hawwa (Alayhassalam, peace be upon her).

Allah ﷻ is One.

No one made Allah ﷻ.

No one can see Allah ﷻ but He sees everything. He is **Sami'un Basir** (All-Hearing, All-Seeing).

Allah ﷻ is not like anyone or anything.

Allah ﷻ sees us even if we are alone, locked up in a room.

Allah ﷻ is the Only One who Knows when the Day of Judgment is.

Allah ﷻ can do anything He wants.

Allah ﷻ gave everyone a soul.

Allah ﷻ said that everyone will die while Allah is Ever-Living.

Allah ﷻ Knows what everyone is thinking.

Allah ﷻ gave us a brain to think with, a tongue to speak with, eyes to look with, ears to hear with, a nose to smell with, and hands and feet to work with.

Allah ﷻ gives us food and water.

We praise and thank Allah ﷻ for all these gifts He has given us by praying five times a day.

We do the dhikr (remembrance) of Allah ﷻ. The best dhikr is the **Kalima Tayyiba:**

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

**Laa ilaaha Illallah  
Muhammad ur-Rasulullah**

None is to be worshipped but Allah  
Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.

We make du‘a to Allah ﷻ and we ask Allah ﷻ to forgive our sins.

The five pillars of Islam are symbols of our faith towards Allah ﷻ.

Allah ﷻ told Prophet Ibrahim (Alayhissalam) to build Allah’s House, the Ka’ba in Makkah which has Hajar-al-Aswad (the Black Stone).

Allah ﷻ blessed each Prophet with miracles.

Allah ﷻ blessed the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ with many miracles.

Allah ﷻ is ‘**Alimun Hakim** (All-Knowing, All-Wise). He Knows who is good and who is bad.

Allah ﷻ made angels to record our good and bad deeds.

Allah ﷻ Knows what happens every second and what will happen in the future.

Allah ﷻ is closer to us than our main vein.

When we say something, Allah ﷻ Knows whether we mean it or not.

Allah ﷻ causes the weather to change.

Allah's promises are always fulfilled.

For Allah ﷻ, the whole universe is like a dot.

Allah ﷻ said that we should obey and respect our parents, and love the children.

Allah ﷻ said that we should be clean and pure.

Life and death are in the hands of Allah ﷻ.

Allah ﷻ knows the best for us.

Everything belongs to Allah ﷻ.

Allah ﷻ gave us fresh air to breathe with. He gave us trees for oxygen; grass for greenery; and oceans, lakes and rivers for water. He created the fish in the seas and animals on land for our benefit. He created animals such as camels, cows, sheep and goats that give us milk and meat.

Allah ﷻ made heaven and hell.

Allah ﷻ loves everyone who obeys Him.

Allah ﷻ teaches us in the Qur'an to be good people and to do good deeds. We have to:

Believe in the Pillars of Muslim Faith,  
Believe and act on the Pillars of Islam,  
Be honest and truthful,  
Have good manners and character,  
Be clean,  
Love children,  
Love and respect our parents,  
Respect elders,  
Help our neighbours,  
Take care of orphans, widows and the needy,  
Feed and clothe the poor,  
Give in charity,  
Do justice and be fair,  
Forgive and pardon,  
Be thankful,  
Be pious,  
Be sincere,  
Be brave and courageous,  
Be patient when in difficulties, and

Invite non-Muslims to Islam.

The Qur'an teaches us to avoid bad deeds. It teaches us, for example:

To avoid jealousy and hatred,  
To avoid lying, cheating and backbiting,  
Not to hurt other people,  
Not to be racist,  
Not to steal,  
Not to drink alcohol.

Allah ﷻ wants us to do what the Holy Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) did and taught. He taught us to remember Allah ﷻ all the time. For example, he taught us what to say on various occasions. And if we do that, we will remember Allah ﷻ all the time.

When starting to do something, say: **Bismillah** (In the Name of Allah),  
When you finish eating or drinking, say: **Al-Hamdu Lillah** (All Praise is for Allah),  
When intending to do something, say: **inshaa Allah** (if Allah Wills),  
When something is being praised, say: **Subhan Allah** (Glory is to Allah),  
When expressing appreciation, say: **maashaa Allah** (whatever Allah Wishes),  
When thanking someone, say: **Jazakallah** (may Allah reward you),  
When awakening from sleep, say: **laa ilaha illallah** (None is to be worshipped but Allah),  
When repenting from a sin, say: **Astaghfirullah** (I beg forgiveness from Allah),  
When giving in charity, say: **fee Sabilillah** (in the Way of Allah),  
When a death message is received, say: **innaa Lillahi wa innaa Ilayhi rajiun** (indeed, we are for Allah and indeed to Him we shall return),  
When having love for someone, say: **li Hubbillah** (for the love of Allah),  
When getting married, say: **Amantu Billah** (I believe in Allah),  
When parting from someone, say: **fee Amanillah** (may you be in the protection of Allah),  
When a problem appears, say: **Tawakkaltu 'Alallah** (my complete trust is in Allah),  
When in pain or distress, say: **Yaa Allah** (O Allah),  
When pleasantness appears, say: **fa Tabarakallah** (so, blessed is Allah),  
When unpleasantness occurs, say: **Naudhu Billah** (we seek refuge in Allah),  
When you sneeze, say: **Al-Hamdu Lillah** (All Praise is for Allah),  
When someone sneezes, say: **Yarhamukallah** (may Allah have mercy on you),  
When participating in prayer, say **Ameen** (O Allah! Answer our prayers).

We obey and love Allah ﷻ and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ).

May Allah ﷻ make us good and pious Muslims, Ameen.

## CHAPTER TWO

### PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ (ﷺ, may Allah bless him and grant him peace)

The Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad al-Mustafa (ﷺ) is the final and greatest Prophet sent by Allah (ﷻ, the Glorified and the Exalted).

He is the most beloved Prophet of Allah ﷻ.

He preached the complete religion of Islam.

He taught people to worship only One God, Allah ﷻ.

He guided people towards goodness and told them to avoid evil.

He taught people to love and respect all the previous Prophets (**Alayhimussalam**, peace be upon them) sent by Allah ﷻ.

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was born in Makkah, on 12<sup>th</sup> **Rabi Awwal** 53 B.H, 571 C.E. So, every year, on 12<sup>th</sup> Rabi Awwal his anniversary is celebrated with great love and respect by Muslims all over the world with recitation of the Holy Qur'an, and recitation of religious poems in his praise and honour.

His father's name was Hadrat Abdallah.

His mother's name was Sayyida Aminah.

He was brought up by his nurse Sayyida Halima.

He belonged to the tribe of Quraish.

He lived a very simple life.

He received Allah's first message to preach Islam at the age of forty.

He received Allah's first message in the cave of Hirah in Makkah through Archangel Hadrat Jibril (Alayhissalam).

The first word of revelation he heard was **Iqra'**, which means, "Recite".

The Qur'an, which is the Final Heavenly Book of Allah ﷻ was revealed to him over a period of 23 years.

We follow the **Qur'an**, which is the Word of Allah ﷻ.

We also follow the **Hadith** which are the Sayings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. These have been recorded in separate books of Hadith.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ married a pious lady at the age of twenty-five.

Her name was Sayyidatina Khadijah (**Rady Allahu Anha**, may Allah ﷻ be pleased with her) who was forty years old at that time.

They were blessed with four daughters. They are Sayyida Zainab, Sayyida Ruqayya, Sayyida Umm Kulthum, and Sayyida Fatima (**Rady Allahu Anhunna**, may Allah ﷻ be pleased with them).

They were blessed with two sons, Qasim and Abdallah. They passed away in their infancy.

His favourite wife was Sayyidatina Khadija (Rady Allahu Anha).

After she passed away, he married again. Sayyidatina Aisha (Rady Allahu Anha) is one of his most famous wives. His behaviour towards his wives was the best and he treated them equally.

Those who became rulers of Muslims after him are called his **Khalifas**. His first four and greatest Khalifas are Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq, Sayyidina Umar Faruq, Sayyidina Uthman Dhun-Nurain and Sayyidina Ali Murtada (Rady Allahu Anhum).

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ loved children very much.

He took care of orphans.

He always talked to people politely.

He had the best manners and character.

He was very generous.

He loved living with poor people.

He preferred doing his work by himself.

When Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ clothes got ripped, he would cut a piece out of another fabric and make patches by sewing it together.

He never got angry for any personal reason, and he never broke a promise.

He has many names of praise. The name Muhammad means "The Praised One".

On earth he is called Muhammad ﷺ, and in the heavens, he is called Ahmad which means "Most Praiseworthy".

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah ﷻ says that He sent him as **Rahmatullil 'aalameen** (mercy for all the worlds).

He was always truthful so he was called **as-Sadiq** (the Truthful).

He was also called **al-Amin** (the Trustworthy).

He is **Nabiyyallah** (the Prophet of Allah), and **Rasulullah** (the Messenger of Allah).

He is called **al-Mustafa** (The Chosen One). He had been chosen by Allah as the Final Prophet.

He was invited by Allah ﷻ to visit Him in the heavens. This is called his **Mi'raj**.

He is the only one who saw Allah ﷻ.

He migrated from Makkah to Madina at the age of 53. This is called his **Hijra**.

He built the Masjid Nabawi in Madina Munawwara.

He split the moon in half with his **Shahadat** finger. This is one of his miracles.

His sweat smelled like musk.

There is no picture of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ on earth.

He had no shadow.

When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was alone he was of average height but when he was with other people, he appeared the tallest.

He had a beard, which is one of his **Sunnahs** (traditions).

When he told the people of Makkah to give up worshipping idols, and to worship only One God, Allah ﷻ, the idol worshippers turned against him and wanted to kill him. He told his uncle to tell those who opposed him: "Even if you keep the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left hand, I will not give up preaching the religion of Allah."

He was very brave. He fought many battles against those who wanted to kill him but he forgave his enemies when he achieved victory.

He converted almost the whole of Arabia to Islam through his goodness and great character. Allah ﷻ had chosen him for that task.

He passed away in Madina at the age of 63, in 10 A.H.

His last resting place in Madina is called his **Rawda** (Garden of Paradise).

On the Day of Judgment, he will plead with Allah ﷻ to forgive all the sinners.

He is the king of **Jannah** (Paradise).

His name is in the **Kalima** (the Declaration of Muslim Faith).

His name is also in the **Adhan** (call to Prayer) and in **Salah** (Prayer).

When we pray **Salah**, we send **Salam** (greeting of peace) to him as follows:

**As-salamu alayka ayyuhan-Nabiyyu wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuhu**  
Peace be upon you, O Prophet, and the Mercy of Allah and His Blessings.

He is the best creation of Allah ﷺ.

Thousands of books and poems have been written in his honour and praise.

All Muslims love the blessed Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

When we mention his name, we say: ﷺ, **Sallallahu alayhi wa Sallam**, which means: May Allah ﷻ bless him and grant him peace.

May we enter Paradise in his company, Ameen.



## CHAPTER THREE

# THE HOLY QUR'AN

The Holy Qur'an is the Word of Allah ﷻ.

It is the last revealed Book sent by Allah ﷻ.

It was sent to the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

It is the Book of **Hidaya** or guidance from Allah ﷻ.

It was revealed through Angel Jibril (Alayhissalam).

It came from Heaven.

There is no doubt about it.

The Qur'an teaches us about Islam and guides us on the Right Path of Islam.

It was revealed over a period of twenty-three years, for thirteen years in Makkah and for ten years in Madina. All the verses were put together in a Book form and sent to various countries. Ever since that day, this wonderful Book has been guiding mankind.

The Qur'an has one hundred and fourteen **Surahs** or chapters.

All the **Surahs** in the Qur'an start with **Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim** except **Surah Tawbah**. **Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim** means: In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful.

The Qur'an has six thousand, two hundred and thirty six **Ayahs**, or verses.

It has thirty **Juz** or parts.

You should not touch the Qur'an without **Wudu** (ablution).

Nobody can change the Qur'an because Allah ﷻ protects it. Not even one letter has been changed since it was revealed. Allah has preserved it.

The Qur'an was sent down by Allah ﷻ to the first heaven in the month of Ramadan on **Lailatul Qadr** or the Night of Power.

It is important for every Muslim to learn, recite, understand and follow the Qur'an.

One should recite it slowly and let it sink into one's heart and soul.

It teaches us the Message of Allah ﷻ, The Most High.

