




NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

THE DAY OF
THE ANGEL'S VISIT



This is a story of a time when an angel of God came in to town, sat with the Messenger of God as he was with some of his disciples, and through a question and answer exchange, taught the believers around the messenger some very important lessons.

The disciples of the messenger didn't know he was an angel as he had taken the form of a man.

While the disciples of the Messenger were sitting with him, this man came out of nowhere. He wore very white clothes without any signs of travel on him. He sat very close to the Messenger and asked "Oh Muhammad! Tell me about Islam (Submission to God)."

Muhammad answered, "Islam is that you testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except God, that Muhammad is His Messenger, that you perform the prescribed ritual devotion, pay the prescribed devotional charity, fast during the month of Ramadan, and perform the Pilgrimage to Mecca, if you are able."

The man answered with the surprising, "You have spoken the truth." The disciples were amazed at his reply. He then went on to ask, "Tell me about Iman (True belief in God)"

Muhammad answered, "It is that you believe in God, His angels, His Reveled Books, His Messengers, in the Last Day, and in Divine Decree and Providence, the good and bad of it."

Again, the same response was given:

"You have spoken the truth."

Then the man asked about Ihsan (Excellence and Beauty in the Relationship with God)

Muhammad answered, "It is that you worship God as if you could see Him, because although you can never see Him in this life, realize that He surely sees you."

Then the man asked about the Hour (The Last Day).

Muhammad answered, "The one questioned knows no more about it than the questioner."

This meant that the exact time of the Last Day is part of the knowledge that God has not shared with anyone.

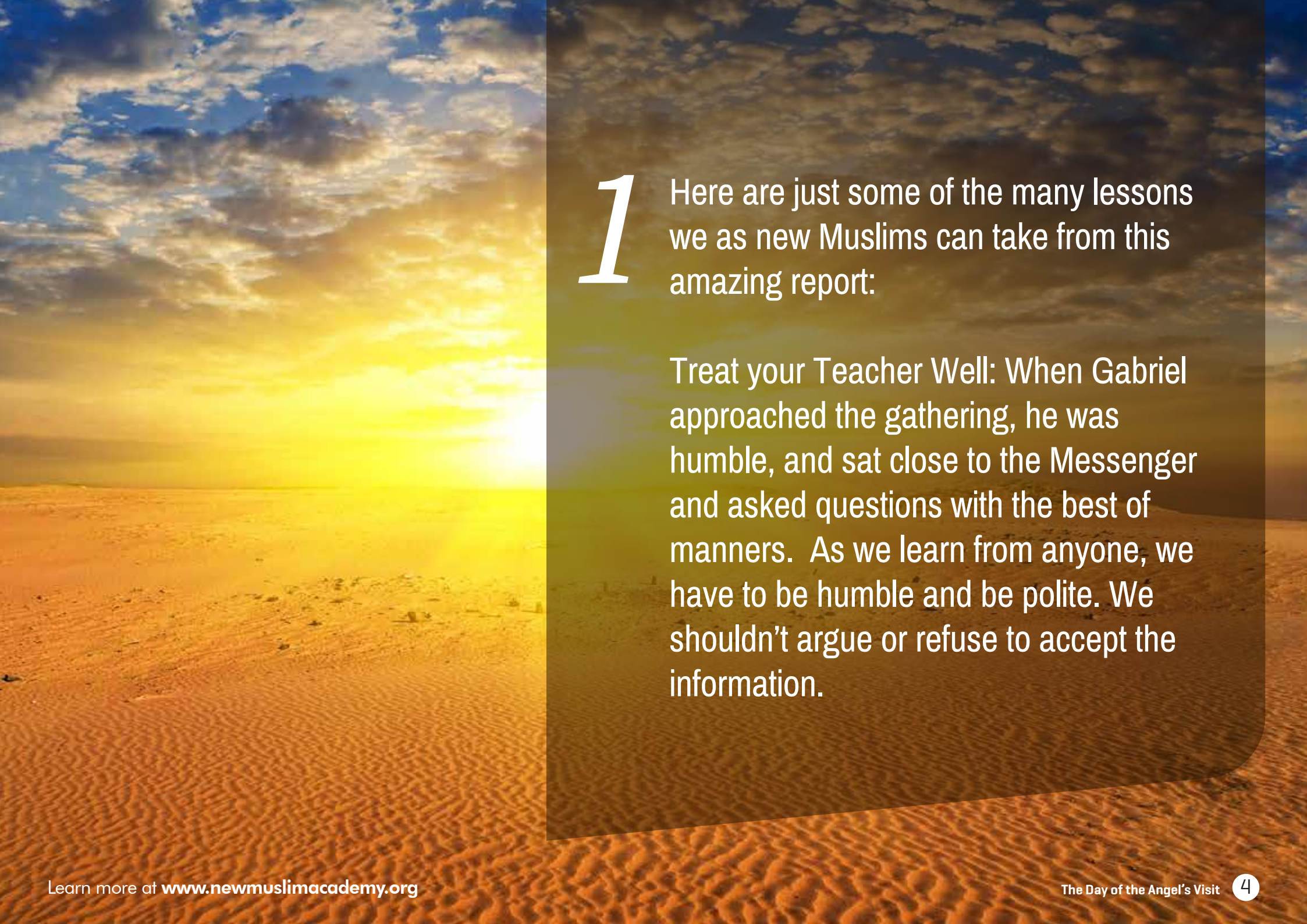
"Then tell me about the signs of it coming," the man asked.

