

There is no deity but Allah



Muhammad is Allah's Messenger



The **AYESHA**



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH DIVINE KNOWLEDGE

Holy Quran;
A source of Everlasting
Empowerment

The Transformative
Power of
Divine Knowledge

Building a Habit
of Living
the Holy Quran

Inspiring Verses:
Allah, the Constant
Companion

Editor's Note

A few items to note: The name of Muhammad (sa), the Holy Prophet of Islam, has been followed by the symbol *sa*, which is an abbreviation for the prayer *Sallallahu 'Alaibi Wasallam* (may peace and blessings of God be upon him). The names of other Prophets and messengers are followed by the symbol *as*, an abbreviation for '*Alaibissalam*' (on whom be peace). The symbol *ra* is used with the name of the Companions of the Holy Prophet (sa) and those of the Promised Messiah (as). It stands for *Radi Allahu 'anbu/'anha/'anbum* (may God be pleased with him/her/them). The symbol *rb* stands for *Rabimahullahu Ta'ala* (may God's blessing be on him). The symbol *aba* stands for *Ayyadahullahu Ta'ala bin Asreebul Aziz* (may God the Almighty strengthen his hands).

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

The AYESHA

'*The AYESHA*' is the official publication of Lajna Ima'illah-USA, named in honor of Hazrat Ayesha (ra), wife of the Holy Prophet of Islam (sa). Hazrat Ayesha (ra) was renowned for her piety, character and knowledge and remains a model and guide for Muslim women for all time. It is reported that the Holy Prophet (sa) said of Ayesha (ra), "*Half of your religion (Islam) can be learned from her.*"

The Lajna Ima'illah (Assembly of the maidservants of God) is an International Muslim Women's Organization established by Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad (ra), the second Khalifa (successor) to Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), the Promised Messiah and founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Some of the Lajna objectives are to serve the spiritual and intellectual development of Muslim women, to enable them to raise their children in the practice of Islam and to serve humanity through beneficial programs. The aim of this publication is to educate, enlighten and inform readers on religious, social, and political issues with particular emphasis on Islam and the role of women in Islam.

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THE GLORIOUS QURAN

SURAH AL-BAKARA

(2:1-6)

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful. (1)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿١﴾

I am Allah, the All-Knowing. (2)

أَلَمْ ۖ ﴿٢﴾

This is the Perfect Book, free from all doubt; it is a guidance for the righteous, (3)

ذَٰلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ ۚ فِيهِ ۚ هُدًى لِّل

مُتَّقِينَ ۚ ﴿٣﴾

Who believe in the unseen and observe Prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them; (4)

الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا

رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ۚ ﴿٤﴾

And who believe in that which has been revealed to thee, and that which was revealed before thee, and they have firm faith in what is yet to come. (5)

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ مِن

قَبْلِكَ ۖ وَبِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ ۚ ﴿٥﴾

It is they who follow the guidance of their Lord and it is they who shall prosper (6)

أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَىٰ هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ * وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ

الْمُقْلِحُونَ ﴿٦﴾

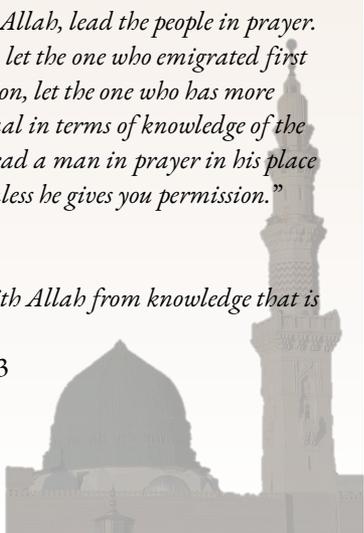
SO SAID THE HOLY PROHPET^{SA}

“Let the one who has the most knowledge of the Book of Allah, lead the people in prayer. If they are equal in terms of knowledge of the Qur’an, let the one who emigrated first (lead them). If they are equal in terms of emigration, let the one who has more knowledge of the Sunnah, (lead them). If they are equal in terms of knowledge of the Sunnah, let the one who is oldest (lead them). Do not lead a man in prayer in his place of authority, and do not sit in his place of honor, unless he gives you permission.”

Sunan an-Nasa'i 780

"Ask Allah for beneficial knowledge and seek refuge with Allah from knowledge that is of no benefit."

Sunan Ibn Majah 3843

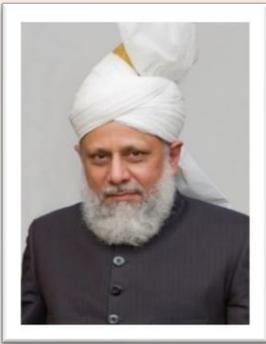


THE PROMISED MESSIAH(AS)



It should be borne in mind that human beings can never recognize God, who is Absolutely Hidden, merely through their own faculties, until He Himself reveals His Being through His Signs. A true relationship with God the Exalted can never develop unless that relationship is created exclusively through the instrumentation of God. Carnal temptations cannot be removed from the soul until a light from the Omnipotent God enters the heart. Behold! I present firsthand testimony that such a relationship can only be possible through following the Holy Quran. The other scriptures are now devoid of the spirit of life. There is now only one book under the canopy of the heavens that reveals the countenance of that True Beloved; that is, the Holy Quran.

Haqiqatul-Wabi (The Philosophy of Divine Revelation)



HUZOOR^{ABA} Stated...

His Holiness - Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) delivered an historic keynote address on 8 October 2019 at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Headquarters in Paris. He said:

“.....The Holy Quran itself has signified the importance of education by teaching the prayer “O my Lord, increase me in knowledge” (20:115). Where this prayer is a source of great help to Muslims, it also inspires them towards learning and advancing the cause of human knowledge. The truth is that the Holy Quran and the teachings of the Holy Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) inspired the works of generations of Muslim intellectuals, philosophers and inventors in the Middle Ages. Indeed, if we look back more than a millennium, we see how Muslim scientists and inventors played a fundamental role in advancing knowledge and developing technologies, which transformed the world and remain in use today.”

Letter from the EDITOR



Dear Readers,

In a world where the pursuit of knowledge often focuses on material success, we sometimes overlook the kind of knowledge that truly empowers—the knowledge that connects us to our Creator, gives us clarity of purpose, and strengthens our hearts in times of trial. This issue of *The Ayesha* is dedicated to exploring the profound ways in which Divine knowledge transforms lives, inspires resilience, and provides a guiding light in a fast paced and ever-changing world.

From the **Holy Quran as a Blueprint for Life to Verses of Empowerment** that uplift our spirits, this issue delves into how the timeless wisdom of Allah’s Word nurtures both personal and professional growth. Through reflections on **living a life of purpose**, we explore how faith, when acted upon, becomes a powerful force that moves us beyond worldly limitations. We also share **stories of empowerment**—testimonies from those whose lives have been transformed by their deep connection with the Holy Quran, as well as insights into how **daily recitation fosters daily empowerment**.

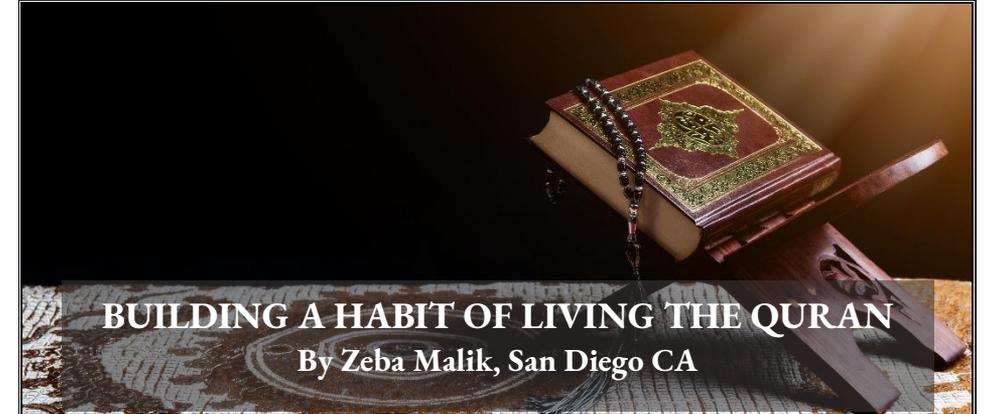
True knowledge is not just an intellectual pursuit; it is a force that shapes our actions, builds our character, and aligns our hearts with Allah’s will. As we navigate life’s challenges, may this issue serve as a reminder that the greatest strength we can cultivate comes not from the world, but from the eternal wisdom of the Holy Quran and guidance received from the divinely guided Khalifa of the time.

