

# Exemplar

# Muslim Stories, Quotes and Information

# for Year 5



Exemplar by Sue Fearon, Claire Finkel, Zahida Hussain, Rosemary Sargent, Simone Whitehouse

Updated 01 August 2008

Page 1

CONTENTS	Page	CONTENTS	Page
Qur'an 2:254	3	Reading One / Reading Two	17
Bounties does not only mean money but may include things like:	4	Modesty and ability to listen to others beautifully of Jesus (Isa)	18
Charitable Acts	5	The story of Cain and Abel	19
The Story of Prophet Job	6	Qarun and his treasure	20
The Masjid-E-Haraam—Mecca	10	Ways in which Muslims thank Allah for all that He has given them	22
The Story of Hidaybiyya	11	Description of Allah	23
Reading One from the Qur'an / Reading Two from the Hadith:	16		

O ye who believe! Spend out of (the bounties) We have provided for you, before the Day comes when no bargaining (Will avail), nor friendship nor intercession.

(Qur'an 2:254).

**Bounties does not only mean money but may include things like:**

- 1) Family- so include a needy person without a family in the family so that they can enjoy being part of a family etc.
- 2) Physical Health- so help someone physically, such as:  
Giving up the seat on the bus to someone more needy, possibly an old person, disabled person, ill or pregnant person;  
Carrying someone's shopping who may be struggling, with permission;  
Helping a neighbour or member of the family with their housework, garden etc.
- 3) Mental Health- to always THINK
  - a) about every action and ensure that they will not hurt anyone.
  - b) about everything that is said to ensure that it will not hurt anyone's feelings.
  - c) where possible say good things to others so that they may feel positive.

## Charitable Acts

- Smiling is an act of charity when it is intended to keep every one cheerful and feeling positive.
- Saying Assalamu Alaikum (peace be on you), is the way Muslims greet each other and this is an act of charity.
- Not taking part in bad deeds is an act of charity and doing good deeds is an act of charity (1006)
- Working to meet ones own needs is an act of charity (1008).
- Asking Allah for forgiveness is an act of charity (1007).
- Removing stones, rubbish etc. from people's path with the intention to make life easy for them is an act of charity (1007).

(Hadith: book 12, chapter 16, pp95-96)

### The Story of Prophet Job

A group of angels were discussing Allah's creation and humans in particular. How those who were humble earned Allah's pleasure, whilst those who were arrogant incurred His displeasure. One of the angels remarked, "The best creature today is Job, a man of noble character who displays great patience and always remembers his Generous Lord. He is an excellent model of the worshippers of Allah. Allah has blessed him with a long life and plenty of riches, yet he is never haughty or selfish. He feeds and clothes the poor and makes them feel as though he was not doing them a favour, so kind and gentle is he."

Iblis (also known as satan/shaitan; who had promised Allah when Allah created Adam, the first human, that he would do everything he could to make sure that humans are not obedient to Allah), overheard all this and became very annoyed. He planned to tempt Job to corruption and disbelief, so he hastened to him. He tried to distract Job from his prayers by whispering to him about the good things in life, but Job was a true believer and would not let evil thoughts tempt him. This disturbed Iblis more, so he began to hate Job even more.

Iblis complained to Allah about Job. He said that though Job was continuously glorifying Allah, he was not doing so out of sincerity but to satisfy Allah so that his wealth should not be taken away. It was all a show out of greed. "If You removed his wealth then You will find that his tongue will no longer mention Your name and his praying will stop".

*Continued on next page.*

### The Story of Prophet Job

*Continued from previous page.*

Allah told Iblis that Job was one of His most sincere devotees. He did not worship Him because of favours; his worship stemmed from his heart and had nothing to do with material things. But to prove to Iblis the depth of Job's sincerity and patience, Allah allowed him to do whatever he and his helpers wished to do with Job's wealth. Iblis was very happy. He gathered his helpers and set about destroying Job's cattle, helpers, farms until Job was left with nothing. Iblis was very happy. He appeared before Job in the guise of an old man and said, "All your wealth is lost. People say that you lost your wealth because you gave too much charity and you are always wasting your time worshipping Allah. Others say that Allah has bought this upon you in order to please your enemies. If Allah had the capacity to prevent harm, then He would have protected your wealth."

True to his belief, Job replied, "What Allah has taken away from me belongs to Him. I was only its trustee for a while. He gives to whom He wishes and takes it away from whom He wishes." With these words Job again prostrated to Allah.

Iblis was frustrated. Again he went to Allah and said, "I have stripped Job of all his possessions, but he still remains faithful to you. However, a real test for a parent is through his children. You will then see how Job will reject you."

