

September 28, 2007

INNOVATIONS AND TRADITIONS

**I seek refuge in Allah from satan the rejected.
In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.**

A believing person has asked me about the routine greetings extended to each other as part of the customs and traditions, and whether they are appropriate to utter or not. The following are the questions asked by her.

Question: If there's a child birth, is it ok to say "Alhumdo Lillah / Masha Allah," or congratulations on the arrival of your little baby?

Question: If someone gets married, is it ok to say "Masha Allah" or congratulations on the new start?

I am glad that the believer asked these questions to clarify matters and to find out what constitutes innovations and what does not. Here is the answer to her questions.

As you have stated in your opening line of email that your question is in regards to the "**traditional greeting terms**".

Islam is not based on "traditions or culture"; rather it is based on straightforward commands from our Lord. God has not given us any verses on the traditions and customs of the past generations to be followed, but there are verses forbidding "**innovations**" made up by the people. God's guidance includes the past precedents of the righteous to be followed by subsequent generations, and the precedents mentioned in the Quran are devoid of any customs, traditions, and innovations. This is proof enough that God does not require nor allow the believers to follow or uphold any kind of innovations.

If the people follow anything that is not decreed by GOD, or make up rules, laws, customs, or traditions that are not in the Quran, then they are called "**innovations**", which constitutes a gross sin. Over time, the humans have always made up their own customs and traditions, which were never decreed or authorized by GOD. They are also called "**lies against GOD**". Somehow the humans, even the believing ones, are more apt to make up and follow what suits and pleases them, rather than pleasing their Lord. The influence of the devil is always present, except for those who are sincerely devoted to their Lord.

The festivals of Eid, Christmas, Hanukkah, Divali, and others **are not decreed by GOD**. Nor has He commanded the human beings to congratulate each other with words such as “Eid Mubarak, Merry Christmas, and Happy Birthday”. These are all innovations made up by the humans to come up with laws and traditions of their own, and to please themselves. GOD has never authorized them. Clearly, they are a violation of His Absolute Authority and a gross sin. This is because the innovations are from sources other than ALLAH and of His Scriptures.

The word “**Mubarak**” is used in the Quran by GOD in a specific context, whereby it applies only to what He does and blesses, and not what the human beings make up. This has been imitated by the disbelieving humans who use the word in a very different context – in a congratulatory form. In the Quran, this word means: “**blessed or sacred**” and is used by **GOD** in some of the following **verses** - the context is very clear through them.

I will recite some of the verses that have the word “**Mubarak**” given in Arabic or the different spelling and form of the same word within the verses.

44:3 We have sent it (the Quran) down **in a blessed night**, for we are to warn.

6:92 This too is a **blessed scripture** that we have revealed, confirming the previous scriptures, that you may warn the most important community and all those around it. Those who believe in the Hereafter will believe in this (scripture), and will observe the Contact Prayers (Salat).

6:155 This too is a **blessed scripture** that we have revealed; you shall follow it and lead a righteous life, that you may attain mercy.

38:29 This is a scripture that we sent down to you, **that is sacred** - perhaps they reflect on its verses. Those who possess intelligence will take heed.

21:50 This too is a **blessed reminder** that we sent down. Are you denying it?

25:1 **Most blessed is the One** who revealed the Statute Book to His servant, so he can serve as a warner to the whole world.

25:10 **Most blessed is the One** who can, if He wills, give you much better than their demands - gardens with flowing streams, and many mansions

25:61 **Most blessed is the One** who placed constellations in the sky, and placed in

it a lamp, and a shining moon.

28:30 When he reached it, he was called from the edge of the right side of the valley, in the **blessed spot** where the burning bush was located: "O Moses, this is Me. **GOD**; Lord of the universe.

34:18 We placed between them and the communities that **we blessed, other oases**, and we secured the journey between them: "Travel therein days and nights in complete security."

37:113 **We blessed him and Isaac.** Among their descendants, some are righteous, and some are wicked transgressors.

37:114 We also **blessed Moses and Aaron.**

50:9 And we sent **from the sky blessed water**, to grow with it gardens and grains to be harvested.