We invite you to reflect, be inspired, and take action—translating divine knowledge into a source of strength, resilience, and confidence.

Happy reading!

Saadia Ahmed

Editor, *The Ayesha*



BUILDING A HABIT OF LIVING THE QURAN

By Zeba Malik, San Diego CA

The Holy Quran, the final Book from Allah to humanity through Prophet Muhammad (sa) is an unparalleled guide that transcends time, place, and culture. It serves as both a spiritual and practical roadmap for life, offering guidance that addresses human experience in all its facets. To truly benefit from this divine wisdom, Muslims are encouraged not only to read the Quran but also to live by its teachings, embodying its principles in their actions, speech, and thoughts.

The Promised Messiah^{as} sent as a guide and reformer for current days as promised by Allah in alignment with the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (sa) said, "Quran's message is universal, directed not to a specific group or nation but to all of humanity. As Allah Himself declares in the Quran about Prophet Muhammad (sa), "O ye people, indeed I am the Messenger of Allah for you all" and "Thou hast not been sent but as a Mercy to all the worlds".

This universality highlights the Quran's relevance across ages, geographies, and cultures, offering wisdom and guidance that applies to every aspect of life.

Hazrat Ali (ra) narrates that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said, "Angel Gabriel came to me and said, 'O Muhammad! your followers after you shall face significant trials'. The Holy Prophet (sa) asked, 'O Gabriel! So how could they be saved from this?' Gabriel responded, 'the key to overcoming all difficulties lies in the Book of Allah.' The Quran would offer guidance and solutions for every problem and challenge that would arise, not just for the people of that time, but for all generations to come. Gabriel emphasized the Holy Quran could never become obsolete. It is a boundless ocean, the wonders of which could never come to an end."

The Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (sa) through Angel Gabriel, and it has remained unchanged and unaltered since its revelation. It contains divine commandments that resonate deeply with human nature, making it easy to follow. Its wisdom has guided humanity through centuries, The book fulfills the prophecies and

messages provided in previous scriptures in the True Light, devoid of any discoloration or ambiguity introduced in old scriptures due to the passage of time, providing clarity, and offering a path to spiritual and moral growth.

The Quran is not just a religious text; it is a comprehensive guide to leading a meaningful life. It offers lessons on spirituality, morality, psychology, and practical issues such as social conduct and governance. It emphasizes the importance of building a relationship with Allah, encouraging believers to live righteously and in accordance with divine will. This connection is nurtured through worship, prayer (Salat), fasting, and seeking guidance from the Quran.

The Infinite Depth of the Quran's Teachings

The Quran has an inherent depth and richness, with each verse containing layers of meaning. The Holy Prophet (sa) emphasized the profound depth and endless meanings contained within each verse of the Quran. He said that every verse of the Quran has seven meanings or insights, and each of these meanings has seven more meanings. This implies that each verse carries 49 layers of meaning. When considering the total number of verses in the Quran, which is 6,236 verses (excluding Bismillah), the total number of meanings becomes an astounding 305,564.

This vast multiplicity of meanings showcases the Quran's infinite depth, richness, and wisdom. Each time we recite or reflect upon a verse, we can uncover new layers of understanding, insights, and guidance. This manifestation of unlimited knowledge is one of the key proofs of the Quran's status as the final revelation from Allah, meant for all times. Its meanings while holding on to its fundamentals evolve in accordance with the changing circumstances, needs, and challenges of humanity.

The Role of Tafseer (Commentary) in Understanding the Quran

One way to engage with the Quran is by reading and reflecting on its detailed commentaries, particularly those written by the Promised Messiah (as) and his successors, the Khulafa. Tafseer-ul-Quran helps believers attain a deeper understanding of the divine message. The study of these commentaries has the power to enlighten the hearts and minds of readers, gradually increasing peace, prosperity, and spiritual development in their lives. As one's understanding of the Quran deepens, so does their connection with Allah, and what seemed difficult becomes easier through divine grace. We can access long interactive commentary of Holy Quran at

<https://www.alislam.org/quran/app>

The Quran's Transformative Influence on Society

As we embrace the teachings of the Quran, our priorities shift from materialism to spirituality. This transformation fosters a love for humanity, where kindness toward others becomes second nature, irrespective of their race or religion. The Quran teaches us to act without any hidden agenda, creating authentic relationships and promoting genuine compassion for all. This is the ultimate freedom, a freedom rooted in spiritual peace and divine connection with Allah. However, this path is not without its challenges. It requires time, effort, prayer, and seeking guidance from the Khalifa-tul-Masih, the true representative of Islam.

The Power of Inner Transformation through the Quran

To live by the Quran's guidance, we must first realize its importance and make a concerted effort to integrate it into our lives. True success lies in cultivating a living relationship with Allah, which occurs through inner transformation. This change is not visible to the human eye, but it manifests in clearer decision-making, greater wisdom, and emotional stability. Following the example of Prophet Muhammad (sa) is the key to achieving this spiritual elevation. Allah promises in Surah Al-Imran (3:32) that those who love Allah and follow the Prophet (sa) will receive Allah's love and forgiveness.

The Quran also highlights that Islam is a complete way of life that involves righteous engagement with the world. It does not encourage withdrawal from society but teaches believers how to live harmoniously, making full use of their faculties and resources in accordance with divine guidance. Islam's teachings promote a balanced development of moral, spiritual, intellectual, and physical values, helping individuals lead a meaningful life.

Key Teachings of the Quran for a Balanced Life

The Quran offers profound and practical guidance for leading a balanced and meaningful life by emphasizing divine purpose, spiritual practices, and moral virtues. It calls believers to reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth (Sura Al-Imran 3:192), inspiring an understanding of life's purpose and fostering a spiritually enriched existence. Salat (prayer) serves as a central act of worship, purifying the soul, building discipline, and bringing clarity of mind, while fasting (Surah



Al-Baqarah 2:184-185) promotes righteousness, empathy, and even physical benefits like cellular rejuvenation. The Quran highlights kindness, especially toward parents and the needy, teaching believers to embody Allah's mercy and love. Honesty, truthfulness, patience, and modesty are upheld as vital virtues, guiding believers to navigate life with dignity and integrity. Additionally, the Quran encourages reflection on the natural world, revealing Allah's attributes and the divine origin of the universe, thus offering timeless wisdom that fosters harmony between spirituality and daily life.

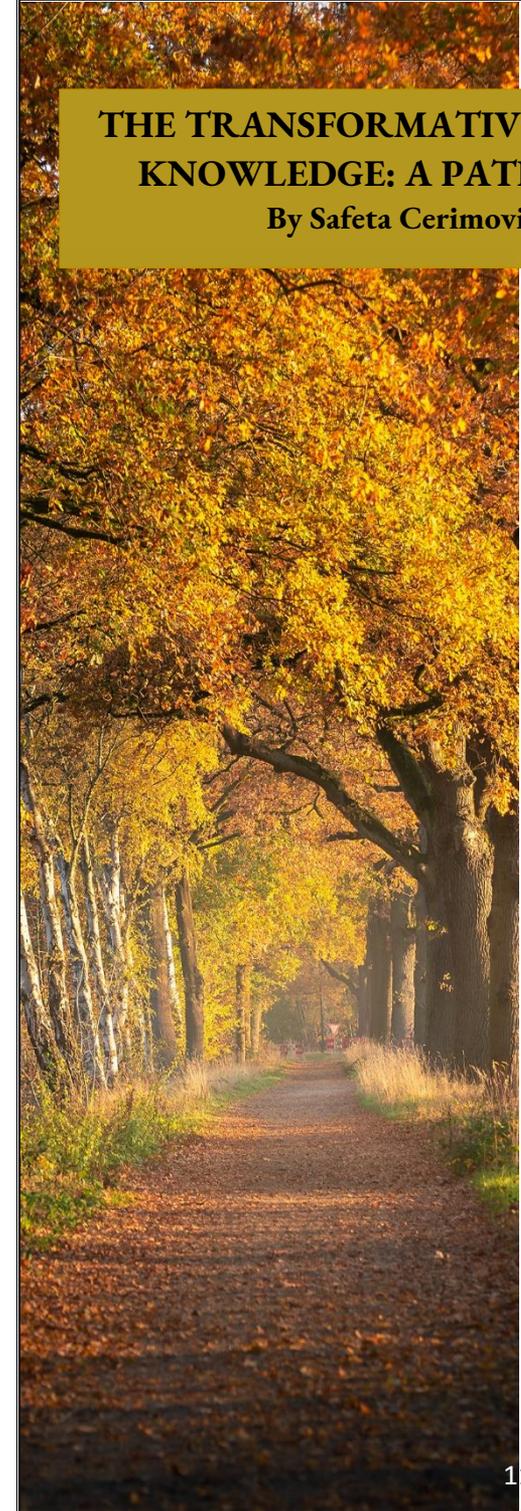
The Solution: Living the Quran's Guidance

