

Welcome to ALI 476  
Understanding God's mercy  
Session Two

وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ

My mercy embraces all things

Sura A'raaf, no.7, verse 156

# Aim of Creation

Each thing that is created has an independent stage of perfection ahead of it to be attained; and so for everything there exist stages of deficiency or perfection until the maximum limit is reached.

The goal and ideal that Islam offers is God, and everything else is preparatory to it, and not of an independent and fundamental importance.

**Ayatullah Murtadha Mutahhari, Goal of life**

The mission of the prophets, too, is believed unanimously to facilitate man's perfection and to aid him to remove the deficiencies which neither he, as an individual, nor his society is able to remove.

It is only with the aid of Divine revelations that he can advance towards enhancing perfection.

Accordingly, every individual must see what he can be after identifying his potentialities, so as to bring them to fruition.

**Ayatullah Murtadha Mutahhari, Goal of life**

# Some Questions

- 1) What is the ultimate aim of perfection?
- 2) If perfection was the goal why were human beings not created perfect?
- 3) How does knowing God lead to perfection?

# Aim of Creation from the Quran

## 1) Awareness

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ وَمِنَ الْأَرْضِ مِثْلَهُنَّ يَتَنَزَّلُ الْأَمْرُ بَيْنَهُنَّ  
لِتَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ أَحَاطَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا

It is Allah who has created seven heavens, and of the earth a number similar to them. The command gradually descends through them, that you may know that Allah has power over all things, and that Allah comprehends all things in knowledge

**Sura Talaq, no.65, verse 12**

## 2) Worship

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

I did not create the jinn and the humans except that they may worship Me.

**Sura Zariyat, no.51, verse 57**

# Reality of Servitude (عِبَادِيَّة)

Firstly, That a man see nothing that Allah has privileged him as being from himself or belonging to him, because slaves own nothing. He must see that all possessions are the belongings of Allah. That he must only use his endowments (from Allah) as Allah commands of him.

Secondly that he is not self-reliant in planning his affairs, being entirely occupied with what Allah, the Exalted has planned.

Thirdly, he is entirely occupied with what Allah, the Exalted, has commanded him to do and prohibited him from doing.

**Hadith Unwan al-Basri**

# Hadith of Imam Sadiq (a)

Truly God the Almighty has not created His servants except to know Him

so when they know Him they will worship Him.

When they worship Him they will not need to worship anyone else.

Al-Mizan, vol. 18, p. 390

### 3) Test

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ  
وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ

He, who created death and life that He may test you to see which of you is best in conduct. And He is the All-mighty, the All-forgiving.

**Sura Mulk, no.67, verse 2**

## 4) To receive mercy

وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَجَعَلَ النَّاسَ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً ۗ وَلَا يَزَالُونَ  
مُخْتَلِفِينَ إِلَّا مَن رَّحِمَ رَبُّكَ ۗ وَلِذَلِكَ خَلَقَهُمْ

Had your Lord wished He would have made mankind one community; but they continue to differ.

Except those on whom your Lord has mercy and that is why He created them

**Sura Hud, no.11, verse 118-119**

God created man so that they do something  
to deserve His mercy  
and then He would give them His mercy.

**Al-Tawhid by Saduq, p. 404**

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَنَهَرٍ فِي مَقْعَدِ صِدْقٍ عِنْدَ  
مَلِكٍ مُّقْتَدِرٍ

Surely the Godwary shall be amid gardens and rivers  
In the seat of honor with a most Powerful King.

**Sura Qamar, no.54, verses 54-55**

وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الْعَزِيزِ الرَّحِيمِ

And put your trust in the All-mighty, the All merciful  
(Sura Shu'ara, no.26, verse 217)

If one wants to trust someone, he or she needs to know whether or not that person is helpful and capable. We cannot trust the powerless to carry out what we want. In addition, if he has power without love and mercy there is no point in trusting him. He is not going to do anything for me. However, God is both powerful and merciful and this gives us every reason to put our trust in Him. This is why the Qur'an stresses on the fact that those who want to trust anyone must put their trust in God.

**Understanding God's Mercy, Part II – Dr. Shomali**

God is telling us that He is very merciful and at the same time His mercy is not because of His weakness. Indeed, He is very strong. He can give us mercy or stop giving us mercy. No one can force or stop Him. But in the end He wants to give us mercy. If one does not want to accept His mercy, it would be his problem. However, as far as God is concerned, He gives. And He has created us to give. He says that He did not have any other reason to create us but to show us mercy. He is merciful while having full control and power.

**Understanding God's Mercy, Part II – Dr. Shomali**