It teaches us spiritual Truth.

If we follow the teachings of the Qur'an we can have a very good life.

The Qur'an teaches us about the **Arkan al-Islam** or the Pillars of Islam. These are:

1. Saying and believing in the **Kalima Shahada**.  
**Laa ilaaha Illallah Muhammad-ur-Rasulullah.**  
None is to be worshipped but Allah  
Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.
2. **Salah** (five times daily Prayers).
3. **Zakat** (poor-due).
4. **Sawm** (fasting in the month of Ramadan).
5. **Hajj** (Pilgrimage to Makka).

The Qur'an teaches us about the **Arkan al-Iman** or the Pillars of Muslim Faith and beliefs. We believe in:

1. Allah ﷻ.
2. His Angels.
3. His Books.
4. His Messengers (Alayhimussalam, peace be upon them).
5. The Day of Judgement when everyone will be raised up again.
6. The Decree of Allah ﷻ about the good and the bad.

The Qur'an teaches us about the Angels of Allah ﷻ. The most well-known angels are:

1. Hadrat Jibril.
2. Hadrat Mikaa'il.
3. Hadrat Israfil.
4. Hadrat 'Izraail.  
(peace be upon them all).

The Qur'an teaches us about the Books of Allah ﷻ. The most well-known of these are:

1. The **Qur'an** which was revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.
2. The **Tawrat** which was revealed to Prophet Musa.
3. The **Injil** which was revealed to Prophet 'Isa.
4. The **Zabur** which was revealed to Prophet Dawud.  
(peace be upon them all).

The Qur'an teaches us about the Prophets sent by Allah ﷻ to guide people to goodness. The five greatest Prophets of Allah ﷻ are:

1. Prophet Muhammad.
2. Prophet Ibrahim.
3. Prophet Musa.
4. Prophet 'Isa.

5. Prophet Nuh.  
(peace be upon them all).

Other great Prophets (peace be upon them) who have been mentioned in the Qur'an are:

Prophet Adam,  
Prophet Hud,  
Prophet Ismail,  
Prophet Is-haq,  
Prophet Yaqub,  
Prophet Yusuf,  
Prophet Harun,  
Prophet Dawud,  
Prophet Sulayman, and  
Prophet Yunus,  
(peace be upon them all).

The Qur'an teaches us about the reward of good deeds in Paradise. It also teaches us about the punishment of bad deeds in hell.

The Qur'an's first **Surah** (Chapter) is **Surah Al-Fatiha**. It is the first Surah we learn and memorize.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿١﴾ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢﴾ الرَّحْمَنِ  
الرَّحِيمِ ﴿٣﴾ مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ﴿٤﴾ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ﴿٥﴾  
أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ﴿٦﴾ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ  
عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ﴿٧﴾

Its translation is:

In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful.  
Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds.  
The Beneficent, The Merciful.  
Owner of the Day of Judgement.  
You only do we worship, and You only we ask for help.  
Guide us on the Straight Path.  
The Path of those whom You have favoured;  
not (the path) of those on whom is Your anger,  
nor of those who go astray. (1:1-7)

**Surah Ikhlas** is another great **Surah** in the Qur'an. If we recite **Surah Ikhlas** three times, we get the reward of reciting the whole Qur'an.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ﴿١﴾ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ﴿٢﴾ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ﴿٣﴾ وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ  
كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ﴿٤﴾

In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful.  
Say! (O Prophet Muhammad). He, Allah, is One.  
Allah, The Eternally Besought.  
He begets not, nor was He begotten.  
And there is none like Him. (112:1-4)

**Surah YaaSeen** is the heart of the Qur'an. We should recite it every day after **Salat al-Fajr** (the early morning Prayer).

The Qur'an's last **Surah** is **Surah an-Naas**.

The Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ are in the Qur'an.

The Qur'an will take us to heaven and will stop us from going to hell.

The Qur'an has beautiful writing.

The Qur'an is the Best Book in the world.

The Qur'an is the world's most widely respected Book.

The Qur'an has four other well-known names. These are: **al-Kitab** (the Book), **Karim** (Noble), **al-Furqan** (the Criterion of Judgement), and **Majid** (Glorious).

The Qur'an has fourteen verses where the word **sajda** (prostration) is mentioned. So when we recite any of those verses, we do a **sajda**.

The Qur'an is the Book that is most memorized.

A man or a boy who memorizes the whole Qur'an is called **Hafiz al-Qur'an**, and a lady or a girl is called **Hafizah**.

Thousands of Muslims have memorized the whole Qur'an.

We should try to become **Hafiz al-Qur'an**.

We should begin by memorizing the short **Surahs** at the end of **Juz Amma**. Three short Surahs we can memorize are **Surah al-'Asr**, **Surah al-Kawthar**, and **Surah an-Nasr**.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْعَصْرِ ﴿١﴾ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِفِي خُسْرٍ ﴿٢﴾ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ ﴿٣﴾

By the time.  
Indeed, man is in loss.  
Except those who believe and do good deeds,  
and counsel one another to truth,  
and counsel one another to be patient. (103:1-3)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَكَ الْكَوْثَرَ ﴿١﴾ فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَحْرِزْ ﴿٢﴾ إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ ﴿٣﴾

Indeed, We have bestowed on you (O Prophet), abundance of good.  
So, offer Prayer to your Lord, and do the sacrifice.  
Indeed, the one who is your enemy, he is cut off (from every good). (108:1-3)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ ﴿١﴾ وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا ﴿٢﴾ فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَاسْتَغْفِرْهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا ﴿٣﴾

When there comes Help of Allah (to you, O Prophet), and victory (conquest of Makkah).  
And you see the people enter the religion of Allah in groups.  
Then, glorify the praises of your Lord, and beg His forgiveness.  
Indeed, He accepts repentance. (110:1-3)

The Qur'an has all the knowledge we need to know.

Science and medicine depends on the Qur'an.

The Qur'an is the light of life.

The Qur'an is in the Arabic language and it has been translated in all the major languages of the world.

Once, there was someone with the Qur'an on an airplane. The plane caught fire and everything in it was burned except for the Qur'an.

The Qur'an is dearer to us than our life.

We should be careful when we hold the Qur'an.

Do not drop the Qur'an, because if you do, you get sins.

The place where you put the Qur'an should be clean.

A study of the Qur'an will open the doors of hope, confidence, and achievement.

All Muslims love the Qur'an and believe in it.

We recite the Qur'an for the sake of Allah ﷻ.

If someone is reciting the Qur'an seated on the ground, we shouldn't sit up above.

We should not be thinking of someone else when reciting the Qur'an.

When we recite the Qur'an, our whole attention should be in it.

We are happy and peaceful when we recite the Qur'an.

The verses of the Qur'an are in the daily Prayers.

We should recite at least one Juz of the Qur'an everyday.

We should recite the Qur'an for our elders who have passed away and pray to Allah for their forgiveness. Ameen.

## CHAPTER FOUR

# HADITH SHARIF

## SAYINGS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ

(may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him)

The Sayings of our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ are called his **Hadith**.

The Companions (**Sahaba**) of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ have narrated his Hadith.

These Hadith have been compiled in Books of Hadith. There are six major Books of Hadith. They are Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim, Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud, Ibn Majah and an-Nasai. They contain thousands of Hadith.

From the Books of Hadith, we also learn what Prophet Muhammad ﷺ did. What he did is called his **Sunnah**. We try to follow his **Sunnah**.

From the Books of Hadith, we learn about the simple life of the Prophet ﷺ and of his Family and Companions (Rady Allahu Anhum).

We learn about the hardships they faced and the sacrifices they made in spreading the religion of Islam.

The lady who narrated the most Hadith of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was his wife Sayyidatina Aisha Siddiqah (Rady Allahu Anha).

The man who narrated the most Hadith of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was Hadrat Abu Hurairah (Rady Allahu Anhu).

The Hadith teach us what Allah has taught in the Qur'an in more detail.

The Hadith teach us the details about many things such as:

the Pillars of Islam,  
the Pillars of Muslim Faith,  
**halal** (what is allowed),  
**haram** (what is prohibited), and  
Heaven and hell.

There is a Hadith that whoever believes in the **Kalima Tayyibah** with a true heart will certainly go to **Jannah** (Paradise).

There is a Hadith that Allah ﷻ has ninety-nine Most Beautiful Names and whoever memorizes them all, will go to **Jannah** (Paradise).

There is a Hadith that if one recites the fifth **Kalima Sayyid-ul-Istighfar** in the morning and dies before the evening, the person will go to **Jannah** and whoever recites it at night and dies before the morning will also go to **Jannah**.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said that Paradise lies under the feet of the mother. So we can enter Paradise by loving, serving, helping and obeying her; and not annoying her.

He said that the father is the door to Paradise. So we should love, respect and obey him.

This Hadith teaches us about the importance of good behaviour.

Hadrat Abu Hurairah (Rady Allahu Anhu) related that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said: The most perfect Muslim in the matter of faith is one who has an excellent behaviour, and the best among you are those who are best towards their wives. (Tirmidhi).

This Hadith teaches us about the importance of having good friends.

Hadrat Abu Hurairah (Rady Allahu Anhu) relates that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said: A person is likely to follow the faith of his friend, so look whom you befriend. (Abu Dawud and Tirmidhi).

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ has taught us many things in his Hadith. Some of the things he has taught us are:

- to become properly educated,
- to obey, respect and take care of parents,
- to have good relations with the family, with brothers and sisters, and all the relatives,
- to have good manners and good character,
- to dress decently,
- to be kind and merciful,
- to be friendly and to greet everyone with a smile,
- to fulfill our responsibilities,
- to work and earn our living, and not to beg of others,
- to put in our best effort in everything we do,
- to help our neighbours,
- to take care of orphans,
- to consider all the Muslims as our brothers and sisters,
- to visit the sick, and take care of them,
- not to lie and cheat,
- not to abuse others,
- not to be quarrelsome,
- to have good drinking and eating habits and not to over eat,
- to eat and drink what is allowed in Islam,
- not to eat or drink what is prohibited in Islam,
- not to drink alcohol,
- to wash the hands before eating and after eating,
- to eat with the right hand,
- not to waste food or water,



to enter the **masjid** with the right foot,  
not to show off,  
to cooperate with others in doing good deeds,  
to stop others from doing evil deeds and from sinning,  
to be humble and not to be arrogant,  
to be generous and not to be miserly,  
to keep our promises,  
to honour our guests,  
to repay our debts,  
to thank Allah ﷻ and do His dhikr (remembrance),  
to recite salawaat (blessings) on Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ has taught us to exchange greetings of peace. So, when you meet someone, greet with: **As-salamu alaykum** (peace be upon you). Reply to the greeting with: **Wa alaykum-us-salam** (and peace be upon you too).

We should follow the Hadith of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ because they teach us how to obey Allah ﷻ, how to lead a good life and be good Muslims.

May Allah ﷻ guide us to follow both the Holy Qur'an, which is the Word of Allah ﷻ, as well as the Hadith Sharif which are the Sayings of our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

## CHAPTER FIVE

# KALIMA TAYYIBA THE DECLARATION OF MUSLIM FAITH

**Kalima Tayyiba** is the first pillar of Islam. **Tayyiba** means “Pure”.

Each Prophet (Alayhissalam) has a Kalima. The Kalima of our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is **Kalima Tayyiba**.

The Kalima is the first basic belief of Muslims.

The words of the Kalima are:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

**Laa Ilaha Illallah Muhammad ur-Rasulullah**

which means:

None is to be worshipped but Allah.  
Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.

The Kalima appears in the verses of the Qur'an.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

**Laa Ilaha Illallah** appears in one verse and  
**Muhammad ur-Rasulullah** in another verse.

When someone recites and believes in the Kalima, he/she becomes a Muslim.

Reciting the Kalima is the identity of a Muslim.

When recited, it is the key to Paradise. That is why Muslims love to recite it every day, and that is why it is written on Muslim flags.

The Kalima is also recited in **Salah** (Prayer) after **Attahiyyat**.

Before you say anything in the morning recite the Kalima.

Before you go to sleep every night, you should recite **Laa Ilaha Illallah** a hundred times. When you've finished that, recite the whole Kalima once, then go to sleep.

When you are reciting the Kalima, you are doing Zikr (remembering Allah ﷻ).

