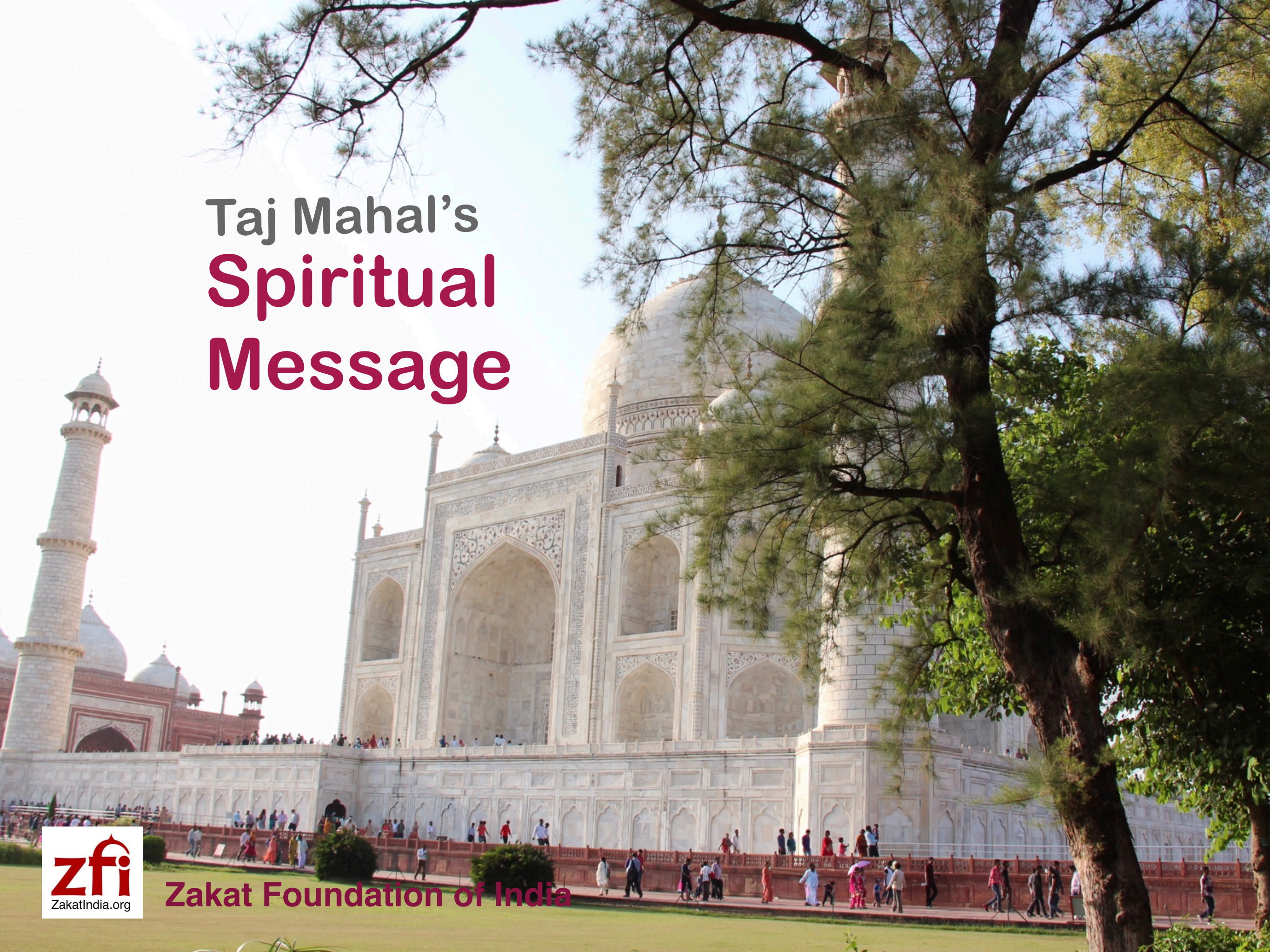


A photograph of the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, taken from a low angle. The white marble mausoleum is the central focus, featuring its iconic large dome and four minarets. In the foreground, a large, leafy tree with dark branches frames the right side of the image. The sky is a clear, pale blue. Many people are visible walking on the paths and standing on the terraces of the monument.