The solution to the world's problems lies in the implementation of the Quran's guidance in our daily lives. By following the commandments of the Quran, we can create a more peaceful, prosperous, and just society. The Quran offers a clear path to success in this life and the hereafter, but it requires sincere effort, prayer, and commitment. We must strive to align our actions with the teachings of the Quran, cultivating a life of righteousness, kindness, patience, and gratitude.

May Allah enable and guide us to follow the path of Allah's commandments, and our role model the Master of all Prophets Muhammad(sa). Amen

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THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF DIVINE KNOWLEDGE: A PATH TO TRUE PEACE

By Safeta Cerimovic, Syracuse NY

Knowledge plays an essential role in shaping our lives, whether it's learning new skills, advancing in education, or acquiring worldly expertise. In a society that values education, the pursuit of knowledge is often seen as a key to personal and societal success. However, there is a form of knowledge that goes beyond the intellectual—divine knowledge. This is the highest form of wisdom that can bring lasting peace to the soul. In a world where peace is often scarce, whether in our homes, communities, or nations, the idea of acquiring knowledge that leads to inner peace is both powerful and transformative.

As an Ahmadi Muslim, following the guidance of the Imam of the Age, it's worth reflecting on why, despite our efforts, we may not always experience true inner peace. One possible reason is that we may not have fully embraced divine knowledge—the kind that transforms and lasts. This raises the important question: How can embracing divine knowledge help us find peace spiritually, mentally, and socially?



True Wisdom: A Path to Lasting Peace

Divine knowledge is not merely an intellectual exercise; it is a spiritual force that can heal and transform all aspects of life. True wisdom, derived from deep spiritual knowledge, enables us to navigate life's challenges with calm and composure. This kind of peace is not dependent on external factors but comes from within, rooted in the soul's tranquility. It is through this knowledge that we come to understand our purpose in life, our relationship with Allah, and how to live a life of fulfillment and peace.

The pursuit of knowledge, especially when it is aligned with spiritual growth, helps us reach a higher understanding of ourselves and the world around us. In this way, knowledge is not just about acquiring facts but about developing a deeper understanding of life, helping us to build a peaceful and harmonious existence.

Knowledge as a Gift from God

The concept of knowledge being a gift from Allah is central to the Islamic faith. In the Quran, Allah emphasizes the distinction between those who possess

knowledge and those who do not. In Surah Az-Zumar (39:10), Allah says,

“...Are those who know equal to those who do not know? Verily, only those endowed with understanding will take heed.”

This verse highlights the profound value of knowledge and underscores the importance of using it correctly.

Knowledge is not merely a worldly asset to be used for personal gain; it is a spiritual tool meant to guide us toward righteousness. The pursuit of knowledge helps us understand and internalize our faith. It shapes our actions, strengthens our relationship with Allah, and enables us to fulfill our purpose as His servants.

The True Meaning of Seeking Knowledge

Many Muslims pray for more knowledge, often reciting the prayer, *“Rabbi Zidni Ilma”* (My Lord, increase me in knowledge). But how often do we pause to reflect on the deeper meaning of this prayer? If knowledge is indeed a divine gift, are we using it

وَقُلِّ
رَبِّ
زِدْنِي
عِلْمًا

correctly? Are we merely accumulating facts, or are we reflecting on how this knowledge helps us grow closer to Allah and better serve humanity?

Knowledge should not be seen as an end but as a means to becoming more aware of Allah's will, making better decisions, and positively impacting the world. It should guide us to make thoughtful choices, improve our relationships with others, and live in harmony with the teachings of Islam.

"Seeking Knowledge Is an Obligation Upon Every Muslim"

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said,

"Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim" (Sunan Ibn Majah 224).

This statement reminds us that seeking knowledge is not optional; it is an essential part of a Muslim's life. Knowledge is not just for the scholars or religious leaders but is a duty for all Muslims, regardless of age, gender, or social status. It is as important as prayer, fasting, and charity—core pillars of Islam.

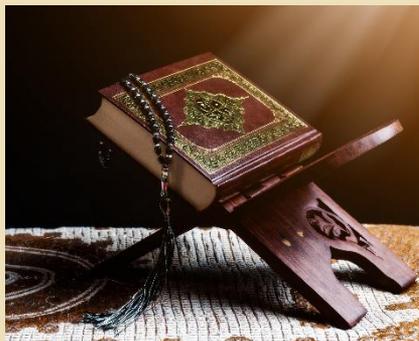
This understanding should inspire every Muslim to actively seek knowledge, knowing that it is a command from Allah and His Messenger. The pursuit of knowledge is not limited to religious matters alone but extends to all forms of beneficial knowledge. Whether it's knowledge about the Quran, the teachings of the Prophet, or worldly

sciences, Islam encourages learning in every field of life.

The Light of the Holy Quran and the Promised Messiah (as)

The Promised Messiah (as) spoke about the Quran's intellectual and divine nature in his book *The Light of the Holy Quran*. He explained that the first sign of a Divine Book is its intellectual brilliance, which sets it apart from human writings. The Quran, in its wisdom, offers clear and insightful explanations of fundamental religious truths. These truths, such as the oneness of God, the purpose of human life, and the moral teachings of Islam, are timeless and relevant across all generations.

The Promised Messiah (as) also emphasized that the Quran is not merely a book of theology; it provides wisdom on a variety of topics, including science, ethics, law, and human psychology. This demonstrates the Quran's universal and eternal relevance. The divine knowledge contained in the Quran transcends time and culture, providing guidance that is still relevant in today's world.



The Spiritual Treasure in the Writings of the Promised Messiah (as)

The writings of the Promised Messiah (as) offer profound spiritual and intellectual insights that complement the teachings of the Quran. These works are not just theological texts but living sources of wisdom that guide believers in both their spiritual and worldly lives. By studying these writings, individuals gain the knowledge necessary to navigate the challenges of life and the Hereafter.

Huzoor (aba), in his Friday Sermon on June 18, 2004, encouraged Muslims to read and reflect on the writings of the Promised Messiah (as). These works offer spiritual nourishment and promote intellectual and personal growth. The pursuit of knowledge, according to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa), is a lifelong journey, and every stage of life offers new opportunities for learning and development.

Furthermore, Prophet Muhammad (sa) taught us the importance of humility in seeking knowledge. When faced with something we do not understand, we should acknowledge that “Allah knows best” and seek His guidance. This

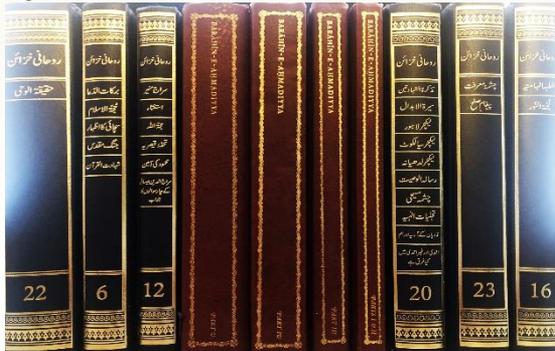
humility reminds us that all knowledge comes from Allah, and we are merely seekers of the truth.

