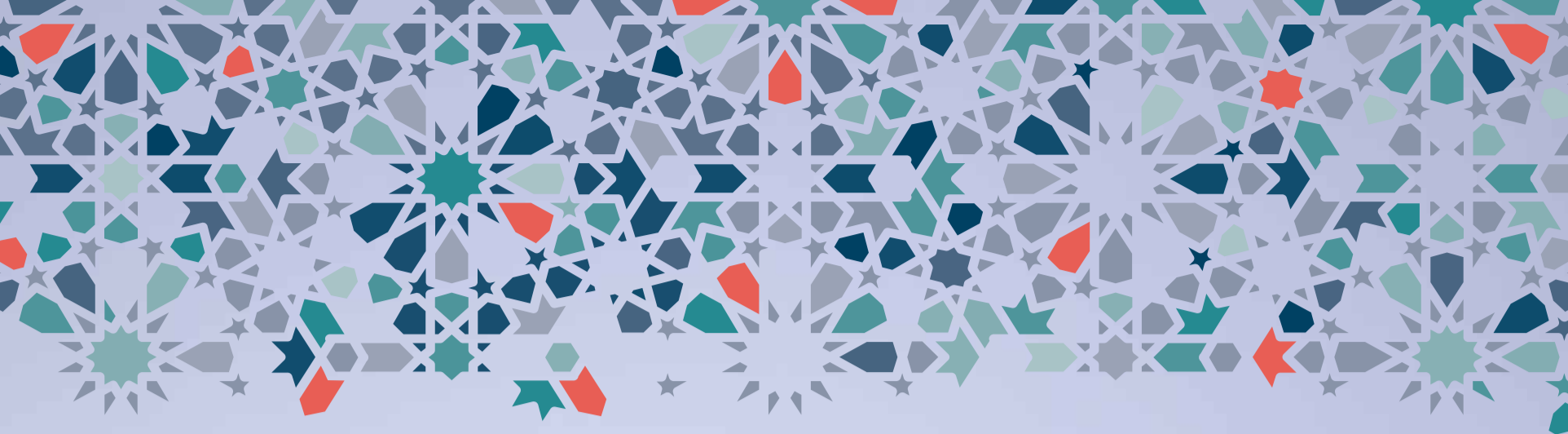




NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

Fear of God and Patient Perseverance





Imagine you entered a small company as a junior employee. A colleague maliciously slandered you, leading to your unjust termination and a ruined reputation. You spent a long time without income, searching fruitlessly for work. Years later, that very same company falls under your management. Those who wronged you now stand before you. What would you do?

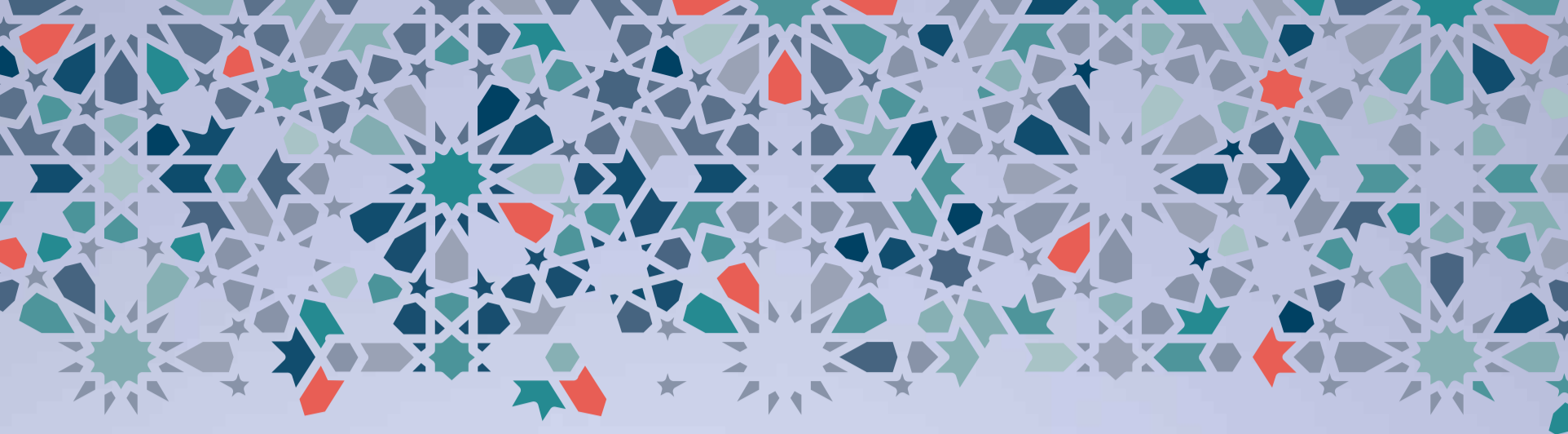
God describes the story of Joseph as the most beautiful of stories, revealing a profound narrative of patience and the ultimate victory of faith. It begins with a young Joseph sharing a dream with his father, Jacob, in which eleven stars, the sun, and the moon bow down to him. Recognizing the divine favor upon his son, Jacob warns him against sharing this dream with his brothers. The brothers' jealousy eventually leads them to cast Joseph into a well. They return to their father with a shirt stained in false blood, claiming a wolf devoured him. However,

