

The Need for GOD

An Islamic Perspective with
Comparative Religious Insights

MAWLĀNĀ IMRAN PATEL



The Human Need for the Divine

Throughout history, human beings have sought purpose, direction, and meaning in life. From the earliest civilizations to modern societies, people have turned to God in moments of fear, gratitude, and reflection. The question is not only whether God exists, but why humanity needs Him. Islam offers a clear and profound answer: our need for God is absolute—for existence, guidance, morality, forgiveness, and ultimate salvation. Other religions and philosophies also acknowledge this need, though they interpret and express it in different ways.

The Islamic Understanding of Humanity's Need for God

In Islam, the need for God is essential and inseparable from human existence. Allāh, the Exalted, is the Creator, Sustainer, and Controller of all things. Without Him, there is no life, no provision, and no future. The Glorious Qur'ān declares:

“O mankind, you are those in need of Allāh, while Allāh is the Free of need, the Praiseworthy.”

(The Glorious Qur'ān 35:15)

Just as a child depends on its parents for survival, humanity depends on Allāh, the Exalted, for every breath, every provision, and every moment of existence. Yet our dependence on Allāh, the Exalted, goes beyond physical sustenance. Human intellect, though remarkable, is limited and unable to uncover ultimate truths without divine revelation. The Glorious Qur'ān was revealed to guide humanity:

“Indeed, this Qur'ān guides to that which is most upright.” (The Glorious Qur'ān 17:9)

History shows that when societies are deprived of divine guidance, they fall into confusion, moral decay, and endless disputes about truth and justice. Revelation provides certainty, direction, and a foundation for morality that human reasoning alone cannot secure.

Another dimension of humanity's need for God is forgiveness and mercy. Every human being makes mistakes, and without divine forgiveness, despair would consume us. Islam teaches that no matter how far one has strayed, Allāh, the Exalted's, mercy is always available:

“Do not despair of the mercy of Allāh. Indeed, Allāh forgives all sins.” (The Glorious Qur’ān 39:53)

This continual access to forgiveness brings hope, renewal, and inner peace. Furthermore, Islam explains that human beings are created with an innate yearning to worship, known as the *fiṭrah* (natural disposition). Worship provides meaning and anchors life in a reality greater than ourselves. Allāh, the Exalted, declares:

“And I did not create jinn and mankind except to worship Me.” (The Glorious Qur’ān 51:56)

Without this divine connection, life becomes reduced to material pursuits, leading often to emptiness, anxiety, and a lack of true fulfillment.

Perspectives from Other Religions

The universal human need for God is not unique to Islam; it is echoed in various faith traditions.

- Judaism emphasizes humanity’s covenantal relationship with God. The Torah reminds the Israelites of their dependence on God for sustenance, guidance, and prosperity:

“It is He who gives you the power to produce wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18). Like Islam, Judaism links success in both worldly and spiritual life to obeying divine commandments.

- Christianity highlights humanity’s need for God’s grace through Jesus (peace be upon him). The New Testament teaches: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8). While Islam differs in rejecting the Trinity and original sin, both traditions affirm that human beings cannot survive spiritually without God’s mercy and guidance.
- Hinduism presents the idea that the human soul (Atman) is restless until it reunites with the Supreme Reality (Brahman). Though expressed through diverse deities and schools of thought, Hinduism acknowledges the soul’s innate yearning for the Divine.
- Buddhism, though not centered on a personal God, recognizes humanity’s deep spiritual need by focusing on liberation (Nirvana) from suffering. This search for transcendence reflects the same inner longing for truth and

freedom beyond worldly existence.

The Philosophical Viewpoint

Philosophical traditions also echo this universal theme. Plato spoke of the soul's longing for eternal Good. Blaise Pascal famously described the "God-shaped vacuum" within every human heart that nothing but God can fill. Immanuel Kant argued that morality itself requires God as the ultimate judge and guarantor of justice. Even reason, when pursued sincerely, points to humanity's need for the Divine.

Consequences of Denying God

When belief in God is denied or ignored, the consequences manifest at both personal and societal levels. Without a divine foundation, morality becomes relative and subjective, leaving no universal standard of right and wrong. On an individual level, life often becomes marked by restlessness, anxiety, and despair. Without belief in God, there is no ultimate hope, no lasting comfort, and no accountability beyond the material world. The Glorious Qur'ān warns of this condition:

“And whoever turns away from My remembrance – indeed, he will have a depressed life, and We will gather him on the Day of Resurrection blind.”

(The Glorious Qur’ān 20:124)

On a societal level, denying God leads to fragmentation. Competing ideologies clash, values shift with cultural trends, and injustice thrives without a transcendent authority to hold humanity accountable. History testifies to the collapse of civilizations when they abandon spiritual grounding.

Embracing the Essential Need for God

The need for God is not an abstract concept but a lived reality embedded in human existence. In Islam, God is our Creator, Guide, Forgiver, and Sustainer. We depend on Him for survival, for moral and spiritual direction, for communal stability, for inner peace, and for eternal success in the Hereafter. Other religions and philosophies—despite their doctrinal differences—acknowledge this universal dependence on a higher reality. Yet Islam presents the clearest and most direct answer: true fulfillment lies in surrendering to Allāh, the

Exalted, alone. As Allāh, the Exalted, reminds us:

“So remember Me; I will remember you. And be grateful to Me and do not deny Me.”

(The Glorious Qur’ān 2:152)

The human soul, in its deepest yearning, seeks nothing less than God. Islam shows us that recognizing, embracing, and living by this need is the path to meaning, peace, and eternal salvation.

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