

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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Windows to the Universe

We created the Human in the best design. (Quran 95:4)



Have you ever thought about your eyes—those twin beacons that contain the images of all the universe? They catch the light that comes from the sun and convert it into electricity and thus distinguish it from darkness, thereby allowing us to enjoy the way the world is painted. From the moment of birth, our eyeballs are constantly moving up and down and right and left. The eye is really an extension of the brain. As soon as you see something, the miracle of translating light into electricity—the language of the brain—takes place in cells of the brain. The eye can be likened to a computer, only ten thousand times more sophisticated and intricate than the most sophisticated computer now in existence. Its perfection is unsurpassable. Who can design such a perfect organ? Praise God.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and Light appeared. And God was pleased with it, and divided light from the darkness. (Genesis 1:3-5)

Vision begins with light and our eyes are designed to catch light. Each wak-

ing second, the eyes send about one million pieces of fresh information to the brain. These fragments of light converge in the mind as images of stunning subtlety. The eyes can sense about 10 million different shades of color.

Do you not realize that God sends down from the sky water, whereby we produce fruits of various colors? Even the mountains have different colors; the peaks are white, or red, or some other color. And the ravens are black. (Quran 35:27)

Sight is man's richest sense. While other animals strongly depend on the senses of hearing and smell, mankind puts its trust in sight. We see the blue sky, the orange sun, green grass, the white snow and thousands of different shades of foods and flowers. However, color is anything but. It is the finest illusion. Color arises instead in the mind, a sensation triggered by the complex exchange between light and object, eye and brain. In other words, light is formed of radiant energy which the eye senses and converts

into sight. Depending on its wave length, we see it as a million different colors. For example, raindrops separate rays of light into different wavelengths that make up the colors of a rainbow, the sign of God's covenant with Noah and the earth:

"This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth." (Genesis 9:12-13)

Someone once said, "The eyes are the windows of the world." We know so much about the earth and other planets because we learn by observing them and then reading about them.

...Zarathushtra with his own eye by looking at nature and through his mind by puzzling out its significance, comprehended Mazda [the Zoroastrian name for God]. (The Hymns of Zoroaster)

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Humankind is the only creature who can read, write and think. We read books, newspapers, magazines, and encyclopedias. We write letters, articles, essays and books to express our thoughts in words. Through our vivid vision we learn to develop a vast imagination and thereby create unique pictures in our mind; moreover, we can draw them with various colors.

We enjoy life with our eyes—God's gift to us. When you watch a beautiful sunset—the burning orange ball going down behind the hills, the light reflecting on the surface of the ocean like a vast necklace of shimmering diamonds, the black shadows of birds moving gracefully in front of the fading sun – you feel warm, spiritual, peaceful and indescribably happy.

The eye talks more than words themselves. The children's eyes reflect their pure, innocent hearts. Lovers feel their love by just looking at each other. The eye displays our emotions sensitively: Happiness, sadness, anger, respect and love.

God created the heaven and the earth for a specific purpose. (Quran 14:19)

I did not create the humans except to worship Me alone. (Quran 51:56)

God thus gave us our eyes for a specific purpose. We are unable to see Him in this life, but we are capable of appreciating the beauty of the surroundings He has created only for us. The trees, the stars, the mountains, the animals all glorify Him. He has subdued them for us. These eyes of ours are witnessing God's creations continuously so we can realize His presence and His mercy.

You shall not accept any information, unless you verify it for yourself. I have given you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brain, and you are responsible for using them. (Quran 17:36)

Naoko

THE MESSAGE OF THE QURAN IS UNIVERSAL

[7:35] O children of Adam, when messengers come to you from among you, and recite My revelations to you, those who take heed and lead a righteous life, will have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.

The message of the Quran is universal. According to the Quran, God Almighty rewards any righteous believer irrespective of the name of the religion:

[2:62] Surely, those who believe, those who are Jewish, the Christians, and the converts; anyone who (1) believes in GOD, and (2) believes in the Last Day, and (3) leads a righteous life, will receive their recompense from their Lord. They have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.

God Almighty decreed the same religion for all the people:

[42:13] He decreed for you the same religion decreed for Noah, and what we inspired to you, and what we decreed for Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: "You shall uphold this one religion, and do not divide it." The idol worshippers will greatly resent what you invite them to do. GOD redeems to Himself whomever He wills; He guides to Himself only those who totally submit.

The name of the religion does not matter. The submission to God Alone is the only factor that counts.

[2:111] Some have said, "No one will enter Paradise except Jews or Christians!" Such is their wishful thinking. Say, "Show us your proof, if you are right."

