

## Mercy Expression in the Glorious Qur'an

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تعبير الرحمة في القرآن الكريم

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### Abstract

Mercy is a fundamental concept in the Glorious Qur'an, reflecting divine attributes and guiding human interactions. This study attempts to explore the expression of mercy in the Qur'an by analyzing its historical, linguistic, and thematic dimensions. The study is organized into three key sections. The first section outlines the research objectives, including the problem of the study, its aims, hypotheses, limits, and value. The second section provides a comprehensive introduction to the concept of mercy, its historical background, such as mercy in the pre-Islamic era and mercy in the Qur'anic revelation, its definition, and its types, including divine and human mercy. The third section presents the practical background, covering data collection, data description, research design, data analysis, and results. The final section summarizes the study's findings and offers conclusions and recommendations based on the research results. Key Words: Historical Background of Mercy, Mercy in the Pre-Islamic Era, Mercy definitions, Mercy types, Mercy in the Qur'anic Revelation, data collection and analyze them practically.

### المستخلص

الرحمة مفهوم أساسي في القرآن الكريم، تعكس صفات إلهية وتُهدي بها في التعاملات الإنسانية. تسعى هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف تعبير الرحمة في القرآن الكريم من خلال تحليل أبعادها التاريخية واللغوية والموضوعية. وتنقسم الدراسة إلى ثلاثة أقسام رئيسية. يُحدد القسم الأول أهداف البحث، بما في ذلك مشكلة الدراسة وأهدافها وفرضياتها وحدودها وقيمتها. ويُقدم القسم الثاني مقدمة شاملة لمفهوم الرحمة، وخلفيته التاريخية، كالرحمة في العصر الجاهلي والرحمة في الوحي القرآني، وتعريفها، وأنواعها، بما في ذلك الرحمة الإلهية والبشرية. ويُقدم القسم الثالث الخلفية العملية، التي تشمل جمع البيانات، ووصفها، وتصميم البحث، وتحليلها، والنتائج. ويُخلص القسم الأخير نتائج الدراسة، ويُقدم الاستنتاجات والتوصيات بناءً على نتائج البحث. **الكلمات المفتاحية:** الخلفية التاريخية لمفهوم الرحمة، الرحمة في العصر الجاهلي، تعريفات لمفهوم الرحمة، أنواع الرحمة، الرحمة في الوحي القرآني، جمع البيانات و تحليلها عمليا.

### 1.1. Problem of the Study

The concept of mercy in the Qur'an has remained close to the idea that Allah is compassionate and forgiving. While it plays a essential role, its subtle manifestation calls for further study. Existing literature is scanty in offering an adequate discussion on the duality of mercy as a divine characteristic and principle of moral conduct. This paper presents discourse analysis on eight selected verses of the Qur'an to illustrate varying expressions of mercy from Allah's boundless mercy to human ethics, social norms, and standards governing interactions with one another. The gap identified by this study is that where too little scholarship exists on the multiple representations of mercy in the Qur'an and what it means for Islamic practice. While acknowledging that mercy is a foremost divine attribute, its practical enactment is key in steering believers towards good deeds and righteousness. Such an environment fosters spiritual growth while ensuring collective harmony.

### 1.2. Aims of the Study

It aims to address the Qur'anic concept of mercy by giving emphasis to eight selected verses that make explicit mention of "رحمة". It aims to:

1. Analyze the depiction of mercy as a characteristic of God in the Qur'an pointing out how this quality is universal yet selective.
2. Explore how mercy serves as a catalyst for the right deeds and the good morals in the lives of the believers.
3. Tell about the ways in which the Qur'an teaches or encourages mercy from the people or an individual perspective.

### **1.3. Hypotheses of the Study**

This study is based on the following hypotheses:

1. The Qur'an generally embodies Allah's mercy-related attributes and constitutes a benchmark for measuring human behavior.
2. The chosen Qur'anic verses represent mercy in its multifaceted nature as part of the divine gift, the driving force behind ethical actions, and hope and patience in suffering.
3. The portrayal of mercy in the Qur'an emphasizes more that divine mercy is an overarching attribute, accessible to all creation yet granted only selectively to those whom Allah wills.

### **1.4. Limits of the Study**

The scope of this study is the analysis of eight Qur'anic verses specifically mentioning the idea of mercy (رحمة). These verses were chosen for they provide a wide and varied view on mercy, including human and divine components. The study ignores other Islamic literature, such as the Hadith, nor does it include a comparative study of mercy in other religious or philosophical systems; instead, it focuses only on the interpretation of these chosen verses.