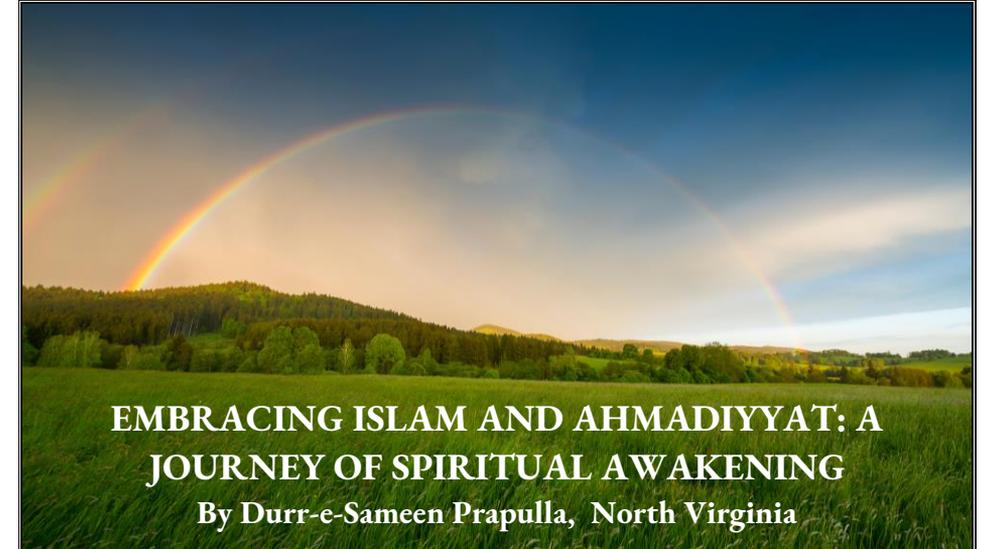
Knowledge as a Path to Peace

Knowledge is not merely a worldly asset but a divine gift that can transform our lives spiritually, mentally, and socially. Seeking knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim, and it brings us closer to Allah while helping us fulfill our purpose in life. The Quran, the Hadith, and the writings of the Promised Messiah (as) offer profound wisdom, guiding us toward peace and spiritual growth.

By reflecting on this knowledge and applying it in our daily lives, we can experience true tranquility and peace. The pursuit of knowledge is a lifelong journey, and every stage of life offers new opportunities for growth. Knowledge is meant to be shared and applied for the betterment of society, and through it, we can contribute to building a better world. Let us continue our quest for knowledge with humility, purpose, and the intention to live a life that reflects Islamic values.

Through this pursuit, we can find fulfillment, peace, and a deeper connection to Allah.





EMBRACING ISLAM AND AHMADIYYAT: A JOURNEY OF SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

By Durr-e-Sameen Prapulla, North Virginia

Born into a devout Hindu family in a small town in Karnataka, India, my spiritual journey began at a young age. I was named Prapulladevi, a name that embodied purity and devotion reflective of the values instilled in me by my family. Growing up, I was surrounded by rituals and practices that deepened my connection to God, particularly through the worship of Lord Ganesha, a Hindu deity I held in high regard.

As I matured, my curiosity about religion and spirituality grew, especially during my time as a freshman medical student in Mysore Medical College. The study of human anatomy and the marvels of the human body instilled in me a sense of awe for the Creator and His intricate design. Alongside my academic pursuits, I delved into practices like “Sahaja Sthithi Yoga - The Art of living” with my own curiosity about the art of Yogic Meditation techniques.

It was during this period of exploration that I encountered individuals from

different faith backgrounds, who came to attend the course seeking the concept of universal religion, whose perspectives on God and spirituality intrigued me. Our discussions opened my eyes to the diversity of religious beliefs and sparked a curiosity within me to understand more about other religions.

On November 26, 1996, praying for my mother’s health led me to have a serious conversation with my favorite idol, Ganesha, during worship. Exhausted, I fell asleep in my hostel room and awoke to a loud noise. I discovered a wall hanging, unfamiliar to me, with the words “LO, I’M WITH YOU ALWAYS” from the New Testament Bible. I learned that my Christian roommate had nailed it and it just fell off the wall. She later urged me to accept Jesus as my Savior and gave me a New Testament Bible to read.

The next day, as I was reading the New Testament Bible for the first time, something within me urged me to focus on a specific page. The passage read, “**For**

we are the temple of the living God! And so the Lord says, 'You must leave them and separate yourselves from them' (2 Corinthians Chapter 6, Verses 14-18). These words deeply resonated with me, leading me to agree that I should abandon idols and seek God within myself. Perhaps the Bible and Christianity could guide me in this journey.

Two years later, on December 24th, 1998, I was eagerly preparing for the Christmas celebration when I came across an article in the Indian Express newspaper titled "To All ye Faithful" by Abu Abraham. The article discussed a book called "Jesus the Man" by an Australian theologian Barbara Theiring. It mentioned the Dead Sea scrolls, suggesting that Jesus was born on March 7th, 7 BC. The article also touched upon the uncertainty surrounding the date of Christ's birth, the idea that he was an illegitimate child, and how his opponents called him the 'Man of a lie.'

For the first time, I found myself deeply confused about the figure of Jesus (as). If he is indeed God, then why is there so



much controversy surrounding his existence?

I began to question if there was more to this story of Jesus that I had yet to discover. This newfound uncertainty left me feeling lost and depressed, yearning for clarity and understanding amidst the swirling confusion.

Unable to find peace and sleep, I found myself in the midst of the night, organizing the scattered books in my room. As I sorted through the chaos, my eyes fell upon the Quarterly Journal Magazine "MINARET", a publication I had received from a student who had attended an Art of Living advanced meditation course three years prior.

Within its pages, I stumbled upon a fascinating scientific investigation related to Jesus's crucifixion and his purported death. The article, titled "SHROUD OF MYSTERY" by M. Alikoya and published in December 1997.

Shortly thereafter, my curiosity piqued, I felt a strong desire to delve deeper into the article and understand the religious beliefs associated with it. Eager to learn more and uncover the origins of the published piece, I promptly penned a letter to the contact address, requesting additional details regarding the intriguing article.

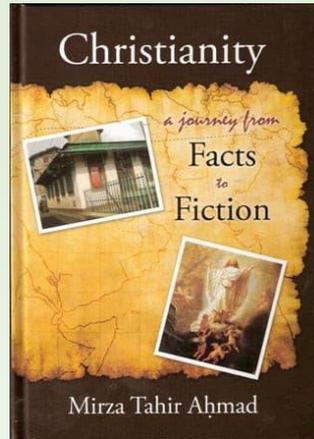
To my astonishment, after a couple of months I received a prompt and honest response. Not only did I receive the requested information, but I was also pleasantly surprised to receive a posted copy of the article titled "**Christianity, a**

Journey from Facts to Fiction."

Accompanying this enlightening read was a book titled "**The Life of Prophet Muhammad (sa)**," further enriching my exploration into different faiths and beliefs.

The book "Christianity, A Journey from Facts to Fiction" was written by Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmadth. I read it slowly, repeatedly, and was greatly impressed by the article, feeling delighted to my heart's content. It was excellent material, and I felt that the author dealt with the situation based solely on rationality without relying heavily on scriptural references. At times, it made me feel that the author was too rational and went to an extent that I had never considered before. However, the entire text addressed the subject comprehensively, leaving no room for ambiguity or suspicion. For the first time, I realized that religion and faith could also be analyzed from this perspective, rather than solely relying on blind faith, which is far from reality. After reading the entire book, a strange transformation occurred within me, clearing all the cobwebs in my heart and mind.

The very next day, I read the book "**The Life of Prophet Muhammed**" by Hadhrat Mirza Bashir-ud-din Mahmud Ahmad. I read the entire book in a single night and was deeply moved to tears and thrilled as I went through the spiritual journey of Prophet Muhammad (sa). For the first time, I learned that there is a religion that worships beloved



Almighty as He is, without giving any form or shapes. After reading the detailed cardinal doctrines about the Prophet (sa), I was greatly touched by the sufferings of the Prophet (sa) and his companions in the path of establishing the Unity of God.

