

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

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Community of Submitters

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## CONTENTMENT

*“He is poor who does not feel content.” — Japanese proverb*

**Proverbs 15:13** *A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.*

An old saying goes: “The happiest people don’t necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.” A happy person submits to God, knowing whatever they are given by God is the best for them (11:86). By appreciating what they have instead of worrying about what someone else has, they find happiness in God’s blessings upon them.

God tells us, the more we thank Him, the more He gives us (14:7). This is true in both this world and the next. The more we appreciate God’s blessings, the more our souls grow. The more our souls grow, the happier we become.

On the other hand, people who do not believe in God and the Last Day become preoccupied with this world. Their glass is always half empty, and they do not see or appreciate what they have. Being unappreciative leads to worldly loss.

[16:112] *GOD cites the example of a community that used to be secure and prosperous, with provisions coming to it from everywhere. But then, it turned*

*unappreciative of GOD’s blessings. Consequently, GOD caused them to taste the hardships of starvation and insecurity. Such is the requital for what they did.*

And from the spiritual dimension, those whose souls are not content spend their lives worrying about worldly gain. They end up forgetting God and their soul. If this life is our priority, we receive our share here (Quran 2:200, 42:20), but lose the Hereafter. The unhappy stories of some of the richest people in the world tell us that this life does not bring happiness. If a man’s heart is not content, the riches of this world will not help him. Instead of appreciating what God gave him, he will want more and more (Quran 74:12-15). There will always be a void in his life, something missing.

Both the Quran and the Bible remind us to put God as our priority.

[1 Timothy 6:17] *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to*

*put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

Rearranging Our Priorities  
[18:46] *Money and children are the joys of this life, but the righteous works provide an eternal recompense from your Lord, and a far better hope.*

What do our efforts in this world yield? We work very hard going to school, doing homework, taking tests—to get degrees, all so that we can find a job that lasts for how long? 50 years? 100 years? Quran 18:46 says righteous works provide an *eternal* recompense. Since this life goes on for 50-100 years and the Hereafter goes on eternally, for infinity, then we should be putting in that ratio of effort for each. Mathematically any number 50, 100 or even 1000 divided by infinity is zero. Logically, we should be spending zero time for this life, and all our time seeking God and the Hereafter. This is why being appreciative is truly for our own good.

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[31:12] *We have endowed Luqmaan with wisdom: "You shall be appreciative of GOD." Whoever is appreciative is appreciative for his own good. As for those who turn unappreciative, GOD is in no need, Praiseworthy.*

Putting God as our priority does not mean we must turn into hermits and give away all our possessions. Instead, God's perfect system allows for us to seek the abode of the Hereafter without giving up our share in this world (28:77). Engaging in commerce and being charitable can go hand-in-hand (2:275-276).

[28:77] *"Use the provisions bestowed upon you by GOD to seek the abode of the Hereafter, without neglecting your share in this world. Be charitable, as GOD has been charitable towards you. Do not keep on corrupting the earth. GOD does not love the corruptors."*

A believer dedicates his or her life to God (2:207), and uses God's provisions to seek the ways and means to Him and strive in His cause (5:35). To God belongs all things in this world and the next. So, if the Lord is your priority, and you are thinking of God through your daily words and actions, everything else falls in place. Your job will go well, your family will love and cherish you, and your friends will respect you. The Bible's Luke 12:29-31 states:

*And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.*

The same lesson is in the Quran, 53:24-25. By devoting our lives to God Alone,

we are guaranteed never to fear or grieve (2:112), and our lives will see God's guarantee of happiness (16:97).

[53:24-25] *What is it that the human being desires? To GOD belongs both the Hereafter, and this world.*

[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."*

Happiness is God's promise to His servants, both in this life and the next (10:62-64). The worshippers of God will have all their needs taken care of, food, shelter, peace of mind and security (24:55). All we must do is worship God Alone and never set up any idols. God promises Paradise for the content souls.