[2:112] Indeed, those who submit themselves absolutely to GOD alone, while leading a righteous life, will receive their recompense from their

Lord; they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.

[2:113] The Jews said, "The Christians have no basis," while the Christians said, "The Jews have no basis." Yet, both of them read the scripture. Such are the utterances of those who possess no knowledge. GOD will judge them on the Day of Resurrection, regarding their disputes.

God loves righteous people irrespective of the name of their religion:

[5:69] Surely, those who believe, those who are Jewish, the converts, and the Christians; any of them who (1) believe in GOD and (2) believe in the Last Day, and (3) lead a righteous life, have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.

[7:26] O children of Adam, we have provided you with garments to cover your bodies, as well as for luxury. But the best garment is the garment of righteousness. These are some of GOD's signs, that they may take heed.

[7:27] O children of Adam, do not let the devil dupe you as he did when he caused the eviction of your parents from Paradise, and the removal of their garments to expose their bodies. He and his tribe see you, while you do not see them. We appoint the devils as companions of those who do not believe.

[7:35] O children of Adam, when messengers come to you from among you, and recite My revelations to you, those who take heed and lead a righteous life, will have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.

[17:70] We have honored the children of Adam, and provided them with rides on land and in the sea. We provided for them good provisions, and we gave them greater advantages than many of our creatures.

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[36:60] Did I not covenant with you, O Children of Adam, that you shall not worship the devil? That he is your most ardent enemy?

[22:40] They were evicted from their homes unjustly, for no reason other than saying, "Our Lord is GOD." If it were not for GOD's supporting of some people against others, monasteries, churches, synagogues, and masjids - where the name of GOD is commemorated frequently - would have been destroyed. Absolutely, GOD supports those who support Him. GOD is Powerful, Almighty.

God decreed a set of rites for each congregation. The righteous must uphold those rites.

[22:67] For each congregation, we have decreed a set of rites that they must uphold. Therefore, they should not dispute with you. You shall continue to invite everyone to your Lord. Most assuredly, you are on the right path.

A righteous Jew upholds the Torah:

[5:44] We have sent down the Torah, containing guidance and light. Ruling in accordance with it were the Jewish prophets, as well as the rabbis and the priests, as dictated to them in GOD's scripture, and as witnessed by them. Therefore, do not reverence human beings; you shall reverence Me instead. And do not trade away My revelations for a cheap price. Those who do not rule in accordance with GOD's revelations are the disbelievers.

[5:45] And we decreed for them in it that: the life for the life, the eye for the eye, the nose for the nose, the ear for the ear, the tooth for the tooth, and an equivalent injury for any injury. If one forfeits what is due to him as a charity, it will atone for his sins. Those who do not rule in accordance with GOD's revelations are the unjust.

A righteous Christian upholds Gospel:

[5:46] Subsequent to them, we sent Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming the previous scripture, the Torah. We gave him the Gospel, containing guidance and light, and confirming the previous scriptures, the Torah, and augmenting its guidance and light, and to enlighten the righteous.

[5:47] The people of the Gospel shall rule in accordance with GOD's revelations therein. Those who do not rule in accordance with GOD's revelations are the wicked.

A righteous Muslim upholds the Quran:

[5:48] Then we revealed to you this scripture, truthfully, confirming previous scriptures, and superseding them. You shall rule among them in accordance with GOD's revelations, and do not follow their wishes if they differ from the truth that came to you. For each of you, we have decreed laws and different rites. Had GOD willed, He could have made you one congregation. But He thus puts you to the test through the revelations He has given each of you. You shall compete in righteousness. To GOD is your final destiny - all of you - then He will inform you of everything you had disputed.

[5:49] You shall rule among them in accordance with GOD's revelations to you. Do not follow their wishes, and beware lest they divert you from some of GOD's revelations to you. If they turn away, then know that GOD wills to punish them for some of their sins. Indeed, many people are wicked.

A righteous Jew or a Christian believes in the message of the Quran:

[3:199] Surely, some followers of the previous scriptures do believe in GOD, and in what was revealed to you, and in what was revealed to them. They reverence GOD, and they never trade away GOD's revelations

for a cheap price. These will receive their recompense from their Lord. GOD is the most efficient in reckoning.

The majority of those who believe including Jews, Christians and Muslims fall into idol worship. The idol worship is the only unforgivable sin if maintained until death:

[12:106] The majority of those who believe in GOD do not do so without committing idol worship.

[4:48] GOD does not forgive idolatry, but He forgives lesser offenses for whomever He wills. Anyone who sets up idols beside GOD, has forged a horrendous offense.

