

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International
Community of Submitters

www.masjiduntucson.org



Published by Masjid Tucson
Ramadan 1434

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True Islam (Submission)

Most people know but do not comprehend what the word “Islam” really means. It is high time that it should be re-discovered. This is because what is going around under the “brand” of Islam is not just a fake but a totally shameful, disfigured and mutilated copy of the immaculate original. God’s true religion is under an enormous assault from various quarters almost entirely and most regrettably from people who claim to be “Muslims”. We can, God willing, argue our case rationally, persuasively and convincingly and rebut the charges.

Submission (true Islam, as seen in the Quran) is not named after a person as in the case of Zoroastrianism after Zoroaster, Buddhism after Gautama Buddha, Confucianism after Confucius and Christianity after Jesus Christ. Nor was it named after a tribe, as Judaism after the tribe of Judah or a geographical area, as Hinduism after the inhabitants of the land of the River Indus.

Submission is not a religion brought by Prophet Muhammad in 7th Century Arabia. It is the true religion of God re-expressed in its final form.

[5:3] ... *Today, I have completed your religion, perfected My blessing upon*

you, and I have decreed Submission as the religion for you. It is the religion given to Adam, the first man, first submitter and first messenger, and it was the religion of all the prophets and messengers sent by God to humankind.

[3:85] *Anyone who accepts other than Submission as his religion, it will not be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter, he will be with the losers.*

The essence of worship is a complete submission to the will of God, and thus the core understanding of Submission (Islam) is that we must worship God alone and directly, and reject the worship of any person, place, animal, event or thing. Since everything in the universes is God’s own creation we can say that Islam in its spirit calls us away from the worship of creation and invites to worship only the Creator. A Creator will always be greater than a creation. When we are aware that God is One and is distinct from His creation we can become a true Submitter (Muslim) both in body and soul. However, merely recognizing will not do, we have to submit and choose between right and wrong and such a choice involves accountability. Only then can we start the process of

eligibility to Paradise.

The opening verses of the Quran should inspire our thinking.

[1:2] *Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.* The third attribute (after Most Gracious, Most Merciful) which God introduces Himself as is “Rabb.” It is so comprehensive—Cherisher, Sustainer, Maintainer and includes the role of creation, security and the complete procedure of evolution from conception to birth and from the cradle to the grave.

This awareness should principally instill a feeling of reassurance in us that it is God alone who feeds us, cares for us, protects us from dangers, and heals us from illness. [26:78-80] *“The One who created me, and guided me. The One who feeds me and waters me. And when I get sick, He heals me.”* It should promote love and kindness for all His creatures and negate the concept of aggression.

Throughout our lives from childhood till we die, God shows us signs till it becomes clear that there is only one True God. If we are honest with ourselves, reject all false gods and seek to please God alone, the route will be made easy for us. However, if we con-

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tinuously reject God's signs and idolize and/or worship our egos or anything else, it will be more difficult to return.

Take for example a person who prays to the "Sun" and his prayers are answered. It is not the Sun that answered his prayers but God who allowed the prayer to be answered. God created the circumstances for it to take place and it is in accordance with the Godly plan. One would think this is quite obvious but it may not be to the dedicated Sun worshipper. Similarly, we know prayers are not answered by Muhammad, Ali, Jesus or the saints, but by God.

Jesus never asked his followers to worship him. Instead the Quran says: [5:116] *GOD will say, "O Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to the people, 'Make me and my mother idols beside GOD?' "He will say, "Be You glorified. I could not utter what was not right. Had I said it, You already would have known it. You know my thoughts, and I do not know Your thoughts. You know all the secrets. When he performed acts of worship was he worshipping himself? No, he worshipped God alone. This is the basic standard preserved in the Quran. [1:5] You alone we worship; You alone we ask for help.*

If you ask idol worshippers why they bow down before a created idol, they consistently reply that they are not worshipping the stone but the god that is represented within it. They need the stone for a focal point just like new age meditations which say you have to concentrate on a dot. If this explanation is accepted, then the logic of idolatry is justified. However, we should know better. God Himself tells us that no visions can encompass Him. Be He glorified, He is much too High. We have been blessed with brains that can reason about concepts (including God's existence) without seeing them. We can see proofs and signs about God's existence and greatness all around us (41:53, 74:30-35) without seeing God Himself. We can and must worship God Alone without idols.

God says in the Quran: [12:40] *"You do not worship beside Him except innovations that you have made up, you and your parents. GOD has never authorized such idols. All ruling belongs to GOD, and He has ruled that you shall not worship except Him. This is the perfect religion, but most people do not know.*

The worship of anything other than God is the root of idol worship and this is the only unforgivable sin if maintained until death. God forbid, if we die in a state of idolatry (and over 40) we have sealed our fate in the Hereafter. [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.*

Since the outcome of any false religion is grave, the true religion of God must be collectively understandable and attainable and not restricted to any people, place and time. There cannot be conditions like baptism, acceptance of any person as a Savior, etc. for a believer to enter Paradise. Within the fundamental code of Submission (Islam) and its description (complete surrender to the Will of God) lies the source of Islam's universality.

