

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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God is Great

We have all heard, “Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar” on many occasions. Casually every Muslim knows the meaning of Allahu Akbar, i.e., God is Great. But only a few will try to reflect upon the greatness of God. Only those who have really accepted God and His greatness in the true sense would sit down and analyze this very important attribute of God.

God is our Lord, the most powerful creator of everything. The one who created us from dust. He is the one who gives us life inside the mother’s womb. He is the one who brings us out in this world with the eyes, ears and the brain. He is the infinitely awesome God that created the universe. We cannot fathom the greatness of God. He can say, “Be,” and it is. Let’s just consider how Great God is.

The whole world that is known to us and everything beyond its existence is our universe. Many astronomers think that everything in our universe was once packed together in one lump. Then, about 15 billion years ago, there was a gigantic cosmic explosion which they call the Big Bang.

*The Big Bang Theory Confirmed**
[21:30] Do the unbelievers not realize that the heaven and the earth used to be one solid mass that we exploded into existence? And from water we made all living things. Would they believe?

*21:30 The Big Bang Theory is now supported by the Creator’s infallible mathematical code (Appendix 1). Thus, it is no longer a theory; it is a law, a proven fact.

God has created many wonderful things in this world and in the universe. From as tiny as a gnat to the enormous mountains. Who created them? Only God. Look at the vastness of the sky. You do not need any special instrument to look at the sky. You can observe it from any part of the world. Its vastness will amaze you and how it stands without any support. Simply by looking at the sky and clouds one is spellbound by God’s creation.

[13:2] GOD is the One who raised the heavens without pillars that you can see, then assumed all authority. He committed the sun and the moon, each running (in its orbit) for a predetermined period. He controls all things, and explains the revelations, that you

may attain certainty about meeting your Lord.

[50:6] Have they not looked at the sky above them and how we constructed it and adorned it, without a flaw?

We all know how it feels when we travel in an airplane. We may feel stressed particularly during takeoff and landing. This is because the pressure, temperature and oxygen levels in the cabin fluctuate, and the humidity level is lower than it is at sea level. But praise God when we travel in a spaceship called earth we do not feel even a small jerk. Do you know the speed of this spaceship? We are moving at the speed of 65000 miles per hour. At the same time, this space vehicle is spinning at more than 1000 miles per hour. Every year we complete an entire circuit around the sun—a journey of more than half a billion miles! Indeed, God is Great. In this spaceship everyone is travelling free of charge.

[27:88] When you look at the mountains, you think that they are standing still. But they are moving, like the clouds. Such is the manufacture of

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GOD, who perfected everything. He is fully Cognizant of everything you do.

Everything down to the tiniest details is “adjusted” just right for us to live comfortably on this planet. We get a glimpse of the wonderful Designer who set up the whole system. Such is the greatness of God. The people who truly reverence God are those who are knowledgeable. Reverence and Knowledge are interconnected. When these two aspects sync properly, it results in appreciation. We learn to acknowledge that God has created everything in this world and He is the Master of the universe.

God has made provision of abundant air, water and light for us free of charge. These are the basic necessities required and used by every living being. But human beings are not appreciative. We can probably not thank God enough for these blessings but we must try hard to do our best.

[16:18] If you count GOD’s blessings, you cannot possibly encompass them. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

[31:20] Do you not see that God has committed in your service everything in the heavens and the earth and has showered you with His blessings — obvious and hidden?

God talks about obvious and hidden blessings that He has showered on us. His obvious blessings are prominently visible to us which people take for granted while enjoying them. Let’s consider the hidden ones also. For example, we don’t know all the ways God protects us and helps us live a peaceful life. He has appointed angels who guard us round the clock. Much better than any security system provided for any VIP.

[13:11] Shifts (of angels) take turns, staying with each one of you—they are in front of you and behind you. They stay with you, and guard you in accordance with GOD’s commands. Thus, GOD does not change the condition of

any people unless they themselves make the decision to change. If GOD wills any hardship for any people, no force can stop it. For they have none beside Him as Lord and Master.