The **Kalima** is the best **Zikr** according to a Hadith (Saying) of our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Reciting the Kalima has more reward than all the good deeds. On the Day of Judgment, all the good deeds are going to be put on one side of the scale to weigh the deeds and the Kalima is going to be put on the other side of the scale and the Kalima will be heavier.



In Germany, some trees have grown with the Will of Allah ﷻ in the shape of the Kalima. We came to know of this when once lightening struck some trees in Germany. In the light of the lightening, the trunks and the branches of the trees could be clearly seen in the shape of the words of the Kalima. Pictures of this incident are available. Isn't that amazing?

To put a baby to sleep, recite

Hasbee Rabbi Jallallah  
 maa fee qalbi Gairullah  
 Nur Muhammad Sallallah  
 laa ilaha Illallah.

This is our lullaby. It means:

Sufficient for me is my Lord, Allah, The Majestic  
 There is none other than Allah in my heart  
 The Light of Prophet Muhammad, may Allah bless him  
 None is to be worshipped but Allah

When children first learn to speak, teach them the Kalima.

The knowledge of the Kalima is called **Ilmu-ut-Tawheed** which we learn from our **sufi shaykhs**.

Every Muslim prays to Allah ﷻ that when he/she dies, may the Kalima

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

**Laa Ilaha Illallah Muhammad ur-Rasulullah**

be on his/her lips so that Allah ﷻ, in His Mercy, may send them to Paradise. Ameen.

## CHAPTER SIX

# SALAH

**Salah** is the Muslim Prayer to worship Allah ﷻ, The One and Only God to be worshipped.

We worship Him in Salah and ask Him for forgiveness.

Our Beloved Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ received Salah as a gift from Allah ﷻ when he went for **Mi'raj** (his Heavenly Ascension).

He is the one who taught us everything about Salah.

Salah is the second Pillar of Islam.

There are many verses of the Holy Qur'an in which Allah ﷻ has commanded us to pray **Salah** and to give **Zakat** (compulsory charity). This shows that we have to worship Allah ﷻ, and be charitable at the same time.

Salah keeps us away from bad deeds.

It makes us good hearted Muslims.

We have to be very humble in our Prayers before Allah ﷻ.

We get **thawab** (heavenly reward) if we pray Salah.

We have to face in the direction of the Ka'ba when we pray Salah.

Our **Qiblah** (direction of Prayer) is the Ka'ba in Makkah.

There are **Fard, Wajib, Sunnah, and Nafil Salah**.

Fard Prayers are the most important. They are obligatory and must be performed.

Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ has recommended that we go to the **masjid** to pray Fard Prayers, and if we do that, we get twenty seven times the **thawab** (heavenly reward). A Muslim's heart is always attached to the masjid.

We stand shoulder to shoulder in rows when we pray Salah in congregation. This shows the unity of Muslims. It also shows the equality of all Muslims before Allah ﷻ. There is great heavenly reward in praying in the first row. We pray to please Allah ﷻ and not to show-off.

We pray Salah five times a day and if we do that, we get a heavenly reward of praying Salah fifty times.

The names of the five times daily **Fard** prayers are **Fajr, Zuhr, 'Asr, Maghrib** and **'Isha**.

We have to pray **Salat al-Fajr** after dawn before sunrise.

We have to pray **Salat al-Zuhr** after midday.

We have to pray **Salat al-‘Asr** in the late afternoon when the sun has declined and before it actually begins to set.

We have to pray **Salat al-Maghrib** after sunset.

We have to pray **Salat al-‘Isha** at night time when the stars normally come out.

Before we pray Salah, we need to have **wudu** (ablution).

This is how we do wudu.

First we make the **niyya** (intention) of doing wudu.

Then we recite **Bismillah** (In the Name of Allah).

Then we wash both our hands including the wrists.

Then we rinse out mouth three times.

Then we clean our nostrils three times.

Then we wash our face three times.

Then we wash our arms including the elbows, three times. We begin with the right arm.

Then we wipe our wet hands on our head, our ears, and the back of the neck.

Then we wash our feet including the ankles three times. We begin with the right foot.

While doing wudu, we glorify Allah and make dua.

We should be careful not to waste water while doing wudu. Our Beloved Prophet ﷺ has advised us to save water.

**Wudu** helps to wash away our minor sins. It also keeps us clean, neat and tidy.

Minor sins committed in between two Salah are forgiven by Allah.

Before we pray Salah, our body, our clothes and the place where we pray must be clean.

When ladies and girls pray Salah, they must wear a **hijab**. When men and boys pray Salah, they must wear a prayer cap.

The **Adhan** (call to Prayer) is given in a loud voice before the Salat al-Fard.

The wordings of the **Adhan** are:

**Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar** (twice)  
**Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha Illallah** (twice)  
**Ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Rasulullah** (twice)  
**Hayya ‘alas-Salah** (twice)  
**Hayya ‘alal-Falah** (twice)  
**Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar** (once)  
**Laa ilaaha Illallah** (once)

It means:

Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great  
I bear witness that none is to be worshipped but Allah  
I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah  
Come to Prayer  
Come to success  
Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great  
None is to be worshipped but Allah

In the **Adhan** for Salat al-Fajr (the dawn Prayer), we add after **Hayya ‘alal-Falah**:

**As-Salatu khayrun min an-nawm** (twice)  
Prayer is better than sleep.

Before the **Salah** (Prayer) begins, the **muadhdhin** recites the **Iqama** which indicates that Prayer is about to begin. The wordings are the same as in the **adhan** but **qad qaamatis-Salah** (Prayer has begun) is recited twice after the recitation of **Hayya ‘alal Falah** (come to success).

This is how we perform a Salah with two **rak‘ah**.

We start Salah in a standing position, which is called **Qiyam**.

We make the **niyya** (intention) of performing Salah.

Then we say **Allahu Akbar** which means: Allah is Most Great.

We recite **Surah al-Fatiha** and at least three short verses or one longer verse from the Qur’an. People normally recite a short Surah (chapter) from the Qur’an.

Then we say **Allahu Akbar** and go in **Ruku‘**, which means to bow down and put your hands on your knees. In **Ruku‘**, we recite **Subhana Rabbiyal ‘Azim** three times. It means: Glory be to my Lord, The Great.

Then we get up from **Ruku‘** and stand straight. When we do that, we recite:

**Sami‘ Allahu liman Hamidah**  
**Rabbana Lakal Hamd**

which means:

Allah has listened to him who has praised Him  
Our Lord! Praise be to You!

Next, we say **Allahu Akbar** and go in **Sajdah** or prostration. That position is when we get closest to Allah. In **Sajdah** we recite **Subhana Rabbiyal A'la** three times. It means: Glory be to my Lord, The Most High.

Then we say **Allahu Akbar** and sit up. Once again we say **Allahu Akbar** and go in the second Sajda and recite the same thing.

This completes our first **rak'ah** of Salah.

We say **Allahu Akbar** and stand up once again and perform our second **rak'ah**.

At the end of the second **rak'ah**, we sit up in the **Qa'da** position. In this position, we recite the **Tashahhud**, **Salat Ibrahimiyya**, and **Du'a**.

We complete the Salah by turning our face first to the right and then to the left, each time saying:

**As-salamu 'alaykum wa Rahmatullah**

which means:

Peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah.

Each Prayer has some number of **raka'at** to be prayed. For example:

The Fard of Salat al-Fajr has two rak'ah.

The Fard of Salat al-Zuhr has four raka'at.

The Fard of Salat al-'Asr has four raka'at.

The Fard of Salat al-Maghrib has three raka'at.

The Fard of Salat al-'Isha has four raka'at.

If the Salah has three or four raka'at, we recite only the **Tashahhud** at the end of two rak'ah and we recite the **Tashahhud**, **Salat Ibrahimiyya** and **Du'a** at the end of the third or the fourth rak'ah in the sitting position.

After we have finished praying Salat al-Fard, we have to recite **Subhanallah** (Glory be to Allah) thirty-three times, **Al-Hamdu Lillah** (All Praise is for Allah) thirty-three times, **Allahu Akbar** (Allah is Most Great) thirty-four times, and make Du'a. Part of the Du'a is: **Astaghfirullah** (I beg forgiveness from Allah).

The person who leads the Salah is called the **Imam**. People who follow the Imam in Prayer are called **Muqtadi**.



We have to start praying Salah at the age of seven.

Parents also get **thawab** (heavenly reward), if their children pray Salah before puberty, but after they attain puberty, the children are fully answerable, not the parents.

For each and every Salah a person prays, the **thawab** (heavenly reward) also goes to the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ because he is the one who brought us Islam and taught us Salah.

When we pray Salah, we have to concentrate, look down, never look around and only think of Allah ﷻ.

We should never miss the **Salat al-Fard** (obligatory Prayer).

Those who miss a Salat al-Fard at its proper time, have to repay it by praying it later. This is called “**qada**”.

We should also pray all the **Salat as-Sunnah**. These are the additional Prayers that our Beloved Prophet ﷺ prayed. We should also pray the **Salat an-Nawafil** which are optional. In this way, we draw ourselves closer to Allah.

For example, before Salat al-‘Isha, we pray Salat as-Sunnah. After Salat al-‘Isha we pray Salat as-Sunnah, Salat an-Nawafil and **Salat al-Witr**. Salat al-Witr is **Wajib** and next in importance to Fard.

We pray **Salat al-Jumu‘a** (Friday Prayers) in the congregational **masjid** at the time of Zuhr.

We also love to pray 20 raka‘at **Salat at-Tarawih** after Salat al-‘Isha in the month of Ramadan. The recitation of the whole Qur’an is completed in Salat at-Tarawih.

We pray **Salat al-‘Id** on the days of **‘Id al-Fitr** and **‘Id al-Adha**.

We pray **Salat al-Janaza** (Funeral Prayer) before the burial of someone who has passed away and pray to Allah ﷻ to forgive him or her and give him or her, a high place in Paradise.

May Allah ﷻ accept our Prayers and make us good Muslims, Ameen.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

# ZAKAT (COMPULSORY CHARITY)

**Zakat** (compulsory charity) is the third pillar of Islam. It is **Fard** (compulsory) on anyone who has enough wealth above a certain minimum. Examples of such wealth are money, gold and silver jewellery, animals on a farm and so on.

Zakat means to purify.

When you give Zakat, you purify your wealth.

There are many verses in the Qur'an that mention **Salah** (Prayer) and **Zakat** (compulsory charity) together.

One should give Zakat to needy and poor Muslims.

You should give Zakat to your deserving relatives first if they are poor or needy.

Give Zakat only to those who accept it.

Give Zakat to individuals to make them owners of it without any conditions attached.

Give two and a half percent of your cash in Zakat every year.

Also give two and a half percent of the value of your wealth such as gold and silver jewellery in Zakat every year

Zakat is also paid on the crops produced by a farmer and on the animals he owns.

A business owner pays Zakat on the goods in his store or factory.

A miner pays Zakat on the value of the minerals he mines.

We can give Zakat any time of the year.

The best time to give Zakat is in Ramadan as you get more **thawab** (heavenly reward) in the month of Ramadan.

We also give another type of Zakat which is called **Zakat al-Fitr** to the poor and the needy in the month of Ramadan. The time for paying this, is up to the **Salah** of **Eid al-Fitr**.

If all eligible Muslims gave Zakat, no Muslim would remain poor.

We are also encouraged to give **sadaqah** (voluntary charity) on a regular basis even if it is a loaf of bread for a poor person. We have to make sure none of our neighbours go hungry. This is Sunnah or the Prophet's tradition.

If we give sadaqah, we get extra thawab (heavenly reward).

We should give in charity not to show-off or to be praised but to please Allah ﷻ.

A special category of sadaqah (voluntary charity) is **sadaqah jariya** (continuous charity). If we dig a well from which all people can obtain water freely, that is continuous charity. If we educate a child to become a pious Muslim, that is continuous charity.

Our Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us that doing good deeds are also acts of charity (sadaqah). He taught us that:

every act of kindness is sadaqah (charity),

taking care of animals is sadaqah,

planting something from which a man, a bird or an animal eats is sadaqah,

dealing with justice between two people is sadaqah,

helping a man to get up on his animal such as a camel is sadaqah,

helping to load or lift goods for someone is sadaqah,

saying good words is sadaqah,

every step you take to go for Prayers is sadaqah,

removing anything harmful from the road is sadaqah.

By performing any of these good deeds, even the poorest people are giving in charity. Such is the great teaching of our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was most kind, charitable and generous.

