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دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
الهيئة العامة للشؤون الإسلامية والأوقاف

How “Kayfa” (“How”) is used in the Noble Qur’an

First Sermon

All Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, Who sent to us the Noble Qur’an, wherein there are signs for those who inquire and questions that stimulate the minds of those who reflect and contemplate.

I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah; the Uniquely One, who has no partners in His Oneness, and I testify that our leader and Prophet, Muhammad – is the servant and messenger of Allah.

O Allah send Your salutations, peace and blessings upon our Master and Prophet Muhammad and upon all of his family and companions, and upon whomsoever follows them in the best of ways till the Day of Judgment.

To proceed: I advise you and myself to embody a reverential consciousness (taqwa) of Allah. Allah Almighty says:

(Have they not traveled in the land where they could have seen how was the fate of those before them? And surely the abode of the Hereafter is much better for

those who embody referential conscious (taqwa) of Allah. Would you, then, still not understand?)

O Muslims: Allah Most High says in His Clear and Manifest Book: (**Will they not reflect earnestly on the Qur'an?**)

Indeed, this is an invitation from Allah Almighty to reflect and ponder over the Holy Qur'an, for the Holy Qur'an is a miracle in the perfection of its eloquence and variety of its literary styles and devices.

Of these literary styles and devices is the frequent use of the interrogative adverb "how" which is used to ask about the state of an existing object, as a way of exciting and stimulating the minds of those contemplate and attracting their attention.

For indeed, Allah Most High has mentioned the word "kayfa" (how) in eighty-three places in the Holy Qur'an signifying diverse contexts and expressing multiple meanings and significations. This is in order to encourage us to reflect and ponder over the manifestations of His Infinite Power and Marvelous Originality of His Creative Act, to take heed of the plight of past generations and Allah's description of the plight of the people on the Day of Reckoning and lead

us by the hand to inquire into the profound meanings of the Holy Qur'an and attain its noble ends.

So what are the various contexts in which how-questions are used in the Holy Qur'an?

O Servants of Allah: How-questions are used in the Qur'an to firmly establish the profound and sublime meanings of faith, like the question regarding the reality of this Universe and the wisdom behind the existence of created things, and how the process of creation was begun, how it is maintained and how it will be repeated after it has been annihilated, like what Allah Most High says: **Say (O Muhammad): Travel through the land, then see how Allah began the process of creation. Thereafter, He will produced a subsequent creation, or Allah has power over all things.**

Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) asked his Lord and Creator saying:

(O my Lord, show me how You give life to the dead?) in order that his faith, certainty and peace of mind can increase. So when his Lord said to him:

(Is it that you do not believe? He said: "Of course, I do (my Lord), but it is just to put my heart at peace").

So Allah Almighty facilitated for him the understanding of giving life to the dead, and then said to him: **(and know that Allah is Mighty, Wise)**, that is to say, Allah is Mighty such that nothing can overpower Him, and nothing can escape His Power and refuse His Command. He brings the earth to life after it was dead, and restore to it its beauty and radiance after it was dry. Allah Most High says: **(So, look to the effects of Allah's mercy, how He gives life to the earth after its death. Surely, this Selfsame [God] (Allah) is the One who will give life to the dead; and He has the power to do everything)**, that is to say: Look with the gaze of deduction, inference and taking heed at the manner in which Allah gives life to the earth after its death, for that indeed is one of the effects of His Infinite Mercy.

O You Who Reflect and Ponder: How-questions in the Holy Qur'an open for us the doors of inquiry and research and the remote regions of knowledge and science, and increase us in faith in addition to our existing faith and veneration of our Lord. Therein lies obedience to the Command of our Creator.

Allah Almighty invites us to ask ourselves about all that surrounds us regarding His Magnificent Creations that point to His Unlimited Power and Absolute Unicity and that

demonstrate the Infinite Vastness of His Knowledge and Absolute Originality of His Creative Act.

Thus Allah Almighty says: **(Do they not look at the camels, how they have been created?)**

For Allah Most High created the camels in a wondrous and amazing manner: with powerful legs to facilitate carrying our belongings and enabled them to stand up in addition to the heavy loads that they carry and made them such that they can store water and food, and are thus able to endure thirst for long durations of time.

Then Allah Almighty orders us to contemplate the massive creation of the sky which we see during nighttime, during daytime, while travelling, and while resident.

Then Allah Almighty says: **[(and do they not look) at the sky, how it is raised high?]**

So why don't we ask ourselves one day: How did Allah Almighty raise the skies without any pillars and decorated them with stars, showing no flaws or rifts.

Then Allah Almighty says: **[(and do they not look) at the mountains, how they are firmly erected?]**, in order to direct our attention to the mountains which, notwithstanding their height, continue to stand firmly rooted, not swaying at all.

Then, Allah Most High urges us to look at the earth beneath us, saying: **[(and do they not look) at the earth, how it is spread out?]**. The earth is our home and resting place, and Allah Almighty made it level and even for walking, sitting and reclining in order to show mercy to us and make life easy for us.

