

ARTICLE

Showing Gratitude to Allah

By Maulana Masud Mohammed

Graduate of Darul Uloom, Trinidad and Tobago

Alhamdulillah, surely all praises and thanks are for Allah Ta'la for His numerous Bounties and Favours which He has most kindly extended to us. My dear readers, everyday of our lives, at every single moment of our lives, we live in and we enjoy the many Bounties and Favours of Allah which comes to us only through His mercy and kindness.

Everyday we witness all these Favours of Allah upon us. Everyday we get oxygen to breathe, we get food to eat, Allah causes the rain to fall so we can get sweet water to drink; so many favours that Allah Himself informs us in the Quraan "If you were to count the favours of Allah, you will not be able to number them" (16:18).

My dear readers, after acknowledging all these favours, the real and more important question is, how do we react after receiving these favours? Do we show gratitude to Allah or not? Despite all these favours which mankind enjoy and live in, Allah Ta'la Himself swears in the Holy Quraan "Surely man is ungrateful to his Lord" (100:6). If we compare the favours of Allah with the amount of gratitude we show to Him we will really realise how true this statement of Allah is. Allah Ta'la indicates this in the very next verse "and he (man) himself is a witness to that" (100:7).

If we do a favour for someone or show some kindness to him and that person reacts in an ungrateful manner, how will we feel? Why do we show so much ingratitude to the One who has been so kind to us, the One who has created us in the best of fashions and has given us everything? Let us understand that Allah Ta'la does not tolerate ingratitude at all and He will punish those who are ungrateful to Him. Allah says "If you are grateful, I will surely increase (My favours) for you but if you are ungrateful (then know), surely My punishment is severe" (14:7).

My dear readers, if Allah Ta'la were to withhold His favours because of our ingratitude to Him, we would immediately be destroyed. What answer will we give to Him on the Day of Judgement when we will be questioned about each and every favour as Allah Himself says "Then on that Day you will surely be questioned concerning all the favours (of your Lord)" (102:8). Let us understand that when we show gratitude to Allah, we are only benefiting ourselves because Allah Ta'la will increase His favours upon us, and when we become ungrateful we are only harming ourselves because we do not harm Allah or decrease His treasures in the least.

The Prophet Muhammad (S.A) was the greatest of all the Prophets (A.S) and all his sins were forgiven by Allah, yet he would perform such lengthy salaah (optional prayers) that his blessed legs would become swollen. The companions would say "You undergo such great difficulties, whereas Allah has forgiven your past and future sins". The Messenger of Allah (S.A) would say "Should I not then be a grateful servant".

My dear readers let us become grateful servants to Allah and also to people because the Prophet (S.A) said "Whoever is not grateful to people is not grateful to Allah". Allah alone guides the heart to express gratitude to Him so let us also ask Allah to make us grateful servants as the Prophet (S.A) himself used to make dua "O Allah, make me a grateful servant".