




NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

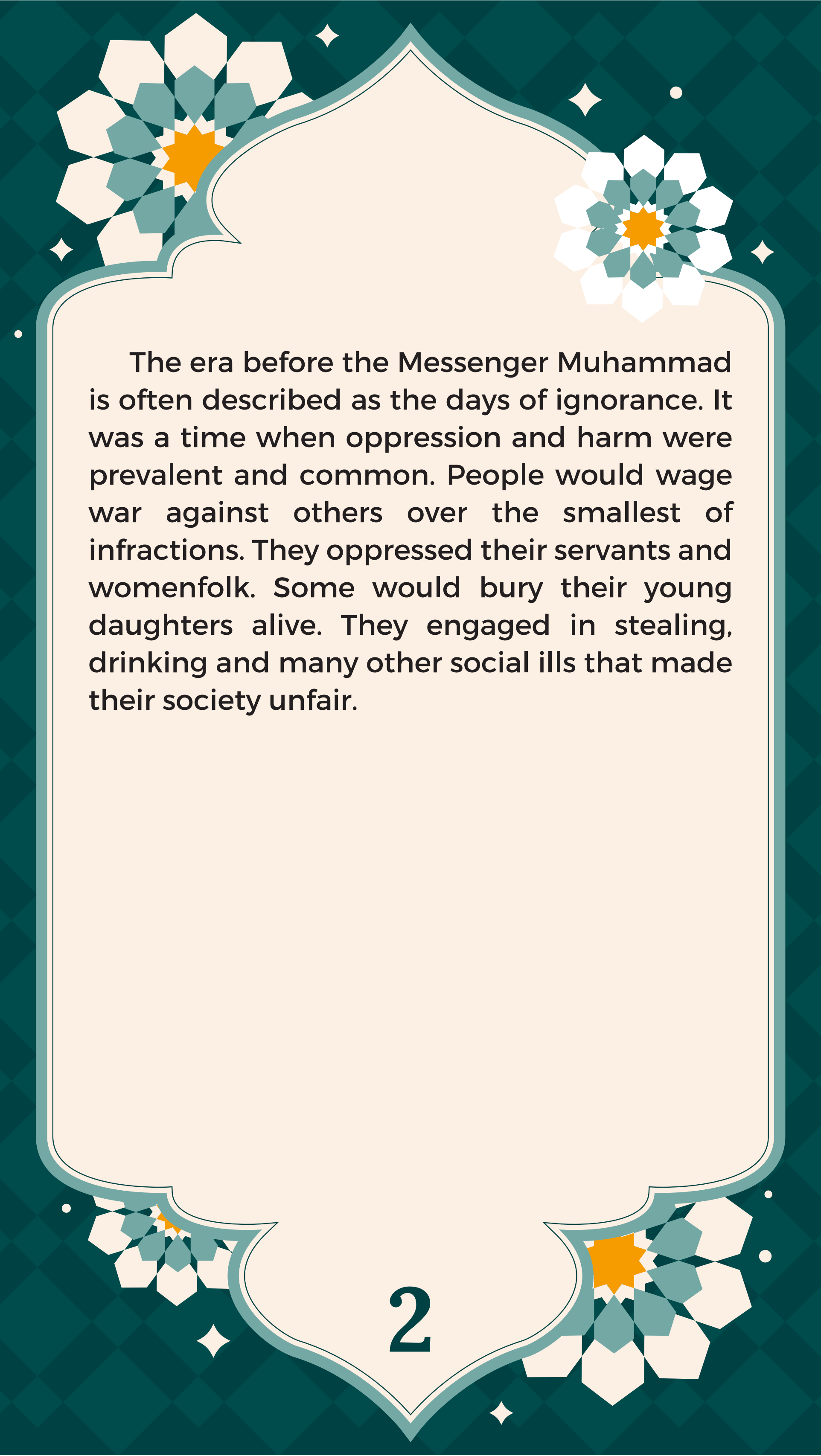
Ethical Teachings of the Quran






The Quran is the word of God. As such, it contains all that is good and righteous. It calls to good ethics and morals. God says, “God invites to the Abode of Protection, Paradise, and guides whoever He wills to a straight path.” [10:25] Islam and its teachings found in the Quran and the words of the Messenger Muhammad only call to goodness, and warn against evil and harm.