Taj Mahal's Spiritual Message

In collaboration with
India Islamic Cultural Centre



Release of
Zakat Foundation of India's
Coffee table book

Taj Mahal's Spiritual Message

New Delhi 03 January 2018



Bill Clinton:
There are two kinds of people
in the world:
Those who have seen the Taj Mahal
and those who haven't.

**But,
even Clinton didn't know that
appreciating mere marble beauty
is not the full realization of the Taj.**



Taj Mahal's intrinsic beauty is the
Beauty of God
manifested through the
Quranic Calligraphy
on its multiple arches on all the four sides
as well as elsewhere inside the chambers

”نقوش اقبال” بقلم مولانا علی میاں (رح)

تاج کو چاندنی میں دیکھ کر معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ مرمر کی سلوں میں
آب رواں سے زیادہ تیزی آگئی ہے۔

ابد کا طویل دور یہاں کے ایک ایک لمحہ کے برابر ہو گیا ہے۔

یہاں عشق نے پتھروں کی زبانی اپنا راز کھولا
اور انہیں نوک مڑگاں میں پرویا ہے۔

یہاں سنگ و خشک سے جنت کے نغمے پھوٹ رہے ہیں اور
عشق حدود و تعینات کی سرحدیں پھاند کر لازوال بن گیا ہے۔

عشق سے اہل دل کو سینہ سینا اور اہل ہنر کو یاد بیضا مل جاتا ہے۔

Nuqoosh-e-Iqbal by Maulana Ali Mian: p95:

Taj ko chandni mein dekh kar maloom hota hai ki marmar ki silon mein aab-e-rawaan se zyaada teeri aagayee hai.

Abad ka taweeel daur yahaan ke ek ek lamhe ke baraabar hogaya hai.

Yahaan ishq ne patharon ki zabaani apna raaz khola aur unhen nok-e mizgaan mein piroya hai. Yahaan sang-o-
'hisht se jannat ke naghme phoot rahey hain aur ishq hudood-o-ta'ayyunaat ki sarhadein phaand kar la-zawaal ban
gaya hai.

Ishq se ahl-e dil ko seenah-e-Seena aur ahl-e hunar ko yad-e-baiza mil jaata hai.

Calligraphic Elegance



**Taj Mahal's calligraphy was created by the
Persian calligrapher Abdul Haq
who came to India from Shiraz, Iran, in 1609.**

