

EXAMINING ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVES IN MEDICAL IMAGING LITERATURE: A Study Involving Scopus Indexed Journals

*Assistant Professor Zainul Ibrahim bin Zainuddin
and*

Sr. Halimatussa'diah binti Ahmad Radzi

*Kulliyyah of Allied Health Sciences,
International Islamic University Malaysia*

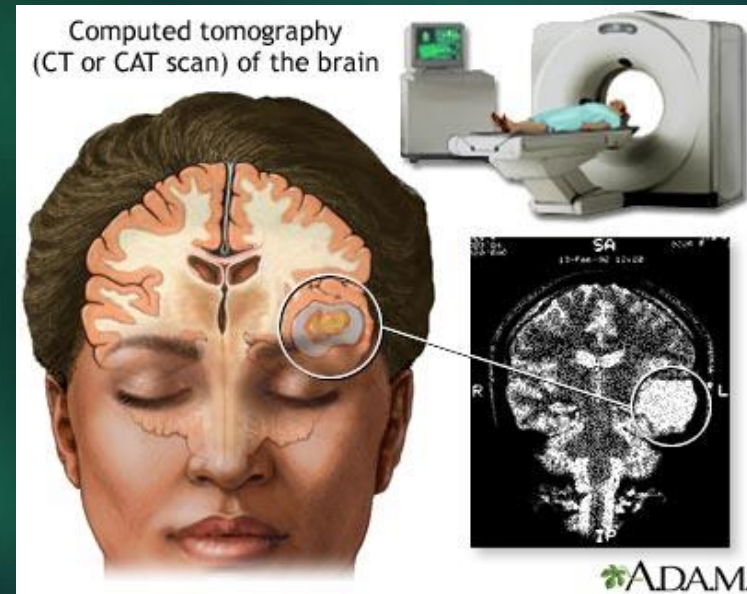
*1ST WORLD CONGRESS ON INTEGRATION AND ISLAMICISATION OF ACQUIRED HUMAN
KNOWLEDGE (FWCII-2013)*

"CONSTRUCTING THE ALTERNATIVE PARADIGM OF TAWHID"

Dates: 23 (Friday) – 25 (Sunday) August 2013

Introduction: The 3 fundamentals

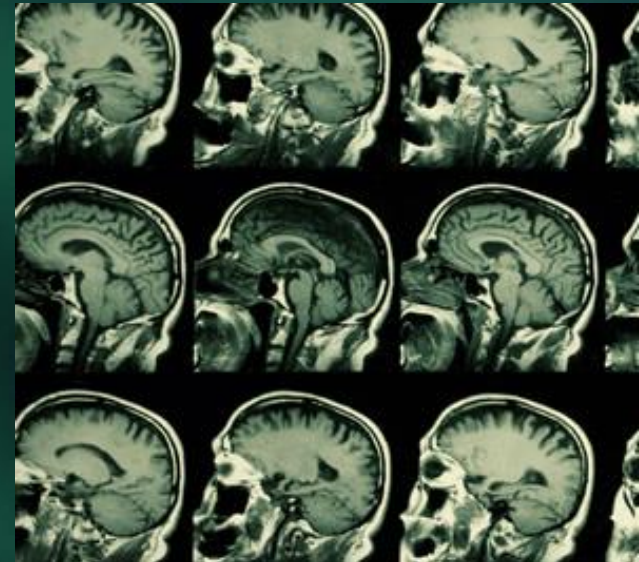
- 1. The honour of being the Vicegerents on Earth*
- 2. The blessings with the intellect ('Aql)*
- 3. The obligation to remind and call others to Islam.*



- The obligation upon every Muslim individual to convey the teachings of Islam.