It is for this reason that Islam does not only call to issues of private belief and worship, but also to the reformation of one’s character and the reform of society at large. Islam has commandments that deal with family and community issues, and instructs the behaviour of Muslims at all times and in all situations. The Messenger Muhammad embodied this during his ministry and thereby, became a role model for all his

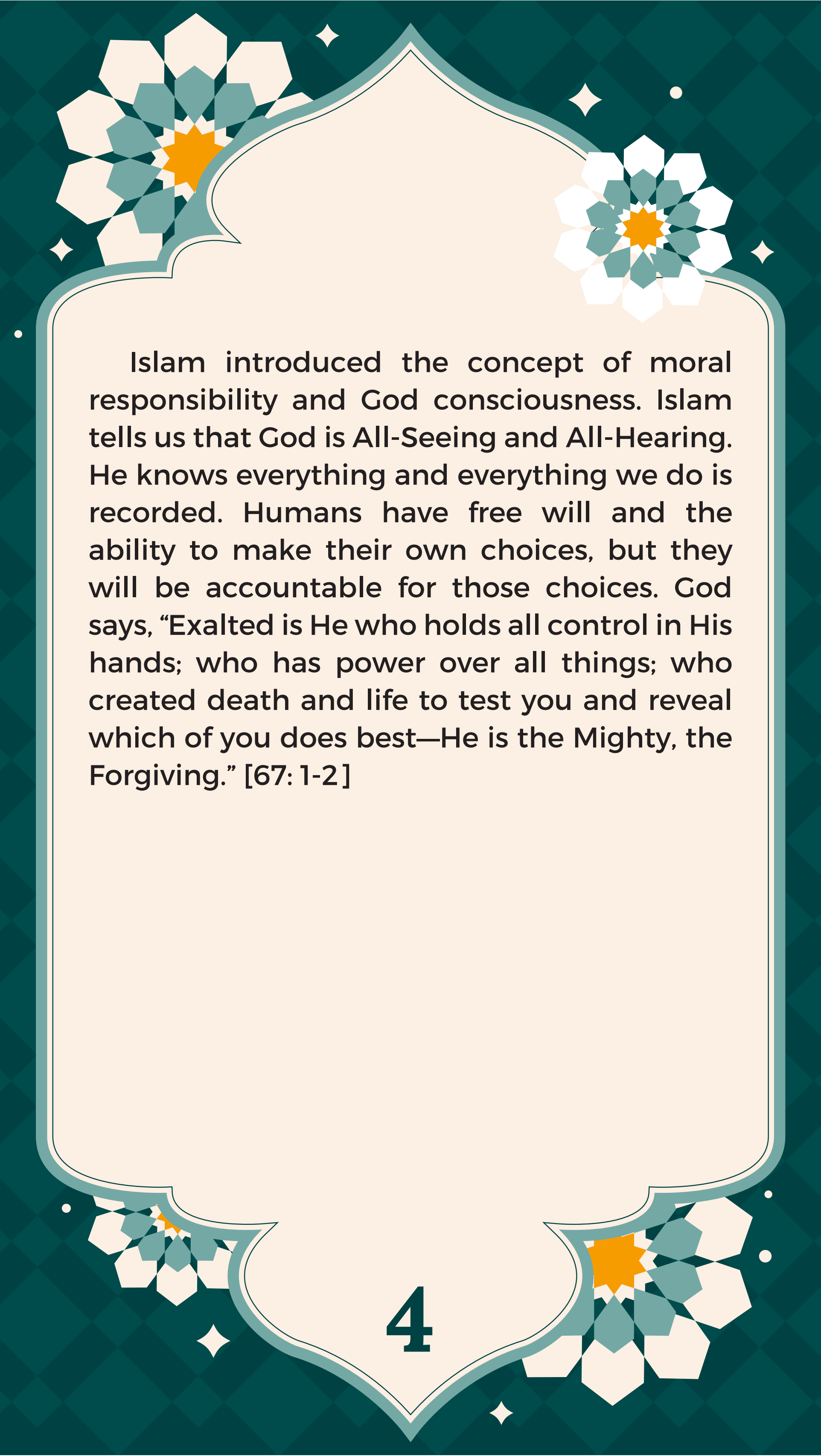


The era before the Messenger Muhammad is often described as the days of ignorance. It was a time when oppression and harm were prevalent and common. People would wage war against others over the smallest of infractions. They oppressed their servants and womenfolk. Some would bury their young daughters alive. They engaged in stealing, drinking and many other social ills that made their society unfair.