[10:62] *Absolutely, GOD's allies have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.*

[10:63] *They are those who believe and lead a righteous life. [10:64] For them, joy and happiness in this world, as well as in the Hereafter. This is GOD's unchangeable law. Such is the greatest triumph.*

*\*10:62-64 Most people think that they have to wait until the Day of Resurrection before they receive their rewards for righteousness, or the retribution for wickedness. But the Quran repeatedly assures the believers that they are guaranteed perfect happiness here in this world, now and forever. At the end of their interim here, they go directly to Paradise (see Appendix 17).*

[89:27-30] *As for you, O content soul. Return to your Lord, pleased and pleasing. Welcome into My servants. Welcome into My Paradise.*

## BEARING WITNESS

### A Quranic Perspective

Millions of Muslims all over the world recognize Five Pillars of Islam (Submission). However, all the Pillars, as practiced by the Muslims of today, are in direct violation of the Quran. Let us examine the First Pillar. Verse 3:18 states:

*"God bears witness that there is no god except He, and so do the angels and those who possess knowledge. He is the absolute God. There is no god except He, the Almighty, Most Wise."*

The words of "shahaada" or the First Pillar of Islam are thus decreed by God in the above verse. "There is no god except God" is repeated in the Quran numerous times. However, Muslims all over the world have a "shahaada" of their own—"I bear witness there is no god except God and I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of God." This so called "shahaada" is not found anywhere in the Quran.

Bearing witness about the messenger of God is mentioned in the Quran only once. It is in Sura 63, entitled, "The Hypocrites" (Al Munaafiqoon). Verse 63:1 states:

*"When the hypocrites come to you they say, 'We bear witness that you are a messenger of God.' God knows that you are his messenger and God bears witness that the hypocrites are liars."*

We understand from this verse that no matter what people utter, it is what is in their hearts that counts.

Abdullah

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## Believing or witnessing?

The meaning of the word “believe” in the dictionary is: To credit upon the ground of authority, testimony, argument or any other circumstances than personal knowledge - to be more or less firmly persuaded of the truth of anything. The Quran consistently talks about believers as those who believe in God and His Messengers.

The hypocrites, on the other hand, expose their hypocrisy by their articulation of the false “shahaada”. The verse 7:172 states:

*Recall that your Lord summoned all the descendants of Adam, and had them bear witness for themselves: “Am I not your Lord?” They all said, “Yes, we bear witness.” Thus you cannot say on the Day of Resurrection, ‘We were not aware of this.’”*

All of us bore witness that God alone is our Lord. The statement, “There is no god but God and Muhammad is a messenger of God” is also wrong for the following reasons. First, the statement violates the commandment of not making a distinction amongst God’s messengers which is repeated in the Quran numerous times. Verse 2:285 states:

*“The messenger has believed in what was sent down to him from his Lord, and so did the believers. They believe in God, His angels, His scripture, and His messengers: ‘We make no distinction among any of His messengers.’ They say, ‘We hear, and we obey. Forgive us, our Lord. To You is the ultimate destiny.’”*

In addition, verse 3:144 also states:

*“Muhammad was no more than a messenger like the messengers before him.”* Lastly, Muhammad was

a messenger of God, just like Jesus, Moses and other messengers and prophets in the past. Muhammad at the present time is not a messenger of God. Therefore, grammatically, the “shahaada” of idol worshipers is also wrong.

The first commandment in all of God’s scriptures is the same, “There is no god but God.” A true Muslim (submitter) will not associate anyone next to God, unlike the example of false Christians and false Muslims (Muhammedans) who CANNOT believe in God without associating Jesus or Muhammad or some other idols next to God in some form or fashion.

*Is God not sufficient for His servant? They frighten you with the idols they set up beside Him. Whomever God sends astray, nothing can guide him. (39:36)*

*When God ALONE is mentioned, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter shrink with aversion. But when others are mentioned besides Him, they become satisfied. (39:45).*

Azhar K

(reprinted from Sep 1992 SP)

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## Women’s Rights, The Quran And Islam

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## A READER’S COMMENTS

Salaam aleikum,

This is my understanding that God is the controller everything and doer of everything, something that I have come to believe is the gateway to reaching a solid belief in God alone.