**Shah Jahan conferred the title of
"Amanat Khan"
upon him as a reward for his dazzling virtuosity.**

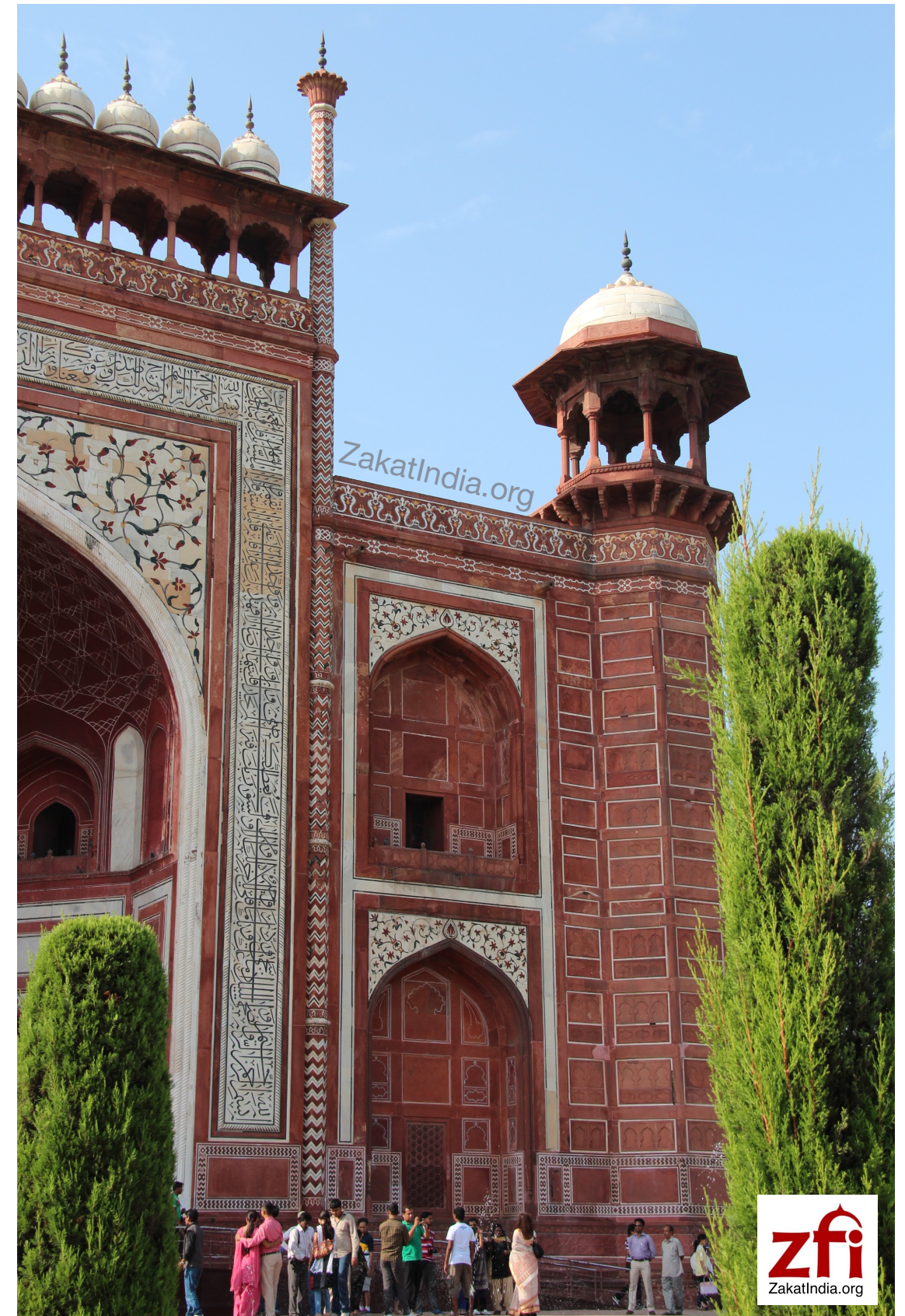
Submission

We may like it or not, we have to believe that God is the most systematic person known to mankind and to others. That's what our God-gifted prudence counsels. His structural design of creating and sustaining the humanity began with Adam who was the first man and the first messenger of God. As humanity progressed, God decided to appoint fresh messengers in different parts of the world and in various phases of human history. To some of them He revealed His message that can be broadcast in the form of a document.

Each such message was meant for the entire humanity though it was clothed in the local language of the recipient community. As per Islamic belief, Mohammad is God's last messenger and Quran the last message. Quran is in Arabic which was the language of Mohammad and his contemporaries in Arabia. Names of some of the earlier messengers and books have been mentioned in the last book and many have not. Twenty-five messengers and three revealed books are mentioned by name. When chronologically appraised, the list of messengers begins from Adam and includes, among others, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, David, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Christ. The books mentioned are Psalms, Old Testament and New Testament.

Yet, God says that the human beings should believe in and revere all the messengers and all the revelations. These injunctions verbatim form part of the Quran (2.285). Again, prudence leads us to another premise that God would not have committed the injustice not to appoint messengers and revealed books in a large South-Asian chunk of the world that is India. When we juxtapose this premise with the centuries old spiritual names and related literature in India we find it unwise to rule out that Rama, Krishna, Mahavir and Budha were messengers of God and Vedas His revealed book. Once again, prudence dictates that we better respect all of them. To Rama, the Poet of the East, Allama Iqbal has reverently attributed the title of *Imam-e-Hind*, the spiritual leader of India. Many other great persons have been responsible for guiding sections of humanity on different parts of the global surface. They too separately find special appreciation in Quran.

