



# My Lord is Most Merciful and Compassionate

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### **We feed you only for the countenance of God:**

I remember in the first two years of our stay in Lagos, Nigeria, we lived in hotel apartments so that it would be easy for us to look for a suitable house near the kids' schools. Usually, after I came back from any trip, I was keen to bring simple presents for all janitors and the workers, and share with them food and drinks. At that time, spreading the word of Islam (da'wa) was not in my mind at all; my intention was only to get close to God by giving gifts. When we decided to leave that place in order to move on to the new house, we were surprised that everyone in the place was crying! The driver told us that they have never met a Muslim family of such high manners who spread the spirit of love and fraternity, and that they wanted to reward us. After hearing that from the driver, I had two thoughts. Should I feel good that we really made their hearts happy? Or should I feel sad about the condition that the Muslims are in, the condition which gave the people of that country such a bad impression about Muslim people in general!

I told the driver that we already got our reward which was their happiness, and I then remembered the verse: **We only feed you for the sake of God. We want from you neither compensation, nor gratitude**<sup>1</sup>, so I got relieved.

### **My mercy encompasses all things:**

I remember the story of the French language teacher. She was an African from a country called Benin which was adjacent to Lagos where we stayed. After the lecture, I told her that I needed a house maid who could speak French, for my kids and I could practice French language with her. I was surprised when she replied to me: I am ready to work for you!

I told her: You are my teacher and you have my all respect!

She said: You are very kind, but I am really in need of this job. You know that I come from Benin which is adjacent to this city, and I need a place to stay in. I will clean the house for you at morning, and work in the center at evening. Also, I noticed that you are very friendly even though your holy book (Qur'an) never talked about love, nor even about the love of the Creator to His servants. How can He loves them while He tests them and restricts His provision?!

I replied to her: Regarding to the place you need to stay in, you are welcome with no job and for free. We already have an annex for the workers and you can share the dorms with them. Regarding to what you've said about the Qur'an, have you ever read the Qur'an?

She replied: No, but I have heard about it.

I told her: If you read the Qur'an, you will see what is mentioned in it about the mercy and love God has for His servants. But God's love to His servants is different from the love humans have with each other, because love in humans' case is a need that the loving person seeks and finds in the beloved, but

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<sup>1</sup> (Qur'an 76: 9).

God does not need us humans. Hence, His love for us is out of generosity, kindness and mercy. The love which comes from the Powerful to the powerless; the love which comes from the free of need to the needy. The love which comes from the Competent and Mighty to the helpless; the love which comes from the Most Great to the humble. The love which comes with sagacity and wisdom.

She asked: How come?

I replied: Wouldn't you bring your own child to the operation room to have his/her stomach opened? Wouldn't you fully trust the doctor's insight, his love to your baby, and his consideration to save him/her from the illness?

She replied: How come He loves His creations while He limits their freedom and doesn't permit them to do whatever they like to do?

Have you never heard about individualism? Have you ever heard about this evolving concept, which means that the individual's decisions should be based on one's own benefits and pleasures? The individual is the focus of attention, so the individual's personal interests should be above the nation's considerations as well as above the society's and religion's effects. In addition, people should not be prohibited to gender transition; they should be able to do whatever they like to do as well as to wear and behave in public in the way they want to, as the street is everyone's.

I said: Do you allow your children to do whatever they wish because you love them? Would you allow your little son to jump out of the window or to play with an electric cord?

I also told her: Your statement where you said that the street is everyone's is correct but your understanding of it is wrong. If you were living with a group of people in the same house, would you ever accept one of the members of the house to urinate in the hall, on the same concept that the house belongs to everyone? Would you ever accept living in this house with no laws and rules to govern it? A human who has complete freedom becomes an ugly being, as it has been unquestionably proven that man is unable to handle this kind of freedom. Individualism can never take the place of collectivism regardless of the individual's power or influence. Community members are classes that cannot survive without each other and can never be independent. Some of them are soldiers, doctors, nurses, and judges. How can any of them outweigh their benefit and personal interest over others to achieve their own happiness and be the main focus of attention?

She said: How can we achieve happiness then?

I replied: the meaning of happiness in individualism is victory, domination, and the possession of technology. But in Islam true happiness is a content heart, a successful marriage, a spacious house, a good neighbor, and a comfortable vehicle, with sharing and cooperation.