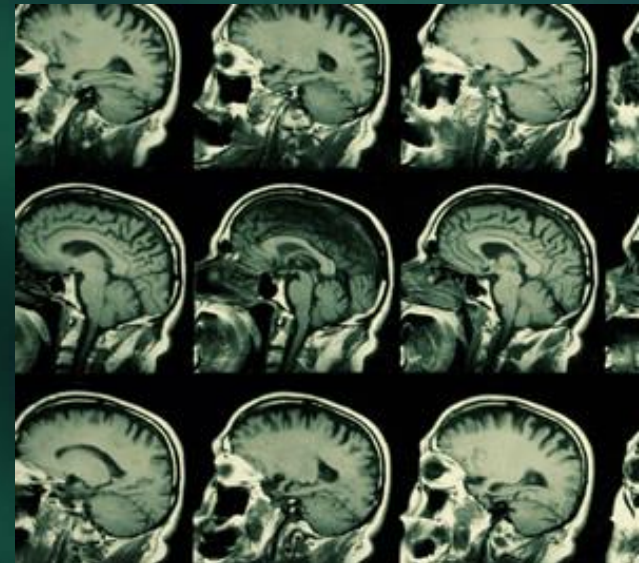
- Holy Qur'an Chapter 13 Ar-Rad 40

“Whether We show you part of what We have promised them or cause you to die, *your duty is only to convey (the Message)* and on Us is the reckoning.”



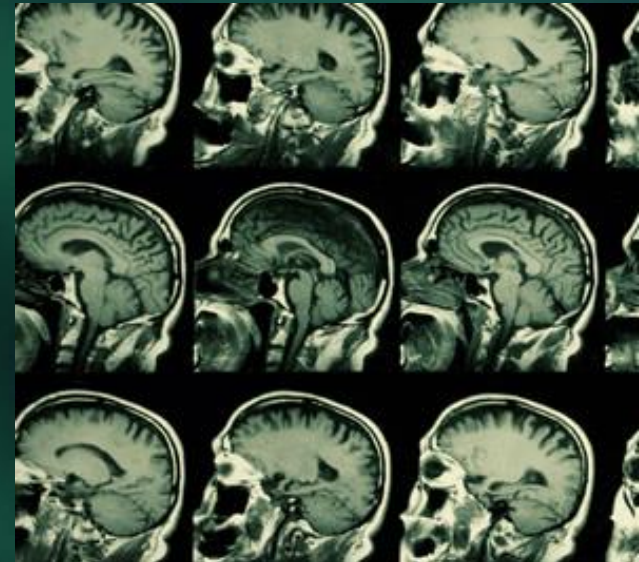
- Holy Qur'an Chapter 16
An-Nahl 125

“Invite (all) to the Way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for thy Lord knoweth best, who have strayed from His Path, and who receive guidance.”



- Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

'Abdullah bin 'Amr bin Al-'As (May Allah be pleased with them) reported: The Prophet (PBUH) said, *"Convey from me even an Ayah of the Qur'an;* relate traditions from Banu Israel, and there is no restriction on that; but he who deliberately forges a lie against me let him have his abode in the Hell."



● Scientific Writing

- ❖ Common media used in disseminating information that can either be philosophical, conceptual, and factual including those that are empirically derived from research undertakings.
- ❖ *Recognize the opportunities to use the above platform in influencing, modifying or changing beliefs, values and practices.*
- ❖ *“An effective tool to introduce, promote and propagate the teachings of Islam to yet to be Muslims.”*
- ❖ *“A good platform to correct the misconceptions that others have concerning Islam especially Post 9-11”*

