

# The Self in the Noble Quran

In last week’s article, we discussed human identities, emphasizing the various components that interact to manifest one’s identity to others.

We mentioned the soul, stating that it is one of the secrets of God, the Almighty, and that we shall never be able to fully comprehend its nature. Despite our understanding that it constitutes the breath of life within us, we remain uncertain about its essence and functionality. Additionally, we touched upon the mind and the heart. In today’s article, we shall delve deeper into the concept of the Self (one’s own self). We’ve acknowledged that the Self drives our virtuous and vicious desires. Let’s now examine the different types of the Self and how to distinguish whether a desire originates from the Self or from the devil, who perpetually entices sin.

The Self, as portrayed in the Quran, is known to us; it is what drives our actions and sets our goals, yet it can exist in one of three states.

The first of these states is the “Enjoiner of Evil” (the commanding

Self with evil or vicious acts).

This Self predominantly urges towards evil rather than good deeds. It only cares about satisfying one’s desires, disregarding the commands of the Creator who bestowed the power to act and the freedom to choose upon it. It exerts control over nearly all aspects of the body to pursue pleasure and worldly goals, incessantly pursuing the gratification of sensual desires and harboring resentment and envy towards others without cause. It experiences sadness at the success of others and revels in sinful acts. This Self is deeply entrenched in physical pleasures, dictating actions and dominating the individual. If one’s Self aligns with this type, it indicates that one, as a human being, will be subject to subjugation, obedience, and adherence to one’s Self’s commands.

A telltale sign of this Self is the willingness to sin without remorse or restraint. The Noble Quran says, “And I do not acquit myself. Indeed, the Self is a persistent enjoiner of evil,



Guest Column

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except those upon which my Lord has mercy. Indeed, my Lord is Forgiving and Merciful.” (Quran 12:53)

Identifying the “Enjoiner of Evil” within oneself involves observing if the internal command can be persuaded to find pleasure in something else. If the Self persistently commands the same sinful act without consideration for alternatives, it confirms its nature.

Those who resist the call of their Self to sin for the sake of God, the Almighty, experience a profound sense of healing, satisfaction, and reward. One must remember that the devil wants us, humans, the sons and daughters of Adam, in a perpetual state of sin, that is, to be in a constant state of disobeying God, the Almighty, while the Self will keep urging for that particular act.

This tells us if the desire comes from within us or from the devil.

The second type of “the Self” is the reproaching Self (self-blaming). This Self sometimes leads one to sin but subsequently reproaches itself, leaving a feeling of remorse and guilt. This guilt is expected to intensify until the individual forsakes those sins due to the feeling of overwhelming guilt. The Self may commit the same sin again because we may not be able to stop ourselves from this particular sin, but, with an alert conscience, one experiences remorse, repents, seeks expiation, and resolves not to repeat the transgression. As stated in the Quran: “I swear by the Day of Resurrection, and I swear by the reproaching Self.” (Quran 75:1-2)

This Self is prevalent among most individuals. It acknowledges that Allah, the Almighty, is displeased by sin and acknowledges the struggle to exert full control over its desires, which may lead to repeated cycles of sin and repentance. However, with perseverance, one can gain control over

one’s Self again.

The final state is the Peaceful Self (The Reassured Self), which remains tranquil within itself and with others. It comprehends its purpose and duty, acknowledging the limited duration of its earthly journey and the eventual accountability for its actions in the afterlife. As stated in the Quran: “O reassured Self, return to your Lord, well-pleased and pleasing [to Him]. Join my [virtuous] slaves. And enter my paradise.” (Quran 89:27-30). What an assurance from the great Lord, the Almighty.

Additionally, Allah reminds us in the Quran: “Did you think that We had created you in play (without purpose) and that you would not be brought back to Us?” (Quran 23:115).

This righteous Self is always at peace with itself and with its surroundings. It is the Self that prevents one from committing sins, reminding one that he is being watched by God the Almighty, and knows that the more good deeds it does, the more it will be rewarded, in this life

and the afterlife. It is peaceful because it maintains its connection with its creator. It has this unseen rope with the Almighty through which it is bestowed with the assurance and rewards of the Almighty. It has reached a state of serenity.

With these three states of one’s Self, it is clear that we, as humans, have the choice to decide which one of them we want to take control of our identity shown to the world and our behavior. The concept of being judged later based on our choices and deeds becomes logical. It makes sense to be accountable for our sins (typically wrong deeds against others or even against ourselves) or to be rewarded for adhering to the set of rules that were imparted to us by the Creator.

NEXT: – Celebrating International Women’s Day, our next article will be about Women’s Status in Islam.

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For more information, please visit: [www.icstillwater.org/islam/](http://www.icstillwater.org/islam/)

## Pope had diagnostic tests in Rome hospital after weekly audience

By Paolo Santalucia  
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis, who recently had the flu, was brought to a hospital in Rome for diagnostic testing after the papal audience Wednesday, the Vatican said, without giving further details.

The pope arrived at the Gemelli Hospital on Tiber Island in a small white Fiat 500, leaving again under escort in the same car after a short visit.