Unity of All Submitters

[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.*

Submission: The Only Religion

[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.*

GOD IS OUR ADVOCATE

[29:24] *The only response from his people was their saying, "Kill him, or burn him." But GOD saved him from the fire. This should provide lessons for people who believe.*

God Almighty tells us of the persecution incurred by one of His righteous servants (Abraham), from his own people; they condemned him to a burning fire. This brings to mind another instance where the people were considered deserving of hell.

[2:30] *Recall that your Lord said to the angels, "I am placing a representative (a temporary god) on Earth." They said, "Will You place therein one who will spread evil therein and shed blood, while we sing Your praises, glorify You, and uphold Your absolute authority?" He said, "I know what you do not know."*

In other words, these people all deserve Hell. Throw them into the fire!

It's striking that whether it's in heaven or on earth, the ONLY ONE who consistently has good for us is God. In fact, the ONLY ONE who is constantly rooting for us is GOD; giving us chance after chance, in this world, notwithstanding what the angels said. God willed we have a another chance, and it didn't matter if the suggestion came from an angel or any other entity, He still is giving us another chance. From the two earlier judgments of, "send them to fire," we learn that:

1. People are mean, God is Most Merciful, and entities from both the heavens and the earth may have condemned us to hell. ALL EXCEPT for the Almighty.

[29:25-7] *He said, "You worship beside GOD powerless idols due to peer pressure, just to preserve some friendship among you in this worldly life. But then, on the Day of Resurrection, you will disown one another, and curse one another. Your destiny is Hell, wherein you cannot help one another." Lot begrieved.*

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Alim

lieved with him and said, "I am emigrating to my Lord. He is the Almighty, the Most Wise." We granted him Isaac and Jacob, we assigned to his descendants prophethood and the scriptures, we endowed him with his due recompense in this life, and in the Hereafter he will surely be with the righteous.

[2:56-7] We then revived you, after you had died, that you may be appreciative. We shaded you with clouds (in Sinai), and sent down to you manna and quails: "Eat from the good things we provided for you." They did not hurt us (by rebelling); they only hurt their own souls.

[4:79] Anything good that happens to you is from GOD, and anything bad that happens to you is from you. We have sent you as a messenger to the people, and GOD suffices as witness.

2. The disbelievers who did not agree with Abraham wished him a metaphorical 'hell-fire', and painful death. That by God's infinite Grace is as bad as it gets. However, we are told numerous times that the righteous do not really die; only tasting the first death!

[2:25] Give good news to those who believe and lead a righteous life that they will have gardens with flowing streams. When provided with a provision of fruits therein, they will say, "This is what was provided for us previously." Thus, they are given allegorical descriptions. They will have pure spouses therein, and they abide therein forever.

[3:169] Do not think that those who are killed in the cause of God are dead; they are alive at their Lord, being provided for.

The wages of sin is death. [Romans 6:23]

[2:154] Do not say of those who are killed in the cause of GOD, "They are dead." They are alive at their Lord, but you do not perceive.

Footnote **2:154 The righteous do not really die; they simply leave their bodies here and go to the same Paradise where Adam and Eve once lived. See Appendix17 for the proof and the details.

"But if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live? None of the righteous things he has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness he is guilty of and because of the sins he has committed, he will die. [Ezekiel 18:24, New International Version (1984)]

3. God INTERVENES on behalf of the believers to save them.

[37:104-6] We called him: "O Abraham. "You have believed the dream." We thus reward the righteous. That was an exacting test indeed.

[22:38] GOD defends those who believe. GOD does not love any betrayer, unappreciative.

God is always defending us, whether to the angels or in front of man. Is this not grounds to worship God ALONE? Isn't this why He is the Lord and no one else? Isn't this enough to make Him our Lord? Be He glorified far beyond these utterances.

If it were up to the kind creatures, even angels, we'd be in hell as listed previously, and if it were up to the criminal element, we'd burn in fire, even though earth is already a mild form of hell. So who's stopping all this from happening? And what has kept us going all this time? Thankfully, it's the Almighty God whose will supercedes everything. He is the ONLY ONE who holds ANY good for us.

Glory be to God.

Abeer

* * * * *

[4:81] ... You shall disregard them, and put your trust in GOD. GOD suffices as an advocate.

[33:3] And put your trust in GOD. GOD suffices as an advocate.

