

NAHJ AL-BALAGHAH
for
Children





the creation



He made **the creation**

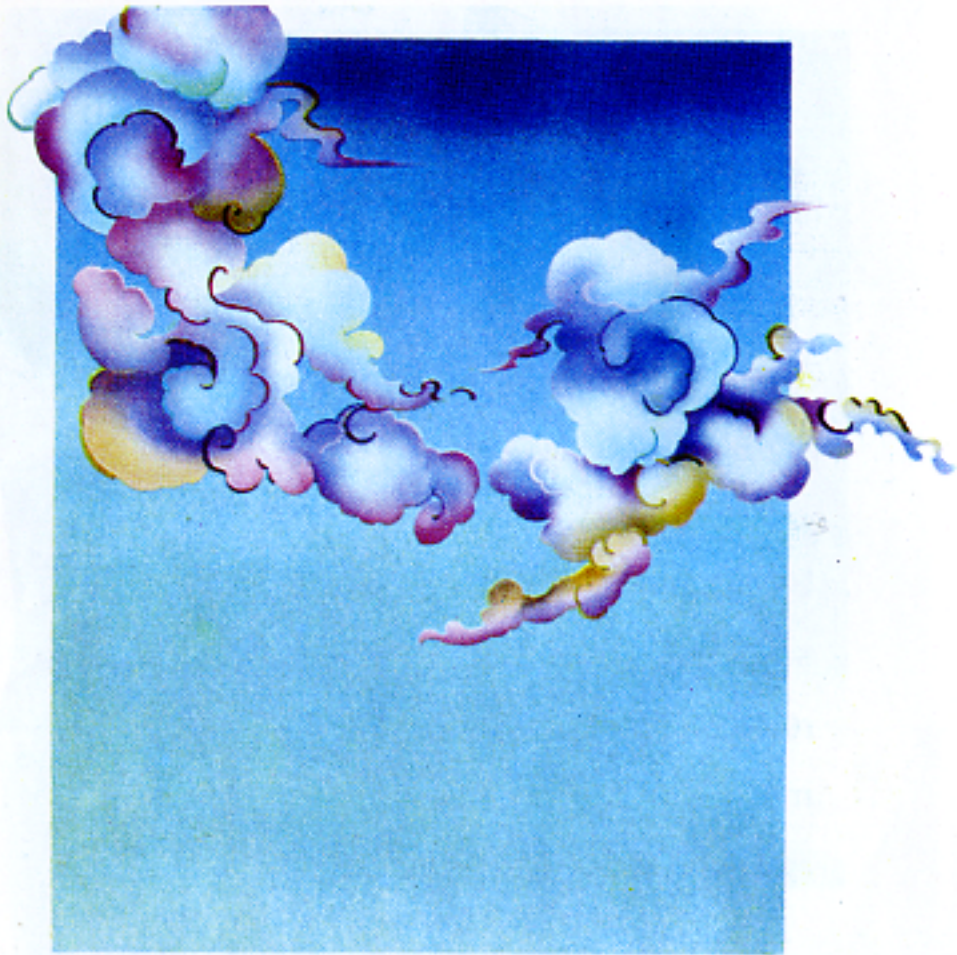
Without any example and without the
advice of a counsel
or the assistance of a helper.



the earth



He created **the earth** and
suspended it,
retained it without support,
made it stand without legs,
and raised it without pillars.



the winds



He brought out the creation
by his power
and made **the winds** blow
with His compassion.



the moon

Then He decorated the heavens
with the stars and the light of the
meteors and set the shining sun and the
bright **moon** in an orbit that rolls around



Sermon 1



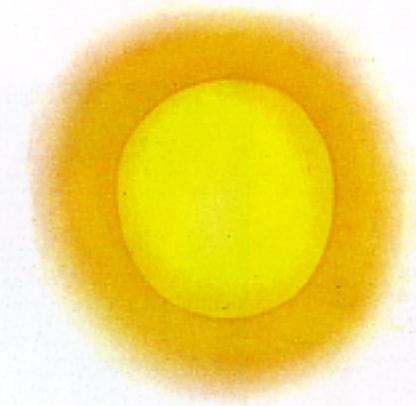
the night



Praise be to Allah
when **the night** falls
and darkens,
and praise be to Allah
when the stars shine and set.



the sun



Look at
the sun and the moon,
the plants and the trees,
the water and the stones,
at the **alternation** of day and night,
the gush of the oceans,
the great number of the mountains
and the height of their peaks,
at the **difference** of languages
and the **variety** of tongues.