There is no mention in the Quran nor is it GOD'S command to say "**congratulations**" to someone who is blessed with a child or gets married. The usage of the words: Masha Allah and Insha Allah – are on a first person basis. The one who is going to do something in the future is commanded to say, "Insha Allah" and not the person who is hearing it. Similarly, the one who bears the child or is pregnant with the child is supposed to say, "Masha Allah", as that mother or both parents are being blessed by GOD with the child.

The laws in the Quran are for "**the believers**" as given in verses 9:112, 18:2, 10:57, 17:82, and many others. All the commands are for the believers to implement, and the answer to the question asked by the believing female applies on a "**first person basis**".

If you reflect and analyze the word "**congratulate**" – **what does it exactly mean?** The one wishing to another person probably means "good wishes, happiness, blessings of God" and so on. Does GOD allow us to wish any kind of blessings upon another human being, or to take for granted that the future will be paved with happiness? This would be interfering with His Absolute Authority. The believers are supposed to know that He puts everyone to the Test, and is in full control over the past, present and future. It would also constitute "**intercession**" with GOD; in a way asking Him to make the other person's life happy and with good omens. The one you are wishing is supposed to ask GOD direct for His mercy and blessings.

If the person you are visiting is a believer who follows all the revelations of God, then that person should be using the words decreed in the Quran for receiving their blessings from Him or for doing something in the future. And if the person you are visiting or meeting does not believe in GOD and His Revelations, then you should use Quranic words in their language to get the message across to them. This can be done by praising GOD in many different ways. For example, you can say that GOD has given you a child as a Test; now He will see if you are appreciative or not. If someone got married, you can say that GOD has provided you with a partner in life to provide tranquility to each other; if you work righteousness you can be a winner on the Day of Judgment. Or that GOD provides for whomever He wills. **It is very important to bring the name of the Creator - GOD or LORD - in the conversation.** Such righteous utterances add credit to the believer's record and constitutes worship of GOD.

The "**adversities**" and "**blessings**" are all controlled by GOD. He does not implement them in favor of, or against anyone, based on the wishes or whims of the people. I recite to you an important and appropriate verse which opens up the subject under discussion. It actually informs us that GOD has Absolute Authority over adversities and blessings and our wishing to others is equal to setting up idols beside GOD. The mathematical proofs of GOD unveil the verse like never before.

39:38 Part: If you ask them, "Who created the heavens and the earth?" they will say, "**GOD.**"

Revealed: The **Allah letters** are **16**, and the **Aleefs** are **5**, the **Pattern of 165** proves GOD'S Absolute Control over all matters.

39:38 Part: If you ask them, "Who created the heavens and the earth?" they will say, "**GOD.**" Say, "Why then do you set up idols beside **GOD?**"

Revealed: The GV of **Allah letters** is a perfect **383, revealing Al Quran.** Those who believe in the entire Quran will surely read all the verses and know what constitutes idolatry.

Revealed: The **Allah letters** are **23**, and **messenger's letters** are **37, revealing the diff. of 14.** The clarifying messenger of the Seven Pairs Proof is revealed here to explain the verses.

39:38 Part: If **GOD** willed any adversity for me, can they relieve such an adversity? And if He willed a blessing for me, can they prevent such a blessing?"

Revealed: The **Allah letters** are **19** - **The Absolute Lord controls**

everything.

39:38 Part: Say, "GOD is sufficient for me." In Him the trusters shall trust.

Revealed: The **messenger's letters** are **19**. The messengers preach and advocate the truth of GOD'S Words and warn the people against committing idolatry. The believers should realize that GOD controls everything, and their wishing to each other without direct recourse to Him, and without taking His Name does constitute idolatry.

Notice the ending part of the verse addressed to the messenger and the believers certainly clarifies what I have stated earlier – that the believers find GOD sufficient for them and put their trust in Him. They implore Him directly for all their needs. I quote again from the Most Wise:

39:38 Part: Say, "GOD is sufficient for me."

39:38 Part: In Him the trusters shall trust.

Revealed: The **Allah letters** are **5** and **6**, **revealing the diff. of 1** – **Praise be to Allah.**

Revealed: Both Parts: Messenger's letters are **19**, signifying the revelation and explanation of Quran by GOD to His messenger through inspiration.

Revealed: Both Parts: The GV of **Allah letters** is precisely **222** – **your LORD.**

Revealed: Both Parts: The GV of **Allah letters** is **222**, and of **messenger's letters** is **518**, **revealing the diff. of 296** – a clear revelation from GOD to His messenger, **296**, Subhan Allah.

