

(*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 25

Chapter 42

- 10 And in whatever you differ, its judgment is with Allah. That is Allah, my Lord; on Him I rely, and to Him I turn.
- 11 The Originator of the heavens and the earth. He has made for you pairs from among yourselves, and pairs of the cattle, too, multiplying you thereby. Nothing is like Him; and He is the Hearing, the Seeing.

Note: So transcendent is the Divine Being, and so far above all material conceptions, that a likeness of Him cannot be conceived, even metaphorically. The words translated as like Him literally mean like a likeness of Him. He is not only above all material limitations, but even above the limitation of metaphor.

- 12 His are the treasures of the heavens and the earth — He amplifies provision for whom He pleases, and restricts (it also). Surely He is Knower of all things.
- 13 He has made plain to you the religion which He enjoined upon Noah and which We have revealed to you, and which We enjoined on Abraham and Moses and Jesus — to establish religion and not to be divided in it. Hard it is for those who set up partners (with Allah), what you invite them to. Allah chooses for Himself whom He pleases, and guides to Himself him who turns (to Him).

Note: Even so early did the Quran announce that the religion preached by the Prophet was not a new religion, but, so far as its basic principles were concerned, it was the same religion as was preached by Noah and Abraham and Moses and Jesus. The basic principle of Islam — entire submission to One God only — is, in fact, the basic principle of the common religion of humanity.

- 14 And they were not divided until after knowledge had come to them, out of envy among themselves. And if a word had not gone forth from your Lord for an appointed term, judgment would surely have been given between them. And those who were made to inherit the Book after them are surely in disquieting doubt about it.

Note: The pronoun *them* in *those who were made to inherit the Book after them* refers to the prophets. The people who were made to inherit the Book after the prophets, rejected the very message with which these prophets came. But they are told that their punishment is postponed till an appointed term. Such was the Divine law — *a word gone forth from your Lord* — that the struggle against Truth gathers strength at first and seems to have the upper hand for a time, but it ultimately comes to naught, thus showing that an unseen hand works in support of the Truth.

- 15 To this then go on inviting, and be steadfast as you are commanded, and do not follow their low desires, and say: I believe in what Allah has revealed of the Book, and I am commanded to do justice between you. Allah is our Lord and your Lord. For us are our deeds; and for you your deeds. There is no contention between us and you. Allah will gather us together, and to Him is the eventual coming.

Notes: 1. Those who preach should be steadfast in sticking to the truth and not try to gain people's favour by following their low desires, i.e. pandering to their prejudices or encouraging them in their wrong customs as many *ulama* do.

2. Doing justice between people of different religions on the basis of revealed principles is commanded here. Hence judging others by our emotions and prejudices is forbidden. (Declaring bone fide Muslims as non-Muslims is a clear violation of this command.)

3. Allah is the Lord of all believers in God. Those Muslims are plainly wrong who object to non-Muslims using the word 'Allah' for God. The Malaysian government has prohibited non-Muslim publications from using the word Allah for God. (*Read news story on next page.*)

4. We will be judged according to our deeds, and others by their deeds. It is deeds which matter.

5. The Prophet told the followers of earlier revelation that he was a believer *in what Allah had revealed of the Book*, in all revelation that came before him, and the basic principles of his revelation were the same as those of the earlier revelation. The whole thing was so clear that there could not be any dispute. There is a clear ray of hope in the concluding verses — *Allah will gather us* — that they will ultimately accept the Truth.

From the *Malaysian Sun* at the link:

<http://story.malaysiasun.com/index.php/ct/9/cid/48cba686fe041718/id/314980/cs/1/>

Malaysia says Herald not allowed to use 'Allah' in its publications

Malaysia Sun

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(ANI)

Putrajaya, Jan 4 : Malaysia's Cabinet has decided that weekly publication, The Herald, is not allowed to use the word "Allah" in its publications.

The restrictions on the use of the word "Allah" was still enforceable and shall be upheld as decided by the Cabinet in two of its meetings - on October 18 and November 1, 2006, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Abdullah Mohd Zin said.

Abdullah said that the Prime Minister had instructed him to clarify the matter so that the public would not be confused.

"One of the reasons given to uphold the restriction is because that it has long been the practice of this country that the word Allah refers to God according to the Muslim faith," he said.

It was only proper for other religions to use the word "God" and not "Allah" when referring to their God in respective beliefs, Abdullah said.

The use of the word "Allah" shall not be made a public debate that may give the impression as if there is no freedom of religion in the country, he added.

The use of the word 'Allah' by non-Muslims may arouse sensitivity and create confusion among Muslims in the country," he said.

On December 31, the publication's editor Father Lawrence Andrew said the weekly was allowed to continue printing its Bahasa Malaysia section with no restriction on the use of the word "Allah" for God.

He said a representative from the Internal Security Ministry delivered a letter dated December 28 with the permit to print the newspaper and that according to him, the letter did not place any restrictions whatsoever.

The newspaper carries reports in English, Bahasa Malaysia, Tamil and Chinese, about the Catholic community. It has a circulation of 12,000.

The ministry had earlier issued directives to the publisher to cease the use of the word "Allah" in the weekly, failing which its permit would either be suspended or revoked.