- Use of databases such as SCOPUS

- ❖ accessibility

- ❖ user friendliness

- ❖ reliability

- ❖ Readership

- ❖ *recognize the “latent” advantage within this multi-disciplinary database.*



BEFORE

AFTER

http://ultrasoundcarespecialist.com/images/anib_3d4d_photo.jpg

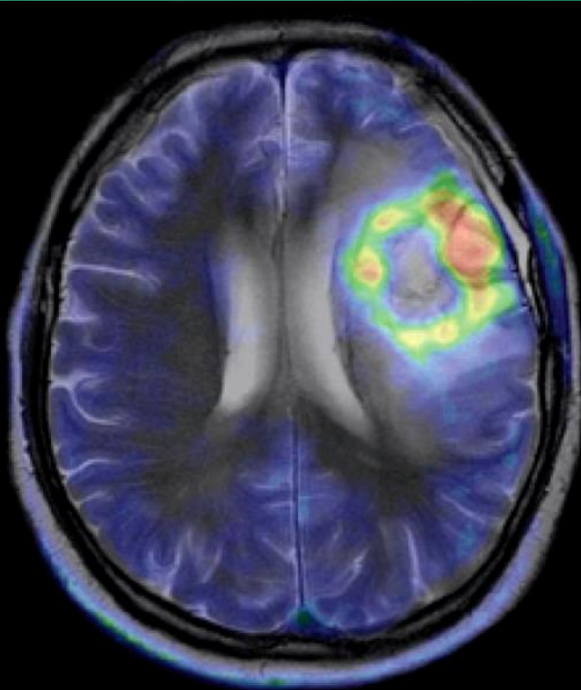
Objectives of the study

- To examine the level of Islamic perspectives that are evident in journals indexed in SCOPUS under Medical Imaging (Radiography).
- To identify the subthemes that are associated with those journal articles that projects Islamic perspectives.
- To discuss the findings and its impact on the obligation of projecting or promoting Islam to the professionals and others.



To answer:

- How well has Medical Imaging professionals addressed the above obligations and opportunities in order to preserve the Vicegerency that Allah has bestowed upon them?
- Have we done enough in order to promote and propagate the Islamic principles and objectives to those within and outside our professions?"



http://www3.gehealthcare.com/en/Products/Categories/PET-CT/PET_CT_and_MR_Trimodality_Imaging

Literature review

- Laird, de Marrais, and Barnes (2007) reported
 - that between 1966-2006 , 2342 articles in Medline has either the keywords “Islam”, “Muslim”, “Muslims”, “Moslem” in their title or abstract.
 - showed an increasing trend with the years.
 - keywords in either the title or abstract- this could ensure more significant “hits” compared to keywords in text which will be displayed further down the “hits” menu

- 99 % of readers will read only the title and abstract of the article (and most people will only read the title). These are therefore the most important parts to get right - Tropical Biology Association (2007)
- Vidmar (2012) suggested that failure to find relevant materials after the first 20 to 50 sites would indicate another search strategy to be adopted

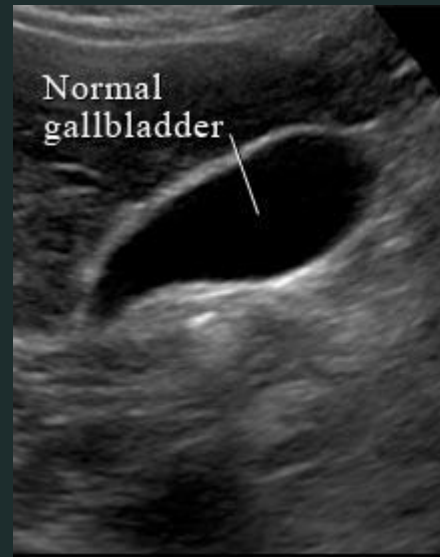


Figure 1



Figure 2

Methodology

- The study was carried out from 1st March 2013 until 18th March 2013.
- Journals with any of these words; “Radiography”, “Radiology”, “Radiation”, “X-ray”, “Medical Imaging”, “Imaging”, “Neuroimaging”, “Ultrasound”, “Magnetic Resonance Imaging” and “Nuclear Medicine” were included in the study.
- 11 Keywords that included “Islam”, “Islamic”, “Tawhid”, “Tawhidic”, “Muslim”, “Moslem”, “Quranic”, “Koran”, “Islamic Worldview”, “Islamic Perspective” and “Islamic Perspectives” were identified as keywords associated to Islam.

- Articles with those keywords either in the “title” or “abstract” or “article keywords” were included in the study.
- Those articles were then examined in terms of their sub-themes.
- “Instruction to authors” or equivalent in those journals were also examined to look out for specific indications concerning acceptability of articles than contains religious perspectives.

Results - Summary

	Study by Laird, de Marrais and Barnes. (2007) (Medline)	Present study (2013) (SCOPUS)
Fields / Scope	All fields of Medicine	Medical Imaging only
Articles dated	Limited to those indexed from 1966 to August 2005	All as far back to 1823
Keywords	Islam", "Muslim", "Muslims", "Moslem" (4 keywords)	11 keywords
Presence of keywords	Title or abstract	Title or abstract or article keywords
Number of articles with Islamic themes / perspectives	2342 (out of the total number of citations stood at 13,476,222 (2005))	6 (out of 341,000)
Themes covered by the Islamic perspectives	Five Pillars of Islam, Other religious practices, laws and ethics, history of medicine, public health etc	<u>Muslims as subjects of the study.</u>

Islamic Keyword	Notes
Islam	No abstract available
Muslim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Muslim women as part of the subjects for the study. - Muslim Chinese as subjects for the study - Involves a Muslim as subject for the case report. - Involves a Muslim as subject for the case report.
Moslem	Involves an Arabic - Moslem as subject for the case report.