Sermon 185



the ant



Look at **the ant**

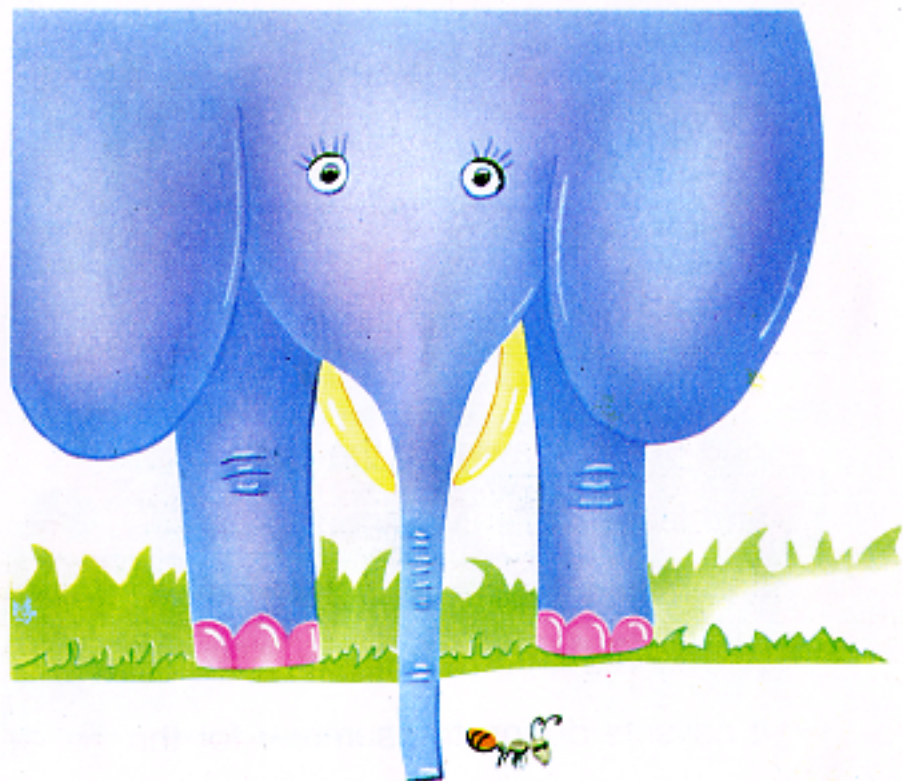
with its small body
and delicate form.

See how it crawls on the earth
and leaps at its livelihood.

It carries the grain to its hole
and stores it in its storage.

It collects during the summer for the
winter,

and during strength for the period of its
weakness



the feet



Glorified is Allah
who has given **feet**
to the ant and the gnat,
and created those bigger than them,
the fishes and the elephants.



the locust



If you wish,
I will tell you about **the locust**.
Allah gave it two red eyes,
with pupils like two moons,
made its small ears,
opened for it a suitable mouth,
and gave it a keen sense.
He gave it two front teeth to cut with
and two sickle - like feet
to grip with.



the birds

The birds are subject to His commands.

He knows the number of their feathers and the count of their breaths.

He has made their feet stand on water and on land.

He knows all their species.

There is the crow,
and the eagle,
the pigeon,
and the ostrich.