### **1.5. Value of the Study**

This study helps to clarify Allah's compassion and its influence on human connections. It looks at how grace affects moral conduct, justice, and reconciliation at both personal and social levels. The study also provides realistic advice for Muslims trying to live mercy in everyday life, therefore fostering compassion, respect, and harmony. Finally, it helps Islamic theological and moral philosophy by offering a concentrated study of mercy in the Qur'an to encourage more opinion.

### **2.1. Introduction**

Mercy (رحمة) is a deeply ingrained, profound concept in Islamic teaching, embedded in the Qur'an. In Islam, mercy is mostly seen as one of Allah's fundamental characteristics, mimicking His endless compassion towards His creation. It also provides Muslims a moral ideal, frequently motivating them to reflect these divine characteristics in their everyday life. Regularly showing mercy helps to strengthen neighborhood relationships, advance spiritual development, and create social harmony. It typically promotes the alleviation of suffering, patience, and forgiveness. Therefore, in Islam mercy is both a mirror of Allah's character and a guiding principle for human connection that encourages compassion (Ansari, 2019:12–13).

### **2.2. Historical Background of Mercy**

Al-Farsi (2010:67) suggests that the idea of mercy, as seen in religious writings like the Qur'an, is a common value across cultures, societies, and beliefs over time. Seen as a principle for both the divine and ethics, mercy often includes compassion, fairness, pardon, and personal growth. Its origins can be found in ancient times, where it was crucial for how people related to each other and how humans connected with the divine. This often formed the basis for laws and keeping society peaceful. In many religious beliefs, mercy is seen as a fundamental attribute of Allah, particularly within the nature of Allah. According to Al-Qaradawi (2010:102), religions like Judaism, Christianity, and Islam view mercy as a key aspect of their faith. These religions believe that Allah often shows compassion and forgiveness to people. They also encourage everyone to show this divine mercy in how they treat others. This divine quality guides human actions, Mercy is a central concept in the Qur'an, carrying deep spiritual and ethical meanings. It's frequently presented as a key quality of Allah, who is commonly referred to as "The Most Merciful" (Ar-Rahman-الرحمن) and "The Most Compassionate" (Ar-Rahim-الرحيم), emphasizing His boundless kindness and willingness to be compassionate to all beings. Sardar (2011:73) points out that the Qur'an teaches that mercy is not only a trait of Allah but also a key moral goal. Believers are urged to demonstrate mercy in their actions by showing kindness and patience. The Qur'an stresses the importance of mercy, particularly when dealing with others, as a way to promote peace and harmony. According to Al-Ghazali (2004:111), Muslims are frequently encouraged to show mercy by responding to difficulties with kindness and patience, believing this earns Allah's approval. Mercy is not just personal; it's also a core principle for building communities based on fairness, care, and mutual respect.

#### **2.2.1. Mercy in the Pre-Islamic Era**

Before Islam's arrival, compassion in the Arabian Peninsula was often misinterpreted as a sign of vulnerability, as personal honor and revenge were highly valued. Showing mercy was typically seen as compromising justice; tribal customs prioritized maintaining personal dignity and social status (Al-Mubarrad, 1982:150). Pre-Islamic poetry frequently portrays mercy as a tactic for preserving tribal peace or averting disputes. Ibn Qutayba (1984:112) states these actions were motivated by practical reasons, such as preventing payback or building alliances, rather than genuine moral or spiritual beliefs. Unlike Islam's view of mercy as a universal principle, pre-Islamic society considered mercy more as a strategic tool to protect social order or status, lacking the ethical dimension that would later define it in Islam. In a pre-Islamic, a leader from the Mudar tribe faced a tough decision. He had defeated a rival, but instead of celebrating, he chose to show mercy. He wanted to avoid more fighting and keep his tribe united. This decision was smart. It helped prevent arguments within the tribe and kept them strong. The leader knew that fighting would hurt everyone. It would weaken their bonds and waste their resources. So, he decided to be merciful. This was not just about being nice; it was a smart move to protect the tribe's future (Hussain, 1954: 78).

