

# The Quran and its Message

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سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

Salamun Alaikum (Peace be upon you)

## A GENEROUS, LOVING AND FORGIVING LORD

*Joseph A Islam*

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Much is spoken about the wrath and punishment of God. Unfortunately, this often skews the contextual understanding of His wrath and His overarching mercy and generosity for His creation.

### OUR LORD IS GENEROUS, HE IS EVER MERCIFUL

#### 006.012

“Say: "To whom belongs all that is in the Heavens and on Earth?" Say: "To God. **He has inscribed for Himself (the rule of) Mercy (Arabic: Kataba ala nafsihi l-rahma)**. That He will gather you together for the Day of Judgment, there is no doubt whatever. It is they who have lost their own souls, that will not believe”

The expression "God has inscribed Himself or has willed upon Himself a law, a rule" (**Arabic: Kataba ala nafsihi**) is key. This expression only occurs twice in the Quran and both times with reference to **His mercy** (Arabic: Rahmah).

قُلْ لِلَّهِ كَتَبَ عَلَيَّ نَفْسِيهِ الرَّحْمَةَ

rahma nafsihi ala Kataba

Illustration - Joseph Islam

#### 006.054

"When those come to thee who believe in Our signs, Say: "Peace be on you: **Your Lord has inscribed for Himself (the rule of) mercy (Arabic: Kataba ala nafsihi)**: surely, if any of you did evil in ignorance, and thereafter repented, and amends (his conduct), **lo! He is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful"**

## GOD IS JUST - BUT EVEN MORE GENEROUS

God's generosity is clearly noted in the following verse. One's good is multiplied beyond its merits. However, the evil is only punished to the extent of the evil that is committed. Despite the evil, the doors still remain open for repentance.

### 006:160

"He that does good shall have ten times as much to his credit: He that does evil shall only be recompensed according to his evil (or the like of it Arabic: illa mith'laha) : no wrong shall be done unto (any of) them"

## HIS MERCY IS STRESSED AGAIN

### 007:156

"And ordain for us that which is good, in this life and in the Hereafter: for we have turned unto Thee." He said: "With My punishment I visit whom I will; **but My mercy extends to all things (Arabic: warahmati wasi'at kulla shayin)** . That (mercy) I shall ordain for those who do right, and practice regular charity, and those who believe in Our signs"

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## FINAL THOUGHTS

Our Lord creates us out of nothing. He provides for us, He sustains us. He gives us guidance, He forgives us. He continues to forgive us if we repent sincerely and amend our ways. He multiplies our goods beyond its merits, but only holds us responsible for the 'extent' of our evil deed, nothing more, nothing less.

This is undoubtedly a loving, caring, generous and a merciful God. Indeed He will test us, but we must put our **complete** faith in Him and His tests. After all, everything is to return to Him anyway.

In the end, if we are judged to receive God's wrath after all His mercy, then truly we would have failed.

"Our Master of the Day of Judgement, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth and everything in between, the one God of Prophet's Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. <sup>(pbu)</sup> We are forever yours our Lord, in humble submission. Guide us that seek your grace to the path which leads us closest to the **truth**, if it is your will. Protect us from the evil whisperer and those that lead us astray"

Amen.

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