Although the Islamic Civilization was formed by a mixture of different people and tribes, it produced the systems of accountability and reward, along with duties and rights. The person is punished for his



crimes, but he is also rewarded in other cases. Islam liberated the individual from his previous prejudices and led him to his pure inner-self in order to live like an honest, social civil who lives in a community, respects its laws, and appreciates his intellectual potential along with his ability to coexist beautifully with others. A nation that aspires to progress and builds a higher goal emerges from the concept of a single identity. Everyone has their own ideas and capabilities, but applying these ideas requires teamwork, and thus everyone is equal with whatever they present. So, Islam has presented the perfect relationship of the individual with his society.

I proceeded: The individual is only a small and integral part of the society. This makes a peaceful and secure society, because if the balance between the classes is disturbed, conflicts will arise, and it will lead to a dissatisfaction in the society. Money is no longer the highest standard that distinguishes its owner from others, nor the power or leadership of the world is recognized because of money.

The leader in the Islamic government is not evaluated by the money he possesses, but by the knowledge, morals, and justice he has, and these were the qualities with which they were able to advance and achieve victories one after the other.

Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him said:

**The example of the believers in regard to mutual love, affection, fellow-feeling consists of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole-body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever.<sup>2</sup>**

She said: Individuality is directly related to homosexuality, so why do you not like homosexuals? Is it because of what they have from tendencies?

As I know, it is a natural genetic issue, and we must respect it.

I said to her: Would you respect a thief's tendency to steal? It is an inclination too, but in both cases, it is an abnormal proclivity. It's against the human instinct, and an aggression against nature; it should be rectified.

God created Man and guided him to the right path. He also gave him free will to choose between the path of righteousness and the path of evil.

**And We showed him the two ways?<sup>3</sup>**

So, we find that homosexuality was rarely found in the societies which prohibit it, while the percentage of homosexuals is high in the ambient which permit and encourage such a behavior. The surrounding ambient and teachings determine the probability of one to be homosexual.

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<sup>2</sup> (narrated by Muslim).

<sup>3</sup> (Qur'an: 90-10).

God glory be to Him said about the people of Prophet Lot peace be upon him:

**And Lot, when he said to his people, “Do you commit lewdness no people anywhere have ever committed before you?” “You lust after men rather than women. You are an excessive people.” And his people's only answer was to say, “Expel them from your town; they are purist people.”<sup>4</sup>**

This verse assures that homosexuality is neither inherited nor relates to genetic code composition, for the people of Prophet Lot were the first to innovate such an obscenity. This is in line with an eminent scientific study which ensures that homosexuality has nothing to do with inherited genes.<sup>5</sup>

The identity of a human being is constantly changing. For example, it could change according to his or her watched channels, used technologies, or the liking for a soccer team, as globalization made him or her so complicated.

A betrayer is now portrayed as someone with a point of view, and a homosexual is portrayed as a normal-behaving person, who fully enjoys legal rights that enabled him or her to participate in public debates. In addition, we have to advocate him or her and strengthen ties too.

Superiority now is for the technology holder. Hence, if a homosexual has the power sources (technology), he or she will surely pass his convictions. This caused a spoilage in the relation of the human being, his or her society, and the Creator.

By a direct correlation among individualism and homosexuality, human nature, which human beings belong to, is dispersed and the concepts of the family was dropped.<sup>6</sup>

Then, the Westerns started setting up resolutions to get rid of individualism. The reason behind this is that keeping this perception will certainly cause the loss of the accomplishments modern man has achieved, the same way it will cause the loss of the notion of Family.

So, till now, the Westerns have been suffering from a population decrease, which has led to alluring immigrants.

In fact, believing in God and respecting the Divine laws He created for us, as well as the determination to following His instructions and avoiding wrong deeds, is the way to happiness in the worldly life and the hereafter.

**And never has the gift of your Lord been restricted:**

My female teacher ended her conversation by telling me: How do religious countries develop and non-religious countries go down despite the fact that God loves the latter? (religious countries).

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<sup>4</sup> (Qur'an: 7: 80-82).

<sup>5</sup> <sup>5</sup> <https://www.nature.com>  
<https://kaheel7.net/?p=15851>

<sup>6</sup> From the article on the concept of absolute individuality and the individual in the nation, written by: Marwan Sabah, Al-Watan newspaper.

I said: Does the school headmaster reward his son who failed with a success certificate because he is his son? There are rules and norms that have to be followed, and on that basis of these sets we define who succeeds and who fails.

However, this does not affect the fact that the headmaster loves his son more than anyone else. Indeed, he (the son) is who carries his name and will be his only heir.