May Allah ﷻ continue to guide us to be kind, charitable and generous every day of our life. Ameen.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

# SAWM (FASTING)

Fasting is the fourth pillar of Islam.

Fasting means not to eat or drink from dawn to dusk.

We fast because Allah ﷻ has commanded us to do so in the Holy Qur'an.

We fast in the whole month of Ramadan.

Ramadan is the month when the Qur'an was revealed.

In Ramadan, all the doors to **Jannah** (Paradise) are open.

Ramadan is the month of training for us to become good Muslims.

When we fast, we are reminded of the hunger of poor people and we become more charitable.

We break our fast when the sun has set.

It is Sunnah to break our fast with dates or water.

In the month of Ramadan, it is good to complete the recitation of the Holy Qur'an or to memorize it.

In Ramadan, there is a night called **Lailatul-Qadr**. If you pray in that night, it is better than praying for a thousand months.

The end of the month of Ramadan is followed by the festival of **Eid-ul-Fitr**.

If we miss one or more fasts in Ramadan because we are sick or on a journey, we repay by fasting after Eid-ul-Fitr.

If you are a child under the age of twelve, it is not compulsory to fast, but if you are mature and sane you must keep all your fasts.

Children are encouraged to fast when they are as young as seven. When the child completes his or her first fast, it is a day of great joy in the family.

People in other religions also fast, but the way they fast is different.

Every year, the month of Ramadan moves ten or eleven days ahead of the Christian calendar. This is because Muslim months are based on the lunar calendar.

Fasting in Ramadan is **Fard** (compulsory).

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also fasted on some other days in the rest of the eleven months. These are called Sunnah fasts.

If we do something good in Ramadan, we get a heavenly reward seventy times more than in other months.

If we pray **Salat an-nafl** in Ramadan, we get a heavenly reward of **Salat al-Fard**.

If we give **Zakat** (compulsory charity) and **Sadaqah** (voluntary charity) in Ramadan, the rewards in heaven are even greater.

We should try to become good, charitable, kind-hearted and pious Muslims by doing more and more good deeds in the month of Ramadan.

Fasting is a training to become better Muslims and avoid sins such as backbiting, lying, cheating, quarreling, gambling, and stealing.

When one does something bad in Ramadan, the sin is even greater.

We should pray to Allah ﷻ to forgive our sins and make us good Muslims. Ameen.

All this has been taught to us by our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

## CHAPTER NINE

# HAJJ (PILGRIMAGE TO MAKKAH)

Hajj, the annual Muslim Pilgrimage to Makkah, is the fifth pillar of Islam.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us how to perform Hajj. He taught us all about Islam.

Hajj is **Fard** (obligatory) once in a life-time for those who can afford to go for Hajj.

First, let us look at some of the teachings of Hajj.

Hajj teaches us that everybody in Islam is equal. While on Hajj, all men wear the same **Ihram** clothes. Ihram clothing consists only of two unsewn pieces of white clothing.

In Ihram clothing, everyone becomes humble. Everyone also becomes humble sleeping on the floor in tents in Mina and Arafat.

Hajj also teaches us to wear decent clothing. Women are privileged not to be in Ihram clothing but they have to be modestly dressed, and cover themselves properly.

We learn that all Muslims are brothers and sisters.

When we go for Hajj, we learn that Islam has spread all over the world as we see people of different nations. Every year, more than a million people go for Hajj.

Even non-Muslims marvel at the Hajj Pilgrimage.

Hajj brings us closer to Allah ﷻ.

Hajj teaches us the love of Allah ﷻ and the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

While on Hajj, we are worshipping Allah ﷻ all the time and our hearts are becoming clean.

While on Hajj, we are praying to Allah ﷻ all the time hoping that Allah ﷻ will answer our prayers.

While on Hajj, we recite the Holy Qur'an as much as we can. This fills us with joy and happiness.

Hajj teaches us the history of Islam. For instance, we learn about the history of Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him), and Prophet Ismail (peace be upon him). They built the Ka'ba in Makkah to worship Allah ﷻ.

We also learn about the history of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. We visit many historical places around Makkah and Madina and learn about the history of Islam.

Many books and religious poems have been written about Hajj and about Makkah and Madina.

Hajj teaches us about patience and sacrifice as it reminds us of the patience and sacrifices of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and of his Family and Companions (may Allah be pleased with them).

By looking at the history of Sayyidina Ibrahim (Alayhissalam) and his wife, Sayidatina Hajra (Alayhassalam), we learn about patience and sacrifice.

Hajj teaches us to give to the poor by sacrificing a lamb or a goat while on Hajj.

Hajj also teaches us to be pure and clean all the time.

Hajj teaches us to form the habit of praying five times a day.

Hajj teaches us to disobey Shaitan, meaning to reject Shaitan's evil ways and to stand against him.

On the day of Hajj in Arafat, more people are forgiven than on any other day. This shows that Allah ﷻ is Most Merciful.

Hajj is Jihad for women according to a Saying of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Hajj teaches us to be kind, gentle, truthful, helpful, and to live a life free of sins. We should not quarrel, especially while we are on Hajj.

We learn to share our food with others.

The water of Zam Zam in Makkah is a special gift from Allah ﷻ to Muslims till the Day of Judgement.

Now we come to an explanation of how Hajj is performed.

Before you go for Hajj, you must be sure that if someone has been hurt by you, he must forgive you. You must also leave enough money for your family if they are not accompanying you for Hajj. You must repay your debts if you have any.

Hajj is the big Pilgrimage and 'Umrah is the small Pilgrimage.

Hajj comes at a certain time of the year, in Dhul Hijjah, the twelfth month in the Islamic calendar, but 'Umrah can be done at any time of the year.

If you get the invitation from Allah to go for Hajj, you should say, "Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik" which means, "I'm here, O Allah, here I am". This is called the **Talbiya**.

When you perform Hajj, you can perform 'Umrah as well.

To perform 'Umrah, you:

1. Make the **niyyah** (intention) after doing **ghusl** (bath).
2. Be in a state of Ihram.
3. Enter the Grand Masjid in Makkah through **Bab-us-Salam** (the door of peace).

4. Perform **tawaf** of the **Ka'ba** by going around it seven times. You should try to kiss the **Hajar al-Aswad** (the Black Stone) in the Ka'ba but if you cannot do that because of the rush, you should blow it a kiss.
5. Pray the two **rak'ah Sunnah** Prayer at **Maqam Ibrahim**.
6. Drink the water of Zam Zam.
7. Run between the hills of Safa and Marwa seven times because Sayyidatina Hajra (Alayhassalam) did that while searching for water for her baby Ismail (Alayhissalam).
8. Finally have a hair-cut or shave your hair. Women only need to clip a little bit of their hair.

Once you have done all this, you have completed your 'Umrah. Now you can remove the Ihram clothing and put on your normal clothes.

This is a step by step procedure of performing Hajj.

1. Make the niyyah for Hajj after doing ghusl.
2. Men must wear Ihram clothing but women can wear their own dresses, covering themselves properly.
3. Say the **talbiya** which is:

**Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik**  
**Labbaik laa sharika Laka Labbaik**  
**Innal Hamda wan-Ni'mata Laka wal Mulk**  
**Laa sharika Lak**

Here I am at Your service O Allah! Here I am at Your service!  
 Here I am at Your service. You are without partner. Here I am at Your service.  
 Indeed all Praise, Grace and Kingdom is for You.  
 You are without partner.

4. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of Dhul Hijja, do the tawaf of the Ka'ba in Makkah.
5. Then, go to Mina which is five miles away from Makkah and pray **Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib,** and '**Isha**' prayers there and on the ninth of Dhul Hijjah, pray the **Fajr** prayer in Mina.
6. After Fajr on the ninth, go to the Plain of Arafat.
7. Pray Zuhr and then pray 'Asr right after in Arafat. On that day, we are forgiven by Allah.
8. You have to be at the Plain of Arafat anytime between Zuhr and Maghrib on the ninth of the month of Dhul Hijja. This is **Fard** (compulsory). The **Khutba** (sermon) of Hajj takes place on the ninth at Arafat, usually after Zuhr.
9. Make **du'a** as much as you can before the sun sets. Recite the **Kalima Shahadah** and **Surah Ikhlas** as much as you can at Arafat.



The **Kalima Shahadah** we recite is:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ  
وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

**Laa ilaha Illallahu Wahdahu laa sharika lahu  
Lahul Mulku wa Lahul Hamdu  
wa Huwa 'alaa kulli shay'in Qadir**

None is to be worshipped but Allah. He is One, without any partner  
His is the Kingdom, and His is the Praise  
and He is All-Powerful over everything.

10. After the sun sets at Arafat on the ninth, leave for Muzdalifa.
11. Combine the Maghrib and 'Isha' prayers at the time of 'Isha' at Muzdalifa.
12. At Muzdalifa, collect forty-nine pebbles or more to throw at the pillars in Mina. These pillars symbolize shaitan.
13. On the morning of the tenth, pray the Fajr prayer at Muzdalifa, then leave for Mina after sunrise.
14. The tenth of the month of Dhul Hijja is the day of Eid. Now you stop reciting the **Talbiya** and recite the **Takbeeraat** of Eid instead.

The **Takbeeraat** of Eid are:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ  
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ  
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

**Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar  
laa ilaha Illallahu Allahu Akbar  
Allahu Akbar wa Lillahil Hamd**

Allah is Most Great! Allah is Most Great! Allah is Most Great!  
None is to be worshipped but Allah. Allah is Most Great!  
Allah is Most Great and for Him is all Praise.

15. On the tenth, throw seven pebbles at the big pillar in Mina after Zuhr. The big pillar represents the big shaitan in Mina.
16. In Mina, each person has to sacrifice one lamb or goat. This is called **Udhiya**. This can be done on the tenth, eleventh or twelfth of the month of Dhul Hijjah.
17. After you have sacrificed an animal, have a hair-cut or shave your hair. Women have only to clip a little of their hair. Now the restrictions of the Ihram come to an end. You come out of Ihram clothing and put on your usual clothes.
18. Go back to Makkah and perform Tawaf. This Tawaf is Fard (compulsory). Pray the 2 rak'ah Sunnah Prayer at Maqam Ibrahim. Drink the water of zam zam. Then run between Safa and Marwa seven times. Then come back to Mina.
19. On the eleventh, after Zuhr prayers, you throw seven pebbles at each of the three pillars in Mina.
20. On the twelfth again, after Zuhr prayers, you throw seven pebbles at each pillar.
21. Once that is done, you can return to Makkah.
22. Before you leave Makkah, you have to make **Tawaf-ul-Wada** (the farewell Tawaf). This completes your Hajj.

All the rules about how to perform Hajj and how to perform all the five Pillars of Islam have been taught to us by the Imams of madh-hab who are: Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Shafi'i, Imam Malik, and Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal (Rahmatullahi alaihim, may Allah ﷻ have mercy on them).

When we go for Hajj, we are advised to go to Madina and stay there for at least eight days and pray forty Salah in Masjid Nabawi and say **salaat** and **salaams** to the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ at his **Rawda**.

This is one of the many ways of reciting **salaat** and **salaams** at the Rawda:

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ  
الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ  
الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ

**As-Salatu was-Salamu 'alayka Yaa Rasulallah**  
**As-Salatu was-Salamu 'alayka Yaa Nabiyyallah**  
**As-Salatu was-Salamu 'alayka Yaa Habiballah**

Salutation and greeting of peace to you, O Messenger of Allah  
Salutation and greeting of peace to you, O Prophet of Allah

Salutation and greeting of peace to you, O Beloved of Allah.

Those who have performed Hajj and 'Umra tell us of their wonderful experiences.

They tell us of their joy when they first saw the Ka'ba.

They tell us of their joy listening to the melodious **adhan** in Makkah and Madina.

They tell us of their joy of being with Muslims from all over the world.

They tell us of the love and respect that Hajjis show for Prophet Muhammad ﷺ at his Rawda in Masjid Nabawi in Madina.

They bring gifts of dates and Zam Zam water.

Truly, Hajj is a journey of a life-time.

When we go for Hajj, we feel so fortunate and blessed.

Once we come back from Hajj, we have to be even more responsible. We have to avoid sins and lead a pious life.

May Allah ﷻ accept the Hajj of all the Muslims, Ameen.