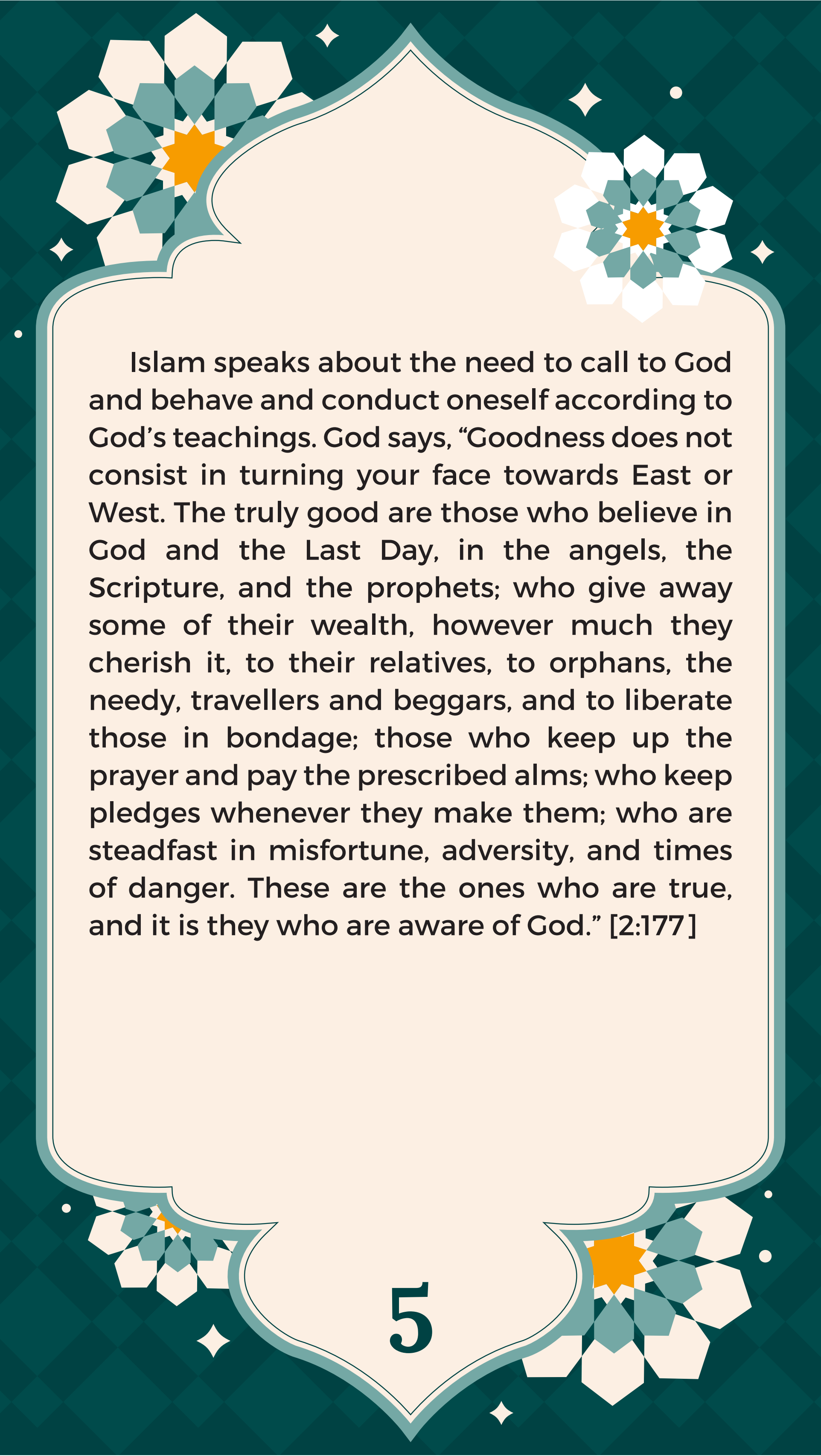


Islam brought morality and good ethics to them. It instructed them to honour and respect others, be fair with those who were entrusted into their care, give people their due rights. It told them not to cheat, harm or steal. All of this was under the banner of worshipping God alone and living according to His divine commands. It introduced concepts of service to others, kindness and mercy, justice and benevolence.

