

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، الَّذِي أَعْطَى فَأَجْزَلَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْحَمْدُ، وَلَهُ الشُّكْرُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، قُدْوَةٌ كُلِّ حَامِدٍ؛ فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ
عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ الْحَامِدِينَ الشَّاكِرِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ
تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. He bestowed His favours abundantly on us. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. All the praises and thanks are due to Him. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger. He was the best of all who praised Allah. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his pure grateful family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

In life we are encouraged, supported and even threatened at times to become many things, some we aspire to, others we are told to want.

Our identities are complex, multifaceted and part of an intricate and inescapable web of personalities.

We are a son, daughter, brother, sister, friend, foe, cousins, acquaintance, colleague, student, husband, father, engineer, footballer, doctor, and you are You at the same time. But which is the most important?

All of these titles and achievements are primarily geared towards some form of happiness, success, power, fame, competition of the world.

Our parents, family, friends, employers all push us to become something they want, or we push ourselves to become like them.

Hence, schools, organisation, institutions, culture, community and the world has certain expectations of you, and ask what do you want to be?

But have you every thought what title and achievement is the most important to Allah ﷻ ?

What His expectations are of you?

How will you be described and recognised before ALLAH ﷻ ?

- **Prophet Sulayman** عليه السلام, a Prophet, of a Prophet Father Dawud عليه السلام

وَوَهَبْنَا لِذَاوُودَ سُلَيْمَانَ **And We bestowed Sulayman to Dawud. (38:30)**

He was the Prophet who asked Allah سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

قَالَ رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَهَبْ لِي مُلْكًا لَا يَنْبَغِي لِأَحَدٍ مِّنْ بَعْدِي ^ط

He said, “My Lord! Forgive me and bestow upon me a kingdom, which shall not befit anyone after me.” (38:35)

The one to whom the wind was subjected to

The one who was obeyed by Jinns and humans

The one who could understand the language of every animal

However, despite all of these qualities, he was described

وَأَبَّ ^ط نِعَمَ الْعَبْدِ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ **what an excellent servant! He is indeed most inclined. (38:30)**

- **Prophet Ayyub** عليه السلام - He was the wealthiest of his time thanks to the blessings he attained that his sheep's wool became silk thread

His prayer would turn the mist in the desert into water

He had multiple sons and daughters, lived with great honour and fame

إِنَّا وَجَدْنَاهُ صَابِرًا ^ج نِعَمَ الْعَبْدِ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ **We indeed found him patiently enduring; what an excellent servant! He is indeed most inclined. (38:44)**

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ The most praised, loved and beloved of Allah ﷻ

He is the only one Blessed with Al-Kawthar, with Maqam e Mahmood, with the Great Intercession – Shafa'ah on the day of Qayamah when other Prophets will be saying **“Nafsi, Nafsi!”** he will say **“Ummati, Ummati!”**

He is the one that when Adam عليه السلام erred, he raised his head and asked Allah سُبْحَانَكَ **“(O my Lord!) Forgive me for the sake of Muhammad.**

The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم used to offer night prayers till his feet became swollen. Somebody said, to him, "Allah has forgiven you, your faults of the past and those to follow." On that, he said, **"Shouldn't I be a thankful slave of Allah?"**

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى

Purity is to Him Who took His **servant** in a part of the night from the Sacred Mosque to the Aqsa Mosque (17:1)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ الْكِتَابَ

All praise is to Allah Who sent down the Book upon His **servant** (18:1)

فَأَوْحَىٰ إِلَىٰ عَبْدِهِ مَا أَوْحَىٰ

So Allah divinely revealed to His **servant**, whatever He divinely revealed.

(53.10)

Work to be Allah's slaves, servants, as that's the only thing that counts.