

LOVE OF GOD IN OUR SCRIPTURES

A Devotional Gathering at the Catholic Church in Suva, Fiji.

(Compiled by Jalal Ud Dean, of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam (Lahore) Fiji and who is also the Chairperson of the Interfaith Search Fiji)

This article is in two Parts. Part I is the combined commonalities of the different Faiths' presentations of readings and with an additional Part II, which was the actual presentation by the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam (Lahore) Fiji, as the single Muslim presentation.

Part I

This discussion gathering was held at the Catholic Church crypt for Interfaith Search Fiji monthly gathering. It was indeed a very interesting and thought-inspiring gathering, largely because of the topic "**Love of God in Our Scriptures**" and, which really forms one of the main purposes of our existence.

Apologies were from:

Hare Krsna Fiji, Sikh Association Fiji, Shri Laximinarayan Mandir Fiji, Fiji Seva Ashram, Arya Samaj Fiji, Sanatan Dharam Fiji, and Brahamakumaris Fiji.

The following are common-points reflections from that gathering and excerpts taken from various scriptures in Part I.

Presented as readings (in Part I) were from:

The Catholic Church in Fiji, Church of Christ LDS in Fiji, Sri Satya Sai Service Organisation in Fiji and the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam (Lahore) Fiji:

1. God introduced His Spiritual imagery description as spirit in mankind when He created Adam and Eve. Mankind with material eyes cannot see God as He (God) is in His Spirit of Supreme Power. That is clear indication that God loves us very much, by placing that spirit in mankind and which is different from animals' life.
2. The Supremacy of the Power of God as the Supreme Spirit facilitates Him to spread out wide everywhere in His universe and to every location that is imaginable. He is the Ruler.
3. Beneficent God: God loves mankind very much and has been providing all essential needs to mankind even before He created Adam and Eve.
4. God has been providing these material needs without any break in His supply chain and without any tiredness on His part. These essential needs which God gives mankind are voluntary on His part and without mankind asking for them, are so vast and includes this habitable earth, the seas, the sunshine to earn a living, darkness for rest, vegetation and foliage, planetary movements each in its own orbit, the moon for tidal changes and as a reflector of light from the sun, the sun as supreme source of light and solar energy, marine life which remains very much full of abundant resources, climate and season changes, atmospheric composition with oxygen and other gases in correct proportions, animals to assist and subservient to humans, food, shelter and clothing, etc and the list can go on forever with no end in sight!
5. We must trust in God because He made us and loves us as the best of all His creations.
6. God creates and recreates upon His own wisdom and judgement in determining what is necessary for mankind, a feature which has been happening for thousands of years without

- any failure, inasmuch as a mother would provide all necessary provisions for her children because the mother really loves her children.
7. God asks us to share His love with us and accordingly He asks us to also love our neighbours and love our enemies regardless; and forgive those who pose as our enemies.
 8. God is Lord of the worlds and that includes His being Lord over all parts of universe known to mankind and parts of the universe yet to be discovered by mankind.
 9. God loves us and made His laws of nature for consistent application to entire mankind and not just a selected few. God is on the Throne of Power and loves mankind more than parents love their children.
 10. God lovingly creates forever and lovingly recreates forever and never gets bored from that routine.
 11. God is Supreme Head over all Prophets mentioned in revealed scriptures; but those names are not limited and have only been mentioned by name linked to events, for us to learn from their actions and to follow the correct path.
 12. He loves us all and mankind is a single nation but the broad-stream differences are His creativity to give variety and remove boredom. God sent His Prophets to every nation on earth as His material Ambassadors, so that they directly interacted and mingled with humans in their languages and cultures, because God loves us so much. God loves us and in complete fairness to mankind, hence He will be the Supreme Judge on the Last Day to determine us in life after death. God answers to all our prayers in His Own ways - although some of His answers may not be immediately visible to mankind.
 13. God also disciplines and rewards and accordingly He has specified Heaven and Hell for those who meet compliance and for those who do not. God loves us and He has a reward system for those who are believers, regardless they are Muslims, Jews, Christians, Sabian, etc.
 14. Loving mankind and compliance to God's scriptures has its many bonuses as well, such as reduction in all forms of violence and hatred leading to wars.
 15. Since God loves us so much, we must give Him thanks at all times by being compliant to Him and His scriptures.
 16. The outcomes for loving God back inasmuch as He loves we mankind, is total compliance and total dedication to God by closing the gap in our gap-analysis of our actions on earth in this material life, is the incentive to Heaven.
 17. Gap-analysis: God is consistent with His love for mankind. It is mankind which is inconsistent in their demonstration of full compliance towards God and His scriptures. Since mankind is inconsistent as such, the gap between God's fixed consistency of love and non-compliance to God widens the gap between God and mankind.
 18. When that gap widens, it allows opportunity for the devil to creep into that gap and do what the devils does best: Leading mankind into temptations of becoming non-compliant to God and consequently leading mankind into the devil's decreed abode, which is Hell.
 19. By mankind becoming fully compliant to God and His scriptures, the gap narrows to nothingness and denies the devil that opportunity of misleading mankind into temptation and then mankind joining the devil's bandwagon to Hell on Judgement Day. There is the open challenge to mankind: to love God as He loves mankind and further, in remembering that God's Kingdom is built on a foundation of truths (as laws of nature), full compliance to God and His scriptures and for love of God.

