



Water

A Bounty from Allah

SECOND EDITION



Water is a bounty from Allah

Muslims consider water essential to life. Allah tells us in the Qur'an,

“**Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and We separated them and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe?**

”

(Qur'an 21:30)

The significance given to every aspect of water within the Islamic civilisation is very high, and we find Islam directing Muslims to amongst other things the best use of water, the preservation of the water supply and the sparing use of water without being wasteful. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) warned us that Allah will account Muslims for water, when He will ask,

“Did We not give you health and water you with cold water?”

Prophet Muhammad made water a common thing for all people in that it can not be monopolised; he said,

“...all people are partners in three things; water, grass and fire.”

(Abu Dawud)



The source of water

Allah has chosen to be all merciful to every living creature, providing us all with water with which to sustain our lives. The Qur'an mentions the topic of water many times to remind us that without such a blessing all life would die.

"[More precisely], is He [not best] who created the heavens and the earth and sent down for you rain from the sky, causing to grow thereby gardens of joyful beauty which you could not [otherwise] have grown the trees thereof? Is there a deity with Allah? [No], but they are a people who ascribe equals [to Him]."

(Qur'an 27:60)



"And it is He who sends the winds as good tidings before His mercy [i.e., rainfall], and We send down from the sky pure water that We may bring to life thereby a dead land and give it as drink to those We created of numerous livestock and men. And We have certainly distributed it among them that they might be reminded, but most of the people refuse except disbelief."

(Qur'an 25:48-50)

“And have you seen the water that you drink? Is it you who brought it down from the clouds, or is it We who bring it down? If We willed, We could make it bitter, so why are you not grateful?”

(Qur'an 56:68-70)

"And within the land are neighbouring plots and gardens of grapevines and crops and palm trees, [growing] several from a root or otherwise, watered with one water; but We make some of them exceed others in [quality of] fruit. Indeed in that are signs for a people who reason."

(Qur'an 13:4)

"Then We opened the gates of the heaven with rain pouring down and caused the earth to burst with springs, and the water met for a matter already predestined. And We carried him on a [construction of] planks and nails, sailing under Our observation as reward for he who had been denied. And We left it as a sign, so is there any who will remember?"

(Qur'an 54:11-15)

Wasteful use of water

The extra use of water is completely forbidden in Islam, even if water is plentiful.

It is reported that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) passed by one of his Companions who was making ablution and asked him why he was using extra water, the man replied,

"Is there wastage of water even with the ablution?" to which Prophet Muhammad

replied, "Yes, even if you are washing in a running river..."

(Ibn Majah)

The Muslims were guided to being careful about every drop of water being used 1400 years ago.

Greed for water

To prevent water from going to the needy is one of the causes of Allah's anger.

One of the three types of people who Allah will not talk to in the Hereafter is the one who has extra water and he prevented the passer-by from drinking. Allah's Messenger said,

"...Allah will not look at on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He purify... A man who possessed superfluous water, on a way, and he withheld it from the travellers..."

(Bukhari)



Damaging the water supply

Polluting water is forbidden in Islam

Prophet Muhammad said

"...anyone of you must not urinate in stagnant water, then wash from it..."

(Muslim)

Spirituality

Water is related to the cleanliness of both the body and the heart, it not only cleans the body outside but also the soul inside.

The Muslim performs ablution 5 times a day, washing away the dirt of the day, and the minor sins accumulated.

“If a man performs ablution perfectly and then offers the compulsory congregational prayer, Allah will forgive his sins committed between that (prayer) and the (next) prayer till he offers it.”

(An-Nasa'i)

When a Muslim dies, he must be washed with water as a final ritual before burial thereby ensuring his complete cleanliness.

“[Remember] when He overwhelmed you with drowsiness [giving] security from Him and sent down upon you from the sky, rain by which to purify you and remove from you the evil [suggestions] of Satan and to make steadfast your hearts and plant firmly thereby your feet.”

(Qur'an 8:11)

“And said, ‘Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Indeed, He is ever a Perpetual Forgiver. He will send [rain from] the sky upon you in [continuing] showers and give you increase in wealth and children and provide for you gardens and provide for you rivers.”

(Qur'an 71:10-12)



Charity

Providing others with water, be it a human, animal or plant is a form of charity.

Prophet Muhammad told us,

"... Allah forgave a bad woman when she saw a dog near a well, dying of thirst. Taking her shoe off, she lowered it into the well with her scarf and collected water for the dog. So Allah appreciated her behaviour and forgave her sins..." and "...Allah punished a woman who kept a cat, tethered without food and water, and prevented it from looking for water by itself..."

(Bukhari and Muslim)



Government

Muslim scholars make the use of water a public right protected by the state, and oblige the government to clean rivers and maintain bridges.

In early times the laws of water rapidly developed in Islamic law. Technical terms of jurisprudence are dedicated to rulings concerning water, such as the right to drink water and not to sell the excess, Allah's Messenger forbade the sale of excess water (Muslim) and the right to create channels for water for the purposes of irrigation.

In 930CE Caliph Abdur-Rahman An-

Naser made a special court for water issues in Spain, and he introduced the position of Judge of the Water Courts, which we can still find working today within the Spanish system. In fact, one of the oldest courts still functioning in Europe is the water tribunal in Valencia, Spain.



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