

# **From Filth to Purity: Understanding the Environmental Ramifications of Pollution and Non-Cleanliness in the Context of Quranic Guidance**

## **(A STUDY TO REVEAL QURANIC ASPECTS & COMPARISON WITH MODERN SCIENCES)**

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### **Abstract**

The environment is facing numerous challenges due to pollution and non-cleanliness, resulting in detrimental consequences for ecosystems and human health. This paper explores the environmental impact of pollution and non-cleanliness while examining the teachings of Islam regarding cleanliness and environmental stewardship. By delving into the Quranic Ayaahs, this study aims to shed light on Islamic principles that emphasize the importance of cleanliness and responsible environmental practices. Furthermore, the paper discusses practical steps individuals and communities can take to mitigate pollution and promote a cleaner and sustainable environment in line with Islamic teachings.

**Keywords:** Pollution, Non-cleanliness, Environment, Islamic teachings, Cleanliness, Environmental stewardship

### **Introduction**

Environmental pollution is a pressing global issue that poses significant challenges to the well-being of our planet and its inhabitants. Pollution, in its various forms such as air, water, and soil pollution, has detrimental effects on ecosystems, human health, and the overall quality of life. In this context, cleanliness plays a crucial role in mitigating pollution and preserving the environment. Maintaining cleanliness in our surroundings is not only aesthetically pleasing but also essential for reducing pollution levels. By practicing cleanliness and proper waste management, we can prevent the release of harmful pollutants into the environment, minimize the contamination of natural resources, and safeguard the health of both present and future generations. Recognizing the importance of cleanliness as a proactive measure against pollution is vital for promoting sustainable living and creating a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable planet.<sup>1</sup>

### **Types of Pollution & Effects**

Before discussing Islamic perspective on pollution and environmental cleanliness it is prudent to shortly discuss pollution, its types and effects on environmental cleanliness in the light of modern practices. Pollution can take various forms and affect different aspects of the environment. Here are some of the main types of pollution<sup>2</sup>:-

#### **(a) Air Pollution**

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This occurs when harmful substances, such as pollutants, gases, and particulate matter, contaminate the air we breathe. Sources of air pollution include industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, and the burning of fossil fuels.

### **(b) Water Pollution**

Water bodies, including rivers, lakes, oceans, and groundwater, can be polluted by the discharge of industrial waste, sewage, agricultural runoff, and chemicals. Water pollution not only affects aquatic life but also poses risks to human health when contaminated water is consumed or used for daily activities.

### **(c) Soil Pollution**

Soil pollution refers to the contamination of soil with toxic chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals, and other pollutants. It can result from improper waste disposal, agricultural activities, industrial spills, and mining operations. Soil pollution can have effects on plant growth, soil fertility, and the overall ecosystem.

### **(d) Noise Pollution**

Noise pollution is the excessive or disruptive noise that negatively impacts human health and well-being. It can be caused by industrial activities, transportation, construction, and urbanization. Prolonged exposure to high levels of noise can lead to stress, hearing problems, and other health issues.

### **(e) Light Pollution**

Light pollution refers to the excessive or misdirected artificial lighting that disrupts natural darkness and affects wildlife, ecosystems, and human sleep patterns. It is commonly associated with urban areas, where excessive outdoor lighting can obscure views of the night sky and disturb the natural behavior of nocturnal animals.

### **(f) Thermal Pollution**

Thermal pollution occurs when there is a significant alteration in the temperature of natural water bodies, usually due to the release of heated water from industrial processes or power plants. This change in temperature can harm aquatic life and disrupt aquatic ecosystems.

### **(g) Plastic Pollution**

Plastic pollution is a specific type of pollution caused by the accumulation of plastic waste in the environment, especially in oceans and waterways. Improper disposal and inadequate recycling of plastic products contribute to this growing environmental concern.

These various types of pollution highlight the importance of adopting sustainable practices, promoting environmental awareness, and implementing effective measures to reduce pollution and protect our planet's health.