Articles that contain the word “Islam” that depict the name of a country are excluded from data.

There are journals that publish articles with Islamic keywords in the title or abstract.

Discussion

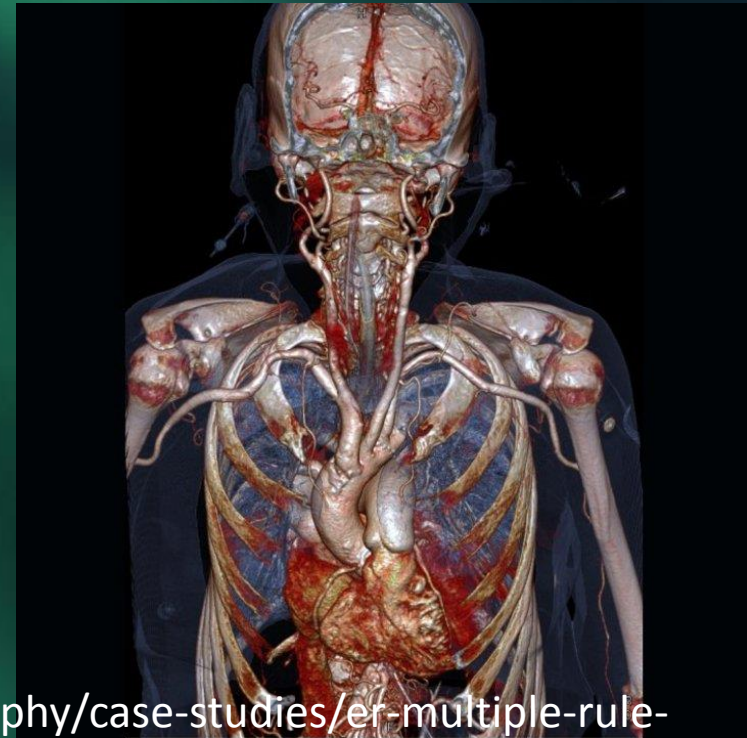
- Let's reaffirm that Islam as a way of life

The role of a Muslim in his daily activities:-

- To preserve the Vicegerency as bestowed upon Muslims by Allah
- To undertake efforts to promote and enhance Islamic worldview / objectives and principles
- The use of Islamic references : Qur'an and Sunnah (Hadith) as guidance
- To portray the Muslim Human Character in the professional.

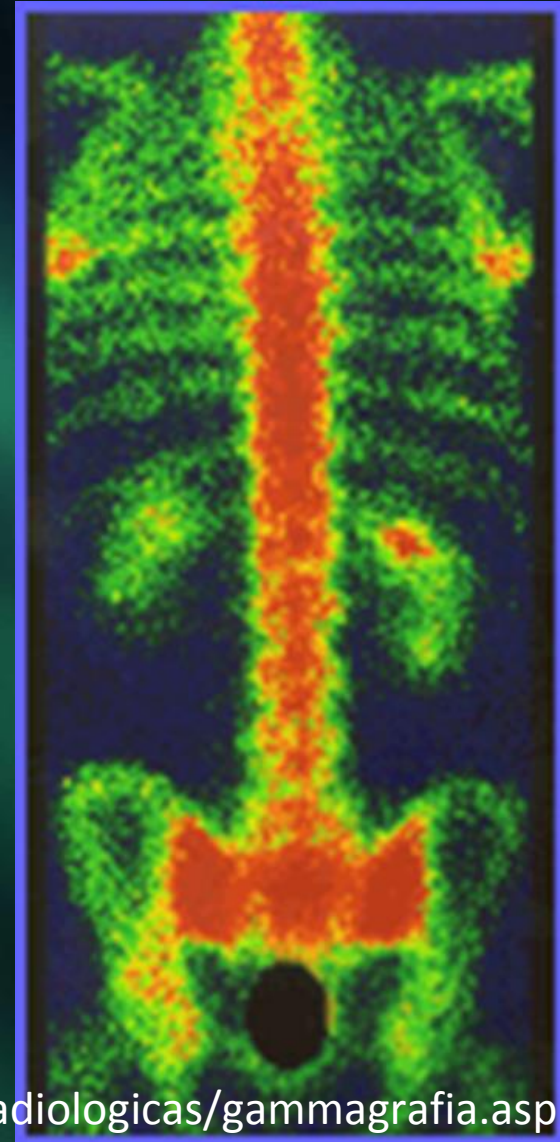
The presented reality:

