

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

*Alhamdulillah, We praise God
Wa'ashaduan Laa elaha ella Allah, We bear witness there is no other god beside God*

Travel in the Quran

Humans have been traveling for a long time. Initially, travel was likely restricted to land-based movement, and then with the invention of the first ship at the time of Noah—we took to the waters. We have reference in the Quran to travel for both business and pleasure.

[17:70] We have honored the children of Adam, and provided them with rides on land and in the sea. We provided for them good provisions, and we gave them greater advantages than many of our creatures.

[67:15] He is the One who put the Earth at your service. Roam its corners, and eat from His provisions. To Him is the final summoning.

Invention of the First Ship

[36:41] Another sign for them is that we carried their ancestors on the loaded ark. [36:42] Then created the same for them to ride in.

[16:3-18] He created the heavens and the earth for a specific purpose. He is much too High, far above any idols they set up. • He created the human from a tiny drop, then he turns into an ardent opponent. • And He created the livestock for you, to provide you with warmth, and many other benefits, as well as food. • [16:6] They also provide you with luxury during your leisure, and when you travel.

God's Blessings

And they carry your loads to lands that you could not reach without a great hardship. Surely, your Lord is Compassionate, Most Merciful. • And (*He created*) the horses, the mules, and the donkeys for you to ride, and for luxury. Additionally, He creates what you do not know. • **GOD** points out the paths, including the wrong ones. If He willed, He could have guided all of you. • He sends down from the sky water for your drink, and to grow trees for your benefit • With it, He grows for you crops, olives, date palms, grapes, and all kinds of fruits. This is (*sufficient*) proof for people who think • And He commits, in your service, the night and the day, as well as the sun and the moon. Also, the stars are committed by His command. These are (*sufficient*) proofs for people who understand. • And (*He created*) for you on earth things of various colors. This is a (*sufficient*) proof for people who take heed. • And He committed the sea to serve you; you eat from it tender meat, and extract jewelry which you wear. And you see the ships roaming it for your commercial benefits, as you seek His bounties, that you may be appreciative. • And He placed stabilizers (*mountains*) on earth, lest it tumbles with you, as well as rivers and roads, that you may be guided. • And landmarks, as well as the stars; to be used for navigation. • Is One who creates like one who does not create? Would you now take heed? • If you count GOD's blessings, you cannot possibly encompass them. **GOD** is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

While we have GPS, detailed maps, route and mile markers in vogue today, back in the day they had to rely on landmarks and stars. And we still use landmarks when we drive in town to give us a sense of where we are and when we need to turn. And when you have a flat desert or wide ocean, God provided stars. Without them, we would not have reached to where we are at in civilization or trade. No silk route, or spice trade. No great explorations. No goods imported from across the world (so much of what we consume today is not “made in USA”; or not all of it is). Everyone would be in their own insular communities, and no exchange of ideas or widespread migration of people. None of us would have been

here in America today. All praise be to God. As 16:17 says, is One who creates like one who does not create? 16:18 reminds us of the innumerable blessings from God.

Noah's ark (23:27, 11:40-41, 54:13) is perhaps the most famous watercraft in history and scripture.

[11:40] When our judgment came, and the atmosphere boiled over, we said, "Carry on it a pair of each kind,* together with your family, except those who are condemned. Carry with you those who have believed," and only a few have believed with him. [11:41] He said, "Come on board. In the name of **GOD** shall be its sailing, and its mooring. My Lord is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

**11:40 & 44 This is God's proven truth: Noah's ark was made of logs, tied together with primitive ropes (54:13). Contrary to common belief, the flood was limited to the area around today's Dead Sea, and the animals were only Noah's livestock; not every animal that lived on earth.*

The Quran does mention other travelers and travels. Abraham and Lot (21:71, 14:35-37, 29:26) are other early travelers.

[21:71] We saved him, and we saved Lot, to the land that we blessed for all the people.

[11:81] (*The angels*) said, "O Lot, we are your Lord's messengers, and these people cannot touch you. You shall leave with your family during the night, and let not anyone of you look back, except your wife; she is condemned along with those who are condemned. Their appointed time is the morning. Is not the morning soon enough

[14:35-37] Recall that Abraham said, "My Lord, make this a peaceful land, and protect me and my children from worshiping idols. • "My Lord, they have misled so many people. As for those who follow me, they belong with me. As for those who disobey me, You are Forgiver, Most Merciful. • "Our Lord, I have settled part of my family in this plantless valley, at Your Sacred House. Our Lord, they are to observe the Contact Prayers (*Salat*), so let throngs of people converge upon them, and provide for them all kinds of fruits, that they may be appreciative.