## **Pollution Control Reduction Measures**

1. Cleanliness plays a crucial role in mitigating various types of pollution. Here's how cleanliness can help reduce pollution<sup>3</sup>:-

### **(a) Waste Management**

Proper waste management practices, such as waste segregation, recycling, and responsible disposal, promote cleanliness and help prevent pollution. Effective waste management prevents the accumulation of waste in landfills and reduces the risk of water and soil contamination.

#### **(b) Pollution Prevention**

Cleanliness includes adopting practices that minimize pollution at its source. By implementing pollution prevention strategies in industries and households, such as using eco-friendly products, reducing the use of harmful chemicals, and implementing sustainable practices, we can significantly reduce air, water, and soil pollution.<sup>4</sup>

#### **(c) Emission Control**

Regular cleaning and maintenance of vehicles, industrial equipment, and machinery help minimize air pollution. Regular inspections, tune-ups, and the use of pollution control devices can reduce harmful emissions, such as greenhouse gases, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

#### **(d) Clean Water Practices**

Maintaining cleanliness in water bodies through regular cleaning, preventing littering, and minimizing the discharge of pollutants helps preserve water quality. By avoiding the dumping of hazardous substances and adopting eco-friendly practices in agriculture and industry, we can prevent water pollution and protect aquatic ecosystems.

#### **(e) Noise Reduction**

Keeping our surroundings clean and organized can help reduce noise pollution. By implementing measures such as proper insulation, sound barriers, and the use of quieter technologies, we can minimize noise disturbances and promote a healthier environment.

#### **(f) Sustainable Lighting**

Cleanliness includes responsible and efficient use of lighting. By using energy-efficient bulbs, avoiding excessive outdoor lighting, and implementing appropriate lighting designs, we can reduce light pollution and its negative impacts on wildlife and human well-being.

#### **(g) Education and Awareness**

Promoting cleanliness through education and awareness campaigns helps instill responsible behavior among individuals and communities. By raising awareness about the environmental consequences of pollution and the importance of cleanliness, we can encourage people to take active steps in reducing pollution and maintaining a cleaner environment.

Overall, cleanliness plays a vital role in pollution prevention and mitigation. By practicing cleanliness in our daily lives, adopting sustainable habits, and promoting responsible behavior, we can contribute to a healthier and cleaner environment for ourselves and future generations.

### **Modern Principles and Methods to Reduce / Control Pollution**

Modern principles and methods to reduce pollution and increase cleanliness incorporate innovative approaches and advanced technologies. Here are some examples which incorporate innovative approaches and advanced technologies. Here are some examples<sup>5,6</sup>

**(a) Sustainable and Clean Energy Sources**

Transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydropower, helps reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Embracing clean energy technologies, like electric vehicles and energy-efficient appliances, promotes a cleaner and sustainable future.

**(b) Green Infrastructure**

Implementing green infrastructure solutions, such as green roofs, permeable pavements, and urban green spaces, helps mitigate pollution by absorbing pollutants, reducing storm water runoff, and improving air quality.

**(c) Circular Economy**

Adopting a circular economy approach focuses on minimizing waste generation and maximizing resource efficiency. It involves practices like recycling, reusing, and repurposing materials and products to reduce the extraction of raw materials and decrease waste generation.

**(d) Advanced Waste Treatment**

Utilizing advanced waste treatment technologies, such as anaerobic digestion and waste-to-energy processes, helps convert waste into valuable resources and reduces the environmental impact of waste disposal.

**(e) Smart Cities and Internet of Things (IoT)**

Implementing smart city technologies and IoT-based solutions enable efficient management of resources, including waste management, energy consumption, and transportation systems. These technologies optimize resource utilization and reduce pollution.

**(f) Environmental Monitoring Systems**

Deploying advanced monitoring systems, such as air quality sensors, water quality sensors, and real-time monitoring networks, helps track pollution levels and enables prompt action to address pollution hotspots.

**(g) Sustainable Agriculture**

Promoting sustainable farming practices, such as organic farming, precision agriculture, and agroforestry, reduces the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, minimizes soil erosion, and preserves water quality.

**(h) Green Chemistry**

Developing and utilizing environmentally friendly chemicals and processes in industries reduces the generation of hazardous substances and minimizes the environmental impact of manufacturing processes.