"The signs are that a slave-girl will give birth to her master, and that poor shepherds will compete in building tall buildings."

After the Messenger said that, the man got up and went off.

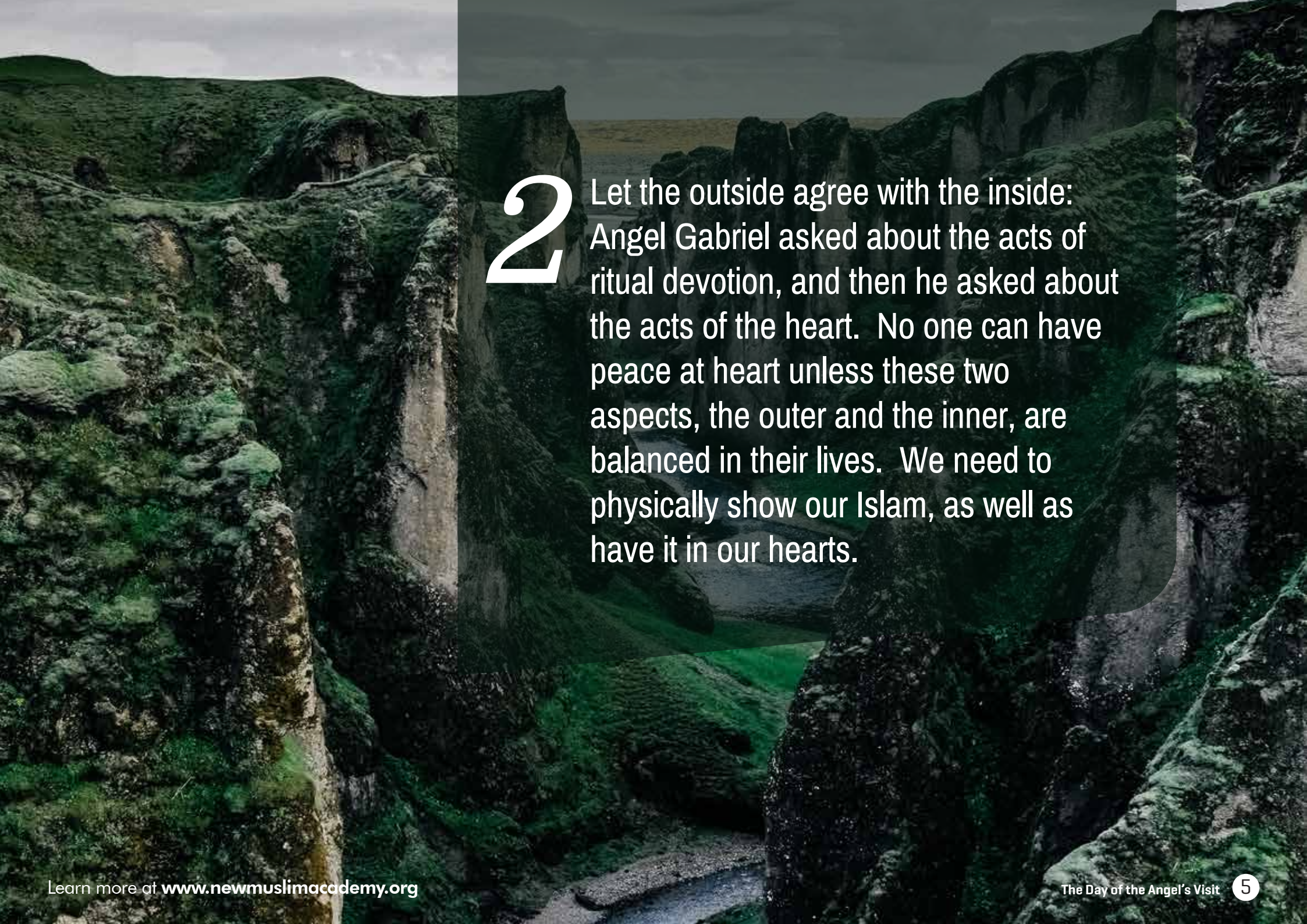
Muhammad explained to the disciples that the man was the Angel Gabriel and that he had come to teach them their Way of Life.

This isn't just a fascinating anecdote from the life of our Messenger, it has been called by the scholars of Islam to be one of the most important reports from his life.

