

GOD IS SELF-SUFFICIENT

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The Arabic word used to denote self-sufficiency in the following verses of the Qur'an is *ghaniyy* which means "above want," "free from want" or "rich." Saheeh International Translation [SIT] translates this word as "free of/from need."

GHANIYY

قَوْلٌ مَّعْرُوفٌ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ صَدَقَةٍ يَتَّبِعُهَا أَذَىٰ ۗ وَاللَّهُ غَنِيٌّ حَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٦٣﴾

Kind speech and forgiveness are better than charity followed by injury. And God is **Free of need** and Forbearing.¹

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنفِقُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا كَسَبْتُمْ وَمِمَّا أَخْرَجْنَا لَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ وَلَا تَيَمَّمُوا الْخَبِيثَ مِنْهُ تُنْفِقُونَ وَلَسْتُمْ بِآخِذِيهِ إِلَّا أَنْ تُغْمِضُوا فِيهِ ۚ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ

حَمِيدٌ ﴿٢٦٧﴾

O you who have believed, spend from the good things which you have earned and from that which We have produced for you from the earth. And do not aim toward the defective therefrom, spending [from that] while you would not take it [yourself] except with closed eyes. And know that God is **Free of need** and Praiseworthy.²

فِيهِ ءَايَاتٌ بَيِّنَاتٌ مَّقَامُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ ۖ وَمَنْ دَخَلَهُ كَانَ ءَامِنًا ۗ وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا ۚ وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٦٧﴾

In it [Makkah] are clear signs [such as] the standing place of Abraham. And whoever enters it [the Haram] shall be safe. And [due] to God from the people is a pilgrimage to the House – for whoever is able to find thereto a way. But whoever disbelieves then indeed God is **Free from need** of the worlds.³

¹ SIT Surah Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 263

² SIT Surah Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 267

³ SIT Surah Ali-'Imran Chapter 3 Verse 97

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وَلِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ وَلَقَدْ وَصَّيْنَا الَّذِيْنَ اُوْتُوا الْكِتٰبَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ وَاِيَّاكُمْ اَنْ
اَتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ وَاِنْ تَكْفُرُوْا فَاِنَّ لِلّٰهِ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ وَكَانَ اللّٰهُ غَنِيًّا حَمِيْدًا ﴿١٣١﴾

And to God belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And We have instructed those who were given the Scripture before you and yourselves to fear God. But if you disbelieve – then to God belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And ever is God **Free of need** and Praiseworthy.⁴

وَرَبُّكَ الْغَنِيُّ ذُو الرَّحْمَةِ اِنْ يَشَآءْ يُّدْهِبْكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفْ مِنْ بَعْدِكُمْ مَا يَشَآءُ كَمَا
اَنْشَأَكُمْ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّةٍ قَوْمٍ اٰخَرِيْنَ ﴿١٣٢﴾

And your Lord is the **Free of need**, the Possessor of mercy. If He wills, He can do away with you and give succession after you and give succession after you to whomever He wills, just as He produced you from the descendants of another people.⁵

قَالُوْا اتَّخَذَ اللّٰهُ وَلَدًا سُبْحٰنَهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ اِنْ
عِنْدَكُمْ مِنْ سُلْطٰنٍ بِهٰذَا اَتَقُوْلُوْنَ عَلٰى اللّٰهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُوْنَ ﴿١٣٣﴾

They [the Christians and others] have said, “God has taken a son.” Exalted is He; He is the [one] **Free of need**. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. You have no authority for this [claim]. Do you say about God that which you do not know?⁶

وَقَالَ مُوسٰى اِنْ تَكْفُرُوْا اَنْتُمْ وَمَنْ فِي الْاَرْضِ جَمِيْعًا فَاِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَغَنِيٌّ حَمِيْدٌ ﴿١٣٤﴾

And Moses said, “If you should disbelieve, you and whoever is on the earth entirely – indeed, God is **Free of need** and Praiseworthy.”⁷

لَّهُ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ وَاِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَهُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيْدُ ﴿١٣٥﴾

To Him [God] belongs what is in the heavens and what is on the earth. And indeed, God is the **Free of need**, the Praiseworthy.⁸