[29:26] Lot believed with him and said, "I am emigrating to my Lord. He is the Almighty, the Most Wise."

Joseph and Moses, led their people into Egypt and back out again. Moses himself had to emigrate to Midyan. And after they left Egypt, they still had traveling to do—partly because they didn't obey God.

[12:19] A caravan passed by, and soon sent their waterer. He let down his bucket, then said, "How lucky! There is a boy here!" They took him along as merchandise, and **GOD** was fully aware of what they did.

[12:20] They sold him for a cheap price— a few Dirhams—for they did not have any need for him.

[12:21] The one who bought him in Egypt said to his wife, "Take good care of him. Maybe he can help us, or maybe we can adopt him." We thus established Joseph on earth, and we taught him the interpretation of dreams. **GOD's** command is always done, but most people do not know.

[28:22] As he traveled towards Midyan, he said, "May my Lord guide me in the right path." [28:23] When he reached Midyan's water, he found a crowd of people watering, and noticed two women waiting on the side. He said, "What is it that you need?" They said, "We are not able to water, until the crowd disperses, and our father is an old man."

...

[28:29] When he had fulfilled his obligation, he traveled with his family (*towards Egypt*). He saw from the slope of Mount Sinai a fire. He said to his family, "Stay here. I have seen a fire. Maybe I can bring to you news, or a portion of the fire to warm you."

[26:61-65] When both parties saw each other, Moses' people said, "We will be caught." • He said, "No way. My Lord is with me; He will guide me." • We then inspired Moses: "Strike the sea with your staff," whereupon it parted. Each part was like a great hill. • We then delivered them all. • We thus saved Moses and all those who were with him.

[20:77] We inspired Moses: "Lead My servants out, and strike for them a dry road across the sea. You shall not fear that you may get caught, nor shall you worry."

God Gives the Holy Land to Israel

[5:21-26] "O my people, enter the holy land that **GOD** has decreed for you, and do not rebel, lest you become losers." • They said, "O Moses, there are powerful people in it, and we will not enter it, unless they get out of it. If they get out, we are entering." • Two men who were reverent and blessed by **GOD** said, "Just enter the gate. If you just enter it, you will surely prevail. You must trust in **GOD**, if you are believers."

Despite All the Miracles They Saw

[5:24] They said, "O Moses, we will never enter it, so long as they are in it. Therefore, go—you and your Lord—and fight. We are sitting right here." • He said, "My Lord, I can only control myself and my brother. So allow us to part company with the wicked people." • He said, "Henceforth, it is forbidden them for forty years, during which they will roam the earth aimlessly. Do not grieve over such wicked people."

The exodus of the Children of Israel is likely the most well-known large scale emigration in Quran. The Quran says to emigrate to escape persecution. Muhammad himself emigrated, as did the believers. And the angels ask those who are oppressed as to why they did not emigrate. Perhaps this tells us that there will always be places on earth where God's religion can be practiced freely. All praise be to God. Another example of emigration in the Quran includes the Sleepers of Ephesus.

Apathy Condemned

[4:97] Those whose lives are terminated by the angels, while in a state of wronging their souls, the angels will ask them, "What was the matter with you?" They will say, "We were oppressed on earth." They will say, "Was **GOD's** earth not spacious enough for you to emigrate therein?" For these, the final abode is Hell, and a miserable destiny.

[4:100] Anyone who emigrates in the cause of **GOD** will find on earth great bounties and richness. Anyone who gives up his home, emigrating to **GOD** and His messenger, then death catches up with him, his recompense is reserved with **GOD**. **GOD** is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

[8:74] Those who believed and emigrated, and strove in the cause of **GOD**, as well as those who hosted them and gave them refuge, and supported them, these are the true believers. They have deserved forgiveness and a generous recompense.