Allah granted Iblis authority but warned him that it would not reduce Job's faith in his Allah nor his patience.

*Continued on next page.*

### The Story of Prophet Job

*Continued from previous page.*

Iblis again gathered his helpers and set about his evil deeds. He shook the foundation of the House in which Job's children lived. The building came crashing down killing all of them. Then he went to Job disguised as a man who had come to sympathise with him. In a comforting tone he said to Job, "The circumstances in which your children died were sad. Surely, your Allah is not rewarding you properly for all your prayers". Having said this Iblis waited anxiously, hoping Job was now ready to reject Allah. Job replied, "Allah sometimes gives and sometimes takes away. He is sometimes pleased and sometimes displeased with our deeds. Whether a thing is beneficial or harmful to me I will remain firm in my belief and remain thankful to Allah."

Then Job prostrated to his Lord. At this Iblis was extremely vexed. Iblis again called on Allah. "O Allah, Job's wealth is gone, his children are dead but he is still healthy in body and as long as he enjoys good health he will continue to worship You in the hope of regaining his wealth and having more children. Grant me authority over his body so that I may weaken it. He will surely neglect worshiping You and will thus become disobedient."

Allah wanted to teach Iblis a lesson that those people who truly believe do not become weak in faith when tested with harsh conditions. Allah said, "I give you authority over his body but not over his soul, intellect, heart for in these places reside the knowledge of Me and My religion."

*Continued on next page.*

### The Story of Prophet Job

*Continued from previous page.*

Armed with this new authority, Iblis began to take revenge on Job's body and filled it with disease until it was reduced to mere skin and bone and he suffered severe pain. But through all the suffering Job remained strong in his faith, patiently bearing all the hardships without complaining. He did not despair or turn to others for help but remained hopeful in Allah's mercy. Even close relatives and friends deserted him. Only his wife remained by his side and took good care of him.

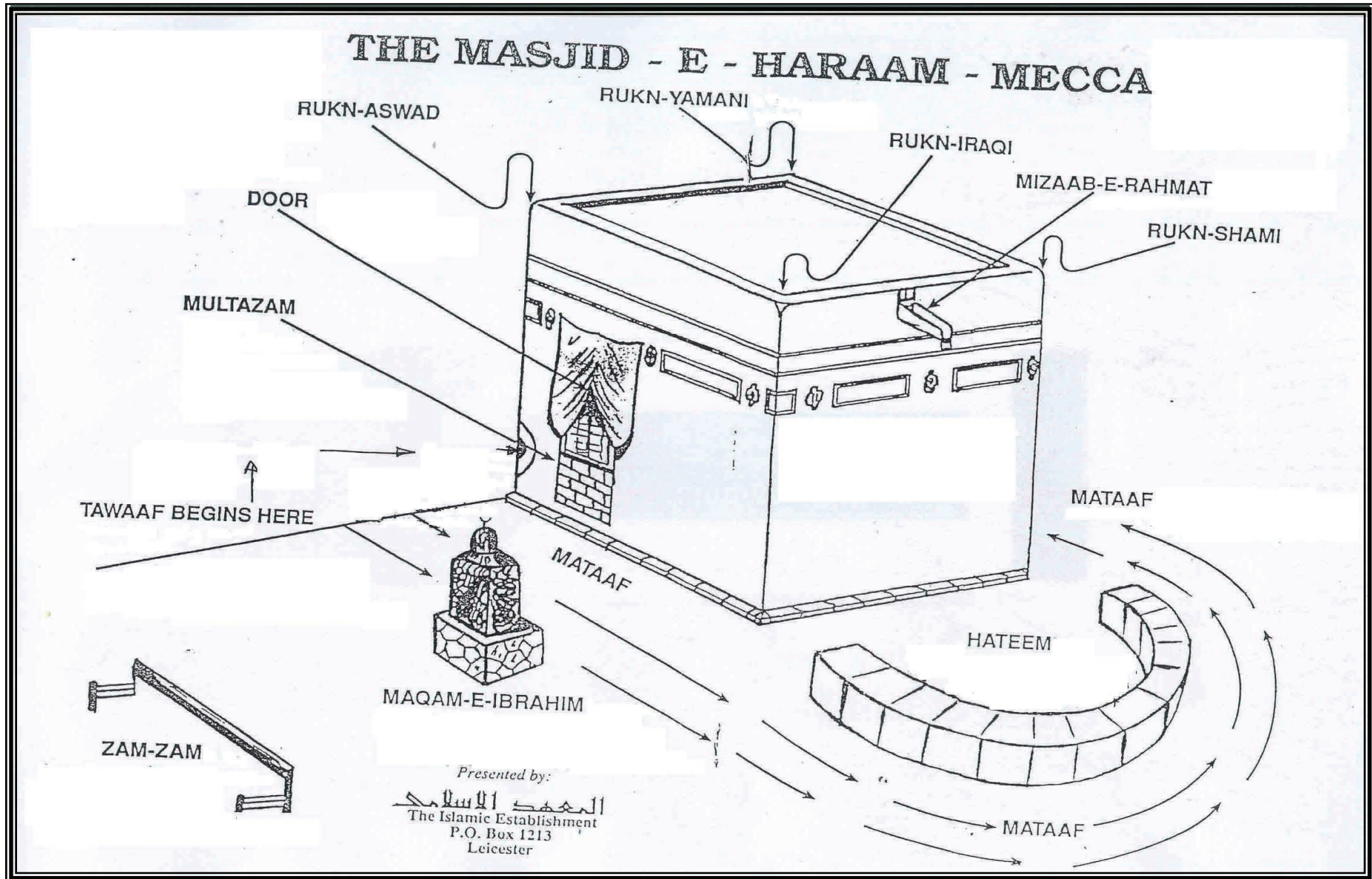
In this helpless state, Job turned to Allah not to complain but to seek His mercy. Allah says, "Commemorate Our Servant Job. Behold he cried to his Lord, "The Evil One has afflicted me with distress and suffering!"

