



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

ISLAMIC AWARENESS SERIES

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NAMES OF ALLAH:

ASH-SHAKUR

Advice by:

Dr Rateb Jneid

PRESIDENT, AFIC

Our prophet, peace and blessings upon him, said:

إن لله تسعة وتسعين اسماً من أحصاها دخل الجنة رواه الشيخان البخاري ومسلم في الصحيحين

“Allah has ninety-nine names, whoever learns them and abides by them will enter Jannah.”
(Bukhary and Muslim)

In this article, we explore the name Ash-Shakur or “The Thankful”. I pray that we will be able to understand the name and live by its beautiful meaning.

Allah Almighty says in surah al-Shu’ara verse 23:

وَمَنْ يَقْتَرِفْ حَسَنَةً نَّزِدْ لَهُ فِيهَا حُسْنًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ ﴿٢٣﴾

“And whoever earns good, We give him more of good therein; surely Allah is Forgiving, Thankful.” (26:23)

Look at how Allah Almighty acknowledges and appreciates the good deeds of His servants. Allah Almighty is the Lord of the Worlds, the Most Powerful, He is not in need of our deeds or anyone’s deeds. Yet, with His divine mercy and love, He shows appreciation and acceptance of all deeds done out of love for Him.

Allah Almighty acknowledges and recognises all deeds, whether big or small. Such good deeds will be accepted and be duly rewarded. Our beloved Prophet Mohammed *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wasallam* said:

فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ وَلَوْ بِشِقِّ تَمْرَةٍ.

“Protect yourself from hellfire, even by contributing a small portion of the date fruit.” Hadith narrated by Bukhari and Muslim.

In another hadith, Prophet Mohammed *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wasallam* said:

لَا تَحْقِرَنَّ مِنَ الْمَعْرُوفِ شَيْئًا ، وَلَوْ أَنْ تَلْقَى أَخَاكَ بِوَجْهِ طَلْقٍ



“Do not look down on any form of good deed, even if it is only a smile that you put on when you meet your brother.” narrated by Muslim.

When we reflect on this beautiful name of Allah *Ash-Shakur*, we will be inspired and motivated to pursue all forms of goodness without being restrained by our capabilities. Our beloved Prophet Mohammed *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wasallam* said:

بَيْنَمَا رَجُلٌ يَمْشِي بِطَرِيقٍ وَحَدَّ عُصْنِ شَوْكٍ عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ، فَأَخْرَهُ،
فَشَكَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُ، فَغَفَرَ لَهُ

“A man was walking and found a thorny branch across the pathway, then he removed it. Allah repaid his good act and granted him forgiveness.” narrated by Bukhari and Muslim.

Look at how Allah Almighty with His attribute, *Ash-Shakur*, acknowledges the contributions and good deeds of His servants, who sought to ensure the comfort of others using the pathway, and Allah rewards such deeds with paradise.

Therefore, we, the ummah of Prophet Mohammed *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wasallam*, are given great motivation to do good. For Allah’s mercy and love is endless, and there is no measure to the good deeds that Allah accepts. Indeed, Allah Almighty measures an act, not by its size, but by the sincerity of the doer.

When we internalise the meaning of *Ash-Shakur*, we will always be inspired to do good. Know, and rejoice in the fact that Allah Almighty will not put in vain the good deeds of those who are conscious of Him.

Reflect on the words of Umm Al Mu’minin, our mother Khadija (*Radiya Allahu Anha*) when she calmed the Holy Prophet *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wasallam*, the first time that he saw the

archangel Gabriel and received the first revelation in the cave of Hira’: *“By Allah, Allah will not leave you in vain. Because you maintain family relations, you respect your guests, you pay off*



the debts of others, you help those in need, and you help others in doing good.” narrated by Bukhari.

Our mother Khadija (*Radiya Allahu Anha*) had a firm belief that Allah Almighty will not put in vain one’s good deeds and contributions to the society. Allah’s love and compassion will always surround those who do good. Allah Almighty says in surah Al-Kahf verse 30:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ إِنَّا لَا نُضِيعُ أَجْرَ مَنْ
أَحْسَنَ عَمَلًا ﴿٣٠﴾

“Surely (as for) those who believe and do good, We do not waste the reward of one who does good work.” (18:30)

When we reflect on the name Ash-Shakur, we will find two outstanding points:

First – The importance of expressing our gratitude and thanks to Allah the Almighty.

We must indeed be thankful and grateful to Allah Almighty for His countless blessings upon us; for our good health, sight, hearing and all other blessings.

Allah Almighty says in surah Luqman verse 12:

وَلَقَدْ ءَاتَيْنَا لُقْمَانَ الْحِكْمَةَ أَنِ اشْكُرْ لِلَّهِ ۚ وَمَن يَشْكُرْ فَإِنَّمَا
يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهِ ۚ وَمَن كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ ﴿١٢﴾

“And certainly, We gave wisdom to Luqman that you be grateful to Allah. And whoever is grateful, he is only grateful for his own soul; and whoever is ungrateful, then surely Allah is Self-Sufficient, Praised.” (31:12)

Secondly – To thank one another. Our beloved Prophet Mohammed *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wasallam* said:



مَنْ لَمْ يَشْكُرِ النَّاسَ لَمْ يَشْكُرِ اللَّهَ

“Whoever does not thank people, then they are not thankful to Allah.” narrated by Abu Daud and Tirmidzi.

Let us appreciate the kindness and help that others extend to us. Let us express our thankfulness when someone does good to us, no matter how big or small the act is.

In our lives, the people who are most deserving of our thanks and appreciation are our parents. We therefore need to do good to them and act kindly towards them.

Thankfulness to parents includes looking after them and taking care of them when they reach old age, or when they are incapable of taking care of themselves.

We must try to fulfill their needs. We must remain patient and persevere in taking care of them.

In fact, if we truly love our parents, we will certainly not let the opportunity to take care of them and do good to them slip by. Our beloved Prophet *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wasallam* said:

رغم أنف، ثم رغم أنف، ثم رغم أنف من أدرك أبويه عند الكبر أحدهما أو كلاهما فلم يدخل الجنة. رواه مسلم.

“Such is a misfortune for one who lives until his parents, or one of them reaches old age, but fails to do good to them such that he does not enter paradise.” narrated by Imam Muslim.

Dr Rateb Jneid

President





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