It is understood from Quran that even before God created life outside the heavens, He caused to be written, in what is known as the Protected Tablet, His grand comprehensive message that was set to be revealed to humanity - intermittently and repeatedly - through a battery of messengers during the millennia to come. On the eve of beginning the earthly creation, this comprehensive message was brought down to the worldly sky. From there, it was revealed to God's messengers at various global locations in different languages, many times over, in different phases of human history.





God goes on to explain that humanity was created by Him to test the comparative levels of righteousness among the human beings, or absence thereof. Worldly life is temporary and insignificant. It is only a trial. The award or punishment for good or bad deeds done here will be given in the next life which will be everlasting and permanent. The final dwelling place will be either Heaven or Hell. That would be decided on the Day of Judgement when all human beings will be resurrected.

The moral of this narration is that the human beings should try to be more and more righteous during their limited tenure in this world. This realization seems to have intensely dawned upon Emperor Shahjahan after the immature death of his beloved queen. So, in addition to creating a long lasting memorial for her - in brick, mortar and marble - the monarch also used the edifice to telecast his supernatural realization for the spiritual pleasure and benefit of the upcoming generations of humanity. He expanded his architectural project to include imparting to the millions of prospective visitors to the shrine - and today's online surfers sitting in the cozy comfort of their houses and offices the world over - some nuances of God's Last Message to humanity. Proper appreciation thereof is sufficient to keep the day to day activity of human soul altruistically attuned toward the service of the fellow creatures, elevating it to a level much above the confines of individual bodily confines.

In this coffee table book some specific camera views of the Taj Mahal (shot by my son Kashif) are being presented that focus the calligraphic beauty of the wonderful monument. Each photo has been inscribed with ZakatIndia.org. My other two sons Saad and Abid, my better half Nazira and our three daughters-in-law Sadia, Aanam and Mahrukh and all our grandchildren helped me in many other ways. Along side each photo view one Quranic message has been briefly summarized and appended. For this purpose cues have been taken from well known translations and commentaries; may God bless the noble authors and their associates. The English words on each page are not the translation of the Arabic calligraphy shown on that or the adjoining page. That correlation would require several additional volumes of this book. Scholars who are interested in deeper understanding of the subjects will do well to access the commentaries of the holy Quran by Abdullah Yusuf Ali and many others. 'Concepts of the Quran' by Fathi Osman is also recommended.

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President, Zakat Foundation of India, New Delhi
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January 2018

Front of Taj Mahal

The bigger arch has Arabic inscriptions from
Chapter 36, Surah "Yaseen",
Verses 45-66 of Holy Quran

Oneness of God (Tauheed)

the signs of the universe and from common sense;

The Hereafter

the signs of the universe, from common sense and
from man's own existence itself; and

Prophethood of Muhammad

(peace be upon him)

the fact that he was facing all kinds of hardships
in the preaching of his message without any selfish motive,
and from the fact that whatever he was inviting the people to
was rational and reasonable.

Surah Ikhlas (112)

**It establishes the Oneness of the Creator:
the doctrine of Tawhid.**

**It says that God is without equal,
without origin,
without end,
and unlike anything else that exists.**

**The fourth line,
"Nothing is like Him",
is a fundamental statement of tanzih;
God as the incomparable.**

**This sura was inscribed on the Dome of the Rock at Jerusalem
by Abd-al-Malik ibn Marwan.**

Al-Takwir

Surat Al-Takwir (Arabic: سورة التكوير) (The Overthrowing)
81st sura of the Qur'an with 29 ayat.

The **prohibition of female infanticide** was revealed in ayat 8, 9 of
this Sura:

"And when the female (infant) buried alive (as the pagan Arabs used to
do) shall be questioned: For what sin she was killed? (9)"

Al-Infitar

**Praise be to God !
He is the Creator
of the heavens,
the cosmos and
the earth,
He owns them
and His command
is absolute.**

(7.54)

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30.21

**God has created mate for you
and He has engendered love
and tenderness between you.
Surely in these are signs for
people who reflect.**

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**Earth stay is for
a limited period
(2.36)**



**God's knowledge and
mercy are infinite
(40.7)**

God
rewards
the
charitable
(12.88)



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12.76

**Over every
possessor of knowledge
there is one knowing more**

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God likes people who are good hosts