When the people are struck with affliction and adversity, they readily implore GOD, but when He blesses them, they forget Him and set up idols to rank with Him. This is made clear through the following verses.

39:8 When the human being is afflicted, he implores his Lord, sincerely devoted to Him. But as soon as He blesses him, he forgets his previous imploring, sets up idols to rank with **GOD** and to divert others from His path. Say, "Enjoy your disbelief temporarily; you have incurred the hellfire."

To get the correct understanding of how and when to use the words: Insha Allah and Masha Allah, I will recite to you the verses.

18:23-24 **You** shall not say that **you will do** anything in the future, without saying "**Insha Allah.**" **If you forget** to do this, you must immediately remember your Lord

and say, “May my Lord guide me to do better next time.”

NOTE that the word “**you**” and “**my**” is on a **first person basis**. Suppose person A is planning to go out of town next month and was telling person B about his/her plan, then you should say like this:

- **Person A:** “I am planning to go out of town next month, Insha Allah.” (**first person basis**)
- **Person B** does not have to say Insha Allah when asking the question from **Person A**, like: Are you planning to go out of town, Insha Allah?

18:39 When you entered **your garden**, you should have said, “**Masha Allah.**” (This is what God has blessed me). No one possesses power except **ALLAH**. (La Quwwata Ella Billah). You may see that I possess less money and children than you.

NOTE again that the usage of the word “**Masha Allah**” is on a first person basis. The one mentioning their blessings and provisions of God are supposed to say the word decreed by Allah, and not the one hearing it. This is the standard rule. As a believing person, when you hear someone say “Masha Allah,” there is nothing wrong to glorify Allah by adding words of praise for Him, which could be for example,

- **Glory be to my Lord, who blesses the humans with all kinds of things.**
- **Glory be to Allah who is the best Provider.**
- **Praise and Glory be to the One who will summon all the human beings.**

There are no limits on praising and glorifying Allah. We are supposed to glorify Him day and night, at every possible opportunity. There are many more ways to glorify Allah – I have just quoted examples only.

There are no verses on congratulating someone for getting married, as the act of marriage falls under one of the commands of GOD.

24:32 Part: “You shall encourage those of you who are single to get married.”

24:33 Part: Those who cannot afford to get married shall maintain morality until **GOD** provides for them from His grace.

We do not congratulate each other for fulfilling the commands of GOD, as we are not doing Him any favor by embracing Submission. (49:16-17)

49:16 Say, "Are you informing **GOD** about your religion? **GOD** knows everything in the heavens and the earth. **GOD** is Omniscient."

49:17 They act as if they are doing you a favor by embracing Submission! Say, "You are not doing me any favors by embracing Submission. **GOD** is the One who is doing you a great favor by guiding you to the faith, if you are sincere."

Revealed: The **Aleefs of Absoluteness** are **9** and **10**, **revealing the diff. of 1 and the sum of 19.**

Revealed: The **Allah letters** are **25** and **24**, **revealing the diff. of 1**, Subhan Allah.

Revealed: In verse **49:17**, the **Aleefs** are **10**, and **Allah letters** are **24**, **revealing the diff. of 14.**

Rather, you are supposed to encourage each other to remain steadfast, persevere, and implore GOD to make you prevail over the disbelieving people.

To remain steadfast as a believer is tough indeed with all the disbelieving people surrounding us. This is in accordance with God's will when He accepted satan's challenge to send the majority astray, as per verse:

7:16 He said (satan), "Since You (Allah) have willed that I go astray, I will skulk for them on Your straight path."

7:17 "**I will come to them from before them, and from behind them, and from their right, and from their left,** and You will find that most of them are unappreciative."

Verse 7:17 tells us that we are indeed surrounded by the devils and the disbelievers all around us - in front of us, behind us, to the right and to the left. Glory be to Allah. To compliment verse **7:17** with a "**Link**", **the Omnipotent Lord** has given us another verse to remind the humans of unlimited blessings, provisions, and proofs that surround them, while setting up the system of being surrounded by the devils and the disbelievers also. The devils will try to make the people unappreciative of God's blessings, mercy, and guidance, while the believers are reminded to observe everything around them to constantly think of God in order to worship Him.

