



# **DIVINE ILLUMINATION**

The Quran's Role In Ramadan And  
The Pursuit Of Social Justice

# THE SACRED CONNECTION

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, holds a unique significance for Muslims worldwide. It's a time of introspection, spiritual renewal, and heightened devotion. Central to this holy month is the Quran, Islam's sacred text. But why is the Quran particularly significant during Ramadan? This e-book explores this profound connection.

## 1. The Month of Revelation

The connection between the Quran and Ramadan is rooted in the history of the text's revelation. During this blessed month, the Quran was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad. As stated in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:185): The month of Ramadan [is that] in which was revealed the Quran, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion..." This verse underlines the importance of Ramadan as the period when divine guidance was first bestowed upon humanity. As Ibn Kathir elaborates in his Tafsir, the revelation of the Quran is not just a historical event; it signifies the descent of a comprehensive guide for life and spirituality.

## 2. A Time for Deep Reflection and Study

Ramadan provides an opportunity for Muslims to engage deeply with the Quran. The practice of reciting the Quran during Taraweeh prayers (special nightly prayers during Ramadan) is widespread, often culminating in the complete recitation of the text over the month. This practice, as elaborated by scholars like Al-Ghazali, is a ritual and a means to immerse oneself in the divine message, reflect upon its meanings, and integrate its teachings into daily life.

## 3. Fostering a Spiritual Connection

The Quran serves as a spiritual lifeline for Muslims, particularly during Ramadan. It offers solace, guidance, and a sense of connection with Allah. This spiritual bond is highlighted in the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad, where he said, "The fast and the Quran will intercede for the servant on the Day of Resurrection..." (Reported by Ahmad). As explained by scholars, this Hadith implies that engagement with the Quran during Ramadan is not just a temporary act of devotion but has lasting implications on one's spiritual journey.

## 4. A Catalyst for Change

Ramadan is a time of transformation, and the Quran plays a pivotal role in this process. Its teachings inspire self-discipline, compassion, and a commitment to righteousness. As Muslims reflect on the Quranic verses, they are encouraged to embody its teachings, leading to personal growth and a strengthened community spirit.

## 5. Commemorating the Night of Decree (Laylat al-Qadr)

The Quranic significance in Ramadan is further highlighted by Laylat al-Qadr (the Night of Decree), believed to be the night when the first verses of the Quran were revealed. As the Quran states, "Indeed, We sent it down during a blessed night..." (Surah Ad-Dukhan, 44:3). This night, falling within the last ten days of Ramadan, is considered especially auspicious, with increased prayer and Quranic recitation encouraged.

The significance of the Quran in Ramadan transcends mere ritual; it is a period of deep spiritual engagement and reflection. The Quran, in this holy month, is not just read but experienced, guiding Muslims towards a path of righteousness, self-discipline, and profound spiritual growth. In our fast-paced world, Ramadan offers a sacred time to reconnect with the Quran, drawing from its timeless wisdom to navigate our lives with purpose and clarity.



# HUMAN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS THROUGH THE QURAN

Islam places immense importance on human dignity and rights as a religion and way of life. This is vividly reflected in the Quran, where numerous verses emphasize the value and honour of human beings, regardless of race, gender, or social status. In this spread, we will explore five such Quranic verses that beautifully encapsulate the theme of human dignity and rights.

## 1. The Honor Bestowed upon Humankind

**Surah Al-Isra (17:70)**

"And We have certainly honoured the children of Adam and carried them on land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference."

This verse beautifully articulates the high status that Allah has bestowed upon humans. The honour mentioned here is not limited to a specific group but extends to all of humanity. It emphasizes the idea that every human being is born with inherent dignity and worth.

The Quran states: "And We have certainly honoured the children of Adam..." This verse underscores the special status granted to humans. According to "Tafsir al-Jalalayn," this honour includes intellectual faculties and the capacity for learning and discernment, setting humans apart from other creations. This distinction emphasizes the inherent dignity bestowed upon all human beings.

