

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International
Community of Submitters

www.masjiduntucson.org



Published by Masjid Tucson
Rajab 1443

All Rights Reserved

Grace and Mercy

Grace (*Dictionary.com*): favor or goodwill; a manifestation of favor, especially by a superior.

Mercy (*Dictionary.com*): compassionate or kindly forbearance shown toward an offender, an enemy, or other person in one's power; compassion, pity, or benevolence; the disposition to be compassionate or forbearing; the discretionary power of a judge to pardon someone or to mitigate punishment; an act of kindness, compassion, or favor; something that gives evidence of divine favor; blessing.

"Most Gracious, Most Merciful" are probably the two most common qualities attributed to God. Not just some, but the MOST. Think about that. Let's look at some examples.

Let's start with the biggest one. God didn't banish us from His kingdom when we failed to make a firm stand against Satan. Our egos got in the way when we questioned God's authority during the great feud. How stupid were we. And God could have just done away with us. The angels certainly didn't think we were worthy of mercy.

[2:30] Recall that your Lord said to the

angels, "I am placing a representative (a temporary god) on Earth." They said, "Will You place therein one who will spread evil therein and shed blood, while we sing Your praises, glorify You, and uphold Your absolute authority?" He said, "I know what you do not know."

Not only did God not do away with us, He went through all the trouble (though it was no trouble or burden for God) to explode our universe from one solid mass into existence (21:30). A universe that is perhaps 14 billion light years across. Then in addition to that He created six more universes surrounding ours in layers and we cannot even fathom how big those are. All for the purpose of giving us stupid humans a chance to redeem ourselves. "I know what you do not know." Why did God do this? He certainly didn't have to. He is the MOST Gracious, the MOST Merciful.

Obviously, God's grace and mercy doesn't stop with giving us another chance to join His kingdom. We're humans now, we have faults, many faults, we're prone to sin, and God made us weak. We need His support; we need His grace and mercy.

[6:12] Say, "To whom belongs everything in the heavens and the earth?" Say, "To GOD." He has decreed that mercy is His attribute. He will surely summon you all on the Day of Resurrection, which is inevitable. The ones who lose their souls are those who disbelieve.

So how do we attain God's grace and mercy? Well, we know the bare minimum requirement is to believe in God, believe in the last day and lead a righteous life. But as Submitters we don't want to just check those three boxes.

[24:56] You shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and obey the messenger, that you may attain mercy.

[9:71] The believing men and women are allies of one another. They advocate righteousness and forbid evil, they observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and they obey GOD and His messenger. These will be showered by GOD's mercy. GOD is Almighty, Most Wise.

God mentions many times about showering the believers with His grace, mercy, blessings, love and forgiveness. The definition of "shower" in this case is to

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

bestow liberally or lavishly. Such is God's grace and mercy. He lets us know that He will bestow His grace and mercy upon the believers liberally and lavishly.

We have a message with a verifiable math miracle to back it up. We want to get to the high ranks. We want to please God, not displease Him.

As much as God is Gracious, Merciful, Loving, Kind, Clement, Forgiving, Compassionate—the list of the most beautiful names goes on—God also speaks of His “anger”. We definitely don't want to displease God. He is strict in enforcing retribution.

[5:80] You would see many of them allying themselves with those who disbelieve. Miserable indeed is what their hands have sent forth on behalf of their souls. GOD is angry with them and, consequently, they will abide forever in retribution.

[48:6] And He will requite the hypocrite men and women and the idol worshiping men and women, for they have harbored evil thoughts about GOD. Their evil will backfire against them. For GOD is angry with them, condemns them, and has prepared for them Gehenna. What a miserable destiny!

Not only does God have mercy, so does the Quran.

[6:157] Nor can you say, “If only a scripture could come down to us, we would be better guided than they.” A proven scripture has now come to you from your Lord, and a beacon, and a mercy.

[7:52] We have given them a scripture that is fully detailed, with knowledge, guidance, and mercy for the people who believe.

[17:82] We send down in the Quran healing and mercy for the believers. At the same time, it only increases the wickedness of the transgressors.

Even the tablets God gave Moses:

[7:154] When Moses' anger subsided,

he picked up the tablets, containing guidance and mercy for those who reverence their Lord.

So, what other mercies does God provide for us? Not only did He give us another chance to redeem ourselves in this life, God gave us a forty-year grace period.

[46:15] We enjoined the human being to honor his parents. His mother bore him arduously, gave birth to him arduously, and took intimate care of him for thirty months. When he reaches maturity, and reaches the age of forty he should say, “My Lord, direct me to appreciate the blessings You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and to do the righteous works that please You. Let my children be righteous as well. I have repented to You; I am a submitter.”*

**46:15 God knows full well who deserves to go to Heaven and who deserves to go to Hell. It is His law that whomever He puts to death before the age of 40 shall go to Heaven. God's immense mercy is reflected in the fact that most people have difficulty accepting this divine mercy; they argue: “Put them in Hell!” See Appendix 32.*

There are many many people who have died under the age of forty who perhaps we felt they didn't deserve to go to heaven. But, God is the only Judge and the best judge. “*I know what you do not know.*” (2:30)

Another mercy is the creation of night and day

[28:73] It is mercy from Him that He created for you the night and the day in order to rest (during the night), then seek His provisions (during the day), that you may be appreciative.