#### 2.2.2. Mercy in the Qur'anic Revelation

Al-Qurtubi (2015:245-246) states that the mercy is a key quality of Allah. It is also a virtue that believers should practice. The Qur'an highlights the importance of showing mercy to others. It encourages people to seek Allah's mercy and understand its deep spiritual meaning. This focus on mercy is important for guiding how we treat each other. It helps us connect more deeply with Allah. The teachings of the Qur'an show that mercy is vital for building compassion, harmony, and spiritual growth. ( *فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ هَالِكٍ لِّنْتِ لَّهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ* ) . ( In Surah Al-Imran (3:159), Allah tells us that His mercy allows leaders to be gentle. If leaders were harsh and unkind, people would leave them. This verse teaches us that being merciful helps build cooperation and trust. It shows that kindness can bring people together and prevent conflicts. Believers are encouraged to show mercy in their actions. This reflects Allah's compassion, even when times are tough.

#### 2.3. Definition of Mercy

In Arabic, the word "rahmah" means "mercy." It comes from the root word "rahm," (رَحِمَ), which relates to "compassion" and "tenderness." Mercy involves caring deeply for others. It includes feeling empathy and wanting to help those who are suffering. Mercy is more than just feeling sorry for someone; it means taking action to help without expecting anything in return (Nasr, 1994:57).

In Islamic belief, mercy is a key quality of Allah. It shows His endless compassion and kindness towards everyone. Allah's mercy is vast, providing comfort and support even to those who may not always follow Him. Muslims are encouraged to show this mercy in their everyday lives. Allah's mercy gives hope to believers, reminding them that His grace is always there, no matter their mistakes (Safi, 2003: 40).

Khalil (2013:445) explains that mercy in the Qur'an is closely tied to Allah's justice. This shows how Allah interacts with everything He created. The Qur'an describes mercy with several important traits. These traits help us understand how mercy works in the context of justice. The Qur'an highlights that Allah is "The Most Merciful." It encourages believers to show mercy to others. A key example is in Surah An-Nur (14:20). In this verse, Allah says that His mercy is essential. ( *هَٰلِكٌ عَلَىٰ يَدَيْكَ مَ وَّرَ حَمَّتُهُ ضَلُّ وَ لَوْ فَ* ) . This verse shows how great Allah's mercy is. It provides protection and comfort during tough times. Allah's mercy is always available. It helps those who seek it, no matter the situation. By embodying mercy, believers cultivate a deeper connection with Allah, Relying on His grace to alleviate both spiritual and worldly challenges. Moreover, it encourages sincere and humble appeals to Allah's mercy. (AlRaghib, 2007: 92).

#### 2.4. Types of Mercy

According to Ibn Arabi (2002:203), mercy is very important in Islam. It helps people grow and improves society as a whole. Mercy is a key quality that promotes compassion, humility, and empathy. There are two main types of mercy in Islam. The first is divine mercy, which comes from Allah. The second is human mercy, which Muslims are encouraged to practice. This human mercy helps create a fair and peaceful community. It builds compassion and empathy among people, strengthens relationships, and promotes understanding.

##### 2.4.1. Divine Mercy

Yusuf (2007:87) states that divine mercy is Allah's endless compassion. It shows His grace and support to everyone, especially those who need help. This mercy touches every part of life. It includes food, health, and spiritual well-being. It also protects His creatures from harm. Allah expresses this mercy in His relationship with people. It brings comfort and hope when times are tough. In Surah Al-A'raf (7:56), Allah tells us not to cause harm to the earth after it has been improved. He encourages us to call on Him with respect and hope. Those who

do good will find that Allah's mercy is close to them.) وَلَ تَفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا وَادْعُوهُ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا إِنَّ رَحْمَتَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Believers are encouraged to stay righteous and turn to Allah with hope. They should ask for His mercy, knowing He is close to those who do well. Allah's mercy is always available. It does not depend on time. People can find His mercy if they seek it sincerely. Allah shows His mercy through forgiveness and by guiding people. He also protects them from life's difficulties. With divine mercy, believers can find comfort and strength.

#### 2.4.2. Human Mercy

According to Khan (2016:86), human mercy means showing kindness and compassion to others, even when they do not deserve it. It involves understanding and wanting to help people without expecting anything back. Mercy is more than just being nice; it also represents fairness and compassion. In the Qur'an, mercy is a key quality for believers. It helps them connect with Allah's grace and encourages everyone to live well together. For example, in Surah Al-A'raf (7:156), Allah says that His mercy covers everything.) (وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ) (The verse states that Allah's mercy is boundless and all-encompassing, extending to creation, regardless of imperfections or deficiencies. By embodying this divine attribute, believers are encouraged to show mercy to others, fostering a compassionate and just society (Haddad, 2008:79) . Rashid (2011:134) points out that this verse highlights Allah's mercy. His mercy is limitless and applies to all creation. It reaches everything, even if it doesn't deserve it. Believers should embrace this quality of mercy. They should show mercy, especially during tough times. Showing mercy when faced with injustice does not mean being weak. Instead, it shows moral strength and helps in spiritual growth .

