



- Opening Dua (THANK ALLAH for ALL the BLESSINGS....)
- We pray for YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY...
- We approach our TWO HOLY MONTHS with 1) ORDEALS/TRIALS, and 2) VICTORY CELEBRATIONS for Muslims:
  - RAMADAN: FITRAA (*Excellence, Originating in our Human Nature*) - INTERNAL STRUGGLE and QADR
  - HAJJ: ADHA (*Enlightenment of our Collective Destiny in Excellence-Maruf*) - EXTERNAL & INTERNAL STRUGGLE & SACRIFICE
- This FITRAA is OUR SACRED CONNECTION with the CREATION & NATURE

- IN AL-ISLAM: “DEENUL-FITRAA” This DEEN MEANS **MORE THAN EMPTY RITUALS:**
  - SYSTEM OF NATURAL LIVING &
  - NATURAL THINKING (*Ibrahim*)
- VS. UN-NATURAL THINKING & LIVING (*i.e. SUPER-NATURAL Religion*)
- TWIN TRUTHS & SIGNS: QUR’AN & CREATION (*Qur’an 6:73 & 45:3-4*)
  - The TWO implies the BALANCE
  - WE HAVE A BALANCED DEEN (WAY OF LIFE) THAT RESPECTS THE SIGNS AND DIRECTION IN CREATION...
- THESE TWO ORDEALS (RAMADAN & HAJJ) OF OUR DEEN **HELP US TO BOTH: 1) UNDERSTAND and 2) TRIUMPH DURING THIS PANDEMIC....**

- **FIVE KEY CONCEPTS** (*and COMMON THEMES*):
  - **ORDEAL/TRIAL**
  - **ADAPTATION:**
    - **STRUGGLE** (*EXTERNAL & INTERNAL*)
    - **SACRIFICE** (*for SOMETHING BIGGER*)
  - **TRANSFORMATION:** (*of OUR THINKING & BEHAVIOR*)
  - **REALIZATION:** (*of OUR POWER [Qadr], the EXCELLENCE OF OUR HUMAN NATURE [Fitraa/Maruf], and OUR CONNECTIONS*)
  - **VICTORY**