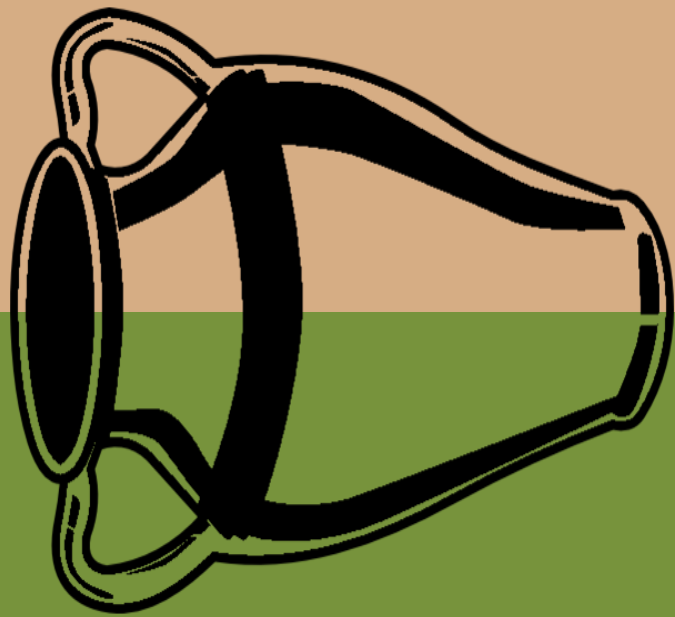


Our beginning,  
with the creation  
of Prophet Ādam  
(peace be upon him),  
was with clay.



*(Mention to them O Messenger the incident)*  
When your Lord said to the angels,  
"Indeed, I am going to create a  
human being from clay,"

*(Quran, 38:71)*



Living Fitrah

The first abode of Prophet  
Ādam and Hawwā (Eve)  
(peace be upon them) was  
Jannah i.e. the gardens of  
paradise.

May Allah The Exalted grant  
us Jannah as our final abode.  
Aameen.



And We (Allah) said,  
"O Ādam, dwell you and your wife, in  
the gardens of Paradise; and eat at  
pleasure from wherever you like.

But do not approach this tree,  
otherwise you will be among those  
who oppress themselves,"

(Quran, 2:35)



Living Fitrah

Allah The Exalted demonstrated to humankind how to bury a corpse through the example of the crows and two of the sons of Prophet Ādam (peace be upon Him).

Qabil (Cain) murdered his brother Habil (Abel) over a disagreement and was faced with the dilemma of disposing of his brother's body. Allah The Exalted sent a pair of fighting crows where one was killed in the fight. The living crow made a hole in the earth and buried the dead crow. Qabil followed this example and buried his brother in the earth.



Then Allah sent a crow who scratched the earth to show him (Qabil) how he should hide the dead body of his brother (Habil).

He (the murderer Qabil) said,  
"Woe to me! Am I not even able to be as this crow and hide the dead body of my brother?"  
Then he became one of those who regretted.  
(Quran, 5:31)



Living Fitrah

Prophet Hūd (peace be upon him) was sent to guide the people of 'Ād who had been blessed with strength, wealth and power. They were arrogant and boastful, associating partners with Allah, The Exalted. Unjust politicians ruled their civilization, against whom no one could protest.

After they refused to change their ways, they were afflicted with drought and famine. They rejoiced on seeing a black "rain" cloud in the sky. However, it was Allah, The Exalted, sending a violent, roaring storm that destroyed them.



As for 'Ād, they were arrogant upon the earth without right and said,  
"Who is greater than us in strength?"  
Did they not consider that Allah who created them was greater than them in strength?  
But they were rejecting Our (Allah's) signs.  
So We sent upon them a roaring wind...  
(Quran, 41:15-16)



Living Fitrah

The people of the Thamud asked Prophet Sālih (Peace be upon him) to make a she-camel appear as a sign of his prophethood.

Allah, The Exalted, granted a unique, huge she-camel to Prophet Sālih (Peace be upon him), after which more people of the Thamud began to believe. Sadly, some of the disbelievers killed the camel and brought about punishment on themselves.



(Sālih said:)

"And O my people, this is the she-camel of Allah, a sign for you. So leave her free to eat on the earth of Allah, and do not even touch her with evil (intention), lest an approaching punishment should seize you."

(Quran, 11:64)



Living Fitrah

In this incident, Prophet Ibrāhīm (Abraham) (peace be upon him) and his son Prophet Isma'īl (peace be upon him) both submitted to the will of our Creator. The father was willing to sacrifice his only son at that time, while the son was willing to be sacrificed. Allah, The Exalted, stopped the slaughtering and sent down a ram in lieu of Prophet Isma'īl (peace be upon).

