

# THE PURSUIT



*of the* TRUTH

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طلب التصريح لتداول أو طباعة المصاحف والمطبوعات

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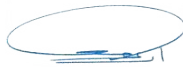
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إعتماد مدير ادارة المحتوى الإعلامي

## IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL



Humans have a natural inclination towards the need to love and be loved. However the dimensions of this need may vary from one person to another and from one time to another. So a child who is attached to his mother in the early years, may develop the same attachment to peers in his adolescent years, and later transfer this attachment to a spouse or career.

The preoccupation of the heart is to love and be attached to the one magnified by the heart. It appears that the cycle of attachment is a continual process of the heart, so once something no longer fulfills our needs, we “let go” of that attachment, in anticipation for the next thing that will fill the void. We attach to people, careers, wealth, desires, self-image and so forth; all in order to fill the void of the heart.

We all strive to be loved, at least by some people in our lives, by the ones with whom we have some sort of special bonding. This pursuit of love is one that is followed by people of all races and of all ages. However, in this race for love, we often end up in a cycle of attachment that is followed by disappointment and heartbreak.

We chase these objects of our attachment in order to achieve a sense of security, love, and self-worth. Our attachments consume us, hurt us, even dictate to us, but still we cling to them, pursue them, and strive hard to acquire them. We want the fame, the money, the status, and the attention and strive to have it at all costs due to an emptiness in our heart that we are desperate to fill. We run after things in life, assuming that they will fulfill the need of our heart. Think back to when you were last attached to something, only to lose it—be it your health, money, fame, or a person you were attached to. Do you remember the feeling of loss? That deep emptiness you feel when your heart was full of love of something only to lose it. Then you promise yourself not to become attached again. But what do you do? You search for the new thing that will fill your need, something that will satisfy the heart’s yearning.



Imagine a small child whose heart is fixated on the toy fire engine in the shop window. He talks about it all the time, begging his mother to buy it for him and imagining playing with it in his hands. Finally, his mother decides to buy the toy fire engine. The boy is overjoyed and plays with it all afternoon, but in the evening when his friend comes over to play with him and brings along his new football, the little boy forgets the fire engine and his heart begins to yearn for the shiny new football...and so the attachment story continues.

Just like this little boy, we are continually looking to satisfy the heart but we rarely find this contentment.

### ARE OUR ATTACHMENTS THE VERY REASON FOR THIS DISAPPOINTMENT?

The need and love we have for attachments is programmed in all of us, so it follows that it must have a purpose, as nothing is created without a purpose. If we look at human inventions such as the pen, computer, phone etc., we note that each one has a specific purpose and if an object does not fulfill its purpose, then it is considered worthless. For example, if we have a pen that does not work, then it is discarded, as it no longer fulfills its function.

Hence, if simple objects are created for a purpose, then what about the complex human being? Does this need for attachment also have a purpose? The heart is looking for something to cling to, since alone it feels insecure and feels the need to attach to something that is magnified and held in high regard.

However, are any of these attachments perfectly fulfilling our needs? Can you even guarantee that you will have any of these objects of attachment tomorrow? Do they have the ability to help you in your time of need? So why do we attach to what is imperfect and leave the most perfect? The problem is not that we get attached but the problem lies in what we get attached to. We need to attach to the one who is perfect in every sense of the word, it is only then that the heart will truly find rest.

### WHO IS THE MOST PERFECT THAT WE CAN CLING TO WITHOUT THE DISAPPOINTMENT AND EVENTUAL HEARTACHE?

#### THE MOST PERFECT IS:

- The One Who never dies, never sleeps. He is the Self Sufficient.
- The One Who always tells the truth and keeps His Promise.
- The One Who owns everything and is in control of everything—in the heavens and the earth.
- He is the Most Strong and knows you better than you know yourself, knows your future, and is there for you whenever you need Him.

- Your Creator, the One Who created you, knows everything about you, knows what you are feeling, and is stretching His Hand towards you.

Are you moving towards Him? Did you not once feel emptiness in your heart that no matter what you tried to do, no matter how much fun you tried to have to forget it, the feeling was still there? You have been created by the One Who loves you, Who is taking care of you, but you have neglected Him. This has led to a pain and emptiness in your heart that can only be filled with the love of the One Who made your heart, Who made you.

But never despair from the Mercy of Allah. Never despair because you have a Lord that is the Most Merciful, the Most Loving, the Most Generous, the Most Kind, the Most Powerful, and the Most Forbearing, and there is none like Him. Imagine if your heart were attached to One with all of these qualities, the heart would find peace and the emptiness would vanish. No matter what trials or hardships you may endure in life, you will have an inner strength resulting from knowing you are attached to the Greatest Who will never forsake you. Hence, He alone is worthy of your worship and attachment.

“Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest.” (*Chapter Ar-Ra’d, 13:28*)

**SOURCE:** فقه الأدعية والأذكار - عبد الرزاق البدر

# INTRODUCTION

In the Qur'an, the final revelation from our Creator, Allah says in Chapter Adh-Dhariyaat (The Winds That Scatter):


“And I (Allah) created not the jinns and humans except they should worship Me (Alone).” (*Chapter Adh-Dhariyaat, 51:56*)

All of the creation are busy doing what they are created for; look around and see for yourself. The bees are busy making honey, the cows producing milk, they do not bore of the job assigned to them. The tree is content to stay in one place, no matter what the weather, and the spider doesn't want to change its residence to a nest! The value of each creation is in fulfilling its purpose. The universe around us is in total harmony, fulfilling the role it was created for. The sun, the moon, the night, and the day all follow the divine commands of their Creator flawlessly.

Similarly, the value and happiness of a human being is when he is fulfilling the purpose of his creation—otherwise he will spend his life trying to fill the emptiness.

## SO, WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

To worship Allah is the noble and great task for which man was created. It is an inborn need for man to worship and be attached to a perceived superior being.



If we are honest, we can see this all around us. If we knew what worship entails, that is!

## SO, WHAT IS 'WORSHIP'?

The word worship refers to a feeling of profound love, to be attached to someone/something out of love, resting all our hopes and fears on it, and magnifying this object of our love.

If we do not worship the One Creator, then inevitably we will worship other than Him due to this innate need for attachment to one perceived to be superior than the self.

Worship belongs only to the One Who is worthy of such elevation, right? If we are going to become attached to one, then they should be deserving of our love, our magnifying them, and the attachment of our hopes and fears to them.

In order that we do not become attached to those who will let us down, we need to attach to the One Who is absolutely perfect; fully able to respond to our every need, having full authority to aid us, having full knowledge of what we are going through.

In order to attain this absolute security, we need to look at only one verse in the Qur'an. Yes! Only one verse is enough to tell us about Allah, and why He alone is worthy of our worship and attachment. This verse is often referred to as **THE VERSE OF THE KURSI**.

Allah says in the Chapter Al-Baqarah (The Cow):

“Allah! Laa ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? He knows what happens to them (His creatures) in this world, and what will happen to them in the Hereafter. And they will never encompass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Kursi extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great.” (*Chapter Al-Baqarah, 2:255*)

# ALLAH



THE VERSE BEGINS WITH THE GREATEST OF THE NAMES OF OUR CREATOR—ALLAH.

Every language has given names to a deity, which are often used for both false gods and the supreme God without any differentiation. However, the name Allah is the supreme name of Allah and used only for the One True Creator and Deity. The name Allah is protected by Allah, so that it does not occur to any mind to use this name for anyone other than Allah. It is exclusively Allah's name. This name has no plural form nor does it indicate any gender, unlike the word god, which can be referred to as plural by saying gods or made feminine by saying goddess.



THE MEANING OF THE WORD 'ALLAH' IS THE ONE BEING WORSHIPPED, THE ONE TO SEEK REFUGE WITH OR TURN TO, THE ONE WHO IS LOVED A GREAT LOVE, AND THE ONE WHO OVERWHELMS THE MIND BECAUSE WE CANNOT IMAGINE HIS MAGNIFICENCE.

