

(*Note: Wherever the word “you” or “your” is singular and refers to one human being, it is printed with an italic y, as in: you. Wherever such a word refers to God, the y is printed in capital, as in: You.*)

For Fast 15

Chapter 17

- 31 And do not kill your children for fear of poverty — We provide for them and for you. Surely the killing of them is a great wrong.

Note: Infanticide, in the case of daughters, was met with among the Arabs, but this was not for fear of poverty. Since the word children (aulād) includes both males and females, the killing of children here may mean not giving them proper education; ignorance, or intellectual death, being treated as death. (Abortion without a medical reason may also be included here.)

- 32 And do not go near to fornication: surely it is an obscenity. And evil is the way.

Note: The Quran not only forbids fornication but enjoins people not to go near it, thus avoiding all those opportunities which are likely to tempt one to fall into the evil. Hence it is that Islam discourages the too free intermingling of the sexes.

- 33 And do not kill the soul which Allah has forbidden except for a just cause. And whoever is killed unjustly, We have indeed given to his heir authority — but let him not exceed the limit in slaying. Surely he will be helped.

Note: The words he will be helped indicate that as the government is bound to help him by bringing the murderer within reach of the law, the heir should not take the law into his own hands. This is called exceeding the limits.

- 34 And do not draw near to the orphan’s property, except in the best way, till he attains his maturity. And fulfil the promise; surely, the promise will be enquired into.

- 35 And give full measure when you measure out, and weigh with a true balance. This is fair and better in the end.

- 36 And do not follow that of which you have no knowledge. Surely the hearing and the sight and the heart, all of these will be asked about it.

Note: If this injunction were followed, all society gossip would immediately cease, relieving many innocent people of *the* heart-burning which they suffer on account of evil and unfounded reports. The verse also forbids entering into discussions without accurate knowledge, or proffering uncertain opinion.

- 37 And do not go about in the land exultingly, for you cannot split the earth, nor reach the mountains in height.
- 38 All this, the evil of it, is hateful in the sight of your Lord.
- 39 This is from the wisdom which your Lord has revealed to you. And do not set up with Allah any other god in case you are thrown into hell, blamed, cast away.