

cases in which recording transactions is essential, then having it witnessed becomes obligatory.

- 27- The minimum number of witnesses in financial transactions and so on is two men or a man and two women. The Sunnah indicates that one witness, accompanied by the oath of the claimant, is also sufficient.
- 28- The testimony of boys is not acceptable, because the verse specifically mentions men.
- 29- The testimony of women on their own concerning financial transactions and the like is not to be accepted, because Allah did not accept women's testimony unless it is accompanied by that of a man.
- 30- The testimony of an adult male slave is acceptable just like the testimony of a free man, because of the general meaning of the words ﴿and call to witness two men from among you﴾, and an adult slave is one of our men.
- 31- The testimony of the disbelievers, whether they are male or female, is not acceptable, because they are not of us and because testimony should be based on good character, and they are not of good character.
- 32- This verse indicates that men are superior to women, and that the testimony of one man is equal to that of two women, because men have good memories and women do not.
- 33- If someone forgets his testimony, then remembers it later on, his testimony is still to be accepted, because Allah says: ﴿the other can remind her﴾.
- 34- From the meaning of this verse it may be understood that if a witness is afraid of forgetting his testimony with regard to the dues of others, then he must write it down, because that which is essential to fulfilment of an obligatory duty is also obligatory.
- 35- If a witness is summoned and has no excuse, it is not permissible for him to refuse, because Allah says: ﴿The witnesses should not refuse when they are summoned﴾.