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(1:2) Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the entire universe.

Whenever we praise someone, we do so for two reasons:

First, because excellence calls for praise, irrespective of whether that excellence has any direct relevance to us or not.

Second, we praise one whom we consider to be our benefactor. When this is the case our praise arises from a deep feeling of gratitude.

God is worthy of praise on both counts. It is incumbent on us to praise Him not only in recognition of His infinite excellence but also because of our feelings of gratitude to Him, arising from our awareness of the blessings He has lavished upon us.

□ **It is important to note that what is said here is not merely that praise be to God, but that all praise be to God alone.** Whenever there is any beauty, any excellence, any perfection-in whatever thing or in whatever shape it may manifest itself- its ultimate source is none other than God Himself. No human being, angel, heavenly body-in short, no created being-is possessed of an innate excellence. wherever excellence exists, it is a gift from God. Thus, if there is anyone at all whom we ought to adore and worship, to whom we ought to feel indebted and grateful, towards whom we should remain humble and obedient, it is the creator of excellence, rather than its possessor.
(Tafheemul Quran)

Edited by Dr. Ishaq Zahid
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Article in mp3 audio