The wind and the rain

[30:46] Among His proofs is that He sends the winds with good omen, to shower you with His mercy, and to allow the ships to run in the sea in accordance with His rules, and for you to seek His bounties that you may be appreciative.

[42:28] He is the One who sends down the rain after they had despaired, and

spreads His mercy. He is the only Master, Most Praiseworthy.

Another mercy from God is that He gives many opportunities to repent and reform.

[2:160] As for those who repent, reform, and proclaim, I redeem them. I am the Redeemer, Most Merciful.

Even the hypocrites: *[4:146] Only those who repent, reform, hold fast to GOD, and devote their religion absolutely to GOD alone, will be counted with the believers. GOD will bless the believers with a great recompense.*

And then on top of those mercies there's sura 25:68-70:

[25:68] They never implore beside GOD any other god, nor do they kill any soul—for GOD has made life sacred—except in the course of justice. Nor do they commit adultery. Those who commit these offenses will have to pay. [25:69] Retribution is doubled for them on the Day of Resurrection, and they abide therein humiliated.

[25:70] Exempted are those who repent, believe, and lead a righteous life. GOD transforms their sins into credits. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

God transforms our sins into credits! The first time I came upon this verse it brought tears to my eyes.

God transforms our sins into credits! The first time I came upon this verse it brought tears to my eyes.

Praise be to God.

God's mercy encompasses all things. These traits—grace, mercy, compassion, forgiveness—are not just reserved for God only. God also wants us to have these traits as well.

[42:37] They avoid gross sins and vice, and when angered they forgive. [42:38]

They respond to their Lord by observing the Contact Prayers (Salat). Their affairs are decided after due consultation among themselves, and from our provisions to them they give (to charity). [42:39] When gross injustice befalls them, they stand up for their rights. [42:40] Although the just requital for an injustice is an equivalent retribution, those who pardon and

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

maintain righteousness are rewarded by GOD. He does not love the unjust. [42:41] Certainly, those who stand up for their rights, when injustice befalls them, are not committing any error. [42:42] The wrong ones are those who treat the people unjustly, and resort to aggression without provocation. These have incurred a painful retribution. [42:43] Resorting to patience and forgiveness reflects a true strength of character.

It is a lot harder as human beings to embody these traits. It's the way God designed us. It's part of our test. Can we exhibit these traits of grace and mercy, compassion and forgiveness when God tests us with a situation that may call for it? As humans our capacity for these divine qualities is certainly limited. But not for God.

[8:29] O you who believe, if you reverence GOD, He will enlighten you, remit your sins, and forgive you. GOD possesses infinite grace.

[62:4] Such is GOD's grace that He bestows upon whomever He wills. GOD is Possessor of Infinite Grace.

[3:174] They have deserved GOD's blessings and grace. No harm ever touches them, for they have attained GOD's approval. GOD possesses infinite grace.

[3:74] He specifies His mercy for whomever He wills; GOD possesses unlimited grace.

[57:21] Therefore, you shall race towards forgiveness from your Lord, and a Paradise whose width encompasses the heaven and the earth. It awaits those who believed in GOD and His messengers. Such is GOD's grace that He bestows upon whomever He wills. GOD is Possessor of Infinite Grace.

Thank You, God, for giving us this chance to redeem ourselves and return to your blissful paradise which you promise for your righteous servants. May You continue to shower us with Your infinite grace and mercy.

Bob

Sectarianism

Initially, a child in all innocence may question "What is a Sunni, who is a Shia?" True faith remains obscured and sectarian prejudice is passed on from generation to generation and the observance is forceful and obligatory. *[23:53] But they tore themselves into disputing factions; each party happy with what they have.*

But breaking into sects seems to go against the Quran, when you read it from cover to cover. *Sectarianism Condemned [30:32] (Do not fall in idol worship,) like those who divide their religion into sects; each party rejoicing with what they have.*

The sectarians need to halt and abandon their practice of hurling abuses at one another. We are a single community:

One God / One Religion

[21:92] Your congregation is but one congregation, and I alone am your Lord; you shall worship Me alone. We should not dispute with one another [8:46] You shall obey GOD and His messenger, and do not dispute among yourselves, lest you fail and scatter your strength. You shall steadfastly persevere. GOD is with those who steadfastly persevere.

Believers are United

[3:103] You shall hold fast to the rope of GOD, all of you, and do not be divided. Recall GOD's blessings upon you—you used to be enemies and He reconciled your hearts. By His grace, you became brethren. You were at the brink of a pit of fire, and He saved you therefrom. GOD thus explains His revelations for you, that you may be guided.

Since we worship One God alone, we have one single Qiblah. *[2:144] We have seen you turning your face about the sky (searching for the right direction). We now assign a Qiblah that is pleasing to you. Henceforth, you shall turn your face towards the Sacred Masjid. Wherever you may be, all of you shall turn your faces towards it. Those who received the previ-*

ous scripture know that this is the truth from their Lord. GOD is never unaware of anything they do.