[4:116] GOD does not forgive idol worship (if maintained until death), and He forgives lesser offenses for whomever He wills. Anyone who idolizes any idol beside GOD has strayed far astray.

Thus the Quran teaches us that the righteous people who submit to God alone and do not pollute their worship with idolatry will achieve salvation, regardless of what they call themselves. It is indeed a simple, straightforward and universal message.

M. Irtaza

A Submitter's Journey to Submission

If you'll indulge me I would like to share with you how I came to be a Muslim (Submitter). I was born and raised a Roman Catholic. Once I started getting old enough to think for myself I realized that I had some serious issues with Christian doctrine. The infallibility of the Pope (church) and the Trinity were just two.

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These serious problems along with all the atrocities committed in God's name both then and throughout history, made me not only reject Christianity, but God wholesale. You could say that I threw out the baby with the bathwater.

I remained a staunch atheist for many years, not simply denying God, but also mocking those that chose to believe. I said many times that they were creating fairy tales to help them cope with a confusing and disturbing world (many such disturbances caused in God's name in the first place!) and to help make death a little less scary. I did read the Bible frequently though and loved to discuss theology. Most of these years were pretty average years but then I went into a bit of a self destructive decline. I put myself at extreme risk, placed my loyalty and trust in people that were really not very good people. I say without exaggeration that many times over I should have been dead or worse (yes there are worse things....).

It is really rather frightening thinking back. Because I had a sincere desire to help less than righteous people I was bled dry financially. I had to make use of the Food Bank in order to eat and pay my bills....but still lost the phone. Yet through all of this it seemed "someone" was watching over me, protecting me from serious physical harm and abject poverty. The most amazing thing of all though was that at the times of greatest financial need cheques would "magically" appear in my mail....without my having asked for them! Most from my mother, one from the insurance for my car (odd since I had already received their

cheque....this was a bonus!), and one from a woman that I didn't even know but that my mother had been talking to. It became obvious to me that possibly God was responsible for this protection and care. I wasn't even close to welcoming Him back, but in the interest of honesty I had to label myself agnostic.

An agnostic I remained for many more years....until about 5 months ago. The chain of events leading me back to God is so ridiculous.... It makes me suspect that He has a sense of humor. It started with Corner Gas. I kid you not. A Canadian sitcom about nothing really, set in the middle of nowhere. It is about the only show that I watched at the time and one of the episodes was about a book club. The main book they were reading was Life of Pi, an adventure story about a little boy trapped on a lifeboat with a tiger. Of course I wanted to read it and halfway through I found God again. I am still a bit shocked since I was expecting a bit of escapist fiction, an adventure story. At no time did I even suspect to find God, and of the millions of Canadian books to choose from the show chose that one in particular? I began to talk to Him again, although I tended to simply talk to Him, not formally pray. One line in Life of Pi in particular grabbed my attention.

"I challenge anyone to understand Islam, its spirit, and not to love it. It is a beautiful religion of brotherhood and devotion."

I remember rolling my eyes and saying to myself "yeah brotherhood is right. It's a man's only club where women are only there to produce sons to propagate the faith. If you had been a girl this guy wouldn't have even spoke to you." Nevertheless I decided to take the protagonist up on his challenge. I purchased my Qur'an as a direct

result of reading Life of Pi. Halfway through the Qur'an I knew that I had found Truth. There were parts where I literally wept. I didn't make a formal statement to God that I was going to embrace Islam until I finished the Qur'an in full. I also wanted to verify a few odd verses here and there. I had already rejected one faith (and God) because I had serious issues with the fundamentals. I was not about to make the same mistake again. By the grace of God, He placed a friend in my path that told me about the Mathematical Miracle (He also lent me Life of Pi, apparently I didn't buy it quickly enough!). The Mathematical Miracle, as well as the rest of the content on your site and submission.org cleared up any remaining doubts I had that Islam was the straight path and that the Qur'an alone was truth. The lost sheep it seemed had found its way back. All because of a Canadian sitcom and a Canadian adventure story!

The one thing that boggles my mind the most is that God protected me through years of disbelief and disrespect to His followers. Not only that, He led me back to Him and to the only true path. He could have left me to suffer severe harm, go farther astray and finally consign me to the Fire. He does not guide the wrongdoers.... but He does lead astray who He wishes and guides who He wishes. Obviously He saw something worth redeeming....and in the long run knowing He was there with me then, when I was committing the grossest sin of all, only strengthens my faith now. How can I possibly dispute a proof such as that?

Thank you for reading my ramblings and please continue your good works.

Jennifer/Canada