## CHAPTER TEN

### SAYYIDINA NABI ADAM (Alayhissalam, peace be upon him)

We learn about Sayyidina Nabi Adam (Alayhissalam) from the Holy Qur'an. We also learn about him from the Hadith (Sayings) of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Sayyidina Nabi Adam (Alayhissalam) was the first person whom Allah ﷻ created.

Allah ﷻ made him from clay.

When Allah ﷻ intends something, He just says: **Be**, and it becomes.

Allah ﷻ breathed His Spirit into Sayyidina Adam (Alayhissalam) and He came into being.

Allah ﷻ told all the angels to do **sajda** (prostration of respect) to Sayyidina Adam (Alayhissalam) but Iblis, who was a jinn, refused because he was arrogant. He said he was superior because he was made of fire whereas Sayyidina Adam (Alayhissalam) was made of clay.

For this reason, Iblis was turned into shaitan, the rejected (**shaitan-ir-rajeem**).

Allah ﷻ has taught us in the Qur'an not to follow the evil ways of shaitan but to follow the Straight Path of Islam.

We should avoid all bad deeds such as drinking alcohol, taking drugs, bribery, gambling, and cheating. We should not be arrogant, jealous or selfish.

We should please Allah ﷻ by doing all good deeds such as performing the Five Pillars of Islam; being good to parents, family, friends and neighbours; keeping our hearts and body clean; and being patient, honest, truthful and sincere.

When Allah created Sayyidina Adam (Alayhissalam), He taught him the names of all the things.

Allah created Sayyida Hawwa (Alayhissalam, peace be upon her) from a rib of Sayyidina Adam (Alayhissalam).

Sayyidina Adam (Alayhissalam) married Sayyida Hawwa (Alayhissalam).

They lived in **Jannah** (Paradise).

They were tricked by Shaitan and ate the fruit that was strictly prohibited by Allah ﷻ.

They were then sent to earth.

Sayyidina Adam (Alayhissalam) prayed for seventy years for forgiveness from Allah ﷻ. Allah ﷻ forgave him, and he was re-united with Sayyida Hawwa (Alayhissalam) on **Jabal Rahmah** (the mount of mercy) near the plain of Arafat.

Sayyidina Nabi Adam (Alayhissalam) and Sayyida Hawwa (Alayhassalam) are the parents of all the human beings. We are all their descendants. So we should not look down at other people. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us that black people are not superior to white people, and neither are white people superior to black people. Those who are nearest to Allah ﷻ are those who are the most pious. So we should try to become pious.

The first two sons of Sayyidina Adam and Sayyida Hawwa were Habil and Qabil.

Sayyidina Nabi Adam (Alayhissalam) was the first Prophet sent by Allah ﷻ to guide the people.

He advised his children and grand-children to worship only One God, Allah ﷻ.

All praise is for Allah ﷻ, Lord of the worlds.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### SAYYIDINA NABI NUH (Alaihissalam, peace be upon him)

Sayyidina Nabi Nuh (Alayhissalam) is one of the five greatest Prophets sent by Allah ﷻ. The five greatest Prophets are called **Ulul Azm** in the Holy Qur'an. They are:

1. Sayyidina Nabi Muhammad,
2. Sayyidina Nabi Ibrahim,
3. Sayyidina Nabi Musa,
4. Sayyidina Nabi Isa,
5. Sayyidina Nabi Nuh,

(Alaihimussalam, peace be upon them all).

Sayyidina Nabi Nuh (Alayhissalam) is one of the greatest Prophets who came after Nabi Adam (Alayhissalam).

He loved Allah ﷻ, the One and True God.

He taught people to worship Allah ﷻ and not to worship idols.

His wife and one of his sons did not believe in Allah ﷻ.

They also did not believe that Nabi Nuh (Alayhissalam) was a Prophet.

He had a hard time conveying the message of Allah ﷻ to the people as even his wife and son were against him.

He has been mentioned in many verses of the Holy Qur'an.

Surah Nuh is a chapter of the Holy Qur'an that has been named after him.

He is also mentioned in the Hadith (Sayings) of our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

He lived for nine hundred and fifty years.

He lived in the country which is now called Iraq.

Christians call him Noah.

This is a short history about Sayyidina Nabi Nuh (Alayhissalam). One day Allah ﷻ revealed to him that a flood was coming. Allah ﷻ also revealed to him to make a boat for the people so that they could be saved. When he was making the boat together with his followers, people started to

laugh at him because there was no water. When the flood came, everyone who wanted to be saved went in the boat. Sayyidina Nabi Nuh (Alayhissalam) also took on the boat a male and a female of each type of animal and creature. His wife and son thought that they could save themselves on their own so they went to a mountain. But they ended up drowning in the flood, together with the wicked people who refused to go on the boat. Everyone who went on the boat was saved. They thanked Allah ﷻ for saving them.

The dua of Nabi Nuh (Alayhissalam) when his boat began to sail was:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ مَجْرَاهَا وَمُرْسَاهَا إِنَّ رَبِّي لَغَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٤١﴾

**Bismillahi majrayhaa wa mursaahaa  
Inna Rabbee la Ghafur-ur-Rahim**

In the name of Allah be its moving and its anchoring;  
surely, my Lord is Forgiving, Merciful. (11:41)

This dua is in the Holy Qur'an. We recite this dua when we begin our journey in a boat.

All praise is for Allah ﷻ, Lord of the worlds.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### **SAYYIDINA NABI IBRAHIM** **(Alaihissalam, peace be upon him)**

Sayyidina Nabi Ibrahim (Alayhissalam) is one of the five greatest Prophets sent by Allah ﷺ.

He is called **Khaleelullah** or Friend of Allah.

Christians call him Abraham.

He lived in a country called Babylon which is now called Iraq.

We learn about him from the Qur'an and Hadith.

We also learn about him from Muslim history.

**Surah** (Chapter) number fourteen in the Holy Qur'an has been named Surah Ibrahim. It is in the thirteenth part (**juz**) of the Holy Qur'an.

He has also been mentioned in many other verses of the Holy Qur'an.

His two famous wives were:

1. Sayyida Hajra (Alayhissalam, peace be upon her) whose son Sayyidina Ismail (peace be upon him) was appointed as a Prophet by Allah ﷺ.
2. Sayyida Sarah (Alayhissalam, peace be upon her) whose son Sayyidina Is-haq (peace be upon him) was appointed as a Prophet by Allah ﷺ.

They all loved Allah ﷻ, the One and True God.

People in the time of Nabi Ibrahim (Alayhissalam) worshipped idols.

He taught the people to worship Allah ﷻ and not to worship idols but they did not listen to him. So one day, he took an axe, chopped the smaller idols into pieces, and kept the axe on the shoulder of the big idol. The people asked him who had done it. He told them to ask the big idol because the axe was on its shoulder. They told him he knew very well that idols cannot talk. So he asked them why they worshipped idols which had no power to do anything.

So the people were mad at him and their king Nimrud decided to throw him into a fire. So they prepared a big fire and threw him into the fire but Allah ﷻ told the fire to become cool and safe for Nabi Ibrahim (Alayhissalam). The fire became cool for him and he came out of it safe and sound. This is one of the miracles of Nabi Ibrahim (Alayhissalam).

Once, Nabi Ibrahim and his wife Sayyida Hajra went to Makkah when no one lived there.

Nabi Ibrahim left Sayyida Hajra and their baby son, Sayyidina Ismail, in Makkah.



Once when her baby was thirsty, Sayyida Hajra (Alayhassalam) ran between the hills of Safa and Marwa seven times to search for water. When she went back to her son, she saw water gushing at his feet. She cupped the water to stop flooding of the place. This is the blessed water of Zam Zam in Makkah which we drink to this day.

And when we go for Hajj, we run between the hills of Safa and Marwa seven times because Sayyida Hajra (Alayhassalam) ran between these hills. This shows our love for her.

Once Sayyidina Nabi Ibrahim (Alayhissalam) had a dream that he had to sacrifice his son, Sayyidina Ismail (Alayhissalam). He told his dream to his son who said that he should obey Allah's Command. When he was about to sacrifice his son, Angel Jibril (Alayhissalam) substituted a male sheep in the place of Sayyidina Ismail (Alayhissalam) and gave him Allah's salams (greetings) and said that his dream had been fulfilled.

On the day of Eid al-Adha, we sacrifice a lamb or a goat to celebrate and remember that sacrifice of Sayyidina Nabi Ibrahim (Alayhissalam). This shows our love for Nabi Ibrahim (Alayhissalam) and Nabi Ismail (Alayhissalam).

Sayyidina Nabi Muhammad ﷺ is the descendant of Sayyidina Nabi Ismail (Alayhissalam).

Sayyidina Nabi Ibrahim (Alayhissalam) and Sayyidina Nabi Ismail (Alayhissalam) built the Ka'ba in Makkah.

Just beside the Ka'ba is Maqam Ibrahim. When we go for Hajj, we pray two rak'a Salat as-Sunnah near Maqam Ibrahim. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us to do that. **Al-Hamdu Lillah**, all praise is for Allah ﷻ.

Sayyidina Nabi Ibrahim (Alayhissalam) recited many duas. These have been mentioned in the Qur'an. One of these duas which we recite quite often is:

رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِ رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي  
وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ

**Rabbijalnee muqem as-Salati wa min dhurriyatee  
Rabbanaa wa taqabbal dua  
Rabbanaghfirlee wa li waalidayya wa lil muminina  
yawma yaqumul hisaab**

My Lord! Keep me as establisher of Prayer and from my offspring too,  
Our Lord, and accept my supplication.  
Our Lord! Forgive me and my parents and all believers  
on the Day when accounting shall take place (of good and bad deeds). (14:40-41)

In our Salah (Prayer), we recite As-Salat Ibrahim in which we ask Allah ﷻ to bless Sayyidina Nabi Muhammad ﷺ and his Family just as He blessed Sayyidina Nabi Ibrahim (Alayhissalam) and his Family.

This is As-Salat Ibrahim which has been taught to us by our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى  
إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ ط  
اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى  
إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ ط

**Allahumma salli alaa Muhammad-in wa alaa aali Muhammad-in  
kamaa sallaita alaa Ibrahim-a wa alaa aali Ibrahim-a  
Innaka Hamidun Majid**

**Allahumma baarik alaa Muhammad-in wa alaa aali Muhammad-in  
kamaa baarakta alaa Ibrahim-a wa alaa aali Ibrahim-a  
Innaka Hamidun Majid**

O Allah! Bless our master Sayyidina Muhammad  
and the Family of Sayyidina Muhammad  
as you blessed Sayyidina Ibrahim and the Family of Sayyidina Ibrahim.  
Surely, You are Praiseworthy, Glorious.

O Allah! Bestow favours on Sayyidina Muhammad  
and the Family of Sayyidina Muhammad  
as you bestowed favours on Sayyidina Ibrahim and the Family of Sayyidina Ibrahim.  
Surely, You are Praiseworthy, Glorious.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### SAYYIDINA NABI MUSA (Alayhissalam, peace be upon him)

We learn about the history of Sayyidina Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) from the Holy Qur'an and Hadith.

We also learn about his history from his **Sirah** (biography).

We love Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) as we love all the Prophets of Allah ﷺ.

He is **Kalimullah**, which means “the one who talked with Allah.”

He is a **Rasul**, a Prophetic Messenger of Allah ﷺ.

Of the twenty five Prophets mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, he has been mentioned by name the greatest number of times.

He is one of the **Ulul Azm**, the five greatest Prophets.

The **kitab** (heavenly book) called **Tawrat** was revealed to him.

His father's name was Imran.

His brother was Sayyidina Harun (Alayhissalam) who was also a Prophet.

Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an:

سَلَامٌ عَلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ

**Salaamun 'alaa Musa wa Harun**

Peace be upon Musa and Harun. (37:120)

Sayyidina Nabi Muhammad ﷺ met Sayyidina Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) on his **Mi'raj** (heavenly ascension).

Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) was sent as a Prophet to the Jews. He taught his people to worship the One and Only God, Allah ﷻ and he taught his people about Prayer and charity.

One of the dua of Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) given in the Holy Qur'an is:

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي ۖ وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي

**Rabbishrah lee sadree  
wa yassir lee amree**

My Lord! Open my breast for me.  
And make my task easy for me. (20:25-26)

Many Shaykhs love to recite this du'a when they begin their talk.

The king of Egypt in the time of Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) was called Firawn. He was a cruel king who had turned the people of Bani Israel (the tribe of Israel) into slaves. He taught the people that he was god.