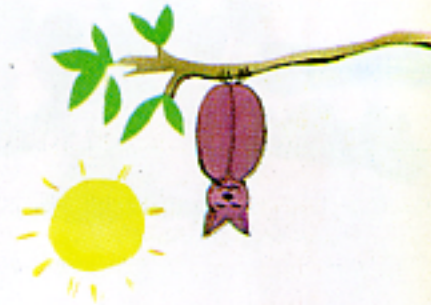
the peacock



The most amazing among them is **the peacock** in its creation, which Allah has created in the finest harmony and arranged its hues in the best composition, with wings well tacked together and a long trailing tail.



the bat



An example of his delicate product,
a marvel of His creation,
and a sample of His profound wisdom,
is what we see in **the bat**,
which shrinks from the daylight,
although daylight moves everything else
to action,
and is active in the night,
although the night stops the activity of
every other living being.
living thing.



the fishes

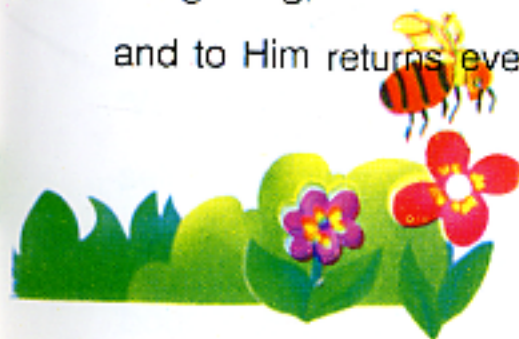


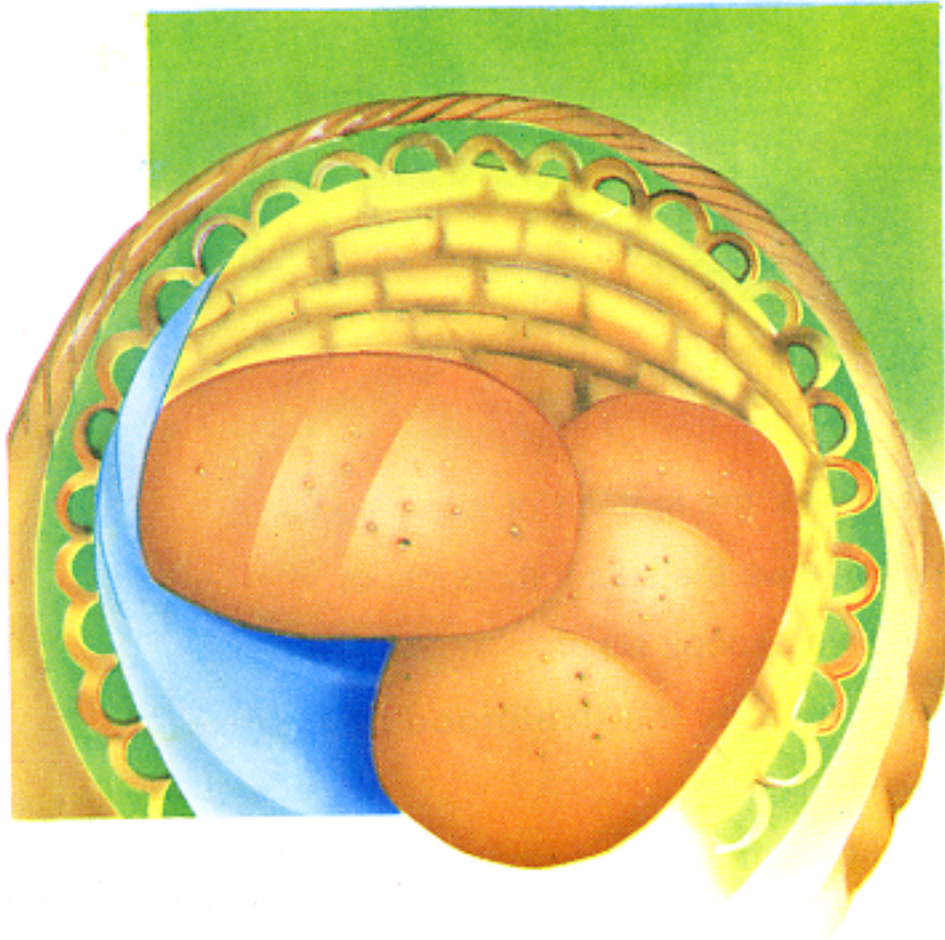
God is aware of the cries
of the beasts in the forests,
of the sins of the people in private,
of the movements of **the fishes**
in deep oceans,
and the uproar of the waters
by strong winds



livelihood

Every thing submits to Him,
and every thing exists by Him.
He is the recourse of every poor,
the honour of the lowly,
the might of the weak,
and the comfort of the grieved.
He hears the speech of every speaker,
and knows the secret thoughts of
one who keeps silent.
He provides the **livelihood** of every
living thing,
and to Him returns everything that dies.