- The number of articles with prominent Islamic perspectives is low: 6 out of 341,000.
- The use of keywords to represent Islam or Muslims as subjects of the articles or merely as sites of data collection.
 - does not depict the true essence of the religion
 - does not reflect the true characteristics of the Muslim Human character.

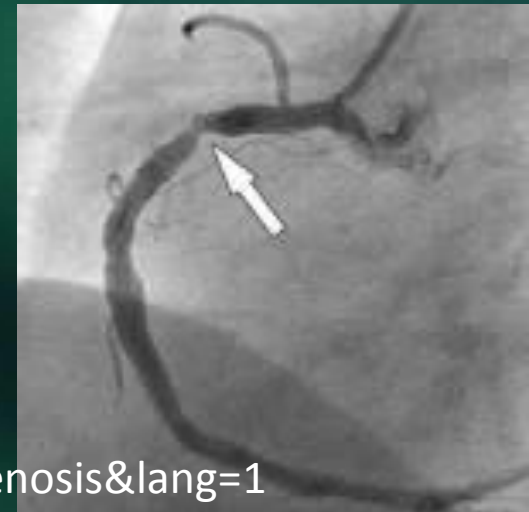


Possible obstacles:

- Muslim Scholars themselves not comfortable to relate / discuss their writings to Islamic perspectives - not having the necessary religious background/ support/ knowledge to integrate Islamic perspectives.
- How to present the Islamic inputs in terms of effectiveness in acceptance and able to inform, influence, incite change etc
- *Solution: Learn / collaborate with others*



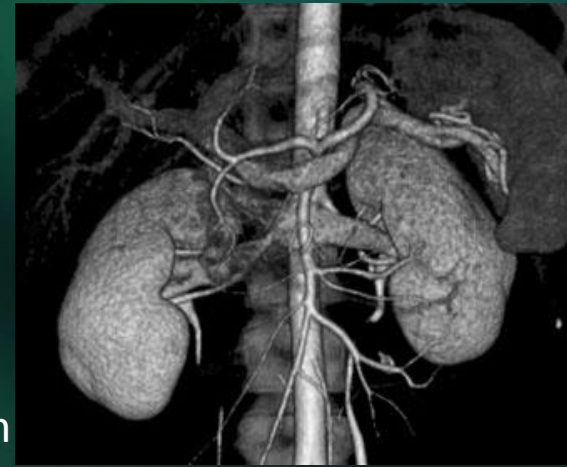
- Could there be a “latent” effort to prevent Islamic perspectives to be incorporated in materials to be published?
 - Hardly, any of these journals indicate reservation to publish materials containing religious perspectives.
 - It can be inferred that the editors have the prerogative whether to approve any article for publication.



- To be fair:
 - There exist “sympathetic” or “friendly” journals that publish articles with Islamic keywords in the title or abstract.

Implications on the individual Muslim Medical Imaging Practitioner

- Recognise and accept the given reality.
- Don't prolong the problem. Look for the solution.
- Conduct self-examination (Muhasabah) to inculcate self – realisation towards our role in using our Allah-given intellect to propagate knowledge to others, specifically those related to religion.
- Turn the dismal results into an advantage; in terms of improvements and opportunities ahead.

