

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

God is a loving God in Islam

The God in Islam is a loving God. People of other faiths who are unfamiliar with Islamic traditions, the Qur'an and Hadith are not aware of this aspect of God in Islam.

The information about Love of God and love for God in Islam is derived from the Qur'an, the Hadith, the sermons, the supplications, and sayings of the Prophets, apostles and scholars.

In the Arabic Qur'an two terms are used for love. One is "*Hubb*" and the other is "*Wudd*." *Wudd* is higher form of love which means not just loving but also emulating the one you love.

The word love (*Hubb & Wudd*) is used in the Qur'an over 100 times in all its connotations. It includes generic love for all His creation, animals and humans and special love of the believers and the obedient subjects. It also includes those who God does not love. According to the Islamic belief God created all beings from His love.

God's love is of various degrees. God loves all humanity, even those who deny Him, or the rebel against Him, or those who disobey Him and are unrepentant.

Then He loves more those who believe in Him and are obedient to Him. His love is even more for those who love him, not just in words, but in action as well.

His highest love is for them who sacrifice everything, even their lives for His love. Prophet Muhammad, Imam Husain the grandson of the prophet and Imams from his family (peace be upon them) are some of the examples.

In the Qur'an God also says about those that He loves not for various reasons, like unrepentant sinners, rebels against Him, corrupters etc. It is the higher love that they are denied.

One of the beautiful names of God is "*Al-Wadud*" meaning "The loving."

According to a Hadith God gave 1/100 of His love to all His creation, the love that creation has for each other and for God, whereas 99/100 He kept for Himself with which He loves His creation.

God's Love in the Qur'an.

"And He is the Forgiving, the Loving." (85: 14)

"God loves the doers of good." (2:195)

"God loves those who purify themselves." (2:222)

"-Then surely God loves those who guard (against evil) (3:76)

"And God loves the patient." (2:146)

"God loves those who trust (God)" (2:1549)

"Then God will bring a people He shall love them and they shall love Him." (5:54)

"Surely God loves those who are careful (of their duty to Him)." (9:4)

"God loves those who fight in His way." (61: 4)

Humans' love for God in the Qur'an.

"But the believers are stauncher in their love of God;" (2:165)

"And (while needing it themselves) they give away food out of love for Him (God), to the poor and orphan and the captive." (76:8)

"Say (O Prophet) if you love God, then follow me, God will love you and forgive your faults, and God is forgiving Merciful." (3:31)

Love in the Hadiths.

According to Islamic narrations*, God said to both Moses and David: *"Love me and endear Me to my people."* Then in response to their question how to endear Him to the people, God said: *"Remind them about My favors and bounties, for they do not recall My favors without the feeling of gratitude."*

Whispered Prayers of the lovers of God. Prayer of Imam Ali bin Husain (A.S.)

Below are excerpts from the prayer of the great grandson of Prophet Muhammad (p)**

O My God, who is the one who tasted the sweetness of your love and then looked for a replacement in place of you?

And (include us among the ones) whom You have purified through your love and affection,

And (include us among the ones) whose heart are captivated with yearning for You

And (include us among the ones) who You have made totally absorbed in you

And (include us among the ones) whose hearts you have freed, to experience nothing but your love, O Allah (God), place us among those whose habit is rejoicing in you, and yearning for you,

And (include us among the ones) whose eyes are awake in your service,
And (include us among the ones) whose hearts are permanently set upon your love,
And (include us among the ones) whose hearts are detached from other things in love of you.
O He, the lights of whose holiness attracts wonder in the eyes of His lovers,
O the ultimate wish of the hearts of the ones who desire you
O the utmost of the hopes of the lovers!
I ask you for your love, and also love for those who love you,
And that you make yourself more beloved to me than anything other than you,
And make my love for you lead me to Your pleasure.
And do not turn your face away from me,
O Responder, O Most Merciful of the merciful!

Conclusion. Mahnaz Heydarpoor says: "Thus, the picture of God in Islam is the picture of one who is all love, all-Merciful, all Compassionate and the all-Benevolent, one who loves His creatures more than they may ever love Him or themselves. There seems to be no difference among Muslims in believing in God who is all love, though they might vary in amount of emphasis that they put on this (love) aspect of Islamic worldview compared to others. In general, it might be said that Muslim mystics and Sufis are more concerned with this aspect of (love) in Islam than Muslim Philosophers, and Muslim philosophers in turn are more concerned than theologians. But as I mentioned earlier there is no disagreement on viewing God as who is all love, the all-Merciful and the all-Compassionate.*"

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Ref: The Qur'an (M.H. Shakir's translation);

*<http://www.al-islam.org/perspectives-concept-love-islam-mahnaz-heydarpoor>

**<http://www.al-islam.org/15-whispered-prayers-sahifa-al-kamila-sajjadiyyah/whispered-prayer-lovers>