I also told her: The universe is just like a school; it has its own laws and norms. The disbelievers achieved the materialistic and technological progress because they applied the universal laws and the Divine norms so that they could establish good political systems, along with strong educational and pedagogical systems with methodological standards. This materialistic progress is only for those who apply the Divine norms and the universal laws. This proves that the worldly success doesn't favor a white or a black; "justice" is one of God's names and injustice is one of the ugliest acts God warned us humans from committing. But a disbeliever still won't be given the reward of the Hereafter which is only for God's servants and lovers.

The Messenger of God peace be upon him said:

**God does not wrong a believer a good deed as he is given blessing for it in this world and will be rewarded for it in the Hereafter. But the disbeliever is given in the world the reward for good deeds, he has performed and when he comes to the Hereafter, there is no good deeds for which he can be rewarded.<sup>7</sup>**

God Almighty gives them what they deserve in this world considering what they have of goodness and what they exert of justice.

God, glory be to Him, may support a nation of disbelievers over a Muslim nation as a punishment for its sins, just like what happened in the battle of Uhud.

**And God had certainly fulfilled His promise to you when you were killing the enemy by His permission until [the time] when you lost courage and fell to disputing about the order [given by the Prophet] and disobeyed after He had shown you that which you love. Among you are some who desire this world, and among you are some who desire the Hereafter. Then he turned you back from them [defeated] that He might test you. <sup>8</sup>**

The Messenger of God said:

**God Almighty shared out your character between you as He divided provision between you. God Almighty bestows wealth on those He loves and those He does not love. He only gives faith to those He loves. <sup>9</sup>**

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<sup>7</sup> True hadith.

<sup>8</sup> (Qur'an 3: 152).

<sup>9</sup> True hadith.

She replied: Well, if I believe in Him right now, will He make me wealthy and give me a house?

I said: If your own father didn't make you wealthy or give you a house, would you deny his existence?

### **God is waiting for us:**

There is a beautiful story about a group of Chinese atheists who were wondering about God's mercy. One of them asked: How come the Creator gives us instincts, then after that He asks us not to use them? How come He gives us money and after that He asks us to lose it by giving it to charities? How come He gives us time and then He asks us to waste it in worship? Isn't that a proof of His cruelty?

I replied to him: That means you believe in Him, but you just question whether He is merciful or not?

He said: No, I don't believe in Him because He is cruel.

I said to him: Your assumption that He is cruel is just itself an evidence that He exists. Sorry, but you are contradicting yourself. God is above from being unjust or cruel. He is the Merciful Compassionate; His mercy is the absolute mercy. Anyways, the cruelty you assume is not an evidence against God's existence, but it's against whether He is merciful or not.

I also told him: When you wish to release your instincts, you tend to be a slave to them (instincts). Yet, God wants you to become a master over them. He wants you to be a reasonable, wise person who manages his instincts. At the same time, you are not supposed to restrict them. It is better to direct them towards upgrading your soul and elevating yourself.

I asked him: Do you have children?

He said: Yes.

I said: If you obligate your children to devote some time to study in order to have an honorable intellectual rank in the future, while the children's desire is just to play, are you considered an oppressive father?

I was deeply astonished seeing the group fly from excitement about my response. Then, one of them asked me: What can we do now, considering that we have been distanced from God a lot? Will He forgive us if we came back? We have offended Him a lot.

I told him: You just offended yourselves. God the Almighty does not need us, but we need Him. Anyway, what would you do if your disobedient son stayed away from you? Would you make him feel a shamed? Would you ask him to shoot himself?

He replied: I would keep waiting for him to come back, and pardon him if he came.

I told him: So, God is waiting for you now.

He burst into excitement and chanted loudly: God is waiting for us. He chanted again. Then everyone turned to each other saying: God is waiting for us.

God's messenger, Muhammad, peace be upon him said:

**God is more pleased with the repentance of His servant than anyone of you who loses his riding beast in a barren land, and it was carrying his food and drink; he despairs of ever finding it, so he comes to a tree and lies down in its shade, having given up all hope of finding his riding beast; then whilst he is there like that, suddenly he sees it standing near him, so he takes hold of its reins and because of his great joy he says, 'O God, You are my slave and I am Your Lord!' – i.e., he makes a mistake because of his great joy.** <sup>10</sup>

I also remember a personal experience I witnessed with a famous Indian actor who has converted to Hinduism so far. We had a discussion about the mercy of God and His affection towards His servants.