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was asked by the people about Allah and the answer came directly from Allah as a revelation to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) in the form of a short chapter that is considered the foundation of Islamic belief. This is Chapter Al-Ikhlāas (The Purity):

“Say (O Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)): ‘He is Allah, (the) One. (1) Allah-us-Samad (The Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need, He neither eats nor drinks). (2) He begets not, nor was He begotten; (3) and there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him.’ (4)” (*Chapter Al-Ikhlāas, 114:1-4*)

In the religion of Islam, Allah alone is the Owner of the Divinity and the Owner of worship of all the creation. He alone is deserving of this worship due to the perfection of His Names and Attributes. Allah is Perfect in His Majesty, Beauty, Greatness, Goodness, and Mercy.

It was stated by the renowned scholar Ibn Qayyim that if you are attached to Allah alone, He will give you strength if you are weak, honor if you are humiliated, richness if you are poor, and relief if you are in desperation. This can only be possible due to the Perfect Power, Ability, and complete Authority of Allah.

The secret to having eternal peace and security in this life and the next is when you single Him out in worship—when He is the only One in your heart and none other. When He is the only One you seek help from, when He is the only One you worship, when He is the only One you ask for forgiveness, and when He is the only One you give your heart to. This is Allah; there is no one worthy of worship except Him.

In a Chapter of the Qur'an named Chapter Al-Hashr (The Gathering), Allah describes to mankind His Attributes:

“He is Allah, than Whom there is Laa ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He) the All-Knower of the unseen and the seen (open). He is the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. (22) He is Allah than Whom there is Laa ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He) the King, the Holy, the One Free from all defects, the Giver of security, the Watcher over His creatures, the All-Mighty, the Compeller, the Supreme. Glory be to Allah! (High is He) above all that they associate as partners with Him. (23) He is Allah, the Creator, the Inventor of all things, the Bestower of forms. To Him belong the Best Names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorify Him. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise. (24)” (*Chapter Al-Hashr, 59:22-24*)

Allah is the One Who is Pure and free from all faults, and the One Who is Perfect. The One Who orders His creation with Perfect Harmony, and Who creates all things and beings in the right proportions and perfect balance.

Allah is the One with the perfect power and with perfect ability over all things. The universe runs according to laws laid down by Him and Allah has absolute power to implement them and no one can reverse them.

Allah is the Protector (Al-Haafiz). Allah is the Provider (Ar-Razzaq), Sustainer (Al-Qayyum), Curer (Ash-Shaafee), Creator (Al-Khaaliq), the Most Merciful (Ar-Rahman), and He is the First (Al-Awwal) and the Last (Al-Aakhir), without partners.

Allah is the Most Forgiving (Al-Ghafoor) Rabb (Lord) who forgives the sins of His slaves, both small and big, time and time again. He is Forbearing (Al-Haleem) and the Concealer (As-Satir) of our sins.

Allah is our Rabb (Lord) who nurtures us, reforms us, and guides us till we reach our final abode—Jannah (Paradise).

**IMAGINE THIS LIFE...** where every time you need something, there is someone there waiting for you. Every time you feel pain in your heart, there is someone there to comfort you. Every time you have a problem, there is someone there to help. Every time you want to talk to someone, there is someone there to listen to you. Without uttering a word, He knows what you are going through and what you feel. Your heart would jump to

have someone like this in your life. You would never want to leave Him and the more you get to know Him, the more you love Him. And the more you love Him, the closer you get and the more you appreciate Him, the more He will do for you. Sometimes you cannot show tears in front of others, but your heart is crying; longing to have this connection, to have this feeling that there is someone out there who totally understands you. Someone who wants the best for you, never wants to cheat you or take advantage of you, is always there to listen to you, whether you are happy, whether you are sad.

DOES THIS EXIST?

YES! ONLY WITH ALLAH!

Allah is the only One Who is Perfect in every way; you can be attached to Him with the complete confidence that you will never be let down, neglected, or in loss.



# LAA ILAAHA ILLA HUWA



“Allah, **NONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE WORSHIPPED BUT HE, ...**”

Imagine that you are thirsty but the glass you have is badly soiled. Would you pour water into it and drink it? Of course not! First, you would clean it thoroughly, and only then would you add water to drink. Similarly, we need to purify our hearts from the attachments to any one other than Allah, only then will we be able to pour in the true love and attachment to the One who is perfect.

## HOW DOES OUR CREATOR TEACH US TO FEED THE SOUL?

The verse of the Kursi (*Chapter Al-Baqarah, 2:255*) continues, after mentioning the name Allah that “none has the right to be worshipped but He.” This statement is the cornerstone of Islamic belief. Its importance can be seen by the fact that for the first thirteen years of his Prophethood, the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) focused primarily on this fundamental concept and its impact on preaching to his followers. The revelation of the verses of the Qur’an in this time period also stressed on this Oneness of worship of the One true God. In addition to this, note that every Prophet came with the same message, including Nuh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses), Isa (Jesus), and Muhammad (may peace be upon them all). Each one commanded his people to single out Allah in worship, so this was not a new concept to Islam.

## THE STATEMENT “NONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE WORSHIPPED BUT HE” IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO MANKIND

If you think about this statement for a while, you will see that it begins with a negation of all the false gods that people may be attached to. The statement begins with a negation first (there is no god), cleansing the heart of any false attachments, purifying the person—just like the above example when we cleaned the glass before pouring water into it.

What will we fill our hearts with now that it has been cleansed of all false attachments? “Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He” refers to the singling out of Allah for worship and attachment.

GRAMMATICALLY, THIS IS A VERY STRONG STATEMENT. IT BEGINS WITH A NEGATION OF ALL DEITIES FIRST AND THEN AFFIRMS THE LORDSHIP OF ALLAH. IT IS ALSO GREAT DUE TO THE SUBJECT THAT YOU BEAR WITNESS TO: NO ONE DESERVES YOUR WORSHIP EXCEPT ALLAH ALONE.



This is the first part of the declaration a person makes when he enters Islam, negating all besides Allah for worship. Stating that there is no share or partner in His Dominion or worship. Without this statement, a person is not considered a Muslim (one who submits). "Laa ilaaha illa Allah" is the belief that Divine Lordship belongs only to Allah. He is the only Creator, Nurturer, and Sustainer and the Only One worthy of our love, attachment, and worship.

There may be many false gods that people are attached to, but just because people worship them and call them gods, does not mean that they are God or that they deserve the worship.

In another chapter of the Qur'an, Chapter 'Ale-'Imran (The Family of Imran), Allah tells us:

"Say (O Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)): 'O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians): Come to a word that is just between us and you, that we worship none but Allah, and that we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords besides Allah.' Then, if they turn away, say: 'Bear witness that we are Muslims.'" (*Surah 'Ale-'Imran, 3:64*)

The common factors that unite the people of Scriptures are:

1. We worship none but Allah
2. We associate no partners with Him
3. None of us shall take any other Lord besides Allah

The Prophets and Messengers were chosen by Allah to convey His message, but they had no divine authority to benefit or harm and therefore they cannot be worshipped. They were sent to guide the people back to the Creator and are themselves slaves of Allah, totally dependent on Him. The Prophets were sent to show us the way of worshipping Allah and were not sent as mediators.

It is very interesting to note here that the people do not have any disagreement about Who the Creator is and who the Provider is. So there is no disagreement on the actions of the One true God. Rather, the discord begins only with the question of "whom to worship?"