As I reached the last page of the book, the verse mentioned, "**This day have I perfected your religion for you and complete My favour on you and have chosen for you Islam as religion**" (Chapter 5:4), made me hold the book so close to my heart. Tears flowed freely, and I cried for what seemed like an eternity. My soul completely submitted to the word of the Almighty, as He Himself mentioned with His own words, stating that the religion He has chosen for mankind is Islam.

In January 1999, I drafted my very first letter to the author of the book "Christianity: A Journey from Facts to Fiction," our beloved Huzoor Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV, Hadhrat Mirza

Tahir Ahmad (rh). In the 15 pages of a handwritten letter narrating my entire journey, the response I received was lines saying, **"Welcome to Ahmadiyyat, the True Islam."** I was surprised by this response, as I had unknowingly accepted Ahmadiyyat. I felt as if I had reached my destination.

Soon after, learning about Ahmadiyyat got easier with frequent acquaintance and correspondence with our beloved IVth Khalifa (rh). Huzoor responded with immense care and compassion in his letters, offering solace and prayers for the challenges and tears I faced. Through his guidance and support, I found the strength to navigate the adversities of everyday life and remain steadfast in my faith.

As I started reciting the opening chapter of the Holy Quran, Surah Al Fatihah English translation I began to experience many things. I would write about my dreams and visions to Huzoor (rh), and as the days passed, reciting this very first chapter of the Holy Quran became a great weapon for me to combat any difficulties in my daily life.

Later, by God's grace, I became acquainted with the Bangalore Muslim Community and received the Bai'at

forum to initiate myself. However, after reading all ten conditions of Bai'at, it took me a full six months to uplift myself. I pondered whether I could uphold my faith. It was a monumental decision to make all by myself, without informing my loving parents who held me so dear. I was truly at a loss. At one point, I considered

staying as I was but practicing my faith, yet that seemed impossible. It was becoming increasingly challenging for me to accept my beloved Almighty in any form other than as a mere man-made idol.

Then, one fateful night as I drifted into slumber, reciting the sacred verses of Surah Fatihah - the only prayer I knew - a dream unfolded before me, painting a tapestry of divine guidance and profound revelation.

In this ethereal vision, I found myself amidst my beloved family in a verdant garden, the melodic flow of a river serenading our joyous gathering. As the heavens opened, a gentle drizzle descended, painting the sky in hues of twilight. A rainbow arched gracefully across the river, its vibrant colors casting a spell of enchantment. Spellbound by its beauty, I was compelled to approach this celestial marvel.

As I started reciting the opening chapter of the Holy Quran, Surah Al Fatihah ... this very first chapter of the Holy Quran became a great weapon for me to combat any difficulties in my daily life

As I drew closer to the rainbow, tiny raindrops shimmered in the fading light, and a mysterious force gently lifted me from the earthly realm, my family moving further and further away from me. Ascending the rainbow, I found myself transported to a land of stark beauty - a vast desert devoid of life, save for a singular black stone building cube-like structure (Holy Ka'ba) standing in solemn reverence.

In this barren expanse, a group of cloaked figures, adorned in pristine white garments, knelt in reverent prostration. A voice, gentle yet commanding, echoed through the desolate silence, beckoning me forth with familiarity. "We were waiting for you. Why are you so late?" I just joined them and offered my prayers.

When I woke up, I could hear the morning call to prayer from the nearby mosque to our home

The very next day, in August 2000, Alhumdulillah, I happened to sign my Bai'at form which was accepted and signed by our beloved Khalifah the IVth (rh), in March 2001 and named me Pakeezah Durr-e-Sameen.

Since my first name, Prapulla, meant "PURITY" a flower drenched in the early morning dews, and was not associated with any pagan meanings, and with the permission of our Huoor (rh), I kept my name as Durr-e-Sameen Prapulla.



To my utter astonishment and sheer delight, then, the eagerly awaited letter from London arrived, this time in a large envelope containing a photograph. As a novice, I humbly requested our beloved Huoor to send his photograph because I still had not known what he looked like.

Upon seeing his blessed image, a wave of emotions engulfed me, as it humanized the intellectual, spiritual, and rational understanding of the human mind perceiving the Creator as the ONE God.

Additionally, a smile graced my face as I observed the signature beneath the photograph, little realizing that this moment would mark a significant turning point in my life, destined to have a profound impact on my future. Alhumdulillah!

FAITH AND FORTITUDE

Maryland Youth

The Quran is the book of all books. One major aspect of it is the advice, promises and truths woven throughout its pages. Here are some verses that impacted and touched the souls of me and my sisters in faith. Inshallah you will find comfort and guidance as well.

“Allah burdens not any soul beyond its capacity. It shall have the reward it earns, and it shall get the punishment it incurs. Our Lord, do not punish us, if we forget or fall into error; and our Lord, lay not on us a responsibility as Thou didst lay upon those before us. Our Lord, burden us not with what we have not the strength to bear; and efface our sins, and grant us forgiveness and have mercy on us; Thou art our Master; so help us Thou against the disbelieving people.” (2:287)

Life gets very difficult sometimes. It feels like everything and everyone is against you and, *astagfirullah*, you just want Allah to take you now. This verse repeats in my head and is a firm reminder that what I’m going through is something Allah knows I can handle, and it will pass. Allah is all knowing, and I’m stronger than I think I am. The good deeds I do will be recognized one day, and it deters me from doing bad ones, in fear

of the punishment that *will* follow. It’s a plea for help in my responsibilities and to avoid sin. It truly is a powerful and thorough prayer.

-Saana Nazir

“He created the heavens and the earth with an eternal purpose and He gave you shape and made your shapes beautiful, and to Him is your ultimate return” (64:4).

This verse is a very powerful reminder that the obstacles we face are temporary, and that our ultimate goal and purpose in life is to strive in the way of Allah. At times, it can be easy to be lost in this world, and this verse serves as a great reminder of what will truly matter in the end. This verse also sheds light over the fact that every being and creation of Allah has a purpose. Therefore, we can revisit this verse when we feel overcome by challenges or trivial matters and we should constantly remind ourselves of our true purpose in this short life.

-Jaziba Wahla

“Allah is the friend of those who believe: He brings them out of every kind of darkness into light.” (2:258)

When I came across this verse for the first time, I was struggling with a lot of things, mental health being one of them. I was facing a dark time and felt hopeless thinking my struggle and pain were never ending but the moment I read this verse, I felt peace and contentment. It strengthened my faith but also reminded me to trust Allah, and that my difficult time would end, as I do believe! The verse became the one thing I held onto until Allah brought me out of my darkness, both spiritually and in terms of mental health.

-Hadia Malik

"And say not of anything, 'I shall do that tomorrow'" (18:24)

According to the commentary by Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad (ra) in the Five Volume Commentary, this verse is about the present day, when Christian nations have dominated the world and Muslims feel powerless. Allah is reminding believers to not waste time daydreaming about plans to be great again with no intentions of doing something, and instead be active in following the Imam of the time. This verse is important to remember right now, when the world seems bleak and unrepairable. We, as Ahmadi Muslims, should hold fast to Khilafat and do our part by being good citizens of the world and keep away from complaining about our circumstances.

-Syeda Sabahat

"And say, 'Truth has come and falsehood has vanished away. Falsehood does indeed vanish away fast.'" (17:82)

The idea of trying to help others see the truth is relevant in both my personal and professional life. In my personal life, the "falsehood" consists of people making up stories about one another even though they only have bits and pieces of the truth. In my life as a budding journalist, it consists of important events or people not being included in the top stories. In both instances, I feel the heavy burden of trying to bridge the gap between falsehood and truth, so as to save the image of the innocent. However, we are human and — in the end— only Allah can help people see the truth. So the next time I feel that a person or a situation is being misjudged, I will look to the example of the Holy Prophet (sa). Once the Muslims conquered Mecca, the Holy Prophet (sa) recited this verse as he struck the idols that desecrated the Kaaba. The idols symbolize falsehood and Islam represented the truth.

-Esha Bhatti (



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH DIVINE KNOWLEDGE

By Sehar Bhatti, North Virginia

Humanity has long sought to understand the mysteries of existence, searching for meaning in the vast expanse of creation. At the heart of this quest lies the pursuit of divine knowledge, a path that not only connects individuals with the Creator but also empowers them to overcome life's challenges. Drawing upon the teachings of the Promised Messiah (as), we explore how divine knowledge elevates the human spirit and provides certainty in the existence of God.