One of them asked: How come God sometimes depicts Himself as the Forgiving and the Merciful, yet during other times, He becomes the Severely Punishing?

I replied: God is forgiving and merciful with those whose sins are committed without persistence because of their weak human character. He is also forgiving for the sins that do not have an intention of defying the Creator (Allah). Indeed, the Almighty destroys the one who defies Him and denies His existence; He also destroys the one who draws Him in a form of an idol or an animal. I was then inappropriately interrupted by the actor.

He said: These are minor issues that God doesn't care about.

I told him: If you insult an animal no one can blame you, but if you insult your parents, you'll be blamed severely.

Don't look how small the sin is but look to the greatness of whom you disobeyed.

**Then follow me, so God will love you:**

I had one of the most difficult experience with two Christian South African siblings, and the brother's wife who was a Buddhist Thai. The woman and her brother were white South Africans, and they were remarkably tall and huge, while the brother's wife was very short and tiny. I was confused at first by the differences in the heights, the body frames, and the beliefs of the visitors.

I was supposed to start my conversation with them by a short presentation about Islam.

Instead, I was surprised with a fluency of non-stop talking by the South African woman; she barely gave me a chance to utter one word. She kept saying:

"God is love. God loves you. God died for you."

I then held myself up and said to her: Alright. I'm ready to embrace Christianity if you answered my questions. The visitor cheered up, and she went to bring her sister-in-law to let her listen to our conversation; she was in another corner of the Mosque taking pictures. I understood that the South African lady had been trying to convince her Buddhist sister-in-law to convert to Christianity since a

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<sup>10</sup> (Narrated by Bukhari).



long time, and she thought that if I accept converting to Christianity, it would be a motivation for her sister in-law to do the same.

The visitor, in the presence of her sister in-law, said to me: Well, I'm ready, tell me your questions.

I said to her: You said that God loves me, and that He died for me to forgive my sins.

She said: Yes, that's right.

I asked:

- Would the love I have for my son make me kill myself in order to forgive his sins?
- Is God, with all His love for me, unable to forgive me if I just repent and turned back to Him?
- Can the love God has for me make Him punish me for a sin committed by someone else (Adam's sin), and then grant me salvation just if I believed in the death of another person on a cross, not for my own good deeds?
- Was God with all His love to Jesus unable to protect him from killing and crucifixion?
- How come God may die when He is Ever-living and does not die in your creed? Isn't this a contradiction?
- When God died for three days, according to what you believe, who was managing the universe in His claimed absence? Who gave the provisions? Who gave lives and caused death? Who returned Him back to life again?
- God is Omnipotent, does it suit His majesty to be fixed to a wooden beam? To be tortured to death as you claim, specially that the crucified person is considered cursed in your book?
- In which chapter in your book did Jesus say that he is God?
- When Jesus cried and prayed to God for help when they wanted to crucify him, did he pray to himself?

Exalted is God, God the Almighty is High above what they say by great sublimity.

As I was asking my questions, I noticed her confusion, fret, and peeping gazes to her sister in-law, and I felt that she got worried from the influence of my talk on her sister in-law. So, she told me that she is in a hurry, and without replying to any of my questions she said to me: I liked your dress so much, then she hugged me tightly to the point that I was frightened. She then she grabbed her sister in law's hand and left the Mosque right away!

I also remember facing a similar situation with a religious Christian, French man.

He said to me: God loves you, He died for you.

I asked him Who told you that? God Himself or Jesus?

He replied: Saint Paul did. He was a smart and educated man. His educational level was the same level of a person who holds three doctorates in our time.

I said: What is the relation between Paul's educational level and the Divine Revelation?

He told me: He saw a vision telling him that the Almighty God died for us.

I told him: The Divine Revelation comes from God, including the revelation descending with the Divine Messages. On the other hand, it's the devilish revelation that comes in the form of dreams to humans. He laughed at my response.

I proceeded: Human knowledge is a human production that is subject to correctness and error. It includes scientific achievement or inspiring literature, and it has nothing to do with Divine Revelation.

Moreover, human knowledge is the production of good tidings that make mistakes, including scientific creativity and literary inspiration. It is creative experiences. It has nothing to do with divine revelation at all.

Finally, I told him: I do not have much information on this point, but I am really surprised from a person who leaves the true message of the Messiah which is a Divine Revelation, and goes for a vision. This is totally insensible and is in all means opposing to both natural instinct and rationale, for a person who had never met the Messiah during his life such as Paul, and that is just because he is educated! Paul was one of the worst enemies of the Messiah who tried to destroy his religion, kill him, and torment his followers.