12.59

I am the best of hosts

**Hazrat Yusuf - peace be upon him -
(Prophet Joseph) to his brothers**

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2.58

**God likes Sajda
(prostration)
as expression of
Thanks to Him**

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وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدانا لهذا وَكُنَّا لَهُ مِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدانا لهذا وَكُنَّا لَهُ مِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ
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وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدانا لهذا وَكُنَّا لَهُ مِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ



17:26

**Render to your kindred their due rights,
as also to those in want,
and to the wayfarer.**

**But, waste not
(your wealth, time, health, talents, opportunities etc)
in the manner of a spendthrift.**

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فَاعْتَبِرُوا يَوْمَ الْآزِفِ إِذْ يَسْعَى الْمُتَكِبُّونَ
فَاعْتَبِرُوا يَوْمَ الْآزِفِ إِذْ يَسْعَى الْمُتَكِبُّونَ

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ



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17:27

**The wasteful are the
siblings of Satan;
and Satan is ungrateful
to his Lord.**

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17:34

**Fulfill your contracts;
contracts will be asked about.**

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وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي
خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَادِ وَالْجِبَالِ
وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْأَرْوَاحِ
وَالْأَشْيَاءِ وَالْأَحْيَاءِ
وَالْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَعْيَانِ
وَالْأَسْمَاءِ وَالْأَصْنَافِ
وَالْأَلْوَانِ وَالْأَلْصَافِ
وَالْأَشْيَاءِ وَالْأَحْيَاءِ
وَالْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَعْيَانِ
وَالْأَسْمَاءِ وَالْأَصْنَافِ
وَالْأَلْوَانِ وَالْأَلْصَافِ

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وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي
خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَادِ وَالْجِبَالِ
وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْأَرْوَاحِ
وَالْأَشْيَاءِ وَالْأَحْيَاءِ
وَالْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَعْيَانِ
وَالْأَسْمَاءِ وَالْأَصْنَافِ
وَالْأَلْوَانِ وَالْأَلْصَافِ
وَالْأَشْيَاءِ وَالْأَحْيَاءِ
وَالْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَعْيَانِ
وَالْأَسْمَاءِ وَالْأَصْنَافِ
وَالْأَلْوَانِ وَالْأَلْصَافِ

2.48

On the day of judgement

NO INTERCESSION
will be accepted from anybody

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وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ
الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَتَاهُم مَّا مَلَكَتْ
أَيْدِيهِمْ مِّنْ ذِكْرٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ
مُتَوَاتِرٍ لَّيْسَ فِيهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ
يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ

22.34

**Give them glad tidings
who humble themselves.**

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10

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**Of God alone
be in awe and fear**

16.51, 27.10, 28.31

Have no fear

(of anybody else)

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25.45

**God has given to Sun
the subservience of every
shadow**

Likewise, the human being and all
other creation is subservient to God

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2.284

**Whether you reveal what is
within yourselves
(of intentions, plans)
or keep it secret,
God will call you to account for it.**

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2.38-39

God talks of

**The great planning done by Him to
anooint messengers & prophets
and reveal Divine books.**

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وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَدْعُو بِالْفِرْعَوْنِ
وَالْكَافِرِينَ

2.42

**Do not confound the truth by
mixing it with falsehood,
and do not conceal the truth
while you know.**

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2.45

Seek help through Patience and Prayer.

**Indeed the Prayer is burdensome, but
not for those humbled by their
reverence of God.**

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2.220

**God knows well him who causes
disorder from him who sets aright**

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2.60

Strike the rock with thy staff

Before granting Hazrat Moosa's (Moses') prayer for water for his people, God wanted him to do whatever he could, in the given situation.

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وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
لَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا
وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
لَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا
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لَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا

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Chapter 81

On the Judgement Day

When the Sun will be folded up

The stars will lose their luster

When the mountains will vanish

When the wild beasts will be herded together

When the oceans will swell over with flames

When the souls will be sorted out

When the female infant will be asked:

For what crime was she killed

When the scrolls will be laid open

When the sky will be stripped away

When hellfire will be set ablaze

When Paradise will be brought near

When each soul will realize what it has brought ...

