

## INGRATITUDE OF BLESSINGS- ANALYSIS FROM ISLAMIC VIEW

Dr. Farooq Aziz\*

Syed Muhammad Fahim\*\*

Muhammad Faseeh Ullah Khan\*\*\*

### **Abstract**

Quran has used the term *naymat* (blessings) in a wide range of meaning, all items from necessities to luxuries, any type of domination, increase in knowledge and wealth are included in it. According to Quran all blessings are always from God but there are certain actions due to them any blessing which is given to anyone may be reduced or ultimately snatched out by God. These actions are highlighted in Quran and termed as ingratitude. Reduction in the blessing depends upon the level of these actions. Hence these actions formed a criteria for any one (person/nation) to check himself that why he/she is losing any blessing of God.

**Keywords:** Quran; Ingratitude; Blessings; Gratitude; Punishment.

\* Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, Federal Urdu University, Karachi

\*\* Assistant Professor, Department of Management Sciences, DHA Suffa University, Karachi

Pakistan

\*\*\* Assistant Professor, Institute of Business and Technology, Karachi

## Introduction

*Naymat* (Blessings) is a particular Quranic term and Quran has used it in a lot of different meanings e.g. provision of each and every facility, all pleasant aspects of life, wide, freedom from any misery, necessities, comforts and luxuries of life, freshness, victory in war, right way of life, superiority in knowledge and wealth, guidance from God etc. (Parwaiz 1987). It means each and every favour, benefit, graciousness, delight, joy, ease and comfort is included in this term (Mayrathi 1994). From Quranic point of view each and every blessing which a human being received at micro or macro level (personal and national) is always from God and there is no doubt in it. But with that there are certain actions if any beneficiary of any blessing has adopted them, then according to Quranic law the level of blessing automatically reduced or it may be stopped depending upon the level of involvement in these activities. Quran has considered as ingratitude for all of these actions or activities. These actions are apposite to *shukr* (gratitude thanks/gratefulness) (Parwaiz 1987). It means that beneficiary adopts the way of disobedience of laws of God. In this situation beneficiary may lose the whole blessing of God or its supply may be reduced to a large extent.

## 2. Actions which Fall under Ingratitude

Whereas those actions/activities are concerned which are responsible to reduce or ultimately snatch downs the blessings of God, these are as follows:

### 2.1. Demand of Inconvenience Instead of Convenience

In a particular situation when the God has provided any blessing to anyone in the form of any easiness or convenience or comfort and beneficiary instead of giving thanks to God on the contrary he/she prays the God to convert it into hardship or difficulty or misery, then this act is an open ingratitude and God has set a severe punishment of this act which is in the form of disgrace, shame and dispersion (Farooq 2006).

In this regard Quran has given the example of some towns which were located close to each other and the way between them was easy and safe. It was a God's blessing and the people of those towns were enjoying from this facility, but they benefited God that make our journey longer. The result is that God has scattered them, because they claim difficulty as compare to easiness. This event is quoted in Quran in the following words.

*And We set, between them and the towns which We had blessed, towns easy to be seen, and We made the stage between them easy, (saying); Travel in them safely both by night and day. But they said: Our Lord! Make the stage between our journeys longer. And they wronged themselves, therefore We made them bywords (in the land) and scattered them aboard a total scattering. Lo! herein verily are portents for each steadfast grateful (heart). (Chapter 34, verses 18-19).*

## 2.2. Demand of Inferior Goods as Compare to Better Goods.

This act is almost same as in the case of 2.1. According to Quranic laws demand of inferior goods from God when He has provided much better things, is also an act of ingratitude and its punishment is much sever as compare to the previous case. An example of Jews can be given in this regard.

According to Quran God has provided them the best available foods and all other items of life, but they did not gratitude, on the contrary they demand Mosses that he prayed to God for the inferior items which had lesser taste. The result was that severe punishment was given to them in the form of humiliation and wretchedness which were stamped upon them. It was the result of their ingratitude, as it is cleared in the following verse of Quran:

*And when ye said: O Moses! We are weary of one kind of food: so call upon thy Lord for us that He brings forth for us of that which the earth growth- of its herbs and its cucumbers and its corn and its lentils and its onions. He said: Would ye exchange that which is higher for that which is lower? Go down to settled country, thus ye shall got that which ye demand. And humiliation and wretchedness were stamped upon them and they were visited with wrath from Allah. That was because they disbelieved in Allah's revelations and slew the Prophets wrongfully. That was for their disobedience and transgression.*

(Chapter 2, Verse 61).