He came to know that a boy will be born of the Bani Israel who will destroy him, so he ordered that any boy who is born to a family of that tribe should be killed.

So when Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) was born, his mother feared for his safety. So Allah ﷻ inspired her to put him in a basket and let him float away in the River Nile. She obeyed the Command of Allah ﷻ. The basket floated all the way to the palace of Firawn. The servant of Firawn brought it inside. Sayyida Asiya (Alayhissalam, peace be upon her), Firawn's wife loved the baby and adopted him. Maryam, the sister of Sayyidina Musa had followed the basket to the palace. She suggested to Sayyida Asiya that she could search for a nurse to take care of him. Sayyida Asiya agreed, and so Maryam brought her own mother as the nurse. Thus Nabi Musa was restored to his mother who nursed him.

In this way, Sayyidina Musa (Alayhissalam) was raised up in the house of Firawn, the king of Egypt.

We learn from this event that Allah ﷻ does what He likes.

Sayyidah Asiya (Alayhissalam), Firawn's wife, who adopted Sayyidina Musa (Alayhissalam) was a very pious lady. She is one of the four greatest women in Islam.

Now we come to the history of Sayyidina Musa (Alayhissalam) as an adult.

Allah ﷻ appointed him as His Prophet and spoke to him on mount Sinai.

Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) wanted to see Allah ﷻ. Allah ﷻ told him that he would not be able to see Him. But Allah ﷻ told him to look at the mountain and when he saw the Light on the mountain, he fainted.

Allah ﷻ told him to go to Firawn and to tell him to worship only Allah ﷻ, the One and Only God to be worshipped. So Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) went to Firawn and conveyed to him the Command of Allah ﷻ. He told him to free his people whom he had turned into slaves.

When Firawn heard this, he wanted to imprison him so Allah ﷻ ordered Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) to throw down his stick and it turned into a snake.

So Firawn ordered his magicians to come. They threw down their sticks and they turned into serpents. Then Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) threw down his stick and it turned into a bigger serpent which swallowed all the small serpents. Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) then put his hand forward and when he touched the big serpent, it turned into a stick again. This was one of his miracles. The magicians begged forgiveness of Allah ﷻ and declared that they believed in Allah ﷻ.

Finally, Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) and his followers, the Jews, were able to escape the cruelty of Firawn.

Firawn wanted to kill Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam). So his army chased him and his followers. When they reached the Red Sea, Allah ﷻ ordered Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) to throw his stick in the sea. When he did that, the sea parted and a way was made in the middle for Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) and the Bani Israel to pass. Then Firawn and his men came. When they entered the path in the Red Sea and started crossing it, the path closed up on them and Firawn and his men were drowned. In this way, Allah ﷻ saved Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) and his followers.

Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) crossed the Sinai desert on foot together with his followers.

After they had escaped from Firawn, they were thirsty and they asked Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) for water. He hit the rock with his stick and twelve springs gushed forth from it for twelve different groups.

The Jews once asked Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) to bring them food from the heavens, so he asked Allah ﷻ for food which was sent from the heavens. It was **manna** and **salwa**.

Once, Nabi Musa (Alayhisslam) fasted for 40 days and then Allah ﷻ spoke to him on Mount Sinai and gave him the Ten Commandments.

When Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) was away, Samiri, an evil man made a calf from gold and asked the Bani Israel to worship it. This made Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) very angry.

Allah ﷻ ordered his followers not to be corrupt and not to spread mischief on earth.

Another incident occurred in the time of Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam). There was a very rich man at that time called Qarun. Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) advised him to give **Zakat** (poor-due) but he refused. He was very arrogant. He thought he was rich because he was clever. As a punishment, the earth swallowed him up together with all the wealth that he owned.

One day, Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) gave a very impressive talk. Someone asked him: “Is there anyone more learned than you?” He answered: “No”. So Allah ﷻ told him no one can possess all the knowledge. So he asked Allah ﷻ where to find the man who knew more than him. Allah ﷻ told him to put a fish in a container and take it with him, and when the fish disappeared, he would meet that man. When he reached a place where two rivers met, the fish wriggled out and went into the river. Then Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam), met Hadrat Khidr (Alayhissalam), the saint whom Allah ﷻ had given great knowledge directly from Himself.

All praise is for Allah ﷻ, Lord of the worlds.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

### SAYYIDINA NABI ISA (ALAYHISSALAM)

Sayyidina Nabi Isa (Alayhissalam)'s mother's name is Sayyidah Maryam (Alayhassalam, peace be upon her), known as the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sayyidina Nabi Isa's birth was a miracle because he was born without a father.

Allah ﷻ created Sayyidina Nabi Adam (Alayhissalam) from clay, without a father or mother. This was also a miracle.

Allah ﷻ is the Creator. He can create as He wishes. He says **kun** ("be"), and it becomes.

We learn from the Holy Qur'an what Sayyidina Nabi Isa (Alayhissalam) said when he was born.

قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ ءَاتَنِي الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا

**He said: I am a servant of Allah. He (Allah) gave me the Book (Injil) and made me a Prophet.** (19:30)

His mother, Sayyidah Maryam (Alayhassalam) is the greatest woman in Islam. Surah Maryam, a chapter in the Holy Qur'an, has been named after her. One of her titles is **Siddiqah** (the Truthful). She is a saint.

Sayyidina Nabi Isa (Alayhissalam) was born about 600 years before Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

He was born in Bayt Lahm (Bethlehem), a town in Palestine.

Allah ﷻ appointed Nabi Isa (Alayhissalam) as a Prophet to the Jews. He began to preach when he was thirty years old. He preached for three to four years.

He is one of the Ulul Azm, the five greatest Prophets.

He received the book called **Injil** (the Gospel) as a revelation from Allah ﷻ.

He taught people to worship the One and Only God, Allah ﷻ.

He taught people about Prayer, charity and kindness and to use as few things as possible.

He had three things: a mug, a comb and a pillow and he gave them up one after another.

He used to drink water from his mug, but once when he saw a man drinking water with his hands, he gave up using his mug and from then on he used his hands to drink.

He used to comb his hair but once he saw a man straighten his hair with his hands. So he gave up using his comb and from then on straightened his hair with his hands.

He used a pillow to sleep but when he saw a man using his arm to go to sleep, he gave up using the pillow.

He performed many miracles. He cured people of the disease of leprosy, he healed the blind, and he made dead people alive, all with the Will of Allah ﷺ.

He prayed to Allah to provide food for his people. So Allah sent down a table full of food from the heavens. This was a day of **Eid** (celebration) for them.

He made a prophesy about the coming of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Sayyidina Nabi Muhammad ﷺ met Sayyidina Nabi Isa (Alayhissalam) on his **mi'raj** (heavenly ascension).

Many Muslim boys are named Isa after Nabi Isa (Alayhissalam).

Many Muslim girls are named Maryam after his mother Sayyida Maryam (Alayhassalam).

In the Qur'an, Sayyidina Nabi Isa (Alayhissalam) has been called Ibn Maryam (son of Sayyida Maryam).

He has been given titles such as **RasulAllah** (the Messenger of Allah), **Abdullah** (the Servant of Allah), **Kalimatullah** (the Word of Allah), and **Ruhullah** (the Spirit of Allah).

Christians call him Jesus.

He is not the son of God as the Christians believe. May Allah ﷻ save us from such beliefs.

Christians also believe in the Trinity (three gods in one). May Allah ﷻ save us from such far-fetched beliefs.

Christians also believe that he died for their sins. Muslims do not believe in that. Each person is responsible for his or her own actions.

Christians believe that he was crucified on the cross. Muslims do not believe in that. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an that it was made to appear to the people that they had crucified him but they crucified someone resembling him while Allah ﷻ raised him up to the heavens.

Sayyidina Nabi Muhammad ﷺ has made a prophesy that Sayyidina Nabi Isa (Alayhissalam) will come back to earth from the heavens before the Day of Judgement. At that time, Dajjal, the one-eyed man, will be creating a lot of mischief and evil on earth. Sayyidina Nabi Isa (Alayhissalam) will kill Dajjal, and once more establish peace. He will come not as a Prophet but as an **Ummati** (follower) of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

All Muslims respect and believe in Sayyidina Nabi Isa (Alayhissalam) and believe in all the other Prophets, (Alayhimussalam, peace be upon them).

All praise is for Allah ﷻ, Lord of the worlds.

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

### SAYYIDINA ABU BAKR AS-SIDDIQ (Rady Allahu Anhu, may Allah be pleased with him)

Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (Rady Allahu Anhu) is the greatest Companion (**Sahabi**) of the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ.

Among all the people, Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (Rady Allahu Anhu) is ranked next after all the Prophets (peace be upon them).

He was two years younger than the Prophet ﷺ. They were close friends.

When the Holy Prophet ﷺ invited people to accept Islam, he was the first among men to accept Islam.

He accepted Islam without any doubt or hesitation.

Many people accepted Islam through his persuasion.

Both his father and mother also accepted Islam.

He was given the name Abdul Ka'ba (servant of the Ka'ba) by his parents, but after accepting Islam, the Holy Prophet ﷺ gave him the name Abdullah. He was known as Abu Bakr.

He was a rich trader and very generous. He helped the poor and the needy.

He was always ahead of others in performing good deeds like fasting, going to a funeral, feeding the poor and visiting the disabled.

He freed many slaves who were ill-treated by their masters. He paid in gold to free Sayyidina Bilal (Rady Allahu Anhu). Sayyidina Bilal later on became the first **muadhdhin** of Islam. A muadhdhin is someone who recites the **adhan**, the call to Prayer.

He loved Allah ﷻ so much that he used to weep when he recited the Qur'an.

When the Holy Prophet ﷺ went on **Mi'raj** (heavenly ascension), Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (Rady Allahu Anhu) was the first to believe him so he got the title **as-Siddiq**, which means "the Truthful".

He also got the title **al-'Atiq** which means: "saved from the punishment of hell-fire".

He accompanied the Holy Prophet ﷺ on his **Hijrah** (migration) from Makkah to Madina as the Prophet ﷺ wanted to escape from the non-believers of Makkah who wanted to kill him.

The Islamic calendar starts from the year of the **Hijrah**.

We learn from the Qur'an that Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (Rady Allahu Anhu) is:

ثَانِيَ اثْنَيْنِ إِذْ هُمَا فِي الْغَارِ

.....the second of the two when they were in the cave..., (9:40)



He was hiding in the cave together with the Holy Prophet ﷺ when they were on Hijrah.

He gave his daughter Sayyidatina Aisha (Rady Allahu Anha) in marriage to the Holy Prophet ﷺ after Sayyidatina Khadija (Rady Allahu Anha), his first wife passed away. He did that to strengthen their relationship.

Sayyidatina Aisha (Rady Allahu Anha) and the Holy Prophet ﷺ were watching the stars one night and she asked him whether there was anyone who had obtained more **thawab** (heavenly reward) than the number of those stars. He replied that her father had obtained more thawab just on the day of Hijrah.

Sayyidina Umar al-Faruq (Rady Allahu Anhu) said he would have given up all of his good deeds in exchange for Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (Rady Allahu Anhu)'s one good deed, which was the Hijrah (migration) with the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ.

Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (Rady Allahu Anhu) went with the Holy Prophet ﷺ to the Battle of Badr and many other battles which they fought against the non-Muslims.

Once, he brought everything from his home for the sake of Allah ﷻ to help the Muslims in the Battle of Tabuk. The Holy Prophet ﷺ asked him what he had left at home for his family. He replied that he had left for his family only the Name of Allah ﷻ and the Name of the Prophet ﷺ. Such was his love for them. Then Sayyidina Jibril (Alayhissalam) came and informed the Prophet ﷺ that Allah ﷻ was sending salams (salutations) to Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (Rady Allahu Anhu).

In his final illness, when the Prophet ﷺ could not stand up to lead **Salah** (Prayer), he asked Sayyidina Abu Bakr (Rady Allahu Anhu) to lead the Salah. This showed that after the Prophet ﷺ, he would lead the Muslims.

When the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ passed away, the Muslims chose Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (Rady Allahu Anhu) as the first **Khalifa** or Successor.

He was the first of the **Khulafa ar-Rashidin** (the Rightly-Guided Successors). The Khulafa ar-Rashidin who followed after him were:

Sayyidina Umar ibn al-Khattab (Rady Allahu Anhu),  
Sayyidina Uthman ibn Affan (Rady Allahu Anhu), and  
Sayyidina Ali ibn Abi Talib (Rady Allahu Anhu).