(The command was given:) "Strike with thy foot: here is (water) wherein to wash, cool and refreshing, and (water) to drink."

And We gave him (back) his people, and doubled their number - as a Grace from Ourselves, and a thing for commemoration, for all who have Understanding."

(Qur'an 38:41-44).

Job obeyed immediately. His good health was restored.



### The Story of Hudaybiyya

The month of Ramadan had begun, and prophet Mohammad, as he usually did, intensified night worship and was even more attentive to the well-being of the poor and needy. This was a month of intense spirituality, when Prophet Muhammad recited back to Angel Gabriel all that had been revealed of the Qur'an, and during which he lengthened ritual prayers and performed the additional prayers of Tarawih (which are only performed in the month of Ramadan).

Women and men were fasting during the day liberating themselves from eating and drinking. By controlling their needs, Muslims were to strive to get closer to the qualities of the divine and experience Allah's presence through meditation. Beyond this, Muslims were also expected to 'fast' with their tongues (avoiding lies, vulgarity and indecent remarks) and their hearts (avoiding bad feelings or thoughts). That spiritual discipline went along with additional demands as to the care and attention the poor must receive.

The month of Ramadan was both the month of the Qur'an and that of generosity, giving and solidarity. Muslims whether women, men or children were strongly advised to pay Zakat-ul-Fitre at the end of the fasting month in order to take care of the needs of all the members of the Muslim community during the days of celebration they observed. The quest for proximity to the one All mighty God, Allah, can only be experienced and perfected through proximity to the poor: respecting, caring for and serving them brings one closer to God.

During that month, the prophet Mohammad had a surprising dream both perplexing and gratifying. He dreamed that he entered the Kabbah. The vision was powerful and prophet Mohammad interpreted as a sign and a message.

*Continued on next page.*

### The Story of Hudaibiyya

*Continued from previous page.*

The next day, he told his companions about the dream and invited them to get ready for the lesser pilgrimage called the Umrah (the greater pilgrimage is called the Hajj and is the fifth pillar of Islam). Between twelve hundred and fourteen hundred companions undertook the journey. The danger was considerable because the people of Makkah were bitter enemies of Muslims but prophet Mohammad did not allow the pilgrims to carry weapons.

When the people of Makkah heard that a convoy of Muslims was heading for Makkah, intending to visit the Kabbah they were faced with an irresolvable dilemma. They could not see how they could justify barring the Muslims from entering Makkah because for decades this had been the most legitimate right of all Arabs irrespective of their faith and their relationships with the people of Makkah. By allowing the Muslims to enter Makkah, in the opinion of the Makkans they would be giving them unacceptable prestige. The Makkans sent two hundred men under the leadership of a man called Khalid ibn al-Walid to stop the Muslims reaching Makkah. On hearing this, prophet Mohammad changed his route and relied on the knowledge of a companion who knew the area well and arrived south of Makkah in the plain of Al-Hudaibiyyah.

