

## The Quran on Allah and His Expectations of Humankind

*The foundation of the Islamic faith is the understanding of Allah, his nature, and his plan for the world as outlined in the Quran. Through his visions Muhammad came to understand Allah as the one and only god, the creator and sustainer of the world in the manner of the Jews' Yahweh and the Christians' God. Those who rejected Allah and his message would suffer eternal punishment, but those who recognized and obeyed him would receive his mercy and secure his blessings.*

In the name of Allah, most benevolent, ever-merciful.

All praise be to Allah,

Lord of all the worlds,

Most beneficent, ever-merciful,

King of the Day of Judgement.

You alone we worship, and to You

alone turn for help.

Guide us (O Lord) to the path that is straight,

The path of those You have blessed,

Not of those who have earned Your anger,

nor those who have gone astray. . . .

Verily men and women who have come to submission,

men and women who are believers,

men and women who are devout,

truthful men and women,

men and women with endurance,

men and women who are modest,

men and women who give alms,

men and women who observe fasting,

men and women who guard their private parts,

and those men and women who remember God a

great deal,

for them God has forgiveness and a great reward.

No believing men and women have any choice in a matter

after God and His Apostle [i.e., Muhammad] have decided it.

Whoever disobeys God and His Apostle

has clearly lost the way and gone astray. . . .

O you who believe, remember God a great deal,

And sing His praises morning and evening.

It is He who sends His blessings on you,

as (do) His angels, that He may lead you out

of darkness into light,

for He is benevolent to the believers. . . .

I call to witness

the early hours of the morning,

And the night when dark and still,

Your Lord has neither left you,

nor despises you.

What is to come is better for you

than what has gone before;

For your Lord will certainly give you,

and you will be content.

Did He not find you an orphan

and take care of you?

Did He not find you poor

and enrich you?

So do not oppress the orphan,

And do not drive

the beggar away,

And keep recounting the favours of your Lord. . . .

Say: "He is God

the one the most unique,

God the immanently indispensable.

He has begotten no one,

and is begotten of none.

There is no one comparable to Him."

### FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Compare the Quran's teachings on the relationship between Allah and human beings with the views of Zoroastrians, Jews, and Christians.

SOURCE: *Al-Qur'an: A Contemporary Translation*. Trans. by Ahmed Ali. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984, pp. 11, 358, 359, 540, 559.