*(And yes! This is where the practice of slaughtering an animal on Eid-ul-Adha comes from!)*



He (Ibrāhīm) said,  
"O my little son, I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you, so consider, what is your opinion?"

He (Isma'īl) said,  
"O my dear father, do what you have been ordered to do. You will find me, inshā'Allah (if Allah wills), one of those who endure patiently."

So, when both of them submitted themselves (to Allah's will), and he (Ibrāhīm) laid him (Isma'īl) on his forehead (to slaughter him),

And then We (Allah) called out to him,  
"O Ibrāhīm! You did make the dream come true."

This is how We (Allah) reward those who are good in their deeds. This was indeed a trial that clearly demonstrated (their obedience).

And we ransomed him (Isma'īl) with a great sacrifice (a ram).

*(Quran, 37:102-107)*



The call that Prophet Shu'aib (peace be upon him) made to his people is one that echoes true in our profit-driven, consumerist society. Today, because of our unchecked greedy pursuit of wealth (a sign of spiritual decay), we are often guilty of corrupting the earth by cheating people (e.g. over-pricing, slave labour) and transgressing on the rights of living and non-living creation.

The betterment of conditions on the earth depends on us utilizing resources properly when needed. We need to respect limits and maintain moderation, equity and justice. We need to understand that if we do not maintain our inner spirituality, an imbalance will appear in the outer physical world. Likewise, if we create an imbalance in the outer world, this will affect our inner spirituality



And to Madyan (Allah sent) their brother Shu'aib. He said, 'O my people, worship Allah. You have no god other than Him. There has come to you a clear sign from your Lord. Give the measure and weight in full, and do not make people short of their things, and do not cause corruption on the earth after it has been set in order. That is good for you, if you are believers.

(Quran, 7:85)



Prophet Mūsā (Moses) (peace be upon him) returned to Egypt after his exile, now a prophet of Allah, The Exalted.

Despite his preaching to the Pharaoh and his people, they refused to believe and continued to persecute the Banī Isrā'īl. As a sign, Allah The Exalted sent down a series of punishments that only affected the people of the Pharaoh.

During each punishment, they would beg for mercy and make promises to change their ways. However, as soon as the punishment was lifted, they would return to their old, corrupt ways.



So We (Allah) sent upon them the storm and locusts and lice and frogs and blood as distinct signs. Yet they showed arrogance, and they were a guilty people.

(Quran, 7:133)



Living Fitrah



After the Banī Isrā'īl were rescued from the Pharaoh and had left Egypt, they were commanded by Allah, The Exalted to engage in Jihād. Out of cowardice, they refused and were exiled to wander in the desert for 40 years.

To ease the thirst of the Banī Isrā'īl, Allah The Exalted commanded Prophet Mūsā (Moses) (peace be upon him) to strike a rock. Out of the rock gushed twelve streams — each for a tribe of the Banī Isrā'īl. The food that this verse commands them to eat, is the Mann (Manna, a honeydew gum) and *Salwā* (quail) that they were also blessed with during their exile.



When Mūsā sought water for his people,  
We (Allah) said,  
"Strike the rock with your staff,"  
And twelve springs gushed forth from it.  
Each group of people came to know their  
drinking place.  
"Eat and drink of what Allah has provided,  
and do not go about the earth spreading  
disorder."

(Quran, 2:60)



During King Tālūt's (Saul) battle against the oppressor Jālūt (Goliath) and his army, Prophet Dawūd (peace be upon him) killed Jālūt. Allah, The Exalted, made Dawūd (David) (peace be upon him) the next king after Tālūt. Both Dawūd and his son Sulaimān (Solomon) (peace be upon them both) were uniquely blessed, that in addition to being given prophethood and the knowledge of sciences and art, they were also bestowed with vast kingdoms.

Prophet Dawūd (peace be upon him) was blessed with a melodious voice. When he used to recite the Zabūr (Psalms of David), the birds would stop flying and join him in recitation. In the same way, the mountains and trees would produce sounds, also singing the praises of Allah.

SubhanAllah.

Glory be to Allah.



...and remember Our (Allah's) servant Dawūd, the man of strength. Surely he was ever-turning to Allah.