In Chapter Az-Zukhruf (The Gold Ornaments), Allah says:

"And indeed if you ask them, 'Who has created the heavens and the earth?' They will surely say: 'The All-Mighty, the All-Knower created them.'" (*Surah Az-Zukhruf, 43:9*)

In the same Chapter, Allah also clarifies for us the position of Allah in His Actions on His creation (that He is the Creator, the Owner) and that our worship can only be deserved by Him:

“It is He (Allah) Who is the only Ilaah (God to be worshipped) in the heaven and the only Ilaah (God to be worshipped) on the earth. And He is the All-Wise, the All-Knower. (84) And blessed be He to Whom belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, and with Whom is the knowledge of the Hour, and to Whom you (all) will be returned. (85) And those whom they invoke instead of Him have no power of intercession; except those who bear witness to the truth (i.e. believed in the Oneness of Allah, and obeyed His Orders), and they know (the facts about the Oneness of Allah). (86) And if you ask them who created them, they will surely say: ‘Allah.’ How then are they turned away (from the worship of Allah, Who created them)? (87)” (*Surah Az-Zukhruf, 43:84-87*)

The disputes between the unbelievers and the Prophets centered on the relentless invitation by all the Prophets that the nations should recognize the One Who they acknowledge as their Creator as also the Only One Who deserves their worship. From the above verses, we can see that the One Who deserves our attachment should be the One Who Created us, Provides for us, Owns us, and Knows how we feel, and the One Who has the full Power and Authority to help us in all matters.

Imagine a poor homeless person with no food, clothes, or a roof over his head. You see his state and decide to help him. You bring him to your house, share your wardrobe of clothes with him, and share your delicious meals with him. As time passes, he forgets his past and begins to show immense gratitude to one of your friends, though your friend pays no attention to him at all. Whenever you are with the man, he always shows gratitude to your friend, praises him, and puts him on a pedestal while totally disregarding you. How would you feel? Annoyed, frustrated, and taken advantage of! Why? Did you create him? Grant him health? Create for him the earth, the heavens, the sun, and the moon?

To Allah belongs the highest example; Allah has provided us with all that we need and desire to live a happy life, yet instead of being attached to Him out of love and awe, we attach to those who have no power or authority over us. Unlike us, Allah is free of all need, He is the Self Sufficient Master. He is not in need of our worship; rather we need to worship Him for our own wellbeing in this world and our salvation in the Hereafter. We need Allah at all times but He does not need us, and yet He continually showers us with gifts while we are heedless of His Mercy! How sad is the state we are in!

To appreciate the statement “Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He” further, we need to understand with a bit more clarity what the Arabic term ilaaha ( إله ) actually means. AN ILAAHA IS THE ONE WE ARE ATTACHED TO, MAGNIFYING HIM ABOVE ALL OTHERS AND REALIZING OUR INSIGNIFICANCE BEFORE HIM. WE ARE ATTACHED TO HIM IN THIS WAY—LOVING HIM STRONGLY, FEARING DISPLEASEING HIM, AND RESTING ALL OUR HOPES ON HIM.

Sounds familiar, right? Well, as it is an emotional requirement of humans, it is inevitable that we will feel this towards someone! But the question is to whom should we direct this unconditional love, attachment, and magnification?

### LET'S EXAMINE SOME OF THOSE WHO WE TAKE AS OUR ILAAHA AND SEE ITS END RESULTS:

We have many attachments to things around us and when we become excessively attached to them, we build up immense expectations setting ourselves up for imminent disappointments. As a result, we feel defeated, let down, and depressed.

For example, you have attachments followed by expectations from family members. You shower your love on them, magnifying your relationship with them, but if they do not reciprocate in ways that you had imagined, you feel that pain of disappointment.

You work hard on a business deal, are ready to close it, and anticipate it is going to go exactly the way you planned when suddenly the deal falls through. What do you feel? All your efforts rejected, your hours of attachment to the deal shunned, and again you feel the pain of disappointment.

You love your son, depend on him, enjoy his company, and sacrificed your happiness just to see him happy. As he gets older, he moves away from you; again we feel the pinch of disappointment.

Why is it that all the attachments leave us feeling disappointed and depressed? The answer lies in the fact that yes, we need attachments, but to no one other than the One Who is perfect in all His Attributes, who will never hurt us, disappoint us, or leave us. When we love others, we need to love them for Allah, as this love will be more lasting and in balance, so that we will not transgress in our attachment towards them.

“Laa ilaaha illa huwa” is the absolute freedom of the human conscience from servitude and subjection to anything or anyone other than Allah. A believer in the Oneness of Allah is free from the servitude of the creation, being only at the service of the One Who is Perfect, Ever Living, Most Great, and Most High.

The verse of the Kursi began with the explanation of Allah and that He alone is the One Who is worthy of our attachment and worship. THE REMAINING PART OF THE VERSE WILL PROVIDE THE READER WITH PROOFS AND DETAILED CLARIFICATION AS TO WHY ALLAH ALONE DESERVES OUR LOVE, ATTACHMENT, AND MAGNIFICATION.

# AL-HAYY: THE EVER LIVING

“Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, **THE EVER LIVING,...**”



The verse of the Kursi continues after saying that “none has the right to be worshipped but He” by stating one of Allah’s Names, Al-Hayy (the Ever Living). Al-Hayy is one of the Names of Allah that signifies the Perfection of His Life and the Perfection of His Attributes, a Life that has always existed, He has no beginning and He has no end. Allah is the First and the Last. The Life of Allah is Perfect, free from any deficiency. The Ever Living is the only One Who will never perish, while all others will perish.

We are reminded of this fact in Chapter Ar-Rahman (The Most Beneficent) of the Qur’an:

“Whatsoever is on it (the earth) will perish. (26) And the Face of your Lord full of Majesty and Honour will abide forever. (27)” (*Surah Ar-Rahman, 55:26-27*)

Human life is full of imperfections, as it originates from non-existence and ends with non-existence as well. Humans are also imperfect in regards to their attributes, such as hearing, sight, knowledge, and compassion, amongst many others. As humans, we are prone to multiple deficiencies, such as tiredness, sickness, hunger, irritation, laziness, and the list could go on and on! All created beings have a set life span, too; everything will perish when their stated term comes to an end. Needless to say, we need to attach ourselves to the One Who is free from all deficiencies, Who we can rely on to be there for us unconditionally, because He is fully Self Sufficient.

In this busy world, we often find ourselves connecting with people via the social media, mobile telephones, and other mediums. Friends and acquaintances come into our lives for a specific time only to leave for some reason or another. Those who we often regard as permanent in our lives will one day pass away, as we all will, and as the saying goes “nothing lasts forever.” Our family and friends are often in other places, busy with their own lives, and this can leave us feeling empty and alone. **IN THIS FAST-PACED LIFE, A PERSON CAN FEEL SPIRITUALLY UNFULFILLED BECAUSE INSTEAD OF BEING ATTACHED TO THE ONE WHO IS EVER LIVING, WE ATTACH TO THOSE WHO WILL PERISH LIKE US. IF A PERSON WERE TO KNOW THAT ALLAH IS AL-HAYY, THE EVER LIVING, THE ETERNAL AND**

## EVERLASTING, WHY THEN WOULD THEY TRUST AND RELY ON OTHERS WHO ARE CREATED BY HIM, GIVEN LIFE BY HIM, AND WHO WILL ONE DAY DIE AND RETURN TO HIM?

How many times have we had a problem that we have wanted to discuss with someone and that person was not available when we needed them or they weren't able to understand our feelings? If we become attached to anyone other than Allah, it leads to disappointments, as each creation has faults and none can fully aid you except Allah the Praiseworthy. Allah alone knows your every difficulty and He alone has the full power and ability to resolve your every matter. All others are mere slaves like us, so why break yourself attaching to them? Allah Al-Hayy will never leave or abandon you when all others may; He knows your fears and your grief without you uttering a word to Him. Allah has made it so easy for His creation to call on Him, we just need to call His name and He hears our call—simple as that! He will solve our problems in ways that we cannot imagine, console our hearts so they are filled with peace, and ensure that we will never feel lonely.

Allah tells us in the Qur'an in Chapter Al-Furqan (The Criterion):

“And put your trust (O Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)) in the Ever Living One Who dies not, and glorify His Praises, and Sufficient is He as the All-Knower of the sins of His slaves;” (*Surah Al-Furqan, 25:58*)

Worship can only belong to the One Who is Ever Living, never absent from those who are dependent on Him. Your worship cannot belong to one who was living and then died, nor can it belong to one who was dead and came to life, nor can it belong to one that is inanimate and has no life.