God's Invisible Soldiers

[9:40] If you fail to support him (*the messenger*), **GOD** has already supported him. Thus, when the disbelievers chased him, and he was one of two in the cave, he said to his friend, "Do not worry; **GOD** is with us." **GOD** then sent down contentment and security upon him, and supported him with invisible soldiers. He made the word of the disbelievers lowly. **GOD's** word reigns supreme. **GOD** is Almighty, Most Wise.

[18:13] We narrate to you their history, truthfully. They were youths who believed in their Lord, and we increased their guidance. [18:14] We strengthened their hearts when they stood up and proclaimed: "Our only Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. We will never worship any other god beside Him. Otherwise, we would be far astray. [18:15] "Here are our people setting up gods beside Him. If only they

could provide any proof to support their stand! Who is more evil than the one who fabricates lies and attributes them to **GOD**?

*The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus**

[18:16] "Since you wish to avoid them, and their worshipping of other than **GOD**,* let us take refuge in the cave. May your Lord shower you with His mercy and direct you to the right decision."

We have other mentions of people traveling in the Quran. There's the person who passed by a ghost town. Moses himself was traveling looking for God's servant. And there's trade-related travel (general reference to ships that roam the seas and caravans).

[2:259] Consider the one who passed by a ghost town and wondered, "How can **GOD** revive this after it had died?" **GOD** then put him to death for a hundred years, then resurrected him. He said, "How long have you stayed here?" He said, "I have been here a day, or part of the day." He said, "No! You have been here a hundred years. Yet, look at your food and drink; they did not spoil. Look at your donkey—we thus render you a lesson for the people. Now, note how we construct the bones, then cover them with flesh." When he realized what had happened, he said, "Now I know that **GOD** is Omnipotent."

[18:60] Moses said to his servant, "I will not rest until I reach the point where the two rivers meet, no matter how long it takes." [18:61] When they reached the point where they met, they forgot their fish, and it found its way back to the river, sneakily. [18:62] After they passed that point, he said to his servant, "Let us have lunch. All this traveling has thoroughly exhausted us."

[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." [34:19] But they (*turned unappreciative and*) challenged: "Our Lord, we do not care if You increase the distance of our journeys (*without any stations*)." They thus wronged their own souls. Consequently, we made them history, and scattered them into small communities throughout the land. This should provide lessons for those who are steadfast, appreciative.

[106:1] This should be cherished by Quraish. [106:2] The way they cherish the caravans of the winter and the summer. [106:3] They shall worship the Lord of this shrine.

*Appreciating God's Greatness**

[35:12] The two seas are not the same; one is fresh and delicious, while the other is salty and undrinkable. From each of them you eat tender meat, and extract jewelry to wear. And you see the ships sailing through them, seeking His provisions, that you may be appreciative.

[31:31] Do you not see that the ships roam the sea, carrying **GOD**'s provisions, to show you some of His proofs? Indeed, these should be sufficient proofs for everyone who is steadfast, appreciative.

All of these travels have some lessons for us. The ships that can float on water serve as part of God's proofs (and provisions). They are also reminders for us to be appreciative. Emigration allowed people to worship freely.

Travel can affect religious practice. 4:43 and 5:6 talk about Tayammum—dry ablution, that can be performed if one is ill or traveling and no water is available. Regarding fasting, 2:184-185 provides for those who are traveling—that they may substitute other days. In His Mercy, God allows for us convenience.

[2:184] Specific days (*are designated for fasting*); if one is ill or traveling, an equal number of other days may be substituted. Those who can fast, but with great difficulty, may substitute feeding one poor person

for each day of breaking the fast. If one volunteers (*more righteous works*), it is better. But fasting is the best for you, if you only knew. [2:185] Ramadan is the month during which the Quran was revealed, providing guidance for the people, clear teachings, and the statute book. Those of you who witness this month shall fast therein. Those who are ill or traveling may substitute the same number of other days. **GOD** wishes for you convenience, not hardship, that you may fulfill your obligations, and to glorify **GOD** for guiding you, and to express your appreciation.

Travel can affect our Salat (2:239). Praise God when we travel—we have things easier than people in the past. We're usually not in a hot desert, or unable to stop. If we use an RV ("portable home")—we pretty much take a Masjid with us (what a blessing God has provided). And even in airports most days one can find a spot to pray, alhamdulillah. Though sometimes in the airplane itself there may not be room to stand. But either way, it is easy—we don't travel during war or have to shorten Salat for that. Since the purpose of the Salat is to remember God, we are told to observe things normally once the war is over. And to remember God while standing, sitting or lying down (4:103).