#### 3.1. Data Collection

This study looks at eight verses from the Qur'an that talk about mercy. These verses were chosen because they mention the word "mercy" and show different aspects of Allah's mercy.

1. In Surah Aal-Imran (3:31), it says that if you love Allah, you should follow Him. If you do this, Allah will love you and forgive your sins. Allah is forgiving and merciful.
2. Surah Al-A'raf (7:156) talks about asking Allah for good in this life and the next. The verse explains that Allah can punish whom He wants, but His mercy covers everything.
3. Surah Ash-Shura (42:8) tells us that Allah could have made everyone the same. Instead, He chooses who gets His mercy. Those who do wrong have no one to protect them.
4. In Surah Al-Hashr (59:10), people pray to Allah to forgive them and their friends. They ask Allah not to let them feel hate towards other believers. Allah is kind and merciful.
5. Surah Yusuf (12:87) shows a father telling his sons to look for Joseph and his brother. He reminds them not to lose hope in Allah's help. Only those who do not believe lose hope.
6. Surah Al-A'raf (7:56) warns not to cause trouble on Earth after it has been made better. This is better for those who truly believe.
7. In Surah Al-Kahf, it explains that God is forgiving and full of mercy. If He held everyone accountable for their actions right away, they would face punishment quickly. Instead, He gives them a chance to change before the time comes when they cannot escape.
8. In Surah An-Nahl, it mentions that if Allah punished everyone for their wrongdoings, no one would be left alive. But He allows them time to repent. When their time is up, Allah sees everything that happens to His servants. The Qur'an talks a lot about mercy. Each verse gives a different view on what mercy means and how it looks in our lives. These verses explain how important mercy is in Islam. They show us the nature of Allah's mercy and how we should act toward each other. Mercy includes compassion and forgiveness, which helps us grow morally and spiritually. Table 1: Selected Verses and Themes on Mercy

Surah	Verse	Theme of Mercy
Surah Aal-Imran	3:31	Mercy as a reward for following the prophet.
Surah Al-A'raf	7:156	Divine mercy including all things.

<b>Surah Ash-Shura</b>	42:8	Mercy as a divine gift selectively given to whom Allah wills.
<b>Surah Al-Hashr</b>	59:10	Mercy within the community of believers.
<b>Surah Yusuf</b>	12:87	Mercy as a source of hope in hardship.
<b>Surah Al-A'raf</b>	7:56	Mercy motivating righteous action.
<b>Surah Al-Kahf</b>	18:58	Mercy in deferring punishment and allowing repentance.
<b>Surah An-Nahl</b>	16:61	Mercy shown in delay of punishment.

### **3.2. Data Description**

Each verse in this collection shows a different part of Allah's mercy. The main themes are mercy as a reward, a quality of Allah, a gift, a reason to do good deeds, and a source of hope. Here is a summary of each verse.

1. Surah Aal-Imran (3:31): This verse states that followers of the prophet Muhammad will receive Allah's mercy if they truly follow his example and teachings.
2. Surah Al-A'raf (7:156): This verse explains that Allah's mercy is for everyone. It shows that mercy is endless and available to all of creation.
3. Surah Ash-Shura (42:8): This verse tells us that Allah gives mercy based on His will. He chooses who receives His mercy, showing His authority and wisdom in all things.
4. Surah Al-Hashr (59:10): This verse focuses on the support among believers. It encourages to pray for each other's forgiveness and mercy.
5. Surah Yusuf (12:87) shows Prophet Ya'qub, also known as Jacob, asking for Allah's mercy during tough times. He is sad because he lost his son, Yusuf, or Joseph.
6. Surah Al-A'raf (7:56) highlights how Allah's mercy motivates believers to do good deeds. When people understand Allah's mercy, they feel inspired to act kindly, grow in their faith, and improve themselves.
7. Surah Al-Kahf (18:58) describes Allah's mercy through His patience. He gives people time to fix their mistakes instead of punishing them right away.
8. Surah An-Nahl (16:61) is similar to Surah Al-Kahf. It emphasizes Allah's mercy by showing His patience. Allah allows people to take the time they need to correct their actions.