⁴ SIT Surah An-Nisa' Chapter 4 Verse 131

⁵ SIT Surah Al-An'am Chapter 6 Verse 133

⁶ SIT Surah Yunus Chapter 10 verse 68

⁷ SIT Surah Ibraheem Chapter 14 Verse 8

⁸ SIT Surah Al-Hajj Chapter 22 Verse 64

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قَالَ الَّذِي عِنْدَهُ عِلْمٌ مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ أَنَا آتِيكَ بِهِ قَبْلَ أَن يَرْتَدَّ إِلَيْكَ طَرْفُكَ فَلَمَّا رَآهُ مُسْتَقِرًّا عِنْدَهُ قَالَ هَذَا مِن فَضْلِ رَبِّي لِيَبْلُوَنِي أَأَشْكُرُ أَمْ أَكْفُرُ وَمَن شَكَرَ فَإِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ رَبِّي غَنِيٌّ كَرِيمٌ ﴿٤٠﴾

Said one who had knowledge from the Scripture, "I will bring it to you [O Solomon] before your glance returns to you." And when [Solomon] saw it placed before him, he said, "This is from the favour of my Lord to test me whether I will be grateful or ungrateful. And whoever is grateful – his gratitude is only for [the benefit of] himself. And whoever is ungrateful – then indeed, my Lord is **Free of need** and Generous."⁹

وَمَن جَاهَدَ فَإِنَّمَا يُجَاهِدُ لِنَفْسِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَغَنِيٌّ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٦١﴾

And whoever strives only strives for [the benefit of] himself. Indeed, God is **Free from need** of the worlds.¹⁰

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا لُقْمَانَ الْحِكْمَةَ أَنِ اشْكُرْ لِلَّهِ وَمَن يَشْكُرْ فَإِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ ﴿١٢﴾

And We had certainly given Luqman wisdom [and said], "Be grateful to God." And whoever is grateful is grateful for [the benefit of] himself. And whoever denies [His favour] – then indeed God is **Free of need** and Praiseworthy.¹¹

لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ ﴿١٦﴾

To God belongs whatever is in the heavens and earth. Indeed God is **Free of need**, the Praiseworthy.¹²

﴿١٥﴾ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ ﴿١٥﴾

O mankind, you are those in need of God, while God is **Free of need**, the Praiseworthy.¹³

⁹ SIT Surah An-Naml Chapter 27 Verse 40

¹⁰ SIT Surah Al-'Ankabut Chapter 29 Verse 6

¹¹ SIT Surah Luqman Chapter 31 Verse 12

¹² SIT Surah Luqman Chapter 31 Verse 26

¹³ SIT Surah Fatir Chapter 35 Verse 15

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هَاتَانْتُمْ هَتُوْلَاءِ تَدْعَوْنَ لِتُنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَمِنْكُمْ مَن يَبْخُلُ وَمَن يَبْخُلْ فَإِنَّمَا يَبْخُلُ عَن نَّفْسِهِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ الْغَنِيُّ وَأَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ ۗ وَإِن تَوَلَّوْا يَسْتَبَدِلْ قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَكُونُوا أَمْثَلَكُمْ ﴿٢٨﴾

Here you are – those invited to spend in the cause of God – but among you are those who withhold [out of greed]. And whoever withholds only withholds [benefit] from himself; and God is **Free of need**, while you are the needy. And if you turn away, He will replace you with another people; then they will not be the like of you.¹⁴

الَّذِينَ يَبْخُلُونَ وَيَأْمُرُونَ النَّاسَ بِالْبُخْلِ ۗ وَمَن يَتَوَلَّ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ ﴿٢٩﴾

[Those] who are stingy and enjoin upon stinginess. And whoever turns away – then indeed God is the **Free of need**, the Praiseworthy.¹⁵

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِيهِمْ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ ۗ وَمَن يَتَوَلَّ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ ﴿٦﴾

There has certainly been for you in them an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in God and the Last day. And whoever turns away – then indeed God is the **Free of need**, the Praiseworthy.¹⁶

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُ كَانَتْ تَأْتِيهِمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَقَالُوا أَبَشَرٌ يُّهْدُونَنَا فَكَفَرُوا وَتَوَلَّوْا ۗ وَأَسْتَغْنَى اللَّهُ ۗ وَاللَّهُ غَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ ﴿٦٠﴾

That is because their messengers used to come to them with clear evidences, but they said, “Shall human beings guide us?” and disbelieved and turned away. And God dispensed [with them], and God is **Free of need** and Praiseworthy.¹⁷

The Qur'an confirms the rationally derived attribute of God – self-sufficiency.

¹⁴ SIT Surah Muhammad Chapter 47 Verse 38

¹⁵ SIT Surah Al-Hadeed Chapter 57 Verse 24

¹⁶ SIT Surah Al-Mumtahinah Chapter 60 Verse 6

¹⁷ SIT Surah At-Taghabun Chapter 64 Verse 6