## 2. The Sanctity of Human Life

**Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:32)**

"Because of that, We decreed upon the Children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely."

This verse underscores the sanctity of human life in Islam. The Quran equates the killing of one innocent person to the killing of all humanity, highlighting the immense value of each human life. This powerful message is a cornerstone in the Islamic perspective on the right to life and the severe consequences of violating it.

This verse equates the killing of one innocent person to the killing of all humanity. Ibn Kathir's interpretation stresses that the sanctity of a single life holds immense value in Islam. By highlighting the virtue of preserving life, this verse reinforces the fundamental Islamic principle of the sacredness and inviolability of human life.

## 3. Equality and Brotherhood

**Surah Al-Hujurat (49:13)**

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted."

In a world often divided by racial, ethnic, and national lines, this verse is a reminder of our common origin and humanity. It emphasizes that the only criterion of superiority in the eyes of Allah is piety and righteousness, not race, colour, or nationality.

The Quran declares, "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another..." Al-Tabari's exegesis on this verse points out that diversity among people is a deliberate act of creation by Allah, meant to enrich human interactions. The only true measure of superiority, as he notes, is piety and righteousness.

## 4. The Right to Justice

**Surah An-Nisa (4:135)**

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives..."

This verse is a powerful call for justice, a fundamental right in Islam. It commands Muslims to uphold justice and truth, even if it goes against their personal interests or those of their kin. This principle forms the foundation of a fair and just society in Islamic teachings.

In this verse, the Quran calls for an unwavering commitment to justice. Al-Ghazali interprets this as an imperative for absolute justice, highlighting that maintaining justice is crucial, even if it conflicts with personal or familial interests. This call for justice extends beyond personal matters to encompass societal and global justice.

## 5. Protection of Orphans and Their Rights

**Surah Al-Baqarah (2:220)**

"They ask you about orphans." Say, "Improvement for them is best. And if you intermix with them - they are your brothers. And Allah knows the corrupter from the reformer. And if Allah had willed, He could have put you in hardship. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise."

This verse highlights the importance of caring for orphans and safeguarding their rights. It encourages treating orphans fairly and kindly, recognizing them as integral members of society. The emphasis on the well-being of orphans reflects the Quran's broader concern for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The Quran advises kindness and fairness in dealing with orphans. Ibn Kathir elaborates that any intermingling of the guardian's wealth with that of the orphan should be done with the intention of benefiting the orphan. This guidance underscores the Quranic emphasis on protecting the vulnerable and ensuring their rights.



# FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY: A QURANIC PERSPECTIVE

In the heart of Islamic teachings lies a profound emphasis on community, unity, and social responsibility. The Quran, revered as the ultimate guide in Islam, intricately weaves these themes into its verses, offering insights and directives for building a cohesive and just society. Let's delve into how the Quran addresses these pivotal aspects, complemented by wisdom from classical Islamic scholars.

## 1. Unity and Brotherhood as a Cornerstone

**Surah Al-Hujurat (49:10)**

"Believers are but brothers..." Here, the Quran is not merely instructing but painting the picture of an ideal society bound by brotherhood. Al-Tabari's interpretation brings to light the Quran's call for mending bonds and fostering solidarity. It's a vision of a community where disputes are settled amicably, and unity is paramount.

## 2. Upholding Justice in Every Aspect

**Surah An-Nisa (4:58)**

In a call that transcends time, the Quran commands fair dealings and justice: "Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due..." Ibn Kathir's reflections on these words highlight their foundational role in establishing a society rooted in justice. It's a reminder that those in positions of power bear the responsibility of upholding truth and equality.

## 3. The Spirit of Giving: Supporting the Vulnerable

**Surah Al-Baqarah (2:177)**

Moving beyond ritualistic worship, the Quran defines true righteousness. It's in the act of giving and caring for relatives, orphans, the needy, and more. Al-Ghazali's insights emphasize that piety is deeply entwined with practical charity and kindness. This verse serves as a blueprint for a compassionate society, where caring for others is integral to one's faith.

