

**In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate the Merciful**

**Indulgence in Islam**

**(A study to establish its origin)**

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**Abstract:**

The subject of this study seeks to establish the origin of indulgence (willingness to please others) in Islam. The importance of this study emanates from the fact that it illustrates one of the great morals of Islam about which most people are unaware even though it is connected with their sayings, deeds, behaviour and dealings. This moral includes the good word, cheerfulness, benevolence, kindness, leniency, clemency and behaving with humility.

Our Muslim scholars agreed on giving this moral the term “indulgence”.

Muslim scholars have different ideas about indulgence. Some scholars considered it a form of hypocrisy; therefore they treated it as prohibited. Others considered it a form of calculated deception, which is only permissible for the obliged person or the person who has no other choice. Other scholars considered it one of the great characteristics of Islam. According to them, it is a lawful practice, which serves the purpose of harmonization and bringing people together; and one can only be considered a sensible human being when he practices it. All this will become clear from this study.

The methodology of the researcher in this study can be summarized in explaining the linguistic and the formal meaning of indulgence and the difference between indulgence and cajoling, hypocrisy, beguilement and calculated deception. The study cites the Quranic verses that show the permissibility of indulgence. It also explains the kinds of indulgence and their effect with the help of lexicons, the Quranic verses and their interpretation, the sayings of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the statements of the well-established Muslim scholars as well as other references that are related to the subject. This is followed by presentation, analysis and explanation.

The objective of this study can be summed up in the following three points:

- 1- Distancing the indulgent person from the charge of cajoling, hypocrisy, beguilement and deception
- 2- Explaining the difference between indulgence and calculated deception
- 3- Urging Muslims to practice this moral, following in the footsteps of Prophets and Messengers (peace be upon them) in order to manifest the positive image of Islam, which the enemies of Islam are seeking to disfigure and discredit by falsely claiming that Islam does not assimilate other civilizations and integrate with them.

The researcher concludes that indulgence is one of the great morals of Islam that can only be practiced by people who have high resolution. It is required on a permanent basis as long as one sticks to right and avoids falsehood. Whoever, if the matter degenerates into impairing religion and compromising it, then there should be no indulgence at all. Such compromising of religion will be considered as cajoling, hypocrisy, beguilement and deception. Finally, indulgence leads to the tranquility of the Muslim individual, the Muslim family and the Muslim society because it has great influence in removing evil from the hearts and contributes in disseminating Islam and attracting people to it.

May Allah grant us success, and praises be to Allah.

The researcher.