

## The Gift of Guidance for the Faithful March 27, 2026

**fa-immā ya'tiyannakum minnī hudan faman tabi' a hudāya falā khawfun 'alayhim walā hum yaḥzanūna (Surah Baqarah 2:38)**

And when guidance comes to you from Me, whoever follows My guidance, there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve

Allah is Al-Hadi, the one who Guides. He never creates anything and then leaves it alone, drifting without guidance. His guidance is woven into the very fabric of existence. It is built into the innate nature of all creation. Countless examples exist as evidence. Planets maintain their celestial paths without a map, bound by the physical laws He decreed. Every electron in existence already knows its orbits. Birds migrate across continents without a compass and sense the invisible pull of magnetic fields. Monarch butterflies travel thousands of miles to specific trees in Mexico, a destination they have never seen, and it takes four generations to reach their final destination. It is impossible for them to learn the path from their ancestors. They carry the map within their DNA. Spiders born in isolation know how to weave a web with complex, geometric precision without a single lesson in weaving. The complex plan of the web is part of their innate nature. From roots that seek the water, to leaves that turn toward the sun, all of creation moves in harmony with a guidance that was never taught, but that was always known.

On the path of this life, we require guidance just as every other living thing does. Guidance is built into our fitrah (innate nature) as an internal moral compass that points us toward the Truth before we even possess the words to describe it. Guidance starts long before we achieve self-consciousness. Consider newborns: their vision is blurred. They cannot see but they instinctively know how to find their mother's breast to receive nourishment. As children mature, their desires expand and drift beyond the mother's milk. They may reach for something harmful, unable to distinguish between what is poisonous and what is pure. Here, mothers are assigned as the protector, filtering the world to ensure only what is beneficial reaches them.

As we mature into independent beings with a will, our choices are influenced by the impulses of the nefs. We outgrow the guidance that mothers offer. We begin to choose what is poisonous to our souls. That is when our need for a Guide becomes absolute. Al-Hadi, The Guide, He who creates nothing without purpose, has not left us to wander blindly. Rather, He provided 124,000 Prophets, divine scriptures, and sages to illuminate the way.

In the Qur'an, Allah introduces Himself as the ultimate source of direction. In Surah Al-Furqan (25:31), He reminds us: "And sufficient is your Lord as a Guide and a

Helper." Furthermore, in Surah Al-Hajj (22:54) He promises to guide those who turn to Him, saying, "Truly, Allah is the Guide of those who believe, [leading them] to a Straight Path."

His guidance is a gift. The word hidaya, guidance, and hadiya, the gift, come from the same root. We are given the choice of accepting this gift or turning away from it. Guidance remains a gift for those who strive to stay on Sirat al-Mustaqim, even when we slip, as long as we do not stop seeking Allah's direction sincerely and constantly, praying: "Ihdina al-sirat al-mustaqim": Guide us to the straight path.

The first creation who deflected from guidance was Iblis himself. He refused to take guidance and blamed Allah-u Ta'ala for misleading him, refusing to look inside himself to see the darkness within. The truth is that Allah never misguides arbitrarily. Yet He withdraws His guidance from those who deserve it. He withdraws His special guidance from those who have willfully rejected it. Surah Baqarah (2:26) affirms Al Mudhil, the One who lets some go astray, as one of His attributes. It is also clarified in the same verse that "Allah misleads only fasiqun -those who are disobedient, transgressors, immoral."

Guidance is like sunlight that shines on everyone. However, if someone chooses darkness and opts to live in a cave, it is not the sun that discriminates against them, but they are choosing to live in darkness. With His Divine wisdom, Allah knows who deserves His guidance and who does not. That is the meaning of the verse: "Allah guides whom He wills and misguides whom He wills" (Surah Al-An'aam 6:39).

Allah's guidance, Hidayah, is a gift. His misguidance is the manifestation of His justice. The meaning of His name al-Mudhil is translated as "The Humiliator, Abaser, The giver of Dishonor." Al Mudhil protects the oppressed by humbling their oppressors. His abasement of tyrants who are arrogant is just and wise, but never arbitrary. We call on Al Mudhil to seek refuge from the tyranny of our enemies.

For those who consistently act upon Divine guidance, the journey evolves into a deeper, more intuitive state. At this stage, guidance is no longer an external set of rules; it becomes an internalized instinct. Think of it like using a GPS to navigate an unfamiliar city. Initially, you are dependent on every turn signal and voice prompt, carefully watching the signs to ensure you don't get lost. However, after traveling that path repeatedly, the route becomes part of your memory. Eventually, you no longer need the device, not because the destination has changed, but because it has become second nature.

This transformation is the essence of Allah's Name, Ar-Rashid, The One who Guides to righteousness with perfect wisdom. We transition from conscious obedience to subconscious alignment. A person in this state is known as a Rashid, one who is rightly guided.

When we consistently act upon His guidance, a profound internal shift occurs. Allah does not just show us the map; He rewires our very desires. Through His grace: faith becomes sweet and nourishing to the soul. Sin becomes bitter and naturally repulsive. In this elevated state of being Rashid, doing what is right, doesn't feel like a chore or a restriction. It simply feels like being who you were always meant to be.

Oh lord, we praise only You and worship only You. None other has the right to be worshiped. We only worship You and ask for Your help. Guide us to the straight path, the path of those you have blessed, not those with whom You are displeased.

**Yurdaer Al Latif Al Jerrahi**