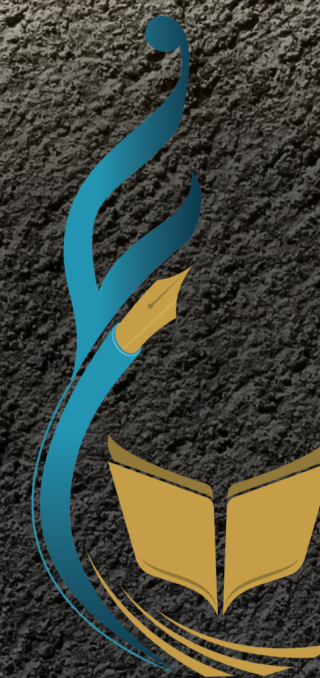




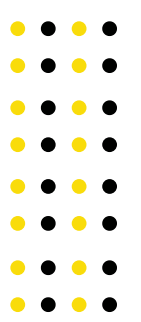
NEW MUSLIM  
ACADEMY

MUSLIMS AT WORK  
**Excellence**




مِنَ الْعِلْمِ





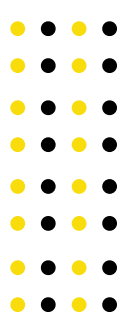
Muslims should hold themselves to the highest standards. This is what Allah wants from us and what we should strive for, in order to live productive lives. Through these high standards not only do we achieve great things but we also positively impact those around us. The messengers of Allah (peace be upon them) had such standards and that is why their lives and stories are full of amazing lessons.

This concept of having high standards is known as excellence or in Arabic, ihsan. In the Quran, Allah encourages us to excel in life. He tells us that He created life and death to test us as to which of us is best in action



**[He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed - and He is the Exalted in Might, the Forgiving [Qur'an; 67:2].**

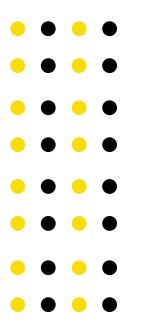




Notice how Allah does not test us to see which of us is good or acceptable, even though these are the minimum levels. Rather, Allah wants us to excel, aim high and do our best throughout life.