The people of Makkah were determined not to allow the Muslims to perform the pilgrimage. The people of Makkah sent different influential people in the region, four times, to tell the Muslims to go back. After each visit, the person returned to report that the Muslims have come unarmed, in peace to carry out the pilgrimage and should not be stopped.

*Continued on next page.*

### The Story of Hdaybiyya

*Continued from previous page.*

Prophet Mohammad then decided to send Uthman ibn Affan, his son-in-law to assure the Makkans that the Muslims have come in peace only to perform the pilgrimage. Three days passed and Uthman did not return. A rumour spread that Uthman had been killed. This caused prophet Mohammad deep sorrow because if the rumour proved to be true on investigation, this would mean that the people of Makkah have declared war. This would mean that the Muslims would have to defend themselves with no weapons and it would end prophet Mohammad's hope for peace.

Prophet Mohammad sat under an acacia tree and called all the Muslims who had come with him. He explained that if the rumour was true and they were attacked they would have to defend themselves with no weapons. He asked each Muslim to pledge allegiance, this is famously called Bait-ul-Ridwan, that they would stand firm whatever the outcome. However, just as the last Companion had finished giving their pledge Uthman suddenly appeared. He too took the pledge. Prophet Mohammad was happy to see him. The courage of the Muslims was tested to the extreme and Muslims passed this test by taking the allegiance. Allah acknowledges this in the Qur'an in chapter 48 verse 18;

'Allah's good pleasure was on the believers when they swore fealty to you under the tree' (48:18).

Uthman informed the prophet that the people of Makkah were sending a person called Suhayl ibn Amr with another two men to seal a formal agreement with the Muslims. When Suhayl arrived after a lot of discussion the terms of the agreement were at last settled. Prophet Mohammad asked his cousin Ali ibn Abu Talib to write them down.

*Continued on next page.*

## The Story of Hdaybiyya

*Continued from previous page.*

Ali started the agreement with 'In the name of Allah the most merciful the most kind.' Suhayl stopped him and said 'I do not like that phrase just write 'In your name O God'. The companions of the prophet objected but the prophet instructed Ali to write as Suhayl says. The terms of the agreement were written. Prophet Muhammad signed the agreement 'Muhammad Allah's messenger'. Suhayl refused to accept the signature. He said, 'If we had known you to be Allah's messenger we would not have fought you. Sign Muhammad ibn Abdullah for the agreement to be finalised.' Prophet Mohammad agreed to this condition. The Muslims were both upset and shocked at this, as well as the terms of the agreement which they thought to be unfair.

The four points of the agreement worth mentioning here are:

- Muslims could not complete their pilgrimage this year but could come for three days next year.
- A ten year peace was to be observed by both sides.
- Any person who went from Makkah to Madina was to be returned immediately to Makkah.
- Any person who went from Madina to Makkah was never to be allowed to return to Madina.

*Continued on next page.*

### The Story of Hdaybiyya

*Continued from previous page.*

The companions of the prophet were really upset. They could not understand prophet Mohammad's attitude. He had always taught them courage and dignity and now he was accepting an unfair agreement. On the way home, Allah revealed His words to prophet Mohammad, through angel Gabrail, recorded in chapter 48 verse 1 and 27 of the Qur'an:

'Verily We have granted you a manifest victory'.. 'Truly did Allah fulfil the vision of His prophet: you shall enter the Kabbah, if Allah wills. He knows what you do not know, and he has granted you, besides this, a victory near at hand.' (Qur'an 48:1,27)

The Muslims were soon to realise the benefits of the agreement. For the first time ever they were not being attacked. They could live in relative peace and concentrate on education and building the community. They were sad about point 3 of the agreement but they felt comfortable with point 4 because they strongly felt people should have the right to choose where they lived. Over the next few years the peaceful conditions helped the spread of Islam in Arabia and the landscape of Arabia was changed for ever.

### **Reading One from the Qur'an:**

It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the Allah-fearing.

Qur'an 2:177

### **Reading Two from the Hadith:**

"He who performed ablution well, then came to Friday prayers, listened to the sermon, kept quiet (silent) all his/her sins between that time and the next Friday prayers would be forgiven (he who fidgeted has caused an interruption)."

(Hadith: Book 7, chapter 8, page 10 hadith 857R1)

**Reading One:**

When the Qur'an is read, listen to it with attention, and hold your peace: that ye may receive Mercy.

(Qur'an 7:204)

**Reading Two:**

"When My servants ask thee concerning Me, I am indeed close (to them): I listen to the prayer of every suppliant when he calleth on Me. Let them also, with a will, listen to My call."