In Chapter Ghafir (The Forgiver), Allah says:

“He is the Ever Living, Laa ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), so invoke Him making your worship pure for Him Alone (by worshipping Him Alone, and none else, and by doing righteous deeds sincerely for Allah's sake only, and not to show off, and not to set up rivals with Him in worship). All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinns and all that exists).” (*Surah Ghafir, 40:65*)

Our reliance, attachment, and worship belong only to the One Who is worthy of it, the One Who is Perfect in all His Attributes, the All-Knowing, All-Hearing, All-Seeing, the Most Merciful, the Most Wise. He is the only One Whose Life is perfect and free of defect or any need. We can call on Him day or night, rely on Him, trust Him, and be attached to Him without the fear of disappointment.

THIS IS WHY...THERE IS NO (TRUE) GOD EXCEPT ALLAH.



# AL-QAYYUM: THE ONE WHO SUSTAINS AND PROTECTS ALL THAT EXISTS

“Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living,  
THE ONE WHO SUSTAINS AND PROTECTS ALL THAT EXISTS...”



The verse of the Kursi continues with a third name of Allah, Al-Qayyum: the One Who is established on His own, the Self-Sufficient. Al-Qayyum is free from any need from His creation, but all of the creation is in need of Him for their existence. Allah is not only the Creator of the entire universe, but He is also the One Who is sustaining life.

## TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SELF SUFFICIENCY OF ALLAH, WE JUST NEED TO REFLECT ON OURSELVES:

How long can we go without food and water without feeling frail? We are always in need of people around us, to love us, to care for us, to teach us, to advise us, or to simply keep us company. Allah Al-Qayyum is free from all needs; He is Sufficient by Himself, as He needs no helper, partner, or companion.

If we ponder on the running of the universe, we see that there are billions of processes occurring daily at the same time. Imagine the way the sun rises and sets, the day and night alternate, how clouds form and the rain falls, how the wind blows, how crops grow, how humans come into the world, whilst others pass away. The list is endless and the One Who controls all of these processes is Al-Qayyum. He plans and runs the affairs of all the creation with complete perfection. We are taught the virtue of this name of Allah in the Qur'an in the following chapters.

In Chapter Ar-Ra'd (The Thunder), Allah says:

“Is then He (Allah) Who takes charge (guards, maintains, provides, etc.) of every person and knows all that he has earned (like any other deities who know nothing)? Yet they ascribe partners to Allah. Say: ‘Name them! Is it that you will inform Him of something He knows not in the earth or is it (just) a show of false words.’ Nay! To those who disbelieve, their plotting is made fairseeming, and they have been hindered from the Right Path, and whom Allah sends astray, for him, there is no guide.” (*Surah Ar-Ra'd, 13:33*)

In Chapter Ar-Rahman (The Most Beneficent), Allah says:

“Whosoever is in the heavens and on earth begs of Him (its needs from Him). Every day He has a matter to bring forth (such as giving honour to some, disgrace to some, life to some, death to some, etc.)!” *(Surah Ar-Rahman, 55:29)*

Having seen that Allah alone is the Self-Sufficient, the One Who supports all that exists and also having seen that humans have multiple weaknesses, who would you feel more confident being attached to—the King who is in full charge of all matters or a pauper who is himself weak and helpless? A pauper has so many needs of his own that he cannot even imagine assisting another like himself. Similarly, if you had a newborn baby and you needed to leave someone in charge of her, who would you choose—your four-year-old or your mother? Obviously, the one who is able to take care of the affairs in the best manner. To Allah belongs the highest example! In matters of the life, we always attach to the stronger supporter, yet in matters of the Hereafter why are we so negligent?

Attach to Al-Qayyum, the Only One fully able to support you and grant you all that is beneficial for you. When we worship and attach to Allah, it's actually for our own good because Allah is free from all needs. We need to worship Him; He does not need our worship at all.

Allah has taken full charge of all our matters, those we are aware of and those we are not! For example, do we know how many cells are respiring in our bodies or how much oxygen our lungs need to take in? Are we aware of the blood flowing through our veins or the liquid in the eye that protects the eye from infections? The list is endless but we don't need to think about any of these matters because Al-Qayyum is in total charge of it.

Allah Al-Qayyum is in total charge of the animals, insects, plants, sun, moon, sky, and all that exists. We can go on and on just pondering on all these! Have we pondered on the creation of the sky, and how it's perfectly suspended above us as a decorative, protective canopy, without any imperfections, or pillars.

THINK ABOUT IT: IF ALLAH HAS PROMISED TO TAKE CHARGE OF ALL THIS, WHAT IS OUR JOB? THERE IS A REASON THAT ALLAH HAS MADE US FREE FROM ALL THESE RESPONSIBILITIES...SO WE CAN WORSHIP HIM WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE SUSTENANCE OF THE WORLD AROUND US.



Allah tells us in Chapter Fatir (Originator):

“Verily! Allah grasps the heavens and the earth lest they move away from their places, and if they were to move away from their places, there is not one that could grasp them after Him. Truly, He is Ever Most Forbearing, Oft Forgiving.” (*Surah Fatir, 35:41*)

And further in Chapter Ta-Ha (Ta-Ha):

“And (all) faces shall be humbled before (Allah), the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. And he who carried (a burden of) wrongdoing (i.e. he who disbelieved in Allah, ascribed partners to Him, and did deeds of His disobedience), became indeed a complete failure (on that Day).” (*Surah Ta-Ha, 20:111*)

When we know that Allah has taken charge of every matter in the universe, it should make us feel attached to Allah with love, magnificence, and praise of Him for His perfection and complete Ability and Authority over us. This knowledge of the Supreme Creator should make us submit to Him alone.

THIS IS WHY...THERE IS NO (TRUE) GOD EXCEPT ALLAH.

# NEITHER SLUMBER, NOR SLEEP OVERTAKE HIM

“Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. **NEITHER SLUMBER, NOR SLEEP OVERTAKE HIM...**”



Our Creator has been in charge of all the affairs of the universe since the beginning of time and all of existence is totally reliant upon Him at all times. It therefore follows that the Supreme Lord is Perfect, never in need of rest. Allah negates the attribute of slumber and sleep upon Himself. In negating this attribute, we affirm that Allah is Al-Hayy (the Ever Living) and Al-Qayyum (the Sustainer of all that exists).

Slumber refers to an early stage of sleep, where a person begins to lose full control over sensory matters due to physical fatigue. Sleep is a state in which consciousness of the world is suspended. Sleep or the need for it is an attribute of the creation, resulting from fatigue or hardship. All creatures sleep—even plants and simple microorganisms have inactive states. The amount of time each organism spends sleeping is dependent on the need for survival. For example, animals can sleep for months to survive the winter (hibernation) and others may sleep after long periods of time, such as migrating birds. Humans need regular sleep and their sleep pattern may go through many changes from infancy to old age, but the need for it remains constant! If humans do not get regular sleep, they may suffer from impairment in physical and mental performance, imbalance in hormone activity, etc. For example, the growth hormone peaks during sleep, so insufficient sleep may affect growth and cell repair.

**THE RENOWNED ISLAMIC SCHOLAR IBN AL QAYYIM DESCRIBES HOW THE PLEASURES THAT WE ENJOY IN LIFE ACTUALLY ARISE FROM PREVIOUSLY FELT DEFICIENCIES OR PAIN.** When do we enjoy our food? When we feel really hungry, right? And when do we really enjoy a cool refreshing drink? When we feel thirsty. Similarly we enjoy a good night's sleep after a long, tiring day. We do not fully appreciate food, drink, and sleep when the body is not in need of it. Our worldly pleasures are a result of our deficiencies and the need to fulfill them!

