"This is what God has given me. No one possesses power except God." You may see that I possess less money and less children than you. My Lord may grant me better than your garden. He may send a violent storm from the sky that wipes out your garden, leaving it completely barren. Or, its water may sink deeper, out of your reach. His crops were wiped out, and he ended up sorrowful, thinking what he had spent on it was lost, as well as his property lay barren. He finally said, 'I wish I never set up my property as a god besides my Lord.' No force on earth could have helped him against God, nor was he capable of receiving any help."

God would like to see us appreciate under all circumstances. However, He must expose our true qualities. To accomplish this He tests the people through adversity. Sura 3:142 says, 'Do you expect to enter Paradise without deserving it? He assigns among those among you who struggle and without distinguishing those who steadfastly persevere?'. A perfect example found in the Quran is of arrogant people whose true qualities were exposed, and who failed the test of adversity by showing their lack of belief in God, is found in Sura 3:133-154. These verses show a terrible reflection of ego, arrogance and rejection. 'Recall that you rushed (after the spoils), paying no attention to anyone, even when the messenger was calling from behind you. Consequently, He substituted one misery in place of another. But God is Cognizant of everything you do. After the setback, He sent down peaceful slander that pacified some of you. Others were self-concerned about themselves. They harbored thoughts about God that were not true, the same thoughts they had harbored during the days of ignorance. Thus, they said, 'Is it anything up to us?' Say, 'Everything is up to God.' They concealed in themselves what they did not reveal to you. They said, 'If anything were up to us, none of us would have been killed in this battle.' Say, 'If you stayed in your homes, those destined to be killed would have crawled into their death beds.' God thus puts you to the test to bring out your true conviction and to unveil what is in your hearts. God is fully aware of the innermost thoughts. These are the type of thoughts we must avoid, with God's help. God does promise to strengthen the sincere with the proven word, in this life, so we can withstand adversities."

God promises never to burden any of his servants, besides His Lord. If any of them harken to his call, we will shun making it burdensome for them. God says in Sura 3:153-154, "If you have any letters or articles that you would like to share with us, please feel free to write. They are always welcome. May God bless you.

Note on Price Change: Quran: The Final Testament, translated by Dr. Rashad Khalifa, Messenger of the Covenant is available to all for: $15.00

In the name of God
Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Adversity is a part of life, and everyone will face it during their lifetime. This is actually the best way for God to test if we will worship Him under all types of situations. It would be very easy to be appreciative, content, and submissive if everything throughout our entire lifetime were perfect. We are given many examples throughout Quran that tell us we will have to face adversity. In verses 64 and 65 of Sura 17, God instructs and permits Satan to work on us. 'Go ahead and entice them with your voice, mobilize all your forces and all your men against them, and take a share of their money and children, and prohibit them. Anything the devil promises is no more than an illusion. As for my servants, you have no power over them. Your Lord suffices as a protector.' God also speaks of the adversity we will face in Sura 2:155-156, "We must test you with some fear, hunger, and loss of money, lives, and crops. Give good news to the steadfast who say when an affliction befalls them, 'We belong to God and to Him we ultimately return.' We're all aware of the examples of fair weather friends found in the Quran such as in Sura 22:11,"among the people there is the one who waxes God conditionally. If things go his way, he is content. But if some adversity befalls him, he makes an about-face. Thus he loses both this life and the Hereafter. Such is the real loss." It is very important for us to be appreciative and remember God under all circumstances, and if this is not done, we become people who are appreciative and worship God only if things go our way. We do not want to be conditional worshippers of God. It is a human tendency to deny hardship for fear that God may be humiliating us. God provides an example of this in Sura 7:94-95, "Whenever we sent a prophet to any community, we afflicted its people with adversity and hardship, that they may realize. Then we substituted peace and prosperity in place of that hardship. But invariably, they turned heedless and said, 'Was our parents who experienced that hardship before prosperity.' Consequently, we punished them suddenly when they least expected it. The condition of the human being and his arrogance is shown throughout the Quran. We must learn these examples and not act like they did, as described in Sura 39:49, 'If the human is touched by adversity, he implores us, as at a time we bestowed a blessing upon him, he says, 'I attained this because of my cleverness!' Indeed, this is only a test, but most of them do not know.' There are reasons God sends down hardships for His servants, they would transgress on them, and they would be killed in this believing; they will have no fear for injustice or adversity (20:110-112).

PRAISE BE TO GOD, LORD OF THE UNIVERSE!
FOREGOTTENNESS
by Shoho Adan

What would it be like if God created the human being without the trait of forgetfulness? I think that, for myself, particularly, the opportunity of coming to this earth through my mother would have been missed. I happen to be the third child born to her and she confessed to me that she was regretting giving birth to a second child. To put this differently, it is a blessing from God that many pains during certain experiences in our lives, such as childbirth, are mercifully forgotten, allowing their repetition when necessary.

What else does forgetfulness entail? Is it always good to be forgetful? The answer, of course, is that forgetfulness can have severe, negative side affects. For example, Adam forget God's commandments and allowed Satan to dápe him into disobeying His Creator by approaching the one forbidden tree in the garden. The same holds true for us as Adam's descendants. We often forget and break God's commandments. We give in to backbiting, and worst of all, communal strife, idol worship. We commit this mother of all crimes, despite all the verses with reminders in the scripture, such as this one found in Sura 33:66, "It has been revealed to you, O messenger, to warn people of the hereafter. So fear the hereafter and avoid harming people." We should not allow ourselves to fall into the category of those who say they believe, but do not live according to God's teachings. We must strive to remember God's teachings as much as we can. Forgetting is not one of those situations, such as childbirth, when forgetfulness is a benefit. When we forget the lessons, the handwriting is on the wall. We will no longer be able to permit Satan to do anything in the future without saying, "God willing." This is to remind you of your Lord. If you forget, then say, "May my Lord guide me to do better next time" (18:23-24).

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