Part II

“LOVE OF GOD IN OUR SCRIPTURES”

What does Qur’an Stipulate that God Loves Us?

2:29- “He it is Who created for you all that is in the earth. And He directed Himself to the heaven, so He made them complete seven heavens; and He is Knower of all things.”

4:1- “O people, keep your duty to your Lord, Who created you from a single being and created its mate of the same (kind), and spread from these two many men and women. And keep your duty to Allah, by Whom you demand one of another (your rights), and (to) the ties of relationship. Surely Allah is ever a Watcher over you.”

30:21- “And of His signs is this, that He created mates for you from yourselves that you might find quiet of mind in them, and He put between you love and compassion. Surely there are signs in this for a people who reflect.”

22:65- “Seest thou not that Allah has made subservient to you all that is in the earth, and the ships gliding in the sea by His command? And He withholds the heaven from falling on the earth except with His permission. Surely Allah is Compassionate, Merciful to men.”

How do we know from Qur’an that God is the Beneficent?

2:163- “And your God is one God; there is no God but He! He is the Beneficent, the Merciful.”

20:5- “The Beneficent is established on the Throne of Power.”

What Stipulations are in Qur’an that We Love God?

48:29- “Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, and those with him are firm of heart against the disbelievers, compassionate among themselves. Thou seest them bowing down, prostrating themselves, seeking Allah’s grace and pleasure. Their marks are on their faces in consequence of prostration. That is their description in the Torah — and their description in the Gospel — like seed-produce that puts forth its sprout, then strengthens it, so it becomes stout and stands firmly on its stem, delighting the sowers that He may enrage the disbelievers on account of them. Allah has promised such of them as believe and do good, forgiveness and a great reward.”

What is the Stipulation in Qur’an for Not Loving God?

4:36- “And serve Allah, and associate naught with Him, and be good to the parents and to the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the neighbour of (your) kin and the alien neighbour, and the companion in a journey and the wayfarer and those whom your right hands possess. Surely Allah loves not such as are proud, boastful,”

What is Stated in Qura’n About What God Does Not Love?

2:165- “Yet there are some men who take for themselves objects of worship besides Allah, whom they love as they should love Allah. And those who believe are stronger in (their) love for Allah. And

O that the wrongdoers had seen, when they see the chastisement, that power is wholly Allah's, and that Allah is Severe in chastising!"

4:107- "And contend not on behalf of those who act unfaithfully to their souls. Surely Allah loves not him who is treacherous, sinful:"

4:108- "They seek to hide from men and they cannot hide from Allah, and He is with them when they counsel by night matters which please Him not. And Allah ever encompasses what they do."

What Actions Does God Love as Given in the Qur'an?

2:177- "It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards the East and the West, but righteous is the one who believes in Allah, and the Last Day, and the angels and the Book and the prophets, and gives away wealth out of love for Him to the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and to those who ask and to set slaves free and keeps up prayer and pays the poor-rate; and the performers of their promise when they make a promise, and the patient in distress and affliction and in the time of conflict. These are they who are truthful; and these are they who keep their duty."

2:190- "And fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you but be not aggressive. Surely Allah loves not the aggressors."

2:195- "And spend in the way of Allah and cast not yourselves to perdition with your own hands and do good (to others). Surely Allah loves the doers of good."

What is the Reward for Our Love and so for Obedience to God in the Qur'an?

73:20- "Thy Lord knows indeed that thou passest in prayer nearly two-thirds of the night, and (sometimes) half of it, and (sometimes) a third of it, as do a party of those with thee. And Allah measures the night and the day. He knows that (all of) you are not able to do it, so He has turned to you (mercifully); so read of the Quran that which is easy for you. He knows that there are sick among you, and others who travel in the land seeking of Allah's bounty, and others who fight in Allah's way. So read as much of it as is easy (for you), and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate and offer to Allah a goodly gift. And whatever of good you send on beforehand for yourselves, you will find it with Allah — that is best and greatest in reward. And ask forgiveness of Allah. Surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful."

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