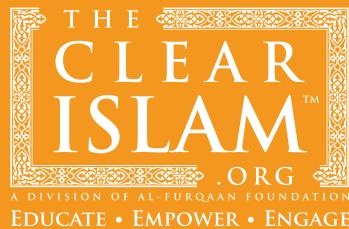


THE MERCY OF ALLAH (GOD)



The Mercy of Allah (God)

"Your Lord is infinite in mercy..."

The Clear Quran 6:147

God Almighty is full of love and kindness to His creation. All blessings and goodness in this world and the next are clear proofs of His Mercy. Indeed, Islam teaches that God is more merciful toward us than our own mothers. How can it be otherwise, when some of God's names and attributes include:

The Acceptor of Repentance;
The Compassionate;
The Loving;
The Forbearing One;
The Most Gracious;
The Most Merciful;
The Source of Goodness;
The Most Generous;
The Bestower

These names all indicate that God is characterised by mercy, goodness and generosity. They testify to the vastness and perfection of His Mercy, which He blesses all of His creation. This same creation is addressed by God, when He says, "O son of Adam, were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the earth and were you then to face Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring you forgiveness nearly as great as the earth."

Examples of Allah's Mercy & Blessings

"Then which of your Lord's favors will you "humans and jinn" both deny?"

The Clear Quran 55:13

Throughout life, people continually receive Allah's blessings, be it good health, sight, hearing, nourishment, clean air, children, wealth and countless others. Some use their God-given gifts of intelligence and reasoning to acknowledge these blessings, grasp the purpose of their existence, and thereby submit themselves to Allah. Others, however, do not appreciate the Mercy of Allah toward their own selves, even though He feeds and sustains them despite their disobedience toward Him. They are given mobility, enjoyment, freedom of thought and action, despite their outright denial of Him. Their very existence would not be, were it not for the Mercy of Allah.

Ultimately, everyone has the free will to acknowledge their blessings, use them in a manner ordained by Allah (the Lord of mankind) and worship Him alone. Below, we have outlined a glimpse of such blessings, because

"... if you tried to count God's blessings, you would never be able to number them. Surely God is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful"

The Clear Quran 16:18

Guidance Through Divine Scriptures & Prophets

"He has revealed to you "O Prophet" the Book in truth, confirming what came before it, as He revealed the Torah and the Gospel."

The Clear Quran 3:3

From the beginning of creation, man was not left to face the struggles of life alone. Due to God's Mercy, man received revelation through Prophets, who conveyed and taught it to their people to guide and protect them. The most perfect and merciful of revelations was the Qur'an and the last of the prophets was Muhammad (peace be upon him).

The Qur'an – the final revelation – superseded and abrogated previous revelations, and is the ultimate mercy and guidance for mankind. Just as God sent Messengers in the past, He also sent mankind a living, perfect and practical example of how the Qur'an's teachings of mercy and justice should be practically applied in our daily lives. This example was Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) – a mercy to the whole world.

"We have sent you "O Prophet" only as a mercy for the whole world."

The Clear Quran 21:107

The following are just some of the Prophet's sayings which are indicative of his mercy, kindness, tolerance and beautiful teachings:

"Kindness is not found in anything except that it adds to its beauty, and is not withdrawn from anything except that it makes it deficient."

"The most perfect of believers in belief is the best of them in character."

"He is not a perfect Muslim who eats his fill while his neighbour goes hungry."

"Allah will not show mercy to him who does not show mercy to others."

How desperately do we, as a society, and in these times, need such beautiful advice?

Mercy Towards The Creation

The creation of human beings and all their faculties is a great mercy in itself. The fact that we can get out of bed, work, eat, play and sleep should make us grateful.

"It is out of His mercy that He has made for you the day and night so that you may rest "in the latter" and seek His bounty in the former"

The Clear Quran 28:73

A spouse is one of the greatest of mercies, a means to tranquillity and affection.

"And one of His signs is that He created for you spouses from among yourselves so that you may find comfort in them. And He has placed between you compassion and mercy. Surely in this are signs for people who reflect."

The Clear Quran 30:21

Another mercy is the fact that He created us sinless and will not hold us to account until the age of maturity and decision making. This is in stark contrast to the "Original Sin" concept in Christianity.

Forgiveness of sins is another example of Allah's Mercy, as Allah knows we are imperfect and commit mistakes. The fact that believers commit sins does not mean that we should lose hope of Allah's Mercy or that we have exhausted Allah's Forgiveness.

"We have sent you 'O Prophet' only as a mercy for the whole world."

The Clear Quran 21:107

Even animals are not exempt from Allah's Mercy. They have faculties of hearing and sight, are provided with sustenance and offspring, and are granted many other blessings. Allah's Mercy envelops them to the point that because of one single portion of Allah's Mercy sent to earth, "...His creatures are merciful to each other, so that even the mare lifts up its hoof away from its baby animal, lest it should trample on it."

The Merciful Creator ensures that every creation is looked after – from the fish in the depths of the ocean, to the insects in the earth, and the birds in the skies – all are sustained by Him.

How To Increase Allah's Mercy Upon Us

"Indeed, God's mercy is always close to the good-doers."