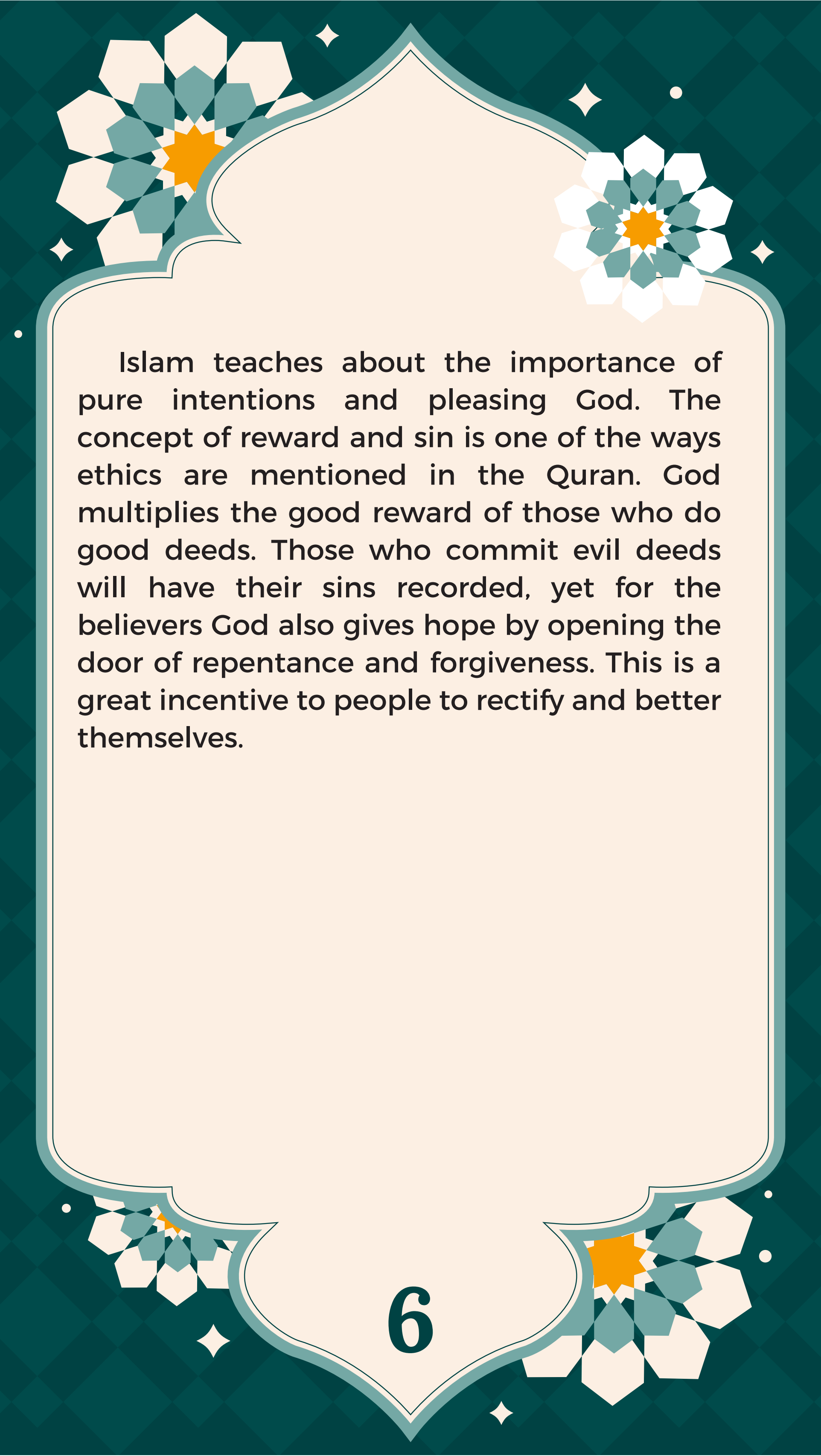
It also taught them the importance of worshipping God alone, and as such, they would need to live according to God's commands, and not according to their own whims and desires, or the greed of others and their ambitions. It spoke about the afterlife, and how all will stand before God to be judged by Him. Thus, there would be no escaping God's ultimate judgement. It spoke about the ultimate reward of Paradise and