David



David

the author of the Psalms
and the reciter of the dwellers of
paradise, used to make
baskets of palm leaves
with his own hands,
and he would say to his companions,
"Which of you will help me
sell them?"

He ate bread made of barley
bought with that money.



herbs



Moses said:

"O my lord, surely I have need of
whatever good you may send
down upon me."

And, by God,
he asked Him only for bread to eat,
because he used to eat **herbs**
of the earth
and the greenness of the herbs
could be seen
under the skin of his belly
due to his leanness!

Sermon 160



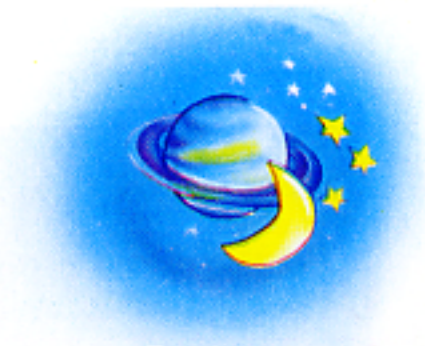
the winter



I will tell you about Jesus,
son of Mary,
He had a stone for his pillow,
wore coarse dress,
and ate rough food.
His Lamp at night was the moon,
and the earth's vast expanse east and
west, his roof during the **winter**.
His desert and relish were
what grows from the earth for the cattle.
His feet were his means of transport
and his two hands his servant.



good tidings



Then Allah sent Muhammad, may God
bless him and his Household,
as a witness,
a bearer of **good tidings**,
and a warner,
the best of the creation as a child,
and the most chaste amongst them
as a grown-up,
the purest of the pure in conduct,
and the most generous of those
who are approached for their
generosity.



the people of Arabia

Allah sent Muhammad, may Allah bless him and his Household, as a warner for all the worlds, and as the trustee of His revelation, while you, **the people of Arabia**, followed the worst of creeds and were the most ill-placed. You lived amongst harsh rocks and venomous serpents. You drank muddy water and ate coarse food. You shed each other's blood and broke the ties of kinship. Idols stood amongst your midst and sins held you in their bondage.



idols



Allah sent Muhammad (S.A.W.)
with truth
so that He may take out His people
from the worship of **idols**
towards His worship
and from obeying satan
towards obeying Him.



the Prophet



Follow your **Prophet**, the best of the good and the purest of the pure, may God bless him and his Household.

He is the example for one to follow, and comfort for one who seeks happiness.

The most beloved of servants to God is one who follows His Prophet and walks in his footsteps.

He, may God bless him and his Household,

would sit on the ground when eating food,

and he would sit like a slave.

He would mend his shoes with his own hands

and patched his clothes himself.



the Revelation



When **the Revelation** descended on the Prophet, may God bless him and his Household, I heard a wailing cry.

I said: "O Messenger of Allah, what is this wailing?"

He replied,

"That is Satan, who has lost all hope of being worshipped.