Joseph is rescued by a passing caravan and sold into slavery in Egypt. There he is eventually framed and imprisoned after refusing the advances of the noble woman in whose house he served. Throughout these trials, Joseph maintains his integrity and reliance on God. As a generous, devout servant of God, he uses his gift of dream interpretation to help fellow prisoners.



While in prison, Joseph's ability to interpret dreams reaches the King of Egypt, who is troubled by a vision of seven lean cows devouring seven fat ones. Joseph provides the interpretation - foretelling years of abundance followed by severe famine — and offers a strategic economic plan for survival. This good will gesture while incarcerated leads to his exoneration and appointment as the overseer of the state's storehouses. During the famine, his brothers travel from Canaan to Egypt seeking provisions, unaware that the powerful official they encounter is the same brother they had betrayed. The brothers arrived and stood in his presence. The very people responsible for his bitter tragedy were now at his mercy.

"He said: 'Do you know what you did to Joseph and his brother when you were ignorant?' They said: 'Are you indeed Joseph?' He said: 'I am Joseph, and this is my brother. God has certainly been gracious to us. Indeed, whoever fears God and endures with perseverance, then surely God does not allow the reward of those who do good to be lost.'" (Quran, 12:89-90)



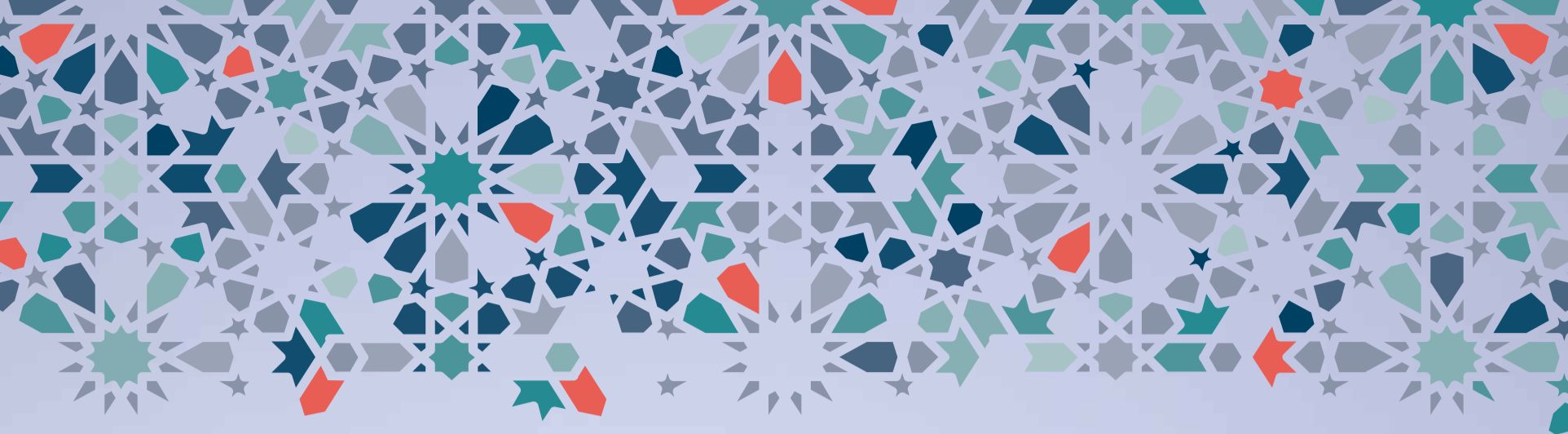
This principle summarizes the long journey of tribulations: whoever possesses the reverential fear of God and perseverance, God will never let their reward go to waste. The Quran mentions that Joseph was tested with two types of trials. One involved temptation and desire, while the other involved hardship and severity. In the first instance, he relied on God-consciousness, distancing himself from the temptation of his master's wife. Even when the doors were locked and he could have done as he pleased, he declared, "God forbid!" and sought the protection of God.