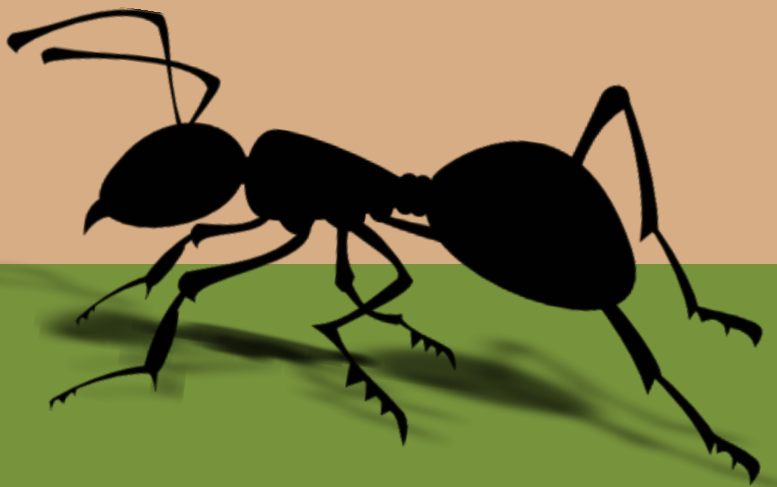
We (Allah) had subjugated the mountains to join him in making tasbīH (glorifying and praising Allah) at evening and sunrise, and the birds as well, mustered together. All were turning to Allah with him.

And We (Allah) made his kingdom strong and gave him wisdom and decisive speech.

(Quran, 38:17-20)



Prophet Sulaimān (Solomon) inherited the kingdom of his father Prophet Dawūd (David) (peace be upon them). Allah, The Exalted, blessed Sulaimān (peace be upon him) with control over the Jinn, birds, animals, and the wind. Sulaimān (peace be upon him) was also taught the language of all the animals, birds and insects. Hence, he was able to stop his army marching when he heard an ant call to her colony to retreat into their nests, fearing that Sulaimān (peace be upon him) and his army would trample over them.



And they were gathered before Sulaimān his hosts of jinn, men, and bird, and they were all set in battle order. Untill, when they came to the valley of the ants, one of the ants said:

"O ants! Enter your dwellings, lest Sulaimān and his hosts crush you unknowingly. So he (Sulaimān ) smiled, amused at her speech, and said:

"My Lord! Enable me to become grateful to Your favour which you have bestowed on me and my parents, and that I may do good deeds that will please You, and admit me, with Your mercy, among Your righteous servants."

(Quran, 27:17-19)



The people of Prophet Yūnus (Jonah) (peace be upon him) were almost punished because of their disbelief. However, on witnessing the approach of a dense cloud of smoke sent as a punishment to them, they believed in Allah, The Exalted. They left their homes, and went out in to an open field – men, women, children and animals – and humbly begged Allah for forgiveness. The punishment was withdrawn.

Prophet Yūnus (peace be upon him) had left the town the previous night, after warning his people of the impending punishment. When he saw from afar that the punishment did not take place, he feared persecution from his people and fled without waiting for guidance from Allah. After boarding a boat, Allah had planned it so that Yūnus (peace be upon him) would have to abandon the boat by making his name appear repeatedly when lots were drawn. He was swallowed by a big fish that did not digest him. Realising his error, Prophet Yūnus (peace be upon him) begged for forgiveness from Allah, and after some time, he was regurgitated onto a beach. Here, Allah caused a creeper to grow, which gave him shelter. Prophet Yūnus (peace be upon him) recovered from his ordeal and returned to his people.



And surely, Yūnus is from among the messengers.  
(Remember) when he ran away towards the boat that was  
already loaded.

Then he participated in drawing lots and was the one who was  
defeated.

Then the fish swallowed him while he was reproaching his  
own self.

Had he not been of those who proclaim Allah's purity, he  
would have definitely lived in its belly till the day when the  
dead will be raised.

Then We (Allah) cast him ashore in the open while he was ill,  
and we caused a tree of gourds to grow over him.

And We (Allah) sent him to (his people of) one hundred  
thousand or more.

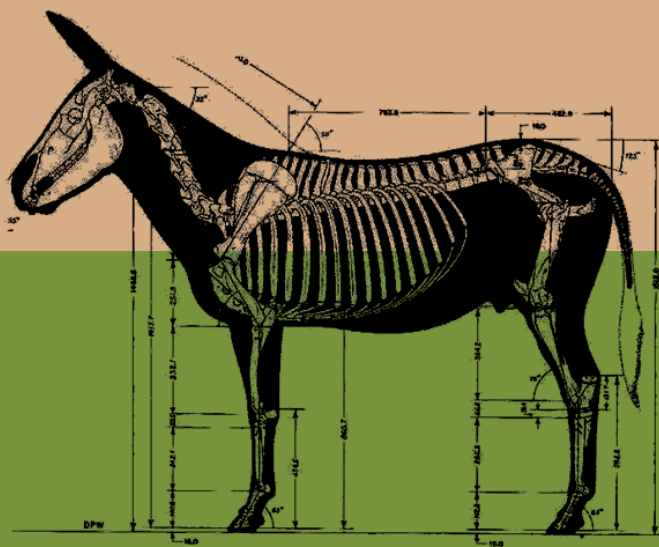
So, they believed, then We (Allah)  
let them enjoy for a time.