### **3.3. Research Design**

This study looks closely at how Allah's mercy is shown in certain verses of the Qur'an. It aims to understand how mercy appears in different situations and how it affects Islamic beliefs and practices. By examining each verse, the study compares ideas about mercy to find deeper meanings about divine compassion. The research follows three main steps.

**Step 1: Selection of Verses**

Eight verses were carefully picked because they mention "رحمة" (mercy) and show different aspects of this idea.

**Step 2: Thematic Analysis.**

Each verse was studied for themes about mercy as a quality of Allah, a reason to be moral, and a source of hope.

Step 3: Contextual Interpretation The verses were examined in their historical, social, and religious settings, understand how the idea of mercy has changed in Islamic thought.

### 3.4. Data Analysis

Data analysis was done carefully. We used two main methods: thematic and comparative approaches. This helped us look closely at the data. We examined each verse to understand its meaning and context. We focused on how mercy connects with other important values like justice, forgiveness, and guidance .In the thematic analysis, we broke the verses into smaller parts. Each part represented a different aspect of mercy. This method allowed us to organize the verses clearly. It also helped us understand and categorize the different sides of mercy better. Table 2: Thematic Categories of Mercy

Surah	Verse	Theme of Mercy
Surah Aal-Imran	3:31	Mercy as a reward.
Surah Al-A'raf	7:156	Mercy as universality.
Surah Ash-Shura	42:8	Mercy as Selectivity
Surah Al-Hashr	59:10	Mercy within the community
Surah Yusuf	12:87	Mercy as hope
Surah Al-A'raf	7:56	Mercy as motivation
Surah Al-Kahf, Surah An-Nahl	18:58, 16:61	Mercy as patience

### 3.5. Results

The analysis shows that mercy in the Qur'an is complex. It has many layers and meanings. Different verses focus on various aspects of mercy based on their context. The verses were categorized into several major themes related to mercy. The distribution of these themes is as follows:

Table 3: Distribution of Mercy Themes

Theme	Number of Verse	Percentage %
Mercy as a reward	1	12.5%
Mercy as a Universality	1	12.5%
Mercy as selectivity	1	12.5%
Mercy within community	1	12.5%
Mercy as hope	1	12.5%
Mercy as motivation	1	12.5%
Mercy as patience	2	20%

The table shows many themes of mercy. patience and delaying punishment are the most important themes. Mercy can also be a reward. It can be universal or selective. Mercy gives hope and encourages people. To explore how mercy is mentioned or alluded to in the selected verses, the following data can be presented. Table 4: Frequency of Mercy Keywords

Keywords	Frequency Count	Context
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(mercy) "رحمة"	8	Refers to Allah's mercy or the concept of mercy in various contexts.
(merciful) "رحيم"	4	Describes Allah's attribute, often used in conjunction with other names of Allah.

The table shows how often the words "رحمة" (mercy) and "رحيم" (merciful) appear in the selected verses. The word "Mercy" is mentioned 8 times. This shows that Allah's mercy is referenced often in different situations. The word "Merciful" appears 4 times. It describes Allah's nature and often goes along with other divine traits. This highlights Allah's compassion and merciful qualities.

#### 4.1. Conclusions

Based on the findings and theoretical background, the study concludes the following:

1. Mercy is a key idea in the Qur'an. It plays an important role in Islam's moral and spiritual teachings. Mercy shapes how Allah interacts with His creation and guides Islamic beliefs.
2. Believers need to show mercy in their daily lives. They should act with compassion, forgiveness, and kindness.
3. Mercy is also important for spiritual growth. It is connected to forgiveness and receiving divine rewards. When people show mercy to others, they can gain Allah's mercy and feel closer to Him.

4. Qur'anic mercy is active, not just passive. It is strongly linked to justice.

This means that mercy promotes fairness while also encouraging empathy.

#### 4.2. Recommendations

Mercy is very important in the Qur'an. Here are some recommendations:

1. Religious Education: Schools should teach students about mercy. This includes both the beliefs and the actions related to mercy.
2. Society: Communities should encourage mercy. This means promoting forgiveness, tolerance, empathy, and ways to solve conflicts peacefully.
3. Further Research: Future studies should explore mercy's role in areas like interfaith dialogue, conflict resolution, and psychological well-being.
4. Social Justice: We should look at how mercy can help fight poverty and protect human rights. It is important to think about mercy alongside justice.

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