Only perseverance could sustain him through the second type of trial – being cast into the well, facing false accusations, and enduring years of false incarceration. The Quran pairs these two acts of worship, reverential fear of God and resilient perseverance, as a headline for anyone seeking the secret of this noble Messenger. A person might display God-consciousness for a single moment yet fail to bear the consequences of that choice. They might reject what is forbidden but then feel dismayed because relief has been delayed.



An honest employee might refuse to participate in financial fraud or bribery in the workplace, only to be denied a promotion while others are moved ahead of them. In that moment, they may wonder if they were being naive and losing opportunities of professional growth. A young woman might close the door on an impermissible intimate relationship, yet as the pain of loneliness stretches on, she asks herself if she missed her only chance. A merchant might avoid cheating customers or monopolizing goods, resulting in a loss while his competitors profit.

He might tell himself that he should have done as they did. People may choose the path God desires in the heat of the moment, but the wait for the results or the fruit can feel like a fire burning within.

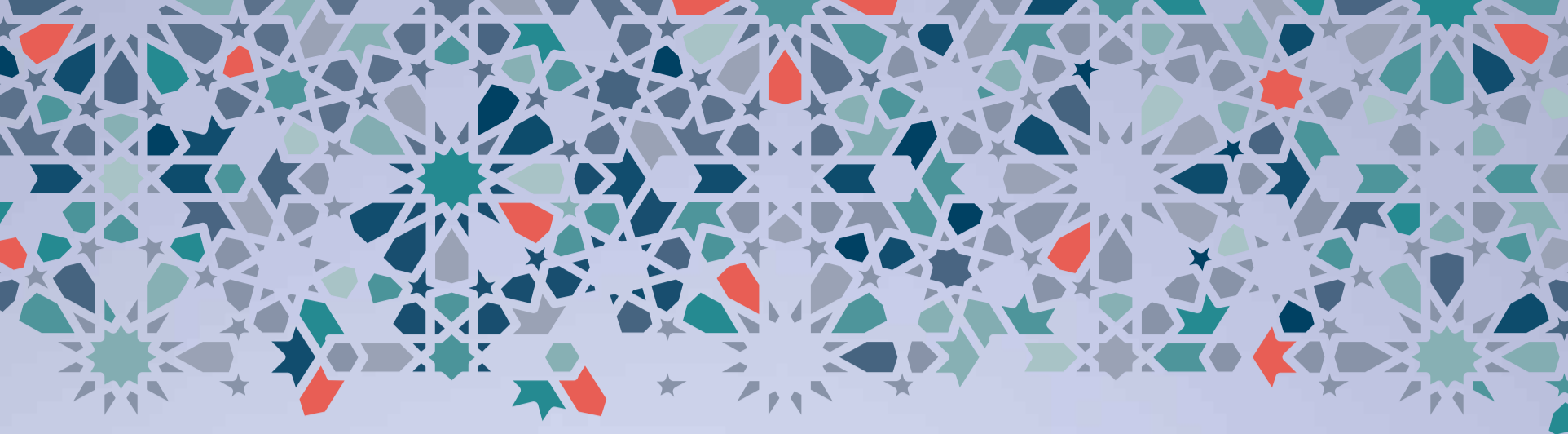


God-consciousness was followed by patient perseverance for this very reason.