**(i) Eco-friendly Transportation**

Encouraging the use of public transportation, cycling, walking, and promoting electric and hybrid vehicles helps reduce air pollution and carbon emissions from transportation.

**(j) Environmental Education and Awareness**

Educating individuals and communities about environmental issues, pollution prevention, and sustainable practices fosters a sense of responsibility and empowers them to make informed choices that contribute to a cleaner environment.

By embracing these modern principles and methods, we can reduce pollution, promote cleanliness, and move towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

**Islam's Perspective towards Cleanliness**

Islam emphasizes the importance of environmental stewardship and cleanliness, providing guidance on how to reduce pollution and maintain a clean environment. Here are some key principles and teachings from Islam regarding pollution reduction and environmental cleanliness<sup>7,8</sup>:

**(a) Stewardship of the Earth**

Islam teaches that human beings are trustees of the Earth and have a responsibility to care for and protect the environment. Muslims are encouraged to be mindful of their actions and strive for environmental conservation.

**(b) Preservation of Natural Resources**

Islam emphasizes the sustainable use of natural resources and prohibits wastefulness. Muslims are encouraged to conserve water, avoid excessive consumption, and utilize resources responsibly to minimize pollution and promote sustainability.

**(c) Prohibition of Littering and Waste**

Islam prohibits littering and wastefulness. Muslims are instructed to properly dispose of waste and avoid polluting the environment. The concept of cleanliness extends to physical cleanliness as well as cleanliness in one's surroundings.

**(d) Respect for Animals and Plants**

Islam promotes compassion and respect for all living beings, including animals and plants. Muslims are encouraged to care for animals, avoid harming them unnecessarily, and preserve natural habitats to maintain ecological balance.

**(e) Prohibition of Environmental Harm**

Islam prohibits actions that cause harm to the environment and the well-being of others. Activities that cause pollution, such as the release of harmful substances or destruction of ecosystems, are considered sinful and against Islamic teachings.

**(f) Conservation of Water**

Islam emphasizes the importance of water conservation and discourages wastefulness. Muslims are encouraged to use water sparingly, avoid contamination of water sources, and engage in practices that preserve water quality.

**(g) Environmental Responsibility in Business**

Islamic teachings promote ethical and responsible business practices, including considerations for environmental sustainability. Islam encourages businesses to operate in ways that minimize pollution, prioritize resource conservation, and contribute positively to the environment and society.

### (h) Environmental Awareness and Education

Islam encourages seeking knowledge and understanding of the natural world. Muslims are encouraged to educate themselves and others about environmental issues, the importance of pollution reduction, and sustainable practices.

By following these teachings and principles, Muslims are guided to reduce pollution, maintain environmental cleanliness, and play an active role in preserving the Earth and its resources for present and future generations.

### Quranic Guidance on Cleanliness

The Holy Quran contains various teachings that emphasize the importance of environmental conservation and cleanliness. Here are some specific teachings:-

#### (a) Surah Al-A'raf (7:31)

يَبْنَئِ أَدَمَ خُدُودًا زَيْتَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ<sup>9</sup>

"O children of Adam, take your adornment at every masjid, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess."

This Ayaah encourages moderation in consumption and advises against wastefulness. It promotes the idea of avoiding excess, which can lead to pollution and environmental degradation.

#### (b) Surah Al-Baqarah (2:195)

وَأَنْفَقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ<sup>10</sup>

"And do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction [by refraining]."

This Ayaah highlights the importance of avoiding actions that lead to harm or destruction. It promotes responsible behavior and discourages activities that contribute to environmental pollution and degradation.

#### (c) Surah Al-Qasas (28:77)

وَابْتَغِ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَأَحْسِنْ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفُسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ<sup>11</sup>

"But seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter; and [yet], do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to you. And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, Allah does not like corrupters."

This Ayaah emphasizes the balance between seeking spiritual goals and fulfilling worldly responsibilities. It discourages corruption and urges believers not to contribute to environmental harm or pollution.