## 2.3 Non-utilization of Statesmanship Capabilities

Quran has put a lot of emphasis on utilization of statesmanship, in the chapter 8, verse 22, Wholly Book has consider those people at less than animal level which do not use their prudence

power. Non utilization of thinking abilities is also an act of ingratitude from Quranic point of view it is declared in the following verse:

*Lo! We create man from a drop of thickened fluid to test him; so we make him hearing, knowing. Lo! We have shown him the way, whether he be grateful or ungrateful.*

(Chapter 76, Verse 2-3)

In the other words the people who use their deliberation power Quran consider them as grateful. Hence non-utilization of these capabilities is un-acknowledgement of God blessing.

#### 2.4 Use of Knowledge to Hurt the Others

According to the teachings of Quran God has given the knowledge to mankind for their protection. Hence its gratitude is must from mankind, as it is said in Quran:-

*And We taught him the art of making garments (of mail) to protect you in your daring. Are ye then thankful?*

(Chapter 21 Verse 80)

It means the productive use of knowledge is the thanks of God, on the contrary if it is used to hurt the people then it will be treated as un-acknowledgement and becomes on important reason to stop the blessings of God.

#### 2.5 Obedience of Laws of God

Quran has declared that, obedience of laws of God is His gratitude as it said:

*Nay, but God must thou serve and be among the thankful!*

(Chapter 39, verse 66)

It means that those people who obey the laws of God are thankful to Him, on the contrary the persons who do not follow them are unthankful to their God. Hence non-obedience of laws of God is again a reason of exclusion from different benefits from God.

#### 2.6 Stinginess

Donation in the way of God is an act which shows the concept of thankfulness from man to God. But the people who do not donate and deny do the same, from Quranic point of view they refute the Quranic orders. It can be proved from the following verse of Quran:-

*And when it is said unto them: Spend of that which God has provided you, infidels say to those who believe: shall we feed those whom God, if He willed would feed? You are in nothing but manifest error.*

(Chapter 36 Verse 47)

According to this verse the infidels has refused to donate their wealth in the way of God by saying that, if God personally want to feed the poor's then He can do it by Himself. At here important point is that Quran has declared as infidels to those persons who do not donate their wealth in the way of God. It means the act of stinginess or miserliness itself is included in refusal of God's order or in the other words it is also a part of ingratitude.

### **2.7 Polytheism after Freedom from Miseries**

It is a common observation that, when people found themselves in any problem or misery then they benedicts the God most sincerely. But when He releases from that particular difficulty then some of those immediately return to polytheism. It is also an act of ingratitude, as it is mentioned in the following verse of Quran:

*And when they mount upon the ships they pray to God making their faith pure for Him only but when He bringeth them safe to land, behold! they ascribe partners (unto Him). That they may be ungrateful for what We have given them and that they may enjoy it. But they will come to know.*

(Chapter 29, verses 65-66)

Since polytheism is included in ungratefulness of God hence has the same punishment as it is mentioned above.

From Quranic point of view above mentioned actions have a relationship with the level of blessing, as high as the mankind will involve in these activities blessing of God will reduce in the same speed. In the other words these actions set a criteria for the human being on the basis of whom they can found the reasons if they are suffering from continue decline of blessings of God and may rectify themselves if they want to do so.

### **Conclusion**

According to Quran all blessings which are given to mankind are from God, but these blessings will be reduced or may be vanished if beneficiary is involved in one or more than one following actions.

1. Demand of inconvenience against convenience.
2. Desire of inferior goods as compare to superior goods.
3. Non utilization of statesmanship.
4. Use of knowledge to hurt the others.
5. Disobedience of laws of God.
6. Stinginess
7. Polytheism particularly after freedom from any problem.

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