The Path to Knowing God

The Promised Messiah (as) highlights three progressive tools to gain certainty in God's existence: inference, sight, and experience. These pathways serve as steppingstones toward spiritual empowerment.

1. Knowledge by Inference

Inference involves observing the universe's intricate design and recognizing signs of a Creator. Much like deducing the presence of fire from smoke, the marvels of nature—glaciers melting into rivers, the rain cycle, and the vast cosmos—invite reflection. This initial level of understanding is intellectual and indirect but serves as a foundation for deeper spiritual exploration.

2. Knowledge by Sight

At this stage, God reveals Himself to the seeker. This revelation transcends logical deductions, offering a direct glimpse of the Divine. However, these revelations are not ends in themselves but tools to inspire righteousness and encourage spiritual growth. Just as a parent motivates a child with glimpses of reward, divine revelations guide believers to strive for higher spiritual goals.

3. Knowledge by Experience

The highest form of certainty comes through personal experience. Here, divine knowledge becomes transformative, enabling individuals to feel God's presence deeply and personally. This level is achieved through steadfastness and righteousness, where one's actions and experiences reinforce their connection with the Divine.

The Role of Steadfastness

Steadfastness is central to achieving empowerment through divine knowledge. It requires unwavering faith and patience in the face of life's adversities. The Promised Messiah (as) teaches that enduring suffering with grace is a profound form of worship, signifying reconciliation with God's will.

In times of fear, hunger, or loss, steadfastness allows believers to transcend their circumstances and recognize divine blessings. Such trials imprint God's attributes on their souls, fostering moral qualities like forbearance and humility. By aligning with God's will, individuals unlock the doors to divine light, achieving peace and fulfillment.

Revelation and Righteousness

True revelation, as described by the Promised Messiah (as), is not a product of human intellect but a meaningful dialogue between God and His servant. While few attain this gift, it is open to all who prioritize spiritual pursuits over worldly desires. Revelation and righteous actions reinforce one another, creating a virtuous cycle that brings individuals closer to God.

The Ultimate Source of Empowerment

Empowerment through divine knowledge transcends material or

intellectual achievements. The Holy Quran teaches that true happiness arises when the soul is at peace—when the reality of God penetrates the heart, mind, and body. This peace cannot be found in scientific formulas or material possessions but in steadfastness and spiritual devotion.

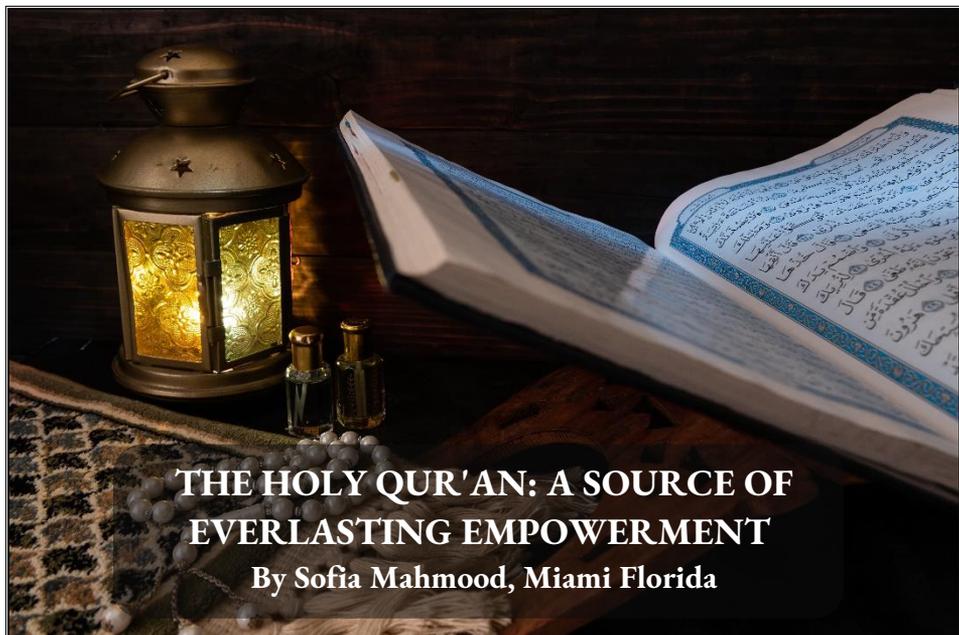
The Promised Messiah (as) reminds us that divine knowledge is not merely an intellectual exercise but a transformative journey. By seeking God through inference, sight, and experience, and by remaining steadfast in faith, individuals unlock their highest potential. This empowerment enables them to navigate life's trials with confidence and grace, ultimately finding fulfillment in a profound connection with the Creator.

In a world often consumed by materialism and skepticism, the pursuit of divine knowledge offers a path to true empowerment, grounded in faith, righteousness, and an unshakable certainty in the existence of God.

Sources:

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2. The Holy Quran: Surah Al-Takathur (102:1-9), Surah Al-An'am (6:104), Surah Ar-Ra'd (13:29)
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THE HOLY QUR'AN: A SOURCE OF EVERLASTING EMPOWERMENT

By Sofia Mahmood, Miami Florida

In today's world, true empowerment is often associated with worldly aspects such as status, wealth, power, etc. Many believe that obsession with these materialistic factors grant fulfillment and contentment. However, this belief is ultimately false as these superficial ideas are temporary and leave us feeling unfulfilled when they fade away. The accumulation of wealth or power might bring momentary satisfaction, but it is rarely lasting. When these things slip out of our grasp, they leave us feeling empty and lost. This emptiness is the result of relying on superficial means to fulfill our soul. True empowerment is achieved through divine knowledge as it enriches our soul with the light of Allah the Almighty.

True empowerment grows through the recitation of the Holy Qur'an. It is an everlasting source of wisdom that contains pure guidance for all aspects of life. The Holy Qur'an does not just contain religious knowledge, but it also gives us a complete code of life to live by. As we reflect on the sacred words of the Holy Qur'an, we discover the hidden beauty in Allah's teachings. The teachings of our Creator, mentioned in our Holy Book, purify our hearts and align us with His will. The Holy Qur'an makes clear that the true status of a person is attained through submission to Allah's will. In Surah Al-Mujadila verse 12, Allah the Almighty says

"And when it is said, 'Rise up!' then rise; Allah will raise those who believe from among you, and those to whom knowledge is given, to degrees of rank."

This verse makes us realize that an individual's true status comes not from any other external factors of success, but from a deep and sincere belief in our Creator and in the

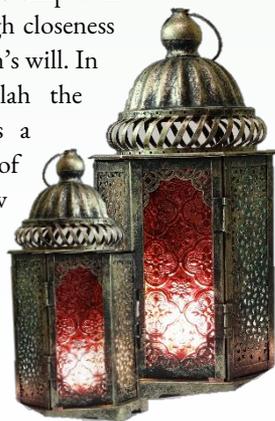
understanding of the Holy Quran. Allah promises that those who abide and live by this philosophy will find their ranks elevated both in this world and in the Hereafter. Such elevation in rank is not temporary or based on worldly standards, rather, it is eternal and gets attained through staying on the path of righteousness.

Another key component in seeking true empowerment is developing a close relationship with our Creator. This can be done through heartfelt prayer. The teachings of the Promised Messiah Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) highlight this idea. The Promised Messiah (as) says,

"True knowledge about God depends entirely upon reaching the Living God who articulates with the utmost clarity to those who are close to Him and bestows satisfaction and contentment upon them with His majestic and pleasant speech."

(Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam, Page 183).

Essentially, this sentence means that true knowledge of Allah the Almighty is not an academic philosophy, rather, it is a deep connection through a relationship with our Creator. Allah is not distant or abstract; He is involved with His creation and reveals Himself clearly to those who earnestly seek Him. Allah speaks directly to the hearts of those who are close to Him. Through this relationship believers find satisfaction, peace, and gain knowledge that is heartfelt and spiritually enriching. This peace cannot be found in material wealth, status, or the temporary joys of the world. Instead, it arises from building a close connection with our Creator and shapes the meaning and joys of our lives. Knowledge granted through closeness with Allah directs believers to live in accordance with Allah's will. In this way, believers' actions and decisions reflect Allah the Almighty's guidance. Sacred knowledge also serves as a compass during difficult times. In a world full of uncertainties and challenges, Allah's divine teachings show the path in which our true purpose lies. This allows believers to make good choices and live with integrity, giving them the strength to overcome obstacles. All in all, Divine knowledge goes beyond mere intellectual understanding. It leads to a meaningful and purposeful life in which humans are instructed to worship Allah and



live in harmony with His creation. This brings us to the main idea of life. In every action of our lives, we should look for what brings Allah pleasure.

