

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 / Shawwal 1436

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## Increase My Knowledge

[Quran 20:114]... “My Lord, increase my knowledge.”

[38:87] “This is a reminder for the world.

[81:27] This is a message to all the people.

The above verses teach us that the Final Testament, Quran, was divinely authored to benefit mankind until the end of the world. This implies its suitability for all eras, civilizations and mentalities. From the early primitive generations to the present digital age, Quran has been serving as a truthful documentary for the story of our existence and the purpose of this life. Aside from being a consistently accurate source of teachings and history, we continue to discover new wisdom and valid lessons, and we decode many scientific facts that have been embedded in its Arabic text for more than fourteen centuries. One could reach for new perspectives and different applications of its verses daily. We grow in intellect, knowledge, and spirituality, and move up from one stage to another (84:16-19) around this dynamic Quran.

This reminder, however, is not about how Quran is a dynamic, miraculous treasure box that never runs out. It is to affirm the necessity of benefiting from that divine characteristic. It is to shed light on some verses in Quran where God invites us to

use it, study it, and reflect on its divine meanings so we can learn something NEW and HEALTHY for our souls every day:

Taking our faith for granted and failing to re-evaluate our direction or increase our knowledge regresses our souls, sending them back to a wild ego zone. Satan steps in right away to deceive us into thinking we no longer are in need of any guidance. He manages to render that as a comfort zone and terrify us if we try to get out of it.

When egos are in control, we start to underestimate or ignore the miraculous, precise and dynamic word of God. We try to limit Quran to our own rigid dogmas instead of growing with it. As a result, we are barred from the light and the mercy of Quran. God has identified people who try to force the truth to conform to their own rigid beliefs as “criminals” (6:124). God also assures us the truth always prevails.

[18:103-105] Say, “Shall I tell you who the worst losers are? They are the ones whose works in this life are totally astray, but they think that they are doing good.” Such are the ones who disbelieved in the revelations of their Lord and in meeting Him. Therefore, their works are in vain; on the Day of Resurrection, they have no weight.

[Quran 63:3-4] This is because they believed, then disbelieved. Hence, their minds are blocked; they do not understand. When you see them, you may be impressed by

their looks. And when they speak, you may listen to their eloquence. They are like standing logs. They think that every call is intended against them. These are the real enemies; beware of them. God condemns them; they have deviated.

[10:82] God establishes the truth with His words, despite the criminals.

God repeatedly stated in chapter 54 that He made Quran easy to learn, and that it is up to us to make the choice to learn Quran. In chapter 55, He states that He is the teacher of Quran and He assures us that we are fully equipped to think, distinguish and analyze information. He urges us to use the blessings of our brains, eyesight and hearing. All of these verses serve as straightforward invitations from God to study and persevere in upgrading and increasing our knowledge to benefit from this dynamic characteristic:

[54:15] We have set it up as a lesson. Does any of you wish to learn?

[54:17, 22, 32, 40] We made the Quran easy to learn. Does any of you wish to learn?

[47:24] Why do they not study the Quran carefully? Do they have locks on their minds?

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[55:1-4] *The Most Gracious. Teacher of the Quran. Creator of the human beings. He taught them how to distinguish.*

[16:78] *God brought you out of your mothers' bellies knowing nothing, and He gave you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains, that you may be appreciative.*

When we sincerely take the initiative and open up our hearts to study Quran, God will then teach it to us, increase our knowledge and augment our belief. On the other hand, He seals our minds and blocks our vision if we choose to be misguided:

[39:22] *If God renders one's heart content with Submission, he will be following a light from his Lord. Therefore, woe to those whose hearts are hardened against GOD's message; they have gone far astray.*

[19:75] *Say, "Those who choose to go astray, the Most Gracious will lead them on, until they see what is promised for them—either the retribution or the Hour. That is when they find out who really is worse off, and weaker in power."*

[19:76] *God augments the guidance of those who choose to be guided. For the good deeds are eternally rewarded by your Lord, and bring far better returns.*

[16:108] *Those are the ones whom God has sealed their hearts, and their hearing, and their eyesight. Consequently, they remain unaware.*

Learning is a journey that never ends. God clearly emphasizes this for us by inviting us to read Quran every Dawn and meditate with it at Night. We take it to the outside world and apply it to whatever we go through in life. A single verse could be the tool to deal with various matters or situations that we encounter at different times because of this amazing dynamic characteristic, but we cannot get inspired differently by this one verse unless we keep on reading and studying Quran daily.