The Clear Quran 7:56

Due to God's Mercy, He has promised to forgive and pardon whosoever follows the appropriate means as mentioned in the following verse:

"But I am truly Most Forgiving to whoever repents, believes, and does good, then persists on 'true' guidance."

The Clear Quran 20:82

Part and parcel of having the correct belief is believing and obeying the final Messenger, Muhammad (peace be upon him). In short, the people who receive more of Allah's Mercy are those who have acknowledged His blessings and favours; used them in a way which pleases God; spent their God-given wealth in charity and to look after the needy; employed their hands to care for orphans; utilized their gift of speech to speak good; and performed other honorable acts ordained by God.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Allah will show mercy to those who show mercy to people. Show mercy to those who are on earth – the One Who is in Heaven will show mercy to you."

Below, are some ways to attain God's Mercy:

"Obey God and the Messenger, so you may be shown mercy."

The Clear Quran 3:132

"This is a blessed Book We have revealed. So follow it and be mindful of God so you may be shown mercy."

The Clear Quran 6:155

"They say, 'Our Lord! Do not let our hearts deviate after you have guided us. Grant us Your mercy. You are indeed the Giver of all bounties.'"

The Clear Quran 3:8

Mercy & Accountability

Alongside Allah's attribute of Mercy is His attribute of Justice.

"Indeed, the righteous will have the Gardens of Bliss with their Lord. Should We then treat those who have submitted like the wicked? What is the matter with you? How do you judge?"

The Clear Quran 68:34-36

Allah is the Most-Merciful, however, He is also Swift in Reckoning. One cannot try to deceive Allah and take advantage of His Mercy by constantly committing the same sins without sincere repentance or resolving never to go back to the sin again.

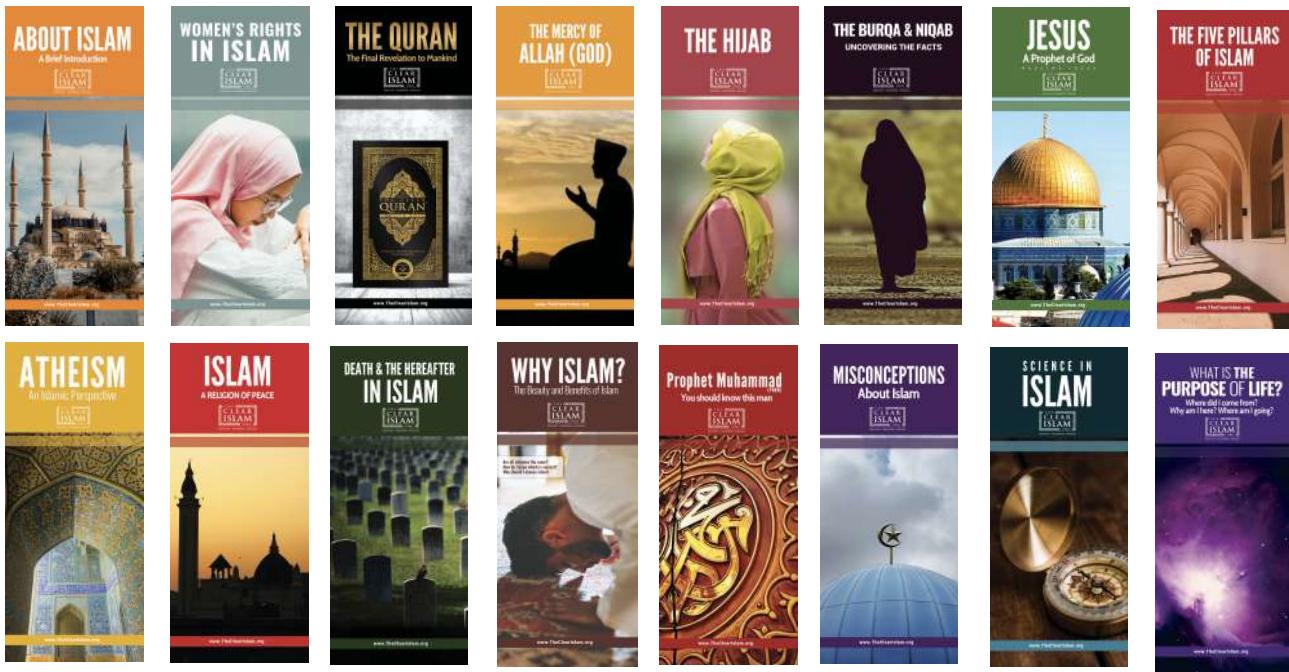
"However, repentance is not accepted from those who knowingly persist in sin until they start dying, and then cry, 'Now I repent!' nor those who die as disbelievers. For them We have prepared a painful punishment."

The Clear Quran 4:18

Muslims are encouraged to have hope of reward for good deeds, while being concerned about sins they may perform. When they commit sins, they repent sincerely, and are hopeful of being forgiven. And finally, they feel content with the words of their Creator, and keep it close to their heart:

"Surely God is Ever Gracious and Most Merciful to humanity."

The Clear Quran 22:65



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