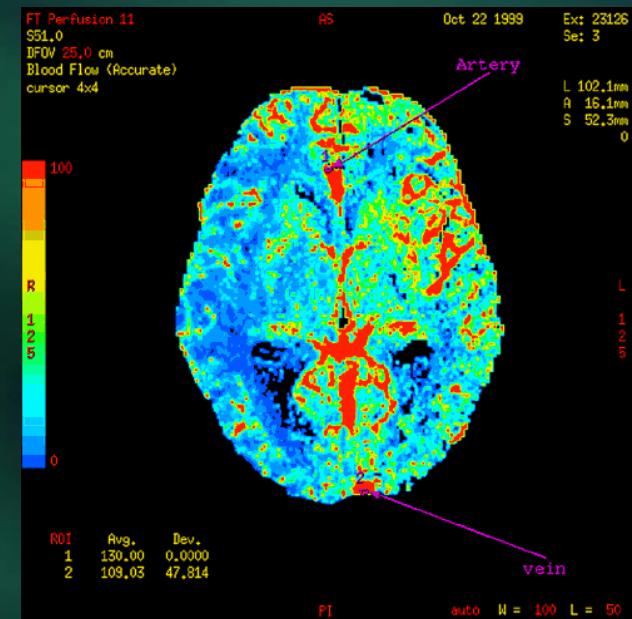


- Acknowledge one's limitation in integrating Islamic perspectives:
 - learn and collaborate
- Be more aggressive and proactive to overcome this shortage, making the necessary paradigm shift in our way of disseminating knowledge, or reporting of research findings
- The need to identify, plan, implement and sustain possible initiatives to address the current void of Islamic perspectives in the articles thus has to be made.



To publish literature that is devoid of Islamic Perspectives?

- Efforts by journals to deter or discourage integration of religious aspects in articles, under the pretext of academia can be concluded as another secularization approach.
- Self - conflict between having the benefits of being published (recognition, promotion etc.) and the commitment to present articles integrated with Islamic perspectives.



Question to ask oneself : A moment to contemplate....

- Will it still be worthwhile to publish something that is devoid of Islamic Perspectives?
- Or have we fallen into the abyss of segregating ourselves from religious obligations?



Recognition, fame, promotion and
material gains

against

the virtues of a Vicegerent and the
calling and reminding others to the
religion.

What would be our choice?

Challenge the status Quo:

- Imbue the articles with Islamic perspectives and sent it to the journals.
- Use the approach by the Prophet who wrote to Head of States, not knowing how they will receive the letters.



Detection of polyp candidates

<http://medicineworld.org/cancer/colon/blog/permalinks/Oct-2005/cost-effectiveness-of--ct-colonography.html>

Implication on the Muslim Medical Imaging fraternity

- Collaborative efforts towards effective integration of Islamic perspectives need to be initiated.
- Identify “friendly” or “sympathizing” journals.
- Encourage those who have published elsewhere to imbue Islamic Perspectives in those articles to be published in the above journals.
- Organising more avenues to promote, present, discuss and consolidate initiatives towards integration.

Where do we go from here?

General considerations.

- Based on the results for Medical Imaging, critical examination of current status in one's own area of specialisation is hereby proposed.
- Enhancing self commitment towards fulfilling the Islamisation / Islamicisation of Knowledge agenda.
- Realise the Glory of Islamic Education Centers of Baghdad, Cardova and Damascus needs to be revived.

Characteristics of the database / repository

- Setting up of a dedicated database / repository to cater for articles with Islamic perspectives
- Creation of a “Virtual” Focal point of Islamic Education
- a major database for Muslim articles / Islamic Scientific writings.
- One-stop Centre, reducing the need to search a variety of journals.
- impact factor of the Islamic perspectives.
- Setting up of a secretariat

- Need to champion this concept among OIC Countries where relatively the number of Muslim Practitioners are increasing.
- Can delegate / distribute responsibilities between the countries, each concentrating on one area of specialisation but contributing to a single database
- promote Open Access as opposed to subscription requirements in the true spirit of knowledge for Islam promotes knowledge and not limit its accessibility.

Conclusion

- Appreciating scientific writing in its dual role in contributing in human sciences as well as propagating the objectives and principles of Islam, enhancing Islamic values and other Islamic perspectives.
- Current results calls for efforts should be intensified towards identifying avenues where the above can be easily accessible by the masses.
- The need to enhance and conceptualise efforts to promote Islamic perspectives more prominently in future scientific writing.
- Ensure that wider coverage of profession (major and minor areas) should be addressed from Islamic viewpoints to provide a better understanding of Islam and its followers.

Departing reminder:

- In Surah Ar-Rad: Verse 11, Allah declares “For each (such person) there are (angels) in succession, before and behind him: They guard him by command of Allah. **Allah does not change a people's lot unless they change what is in their hearts.** But when (once) Allah willeth a people's punishment, there can be no turning it back, nor will they find, besides Him, any to protect.”

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