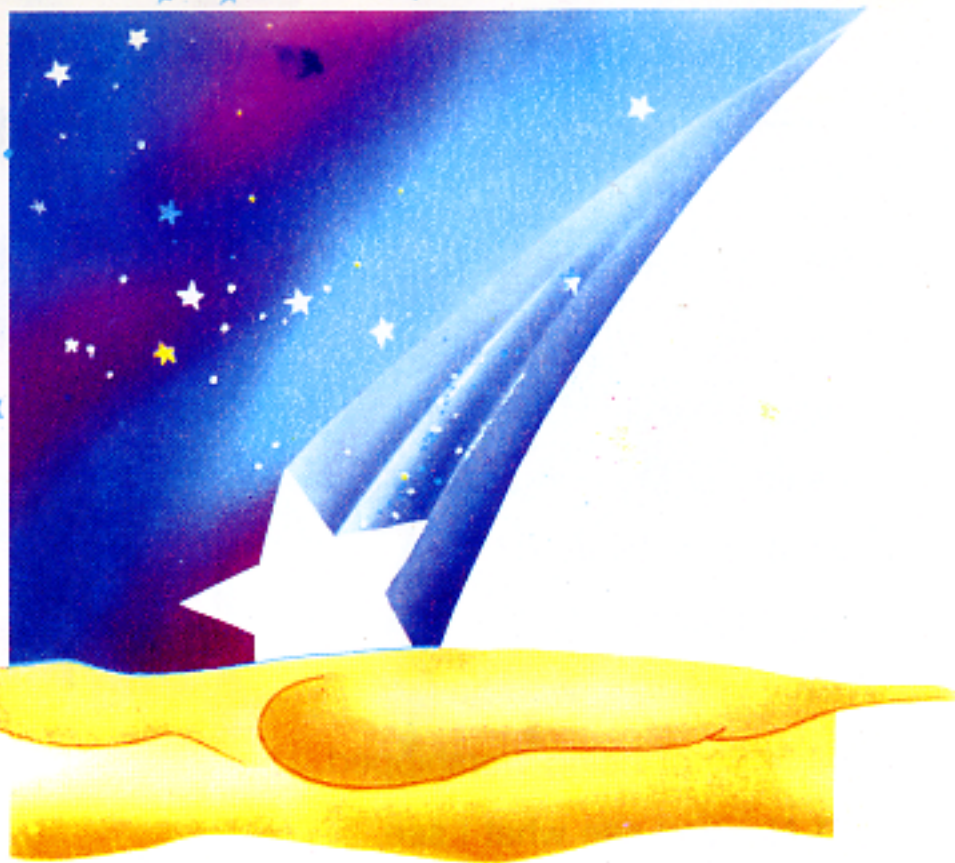
O Ali, you see what I see,

and you hear what I hear,

only that you are not a prophet.

But you are a minister

and 'on the path of virtue"



the stars



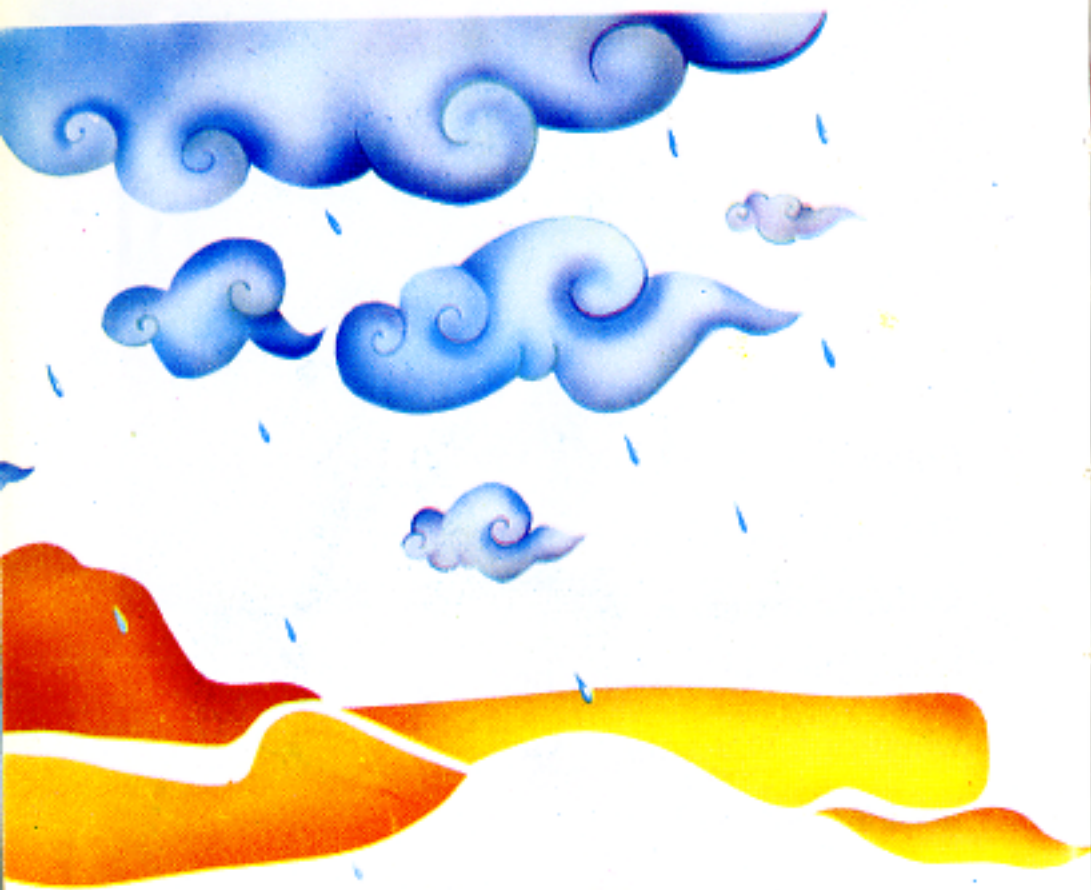
Behold!