Earlier in the day, the 87-year-

old pope was pushed in a wheelchair into the audience hall at the Vatican, appearing weary as he dropped heavily into his seat. In recent weeks he has walked the short distance to his chair, but he has been struggling with mild flu symptoms the past week.

The pope also canceled appointments Saturday and Monday due to the flu, but appeared as usual for the Sunday blessing from a window overlooking St. Peter’s Square.

Last week, Francis coughed

repeatedly as he presided over Ash Wednesday services at a Roman church, and opted not to participate in the traditional procession that inaugurates the church’s Lenten season.

This time of year in 2020, just as the coronavirus pandemic was starting to hit Italy, Francis also suffered a bad cold that forced him to cancel several days of official audiences and his participation in the Vatican’s annual spiritual retreat.

The Vatican had already scrubbed the retreat for this

year in favor of personal spiritual exercises

The Argentine pope had part of one lung removed as a young man because of a respiratory infection, and in 2021 had a chunk of his colon removed because of an intestinal inflammation. He has been using a wheelchair and cane since last year because of strained knee ligaments and a small knee fracture that have made walking and standing difficult.

The Pope used his brief words at the end of Wednesday’s audi-

ence to mark the 25th anniversary of the ratification of the Anti-Personnel Mines Convention, expressing his “closeness to the numerous victims of these insidious devices that remind us of the dramatic cruelty of war.”

He also appealed for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and prayed for the victims of attacks in Burkina Faso and Haiti.

At the end of the audience, the pope spent about an hour greeting the faithful from his wheelchair, stopping to talk, bless babies and exchange gifts.

## Worship at the church of your choice this week

Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.



1 Peter 1:21

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JB Bond, Senior Pastor

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Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.  
G.R.O.W. Groups.....9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
Kids' Church.....11:20 a.m.

**Tuesdays**  
Cornerstone @ The Union (RM 297).....7:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays**  
Stillwater Bible Institute.....6:30 p.m.  
Impact Youth.....6:30 p.m.  
Bible Kids.....6:30 p.m.

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Sunday School - 9:30  
Sunday AM Worship - 10:30  
Sunday PM Family Service - 6:00  
Wed PM Bible Study - 7:00

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701 S. DUNCAN • 405-372-5212

**SUNDAY**  
Bible Study • 9:30am  
Worship Service • 11:00am

**WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES**  
Begin at 6:00pm  
Watch our worship service on Facebook  
[www.fbcstillwater.org](http://www.fbcstillwater.org)

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

[www.fumcstw.org](http://www.fumcstw.org)

**400 W. 7th • 372-5854**

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
Worship.....8:30am & 11:10am  
Sunday School.....10:00am  
Closer Walk.....10 am Family Life Center

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH**

4th & Knoblock • 372-2744

**Sunday School**  
9 am

**Worship Service**  
8 am & 10:30 am

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Independent Baptist  
Expository Preaching

**CHURCH SERVICES**  
Sunday ..... 10:30am  
Thursday ..... 7:30pm

**723 E. 17th**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

524 S. Duncan • 405-372-5580  
[www.stillwaterfpc.org](http://www.stillwaterfpc.org)

**Sunday Worship**  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - in person, online  
On KSPI radio AM 780 & FM 94.3  
and the Stillwater FPC Facebook page

**Sunnybrook Christian Church**

421 E. Richmond Rd • 377-0923  
[www.sunnybrookccc.org](http://www.sunnybrookccc.org)

**SUNDAY SERVICE**    **SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:45 am                      8:30 am  
11:15 am                      9:45 am

**KIDS CHURCH** 9:45 & 11:15 am

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[stillwatercoc.org](http://stillwatercoc.org)

Your place for  
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**SUNDAY**  
Meeting Times  
Bible Study.....9:30 AM  
Worship.....10:30 AM  
Bible Study.....5:00 PM

**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible study.....7:00 PM

821 N. DUCK • 372-7439

**Southside Baptist Church of Stillwater**

1223 S. Perkins Rd.  
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**SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:45 AM  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP** 11 AM + 6 PM  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**YOUTH & ADULT BIBLE STUDY** 6:30

Paul Hutchison - Pastor  
Address - 1223 S. Perkins. Rd.  
Phone: 405-372-2411  
Email: [southsidesillwater@gmail.com](mailto:southsidesillwater@gmail.com)

**Zion Lutheran Church - LCMS**

Sunday - 8:00, 10:30 AM

[www.zionlutheranstw.org](http://www.zionlutheranstw.org)

**John E. Wackler, Pastor**

**504 S. Knoblock • 372-3703**

**St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church**

711 N. Country Club Rd.

**Sunday Mass**  
8:30 | 11:15 a.m.  
en Español 1 p.m.  
**Tuesday Mass**  
12:10 | 5:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday Mass**  
12:10 p.m.  
en Español 6 p.m.  
**Thursday Mass**  
12:10 | 5:30 p.m.

**Friday Mass**  
12:10 p.m.  
**Saturday Mass**  
9 a.m.  
**Saturday Vigil Mass**  
5 p.m.  
Confessions before every  
12:10 Mass at 11:30 a.m.,  
Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and  
Saturdays from 9:45-11 a.m.

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