Each will get his/her reward or punishment.

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17.23, 31.14-15

**Show gratitude to your parents;
Be kind to them,
Bear them company in life
with justice and consideration.**

17.24

Lower to them the wings of humility

4.11

**Your parents or your children -
you know not who of them are
nearer to you in benefit.**

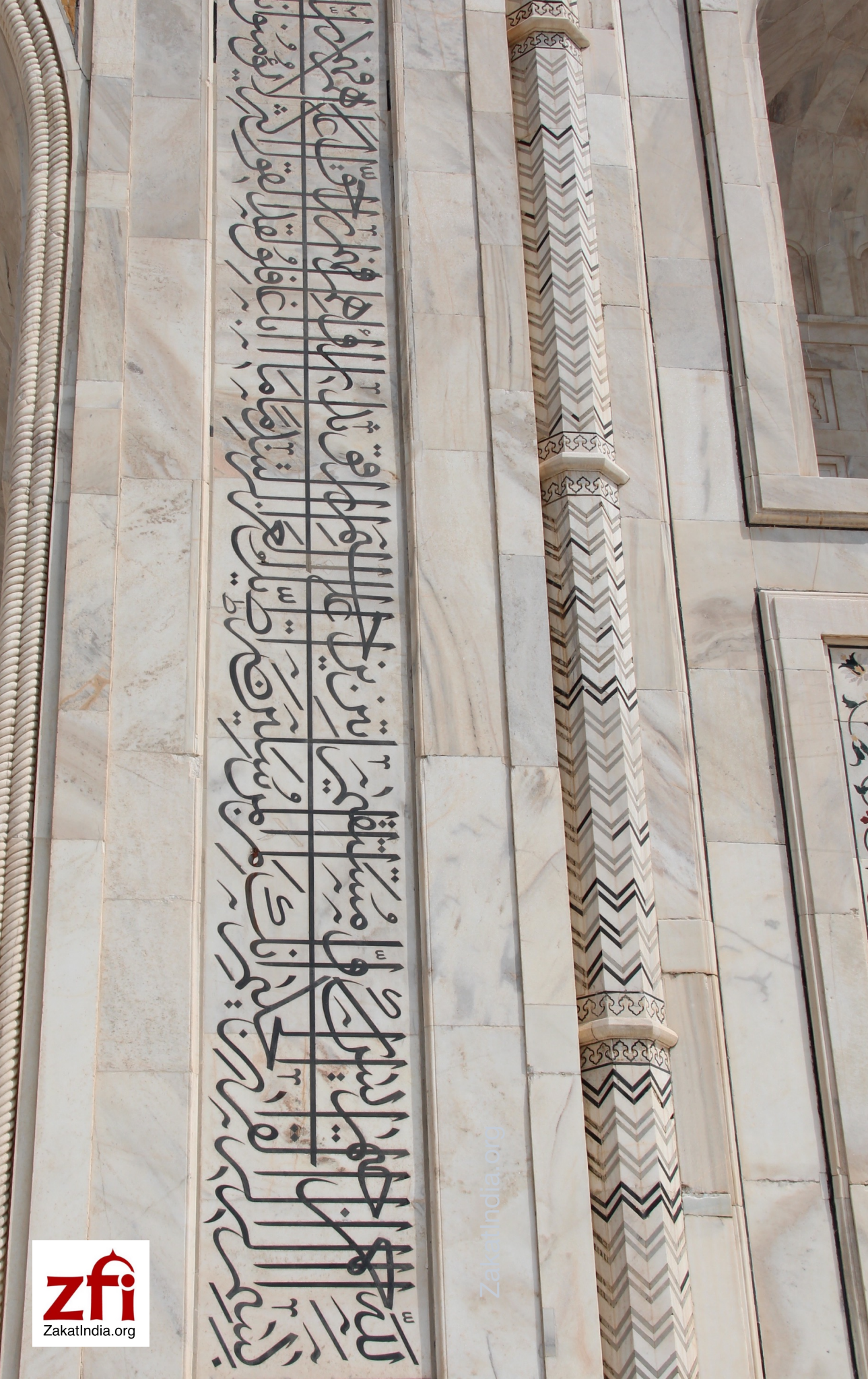
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6.152

**Fulfill God's covenant
(and the covenants you make with
one another in God's Name)**



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23.12-14

**God made the moist germ a clot of blood;
then made the clotted blood into a piece of flesh;
then made the piece of flesh into bones and
God clothed the bones with flesh;
thus brought forth a man of yet another make.**

"Yet another make" indicates what we know today as DNA.