The example of the Household of
Muhammad (S. A. W.)

is like **the stars** of the heaven:

when one star sets

another one rises.



the rain



The riser has risen,
the sparkler has sparkled,
the appearer has appeared.
Allah has replaced
one people with another
We awaited these changes
as the famine-stricken await **the rain**.
Certainly the Imams are
the vicegerents of Allah
over His creatures,
and they make people know Allah.
no one will enter Paradise,
except he knows them.
and they know him,...

Sermon 150



القرآن

the Qur'an



Certainly, **the Qur'an**
is wonderful in its outward form,
and its inner meanings
are profound.



the leader

To them (the Household of the Prophet) pertain the noblest of human virtues described in the Qur'an, and they are the treasures of the Beneficent Allah.

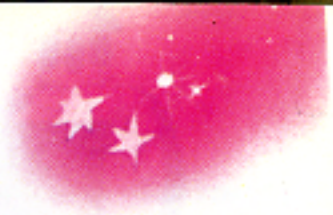
When they speak, they speak the truth, but when they keep quiet, no one can outstrip them.

The **leader** should speak truthfully to his people,

and put all his intelligence to work.

He should be one of those who work for the next world,

because he has come from there and would return to it.

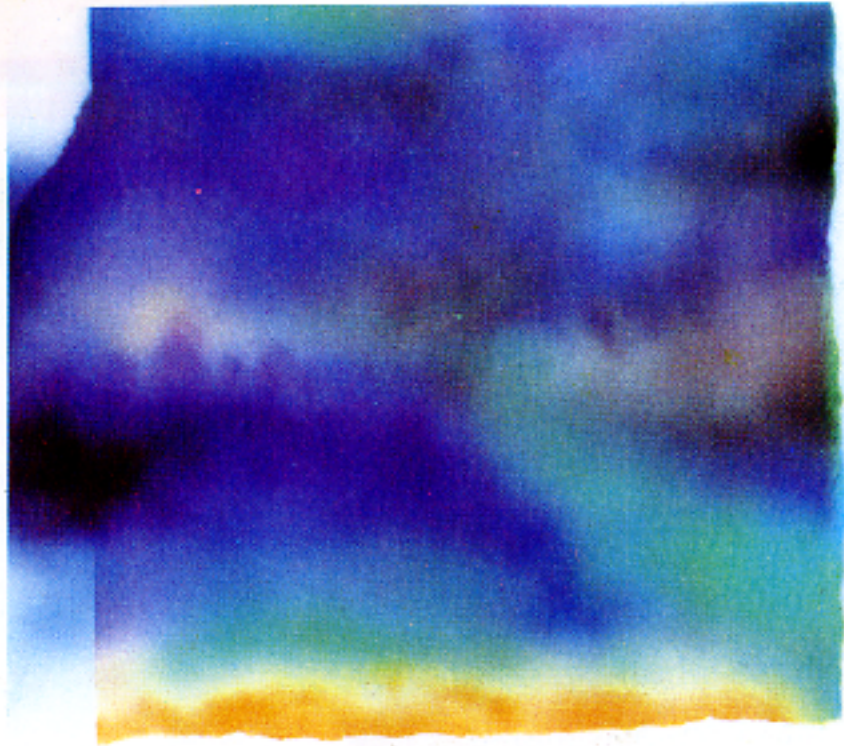


We are the **tree of prophethood**,
the place of descent
of Divine revelation,
the place of frequenting
of the angels,
and the mainsprings of knowledgs.
those who help us and love us
await (God's) mercy,
and those who regard us
with enmity and hatred
await to be subdued
(by the Almighty's power
and punishment).

Sermon 109



the tree of prophethood



a lamp in the darkness



Amongst you, I am
like a **lamp in the darkness.**
Everyone making his way
through the darkness
have to get light from it.



a grain of barley



By God,
were I given all the seven heavens
with all that they contain
in order that
I may disobey God
by depriving an ant
from the husk of **a grain of barley**,
I would not do it.



Two loaves of bread



You should know that
your Imam has settled for
two worn pieces of clothing
out of the (comforts of the) world,
and **two loaves of bread** for his meal.



the mosquito

The annihilation of the world
after bringing it into being
is no stranger than its
origination and creation.

How can it be so?

For **even if** all its living beings,
birds and beasts,
the animals of the stable and the
pasture,
all the genera and species of beings,
the dull and the intelligent of the world's
nations
—were all of them together try
to create a **mosquito**,
they will be incapable
of bringing it into being,
and will not know
how it has been created.





Paradise



Today is the day of preparation
and Tomorrow is the day of the contest.