## 4. Collaborative Decision-Making: A Democratic Essence

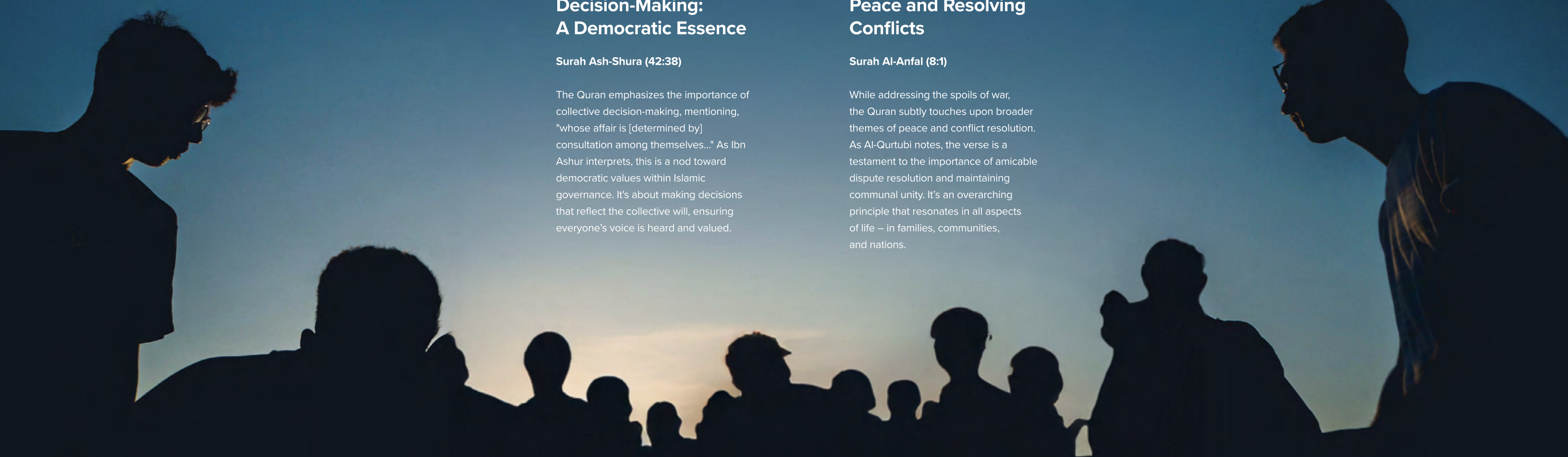
**Surah Ash-Shura (42:38)**

The Quran emphasizes the importance of collective decision-making, mentioning, "whose affair is [determined by] consultation among themselves..." As Ibn Ashur interprets, this is a nod toward democratic values within Islamic governance. It's about making decisions that reflect the collective will, ensuring everyone's voice is heard and valued.

## 5. Fostering Peace and Resolving Conflicts

**Surah Al-Anfal (8:1)**

While addressing the spoils of war, the Quran subtly touches upon broader themes of peace and conflict resolution. As Al-Qurtubi notes, the verse is a testament to the importance of amicable dispute resolution and maintaining communal unity. It's an overarching principle that resonates in all aspects of life – in families, communities, and nations.



# THE SPIRIT OF GIVING: ZAKAT AND SADAQAH AS PER THE QURAN

Islam emphasizes the significance of giving and generosity as core elements of faith and practice. This spirit of giving is encapsulated in the concepts of Zakat and Sadaqah, as outlined in the Quran. Zakat, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, is a compulsory charity that purifies wealth and aids those in need, while Sadaqah represents voluntary acts of kindness beyond obligatory giving. Through this exploration, we delve into key Quranic verses and teachings that highlight the profound impact of Zakat and Sadaqah, demonstrating how these practices foster community solidarity, compassion, and the equitable distribution of resources.

## 1. The Essence of Charity

### Surah Al-Baqarah (2:261)

"The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills..."