[2:149] Wherever you go, you shall turn your face (during Salat) towards the Sacred Masjid. This is the truth from your Lord. GOD is never unaware of anything you all do.*

Footnote *2:149 A glaring proof of the idolatry committed by today's "Muslims" is the designation of Muhammad's tomb as a "Sacred Masjid." The Quran mentions only one "Sacred Masjid."

Also, we are informed of where not to pray. *[9:107] There are those who abuse the masjid by practicing idol worship, dividing the believers, and providing comfort to those who oppose GOD and His messenger. They solemnly swear: "Our intentions are honorable!" GOD bears witness that they are liars. [9:108] You shall never pray in such a masjid. A masjid that is established on the basis of righteousness from the first day is more worthy of your praying therein. In it, there are people who love to be purified. GOD loves those who purify themselves. Such masjids cause disbelief and disunity among the believers.*

Also, there are masjids where others are mentioned in the prayer. *[72:18] The places of worship belong to GOD; do not call on anyone else beside GOD.*

[2:213] The people used to be one community when GOD sent the prophets as bearers of good news, as well as warners. He sent down with them the scripture, bearing the truth, to judge among the people in their disputes. Ironically, those who received the scripture were the ones who rejected any new scripture, despite clear proofs given to them. This is due to jealousy on their part. GOD guides those who believe to the truth that is disputed by all others, in accordance with His will. GOD guides whoever wills in a straight path.

Each and every person is accountable to

(Continued on page 4)

MASJID TUCSON United Submitters International

PO Box 43476 Tucson AZ 85733-3476 USA

Tel: (520) 323 7636

internet web site: www.masjiduntucson.org

e-mail: info@masjiduntucson.org (or: masjiduntucson@gmail.com)

Non-profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson AZ

ISSN 1089-053X

Happiness is Submission to God Alone

Keep up with history in the making. Subscribe now.

\$12/yr. U.S., Canada and Mexico, \$19/yr. overseas.

(Continued from page 3)

God alone. [53:38-39] *No soul bears the sins of another soul. Every human being is responsible for his own works.*

[35:18] *No soul can carry the sins of another soul. If a soul that is loaded with sins implores another to bear part of its load, no other soul can carry any part of it, even if they were related. The only people to heed your warnings are those who reverence their Lord, even when alone in their privacy, and observe the Contact Prayers (Salat). Whoever purifies his soul, does so for his own good. To GOD is the final destiny.*

The Quran is so clear in condemning sectarianism.

Religious Sects Condemned

[6:159] *Those who divide themselves into sects do not belong with you. Their judgment rests with GOD, then He will inform them of everything they had done.*

[42:14] *Ironically, they broke up into sects only after the knowledge had come to them, due to jealousy and resentment among themselves. If it were not for a predetermined decision from your Lord to respite them for a definite interim, they would have been judged immediately. Indeed, the later generations who inherit the scripture are full of doubts.*

May God protect us from such divisions.

Alim

Letter from a freed prisoner—free in all ways by God's grace

Exactly one year ago I was released from my 4+ year incarceration. Although I made many poor decisions that landed me in prison, it was not a death sentence. It was a tremendous blessing. By God's immense mercy and grace I found the real me. I finally started the "one day" that most of us addicts promise ourselves will come. "One day I'll get clean. One day I'll stop hurting myself and others. One day this, one day that." I want to be an example for those who are hurting, God willing. Drugs and alcohol don't eliminate the pain you're feeling; it's only a mask. You have to search for what is hurting you, cut its throat and bury it, so to speak. "With pain there is gain. Indeed, with pain there is gain." (94:5-6). Mental health is real. Every single moment of every single day brings a chance for growth. Seize the day. Live life to the fullest. Admire the sunrise and the new beginning that comes along with it. Appreciate the sunset and reflect on what you have accomplished. Love others, and more importantly, love yourself. You're worth something. When that little voice whispers to you otherwise.... Tell him to take off. May

I continue to be appreciative of my Lord's blessing. The blessing of freedom. Physical freedom, mental freedom, spiritual freedom. Cheers and peace to all.

This verse sustained me every day in prison: [3:160] *If GOD supports you, none can defeat you. And if He abandons you, who else can support you? In GOD the believers shall trust.*

And this verse is a reminder to all: [8:38] *Tell those who disbelieved: if they stop, all their past will be forgiven. But if they return, they will incur the same fate as their previous counterparts.*

Ayyub

* * * * *

God's Forgiveness

[2:218] *Those who believe, and those who emigrate and strive in the cause of GOD, have deserved GOD's mercy. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

[2:268] *The devil promises you poverty and commands you to commit evil, while GOD promises you forgiveness from Him and grace. GOD is Bounteous, Omniscient.*

[3:135] *If they fall in sin or wrong their souls, they remember GOD and ask forgiveness for their sins—and who forgives the sins except GOD—and they do not persist in sins, knowingly.*