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(Holy Quran 2.44)

**Before advising others
for righteousness,
practice yourself**

**Do you enjoin upon people godliness and virtue
but forget your own selves,
even while you recite this Book**

(and see therein the orders, prohibitions, exhortations and warnings)?

Will you not understand and come to your senses?



2.219

O Prophet !

They ask you what they should dedicate
(in God's cause and for the needy)

Say: Whatever is left over
(after you have taken care of
yourself and your dependents)



2.177, 4.36, 17.26, 30.38, 33.6, 47.22

**Your proactive benevolence
toward the
Extended Family
and the
Neighborhood
will suffice
to network the society
into an amiable whole**



59.7

**Wealth must keep on
circulating in the society**

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40:78

**God did send forth so many
conveyors of His message;**

**Of them there are some
whom God has mentioned in the Quran,**

**while there have been many others of
His messengers He has not told us about.**

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4.163-4

**God has revealed His books
to the prophets whose names
He has mentioned in the Quran**

**and even to those prophets
whom He did not mention in the Quran**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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14:4

**Never has God sent forth
any conveyor of His message
otherwise than in
his own people's language
so that he might make
the truth clear to them.**

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2.285

**The faithful believe in God
and His angels
and His books
and the conveyors of His message,
not differentiating
between any of His messengers.**

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40.7

**God's mercy
and knowledge
are infinite**

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4:136

**One who stubbornly denies God
and His books
and the conveyors of His message
has surely gone on the wrong path.**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا
الذي كنا لنهتدي لولا أن
هدانا الله العزيز الغفار
الحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا
الذي كنا لنهتدي لولا أن
هدانا الله العزيز الغفار

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94.5

**With every difficulty
there is relief.**

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80

zfi
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80

zfi
ZakatIndia.org

80

zfi
ZakatIndia.org

3:159

**Consult others in affairs of the moment.
Then, after you have taken a decision
put your trust in God,
For God loves those
who put their trust in Him.**

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والا اوجيه تلامذته



4.1

**Duly observe the rights of the
WOMBS THAT BORE YOU**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي
خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
وَالَّذِي جَعَلَ الْمَوْتَ
وَالْحَيَاةَ وَمَنْ يَخْلُقُ
مَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ
ذُو فَهْمٍ