Now let us turn back to the statement in the verse, “neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him.” If we ponder upon the statement, we realize it has two parts: first denying the slumber and then denying the sleep. The verse negates both, as Allah the Praised and Exalted does not sleep because He chooses not to,

neither does He need it. Sleep refers to an imperfect state where consciousness is lost and Allah is far above that. He is Al-Hayy, Al-Qayyum and as Allah is never in need of sleep, this indicates the complete and perfect nature of His Strength and Ability and the Perfection of His Existence. Only the One Who is Al-Hayy, Whom neither slumber nor sleep can ever overtake, deserves our worship and attachment. Only He can answer you and all His creation at any time they call to Him. Therefore, Allah alone deserves your submission and humility. Sleep contradicts the Perfection of Allah and His relation to the creation, which is totally and constantly reliant upon Him.

Imagine a hospital ICU ward, where patients need around the clock surveillance and care—the slightest changes in a patient’s condition could be fatal. Now imagine that the doctors and nurses in the ward are asleep. What could happen to the patients? We can imagine their alarms blaring, patients shouting out, monitors flashing and beeping! What a disaster!

Similarly, when there is a new baby in the house, the parents may become very tired while caring for the baby; even though it is only a tiny human being that you need to nurture, it may become burdensome for some and they may call upon grandparents to help out so they catch up on their sleep! To Allah belongs the highest example (*Surah An-Nahl*, 16:60): Allah, the Owner of the heavens and the earth, never tires of taking care of all the needs of all His creation, from the beginning of time till the end.

ALLAH HAS MADE SLEEP AS A MEANS OF REST FOR THE CREATION IN ORDER TO DISCONTINUE THEIR FATIGUE AND TIREDNESS. ALLAH, HOWEVER IS ABOVE ANY NEED, FREE OF ALL IMPERFECTIONS. IF ONE HAS AN ATTRIBUTE OF SLEEP, THEN HE CANNOT BE WORTHY OF ATTACHMENT, RIGHT? HOW CAN WE BE ATTACHED AND RELIANT ON ONE WHO IS ABSENT FROM US? HOW CAN WE SHOW OBEDIENCE OR SUBMISSION TO ONE WHO IS WEAK LIKE US? We can all agree that this type of attachment would not only be a disappointment, but also a great loss to man. Rather, we need to be attached to the One Who is independent of both sleep and slumber; this is a sign of His Power, Strength, and Knowledge of His creation at all times. Allah is always aware of everything, nothing is ever hidden from Him, and He encompasses all things with His Knowledge. This should make us feel secure that He Sees and Hears all and that He is taking charge of all of creation—and none of this is difficult for Him.

THIS IS WHY...THERE IS NO (TRUE) GOD EXCEPT ALLAH.

# TO HIM BELONGS WHATEVER IS IN THE HEAVENS AND WHATEVER IS ON EARTH

“Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him. **TO HIM BELONGS WHATEVER IS IN THE HEAVENS AND WHATEVER IS ON EARTH...**”



We love shopping, don't we? It's for either a need or a want, but in either case, we love buying and accumulating goods. Fashion trends and technology both seem to have a rather volatile life; just when we may begin to feel satisfied with our "lot" in life...bam! The new must have is on the market and we just have to have it.

**IF WE WERE TO MAKE A LIST OF THE THINGS WE OWN, HOW LONG WOULD IT BE? REALLY THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT DO YOU OWN? WHAT IF I SAID TO YOU THAT NONE OF THE THINGS YOU LOVE SO MUCH ARE YOURS? YOU DON'T OWN ANYTHING!** Not your beautiful big house, not that shining car in the driveway, not your business, not even the clothes you are wearing! Whatever we have is a trust given to us from the Provider, from our Lord. We are entrusted with things for a limited timespan, after which the trust will become either transferred to another or simply cease to be ours.

Ultimately, true ownership belongs only to Allah. He is the Owner of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them. Real ownership is to own the goods without a cessation, to have full authority over that which you own, and to do as you will with it. This complete ownership only belongs to the one who is the Creator and Owner of all. There does not exist any created being, no matter who he is, who independently owns an atom's worth of anything. We do not even own our lives, as we do not have control over our birth or our death.

Everything that is in the heavens and the earth belongs to Allah and everything in the heavens and the earth submits to His Planning, His Actions, and His Authority. The Kingdom is His Kingdom and the creation is His creation. Can anyone claim to own the sun, the moon, the planets, or the galaxies?

THEREFORE, IS IT BEFITTING TO PUT THE THINGS ALLAH OWNS OR THE THINGS HE CREATED ON AN EQUAL LEVEL WITH HIM? SHOULD CREATION BE PUT AT THE LEVEL OF THE CREATOR? DOES THIS MAKE SENSE? HOW CAN ONE JUSTIFY WORSHIPPING ANYTHING THAT HAS NO REAL OWNERSHIP OR AUTHORITY?

Allah tells us in Chapter Saba (Sheba):

“Say: (O Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) to those polytheists, pagans, etc.) ‘Call upon those whom you assert (to be associate gods) besides Allah, they possess not even the weight of an atom (or a small ant), either in the heavens or on the earth, nor have they any share in either, nor there is for Him any supporter from among them.’” (*Surah Saba, 34:22*)

It is the greatest of wrongs, falsehood, and transgressions to associate anything with Allah.

In the Qur’an, in Chapter Luqman:

“Verily! Joining others in worship with Allah is a great Zulm (wrong) indeed.” (*Surah Luqman, 31:13*)

To place the creation at the level Allah, the Almighty, the King, the Exalted, is the biggest injustice anyone could do in this life. We are a part of His Majestic creation, therefore it befits us to worship the Master of all. He alone is able to Create, Own, Plan, Give life and death, and this makes Him worthy and deserving of worship. This is a proof that only He is worthy to be worshipped because to Him belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth.

THIS IS WHY...THERE IS NO (TRUE) GOD EXCEPT ALLAH.



# WHO IS HE THAT CAN INTERCEDE WITH HIM EXCEPT WITH HIS PERMISSION?

“Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth. WHO IS HE THAT CAN INTERCEDE WITH HIM EXCEPT WITH HIS PERMISSION?...”



Let's consider for a moment why we feel the need for intercession. Is it a quick route? Or do we feel that our Creator is so far that we cannot communicate our needs to Him? Or is it that we are so sinful and not deserving of His Mercy?

Actually, we underestimate the Greatness of our Lord due to our ignorance. Look at what our Lord tells us in the Quran in Chapter Al-Baqarah (The Cow):

“And when My slaves ask you (O Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)) concerning Me, then (answer them), I am indeed near (to them by My Knowledge). I respond to the invocations of the supplicant when he calls on Me (without any mediator or intercessor). So let them obey Me and believe in Me, so that they may be led aright.” (*Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:186*)

The verse of the Kursi continues with a question in order to awaken the souls of the readers. The noble verse questions us about who will be our mediator or whom we are comfortably relying on to intervene with Allah on our behalf. We find the answer straight away...only the one whom Allah gives permission to!

In the Qur'an, in Chapter Maryam (Mary):

“None shall have the power of intercession, but such a one as has received permission (or promise) from the Most Beneficent (Allah).” (*Surah Maryam, 19:87*)

In Chapter Yunus (Jonah):

“And they worship besides Allah things that hurt them not, nor profit them, and they say: ‘These are our intercessors with Allah.’ Say: ‘Do you inform

Allah of that which He knows not in the heavens and on the earth?' Glorified and Exalted be He above all that which they associate as partners with Him!"  
(*Surah Yunus, 10:18*)

### SO, THERE IS INTERCESSION:

By Allah's Permission and Mercy, but intercession is based on some conditions:

- Firstly, intercession is only by the Permission of Allah.
- Secondly, intercession is only granted on behalf of one with whom Allah is pleased.
- Thirdly, Allah is only pleased with the people of monotheism who never associate with Allah a partner.

The above part of the verse of the Kursi shows that the Dominion and Authority belong only to Allah. If you desire the intercession, then it is incumbent on you to worship Allah alone.

THIS IS WHY...THERE IS NO (TRUE) GOD EXCEPT ALLAH.