I continued: For me, as a person who loves the Messiah, I have to believe in his message. When he says, God is Only One God <sup>11</sup>, and saint Paul says: three in one <sup>12</sup>.

In your book, the Messiah said:

I ascend onto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God<sup>13</sup>.

Paul said: The Messiah is the only begotten son of God<sup>14</sup>.

In your book, the Messiah said: that I do nothing of myself<sup>15</sup>.

Paul said Jesus is omnipotent<sup>16</sup>.

In your book, the Messiah said:

My Father is greater than I<sup>17</sup>.

Paul said: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> (Mark 12:29).

<sup>12</sup> (Corinthians 12:3-6).

<sup>13</sup> John 17:20).

<sup>14</sup> (Galatians 4: 4,5).

<sup>15</sup> (John 30:5).

<sup>16</sup> (John 5:15).

<sup>17</sup> (John 28:14).

<sup>18</sup> (Hebrews 3:1).

So please tell me, whom shall I believe now the Messiah or Paul??

The French visitor said: You know all that and you claimed that you don't have any information!! Would you allow me to take some photos because I have an important appointment to go to?

I told him: Please do!

### **What can God gain by your punishment, if you are grateful and you believe?**

There is the most wonderful story I have ever witnessed in my life which is about an American and a Japanese. I was so exhausted after a busy day. I had been informed that an American and a Japanese visitor were waiting for me. I doubted they were friends, but then I was surprised that they didn't know each other. They met each other in the center's waiting room; I invited them inside. Despite my exhaustion, I approved the visit.

The American kept asking questions constantly, a question after another. The Japanese spoke English fluently, but he was just listening carefully and didn't interrupt us. However, the American didn't give up asking questions abnormally, which made me doubt that he actually wanted to attack Islam and didn't ask to benefit from the information. Throughout those three hours, he asked me a lot of questions.

He requested that he wanted to learn and memorize chapter number (1) of the Qur'an (the opening), and he memorized it. Then, he asked to learn chapter number (112) (sincerity), and learn how to practice praying during his visit. That took him around three hours. Although I was exhausted, God provided me with patience. I understood that the American was an atheist and didn't have any religion from the questions he asked. Indeed, the Christians don't attack God.

One of the questions he asked was: Why doesn't God admit the pretension that Jesus is His son? Does He feel jealous of Jesus?

I replied: If you send me a package with the postman, and I spread among the public that the postman was your son, would you accept that?

He said: No.

I said: Is it because you feel jealous of him?

He said: No, simply because he is not my son.

I said: So, you accept something for your Creator what you don't accept to yourself.

He asked: Why does God punish with the Hellfire?

I told him: What do you expect from God to do with those who tortured children with chemical weapons, as an example, to let them go to Paradise?

I told him: Also, someone who disowned his mother and father, humiliated them and kicked them out of the house to the street, as another example. How do you feel towards this man?

He said: I feel a great wrath.

I told: If I told you I would let him in my house, feed him, praise him for this (wrong) deed would you value my deed? Would you accept it?

He said: No.

I said: What do you expect from God to do with the one who denies the existence of his Creator and disbelieves in Him?

Who is being punished in the Hellfire seems to be put in the right position.

It is a just judgment that Hellfire be their final abiding place. It will be like placing a thing in its rightful element. They do not deserve the beauty and peaceful state of Paradise as they disdained peace while on Earth.

**And even if they were sent back, they would revert to what they were forbidden. They are liars.** <sup>19</sup>

This means that their sin is not limited in time but it is an eternal merit.

**On the Day when God will resurrect them altogether—they will swear to Him, as they swear to you, thinking that they are upon something. Indeed, they themselves are the liars.** <sup>20</sup>

So, they also face God with false swears on the Day of Judgement.

**But the ones who deny Our verses and are arrogant toward them - those are the companions of the Fire; they will abide therein eternally.** <sup>21</sup>

Evil comes from envious and jealous people. So, it is fair that the Hellfire will be their reward, which copes with their nature (evil).

The attribute of justice that God has, requires that He should be vengeful alongside His mercy. In Christianity, God is only love and in Judaism He is rage. In Islam, He is Just and Merciful, and He has all ideal names, which are qualities of beauty and grace.