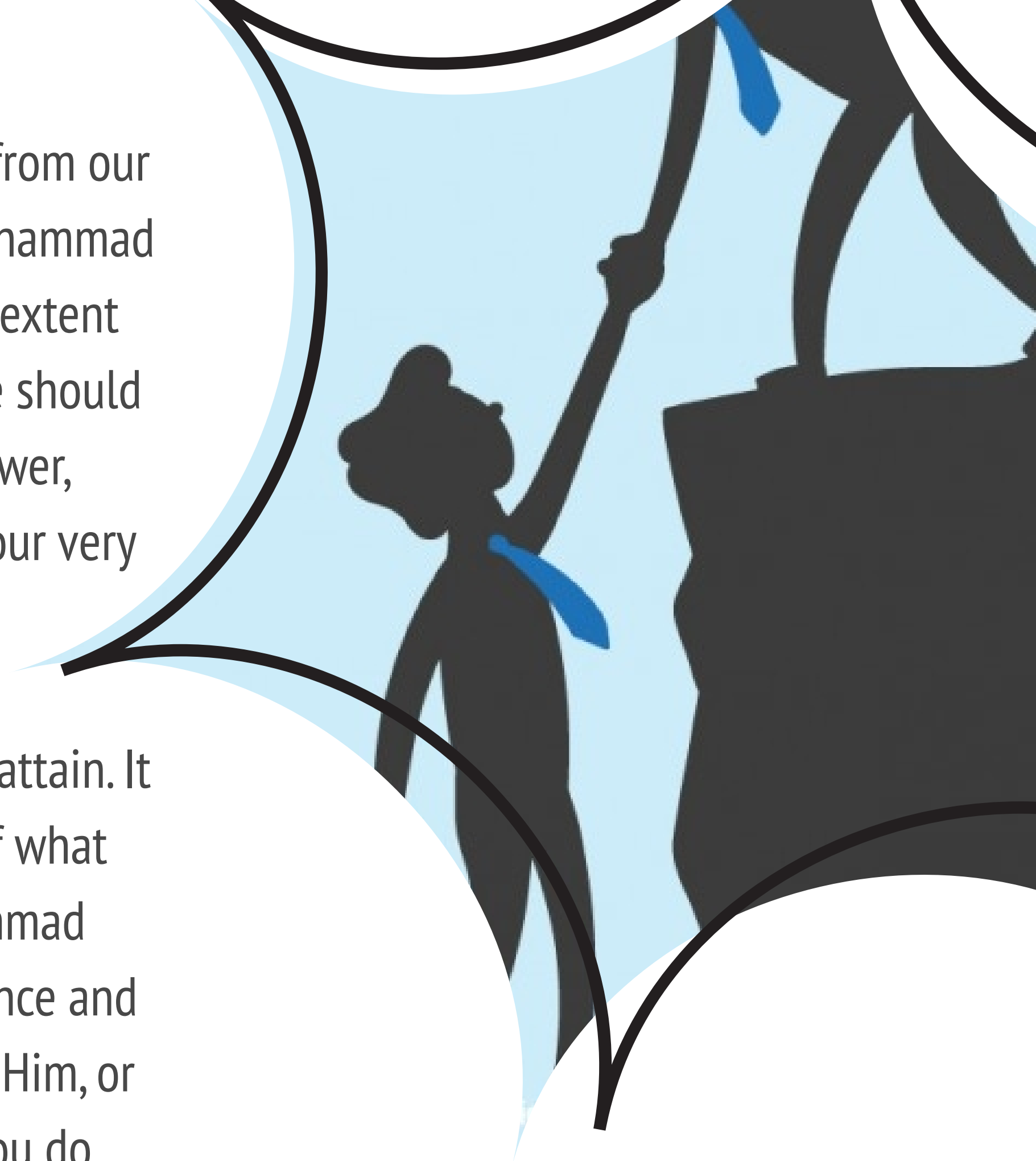
The Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) informed us that Allah has prescribed excellence in everything we do, even in mundane issues like how we treat animals at the time of slaughter. Therefore, we should aim to excel in our worship of Allah, in our character and morals, in our personal lives and relationships, in our jobs and careers and in all other facets of life.





Excellence should permeate everything we aim to achieve, from our most minor concern to our highest goal. The Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) even told us to have excellence to the extent that in our supplications when we ask Allah for Paradise, we should ask Him for the highest level. We do not aim for anything lower, since because high aspirations we push ourselves to do our very best.