[33:48] Do not obey the disbelievers and the hypocrites, disregard their insults, and put your trust in GOD; GOD suffices as an advocate.

[73:9] Lord of the east and the west; there is no other god besides Him. You should choose Him as your advocate.

By the Forenoon

By the forenoon. By the night as it falls.
Your Lord never abandoned you,
nor did He forget.

Sura 93 of the Quran begins with these verses. The forenoon is an interesting word. It's not used that much in modern language, at least not in America. We refer to the morning and that covers everything from sunrise until noontime. But rarely does someone talk about the "forenoon." So that made me wonder about God's use of that term. Then He follows it with referring to the night as it falls. And follows that with reminding us that He has never abandoned us.

We know that God has not abandoned us, though we continuously give Him reason to. And we know that God knows everything and forgets nothing. [20:52] He said, "The knowledge thereof is with my Lord in a record. My Lord never errs, nor does He forget."

Forgetting actually happens on our end quite often. And the consequences for forgetting God can be totally devastating.

[19:67] Did the human being forget that we created him already, and he was nothing?

[59:19] Do not be like those who forgot GOD, so He made them forget themselves. These are the wicked.

[58:6] The day will come when GOD will resurrect them all, then inform them of everything they had done. GOD has recorded everything, while they have forgotten it. GOD witnesses all things.

[45:34] It will be proclaimed: "Today we forget you, just as you forgot the meeting of this day. Your abode is the hellfire, and you will have no helpers.

God, in His incredible mercy, has given us ways to remember Him. We are not forced to rely solely on our limited memory of taking an oath before God to worship Him alone (7:172) or even the natural instinct which God placed in each one of us before we came to earth (30:30). God sends continuous reminders. He has sent messengers, given us scripture, and decreed prac-

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Non-profit Org
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ISSN 1089-053X

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tices that we should follow that help us to keep remembering God. Things like charity, meditation, fasting, patience, steadfastness, and appreciation for all of God's signs all around us.

And perhaps most important of all is our five daily Contact Prayers. It's not only the actual doing of the prayer that helps us remember God; it's all that leads up to it. We look at the time and wonder whether it's time to pray. We plan our schedule around prayer times and places. As we wash for prayer, we remember God. Contact Prayers pull us away from the distractions of this world and put our focus back on God, our Creator. And God tells us that that is the most important aspect of the Contact Prayer.

[29:45] You shall recite what is revealed to you of the scripture, and observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), for the Contact Prayers prohibit evil and vice. But the remembrance of GOD (through Salat) is the most important objective. GOD knows everything you do.

So what does this have to do with Sura 93? Well, it came up in some discussions that the forenoon (the morning) and the night are two times without a Contact Prayer. After we pray the dawn prayer, we have many hours before noon prayer is due. It might not come in until 1:30pm, after praying dawn at perhaps 4:30am, in the summer. In the winter, we might pray night as early as 6:00pm and not have to pray dawn until 7:00am. Those are long stretches of

time without any specific ritual calling on us to remember God. So He's telling us in those verses that even if we don't choose to remember Him, He has not abandoned nor forgotten us.

We should, of course, use those times for other ways to commemorate God—meditation, zikr, reading Quran, singing His praises, anything we can think of to keep God foremost in our lives. But even if we find ourselves totally oblivious, He is still always with us. We do not need to fear.

Sura 93: The Forenoon (Al-Duhaa)

*In the name of God,
Most Gracious, Most Merciful.*

1. *By the forenoon.*
2. *By the night as it falls.*
3. *Your Lord never abandoned you, nor did He forget.*
4. *The Hereafter is far better for you than this first (life).*
5. *And your Lord will give you enough; you will be pleased.*
6. *Did He not find you orphaned and He gave you a home?*
7. *He found you astray, and guided you.*
8. *He found you poor, and made you rich.*
9. *Therefore, you shall not forsake the orphan.*
10. *Nor shall you reprimand the beggar.*
11. *You shall proclaim the blessing your Lord has bestowed upon you.*

Lydia

Ramadan 2013

God willing *Night of Destiny* begins at sunset of 3rd August for most places.
More information including last day of fasting:
<http://masjiduntucson.org/Ramadan/>

God Willing

28th Annual Conference United Submitters

August 16-18, 2013

Tucson, Arizona



The annual conference of United Submitters International will be in Tucson AZ, on August 16-18, God willing. It is an opportunity to remember God, increase our knowledge and meet our brethren in faith (3:191-194, 18:28, 58:11, 49:10).

Details are in the June 2013 Submitters Perspective and online at:
<http://www.masjiduntucson.org/conference/>

As usual, attendance will be by invitation only. To help us organize a successful conference—and God has always been generous and gracious towards us—please let us know of your plans as soon as you know. For questions or information please email: info@masjiduntucson.org