



Surat al Fatiha (2)

ALHAMDULILLAH

All praise is to Him. These words are the natural reaction to the realisation of "bismillah ir rahman ir raheem". We appreciate His Power and control over all affairs, and Mercy and Compassion in His manner of handling them. We understand that **ALL** praise is His, for all good within ourselves and others, within this world, and His own beautiful nature which He chose. All praise is to Him for creating as He did, ruling as He does, and teaching man of Him so that we may know truth and become closer to Him. We understand that our relation to anything of merit within this world is negligible, as He owns it and us.

The more we observe the world and study its creation, the more Glory and Praise we see is owed to Allah. Any act performed by any human which could merit praise relies upon the mercy of Allah in creating the human capable, inspiring the potential for the good deed, giving the person the opportunity, health and wealth to perform the deed, and in arranging the good consequences and success of the deed once the person had made his efforts.

Human servitude begins with gratitude and acknowledging Him, and this is the first part of the introduction to the "book" of mankind.

RUBBIL ALAMEEN

... further acknowledging His role, He is the Lord of the Worlds: the Cherisher and Sustainer, the One who guides and leads His creation to maturity. These words give a structure to the relationship between Allah and mankind, and also introduce the nature of the "book" of creation and its relation to Allah: He is the Creator, all creation are His signs indicating His presence; He is the Shaper and Maker, all creatures are fashioned perfectly for the purpose He has decreed for them; He is the Cherisher, He guides His creatures in the steps towards becoming whole... generally through giving them conscience, intellect, revelation, prophets and imams (as), and specifically in this context; by teaching us these words with which to pray.

All Praise is to He beneath Whom is the entire world, All praise is to He who is constantly watching over it, All praise is to He who leads His creatures towards what is best for them. This is the conclusion from observing each wonder in the world around us, that all praise is due to Him alone.

AR-RAHMAN IR-RAHEEM

in a cycle, once we recognise each praise that is owed to Him... we are also reminded of His mercy and kindness in forming creation, perfecting its design, and in giving His guidance to us so that we may understand these facts. Following every understanding that leads us to say "Alhamdulillah rubbil alameen", we have a deeper appreciation of the mercy He has shown us that He has created such wonders, and given us the capability of understanding them. With every Alhamdulillah that raises our understanding, we return to ar-rahman ar-raheem which deepens our love and gratitude to Him. And in reflecting upon the deepening of our love and appreciation, we are again brought to saying "alhamdulillah".

This is a repeating cycle; acknowledging and praising His signs, then realising His mercy, which leads again to acknowledgement and praising Him... It starts when man first awakens to himself and the world, and continues as long as he continues to relate the wonders he learns of to the hand of the Creator which fashioned them.