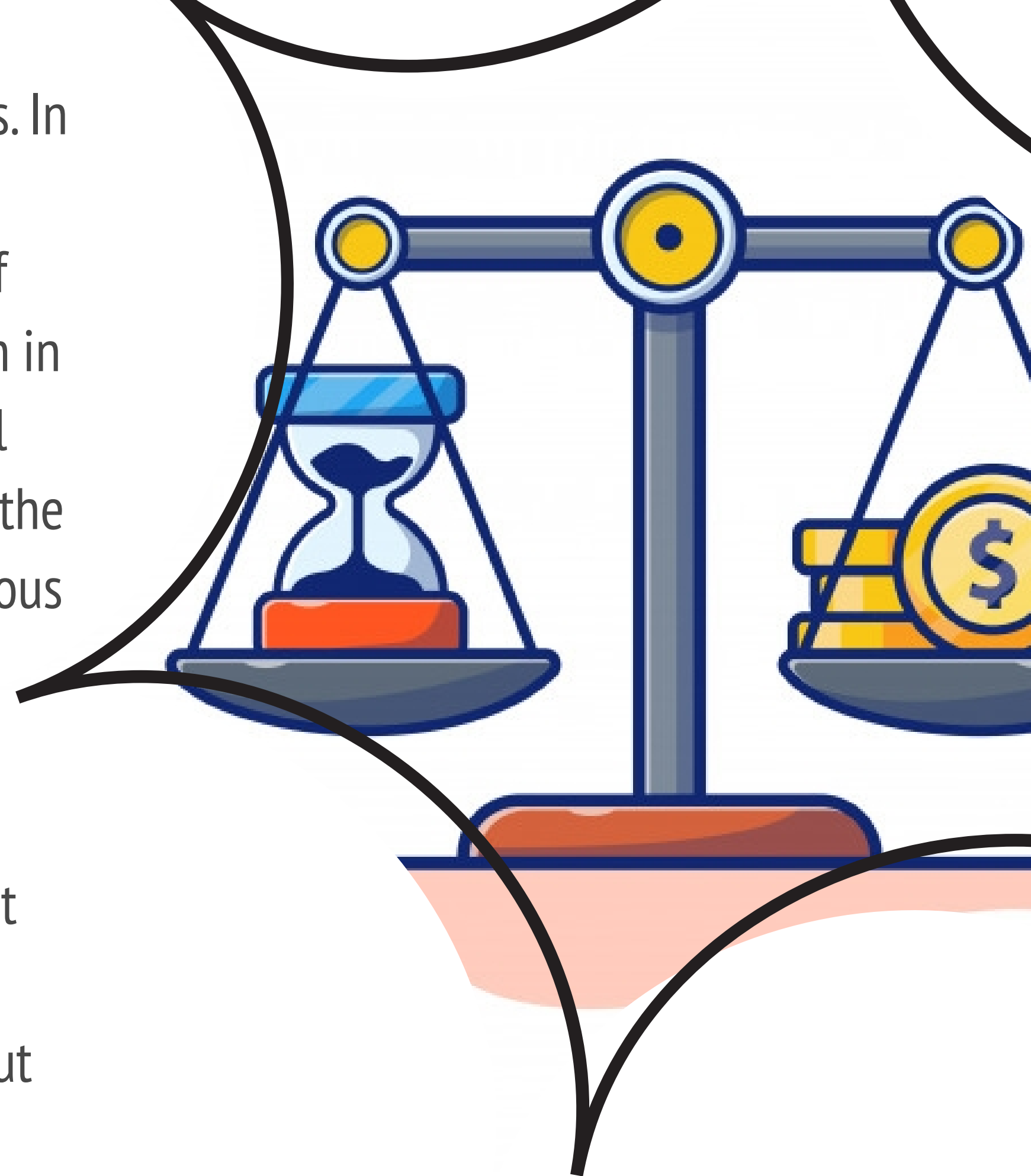
Excellence is the highest level of Islam, and it is difficult to attain. It requires us to constantly be conscious of Allah and aware of what He demands of us in every situation. The Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) described the state of spiritual excellence and beauty as worshipping and serving Allah as though you see Him, or to know that He constantly sees you and knows whatever you do. This constant awareness and consciousness of Allah requires us to ask ourselves before making any decision or performing any action: would Allah approve of this or not?





This awareness comes from knowing Allah and His attributes. In particular, that Allah sees, hears and knows everything. Allah knows what we think and feel within the deepest recesses of our hearts. He knows our intentions. He sees everything even in the darkness of the moonless night, and hears the calls of all creation, even the smallest of sea creatures in the depths of the ocean. When we remind ourselves of this we are then conscious that Allah knows all and furthermore, He will hold us to account for our actions.

When it comes to our work life, excellence means we conduct ourselves in the most professional and ethical standards. We should be punctual to work, honest and ethical in carrying out our duties and responsibilities, and helpful and polite in our manners. We should ensure we are earning a lawful income, and that we do not cheat others, lie, backbite or slander. We should not deceive or use illegal ways of increasing our income.







**Here are some things you can do to help us put the above into action:**

- 1 Try to be conscious of Allah, even at work.
- 2 Aim high and try to be the best in your field.
- 3 Uphold high professional standards and work ethics.
- 4 Do not use deception or illegal means to increase your income.
- 5 Treat others with courtesy and respect.
- 6 Be fair and just to those working under your supervision.
- 7 Aim high and excel in everything you plan to do.
- 8 Excel in your work life by being just, working hard and treating people well.

