

## Significance of Water in Islam

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Islam comes from the root word ‘salam’, which means peace. It also means to submit, to surrender, to be sincere and obedient to the one and true god Allah subhanahu ta’ala. We believe that the *Quran* is the last and final book of Allah, which was revealed upon the last and final messenger prophet Mmohammad.Sallallahu alaihiwa sallam.(peace be upon him)

### What is water?

It is heaven’s way to oblige mankind, that is H<sub>2</sub>O. There is something special about water. Have you ever wondered why water is so significant to us? What does it signify?

Even before a child is born, it is surrounded by water in its mother’s womb. As it enters the world, water flows from its eyes in the form of tears. It is given the first water bath even before its mother’s milk, which also consists of water. When a person dies, he is given a last bath with water. After his death a person is promised Paradise. The angels will say,” Welcome, welcome to Paradise. We are your friends, do not grieve”

Insha allah. I shall quote a few verses from the holy book, *Quran*, to throw light on this topic.

Regarding Paradise, god says in the *Quran* (88, xi-xii) —”the water in Paradise is never stagnant, it flows, rushes, unlike the festering waters of hell.” The *Quran* also equates the waters of Paradise with moral uprightness, “in the garden is no idle talk; there is a gushing fountain.” In *Quran* (47, xv), god says “the believers will be rewarded for their piety by the rivers of fresh waters and rivers of milk, unchanging in taste, the rivers of wine, delicious to the drinkers and rivers of honey purified”.

When a person dies, his book of accounts (deeds) is closed. But if the deceased had during his lifetime made provision for providing water to the wayfarers, poor or needy, by the means of wells, canals or pipelines, then his good deeds continue even after his death.

### Zamzam - A Miracle

God says in the *Quran* (14,xxxvii), “ when Abraham (Pbuh) said ,”Our Lord! Indeed, I have settled some of my offspring in an uncultivated valley near your

sacred house” it is further described in the *Quran* that prophet Abraham’s wife was running frantically between the hills of Safaa and Marwaa in the holy city of Mecca, in search of water for her infant son, Ismail (Pbuh), water gushed forth from beneath the infant’s feet. Hajra (pbuh) said zamzam, that is, Stop! Stop!. This water is taken by pilgrims on hajj and umrah throughout the world. This zamzam has not ceased to flow till today in the Mecca desert. God liked, the motherly act of love and desperation, so much that he has immortalized it. It is mandatory for every male pilgrim to run between the two hills as a symbolic act, in the footsteps of Hajra, a female. Zamzam can cure most of the ailments and the claim is supported with an authentic data across the world. The entire desert is now drenched with a heavenly source of water.

### **Saving water**

Water is a gift from god. It is one of the three things that every human is entitled to that is, grass (pastures for our cattle), water and fire. Water should be freely available to all, and any Muslim who withholds unneeded water, sins against god.” No one can refuse surplus water without sinning against god and against mankind.” The prophetic traditions says, “among the three people whom god shall ignore on the day of resurrection, there shall be ‘the man, who having water in excess of his needs, refuses it to a traveller ‘—represented by bukhari

Here is a true story of sacrifice—in a desert. There was a man, who was very thirsty. He was offered a glass of water. He gave it to his companion, he was thirsty too. The second companion passed the glass of water to the third companion, who was pleading for water due to thirst. Alas! Until then the third man was no more! Hence the glass of water was returned to the second one. But he too had died. Till the water had reached back to the first man, it was too late for him to survive without water, he too had died.

### ***Uses of water:***

- **Wadu or Ablution:-** *Wadu* is mandatory before starting a prayer. It is a minor purification carried out before prayer, It consists of washing the hands, the face, the forearms and the feet.
- The other uses of water are for drinking, bathing, *ghusal* to a dead body, *istanja*, plantation, and for industrial uses. Islam does give water, the importance that it rightly deserves. It is water that keeps the earth cool. It is water that balances and controls the earth’s electromagnetic radiations. It is water that produces food for us through agriculture and it is water that quenches our thirst.

In the holy *Quran* (XI, vii), it is said that he is the one who created the heavens and the earth in six days and his throne was on the water, that he might test which of you is best in deeds.

According to Maulana Roami, “Worldly life is like water and the heart of a man is like a boat. Till the water remains below the boat it helps in moving the boat, but as soon as the water enters the boat, it causes the destruction of the boat.” Thus, one should not get too attracted to this worldly life and one should not forget the Almighty god who has created this world.

In *Quran* (XXXV, xii), god says, the two seas are not alike, one is fresh and sweet and pleasant to drink and the other is salty and bitter. And from both you eat fresh meat and extract ornaments you wear. And you see the ships sailing through so that you may seek of his bounty and that you may be grateful. From this verse, we may get the moral that if fish can exist in a favorable condition (sweet water) and unfavorable condition (bitter water) without any complains, then oh mankind, why do you keep complaining about unfavorable conditions in your life? Why can't you be grateful to your creator (god). Always be thankful to god.

In *Quran* (XXV, liii), it is said that he is the one who has released the two seas, one palatable and sweet and the other salty and bitter and he has placed the barrier between them, a partition that is forbidden.

Is it not a miracle that two seas flow together maintain their own identity? This fact of nature in god's creation teaches us to live in harmony and tolerance without creating any problems.

Example: If each drop of water wants to retain its identity, its ego, and live in isolation, then each drop will get dried up and will be useless. But if all the drops will unite together in a glass, losing their own identity, ego then that glass of water will be useful to mankind to quench their thirst.

So today, we are here on this platform to bring together each of our drops to fill a glass of water that can quench the thirst of humanity at large, insha allah.