[2:239] Under unusual circumstances, you may pray while walking or riding. Once you are safe, you shall commemorate **GOD** as He taught you what you never knew.

[4:101] When you travel, during war, you commit no error by shortening your Contact Prayers (*Salat*), if you fear that the disbelievers may attack you. Surely, the disbelievers are your ardent enemies.

War Precautions

[4:102] When you are with them, and lead the Contact Prayer (*Salat*) for them, let some of you stand guard; let them hold their weapons, and let them stand behind you as you prostrate. Then, let the other group that has not prayed take their turn praying with you, while the others stand guard and hold their weapons. Those who disbelieved wish to see you neglect your weapons and your equipment, in order to attack you once and for all. You commit no error, if you are hampered by rain or injury, by putting down your weapons, so long as you remain alert. **GOD** has prepared for the disbelievers a shameful retribution.

The Contact Prayers

[4:103] Once you complete your Contact Prayer (*Salat*), you shall remember **GOD** while standing, sitting, or lying down.* Once the war is over, you shall observe the Contact Prayers (*Salat*); the Contact Prayers (*Salat*) are decreed for the believers at specific times.

Meditation is another practice that may be curtailed by travel (73:20). This sura also reminds us that meditation at night is strongly encouraged. Since striving is separately mentioned in 73:20—one would conclude that it's separate from meditation. Perhaps meditation is activity where we focus our minds on remembering God.

[73:20] Your Lord knows that you meditate during two-thirds of the night, or half of it, or one-third of it, and so do some of those who believed with you. **GOD** has designed the night and the day, and He knows that you cannot always do this. He has pardoned you. Instead, you shall read what you can of the Quran. He knows that some of you may be ill, others may be traveling in pursuit of **GOD's** provisions, and others may be striving in the cause of **GOD**. You shall read what you can of it, and observe the contact prayers (*Salat*), give the obligatory charity (*Zakat*), and lend **GOD** a loan of righteousness. Whatever good you send ahead on behalf of your souls, you will find it at **GOD** far better and generously rewarded. And implore **GOD** for forgiveness. **GOD** is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

Finally, we have Hajj. We'll let the verses do the explaining on this one.

[3:96] The most important shrine established for the people is the one in Becca;* a blessed beacon for all the people. [3:97] In it are clear signs: the station of Abraham. Anyone who enters it shall be granted safe passage. The people owe it to **GOD** that they shall observe Hajj to this shrine, when they can afford it. As for those who disbelieve, **GOD** does not need anyone.

[22:26] We appointed Abraham to establish the Shrine: "You shall not idolize any other god beside Me, and purify My shrine for those who visit it, those who live near it, and those who bow and prostrate.

[22:27] "And proclaim that the people shall observe Hajj pilgrimage.* They will come to you walking or riding on various exhausted (*means of transportation*). They will come from the farthest locations."

*22:26-27 Abraham was the original messenger of Submission (Islam). See 22:78 and Appendix 9.

Travel is also related to charity. In Quran, the traveling alien are mentioned as one of the recipients of charity (2:215).

Recipients of Charity

[2:215] They ask you about giving: say, "The charity you give shall go to the parents, the relatives, the orphans, the poor, and the traveling alien." Any good you do, **GOD** is fully aware thereof.

Slightly different categories in 2:177 (no parents, and poor is substituted by "needy"). In 59:7, they are also mentioned as recipients for spoils of war being distributed. The spoils of war distribution while similar to charity: excludes parents, and includes poor. Orphans, relatives and traveling alien seem to be there in all.

[2:177] Righteousness is not turning your faces towards the east or the west. Righteous are those who believe in **GOD**, the Last Day, the angels, the scripture, and the prophets; and they give the money, cheerfully, to the relatives, the orphans, the needy, the traveling alien, the beggars, and to free the slaves; and they observe the Contact Prayers (*Salat*) and give the obligatory charity (*Zakat*); and they keep their word whenever they make a promise; and they steadfastly persevere in the face of persecution, hardship, and war. These are the truthful; these are the righteous.