**(d) Surah Al-Hadid (57:25)**

لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلَنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مَعَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْمِيزَانَ لِيَقُومَ النَّاسُ بِالْقِسْطِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا الْحَدِيدَ فِيهِ بَأْسٌ شَدِيدٌ وَمَنْفَعٌ لِلنَّاسِ وَلِيَعْلَمَ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَنْصُرُهُ وَرُسُلَهُ بِالْغَيْبِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ

"We sent Our messengers with clear evidences and sent down with them the Scripture and the balance that the people may maintain [their affairs] in justice. And We sent down iron, wherein is great military might and benefits for the people, and so that Allah may make evident those who support Him and His messengers unseen. Indeed, Allah is Powerful and Exalted in Might."<sup>12</sup>

While this Ayaah primarily discusses justice and the role of messengers, it indirectly emphasizes the importance of maintaining balance and utilizing resources responsibly. It encourages believers to recognize the benefits of natural resources and use them wisely without causing harm or pollution.

**(e) Surah Al-Inam (6:165) Stewardship of the Earth**

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلَائِفَ الْأَرْضِ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِيُبْلِغَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ

"It is He (Allah) who has appointed you vicegerents on the earth"<sup>13</sup>

This Ayaah highlights the concept of humans being entrusted as caretakers of the Earth, emphasizing the responsibility to protect and preserve the environment.

**(f) Surah Al-Hijr (15: 19) Balance in Nature**

وَالْأَرْضَ مَدَدْنَاهَا وَأَلْقَيْنَا فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مَوْزُونٍ

"And the earth We have spread out (like a carpet); set thereon mountains firm and immovable; and produced therein all kinds of things in due balance"<sup>14</sup>

This Ayaah emphasizes the balance and harmony in nature, urging humans to respect and maintain this equilibrium.

**(g) Surah Al-Airaf (7:31) Prohibition of Waste**

يَبْسُيْ أَدَمَ خُدُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ<sup>15</sup>

"Eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess"

This Ayaah encourages moderation in consumption, discouraging wastefulness and excessive use of resources that can contribute to pollution.

**(h) Surah Al-Baqarah (2:60) Prohibition of Corruption and Mischief**

كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا مِنْ رِزْقِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَعْنُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ<sup>16</sup>

"Do not commit abuse on the earth, spreading corruption"

This Ayaah prohibits actions that cause harm and corruption in the environment, encouraging Muslims to avoid activities that lead to pollution and environmental degradation.

**(i) Surah Al-Inam (6:38) Care for Animals and Plants**

وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا طَيْرٍ يَطِيرُ بِجَنَاحَيْهِ إِلَّا أَمَمٌ أَمْثَالُكُمْ مَا فَرَطْنَا فِي الْكِتَابِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ ثُمَّ إِلَى رَبِّهِمْ يُحْشَرُونَ<sup>17</sup>

"There is no creature on the earth or bird that flies with its wings except that they are communities like you"

This Ayaah highlights the interconnectedness of all living beings and encourages Muslims to treat animals and plants with kindness, avoiding unnecessary harm and destruction.

**(j) Surah Al-Anbiyaa (21:30) Water Conservation**

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ<sup>18</sup>

"And We made from water every living thing."

This Ayaah acknowledges the significance of water as the source of life and emphasizes the importance of conserving this precious resource, encouraging Muslims to avoid wastefulness.

These teachings from The Holy Quran promote the values of environmental stewardship, moderation, and respect for the Earth and its resources. Muslims are encouraged to implement these teachings in their daily lives, contributing to the reduction of pollution and the maintenance of cleanliness in the environment.

**Quranic Guidance on Preserving the Environment**

These Quranic verses provide guidance on the importance of preserving the environment, avoiding corruption, and recognizing the responsibility of believers as stewards of the earth. They emphasize the significance of caring for the environment in line with Islamic teachings and encourage believers to reflect on the consequences of pollution and non-cleanliness. Few examples are as under:

**(a) Surah Al-A'raf (7:56):**

وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا وَادْعُوهُ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا إِنَّ رَحْمَتَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ<sup>19</sup>

"And cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. And invoke Him in fear and aspiration. Indeed, the mercy of Allah is near to the doers of good."