34:9 **Have they not seen all the things in front of them and behind them, in the heaven and the earth?** If we willed, we could have caused the earth to swallow them, or caused masses to fall on them from the sky. This should be sufficient proof for every obedient servant.

31:20 Do you not see that GOD has committed in your service everything in the heavens and the earth, and has showered you with His blessings - obvious and hidden? Yet, some people argue about GOD without knowledge, without guidance, and without the enlightening scripture.

NOTE that the “obvious blessings” are things that are **visual**, like water, trees, vegetable, fruits, mountains, pastures, animals, houses, relatives, the sun and the moon, stars, and so on.

The “**hidden blessings**” such as computer, T.V. phone, satellite, DNA science, lasers, new technologies that come out every year, minerals and oil beneath the surface of the earth, only become known to us when GOD authorizes them and allows the humans to make discoveries to manufacture them or retrieve them in accordance with His will. No one can predict or tell you what other “hidden blessings” are reserved for the humans in the future. Only God knows - He controls everything in the heavens and the earth.

I will now quote some examples from the Quran about expecting or bearing a child. The receiving of a child is a gift of GOD whereby He subjects the parents to the test. None of the verses on this subject tell us that the child or children are a blessing for the parents, in the sense that the humans take the word “blessing”. It is rather a Test from God, and the money and children are lumped under the same category. First, I will recite verses telling us how to implore GOD on a “first person basis” for your needs and blessings.

3:35 The wife of Amram said, “My Lord, **I have dedicated** (the mother says about the baby) in my belly to You, totally, so accept from me. You are the Hearer, the Omniscient.”

3:38 That is when Zachariah implored his Lord: “My Lord, grant me such a good child; You are the Hearer of the prayers.”

19:6 Let him be my heir and the heir of Jacob’s clan, and make him, my Lord, acceptable.

7:189 He created you from one person. Subsequently, He gives every man a mate to find tranquility with her. She then carries a light load that she can hardly notice. As the load gets heavier, they (**the parents**) implore **GOD** their Lord: “**If You give us a good baby, we will be appreciative.**”

7:190 But when He gives them a good baby, they turn His gift into an idol that

rivals Him. **GOD** be exalted, far above any partnership.

14:35 Recall that Abraham said, “My Lord, make this a peaceful land, **and protect me and my children from worshipping idols.**”

14:40 My Lord, make me one who consistently observes the Salat, **and also my children.** Our Lord, please answer my prayers.

Here are some verses telling us that money and children are a Test from God.

18:46 Money and children are the joys of this life, but the righteous works provide an eternal recompense from your Lord, and a far better hope.

23:55-56 Do they think that, since we provided them with money and children, **we must be showering them with blessings? Indeed, they have no idea.**

63:9 O you who believe, do not be distracted by your money and your children from remembering **GOD**. Those who do this are the losers.

64:14 O you who believe, your spouses and your children can be your enemies; beware. If you pardon, forget, and forgive, then **GOD** is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

64:15 **Your money and children are a test**, and **GOD** possesses a great recompense.

For the disbelievers who do not realize that **GOD'S** blessings and provisions are a Test from Him, the following verses address them:

9:55 Do not be impressed by their money, or their children. **GOD** causes these to be sources of retribution for them in this life, and their souls depart while they are disbelievers.

9:69 Some of those before you were stronger than you, and possessed more money and children. They became preoccupied with their material possessions. Similarly, you have become preoccupied with your material possessions, just like those before you have become preoccupied. You have become totally heedless, just as they were heedless. Such are the people who nullify their works, both in this world and in the Hereafter; they are the losers.

9:85 Do not be impressed by their money or their children; **GOD** causes these to be sources of misery for them in this world and their souls depart as disbelievers.

All forms of innovations are condemned by GOD in the Quran. The verses are very clear on this subject as you will hear.

7:53 Are they waiting until all (prophecies) are fulfilled? The day such fulfillment comes to pass, those who disregarded it in the past will say, "**The messengers of our Lord have brought the truth.** Are there any intercessors to intercede on our behalf? Would you send us back, so that we change our behavior, and do better works than what we did?" **They have lost their souls, and their own innovations have caused their doom.**

16:55 Let them disbelieve in what we have given them. Go ahead and enjoy temporarily; you will surely find out.