(Qur'an 2:286)

### **Modesty and ability to listen to others beautifully of Jesus (Isa)**

"And when I inspired the disciples, (saying): Believe in Me and in My messenger, they said: We believe. Bear witness that we have surrendered (unto Thee) "we are Muslims."

When the disciples said: "O Jesus, son of Mary! Is thy Lord able to send down for us a table spread with food from heaven?" He said: "Observe your duty to Allah, if ye are true believers."

(They said:) "We wish to eat thereof, that we may satisfy our hearts and know that thou hast spoken truth to us, and that thereof we may be witnesses."

Jesus, son of Mary, said: "O Allah, Lord of us! Send down for us a table spread with food from heaven, that it may be a feast for us, for the first of us and for the last of us, and a sign from Thee. Give us sustenance, for Thou art the Best of Sustainers."

Allah said: "Lo! I send it down for you. And whoso disbelieveth of you afterward, him surely will I punish with a punishment wherewith I have not punished any of (My) creatures."

### The story of Cain and Abel

"Recount to them in all truth the story of Adam's two sons, how each made an offering, and how the offering of the one was accepted while that of the other was not.

Cain said, "I will surely kill you." His brother replied, "Allah accepts offerings only from the righteous. If you lift your hand to kill me, I shall not lift mine to slay you; for I fear Allah, the lord of the creation. I would rather you add to your sins against me to your other sins and thus incur the punishment, such is the reward of the wicked."

Cain's soul prompted him to slay his brother; he killed him and thus became one of the lost. Then Allah sent down a raven, which dug the earth to show him how to bury the corpse of his brother. "Alas!" he cried. "Have I not enough strength to do as this raven has done and so bury my brother's corpse?" and he repented. Allah is merciful and forgiving.

(Qur'an 5:27-32)

### Qarun and his treasure

Qarun was doubtless, of the people of Moses; but he acted insolently towards them: such were the treasures We had bestowed on him that their very keys would have been a burden to a body of strong men, behold, his people said to him, "Do not be proud, for Allah does not love those who are proud (in riches)."

But seek, with the (wealth) which Allah has given you, the Home of the Hereafter. Do not forget your portion in this world: but do good, as Allah has been good to you, and seek not (occasions for) mischief in the land: for Allah loves not those who do mischief."

He said, "This has been given to me because of a certain knowledge which I have." Did he not know that Allah had destroyed, before him, (whole) generations,- which were superior to him in strength and greater in the amount (of riches) they had collected? but the wicked are not called (immediately) to account for their sins.

So he went forth among his people in the (pride of his worldly) glitter. Those whose aim is the Life of this World said, "We wish that we had the like of what Qarun has got! for he is truly a lord of mighty good fortune!"

*Continued on next page.*

### Qarun and his treasure

*Continued from previous page.*

But those who had been granted (true) knowledge said: "Alas for you! The reward of Allah (in the Hereafter) is best for those who believe and work righteousness: but this none shall attain, save those who steadfastly persevere (in good)." Then We caused the earth to swallow up him and his house; and he had not (the least little) party to help him against Allah, nor could he defend himself."  
(Qur'an 28:76-82).

### Ways in which Muslims thank Allah for all that He has given them:

- 1) Through action by doing things that please Allah,  
e.g. by giving helping.
  
- 2) Through words  
E.g. By Always using the tongue to say good things and by never hurting people by saying bad things. Using words that Allah has taught Muslims through His last prophet Mohammad e.g. Assalamu Alaikum/ Walaikum Salaam when Muslims greet each other which means peace on you/ peace on you too; when thanking someone to say Jazakum Allahu Kheirun which means may Allah bless and reward you; When someone asks how are you to respond by saying Alhumdulillah which means praise be to Allah etc.
  
- 3) Through worship  
e.g. Praying five times a day, fasting in the month of Ramadan, going for Hajj at least once in the life time, reading the Qur'an etc.
  
- 4) Through money  
E.g. by Giving alms (zakah) which is the fourth pillar of Islam therefore is also an act of worship. By giving as much charity as possible and to remember that one does not have to be rich to give charity. If one only has one pound then give a few pence from that as well.

### Description of Allah

"Allah! There is no god but He -the Living, the Self-subsisting, Eternal. No slumber can seize Him nor sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth. Who is there that can intercede in His presence except as He permitteth? He knoweth what (appeareth to His creatures as) before or after or behind them. Nor shall they compass aught of His knowledge except as He willeth. His Throne doth extend over the heavens and the earth, and He feeleth no fatigue in guarding and preserving them for He is the Most High, the Supreme (in glory)."  
(Qur'an 2:255)