This Ayaah highlights the importance of not causing corruption or harm to the earth. It emphasizes the need to protect and preserve the environment after its reformation, indicating the responsibility of believers to maintain its well-being.

**(b) Surah Al-An'am (6:165):**

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلَائِفَ الْأَرْضِ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ سَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ ° وَإِنَّ لَ لَعَفُورًا رَحِيمًا<sup>20</sup>

"And it is He who has made you successors upon the earth and has raised some of you above others in degrees [of rank] that He may try you through what He has given you. Indeed, your Lord is swift in penalty; but indeed, He is Forgiving and Merciful."



This Ayaah reminds believers that they are successors on earth, indicating their role as stewards of the environment. It implies that believers are accountable for how they manage and care for the earth and its resources.

(c) Surah Ar-Rum (30:41):

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ<sup>21</sup>

"Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned so He may let them taste part of [the consequence of] what they have done that perhaps they will return [to righteousness]."

This Ayaah highlights the consequences of human actions on the environment. It suggests that environmental degradation and pollution are outcomes of human activities and serves as a reminder for individuals to reflect on their actions and strive for righteousness and responsible behavior.

In addition to the teachings mentioned earlier, there are a few more principles from The Holy Quran that guide Muslims towards reducing pollution and promoting environmental cleanliness<sup>22</sup>:-

**(a) Avoiding Excess and Extravagance**

The Quran encourages moderation and discourages extravagance in all aspects of life, including consumption and resource utilization. Muslims are encouraged to use resources responsibly and avoid wasteful practices that can contribute to pollution.

**(b) Preservation of Natural Resources**

The Quran emphasizes the preservation of natural resources for future generations. Muslims are encouraged to conserve water, protect forests, and safeguard biodiversity, recognizing the importance of these resources for maintaining a clean and sustainable environment.

**(c) Responsibility for Sustainable Development**

Muslims are reminded of their responsibility to pursue sustainable development that balances economic growth with environmental conservation. The Quran encourages responsible practices in agriculture, industry, and other human activities to minimize negative impacts on the environment.

**(d) Kindness to Creation**

The Quran teaches Muslims to be kind and compassionate towards all of Allah's creation, including plants, animals, and the environment. This encourages Muslims to refrain from activities that harm or pollute the environment and instead adopt practices that promote its well-being.

**(e) Accountability and Stewardship**

Muslims believe in the concept of accountability before Allah for their actions, including their treatment of the environment. The Quran emphasizes the responsibility of individuals to fulfill their role as stewards of the Earth and to be mindful of the consequences of their actions on the environment.

By following these teachings, Muslims are guided towards practices that reduce pollution, promote cleanliness, and foster a sustainable relationship with the environment. It encourages them to adopt a holistic approach that recognizes the

interconnectedness of all living beings and the importance of preserving the Earth for future generations<sup>23</sup>.

### **Factors / Reasons for non-cleanliness in Muslim Community**

It is important to note that the actions and practices of individuals within any religious or cultural group can vary. While Islam provides clear guidance on the importance of environmental cleanliness and stewardship, the implementation of these teachings by Muslims may vary due to a variety of factors. Some possible reasons why some Muslims may lack in reducing pollution and increasing environmental cleanliness include:-

#### **(a) Lack of Awareness**

Some Muslims may not have a comprehensive understanding of the teachings of Islam regarding environmental responsibility. They may not be aware of the specific guidelines and principles outlined in the Quran and the Hadith (sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him) that emphasize environmental conservation and cleanliness.

#### **(b) Cultural Practices**

Cultural practices and societal norms can sometimes override religious teachings. In some cases, cultural attitudes towards the environment may not align with Islamic teachings, leading to a disconnect between religious principles and actual behavior.

#### **(c) Socioeconomic Factors**

Economic circumstances and limited resources can also impact the ability of individuals and communities to prioritize environmental cleanliness. Poverty, lack of infrastructure and limited access to education and resources can hinder efforts to reduce pollution and maintain cleanliness.