16:56 They designate for the idols they set up out of ignorance, a share of the provisions we bestow upon them. **By GOD, you will be held accountable for your innovations.**

46:28 Why then did the idols they set up to bring them closer to **GOD** fail to help them? Instead, they abandoned them. **Such were the false gods they idolized; such were the innovations they fabricated.**

A couple of prominent verses on this subject are 7:71 and 12:40, divided into 3 parts each.

7:71 Part 1: He (the messenger) said, "You have incurred condemnation and wrath from your Lord.

7:71 Part 2: Do you argue with me in defense of innovations you have fabricated - you and your parents - which were never authorized by **GOD**?

Revealed: The GV of **Allah letters** are **61** and **175**, revealing the diff. of 114. This represents the entire Quran with its **114** chapters, Glory be to Allah.

Revealed: The GV of the **messenger's letters** are **616** and **968**, revealing the diff. of 352. This represents the actual name of the Scripture, which is **QURAN - 352**, Praise be to Allah.

7:71 Part 3: Therefore, wait and I will wait along with you."

Revealed: The GV of **Allah letters** for **Parts 1 and 2** is **236**, and for **Part 3** is **34**, revealing the diff. of 202, for **LORD**, Alhumdo Lillah.

Revealed: The GV of **messenger's letters** for **Part 3** is **466**. What is the diff. in the GV of **Quran 352** and GV of **messenger's letters 466**? The precise diff.

is 114, Subhan Allah.

12:40 Part 1: You do not worship beside Him except innovations that you have made up, you and your parents. **GOD** has never authorized such idols.

12:40 Part 2: All ruling belongs to **GOD**, and He has ruled that you shall not worship except Him.

12:40 Part 3: This is the perfect religion, but most people do not know.

The Perfect Religion of ALLAH brings out the Perfect Proofs from ALLAH in this verse, revealed instantaneously, as I typed this verse for all of you.

Parts 1 & 2: The GV of Allah letters are **183** and 202, revealing the diff. of 19.

Parts 2 & 3: The GV of Allah letters are 202 and **216**, revealing the diff. of 14.

Glory be to Allah, who has revealed the glorified proofs of the Sacred Codes. This effectively explains and condemns all forms of innovations, customs, and traditions. Note that **Part 2** bears the name of the **LORD** as 202, where the ruling, laws, and worship of GOD alone is mentioned and advocated by **the Most Sacred**.

In the end, I will remind you that GOD calls our souls as the “**blaming souls**”. This is because our souls have sinned against His Absolute Authority in the past. We are given a second chance to purify our souls in order to be redeemed by Him. To do this needs a conscientious effort on our part not to disregard His laws, or violate His rules.

75:1 I swear by the Day of Resurrection.

75:2 And I swear by the blaming soul.

Revealed: Messenger's letters are **12** and **13**, revealing the diff. of 1.

There are verses given on imploring GOD to prevent us from committing sins – the less sins, the better for the human soul. Verse 2:286 addresses this, and verse 40:9 is regarding the angels imploring GOD to protect the believers from falling in sin.

2:286 **GOD** never burdens a soul beyond its means: to its credit is what it earns, and against it is what it commits. "**Our Lord**, do not condemn us if we forget or make mistakes. **Our Lord**, and protect us from blaspheming against You, like those before us have done. **Our Lord**, protect us from sinning until it becomes too late for us to repent. Pardon us, forgive us, and have mercy on us. You are our

Lord and Master. Grant us victory over the disbelieving people."

40:9 "And protect them from falling in sin. Whomever You protect from falling in sin, on that day, has attained mercy from You. This is the greatest triumph."

Revealed: This important verse is marked with **the Ultimate Miracle of 14 Allah letters**, Alhumdo Lillah.

The above verses highlight the need for daily repentance for your sins which may have been committed unknowingly and out of ignorance. Repentance on an everyday basis is the only way out. Further, all believers should constantly implore GOD for his guidance and mercy, and to protect them from the tricks and steps of satan. Make sure that you seek refuge in Allah and condemn and denounce satan who has been rejected by ALLAH.

To sum up this sermon in response to the believer's question: All forms of innovations are forbidden by GOD. We are not allowed to make up customs, practices, and traditions as part of the religion, or follow those which are inherited from others. The laws of GOD simplify the lives of believers and their focus and attention is on GOD in a wholehearted way.

**Peace be upon the messengers.
Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Universe.**