I said furthermore: Practically, in life, we use fire to isolate impurities from a purified substance like silver and gold. For this reason, God the Almighty, the Ideal, uses the Hellfire to purify His servants from sins and evils, and finally, those who have one atom of belief are released from it (the Hellfire) by Mercy of God.

He said: I want a tangible argument proving God's existence.

I told him: You are asking for the weakest argument. We see the rainbow and the mirage, and we believe they exist, but they don't have any tangible existence! Moreover, we believe in the existence of law of gravity without seeing it because science has proven it.

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<sup>19</sup> (Qur'an 6: 28).

<sup>20</sup> (Qur'an 58 :18).

<sup>21</sup> (Qur'an 7:36).



**The sights do not apprehend Him, yet He apprehends the sights, and He is the All-attentive, the All-aware.** <sup>22</sup>

Merely, thinking that you have the ability to grasp the total perception of God is a symptom of ignorance about Him. The car may guide you to the sea, but it doesn't let you go into it. For example, if I asked you how much the sea water is by liter and you answered with any number, you would be considered ignorant. If you answered by saying: "I don't know" you would be an all-knowing. The only path to know God is His signs in the world and His verses in His book, The Qur'an.

He asked: Why do you not think that there are other gods who give provisions and cure diseases?

I replied: Did anyone other than God claim being the sustainer or the healer so that we would substantiate the validity or invalidity of their allegations?

You can even notice that all people direct to only One Truth and plead to only One God when they are facing troubles. Science proved that the entire universe consists of one matter, and proved the same building system of the universe through studying the universal aspects and phenomena, and through the similarity and symmetry in the universe.

For example, in families, when the father and mother argue over a life decision, they may lose their children and destroy their future. So, can you imagine what would happen if there are two or more gods managing the universe?!

**If there were in the heavens and earth gods besides God (Allah), they both would have been ruined. So exalted is God, Lord of the Throne, above what they describe.** <sup>23</sup>

He asked: Can that Creator give life to a dead body here before my eyes?

I replied: Surprisingly, you atheists repeat the same questions as if you all previously agreed on them, though I believe you are sure they are irrational and illogical.

I added: If God gives life to dead before your eyes, you won't be convinced, just like it happened in Moses' peace be upon him story, and like the other miracles of the other prophets they offered to their people. Their people were just accusing them that they were magicians!

**Likewise, no messenger came to those before them, but they said, "A sorcerer or a madman." Did they recommend it to one another? In fact, they are rebellious people.** <sup>24</sup>

**And even if We were to send down angels unto them, and if the dead were to speak unto them and [even if] We were to assemble before them, face to face, all the things [that can prove the truth], they would still not believe unless God so willed But [of this] most of them are entirely unaware.** <sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> (Qur'an 6: 103).

<sup>23</sup> (Qur'an 21: 22).

<sup>24</sup> (Qur'an 51: 52-53).

<sup>25</sup> (Qur'an 6: 111).

The American man added: How come the Creator may punish His servants with endless torture for a few sins they committed in a short span of life?

I told him: Most crimes lead to a life-in-prison verdict. So, is there anyone who argues that the life-in-prison verdict is unfair because the criminal committed his/her crime within few minutes? Is a ten-year sentence unfair because the criminal looted money for just one year? Hence legal penalties are not related to the period of the crime commitment instead they are related to the magnitude and the cruelty of the crime.

Then he asked: Why did God (Allah) repeat the warning about hell? Doesn't that indicate His mercilessness and hatred towards us?

I told him: I exhaust my children by frequently alerting them that whenever they travel or go to work, they have to take care in their round trips. So, by doing that, do you consider me a harsh mother?! This is making things look upside down. You are turning mercy into harshness. God's (Allah's) alertness and warning for His worshipers is out of His mercilessness towards them. He guides them towards the path of salvation and promised to exchange their evil deeds into good deeds when they seek forgiveness.

**....he who believed and did the right, will have his evil deeds expunged by God and admitted to gardens with rivers flowing by, and abide there perpetually. This will be the great achievement of success. <sup>26</sup>**

**Indeed, God is the Merciful:**

The American man continued saying: Then, why did God order Abraham to slaughter his son, isn't that cruelty?