# HE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM (HIS CREATURES) IN THIS WORLD, AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM IN THE HEREAFTER

“Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? HE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM (HIS CREATURES) IN THIS WORLD, AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM IN THE HEREAFTER...”



Can you remember every word you uttered yesterday or how many times you blinked? What about the cookie that you ate? Do you know which country the flour came from, which country the sugar came from, or which country the chocolate came from? Do you know when the wheat stalks were grown, when the sugar canes were grown, or when the cocoa beans were grown? Do you know when these plants were watered? Do you know how much water was given to all of these plants just so that you can have this one cookie? Of course not! But our Creator knows all of this, down to the finest detail.

IMAGINE THE TRILLIONS OF CELLS IN YOUR BODY, IN EVERY HUMAN BODY, IN ALL OF THE CREATION. ALLAH KNOWS WHAT EACH CELL IS DOING RIGHT NOW AND WHAT THEY WILL DO IN THE FUTURE.



Allah is the Knower of everything because He is the One Who created everything. He knows the past, the present, and the future in detail and knows the finest and most hidden secrets. He knows what you are thinking and what is in the depths of your heart.

Human knowledge is an acquired phenomenon, which means that it was preceded by not knowing. We acquire knowledge from someone or something that already knows! Once humans attain knowledge in a subject, they have the tendency to forget part of it after acquiring it. Also, when humans gain knowledge of a specific field, they may specialize in it, but their knowledge does not necessarily extend to other specialties. Even when we may become so

called specialists in a field, this does not mean that our knowledge will be complete or infallible.

**ALLAH IS THE SOURCE OF ALL KNOWLEDGE.** Whatever we know is from His knowledge. Allah's knowledge is all-encompassing and nothing is hidden from Him. His knowledge is so vast that He knows all the details of every one of His creations from their past, present, and future and all the variables that could occur and their outcomes. A person who understands all of this will come to the realization that **ALLAH ALWAYS CHOOSES THE BEST FOR US, EVEN THOUGH OUR LIMITED KNOWLEDGE MAY NOT SEE THE WISDOM BEHIND MANY SITUATIONS THAT OCCUR IN OUR LIVES.**

It is interesting to note here the connection of the verse that “to Him belongs what is in the heavens and the earth” and “He knows what happens to them.” The One Who created everything no doubt has comprehensive knowledge of all.

In Chapter Al-Mulk (The Kingdom) in the Qur’an:

“Should not He Who has created know?” (*Surah Al-Mulk, 67:14*)

Is there anyone in our life who knows our past, what we are currently enduring, and who also knows what the future holds for us? Someone who wants the best for us always and has the ability to change things to our advantage, to give us all we need, to change the laws of the universe for us? Imagine if you had someone like that, who had power over everything and loved you, always wanted goodness for you! How would you feel towards that being—totally attached to him? You would love him with all your heart, doing all you can to keep his love, and would fear its loss! This is your Lord, your Creator, the All-Knowing. Attach to Him out of love, fear, and hope of Him. His Knowledge of you and all of His creation is a sign that it is compulsory to purely and sincerely worship Him alone and to submit to Him alone.

**THIS IS WHY...THERE IS NO (TRUE) GOD EXCEPT ALLAH.**

# AND THEY WILL NEVER ENCOMPASS ANYTHING OF HIS KNOWLEDGE EXCEPT THAT WHICH HE WILLS

“Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? He knows what happens to them (His creatures) in this world, and what will happen to them in the Hereafter. **AND THEY WILL NEVER ENCOMPASS ANYTHING OF HIS KNOWLEDGE EXCEPT THAT WHICH HE WILLS...**”



Sometimes we read articles in the local newspaper about people who were at the right place at the right time and saved a person from drowning or saved an old lady from being robbed. These types of daily heroics are not random chances, nor are they a stroke of luck. The Creator and Knower of all sends a helper at the right time to assist one in need. To us it seems like a string of coincidences, but in fact only Allah has the full knowledge of all things around us and He alone has full control over all. The whole of creation succumbs to the Will of Allah.

Throughout history, no one has made a choice to be born and neither can we deny the certainty of death. The rich, the poor, the sick, and the seemingly will all die when their specific time arrives. This is the Will of the Creator. We all submit to it, willingly or unwillingly. When the Command of the Creator comes, it is irresistible. Everything in the universe is according to the Will of Allah—your life, your provision, your death, the rising of the sun, the stages of the moon. All of these are subjected to the will of Allah.

Allah, our Creator and Nurturer, informs us of our limitations and weaknesses by telling us that whatever knowledge we have is because Allah has willed us to have it; whatever He does not will us to know, we will remain ignorant of it. With all the inventions and discoveries that man has made, it needs to be kept in mind that they are all from the Knowledge of Allah that He has opened for us. Ever wondered why there are so many mysteries in the world? Why so many cases remain unsolved by us, even though we have

become so technologically advanced? For example, planes can go missing and we never find out what happened to the plane and to its passengers. We make calculated guesses, but the reality remains unknown until Allah wills us to know—then eureka! Man thinks he’s made a great discovery!

In Chapter Al-Israa’ (Ascension) in the Qur’an, Allah says:

“And of knowledge, you (mankind) have been given only a little.” (*Surah Al-Israa’, 17:85*)

This indicates the deficiency of human knowledge and the supreme knowledge of the Creator. The Knowledge of Allah is all encompassing, but He only gives us a small fraction of this knowledge, enough to benefit us in the life. All the matters of the universe are enumerated and finely planned by Allah, so nothing occurs at random or by chance. In actual fact, our every matter occurs by the Will of Allah and He is continually protecting us, guiding us, and providing for us. He is always aware of the needs of His creation. Our knowledge of the world around us is extremely limited, as we can only comprehend some of the tangible things around us.

Allah encompasses all things with His knowledge and mercy. Allah is the only Knower of what the future holds for each person and no one can encompass this knowledge.

THIS IS WHY...THERE IS NO (TRUE) GOD EXCEPT ALLAH.

# HIS KURSI EXTENDS OVER THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

“Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? He knows what happens to them (His creatures) in this world, and what will happen to them in the Hereafter. And they will never encompass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. HIS KURSI EXTENDS OVER THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH...”



Have you ever seen a vast desert or the magnificent oceans of the world? Imagine being right in the middle of an ocean or a desert, how would you feel? A little scared of the enormity of the space around you? Or would you feel awe for the Creator of such magnificence? When we witness such immense creations, it makes us ponder on what is found within their vastness.

Ponder upon the profound beauty of the sky, how it covers the entire earth like a ceiling or a canopy protecting us all. The earth with its wide expanse and the sky with its vast canopy is such that we cannot fully comprehend them. Many areas of the earth remain unexplored. Yet, what we do know of the earth amazes us due to its grandeur. The sheer vastness of the universe encompasses what astronomy understands today and all that has not yet been discovered. NOW IMAGINE SOMETHING SO GREAT THAT IN ITS

COMPARISON, THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH BECOME LIKE A RING IN A BARREN DESERT. THIS IS THE DESCRIPTION OF THE KURSI OR FOOTSTOOL OF ALLAH.

It is narrated in a saying of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) that: “The universe compared to Allah’s Kursi (footstool) is like a ring in a desert.” (*Ibn Hibban, Ibn Abi Hatim*)

The above example of the Kursi helps us to understand the Glory and Superiority of Allah. The creation of the Most Beneficent is so great, that we cannot comprehend it. Then how can we possibly envisage the Creator? Allah informs us in the Qur’an about this limitation of humans to comprehend the Greatness of their Lord.

In Chapter Al-Hajj (The Pilgrimage), Allah says:



“They have not estimated Allah His Rightful Estimate; verily, Allah is All-Strong, All-Mighty.” (*Surah Al-Hajj, 22:74*)

The above mentioned verse and the verse of the Kursi illustrate to us the perfect and complete Authority and Ownership of Allah. Our Creator reminds us of His Greatness so that we do not attach to other than Him. Our worship belongs only to Him, whom we cannot possibly imagine, nor form an image of, nor can we see in this life.

