

Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Raheem

“Appreciating God’s Gift of Life as Stated in Our Scriptures”

The First Question: How should mankind demonstrate to appreciate God’s gift of life?

Performing prayer five times daily and full compliance as practising Muslims, is the Muslims’ way to demonstrate, in appreciation of God’s gift of life to humanity. People must always present themselves as neat, clean and pure when preparing for prayers to their Creator. This is very important, so that Mosques and other places of worship become places of mutual attraction, when the entire congregation members are visibly clean and visibly pure. (If people were to be unkempt, with dirty smelly clothes, unwashed persons and offensive body odours, then the required principle of all persons regardless of status, standing shoulder to shoulder at prayer would be difficult to achieve). The Holy Qur’an states prescriptively at **33:42** *“And glorify Him morning and evening.”* **5:6** *“O you who believe, when you rise up for prayer, wash your faces, and your hands up to the elbows, and wipe your heads, and (wash) your feet up to the ankles. And if you are under an obligation, then wash (yourselves). And if you are sick or on a journey, or one of you comes from the privy, or you have had contact with women and you cannot find water, betake yourselves to pure earth and wipe your faces and your hands therewith. Allah desires not to place a burden on you but He wishes to purify you, and that He may complete His favour on you, so that you may give thanks.”*

The time-settings for Muslim prayers are regulated on a fundamentally basic system, which is universally possibly and consistently so, using the positioning of the sun as dependable logical guide – but not to involve the sun as the focus of worship. This has been prescribed in the Holy Qur’an at the following references: **20:130** *“So bear patiently what they say, and celebrate the praise of thy Lord before the rising of the sun and before its setting, and glorify (Him) during the hours of the night and parts of the day, that thou mayest be well pleased.”* **56:74** *“So glorify the name of thy Lord, the Incomparably Great.”* **76:26** *“And during part of the night adore Him, and glorify Him throughout a long night.”*

People must always sincerely thank God, through prayers, as their honest appreciation of the gift of life, which God has so affectionately and beneficently given to humanity. Prayer is spiritual nourishment of the soul inasmuch as food is material nourishment for the material body; and prayer as appreciation to God must be performed regularly every day.

This can also be paired and expressed as a simple equation: $1 \text{ soul} + 1 \text{ body} = \text{person}$. Once the person’s soul is separated from that person, then what is left is simply “human remains.”

Adorations of God in appreciation of His gift of life to humanity are the ultimate expressions of appreciation. God created the entire universe out of nothing in six periods of time, and all planets float in their orbits and benefit mankind, yet some people do not give thanks. God does not get tired in giving out gifts of life and He does not need to rest. Little is it that some people give thanks to God!

Mankind must also appreciate their humble origins and their births and must always be thankful to parents who brought them into this world. There were only two people in world history who were not born out of a woman; of course, they were Adam and Eve. Every other individual has been born out of a woman. In addition to appreciating God’s gift of life, mankind must also appreciate their gift of having a mother, who brought them into this world and with the blessings from God the Giver.

The second question: Does God cease His gift of life after continuously providing for all life and all things in this world?

The purpose of this question was to clarify whether Muslims also have a fixed Sabbath, based on the assumption by some other religions, in which they state that God rested after creating the entire universe in six days. Muslims do not accept God as a material person, and Who is subjected to physical tiredness and leading to fatigue, and which requires essential resting. The Holy Qur’an most succinctly explains and positively clarifies at the following references: **7:54** *“Surely your Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in six periods, and He is established on the Throne of Power. He makes the night cover the day, which it pursues incessantly.”*

And (He created) the sun and the moon and the stars, made subservient by His command. Surely His is the creation and the command. Blessed is Allah, the Lord of the worlds!" 46:33 "See they not that Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth and was not tired by their creation, is able to give life to the dead? Aye, He is surely Possessor of power over all things." 2:255 "Allah — there is no god but He, the Ever-living, the Self-subsisting by Whom all subsist. Slumber overtakes Him not, nor sleep. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him but by His permission? He knows what is before them and what is behind them. And they encompass nothing of His knowledge except what He pleases. His knowledge extends over the heavens and the earth, and the preservation of them both tires Him not. And He is the Most High, the Great."

The third question: What is expected of mankind in reciprocating God's gift of life?

God is not dependent on mankind for His existence; but mankind is dependent on God for their existence. God will also give everlasting rewards in exchange for mankind's full compliance to all His prescriptions, which God has so most marvellously stated in the Holy Qur'an at the following references: **2:152** *"Therefore glorify Me, I will make you eminent, and give thanks to Me and be not ungrateful to Me."* **7:10** *"And certainly We established you in the earth and made therein means of livelihood for you; little it is that you give thanks!"* **2:277** *"Those who believe and do good deeds and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate — their reward is with their Lord; and they have no fear, nor shall they grieve."*

The fourth question: What must mankind do to remove the threat to God's gift of life by disobeying the devil?

The devil is an open enemy to mankind and always whispers evil to mankind; in misleading mankind and so taunting God. The Holy Qur'an makes it abundantly clear for humanity, to keep away from having any alliance of whatsoever nature with the devil at the following references: **2:208** *"O you who believe, enter into complete peace and follow not the footsteps of the devil. Surely he is your open enemy."* **7:27** *"O children of Adam, let not the devil seduce you, as he expelled your parents from the garden, pulling off from them their clothing that he might show them their shame. He surely sees you, he as well as his host, from whence you see them not. Surely We have made the devils to be the friends of those who believe not."* **2:256** *"There is no compulsion in religion — the right way is indeed clearly distinct from error. So whoever disbelieves in the devil and believes in Allah, he indeed lays hold on the firmest handle which shall never break. And Allah is Hearing, Knowing."*

The final question: How must mankind strive to prove in appreciating God's gift of life?

As already explained in the first question, God is the Creator. God has also generated laws of nature for on-going procreation, using parents as the delegated operations process. Parents, and especially the mother, has been given special prominence in the procreation process; and the dependable and loving allegiance of a mother over her children requires special recognition, as ordered by the Holy Qur'an at **46:15** *"And We have enjoined on man the doing of good to his parents. His mother bears him with trouble and she brings him forth in pain. And the bearing of him and the weaning of him is thirty months. Till, when he attains his maturity and reaches forty years, he says: My Lord, grant me that I may give thanks for Thy favour, which Thou hast bestowed on me and on my parents, and that I may do good which pleases Thee; and be good to me in respect of my offspring. Truly I turn to Thee, and truly I am of those who submit."*

It is important for mankind to understand and appreciate the contrast between the ever-loving and friendly God and the deceptive devil (the arch-deceiver and master planner of all evils). Accordingly, the Holy Qur'an makes wonderful references for clarity at the following references: **2:257** *"Allah is the Friend of those who believe — He brings them out of darkness into light. And those who disbelieve, their friends are the devils who take them out of light into darkness. They are the companions of the Fire; therein they abide."* **4:120** *"He promises them and excites vain desires in them. And the devil promises them only to deceive."* **23:97** *"And say: My Lord, I seek refuge in Thee from the evil suggestions of the devils."*