#### **(d) Lack of Environmental Education**

Inadequate environmental education and awareness programs within Muslim communities can contribute to a lack of knowledge and understanding of environmental issues and effective solutions. Educational initiatives that focus on environmental sustainability and the teachings of Islam can help bridge this gap.

#### **(e) Individual Choices and Behavior**

Ultimately, individuals have the responsibility to make conscious choices and take actions that align with their religious teachings. Factors such as personal habits, lifestyle choices, and attitudes towards the environment can influence an individual's commitment to reducing pollution and promoting cleanliness.

It is important to recognize that these challenges are not exclusive to Muslims and can be observed in various communities and individuals around the world. Promoting environmental awareness, education, and a deeper understanding of Islamic teachings on environmental responsibility can help empower Muslims to actively engage in efforts to reduce pollution and increase environmental cleanliness<sup>24</sup>.

The Holy Quran emphasizes the importance of environmental stewardship and cleanliness, but it does not explicitly mention specific punishments for those who spread

pollution or reduce cleanliness. Islam encourages believers to act responsibly and to preserve and protect the environment as part of their religious duty. Muslims are called upon to be mindful of their actions and to strive for balance and harmony in their relationship with the natural world.

However, it is worth noting that Islam does emphasize the concept of accountability and the consequences of one's actions in the Hereafter. Muslims believe that all individuals will be held accountable for their deeds on the Day of Judgment. If someone knowingly engages in actions that harm the environment or contribute to pollution, they may face spiritual consequences and be answerable to God for their actions.

It is also important to remember that the implementation of laws and regulations related to pollution and cleanliness is the responsibility of governments and legal authorities. They have the jurisdiction to establish appropriate penalties and enforcement mechanisms to address environmental violations.

Overall, the focus in Islam is on promoting personal responsibility, education, and raising awareness about the importance of environmental preservation and cleanliness. Muslims are encouraged to adopt sustainable practices, promote cleanliness, and actively contribute to the well-being of the environment<sup>25</sup>.

### **Case Study**

One prominent case study that illustrates the effects of pollution and the subsequent results after improving pollution and cleanliness is the example of the Citarum River in Indonesia. The Citarum River, known as one of the most polluted rivers in the world, faced severe environmental degradation due to industrial waste, agricultural runoff, and improper waste management practices<sup>26</sup>.

The pollution in the river had detrimental effects on the surrounding communities and ecosystems. The river water became highly contaminated, causing waterborne diseases and negatively impacting the health and livelihoods of the local population. The pollution also harmed aquatic life and disrupted the balance of the ecosystem.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Indonesian government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, launched the Citarum River Cleanup Program. This comprehensive initiative aimed to tackle pollution, improve waste management, and restore the health of the river.

Through concerted efforts, including stricter regulations, community involvement, and the implementation of wastewater treatment plants, significant progress has been made in reducing pollution and improving cleanliness in the Citarum River. The program has resulted in the removal of tons of waste, the installation of waste traps and filtration systems, and the rehabilitation of the riverbanks.

The results of these efforts have been promising. Water quality has improved, and the biodiversity of the river has shown signs of recovery. The local communities

have also witnessed positive changes, with reduced instances of waterborne diseases and improved access to clean water.

The case of the Citarum River highlights the importance of addressing pollution and promoting cleanliness in achieving positive environmental outcomes. It demonstrates that concerted efforts, involving government, communities, and other stakeholders, can lead to tangible improvements in the health of ecosystems, the well-being of communities, and the sustainability of natural resources.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the discussion highlights the importance of pollution reduction and environmental cleanliness in both Islamic teachings and contemporary efforts. The Holy Quran emphasizes the concept of stewardship, making it the responsibility of Muslims to protect and preserve the environment. The Quranic teachings encourage cleanliness, responsible resource management, and avoidance of activities that harm the environment. It is evident that pollution has detrimental effects on ecosystems, human health, and overall well-being. The case study of the Citarum River exemplifies the positive results that can be achieved through concerted efforts to reduce pollution and improve cleanliness. By aligning with the teachings of the Quran and taking practical steps to address pollution, individuals and communities can contribute to a healthier, more sustainable environment for present and future generations.

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