I am not even aware how many times during the day these guards of God save me. How many times they shield me from injuries. How many times they protect me from getting insulted or from humiliation. How many times I am protected from the infection of deadly viruses that are floating around me. All this happens according to the commands of God. This is one more reason that compels me to appreciate the greatness of God.

Think of the infinite variety of animals scattered around the world; the huge number of species living in the depths of the ocean. Some we know and many we have not heard about. Every year approximately 9000 new species of insects are discovered. There are over 4000 species of mammals known to us and we have knowledge of over 10000 species of birds.

[42:29] Among His proofs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the creatures He spreads in them. He is able to summon them when He wills.

We human beings sometimes live life blindfolded. We do not bother to look around us because we get everything very easily. We just take it for granted and enjoy it. Unless we take some time from our busy schedule and seriously concentrate on the creation of God, we would not understand its beauty and importance. God filled this world with numerous colourful creations. Why? He could have made it a colourless and boring place. God made this for our enjoyment, for making our life on this earth cheerful. And we need to thank Him quite often. And appreciate the greatness of God.

When a baby is born, he or she is protected by an immune system that can recognize certain microbes immediately and destroy them. If God did not

provide us with this immune system, we would not have any protection against diseases and infections. Not only does God protect our immune systems, He also restores and heals damaged systems. How perfectly He has designed and created us.

[95:4] We created man in the best design.

[40:64] GOD is the One who rendered the earth habitable for you, and the sky a formidable structure, and He designed you, and designed you well. He is the One who provides you with good provisions. Such is GOD your Lord; Most Exalted is GOD, Lord of the universe.

Our Scientific advancement does not provide us with the exact time of our birth and death, Only God knows and only He controls it, for He is Omnipotent and Omniscient.

[40:68] He is the only One who controls life and death. To have anything done, He simply says to it, “Be,” and it is.

Throughout Quran, God highlights His numerous creations as proofs for us. He mentions the heavens and the earth, the various languages people speak, different colors of the human race, lightning, wind and rain, His creation of day and night, the sun and the moon, rivers and mountains, plants, birds, livestock, oceans, etc. All of these proofs should induce us to accept and appreciate the greatness of God. But these proofs will only be accepted by people who hear, people who reflect, people who understand, people who think, people who possess intelligence and people who are appreciative.

[45:3] The heavens and the earth are full of proofs for the believers.

[12:105] So many proofs in the heavens and the earth are given to them, but they pass by them, heedlessly!

Guidance from God is the biggest blessing one can have in this material

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world. Here also we have a reason and a chance to thank God. And we have an opportunity to acknowledge the greatness of God.

[40:13] He is the One who continuously shows you His proofs, and sends down to you from the sky provisions. Only those who totally submit will be able to take heed.

[6:4] No matter what kind of proof comes to them from their Lord, they turn away from it, in aversion.

Only God knows who needs and deserves to be guided. It doesn't matter if you are super wealthy, super powerful or highly educated and highly successful in this material world. God has not only guided us in His path but has also warned us not to be like those who are heedless to His signs.

[41:53] We will show them our proofs in the horizons, and within themselves, until they realize that this is the truth. Is your Lord not sufficient, as a witness of all things?

I remind myself to never stop singing the praises of God, never stop remembering God. This is the only true way to come ever closer to God. Everything in this universe is glorifying God; are we not going to become a part of it!

[17:44] Glorifying Him are the seven universes, the earth, and everyone in them. There is nothing that does not glorify Him, but you do not understand their glorification. He is Clement, Forgiver.

I eagerly proclaim God is Great!
Allahu Akbar!

Abdul G

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Kill your Ego

[2:54] Recall that Moses said to his people, "O my people, you have wronged your souls by worshiping the calf. You must repent to your Creator. You shall kill

your egos. This is better for you in the sight of your Creator." He did redeem you. He is the Redeemer, Most Merciful.

We know we have to kill our egos. To do that we may have to eat our words and swallow our pride. There's a saying that: EGO = Ease God Out. Our ego gets in the way of getting close to God. We want to grow our soul and shrink our ego, not the other way around.

[25:43] Have you seen the one whose god is his own ego? Will you be his advocate?