[59:7] Whatever **GOD** restored to His messenger from the (*defeated*) communities shall go to **GOD** and His messenger (*in the form of a charity*). You shall give it to the relatives, the orphans, the poor, and the traveling alien. Thus, it will not remain monopolized by the strong among you. You may keep the spoils given to you by the messenger, but do not take what he enjoins you from taking. You shall reverence **GOD**. **GOD** is strict in enforcing retribution.

In addition to being recipients of charity, we are told to regard the traveling alien (4:36). Some overlap with the charity recipients, but also includes neighbors, associates and servants.

Major Commandments

[4:36] You shall worship **GOD** alone—do not associate anything with Him. You shall regard the parents, the relatives, the orphans, the poor, the related neighbor, the unrelated neighbor, the close associate, the traveling alien, and your servants. **GOD** does not like the arrogant showoffs.

Humans aren't the only traveling subject in the Quran. Angels travel across the universes. Jinns travel to the end of this universe. Even the winds are referred to as traveling ().

[70:4] The angels, with their reports, climb to Him in a day that equals fifty thousand years.

[79:1-5] The (*angels who*) snatch (*the souls of the disbelievers*) forcibly. • And those who gently take (*the*

souls of the believers) joyfully. • And those floating everywhere. • Eagerly racing with one another— • to carry out various commands.

[72:8] ""We touched the heaven and found it filled with formidable guards and projectiles. [72:9] ""We used to sit there in order to spy. Anyone who listens is pursued by a powerful projectile.

[34:12] To Solomon we committed the wind at his disposal, traveling one month coming and one month going. And we caused a spring of oil to gush out for him. Also, the jinns worked for him, by his Lord's leave. Any one of them who disregarded our commands, we subjected him to a severe retribution.

[53:1] As the stars fell away. [53:2] Your friend (*Muhammad*) was not astray, nor was he deceived. *53:1-18 *Muhammad was summoned to the highest universe to receive this Quran into his heart. The stars fell away as he traveled through them at millions of times the speed of light. Subsequently, the Quran was gradually released to his memory. App. 28.*

[20:53-54] He is the One who made the earth habitable for you, and paved in it roads for you. And He sends down from the sky water with which we produce many different kinds of plants. • Eat and raise your livestock. These are sufficient proofs for those who possess intelligence.* • [20:55] From it we created you, into it we return you, and from it we bring you out once more.

*20:54 *Those who possess intelligence appreciate the fact that we are astronauts who were launched into space on this 'Spaceship Earth.' God provided us with renewable food, water, pets, wildlife, and livestock, as we embark on this temporary space odyssey. Compare God's provisions to 'Spaceship Earth' with the provisions we give to our astronauts (Appendix 7).*

*The Big Bang Theory Confirmed**

[21:30] Do the unbelievers not realize that the heaven and the earth used to be one solid mass that we exploded into existence? And from water we made all living things. Would they believe? • And we placed on earth stabilizers, lest it tumbles with them, and we placed straight roads therein, that they may be guided. • And we rendered the sky a guarded ceiling. Yet, they are totally oblivious to all the portents therein.

[43:10-14] He is the One who made the earth habitable for you, and created for you roads therein, that you may follow the right way • He is the One who sends down from the sky water, in exact measure, to revive dead lands therewith. Similarly, you will be resurrected. • He is the One who created all kinds, in pairs (*male and female*), and He created for you ships and livestock to ride. • As you rest on top of them, you shall appreciate such a blessing from your Lord, and say, "Glory be to the One who subdued this for us. We could not have controlled them by ourselves. • "We ultimately return to our Lord."

[71:17] And **GOD** germinated you from the earth like plants • Then He returns you into it, and He will surely bring you out. • **GOD** made the earth habitable for you. • That you may build roads therein.

Overwhelming Signs of God

[2:164] In the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, the ships that roam the ocean for the benefit of the people, the water that **GOD** sends down from the sky to revive dead land and to spread in it all kinds of creatures, the manipulation of the winds, and the clouds that are placed between the sky and the earth, there are sufficient proofs for people who understand.

[45:12] **GOD** is the One who committed the sea in your service, so that the ships can roam it in accordance with His laws. You thus seek His provisions, that you may be appreciative.

[16:80] And **GOD** provided for you stationary homes where you can live. And He provided for you portable homes made of the hides of livestock, so you can use them when you travel, and when you settle down. And from their wools, furs, and hair, you make furnishings and luxuries for awhile.