

ALLAHU AKBAR

Allah is the Greatest

The phrase 'Allahu Akbar' is the opening declaration of every Islamic prayer and is a slogan which was prescribed by the Holy Prophet Muhamad (S) to the mujahids of Islam. The meaning of this prayer has been explained as follows:

Consider for example the opening declaration of every Islamic prayer: "Allah-u-Akbar". What does that mean? There can be no doubt that the second word of the declaration likens the character of Allah to a matrix which contains all and gives existence to the infinite, to space, to time, to the Universe, to all active and passive forces imaginable, to life and to the soul.

- The Universe is the physical manifestation of Allah's Will.
- All that we see, feel, hear, touch and smell shows the greatness of Allah.
- We marvel at the inventions of humans.
- For example, computers have changed our way of thinking and conducting our daily activities.
- However, this machine has very limited power to process information compared to the capacity of human mind.
- Human beings process a vast amount of information through their five senses continually.
- When we compare our abilities with forces of nature, we realize that Allah is Great and his creation is endless.

- Each human being has a physical, spiritual and intellectual existence.
- Islam teaches that the Universal Soul is eternal and present everywhere as per the following quotation:

Islamic doctrine goes farther than the other great religions for it proclaims the presence of the soul, perhaps minute but nevertheless existing in an embryonic state in all existence in matter, in animals, trees, and space itself.

Every individual, every molecule, every atom has its own spiritual relationship with the All-Powerful Soul of God.

But men and women, being more highly developed, are immensely more advanced than the infinite number of other beings known to us.

Islam acknowledges the existence of angels, of great souls who have developed themselves to the highest possible planes of human soul and higher, and who are centres of forces which are scattered throughout the universe.

Without going as far as Christianity, Islam recognizes the existence of evil spirits which seek by means of their secret suggestions to turn us from good, from that stait way traced by God's finger for the eternal happiness of the humblest as of the greatest -- Abraham, Jesus, Mohammed.

Soul is present in atoms, molecules, plants, animals, humans and in space. Human beings are composed of billions of atoms and Islam teaches us that the soul is present in each and every atom. In order to develop one's inner self, it is necessary to awaken the soul by invoking Allah on a continual basis. These spiritual exercises create an inner awakening and lead to the development of the total human potential.

Allahu Akbar is recited on many occasions:

1. In the beginning of prayer of Hazrat Bibi Fatimah (upon whom be peace);
2. When animals are slaughtered; and
3. By the mujahids of Islam.

In addition to this, the Holy Prophet has encouraged Muslims to recite this prayer according to the following hadith:

To say:

- Glory be to Allah;
- Praise be to Allah;
- there is no god but Allah;
- and Allah is most great,

is dearer to me than everything on which the sun rises.