(Quran, 37:139-148)



Prophet Uzair (Ezra) (peace be upon him) was a pious and wise man. One day, while returning home from his estates, he stopped to rest in the ruins of a town and its inhabitants. After offloading his donkey and lying down, Uzair (peace be upon him) pondered how Allah, The Exalted, will resurrect that which surrounded him. This was not because Uzair (peace be upon him) doubted the ability of Allah, but rather he was amazed at the power of Allah.

Allah, The Exalted, caused Uzair (peace be upon him) to sleep for a hundred years. When Allah revived him from his slumber, an angel appeared before him and asked him how long he had been asleep. Uzair (peace be upon him) assumed that he had slept for a day or only a portion of the day. The angel informed him that he had slept for a hundred years. Uzair (peace be upon him) was then commanded to look at his food and drink that Allah had preserved. Thereafter, Uzair (peace be upon him) was commanded to look at his donkey – of which only a skeleton remained. Allah, The Exalted, restored the animal, building up its flesh. Uzair (peace be upon him), assured of the power of Allah, reloaded his donkey and continued his journey home.



Or, (do you not know of) the example of the one (Uzair) who passed through a town that had collapsed on its roof. He (Uzair) said, "How shall Allah revive this after it is dead?" So, Allah made him dead for a hundred years, then raised him saying, "How long did you remain (in this state)?"

He (Uzair) said, "I remained for a day or part of a day". Said he "Rather you remained (dead) for a hundred years. Just look at your food and your drink; it has not spoiled. Now look at your donkey. (We did) this to make you a sign for the people! Look at the bones, how We raise them, then dress them with flesh."

So when it was clear to him (Uzair), he said,

"I know that Allah is Powerful over everything."

(Quran, 2:259)



It was in Ramadan 610 CE, in the Cave of Hirā, two miles north of the city of Makkah, when the angel Jibra'il (Gabriel) brought down the first Quranic revelation to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them). In the first verse revealed, people are asked to recite in the name of our Rabb (Lord) who created everything.

For a few years before this event, Muhammad (peace be upon him) would separate himself from society and retreat into the wilderness of the harsh desert. With only a simple diet, sent to him on occasion by his wife Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her), Muhammad (peace be upon him) would engage in "tahannuth" i.e. the practice of devoting one's time to meditating and worshiping the Creator. Living in a society filled with misguidance and corruption, Muhammad (peace be upon him) was searching for the truth in the natural world that surrounded him, in the alternation of night and day, and in the bursts of life that came with the cycle of seasons. Muhammad (peace be upon him) pondered on the One Power that is in complete control of the universe. These retreats into nature prepared Muhammad (peace be upon him) for the great trust that was to be put on his shoulders through the onset of prophethood with the first revelation of Quran.



Read!

In the Name of your Lord,  
Who has created (all that exists).

(Quran, 96:1)



Living Fitrah

In the year 6AH (628 CE), the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his noble companions travelled from Madinah to Makkah for pilgrimage. On reaching Hudaibiyah, Allah caused Qaswā, the camel of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) to stop — in the same way that Allah had caused Mahmūd the elephant of Abraha\* to stop outside Makkah during the attempted demolition of the Ka'bah.

After a series of deliberations Muhammad (peace be upon him) sent Uthmaan (may Allah be pleased with him) as an envoy to Makkah to try to negotiate a peaceful entry for the Muslims. After three days, a rumour spread that Uthmaan had been assassinated. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) retreated to under an acacia tree\*\* where almost 1400 Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) took the Pledge of Ridwān at his hands. The Companions took a oath that they would stand by Muhammad (peace be upon him) at all costs, and fight under his banner to the last breath of their lives. Uthmaan (may Allah be pleased with him) soon returned, and the Treaty of Hudaibiyah was later signed between the Muslims and the Makkan leaders.

\* Surah Al-Fil (Quran, Ch 105), Abraha's army was destructed by a flock of birds who pelted them with clay pebbles.

\*\* common name: gum-arabic  
current scientific name: *Vachellia nilotica*.



Indeed, Allah was pleased with the believers when they gave their Bai'a (pledge) to you (O Muhammad) under the tree. He (Allah) knew what was in their hearts, and He send down As-Sakinah (calmness and tranquility) upon them, and He rewarded them with a near victory."

(Quran, 48:18)