33.6

**Those who are
closely inter-related
have a greater right
upon one another
than the rest of humanity**

42.23

**For such group of relatives
God has used the term
Al-mawaddata Fil-Qurba**

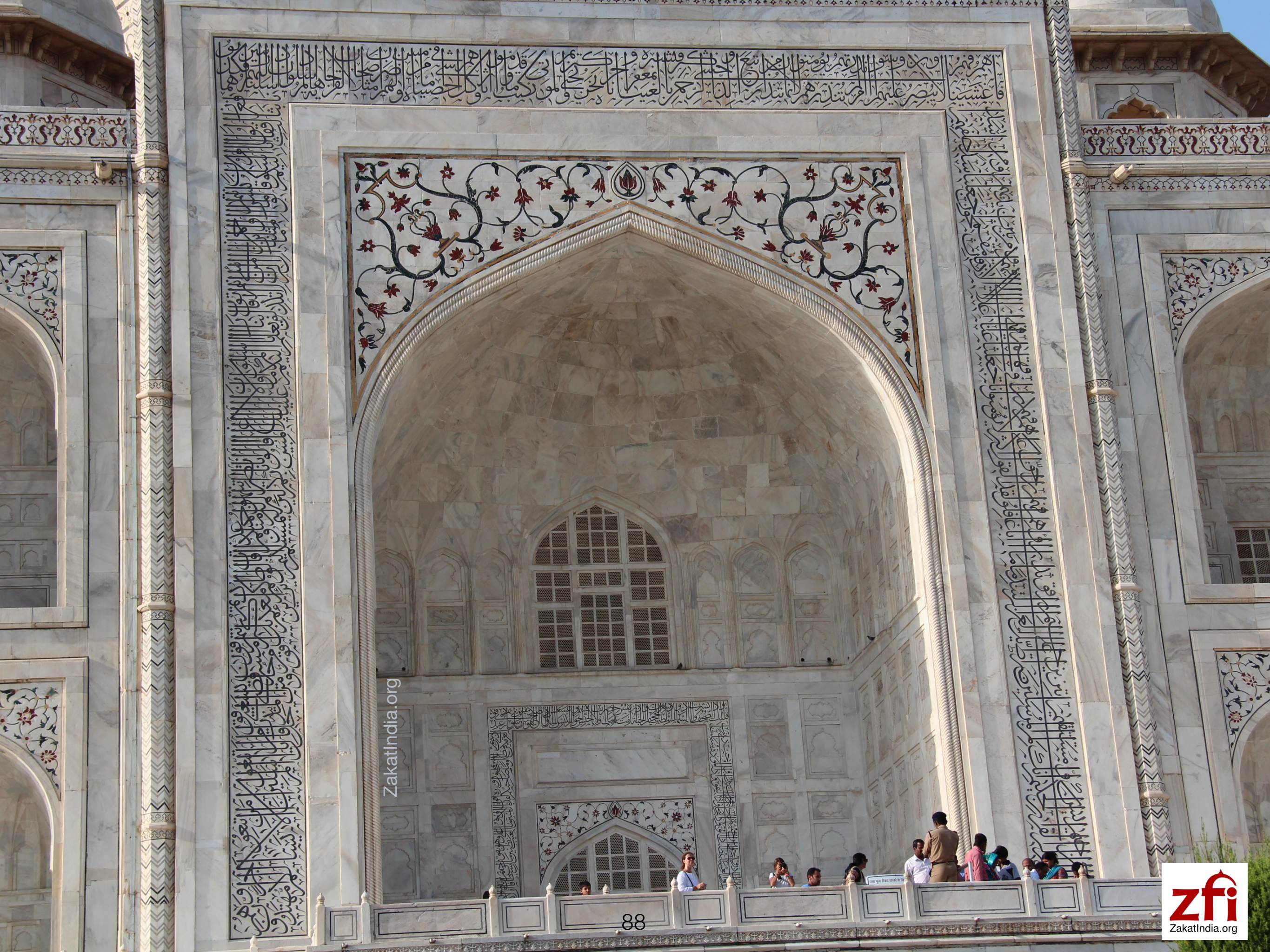
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَيَتْلُو صُحُفًا وَمِنْهَا الْقُرْآنُ وَالْعَدَّةُ الْمَرْمُومَةُ

يُحْمَلُهُ خَلَاةٌ مِنْهَا
وَيَتْلُو صُحُفًا وَمِنْهَا الْقُرْآنُ وَالْعَدَّةُ الْمَرْمُومَةُ



90.15

**Among them
the orphaned relative
has the priority**



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17.26 & 30.38

**Kind treatment (Sila-Rahmi)
has been declared as the right of the
needy relatives
in the assets & capabilities of the
better off among the relatives**

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4.36

**God expects us to be good to
the neighbor who is near,
the neighbor who is distant and
the companion by our side
(on the way, in the locality, in the workplace, etc.)**

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38.72

**I HAVE BREATHED
IN HIM
(THE HUMAN BEING)
MY SPIRIT**

(Thus, we the human beings are
under obligation to imbibe some
of godly qualities.)





يَتْلُو صُحُفًا فِيهَا آيَاتٌ مَّا بَدَّ لَهُ الْكَافِرُ أَنَّهُ
يَكُونُ مِنْهَا لَدَيْنَا مَكْرَهُ

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يَكُونُ مِنْهَا لَدَيْنَا مَكْرَهُ

Most certainly
God helps
whoever helps
His cause
22.40



Taj Mahal's Spiritual Message



Zakat Foundation of India

