

## For Fast 14

### Chapter 13

- 14** To Him is due the true prayer. And those to whom they pray besides Him give them no answer, but (they are) like one who stretches forth his two hands towards water that it may reach his mouth, but it will not reach it. And the prayer of the disbelievers is only wasted.

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*Note:* To pray to those other than the one God is likened to asking water to reach you. The water cannot respond, because it has no control, it only flows according to laws of nature. Likewise, things which are worshipped other than God cannot respond. The prayer of the disbelievers is wasted when they address things or beings other than God. The Quran shows that when they pray to God, the prayer can be accepted.

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- 28** those who believe and whose hearts find rest in the remembrance of Allah. Now surely in Allah's remembrance do hearts find rest.

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*Note:* In our remembrance of Allah, within prayer as well as His remembrance outside of our prayers, our hearts should find rest and contentment. If not, then there is something lacking in our manner of remembrance.

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### Chapter 14

- 34** And He gives you of all that you ask of Him. And if you count Allah's favours, you will not be able to number them. Surely man is very unjust, very ungrateful.

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*Note:* Allah doesn't give us *all* but *out of all* that we ask of Him. In His wisdom and knowledge, Allah will *not* give us *all* we ask of Him; in that case, He would be like a push-button machine, and not a being with Whom we have a relationship. He would be a servant and not the master! But what He does give us is so much as to be uncountable.

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- 35** And when Abraham said: My Lord, make this city secure, and save me and my sons from worshipping idols.

- 36** My Lord, surely they have led many people astray. So whoever follows me, he is surely of me; and whoever disobeys me, You surely are Forgiving, Merciful.

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*Note:* The prayer of Abraham is in fact the prayer of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and illustrates the breadth of his view. Those who follow him are, of course, *his own*, but he does not reject even those who disobey him, for he prays for Allah's mercy and protection even for them.

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- 37** Our Lord, I have settled a part of my offspring in a valley unproductive of fruit near Your Sacred House, our Lord, that they may keep up prayer; so make the hearts of

some people yearn towards them, and provide them with fruits; perhaps they may be grateful.

- 38** Our Lord, surely You know what we hide and what we proclaim. And nothing is hidden from Allah, either in the earth or in the heaven.

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*Note:* Abraham had, under Divine command, settled his wife Hajira and son Ismail (Hagar and Ishmael of the Bible) near the ruins of the Ka'ba, that a nation may spring up there, isolated from the centres of civilization and religion in the world, among whom no prophet would arise till the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

When we lay the foundations of some good work, in pursuance of God's command, we may appear to be all alone and the prospects of progress seem hopeless. But Allah can make people's hearts attracted to that cause and make it renowned in the world.

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- 39** Praise be to Allah, Who has given me, in old age, Ishmael and Isaac! Surely my Lord is the Hearer of prayer.
- 40** My Lord, make me keep up prayer and (those) from my offspring (too), our Lord, and accept my prayer.
- 41** Our Lord, grant me protection and my parents and the believers on the day when the reckoning comes to pass.

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*Note:* Verses 40-41 are a prayer repeated by Muslims during the regular *salat*. It is for one's descendants and parents (including earlier generations), and then broadened to include all believers. In v. 39 Allah is described as the Hearer of prayer. This attribute is a fundamental one in the Islamic concept of God.

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