However we may express it, God is truly the doer of everything, controller of everything, everything belongs to God. If we don’t believe or have the slightest doubt that God is NOT the doer of everything then we automatically believe someone or something is doing something, In effect this is Idol-worship. We learn from the Quran, that there is no power except with God, that nothing happen to us except what God has decreed for us, Not a moment of unawareness or slumber overtakes God and ruling us never burdens Him. If we look at the Quran (2:255), famously known as the Ayat al Kursi (verse of the Throne) this concept is well explained.

*[2:255] GOD: there is no other god besides Him, the Living, the Eternal. Never a moment of unawareness or slumber overtakes Him. To Him belongs everything in the heavens and everything on earth. Who could intercede with Him, except in accordance with His will? He knows their past, and their future. No one attains any knowledge, except as He wills. His dominion encompasses the heavens and the earth, and ruling them never burdens Him. He is the Most High, the Great.*

All the attributes of God flow from the understanding that God is the doer of everything.

For example, God is the sole creator of all things and everything else is the creation, by understanding the relationship from the point of view of Creator and the creation then logically, we will know that no one can really do anything except the Creator Himself.

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The following is what we learn from the Qur'an. The concept is Absolute, God is Absolute.

*...GOD decrees whatever He wills. [5:1]  
... the One who created you and those before you ... [2:21].*

*He is the One who created for you everything on earth, then turned to the sky and perfected seven universes therein, and He is fully aware of all things. [2:29]  
GOD showers His blessings upon whom-ever He chooses. GOD possesses infinite grace. [2:105; 3:174; 8:29].*

*To GOD belongs the east and the west; wherever you go there will be the presence of GOD. GOD is Omnipresent, Omniscient. [2:115].*

*... all power belongs to GOD alone. There is no other god besides Him; the Almighty, Most Wise. [3:6].*

Kind regards.

\* \* \* \*

### **Knowing God**

*[10:61] You do not get into any situation, nor do you recite any Quran, nor do you do anything, without us being witnesses thereof as you do it. Not even an atom's weight is out of your Lord's control, be it in the heavens or the earth. Nor is there anything smaller than an atom, or larger, that is not recorded in a profound record.*

## **A READER'S QUESTION**

**Question:** I would like to know whether it is permissible to celebrate birthdays in Islam. What about birthdays of prophets?

**Answer:** Peace be upon you. You are free to celebrate birthdays of yourself, friends, family members, etc. There is no restriction in Quran on celebrating birthdays, just like there is no restriction on celebrating anniversaries, achievements or any occasion you wish to. God allows us enjoy life however we wish as long as righteousness is maintained. Of course, whatever we enjoy, we must not become preoccupied with it. We must always remember to be appreciative of God and thank Him for all His bounties and blessings, obvious and hidden (7:32, 31:20).

However, what does not make sense is that people celebrate birthdays of prophets and other people who are dead. That has no significance or religious benefit at all. Additionally, by celebrating the birthday of a particular messenger, violates the command not to make distinction among God's messengers (2:285). Unfortunately, people make the celebration of a messenger's birthday into a religious rule which is completely wrong. God does not like innovations in His name. People also make the death anniversary of a messenger into a religious event which has no basis in Islam.

Best wishes and enjoy your next birthday celebration.

<http://masjiduntucson.org/submission/questions/>

## **Be included in our email list for weekly reminders**

We have been sending weekly reminders to submitters in our email list and it is a great success, praise God. The weekly reminder email is not very long. It usually consists of the topic of the week, and the corresponding link or links to get the information from. The reminder is sent every Thursday, God willing.

*[51:55] And remind, for the reminder benefits the believers.*

We would like every submitter, whether receiving our newsletters or not, to be included in the list. God willing you can join the list by sending an email to [info@masjiduntucson.org](mailto:info@masjiduntucson.org) and saying that you want to be in the weekly reminder list. If you want to make it a really short email, just write "weekly reminder" in the subject line and send it.

If you also include in the email the city and state that you live in, God willing we can compile this information and use it for the submitters without a community who are asking to communicate with other submitters in their area.

Please help us to help you and other submitters by joining the list and by being proactive, God willing.

*[3:200] O you who believe, you shall be steadfast, you shall persevere, you shall be united, you shall observe GOD, that you may succeed.*

*[87:9] Therefore, you shall remind; perhaps the reminder will benefit.*