This verse beautifully illustrates the impact of charity. It's not just an act of giving but an investment that grows and multiplies. The 14th-century scholar Ibn Kathir comments that this simile emphasizes the abundant reward and blessing that Allah bestows upon those who give in His cause. He suggests that the reward for charity is manifold, reflecting Allah's generous nature.

## 4. The Importance of Intent in Charity

### Surah Al-Baqarah (2:264)

"O you who have believed, do not invalidate your charities with reminders [of it] or injury as does one who spends his wealth [only] to be seen by the people..."

Ibn Abbas, a companion of the Prophet Muhammad and a renowned exegete, stresses that this verse teaches the importance of sincerity in charity. He notes that charity should not be a means to boast or seek praise but should be given for the sake of Allah alone. The verse warns against actions that could diminish the value of charitable deeds.

## 2. Obligatory Almsgiving (Zakat)

### Surah At-Tawbah (9:103)

"Take, [O, Muhammad], from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them increase, and invoke [Allah's blessings] upon them. Indeed, your invocations are reassurance for them. And Allah is Hearing, Knowing."

This verse outlines the concept of Zakat, a compulsory act of charity in Islam. Al-Qurtubi, a prominent Andalusian scholar, explains that Zakat serves two purposes: it purifies the giver's wealth and soul and helps the needy. He highlights that Zakat is not just a financial obligation but also a means to seek Allah's blessings.

## 5. Charity: A Shield Against Misfortune

### Surah At-Taghabun (64:16)

"So fear Allah as much as you are able and listen and obey and spend [in the way of Allah]; it is better for your selves. And whoever is protected from the stinginess of his soul - it is those who will be the successful."

Ibn Al-Jawzi, a 12th-century scholar, interprets this verse as highlighting the protective nature of charity, that spending in Allah's way shields the believer from future hardships and is a sign of success in this life and the hereafter. Overcoming stinginess is a key to attaining spiritual and material success.

## 3. The Secret to True Wealth

### Surah Al-Hadid (57:18)

"Indeed, the men who practice charity and the women who practice charity and [they who] have loaned Allah a goodly loan - it will be multiplied for them, and they will have a noble reward."

This verse extends the concept of charity beyond material wealth. Imam Al-Ghazali interprets this as Allah inviting believers to lend to Him through charity, promising that He will repay them many times over. This verse encapsulates the idea that true wealth lies not in accumulation but in the generosity of spirit.



# FOR A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY AND INJUSTICE

As we reflect upon the profound teachings of the Quran on zakat and sadaqah, justice, and the importance of community and society, it becomes evident that these principles align seamlessly with Human Concern International's mission. Our endeavour to eradicate poverty and injustice from the world is not just a goal; it's a moral and spiritual calling.

The Quranic verses on charity remind us that every act of giving is a seed sown, which grows and multiplies, bringing forth a harvest of blessings and change. This vision propels Human Concern International's efforts to empower the less fortunate and nurture a world where generosity overcomes scarcity. As we provide assistance and resources, we are not just aiding at the moment; we are investing in a future where each contribution has a lasting impact.

The Quran places immense importance on fairness, equity, and protecting the vulnerable in addressing social justice. This aligns with our commitment to fighting injustices and ensuring that every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, has access to their fundamental rights and opportunities. Our projects and initiatives are designed not only to provide immediate relief but also to foster sustainable environments where justice and equity prevail.

Furthermore, the Quran's emphasis on community and society resonates with our vision of a world bound by solidarity and mutual support. We recognize that building strong, cohesive communities is pivotal in tackling the challenges of poverty and injustice. By fostering a sense of brotherhood and unity, we can create resilient, compassionate, and prosperous societies.

Human Concern International, guided by these timeless principles, continues to strive toward a world where dignity, justice, and equality are not just ideals but realities for all. Our mission, deeply rooted in the spirit of Islamic teachings, calls us to be agents of change, compassion, and hope. With your support and participation, we can turn these Quranic teachings into tangible actions and transform lives across the globe.





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