I replied: Did God order you to do this? If we suppose that there is a person who claimed himself to be the smartest person in the whole world, then he should be subjected to the hardest tests in order to prove his claim correct. Abraham peace be upon him was a Prophet and Messenger who received the revelation from God, and he declared that his love to God was above his love to any other thing, so God tested him in order to prove the love that Prophet Abraham claimed to have. Keep in mind that it was reported at the time of Abraham that the habit of offering people their sons as a sacrifice to God was common. So, God aimed to end that old habit and to replace it with offering animals as a sacrifice instead of sons. He said: Why does God keep repeating in Qur'an that He loves the pious believers but doesn't like the disbelievers, aren't all of them His servants?

I told him: God guided all His servants to the path of salvation, and He emphasized that He disapproves the disbelief from His servants. God doesn't like the erratic behavior itself which the human may choose to adopt by his/her disbelief and corruption on earth.

**If you disbelieve - indeed, God is Free from need of you. And He does not approve for His servant's disbelief. And if you are grateful, He approves it for you; and no bearer of burdens will bear the burden**

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<sup>26</sup> (Qur'an 64:9).

**of another. Then to your Lord is your return, and He will inform you about what you used to do. Indeed, He is Knowing of that within the breasts.** <sup>27</sup>

I added: What do you say about a father who repeatedly tells his sons 'I am proud of all of you, no matter if you commit theft, murder, or corruption, you are just like any other pious and devoted son to me'? Simply, the most suitable opinion about the father is that he is just like a devil who urges his sons to do evil deeds!

He said: But why does God keep reminding us in the Qur'an about the blessings He granted us with, when those blessings are merely nothing compared to what He really owns. What is special in this case?

I replied: God reminds us of the blessings He bestows on us in order to protect us from our own selves; we may show gratitude and thank someone else other than Him. As a matter of fact, we humans if we don't worship Him, we would worship someone else. When I gain fortune, or when I feel the euphoria of success and feel proud of my breakthroughs, I thank my own self unintentionally. It is as if I attribute my achievements to my own abilities which are already given to me by God. At that very moment, I would open the Qur'an to read the verse which says: "And my success is not but through God", so that it opens my eyes and I thank God.

I added: If someone gave you a gift, would you feel happy for the gift itself or for its indication of that person's love to you?

In fact, the greatness of the gift is derived from its source/giver. If I gave you 100 dinar and the king gave you one dinar, you would be happier for the one dinar that the king gave to you more than the 100 dinar I gave you, and you would spread the news over social media.

The Japanese man listened without interfering throughout the three hours.

The American man then asked again: Isn't it considered harshness when God (Allah) accounts us for things He originally wrote for us?

I said: I will give you an example. Let's say that you want to buy something from the store, and decide to send your first son specifically to buy that thing. It is definitely because you previously know that your first son is wise. He will straightaway go and buy what you exactly want while you know that your other son will get busy playing with his friends and the money may be lost. This is an assumption which you built your judgments on.

I continued: Predestination does not contradict with freedom of choice as God predestines us based on His complete knowledge of what our choices and intentions will be.

Our deeds are foreknown to God in His Record but they are not preordained for us against our will. They are only preordained in His Prescience. In the same way we may foresee in the light of knowledge of our children's characters, that they will make a wrong choice before they actually make it. We did not

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<sup>27</sup> (Qur'an 39: 7).

impose their choice upon them against their will, even though we may have expected that choice. God preordains the intentions and hearts of man; if these are evil, man will come to evil; if good, good will be his fate.

I also told him: Man, in his freedom, may act contrary to what satisfies God, but he cannot do anything in contradiction to His Will. God granted us freedom to transgress against His wishes (we disobey Him) but He gave no one the freedom to transcend His Will.

He said: So why does God permit transgression of His orders?

I said to him: Sometimes my child, for example, insists on touching the fire and I say don't touch it, but at a certain point, when I find him stubborn, I let him touch it to learn from his experience. I know from my son's personality that he won't learn unless he tries. God is the All Knowing. He knows the nature of His creation, and that they won't learn unless they try. So, we find that some people face simple afflictions from God and some face difficult ones. This could be because that person won't return to God without trials and affliction. This is all based on the knowledge of God.

He said: Why does God compel us to believe?

I replied: Has God forced you to believe in Him? Here you are standing before me claiming that you don't believe in Him. The freedom is further affirmed by our experience that it is impossible under any pressure to compel the heart to accept anything it does not want to. We can force anyone through threats and force them to stay with us but no pressure whatsoever can make them love us. God has safeguarded our hearts from all forms of compulsion and duress. This is why God judges according to what is in the heart and rewards according to the intention, which is visible to no-one but Him.