God-consciousness adjusts the compass of the heart at the moment a decision is made, while perseverance and endurance keep the heart steady on that path. When these two qualities meet, a person becomes a doer of good, as the passage cited explains. God does not waste the reward of doers of good. When these traits are in tandem, the pleasure of God becomes a person's sole aim. They worship God as if they see Him, knowing that even if they cannot see Him, He certainly sees them. This union produces an individual who is firm and steadfast for the sake of God, rather than for their own ego or the approval of others.

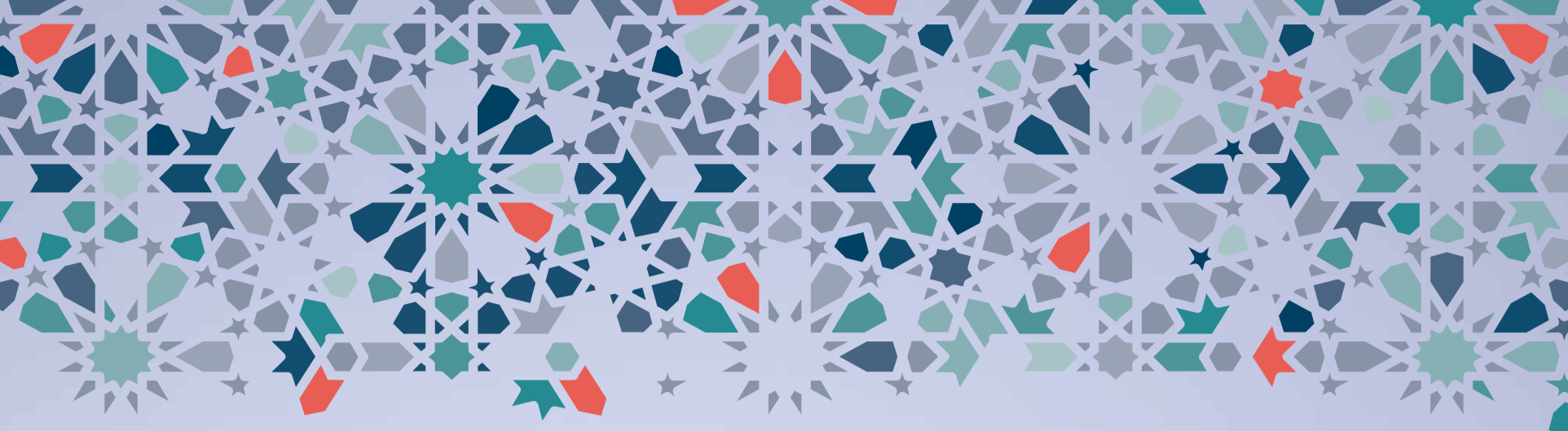
A person might try to find justifications or excuses for their lapses. They might say the situation is too difficult or that circumstances are beyond their control. They might argue that the reality of the world forces their hand, or claim that their intentions are good regardless of their actions.

"Rather, man is a witness against himself, even if he presents his excuses." (Quran, 75:14-15)



We may justify our actions and dress them in the garb of logic, but deep down, we know the full truth. Justification is the beginning of the flickering out of one's inner insight. The process is gradual: it starts with a desire, moves to laxity, then turns into justification until making excuses becomes a way of life. At this point, the capacity for God-consciousness and the energy to endure and persevere are lost.

Others may rise above you quickly. You might be wronged for a long duration or find your success delayed. Joseph did not know when God would grant him relief. He simply knew that he would not offer hollow excuses. He spent years seeing no outward sign of the fruits of his patience, yet God was orchestrating the entire scene. The conclusion is simple. Do not look for the final scene right now. Trust with absolute certainty that whoever has God-consciousness and patient perseverance, surely God does not allow the reward of those who do good to be lost.



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