In their time as Khalifa, they were the leaders of the Muslim community. They knew their responsibilities well, of continuing in the path of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. They knew that the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah had to be upheld.

Some verses of the Holy Qur'an had been revealed praising each of them.

Some Hadith narrate the virtues of each of them.

They narrated some of the Hadith.

We know of their life histories from their biographies (**sirah**) as well.

Allah ﷻ was pleased with them and they were pleased with Him as their Lord.

They obtained deep spiritual knowledge of Islam from Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

They are among the ten who were given glad tidings of Paradise by the Prophet ﷺ.

They loved him and he loved them.

Muslims love them and are proud of them.

Their names are mentioned in the **du‘a** after the completion of the recitation of the Holy Qur’an.

Their names are mentioned in the Friday **khutbah** (sermon) praising them.

They have also been praised in Muslim religious poetry.

They did not care about the comforts of this world but were satisfied with little.

We now come to the history of Sayyidina Abu Bakr (Rady Allahu Anhu) when he became Khalifa.

When he became Khalifa, some Muslims refused to pay **Zakat** (compulsory charity). He said he would stand up for the Pillars of Islam. He said he would fight anyone who refused to pay Zakat. So, everyone agreed to pay Zakat.

After the Prophet ﷺ passed away, Musailamah, the **kadhhaab** (the great liar) claimed he was the prophet. Sayyidina Abu Bakr (Rady Allahu Anhu) sent the Muslim army to fight him until Musailamah the kadhhaab was defeated and killed in the Battle of al-Yamama. In this way, Sayyidina Abu Bakr (Rady Allahu Anhu) preserved the purity of the teachings of Islam.

He had all the verses of the Qur’an compiled together in the form of a **Kitab** (Book). This copy of the Qur’an was kept with Sayyidatina Hafsa (Rady Allahu Anha), one of the wives of the Prophet ﷺ.

He introduced the **bayt al-maal** (public treasury).

He was Khalifa for two years.

He passed away on 22 Jumada al-Akhira, 13 A.H. at the age of 63.

His last resting place is alongside the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ in Masjid Nabawi in Madina, where angels continuously recite **salawat** and **salams** (blessings and salutations of peace).

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

### SAYYIDINA UMAR AL-FARUQ (Rady Allahu Anhu, may Allah be pleased with him)

Sayyidina Umar ibn al-Khattab (Rady Allahu Anhu) was the second **Khalifa** of the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ for ten years.

He was 14 years younger than the Prophet ﷺ.

He was the 40<sup>th</sup> person to accept Islam.

The day before he became a Muslim, the Prophet ﷺ made **dua** that may Umar ibn al-Khattab or Abu Jahl become Muslim.

Allah ﷻ accepted the **dua** of the Prophet ﷺ.

He became a Muslim after hearing some verses from Surah Taha, a chapter of the Holy Qur'an.

Before he became a Muslim, he was an enemy of the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ because he did not like the religion of Islam that the Prophet ﷺ was preaching. One day, he decided to kill him. On his way, he met someone who asked him where he was going. He replied that he was going to kill the Prophet ﷺ. The man asked him why he did not deal with his sister first since she had become a Muslim. So, he went to his sister's house. His sister's husband was reciting Surah Taha from the Qur'an. He said that he wanted to recite it. They told him that he had to do **wudu** before reciting the Qur'an. Surah Taha was recited before him and the effect of the Surah changed him into a Muslim. Then he went to the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ and told him that he wanted to become a Muslim. Those present were overjoyed and there was a loud cry of '**Allahu Akbar**' (Allah is Most Great). Then, Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu) recited the **Kalima** and became a Muslim.

He did not fear anyone and after he accepted Islam, the Muslims started praying openly.

When he did the **Hijra** (migration from Makkah to Madina), none of the non-believers followed to kill him as they feared him.

Once, some ladies were asking questions to the Holy Prophet ﷺ in a loud voice. When Sayyidina Umar entered, they all became quiet. So he asked them why they fell silent. They said that they were scared of him because he was strict. He told them that they should be more respectful of the Prophet ﷺ than anyone else.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said that even **shaytaan** (the devil) was scared of Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu) and took another route if he saw him approaching.

He gave his daughter Sayyidatina Hafsa (Rady Allahu Anha) in marriage to the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ to strengthen their relationship.

His title is **al-Faruq** which means "one who can separate truth from falsehood".

Some verses of the Holy Qur'an were revealed which upheld his suggestions. For example, he suggested that alcohol should be prohibited and later, a verse was revealed prohibiting it.

Once he gave half of his property for the cause of Islam.

Once he said to the Prophet ﷺ that he loved him more than anything else except himself. The Prophet ﷺ told him that he would not have complete Faith until he loved him more than himself. Then, he said that he loved him more than himself. Then the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that now he had complete Faith.

He went with the Holy Prophet ﷺ to the Battle of Badr and many other battles against the non-believers.

One day, the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ, Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq, Sayyidina Umar al-Faruq and Sayyidina Uthman Dhun-Nurain (Rady Allahu Anhum) were on Mount Uhud. The mountain started to shake. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, “Stop shaking Uhud. There is a Nabi, a Siddiq and two Shahids (martyrs) on you.” Then the mountain stopped shaking.

Now we come to his achievements as **Khalifa**.

Before he passed away, Sayyidina Abu Bakr (Rady Allahu Anhu) appointed him as Khalifa and the Muslims accepted his decision.

Islam spread far and wide to many countries when he was Khalifa.

Back then and till now, the Muslims controlled Masjid Aqsa. The person in charge of the Masjid said that he would give the keys to the Masjid only to Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu). So he travelled to Bayt al-Maqdis and took its keys.

Once while he was giving the Friday **Khutba** (sermon) in Madina, he cried out: “O Sariya, the mountain”. The commander of the Muslim army who was in Syria heard him and went to the mountain to attack the enemy and defeated it. In this way, Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu) guided the Muslim army while giving the Friday Khutba in Madina. This is one of his miracles.

He was a great administrator who maintained strict discipline.

He was a jurist who gave legal judgements.

He was known for his justice. He is praised in the Friday Khutba as someone who established justice and made sure that it prevailed.

He lived a very simple life just like the Prophet ﷺ. He was satisfied with little and did not seek the comforts of this world.

When his clothes got worn out, he used to patch them up instead of buying new ones.

At night, he used to go around Madina to make sure no one went to sleep hungry.

He increased the size of Masjid Nabawi in Madina.

He made the **masajid** bright with lamps.

He introduced **Jama'ah** for 20 **raka'at Tarawih** Prayers in the month of Ramadan and said that it was a good innovation.

It has been said that if he was Khalifa for 10 more years, Islam would have spread all over the world.

The Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ said that if there was going to be a Prophet after him, it would have been Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu). But there was not going to be a Prophet after him as he was the Final Prophet ﷺ.

When Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu) was on his deathbed, he sent a message to Sayyidatina Aisha (Rady Allahu Anha) asking her if he could be buried beside the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ. She said that she had already decided to be buried beside him but she would not refuse Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu).

He was buried on 1<sup>st</sup> Muharram, 23 A.H.

When we go to Masjid Nabawi in Madina, we say **Salams** (salutations) to the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ, Sayyidina Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (Rady Allahu Anhu), and Sayyidina Umar al-Faruq (Rady Allahu Anhu).

All praise is for Allah ﷻ, Lord of the worlds.

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

### SAYYIDINA UTHMAN DHUN-NURAIN

(Rady Allahu Anhu, may Allah be pleased with him)

Sayyidina Uthman ibn Affan (Rady Allahu Anhu) was the third **Khalifa** of the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ.

He was seven years younger than him.

The Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ gave his daughter Sayyidatina Ruqayya (Rady Allahu Anha) in marriage to him. When she passed away, he gave his other daughter Sayyidatina Umm Kulthum (Rady Allahu Anha) in marriage to him.

For this reason, his title is “**Dhun Nurain**” which means “Owner of two lights”. The two lights referred to here are the two daughters of the Prophet ﷺ.

After Sayyidatina Umm Kulthum (Rady Allahu Anha) passed away, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that if he had another daughter, he would have given her in marriage to Sayyidina Uthman (Rady Allahu Anhu).

He was among the first people to become Muslim.

To avoid the ill-treatment by the non-Muslims in Makkah, his first **Hijrah** (migration) was to Abyssinia in Africa and the second to Madina.

He was a shy person. One day, the first two Khalifas came to the home of the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ. Then Sayyidina Uthman (Rady Allahu Anhu) came. Seeing him, the Holy Prophet ﷺ covered his clothing on part of the shin of his leg which had not been covered properly. Later Sayyidatina Aisha (Rady Allahu Anha) asked him why he covered his clothing only when Sayyidina Uthman (Rady Allahu Anhu) came. He told her that Sayyidina Uthman (Rady Allahu Anhu) was a shy person. Even the angels were shy in front of him.

He was a rich trader who was charitable and very generous.

One of his titles is **al-Ghani** which means “rich”.

He bought a well from a Jew in Madina and gave it free for the use of Muslims in Madina. Such was his love for the Muslims.

Once there was a drought. There was not enough food. Food prices were very high. He gave camels loaded with food for free distribution to the Muslims.

To equip the Muslim army for the Battle of Tabuk, he gave 700 camels, 50 horses and 1000 dinars (gold coins). Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was very pleased with his generosity.

Once, the Prophet ﷺ decided to do Umra. But the Quraish of Makkah would not allow him. So he sent Sayyidina Uthman (Rady Allahu Anhu) from al-Hudaybiya as his ambassador to persuade them. They told him that they would not allow the Prophet ﷺ to perform Umra but that he could perform the Umra if he wished. He refused, saying he could not perform the Umra without his Beloved Prophet ﷺ. This shows his deep love for him.

Then the Prophet ﷺ took a pledge called **Bayt ar-Ridwan** with his Companions. Since Sayyidina Uthman (Rady Allahu Anhu) was not there, he took the pledge on his behalf. In that pledge, one of the hands of the Prophet ﷺ represented the hand of Sayyidina Uthman (Rady Allahu Anhu).

He could not go to the Battle of Badr. But he is listed among those who took part in the Battle of Badr because the Prophet ﷺ had asked him to look after his wife Sayyidatina Ruqayya (Rady Allahu Anha) who was sick at that time.

He participated in many battles with the Prophet ﷺ.

He was one of the persons appointed by the Prophet ﷺ to write down the verses of the Holy Qur'an when they were revealed.

He was very pious. He fasted during the day and worshipped at night.

Six of the greatest Companions of the Prophet ﷺ were appointed by Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu) to choose the next **Khalifa** after him. A majority of them chose Sayyidina Uthman (Rady Allahu Anhu).

He was Khalifa for 12 years.

He was Hafiz al-Qur'an.

He used to weep when he recited the Qur'an. Such was his love for Allah ﷻ.

In his time as Khalifa, differences arose in pronunciation in the recitation of the Holy Qur'an in various Muslim countries. For this reason, he made one standard copy of the Holy Qur'an that was with Sayyidatina Hafsa (Rady Allahu Anha) and sent copies to all the Muslim countries.

As a result, the Qur'an has been preserved in its original form without any change.

In the Friday **Khutba**, he is praised as Jami'-ul-Qur'an which means: "the compiler of the verses of the Qur'an".

He freed many slaves.

In his time as Khalifa, many wells were dug along the roads to supply water to travellers.

He arranged for the free distribution of food and meals to the poor and the disabled in the month of Ramadan.

He used to do household work himself.

He extended Masjid Nabawi in Madina.

In his time as Khalifa, Islam spread to many countries, from Morocco in Africa to Afghanistan in Asia.

He had no personal guards to guard him.

He faced problems with great patience. We should also be patient in the face of difficulties.

Some rebels rose in his time to create divisions among Muslims.

He patiently listened to them as any leader should. He explained to them his position but they would not listen.

Then, one day the rebels decided to kill him.

The people of Madina were prepared to fight for him against the rebels, but he did not want to fight them, as he did not want to shed Muslim blood.

Some people asked him if they could guard his house, but he refused. Then, Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) told his sons Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) and Imam Husain (Rady Allahu Anhu) to guard his house. The rebels climbed the back wall and killed him. He was unjustly murdered. At that time he was reciting this verse of the Holy Qur'an:

فَسَيَكْفِيكَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

....so Allah will be Sufficient for you for defense against them. He is The Hearer, The Knower. (2:137).