There was a surprise at the end of the visit; the American man asked me to take pictures inside the mosque. Meanwhile, the Japanese man came to me and said: I like this religion, what a great religion it is! I want to embrace this religion.

It was a really amazing surprise to me, because he never had any reaction towards the previous conversation. He was just listening during the whole visit! The Japanese testified in front of the American that there is no god but God and that Muhammad is the Messenger of God. The American congratulated him, and the Japanese asked me more details about practicing this religion. I gave him the phone number of the Islamic Center in Tokyo, and he promised me that he would continue on this path.

**God will bring forth a people He will love and who will love Him:**

Those [angels] who carry the Throne and those around it exalt [Allah] with praise of their Lord and believe in Him and ask forgiveness for those who have believed, [saying], "Our Lord, You have



encompassed all things in mercy and knowledge, so forgive those who have repented and followed Your way and protect them from the punishment of Hellfire. <sup>28</sup>

God's love and mercy for His servants manifests in creating them, honoring them and guiding them to the right path.

**And We have certainly established you upon the earth and made for you therein ways of livelihood. Little are you grateful. And We have certainly created you, [O Mankind], and given you [human] form. Then We said to the angels, "Prostrate to Adam"; so, they prostrated, except for Iblees (the devil). He was not of those who prostrated.** <sup>29</sup>

One of the finest gestures in the Qur'an is that God mentioned His love to His servants before mentioning the love of the servants to Him, and that's out of His great subtlety and His vast mercy to them.

**.....God will bring forth [in place of them] a people He will love and who will love Him.** <sup>30</sup>

Also, one of the subtle gestures in the noble Qur'an is that God's mercy manifests even in the humans' afflictions of tests and trials.

**Should I take other gods apart from Him, who would neither be able to intercede for me nor save me if the Most Gracious brings me harm?** <sup>31</sup>

If "the Most Gracious" desires harm for a person, then this necessarily leads to the mercy and kindness of God. So, in this case, what seemed to be harmful, in fact turns out to be merciful and good for the believer because "the Most Gracious" does not emanate from Him except mercy, kindness and righteousness.

**.....but perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you; and perhaps you love a thing and it is bad for you. And God Knows, while you know not.** <sup>32</sup>

By the mercy of God, He distributed the livelihoods among human beings, and made them the needs that one of them decides for the other to achieve cooperation among them in a way that benefits everyone. If each of them dispensed with one another, their interests would be disrupted.

It was by His mercy that He made the rich and the poor among them, the honored and the servile, the helpless and the capable, and kept the door of the Divine giving and Virtue open to compete in it and to be forever attached to it.

**Do they distribute the mercy of your Lord? It is We who have apportioned among them their livelihood in the life of this world and have raised some of them above others in degrees [of rank] that they may**

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<sup>28</sup> (Qur'an 40: 7).

<sup>29</sup> (Qur'an 7: 10 - 11).

<sup>30</sup> (Qur'an 5: 54).

<sup>31</sup> (Qur'an 36: 23).

<sup>32</sup> (Qur'an 2: 216).

**make use of one another for service. But the mercy of your Lord is better than whatever they accumulate.**

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The mercy of God also manifests in His sharia laws and commandments, which are mere goodness and mercy to the creations regarding the providence of guidance and preservation of their religion. In addition, regarding the preservation of themselves, their bodies, their minds and thoughts, their honorship and kinship, their offspring, and also regarding the preservation of their money and properties. All laws and rules related to those previously mentioned five essentials were merely sent as a mercy to people in order to safeguard and protect them from corruption and aggression, along with breaking the ice between people. In addition, to keep them away from hardships and difficulties, and to preserve everyone's rights in order to be able to live in a healthy secure and happy society/environment, as the right of having a healthy society is one of the life rights pillars.

**And when he goes away, he strives throughout the land to cause corruption therein and destroy crops and animals. And God does not like corruption.** <sup>34</sup>

Ibn Al-Qayyim said<sup>35</sup>: " God inspired David peace be upon him saying: 'O David, if only the people who go astray from me know how much I wait for them to come back towards me, how kind I am to them, and how I long to them to give up their sins. If they just know about that all, they would die out of their love to me. O David, if this is the case of My will for those who go away from me, what about for those who come towards me! ' " <sup>36</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> (Qur'an 43: 32).

<sup>34</sup> (Qur'an 2: 205).

<sup>35</sup> Mentioning it only out of taking parable and moral from it.

<sup>36</sup> Rawda Al Muhibben (p. 438).