In the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa), we can see how this main idea is beautifully exemplified. He always emphasized attaining Allah's pleasure. In both ease and hardship, he always praised Allah and asked for His forgiveness. Divine knowledge also illustrates that true repentance fades away egoistic and selfish ideas from individuals' hearts. While pondering over this notion, one realizes that the soul becomes empowered and is freed from the evils of selfishness. This is truly what divine knowledge is all about.

Furthermore, the Holy Prophet (sa) enlightened the importance of divine knowledge in empowering believers. He said,

"The best of you are those who learn the Holy Quran and teach it."

(Sahih Bukhari).

When we share our knowledge from the Holy Quran with one another, we gain a deeper understanding of Allah the Almighty's true teachings. When we keep the Holy Quran as principal in our lives, it unites mankind's hearts together. Sisterhood and brotherhood bonds become strengthened, and relationships prosper. This is the true essence of life in Islam.

All in all, true empowerment is found in divine knowledge, which is revealed to us through the Holy Qur'an, the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa), and the teachings of the Promised Messiah (as). By seeking this knowledge, reflecting on it, and applying it in our lives, we become empowered and souls can achieve true contentment. Divine knowledge aligns us with the will of Allah, purifies our hearts, and allows us to navigate the challenges of life. This knowledge is a priceless treasure as it makes us reach true empowerment, which is far greater than any materialistic possession. It is through this that we find lasting peace and live in harmony with Allah's will.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH DIVINE KNOWLEDGE

By Urooj Kazi, Miami FL

There was a woman,
head bowed beneath the weight of a
thousand suns,
each one a question she had never
dared to ask.
She worked in shadows cast by others,
her hands blistered by tools she didn't
choose,
her voice swallowed by the echo of
centuries-old commands:
"Know your place. Accept the light we
give."

One night, the moon betrayed its
silence.
It whispered in fragments, like glass
breaking gently: "What if the light
you've been chasing
is the fire you've smothered?"
She laughed—sharp, bitter, her breath
heavy with exhaustion. What fire? She
was no prophet, no oracle.
Just a woman in the dirt,
shaped by the hands of a world that
never asked her name.

But the whisper would not relent.
It slid into her dreams,
wrapping itself around her
like ivy breaking through the cracks of
stone,
pushing against the fragile walls of
disbelief.
And soon, she began to feel it:

a pulse, faint but steady,
in the marrow of her bones,
in the spaces between her ribs.

She turned to books,
their spines cracked and weary
from holding truths too heavy for
most to bear.
But knowledge did not greet her with
open arms;
it clawed at her,
tore at the sinews of her certainty,
made her bleed from wounds she
didn't know she carried. Every page
was a mirror,
forcing her to see the lies she had built
her life upon, the lies that had built the
world itself.

Some days, she wanted to stop.
It was easier to carry the weight of
ignorance—
a familiar shackle
than to confront the vast, terrifying
freedom
of unlearning.
But that pulse would not quiet,
and it drove her forward.

As she learned,
Her curiosity became a forest,
growing wild and untamed,

roots digging deeper than the lies she'd
been fed. the questions did not
disappear—
they multiplied.

She followed them,
not with answers,
but with wonder.

Her mind stretched wide,
like rivers carving paths through
ancient stone.

One day,
she stood at the edge of a great
precipice,
the world below her sprawling and
infinite.

And she realized—
she was no longer afraid.

The weight was gone,
not because it had lifted,
but because she had grown strong
enough to carry it. Knowledge had not
crushed her;
it had carved her into something vast,
like the cliffs sculpted by the sea.

When she returned,
her eyes carried a fire that unsettled
those who had known her. Her back
was no longer bent;
her eyes held the kind of light
that could set entire forests ablaze.

They asked her for the source of her
power,
expecting a relic, a mantra, a secret.

She pointed to the sky,
then to the ground,
then to her own chest.

"It was always here," she said,
her voice as steady as the earth beneath
their feet.

And though many turned away,
unable to grasp the enormity of what
she offered, a few stayed.

A woman, clutching her child.
A boy with dirt under his nails.
An elder whose eyes glimmered with
unshed tears. Together, they began to
listen to their own whispers, to trace
their own constellations.

It wasn't salvation.
It wasn't deliverance.
It was something far greater:
the birth of a fire that would never die,
a light that no one could extinguish.

This light wasn't a gift.
It was an awakening.
The fire was never something to seek,
but to uncover, unearth.
And it was enough to ignite a world.

ALLAH: THE CONSTANT COMPANION

By **Mariam Khan, York Harrisburg**

An unbiased study of the creation of the heavens and the earth cry out that there should be a creator, but it is a matchless book that takes us to the certainty that there is a creator. This book is the Quran, a message for all time from Allah.

A study of the Quran creates such an impression of a Loving, Benevolent Creator that the heart cannot help but be drawn towards Him, having been created with this yearning placed inside us, like the sprinkling of salt over our souls as explained by the Promised Messiah(as). It can only be satiated if we drink from this fountain.

He is Allah. There is no God but He. His are the most beautiful names (20:9)

Indeed His are the most beautiful names, we learn His attributes at a young age, but it is our experience of being at the receiving end of these attributes like Rehman, Rahim, and many others that helps us know God. An increase in our cognizance of Allah is invariably followed by an increase in our love and attachment to Him. A kind and forgiving Benefactor, whose embrace of mercy and compassion

is a source of strength, empowerment and catalyst for action.

Like a mother guiding the first few steps of her child, Allah helps us along in our positive endeavors, overlooking our many shortcomings, not only lovingly nudging us in the right direction but rewarding our small efforts, manyfold.

‘So their Lord answered their prayers, saying, ‘I will allow not the work of any worker from among you, whether male or female, to be lost’ (3:196)

‘And Allah increases in guidance those who follow guidance’ (19:77) ‘And with Allah is the best of rewards’ (3:196).

It is the Quran that holds the best promise of mercy. Allah repeatedly addresses our erring selves with the reassurance that sincere repentance is accepted by Him. As long as we abandon our

old ways, now finding these loathsome and follow up with good deeds.

'My mercy encompasses all things' (7:157).

This is what gives strength to move forward despite having made mistakes with the hope of forgiveness and mercy from Allah.

Say, "O My servants who have committed excesses against their own souls, despair not of the mercy of Allah, surely Allah forgives all sins. Verily, He is Most Forgiving, Merciful" (39:54).

Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) says of this verse:

'The present is one of the most beautiful verses of the Quran. It holds out a message of hope and good cheer to those who have wronged their souls. It encourages optimism and kills despair and despondency. It denounces and condemns pessimism because pessimism lies at the root of most sins and failures in life.'

The impetus to perform good deeds is different for everyone. A person can be motivated by fear of punishment or reward for effort, both of these found in abundance in the Quran, its Author and Creator of human psyche knowing how best to address His creation.

An example of Allah providing motivation for believers pertaining to the rights of Allah would be the predawn prayer. Leaving the toasty warmth of our

beds in the early hours of the morning can sometimes seem like a mammoth task. The whispers of shaitan telling you you are tired and to sleep on so tantalizing, yet at this time it is certain verses of the Quran which give the strength to get out from under the cozy covers.

'Their sides keep away from their beds; and they call on their Lord in fear and hope, and spend out of what We have bestowed on them. And no soul knows what joy of the eyes is kept hidden for them, as a reward for the good they used to do' (32: 17-18).

'Verily, he truly prospers who purifies himself' (87:15).

Life can be hard sometimes, trials come in many shapes, in fact Allah has told us that He will try us, this life being a cultivating ground for the hereafter. However even with that is given the reassurance of support which creates resilience and the strength to carry on cheerfully. For the one who is nourished by Allah will never give way to despair.

'O ye who believe! seek help with patience and Prayer; surely, Allah is with the steadfast' (2:154).