His blood fell upon the Qur'an. The copy of the Qur'an he was reciting has been preserved in Turkey.

He became a **Shahid** (martyr) just as the Prophet ﷺ had prophesied.

He passed away at the age of eighty two, in 35 A.H.

He was laid to rest in the graveyard named **Jannatul Baqi'** in Madina.

All praise is for Allah ﷻ, Lord of the worlds.



## CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

### SAYYIDINA ALI AL-MURTADA (Rady Allahu Anhu, may Allah be pleased with him)

Sayyidina Ali ibn Abi Talib (Rady Allahu Anhu) was the first cousin of the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ. He is among the **Ahl al-Bayt** (the Family of the Prophet ﷺ).

He was 30 years younger than the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

He was the son of Abu Talib, the Prophet's paternal uncle.

His birth was very special. He is the only person to have been born inside the Ka'ba. When he first opened his eyes, they fell on the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ.

The Prophet himself ﷺ suggested the name Ali for him.

He was raised up in the home of the Holy Prophet ﷺ who educated and trained him, and cared for him.

He was the first child to accept Islam. He accepted Islam at the age of eleven.

When the Prophet ﷺ first asked his own relatives who would help him in his Islamic mission, he was the only one who openly replied that he would.

Sayyidatina Khadija (Rady Allahu Anha) and Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) were the first two persons to pray behind the Prophet ﷺ after he had publicly told the people about the religion of Islam.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said, "I am the city of knowledge and Ali is its gate". So one of his titles is "**Bab ul-ilm**" (the Gate of Knowledge).

Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) was a kind and generous man. He was always willing to help.

When the non-believers of Makkah wanted to kill the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ, he escaped with Sayyidina Abu Bakr (Rady Allahu Anhu) to Madina. He asked Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) to sleep in his bed that night. When they came to attack the Prophet ﷺ, the non-believers found Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) instead.

When he was asked whether he was scared of being killed by the non-believers that night as he slept in the bed of the Prophet ﷺ, he said he was not worried at all, as the Prophet ﷺ had told him he would meet him in Madina. This was the level of his unshakeable faith in the Prophet ﷺ.

Although the non-believers of Makkah did not believe in Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as a Prophet, they still considered him to be the most trustworthy person and kept their belongings for safe-keeping with him. He told Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) to return their belongings back to them before he moved to Madina, which he did.

When they migrated to Madina, the Holy Prophet ﷺ paired a **Muhajir** (Migrant) from Makkah with an **Ansari** (Helper) from Madina in Muslim Brotherhood. He paired himself with Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu).

When they went for Hajj, the Holy Prophet ﷺ sacrificed 63 camels and Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) sacrificed 37 camels. This was a joint sacrifice of 100 camels. MaashaaAllah!

Allah ﷻ commanded the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ to give his daughter Sayyidatina Fatima (Rady Allahu Anha) in marriage to Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu). They had three sons: Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu), Imam Husain (Rady Allahu Anhu) and Muhsin who passed away in his infancy. They had two daughters: Sayyidah Zainab (Rady Allahu Anha) and Sayyidah Umm Kulthum (Rady Allahu Anha).

The descendants of the Holy Prophet ﷺ are through Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) and Sayyidatina Fatima (Rady Allahu Anha). Most sufi masters are their descendants.

One day, Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) and Sayyidatina Fatima (Rady Allahu Anha) had an argument and Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) left home angry. The Holy Prophet ﷺ went in search of him to persuade him. He found him sleeping on sand somewhere else. He joked with him by calling him “**abu turab**” which means “the father of sand”.

Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) gave his daughter Umm Kulthum (Rady Allahu Anha) in marriage to Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu).

Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) was a very brave and courageous soldier.

He fought in many battles against the non-believers. In the Battle of Uhud, he fought very bravely and received many wounds. Then the Holy Prophet ﷺ gave him the title “**Asadullah**” which means “the Lion of Allah”.

He would always fight in battle man-to-man first.

In the Battle of Badr, he killed Al-Walid in a man-to-man fight.

In the Battle of Khaybar, he first fought man-to-man with Marhab, the best Jewish soldier, and killed him. He is known as the hero of the Battle of Khaybar.

Before the Battle of Khaybar, the Prophet ﷺ said that he would give the flag of battle to someone who loves Allah ﷻ and His Prophet the most, and whom Allah ﷻ and His Prophet love. The next day he gave the flag to Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) although he had sore eyes at that time.

Once in a battle, Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) felled his opponent, sat on top of him and wanted to kill him. At that moment, his opponent spit at him. Then, Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) left him alone. His opponent asked him why he did not kill him. He explained that if he had killed him, it would have been out of anger because he had insulted him whereas he was only fighting to establish the truth of Islam.

When the Prophet ﷺ went to the Battle of Tabuk, he appointed Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) as his deputy in Madina. Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) asked him whether he wanted to leave him with the women and the children. He replied that he was a brother to him just as Nabi Harun (Alayhissalam) was a brother to Nabi Musa (Alayhissalam) but there would be no Prophet after him.

The Prophet ﷺ said that the one to whom he was a guardian, Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) was his guardian too.

Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) was very sad at the passing away of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and at the passing away of Sayyidatina Fatima (Rady Allahu Anha) six months later.

He and Hadrat Abbas (Rady Allahu Anhu) gave **ghusl** to the Prophet ﷺ when he passed away.

When Sayyidina Abu Bakr (Rady Allahu Anhu) became **Khalifa**, he used to consult Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu).

When Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu) became Khalifa, he appointed Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) as Chief Justice. He was a just and fair judge. Sayyidina Umar (Rady Allahu Anhu) always found his advice very valuable.

Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) was persuaded by the Muslims to become Khalifa after Sayyidina Uthman (Rady Allahu Anhu), the third Khalifa was martyred.

He was the fourth Khalifa for four years.

He was a Hafiz al-Qur'an.

One of his titles is **al-Murtada** which means "he with whom Allah is pleased".

He was the second most eloquent man after the Prophet ﷺ.

Once he was informed that the **bayt al-mal** (public treasury) was full. He went and gave away everything to the deserving people from the bayt al-mal until nothing remained.

He became a Khalifa when there was a state of disorder among the Muslims caused by the murder of Sayyidina Uthman (Rady Allahu Anhu). As he tried to settle these problems, many people rose against him. The problems continued and ultimately led to his death. He was stabbed by an enemy with a poisonous sword while he was going to the **masjid** to pray.

He became a **Shahid** (martyr) just as the Holy Prophet ﷺ had prophesied.

He passed away on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Ramadan, 40 A.H.

His last resting place is in Najaf, Iraq.

All praise is for Allah ﷻ, Lord of the worlds.

## CHAPTER NINETEEN

### SAYYIDATINA FATIMA

(Rady Allahu Anha, may Allah be pleased with her)

Sayyidatina Fatima (Rady Allahu Anha) is the beloved daughter of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Sayyidatina Khadijah (Rady Allahu Anha). She is their fourth and youngest daughter.

The Prophet ﷺ said, “Fatima is the leader of the women in Paradise”.

She has many blessed names, which can be found in various books and religious poems. Some of her blessed titles are:

**Az-Zahra**, which means the Brilliantly Shining,  
**Al-Batul**, the Pure,  
**Sayyidah**, Leader,  
**Ma’sumah**, Sinless,  
**‘Abida**, Worshipper of Allah,  
**Waliyya**, Saint,  
**Zakiyya**, Pure.

She was married to Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) when she was eighteen years old. Muslims are encouraged to get their daughters married as soon as they become mature.

Their two famous sons are Sayyidina Imam al-Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) and Sayyidina Imam al-Husain (Rady Allahu Anhu). They also had two daughters, Sayyida Zaynab and Sayyida Umm Kulthum.

She is one of the “Five Pure Souls”, purified by Allah ﷻ.

She was a pious and charitable lady. She would give food to those in need, even if she had to stay hungry herself.

She had fine manners and gentle speech, and she lived a very simple life.

The Prophet ﷺ said that whoever pleased her, has also pleased Allah ﷻ, and whoever angered her, has also angered Allah ﷻ.

Once, the enemies of the Prophet ﷺ threw intestines of a camel on him as he was praying in the Grand Masjid in Makkah. She went and removed the intestines, cleaned up, and shouted at the enemies to drive them away.

She received wisdom from her father. She took care of him after her mother, Sayyidatina Khadijah (Rady Allahu Anha) passed away.

The Prophet ﷺ respected her a lot. He would stand up to greet her when she entered the house.

Once, the Prophet ﷺ whispered in her ear that he will soon pass away, and she started to weep. Then he told her that she will be the first one to follow him, and she smiled.

She was the first person in the Family of the Prophet ﷺ to pass away after him. She passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ramadan. Her final resting place is in **Jannatul Baqi'** in Madina.

All praise is for Allah ﷻ, Lord of the worlds.

## CHAPTER TWENTY

### SAYYIDINA IMAM HASAN (Rady Allahu Anhu, may Allah be pleased with him), and SAYYIDINA IMAM HUSAIN (Rady Allahu Anhu, may Allah be pleased with him)

Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) and Imam Husain (Rady Allahu Anhu) are the beloved grandsons of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Sayyidatina Khadijah (Rady Allahu Anha).

They are the famous and beloved sons of Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) and Sayyidatina Fatima (Rady Allahu Anha).

They are members of the **Ahl-al-Bayt** (The Prophet's Family). Their names are mentioned in the Friday Khutba.

We learn from a Hadith that one morning, the Holy Prophet ﷺ went out wearing a striped cloak of black goat's hair. Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) came and he took him under it. Then Imam Husain (Rady Allahu Anhu) came and went under it. Then, Sayyidatina Fatima (Rady Allahu Anha) came and he took her under it, and then Sayyidina Ali (Rady Allahu Anhu) came and he took him under it. The Holy Prophet ﷺ, then recited these words from a verse of the Holy Qur'an:

إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ الرِّجْسَ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ وَيُطَهِّرَكُمْ تَطْهِيرًا

“Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you O people of the House, and to purify you a thorough purifying.” (33:33)

Imam Hasan and Imam Husain are also the **Sahaba** (Companions) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said, “my Sahaba are like stars, whomsoever you follow, you will be rightly guided.”

Some of the well-known titles of Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) and Imam Husain (Rady Allahu Anhu) are:

**as-Sayyid**, which means a descendant of the Prophet ﷺ;  
**shahid**, which means martyr;  
**muneer**, which means shining;  
**zahir**, which means brilliant;  
**tayyib**, which means agreeable, likeable;  
**tahir**, which means pure;  
**saeed**, which means blessed.

Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) was a year older than Imam Husain (Rady Allahu Anhu).

The Holy Prophet ﷺ called them his “two sweet smelling flowers in this world.”

He said that “these two sons of mine are the leaders of the youth in Paradise.”

He carried Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) on his shoulder and he prayed to Allah ﷻ, “I love him, so please love him.”

He said, “Husain is from me and I am from Husain. May Allah ﷻ keep him as a friend who keeps Husain as his friend.”

He made a prophesy that Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) will one day unite two disputing Muslim groups, which he did.

Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq (Rady Allahu Anhu) said that Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) looked like the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

As a child, Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) rode on the shoulders of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

When they were young, Imam Hasan and Imam Husain once saw that a man was not doing **wudu** properly. But it was not respectful to tell him that. So they thought of a way to convey this message to him. They went up to him and told him to see whether they were doing wudu properly. When they had finished, the man told them that they did it properly and he also realized the mistake he was making. Thus in a very respectful way they had conveyed the message. This shows that even as children they were wise. This wisdom was naturally obtained from the Prophet ﷺ.

Many years later, after Imam Hasan (Rady Allahu Anhu) had passed away, there was an evil man named Yazid. He wanted to become the leader of the Muslims and asked everyone to accept him as the leader. But Imam Husain (Rady Allahu Anhu) refused because Yazid was an open sinner.

So Yazid sent his army to fight Imam Husain (Rady Allahu Anhu) and his followers.

Imam Husain (Rady Allahu Anhu), his family members and his followers fought bravely against the huge army of Yazid in the Battle of Kerbala and were killed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Muharram, the day of Ashura. Every year, Muslims all over the world recite the whole Qur’an on that day in their memory.

Their sacrifice teaches us that we should stand up for justice.

It is the duty of Muslims to love and respect the Family of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

All praise is for Allah ﷻ, Lord of the worlds.