Islam introduced the concept of moral responsibility and God consciousness. Islam tells us that God is All-Seeing and All-Hearing. He knows everything and everything we do is recorded. Humans have free will and the ability to make their own choices, but they will be accountable for those choices. God says, “Exalted is He who holds all control in His hands; who has power over all things; who created death and life to test you and reveal which of you does best—He is the Mighty, the Forgiving.” [67: 1-2]



Islam speaks about the need to call to God and behave and conduct oneself according to God's teachings. God says, "Goodness does not consist in turning your face towards East or West. The truly good are those who believe in God and the Last Day, in the angels, the Scripture, and the prophets; who give away some of their wealth, however much they cherish it, to their relatives, to orphans, the needy, travellers and beggars, and to liberate those in bondage; those who keep up the prayer and pay the prescribed alms; who keep pledges whenever they make them; who are steadfast in misfortune, adversity, and times of danger. These are the ones who are true, and it is they who are aware of God." [2:177]

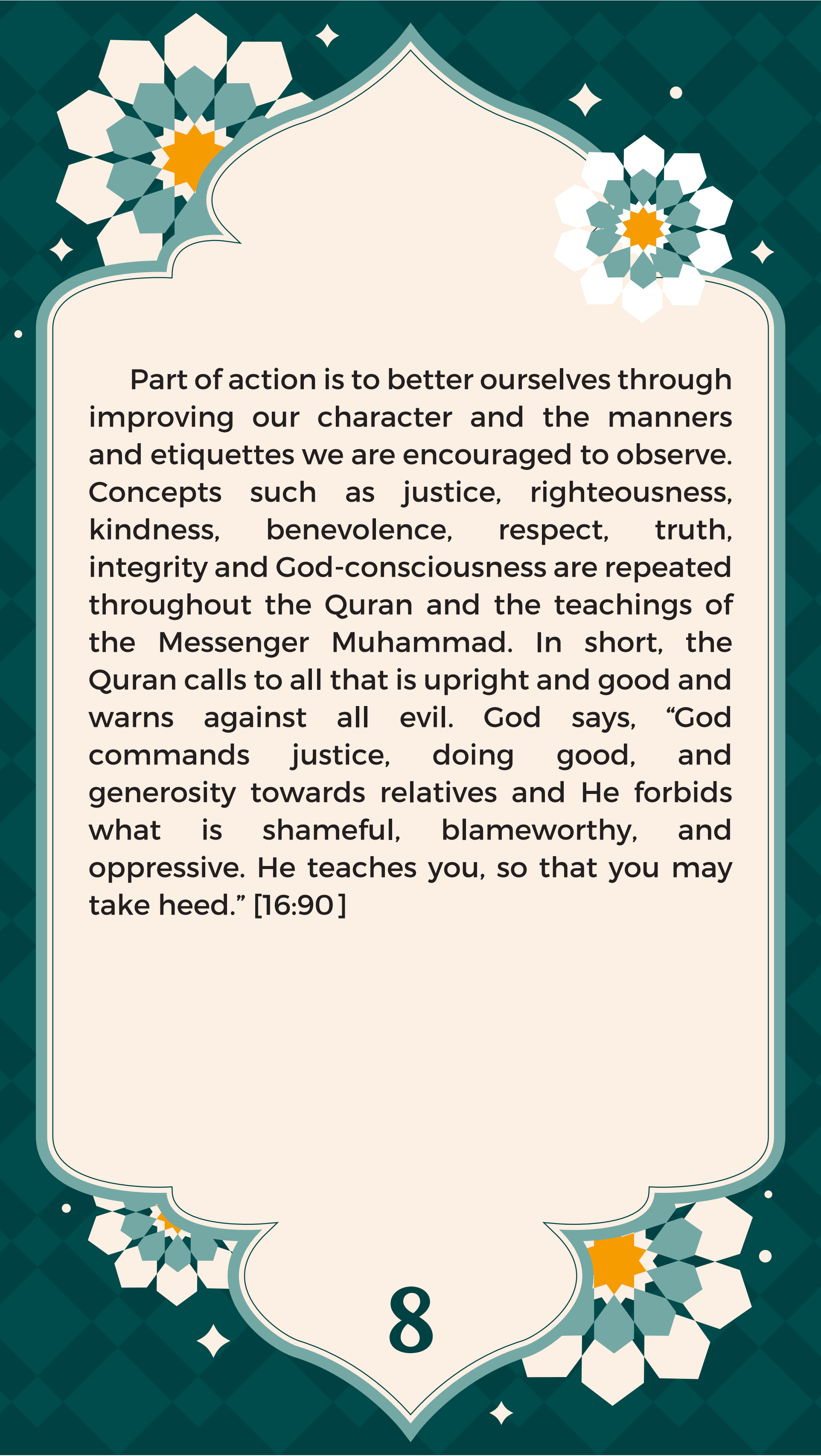


Islam teaches about the importance of pure intentions and pleasing God. The concept of reward and sin is one of the ways ethics are mentioned in the Quran. God multiplies the good reward of those who do good deeds. Those who commit evil deeds will have their sins recorded, yet for the believers God also gives hope by opening the door of repentance and forgiveness. This is a great incentive to people to rectify and better themselves.



God calls upon us in the Quran to be people of justice and kindness, to be good to others and treat them as we would want to be treated by others. God says, “You who believe, be steadfast in your devotion to God and bear witness impartially: do not let hatred of others lead you away from justice, but adhere to justice, for that is closer to awareness of God. Be mindful of God: God is well aware of all that you do.” [5:8]

Much of the ethics of the Quran are encouraged in two ways; knowledge and action. We are encouraged and motivated to learn and study the Quran and the teachings of the Messenger Muhammad. Through knowledge, we know what God wants and what is pleasing to Him, and then what is also displeasing to Him. We are then told to act upon that knowledge. God enjoins upon us commands that are obligations and other commands that are prohibitions.



Part of action is to better ourselves through improving our character and the manners and etiquettes we are encouraged to observe. Concepts such as justice, righteousness, kindness, benevolence, respect, truth, integrity and God-consciousness are repeated throughout the Quran and the teachings of the Messenger Muhammad. In short, the Quran calls to all that is upright and good and warns against all evil. God says, “God commands justice, doing good, and generosity towards relatives and He forbids what is shameful, blameworthy, and oppressive. He teaches you, so that you may take heed.” [16:90]

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