O Servants of Allah: Among the how-questions used in the Holy Qur'an, there are those questions which call us to reflect on the Infinite Wisdom of Allah Most High and the distribution of generous gifts among us, so that our minds can be at ease and our hearts at peace. Allah Almighty says :

(See how We have bestowed more on some than on others), that is to say, ponder over how We have preferred some people over others in what we have given them in terms of reasoning powers and understanding, just as we have preferred some over others in terms of work and generous giving. As such, We made among them those who are rich, those who are poor and those who are in between. Allah Most High explains the wisdom behind this disparity, saying:

(We have allocated among them their livelihood in the worldly life, and have raised some of them over others

in ranks, so that they might avail themselves of one another's help.)

that is to say, in order that they may help one another, and enable one another to live in this world – one person through his wealth and another through his work and effort, and in this way the issue of global subsistence and provision is rectified.

Then Allah Almighty says: **(but verily the Hereafter is more in rank and more in excellence)** that is, their differentiation and disparity in terms of the degrees of the benefits of the Hereafter are greater and more superior than this material world.

So when a person's desire for the pursuit of this world increases, then the pursuit for the excellence of the Hereafter is even more befitting.

So let us reflect on this and act accordingly, for indeed reflection begets wisdom. produces humility and gives rise to action.

O Allah, grant us understanding of Your Divine Book and contemplation of Your Signs, and grant us all, O Allah, the power and ability to obey You and to obey Your Trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad, and to obey those

whom You have commanded us to obey in Your Holy Book when You said, and You are the Truest of Speakers:

(O you who believe, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.)

I say this speech of mine, and I seek Allah's Forgiveness for me and for you, so seek His Forgiveness, for He is the All-Forgiving and the All-Merciful.

Second Sermon

All Praise be to Allah, Lord and Cherisher of the worlds, to Whom belong Lovely Praise and Beautiful Laudation. I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, having no partners with Him, and I bear witness that our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, is the Servant and Messenger of Allah.

O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, his family and all of his companions, and upon those who follow them in the best of ways till the Day of Reckoning.

I advise you and myself to embody a reverential consciousness (taqwa) of Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

O Muslims: Allah Most High created us in this worldly life and subjected to us all the created objects that are around us to see how we're going to act and behave, and how our

obedience will be towards our Lord, and our emulation of our Messenger. Allah Almighty says:

(Then We made you (their) successors on earth, so that We see how you would act.) that is to say, Allah Most High created humankind and tasked them with striving to do good, to perform righteous deeds in abundance and to treat people with kindness and benevolence.

‘Umar ibn al-Khattab once said: Our Lord has spoken the truth. He has not placed us here on earth except to see how we act and the deeds we perform.

So, show Allah of the deeds you perform that which is good in all contexts, at night, during the day, in private and in public.

For Allah Almighty sees your deeds, and people will bear witness to your words and deeds.

Allah Almighty says: **(Allah will see your deeds, and (so will) His messenger and the believers...)**.

Then Allah will reward you for your righteous behaviour, kindness, benevolence and good actions. **(So, whoever does an atom’s weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom’s weight of evil will see it.)**

So, let us reflect and ponder over Allah Almighty's Book and its verses pay heed to the its questions and inquiries, and let us teach it to our children, that they in turn may take heed and be admonished.

And with this, let us send our peace and blessings upon the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers, as the Lord of the Worlds has commanded us to do, for He says in His Noble Book: **(Allah and His angels send blessings on the Prophet:**

O you who believe! Send a prayers of blessing to him and prayers of peace and salutations to him in abundance.)

O Allah: Bestow Your peace and blessings upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, his family and all of his companions.

O Allah: Be pleased with the Righteous Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and with all the noble companions.

O Allah: Grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good.

O Allah: We ask You to grant success to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates.

○ You Who Hears and Answers prayers and Who raises and elevates people in ranks, forgive the Muslim men and Muslim women, the believing men and believing women, those of them who are alive and those who have passed on.

○ Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. ○ Allah: We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. ○ Allah, Continue to shower on the UAE Your Blessings, Generosity and Bounteousness, and bless its wealth and resources and its people and let it always live in happiness, and let it always increase in everything that is good.

○ Allah: Have mercy on the honorable martyrs of our nation and coalition forces of the righteous, and enter them unto paradise with the elect.

○ Allah: Bestow upon their families the reward of those who are patient, through Your immense generosity. ○ most generous of the generous.

○ Allah: Give aid to the Arab Coalition Forces. and spread peace and security throughout the lands of the Muslims, and the entirety of the world.

○ Allah: Confer upon us Your blessings and do not make us from those who despair.

○ Allah, send down upon us abundant, wholesome rain, productive, plentiful and all encompassing.

○ Allah, grant us rain from the blessings and bounties of the skies, and cultivate for us from the blessings and bounties of the earth.

○ Allah: Give us in this life what is good; and in the next life what is good, and save us from the fire.

And enter us into paradise with the righteous. ○ most noble and most forgiving.

○ Servants of Allah: Remember Allah and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings, He will increase you therein.

So stand up for prayer.