Do we want to go through life in ignorance or with intelligence? We don't want to be like Cain. *[5:30] His ego provoked him into killing his brother. He killed him, and ended up with the losers.*

Or the disbelievers who were arrogant: *[48:26] While those who disbelieved were enraged, and their hearts were filled with the pride of the days of ignorance, GOD blessed His messenger and the believers with peaceful contentment, and directed them to uphold the word of righteousness. This is what they well deserved. GOD is fully aware of all things.*

Yet, in that same verse, we see the reward for those who display intelligence and turn to God.

"Never forget that intelligence rules the world and ignorance carries the burden. Therefore, remove yourself as far as possible from ignorance and seek as far as possible to be intelligent." M. Garvey

Unfortunately, most people are lost in ignorance.

[16:56] They designate for the idols they set up out of ignorance, a share of the provisions we bestow upon them. By GOD, you will be held accountable for your innovations.

[49:6] O you who believe, if a wicked person brings any news to you, you shall first investigate, lest you commit injustice towards some people, out of ignorance, then become sorry and remorseful for what you have done.

[16:25] They will be held responsible for their sins on the Day of Resurrection, all of them, in addition to sins of all those whom they misled by their ignorance. What a miserable load!

God grants wisdom to those who deserve it. This is what we're striving for.

Wisdom: A Great Treasure
[2:269] He bestows wisdom upon whom-ever He chooses, and whoever attains wisdom, has attained a great bounty. Only those who possess intelligence will take heed.

Those Who Possess Intelligence
[3:190] In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, there are signs for those who possess intelligence. [2:48] Beware of the day when no soul can avail another soul, no intercession will be accepted, no ransom can be paid, nor can anyone be helped.

We choose the path to follow.

[10:44] GOD never wrongs the people; it is the people who wrong their own souls.

[11:18] Who are more evil than those who fabricate lies about GOD? They will be presented before their Lord, and the witnesses will say, "These are the ones who lied about their Lord. GOD's condemnation has befallen the transgressors." [11:19] They repel from the way of GOD and seek to make it crooked, and they are disbelievers in the Hereafter. [11:20] These will never escape, nor will they find any lords or masters to help them against GOD. Retribution will be doubled for them. They have failed to hear, and they have failed to see. [11:21] These are the ones who lose their souls, and the idols they had fabricated will disown them. [11:22] There is no doubt that, in the Hereafter, they will be the worst losers.

How do we want angels to welcome us?

[79:1] The (angels who) snatch (the souls of the disbelievers) forcibly.

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[79:2] *And those who gently take (the souls of the believers) joyfully.*

Forcibly means using force or violence. Joyfully means with great pleasure and happiness.

Praise God, our soul is ours to grow, but we need God's help. We don't want to sell our soul for a cheap price. [9:9] *They traded away GOD's revelations for a cheap price. Consequently, they repulsed the people from His path. Miserable indeed is what they did!*

I've been told I have an "old soul." At 13, I would say things none of my friends could understand. As an old soul, you understand things deeply. You try to make sense out of everything. You aren't interested in doing things just because everybody else is. You do it because it takes you to a place that gives you peace. Being an old soul in this world is hard—I can tell you that from experience. In a world driven by money, power and influence, old souls are in search of peace and love. Old souls aren't constantly chasing this world. Instead they want what brings the soul peace, a place that feels like home, good food and good people who value God and life for its true purpose.

The ego gets in the way of achieving our purpose. It gets in the way of reverence

and devotion. It clouds our appreciation of God and His greatness. And it harms our relationship with others.

Greatness of God

[39:67] *They can never fathom the greatness of GOD. The whole earth is within His fist on the Day of Resurrection. In fact, the universes are folded within His right hand. Be He glorified; He is much too high above needing any partners.*

Let us chew on these words and swallow our pride. We are nothing compared to God, so let's work on killing that ego that keeps trying to bring us down.

Taa'eq

* * * * *

Psalm 139

- 1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
- 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4 Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.
- 5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
- 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

- 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"
- 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
- 13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
- 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

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Verses 1-18, New International Version