Allah has honored humans with a mind and a heart to recognize their Lord and He has surrounded us with the signs of His Greatness and His Evident Presence. In addition, Allah has sent us messengers and books to guide us back to the truth. Allah created us, provided for us, and did not leave us neglected without guidance.

THIS IS WHY...THERE IS NO (TRUE) GOD EXCEPT ALLAH.

# AND HE FEELS NO FATIGUE IN GUARDING AND PRESERVING THEM

“Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? He knows what happens to them (His creatures) in this world, and what will happen to them in the Hereafter. And they will never encompass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Kursi extends over the heavens and the earth, **AND HE FEELS NO FATIGUE IN GUARDING AND PRESERVING THEM...**”



There was once a driver responsible for taking his coach full of passengers across the city. Due to his extreme fatigue, his coach was continually swaying in and out of the lanes. The passengers in his coach were also very tired but each time the coach swayed, some of them would become alert and shout at the man to be attentive. The driver was helpless due to his extreme fatigue. This stressful drive continued for a while, until one passenger asked the driver to pull up, take rest, and continue once he felt able to drive safely. Relieved, the driver did not wait for a second opinion and stopped driving, as he realized his inability to preserve the safety of the passengers he was responsible for. We cannot fight our fatigue even for a short span, showing our helplessness to the demands of our body.

When we are left in charge of a matter, it tends to be for a limited time and over a limited number of people. Due to the nature of human deficiencies, we cannot be expected to watch over something continually without a break. When a newborn is in the house, we feel that the baby should be watched all the time but when we are asleep, who is taking care of the baby?

The job of a security guard is probably one of the most tiring and tedious jobs, as it is usually a solitary one, requiring a person to be vigilant for several hours and watching for any disruptions in the surroundings. A guard has to observe for hours, looking out from windows and at CCTV screens, while people sleep in security. He naturally feels tired at the monotony of his task and his eyes become heavy until he is overtaken by slumber and exhaustion, although he is not physically exerting himself.

Having considered the weaknesses of humans, let's turn to the verse of the Kursi. Allah informs us that He does not feel any fatigue in guarding the heavens and the earth. This tells us that everything needs the protection of Allah and that only Allah is Able to protect His creation.

In Chapter Fatir (Originator), Allah says:

“Verily! Allah grasps the heavens and the earth lest they move away from their places, and if they were to move away from their places, there is not one that could grasp them after Him. Truly, He is Ever Most Forbearing, Oft Forgiving.” (*Surah Fatir, 35:41*)

Our actions cannot be perfect due to the many limitations we possess. However, we do not have to claim perfection, neither do we have to take charge of the universe! Allah has taken full charge of the universe so we do not have to worry about it.

Allah is perfect in all His Attributes, hence in this verse we negate the negative trait of fatigue from Allah. Allah has been preserving the universe since He has created it, sustaining all of His creation with Mercy and Knowledge at all times. Allah knows the needs of His creation, and He alone has the full power and the ability to take care of all the affairs. Allah has taken all the responsibility of the maintenance of the universe, its preservation, and its sustenance, so we are carefree of such matters. HAS ANY ONE OF US EVER WORRIED THAT THE SKY MIGHT FALL BECAUSE WE CANNOT SEE WHAT'S HOLDING IT UP? OR DID WE EVER WORRY THAT THE EARTH WILL DISAPPEAR AND WE WILL HAVE NOTHING TO WALK UPON? THESE QUESTIONS SEEM SO FAR-FETCHED BECAUSE WE FEEL SO SECURE OF THEIR PRESERVATION BY THE CREATOR. OUR ONLY FOCUS SHOULD BE TO WORSHIP THE ONE TRUE GOD.

How can we attach ourselves to anyone other than Allah? To those who have no power to benefit or harm us or even themselves? How can those who are protected be equal to the Protector? How can the ones who are guarded be equal to the Guardian? All others besides Allah are created beings in need of His care and nurturing. Allah is the Self Sufficient, the only One Who has complete knowledge of each of His creations, who deals with us with Perfect Mercy and Gentleness. He never tires of taking care of the universe, He is never absent from our care, and Allah is never unaware of our needs.

THIS IS WHY...THERE IS NO (TRUE) GOD EXCEPT ALLAH.

# AND HE IS THE MOST HIGH, THE MOST GREAT

“Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? He knows what happens to them (His creatures) in this world, and what will happen to them in the Hereafter. And they will never encompass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Kursi extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. **AND HE IS THE MOST HIGH, THE MOST GREAT.**”



Sometimes, Allah gives us a high position in life, having people under our authority and with the ability to establish rules for the people to follow. But are we always just when given such authority and wise in our decision-making? Are we merciful on those reliant upon us? Do we forgive the mistakes of others and pardon them, never to remind them of their faults? I think you would agree that this type of leadership is virtually impossible to come by due to the limited ability of humans.

Imagine a simple scenario of a mother, setting rules and guidelines in her household. Two children have an argument and run to their mother for justice. Within this small family framework, with only a few people under her authority, a mother cannot have full control of what's going on within the house. When both children race to her screaming, she cannot hear both simultaneously; neither does she know how the argument started, nor who is telling her the truth. Her solution to the situation is not based on full knowledge and will therefore not be free of faults.

The verse of the Kursi ends with two names of Allah, the Most High and the Most Great. Everything that has preceded these two names is indication of the Greatness of Allah and His Highness over all the creation. There is none comparable to Allah, the Most High! We will look at each name briefly to appreciate why such a powerful verse ends with these two specific names.

# THE MOST HIGH

The Highness of Allah is apparent in all of His Actions and Attributes, as well as His physical position of being the Most High. Even when we ask a child where the Creator is, they will look upwards.

Although Allah's position is Most High, above the seventh heaven, He is close to us by His Knowledge and none can compare to His Knowledge, which is the most Perfect. Allah hears and sees all that occurs on earth and He is closer to us than our jugular vein by His Knowledge.

WE HAVE A CONNECTION WITH ALLAH THAT GIVES US A DIRECT LINK WITH HIM AT ANY TIME. IS THERE ANYONE IN HIGH POSITIONS OF THE WORLD, A KING OR A PRESIDENT, WHO WILL HEAR THE PLEA OF ALL HIS SUBORDINATES? EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO, DUE TO HUMAN DEFICIENCIES, THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO SO.

The Highness of Allah is such that we cannot comprehend His Beauty, Perfection, and Majesty, yet we can connect with Him more easily than with the humans around us. This is our Lord! He hears when we whisper a prayer to him, at any time of day and night.

He is the King of kings, yet He is pleased when He hears the invocations of His slaves. His Majesty and Grandeur is Most High, yet when we break His rules and transgress His boundaries, He deals with us with His Mercy and Forgiveness. He is the Most High and none can be above Him; He has complete dominance over the universe, yet He deals with us with His Gentleness, His Justice, and His Favors.

Allah the Most High controls the world with Perfect Harmony, providing each of His creation with his/her every need. Allah the Most High dominates the universe and needs no helper, supporter, or ally. He is the Most High, the Self Sufficient Master. Allah the Most High is not in need of any partner or child. Those who attribute such heinous lies to Allah, do not know of His Majesty, Power, and Ability. They do not estimate Allah with a just estimation.

We can never Praise Allah as is due to him. He alone deserves our worship and attachment. He alone has the full power and authority over us—to Aid us, Support us, Provide for us, and to Guide us. Attach yourself to the One Who is the Most High and anyone besides Him is a slave in need of His Care and Nurturing.


Allah informs us in the Qur'an in Chapter Al-Hajj (The Pilgrimage):

“That is because Allah He is the Truth (the only True God of all that exists, Who has no partners or rivals with Him), and what they (the polytheists) invoke besides Him, it is Batil (falsehood). And verily, Allah He is the Most High, the Most Great.” (*Surah Al-Hajj, 22:62*)

## THE MOST GREAT

When we consider greatness in a person, we believe that they have achieved a level of distinction in a field or something out of the ordinary. However, when a person or thing is perceived as great in one aspect, it is not necessary that they have the same level of greatness in other fields. For example, a person may be considered as a great artist but in the field of mathematics, he is considered pretty ordinary.