The finishing point is **Paradise**,
and those who fail to reach it will
land in hellfire.



the earth's produce



Certainly, Allah makes His creatures suffer when they do evil works, by diminishing **the earth's produce**, by holding back the blessings, and by blocking the sources of benefit, so that those who wish to repent may repent....

Sermon 143




water



You should know
that every action is the fruit of a tree.
A tree cannot go without **water**,
and water is of various kinds.
A tree that receives good water,
is healthy
and its fruit is sweet.
A tree that grows on bad water
is vicious,
and its fruit is bitter.



with insight



One who sees with his heart,
and acts **with insight**,
considers before doing anything
whether his action would
be to his benefit or harm.
If it is beneficial for him,
he performs it,
but if it is harmful,
he refrains from it.

Sermon 154



off the road



One who acts without knowledge
is like one who walks **off the road**.
Then his deviating from the clear path
takes him farther and farther away from
his destination.
But one who acts with knowledge
is like one who walks on the clear path.
Therefore, one should see
whether he is moving forward
towards his goal or going backwards.



the spring of the hearts

80



Learn the Qur'an,
for it is the most splendid of all speech;
and become learned in it,
for it is **the spring of the hearts**.
Cure yourselves with its light,
for it is a remedy for sick hearts.
Recite it in the best manner,
for it is **the fairest of accounts**.

Sermon 110

81



prayer



Commit yourselves to **prayer**
and be watchful over it.
Pray as much as you can
and seek nearness to God through it.



the sacred house

Allah has made obligatory upon you
the pilgrimage (Hajj)
to His **sacred house**,
which is the qiblah
for mankind.





Jihad



Jihad

is one of the gateways of Paradise which Allah has opened for the elect amongst His friends.



the strongest



Remember that wood of the tree
which grows in the desert
has **the strongest** of fibers,
while the luxuriant greenery
has the softest of barks.
The bushes of the desert
make an enduring fuel,
whose fire is slow in dying off.



life



O God, send out for us Your rains,
Your bounty,
Your provision, and Your mercy,
and give us water in a measure
that would benefit us, satiates our thirst,
and makes the land green with grass,
wherewith all that has withered may
grow,
and come to **life** all that has died,
a rain which brings abundance,
produces plenty of fruits,
watering the plains,
flooding the vaileys,
dressing the trees with foliage,
and bringing the prices down.
Surely You are able to do whatever
You will.

Seremon 143