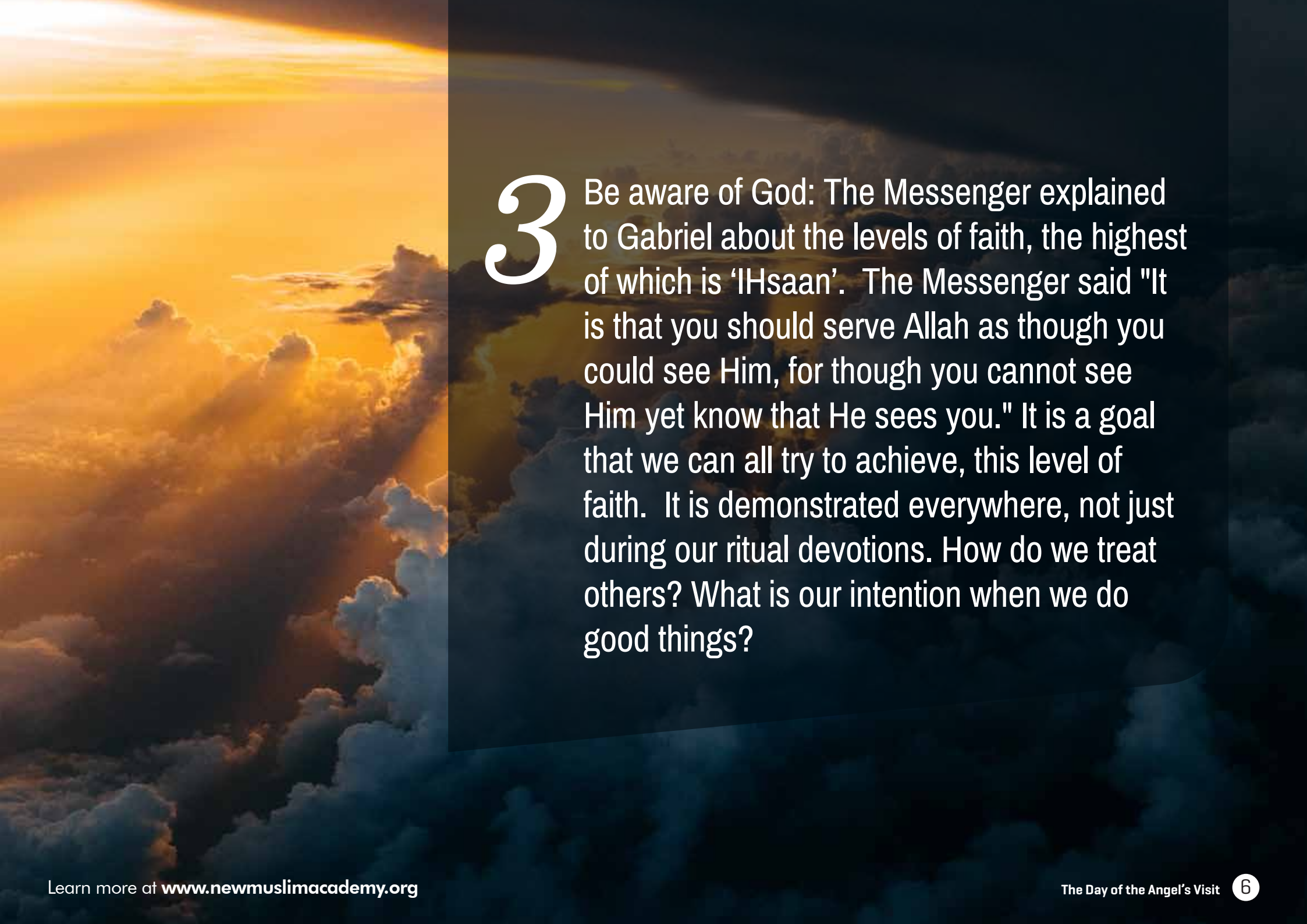


1 Here are just some of the many lessons we as new Muslims can take from this amazing report:


Treat your Teacher Well: When Gabriel approached the gathering, he was humble, and sat close to the Messenger and asked questions with the best of manners. As we learn from anyone, we have to be humble and be polite. We shouldn't argue or refuse to accept the information.



2 Let the outside agree with the inside: Angel Gabriel asked about the acts of ritual devotion, and then he asked about the acts of the heart. No one can have peace at heart unless these two aspects, the outer and the inner, are balanced in their lives. We need to physically show our Islam, as well as have it in our hearts.



3 Be aware of God: The Messenger explained to Gabriel about the levels of faith, the highest of which is 'IHsaan'. The Messenger said "It is that you should serve Allah as though you could see Him, for though you cannot see Him yet know that He sees you." It is a goal that we can all try to achieve, this level of faith. It is demonstrated everywhere, not just during our ritual devotions. How do we treat others? What is our intention when we do good things?



4 Recognize the Day of Judgement: Although the Messenger did not have the knowledge to share about when the Day of Judgement will take place, he did mention some signs on the earth that show that it's coming soon. Scholars have noted that some of them have already taken place. When we consider the Day of Judgement, we are reminded that soon our books of deeds will be audited, so we should do as much as we can to make sure we fill our good-deed book.

Belief in God is found in all the aspects of faith, and the purpose of all the acts of worship is to get closer to God. This report summarises all the ways that we can do this, and teaches us some important life lessons, too.