Humans by nature love to be attached to one who they perceive to be great. When we are young, we often think our parents are great and that they know everything. As we grow, our perspective of greatness changes and we look to the rich and famous as being great due to their perceived successful lifestyles and their having achieved what is out of the ordinary. The problem is not that we should not be attached to one that is great, rather it is in understanding the true concept of greatness.



FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE VERSE OF THE KURSI TILL THE VERY END, WE SEE THE MANY EVIDENCES OF THE EXCLUSIVITY OF THE ONE TRUE GREATNESS THAT IS THE GREATNESS OF ALLAH. HE IS GREAT IN HIS EXISTENCE. HIS LIFE IS PERFECT, AS IT HAS NO BEGINNING AND NO END. ALL THE CREATION WILL PERISH; ONLY THE MOST GREAT, EVER LIVING WILL REMAIN. HE IS GREAT IN HIS COMPLETE AUTHORITY OVER HIS CREATION, AS ALL CREATION SUBMITS TO HIM, WHETHER WILLINGLY OR UNWILLINGLY.

His Perfection further illustrates to us His Greatness; He is free from defects and free from any need. Unlike His creation with multiple needs of sleep, food, drink, companionship, etc., His Greatness is in His Self Sufficiency. He needs no partner or helper, whereas all the creation is dependent on Him.

His Greatness is in His Ownership. Everything in the heavens and earth belongs to Him alone and unto Him we will all be returned for the recompense. He is the All-Mighty, the King, Whose authority none can deny.

Another evidence of His Greatness and Complete Power is that that none can intercede with Allah, unless He grants them the permission to intercede.

His Greatness is in His all-encompassing Knowledge of everything created. He knows the past, present, and future conditions of all of His creation. Nothing is hidden from His Knowledge. Mankind will never encompass anything of His Vast Knowledge, unless Allah wills us to know it. Without His Will for us to know a matter, we will remain ignorant of it.

His Kursi extends over the heavens and the earth; this epitomizes the extent of His Greatness. The mention of the Kursi is a prelude to the mention of the Greatness of Allah because it is a matter that we cannot possibly envisage.

His Greatness is in His preserving His creation without fatigue. He knows what His creation is in need of and He alone is fully able to guard and protect them. He is the Greatest in His nearness to us.

It is reported that a man once went to Ibrahim bin Adham and said, "Oh Abu Ishaq, I continually wrong my own self, and I turn away from everything that invites me to improve my way of life." Ibrahim said, "If you can fulfill five conditions, then sinning will never harm you, and you can fulfill your desires as much as you want." "Tell me those conditions," exclaimed the man.

"As for the first, if you want to disobey Allah, then do not eat from His sustenance," said Ibrahim. "What then will I eat, for everything on the earth is from His sustenance?" said the man. "Listen," said Ibrahim. "Are you being sensible when you eat from His sustenance while you are disobedient to Him?" "No," said the man.

"What is the second condition?" "If you want to disobey Allah, then do not live in any of His lands," said Ibrahim. "This is even worse than the first. All that is in the East and West belongs to Him. So where then will I live?"

"Listen," said Ibrahim. "If you insist on disobeying Him while you eat from His sustenance and live in His lands, then at least look for some spot where He cannot see you, and disobey Him there." "O Ibrahim!" exclaimed the man.

"How can I do that, when He even knows the deepest secret in the breasts of men? What is the fourth condition?" he asked despondently. "When the angel of death comes to take your soul, then say to him, 'Give me some respite, so that I can repent sincerely and perform good deeds.'" "When the time comes, the angel will not accept that plea from me," said the man. "Listen," said Ibrahim, "If you cannot put off death in order to repent, then how do you expect to be saved?"

"Tell me the fifth condition," said the man. "When the guardians of Hell-fire come to take you away on the Day of Resurrection, do not go with them."

“They will not let me go!” exclaimed the man. “Then how do you expect to be saved?” asked Ibrahim. “Stop, stop! That is enough for me,” said the man. “I ask Allah to forgive me and I indeed repent to Him.” The man then dedicated his life to the worship of Allah from that day.

Allah is the only Provider of sustenance to all His creation and He has all-encompassing knowledge of each of His creation. Our return will be to Him alone.

THIS IS WHY...THERE IS NO (TRUE) GOD EXCEPT ALLAH.



# THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

“There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut (false gods) and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower.”

*(Chapter Al-Baqarah, 2:256)*



Life is full of choices and the decisions we make have a profound impact on our lives. Often the choices we make require a commitment and long-term dedication to reach the chosen path. For example, if you choose to study medicine, your choice means dedicating yourself to study for several years to reach that goal. We sacrifice our leisure time and dedicate ourselves to studies, focusing on the end result, fighting desires that deviate from the chosen path. Such eager students remain committed to their studies, attached to their resources, developing friendships with those who are in the same field. Why? Because they can envisage that the fruits of their hard work will pay off by giving them status, respect, financial security, and so on and so forth.

The choices we make are between two clear options: justice versus injustice, a good companion versus a bad companion, right over wrong, light over darkness, truth over falsehood. However, no one can compel us to make the right choice; this is something that has to come from us.

Allah has created man for a profound purpose, and man’s intellect and objective reasoning should lead him to this fact. For this reason, it is incumbent on each person to question his own actions and to ponder on the world around him, the instability of life, and its transient nature.

YOU HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT ALLAH. MY DEAR READER, THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE THIS VERY BOOK IN YOUR HAND IS NOT RANDOM, IT IS NOT A COINCIDENCE—THERE IS A REASON FOR EVERYTHING. IT IS BY THE DECREE OF ALLAH THAT YOU ARE READING ABOUT HIM. YOUR CREATOR LOVES YOU. YOUR CREATOR IS TAKING CARE OF YOU. YOUR CREATOR WANTS YOU TO KNOW ABOUT HIM. AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOUR CREATOR WANTS YOU TO BE SAVED AND TO HAVE THE ULTIMATE REWARD OF ETERNAL LIFE IN PARADISE AND TO SEE HIM.

Dear reader, the truth has come to you. We all love truth and we hate lies. This is the greatest truth—that your Lord is One, the Only One Who deserves your

worship and attachment. Do you not want to take the correct path to attain the ultimate happiness? The path that your Creator has chosen for you?

Do you want to hold on to the One Who will remain or to one that will perish? The One that sustains and cares for all or those who have no ability to benefit or harm? Will you choose to attach yourself to the One Who is perfect and the Most Great or to one who is deficient and helpless?

Allah your Lord is Perfect, His Religion is perfect, and His Final Revelation is perfect. The Qur'an, the speech of Allah, is free from all faults or doubts. It is a complete manual for man to live a happy life and a guidance for those who seek it. The Qur'an is perfect in all aspects—grammatically, factually, historically, and scientifically. All knowledge is from Allah and the perfection of His Revelation affirms scientific facts and developments through the ages and will continue to do so till the end of time.

There is no compulsion in religion but bear in mind that the truth is clear; there is no logical reason to deny the belief in one Lord. He needs no son or partner and He has no needs. The only religion that is accepted by Allah is also the only religion that is neither in conflict with the natural disposition of man nor with the intellectual mind. Allah alone is deserving of our attachment due to His complete control over all His creation.

The question you need to ask yourself is whether you will follow the path of truth or the path of desires. Are you ready to acknowledge the Utmost Truth that Allah is your Lord?

If you feel your heart is torn about what you have read and what you have been raised with, then ask the One Who created you, ask the One Who can hear you even in the darkest hours to guide you to the Truth and to make your path easy. He will never, ever forsake the one who is seeking the Truth.

SO, THE CHOICE IS TOTALLY YOURS—WILL YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO TAKE A LEAP INTO THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH? OR WILL YOU LET TIME PASS YOU BY TILL THE SOUL REACHES THE THROAT...THEN THERE IS NO RETURN!





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