'And despair not of the mercy of Allah; for none despairs of Allah's mercy save the unbelieving people' (12:88).

'If you are grateful, I will, surely, bestow more favours on you; but if you are ungrateful, then know that My punishment is severe indeed' (14:8).

What a balance of mercy and justice is in the powerful words of Allah! The heart is content to know such a Just Creator.

The purpose of this life is to find God and to develop a relationship with Him. Allah says in the Quran:

'And I have not created the Jinn and the men but that they may worship Me' (51:57).

Worship is not a one way street, rather it is the relationship we develop with God by adorning our salat and performing it with the necessary prerequisites. What a Benevolent Master is He for He has tied finding our purpose in life, with finding peace and contentment as well.

'Aye! it is in the remembrance of Allah that hearts can find comfort' (13:29).

A strong connection with God is an inspiration to fulfil the rights of His creation as well. This empowers us to go beyond only doing good to those who do good to us or to help in times of

prosperity. A believer extends her/himself even in times of tribulation and not only suppresses anger, but also forgives and shows kindness and favor to those who may not have shown the same towards them.

'Those who spend in prosperity and adversity, and those who suppress anger and pardon men; and Allah loves those who do good' (3:135).

It is in knowing this Gracious, Merciful and Just Creator that we can find the strength to continue on this journey of fulfilling the rights of Allah and His creation. The inspiration to sacrifice, be steadfast and march on is made ever easier as we reach closer to God. May Allah enable us all to reach the state that we are like the following:

'And thou, O soul at peace, Return to thy Lord well pleased with Him and He well pleased with thee , So enter thou among My chosen servants And enter thou My Garden' (89:28-31).



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH KHILAFAT

By Saadia Ahmed – Silicon Valley, CA

Khilafat: A Source of Empowerment and Divine Guidance

I recently had the privilege of visiting Rabwah, and I was profoundly moved by the impact of Khilafat's guidance and the community's unwavering obedience to the Khalifa. For context, Rabwah is in Pakistan and serves as the headquarters of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. This city, founded under divine guidance after the partition of the Indian subcontinent, is home to most of the national offices of the Jamaat and has a predominantly Ahmadi population.

Since the passing of the anti-Ahmadi ordinance in 1984, the government has made every effort to curtail the community's administrative and spiritual activities. The city's name has even been changed, and decades of systemic propaganda and persecution have fueled widespread bias and religious animosity against Ahmadis in Pakistan.

Given this backdrop of intense persecution—which often leads to martyrdom, imprisonment, litigation and countless other challenges—one might expect the community to be overcome by fear, anger, or despair. When basic human rights such as freedom of worship, speech, and assembly are denied, it typically leads

to demoralization and decay. However, my week in Rabwah defied all such expectations.

Despite the harsh reality of persecution, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Rabwah has continued to build and expand world-class institutions. The **Tahir Heart Institute** stands as a shining example—a top-tier cardiac care hospital that serves patients of all religious backgrounds, often subsidizing care for those in need. Doctors and specialists from around the world volunteer their time and expertise, ensuring exceptional treatment. Every day at the hospital begins with silent prayers by the entire staff, seeking God's help to bless their efforts. This deeply spiritual approach, underpinned by the Khalifa's prayers, has led to outcomes that are truly remarkable. Post-surgery care, provided without a focus on profit, exemplifies the hospital's commitment to patient recovery.



The community's dedication extends far beyond healthcare. **Educational institutions in Rabwah**, such as a women's college and a school for children with special needs, are similarly outstanding. The women's college rivals top private colleges globally in terms of facilities, quality of education, and extracurricular activities, all while maintaining nominal fees.



The **special needs school** was particularly inspiring. This institution, funded primarily by donations, provides life-changing care and education to children from Rabwah and surrounding areas at an affordable price. With a low student-to-teacher ratio, the school has created an environment where every child can thrive. Remarkably, it has even produced five Olympians, showcasing the strength of its sports programs.



These achievements are a testament to the transformative power of Khilafat's guidance. The unwavering belief that the Khalifa is divinely guided inspires the

community to face every challenge with optimism, perseverance, and purpose. No task feels insurmountable under his leadership and prayers.

Walking through the rest of Rabwah, the contrast between areas under the community's care and those under government control is stark. While Jamaat-administered institutions reflect excellence and compassion,

government-controlled areas are marked by neglect—broken roads, inadequate civil services, and relentless efforts to harass and intimidate the community. Yet, despite these challenges, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community continues to embody the teachings of the Promised Messiah (as): *"Respond with prayers to curses. Provide comfort when hurt."*

This spirit of forgiveness and service is evident everywhere. The community serves even those who actively seek its harm. As one patient who received treatment at a Jamaat hospital put it: *"Say what you may, but angels work here."*

The strength, resilience, and optimism of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Rabwah are living proof of the power of Khilafat as a source of empowerment and divine guidance.



DAILY RECITATION, DAILY EMPOWERMENT

By Rahmatallah Uthman-Afolarin, Willingboro NJ

To know the impact of daily recitation, it is vital to understand the purpose of the Qur'an and its impact on our lives as believers. With this understanding, one finds a reason that continuously drives them back to reading the Quran. As the Holy Prophet (sa) has said numerous times, Allah does not want perfection from us, as that is not possible, but Allah wants us to put effort in all we do. It is effort that leads to daily recitation, which then brings daily empowerment.

However, belief is at the forefront of all this, as one has to be firm in their belief. If we have firm faith, we are aware of the purpose and its impact as believers. Then what? Read the Qur'an whenever we deem fit? No, as it is well known that

knowledge is power. With this understanding, we have a reason to read it, and ponder over it.

This is a lifetime journey, longer than going to school. One isn't graduating from this journey physically but spiritually. But how does one continue to find motivation when it's lost? We go back to the reason. Need more motivation? Read in detail, with commentary. All these efforts are made with the hope that the knowledge is beneficial. And while spiritual growth comes with continuous efforts, on days when one loses focus, the spiritual growth becomes the motivation. It is a cycle that continues as long as the effort persists.

Personally, I have experienced the empowerment of the daily recitation of the Holy Quran because **on many occasions, I have had questions in my mind that the Quran has answered.** With the incidents happening in Gaza, I ask Allah, “Why is all this happening?” “When is it coming to an end?” “How?” Well, the next morning, often after Fajr, I open a random page in the Quran, and time and again, that page has answers to my questions. For example, in Qur’an Chapter 17 verses 5-6, it talks about the promise of Allah for Muslim nations as well as the children of Israel.

This shows me that, in reality, **the Quran is a light in our lives that**

serves as a therapist of sorts. It heals the mind of questions, and it makes anything heavy seem light, since through the Holy Book, we find the past, present, and future. No matter the question or situation, it’s always there to provide solutions to our problems or to answer the questions that bother us—either about the future, present, or past.

Reading this book every day leads to a better state of mind that, throughout our lives, if this continues, we are not only more at rest with an understanding of our situation, but we are also elevated to higher status spiritually, reaching the status of *muttaqeen*.

MY HAPPY PLACE

Bushra Khan, Queens NY

Bowing before my Creator, they stop and stare;
Must be burdensome; they think, unaware.
Little do they know, where I find peace,
A place of solace, where all troubles cease.
Where the sun always shines, and flowers bloom,
Even when storms rage, I’m safe from doom.
Protected, I stand, under His Shield,
In His embrace, all fears are healed.
Regularly visiting, five times daily,
The happiest place I know, it lifts me greatly.
Where I have no fear,
For He is near.



The Symbols on the Flag of Lajna Ima'illah

Crescent Moon: The new era in the spiritual darkness of the modern age

Star: Six-pointed, denotes the six articles of faith; belief in One God, His Angels, His Books, His Prophets, the Day of Resurrection, and Divine Decree

Three Date Trees: Three excellent women and mothers in the history of humanity; Hazrat Hajira^{ra}, Hazrat Maryam^{ra}, and Hazrat Amina^{ra}

Oasis: Motherhood that thrives on spiritual water

The White Minaret: The prophecy about the Promised Messiah^{as} has come true

Sun Rising in the West: Success of Islam and Ahmadiyyat in the West, as per the prophecy of the Holy Prophet^{sa}