[17:78-9] *You shall observe the Contact Prayer (Salat) when the sun declines from its highest point at noon, as it moves towards sunset. You shall also observe (the recitation of) the Quran at dawn. (Reciting) the Quran at dawn is witnessed. During the night, you shall medi-*

*tate for extra credit, that your Lord may raise you to an honorable rank.*

[73:1-8] *0 you cloaked one. Meditate during the night, except rarely. Half of it, or a little less. Or a little more. And read the Quran from cover to cover. We will give you a heavy message. The meditation at night is more effective, and more righteous. You have a lot of time during the day for other matters. You shall commemorate the name of your Lord, to come ever closer and closer to Him.*

The following verse delivers a strong lesson for all of us that we must persevere in finding our answers WITHIN the light of Quran. This will never be achieved if we do not continue the process of learning and benefiting from its dynamic character.

[5:101] *O you who believe, do not ask about matters which, if revealed to you prematurely, would hurt you. If you ask about them in light of the Quran, they will become obvious to you. GOD has deliberately overlooked them. GOD is Forgiver, Clement.*

God invites us to work our hardest in examining all words and following the best. This invitation implies that we keep an open eye and heart to new information and sincerely verify it in the light of Quran. It also implies that we can expect to struggle and research His words in order to find the ones that best suit our need in a given time. We must go through this procedure constantly with every situation that arises in life. This is when we become inspired with new perspectives of verses which we had not grasped before. God almighty knows that the dynamic character of Quran is what motivates us to continuously search and examine all His words, and He renders them as a convenient source for answers we are in need of:

[39:18] *They are the ones who examine all words, then follow the best. These are the ones whom GOD has guided; these are the ones who possess intelligence.*

God commands us to use our brains, the eyesight and the hearing to verify information. This, by itself, is an invitation to grow in knowledge based on facts and proofs.

[17:36] *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.*

In conclusion, this is a reminder to implore God day and night so we don't let the miraculous and precise words of God STAGNATE in us. A reminder to continue to VALUE them and to avoid becoming trapped in the darkness of our wild egos. A reminder that we will LEARN from Quran something NEW and REACH FOR a better or different application of God's teachings everyday. A reminder that we REMAIN among those who always CHOOSE God's guidance, VERIFY all information in the light of Quran and DISMISS conjecture and innovations. A reminder that we will always STAND for our free will and DESTROY all shackles imposed by the wicked jinns and humans to stop us from increasing our knowledge, advancing our souls and evolving around the dynamic words of God.

[20:114] *Most Exalted is God, the only true King. Do not rush into uttering the Quran before it is revealed to you, and say, "My Lord, increase my knowledge."*

Frank

\* \* \* \* \*

## Quran: Healing for the Brain

HelpGuide.org from Harvard Medical School lists memorization and mental game playing as part of possible prevention and even reduction of the dementia of Alzheimer's disease. As Submitters what better way is there to use this information than to memorize verses or parts of verses (from Quran)?

I'm often blessed to carpool with other Submitters to ride to and from the Quranic study in our area. On the way home we take turns reciting from the Quran. For us, as English speakers, we do it in English. There are some sections of verses that we have all learned (or are trying to learn) and often one person will start one of those sections and the next person will continue it, going around the car until we finish the section. Sometimes one of us needs a little help, and what fun it is to hear the little whispered hints as others try to help without being too obvious. It is not a competition against each other,

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but a “team sport” (23:61).

I sometimes found myself struggling to bring any verse to mind, so I started trying to memorize two or three verses that start with each letter of the alphabet. That way when my mind freezes up I can pick a letter of the alphabet and, God willing, it jogs my poor memory.

Another game we sometimes play is to recite the titles of the Suras. I’m terrible at this game too, but others have developed wonderful clues to give, and we often find ourselves dissolving into laughter and praising God for the joy of being together and remembering Him in such an enjoyable way.

Even when I am away from my Submitting family, traveling or when living in an area without others who follow Quran alone, playing these games by myself helps me keep connection with my true family, and even more importantly with Quran and God, Lord of the universe!

LG

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## Evolution

According to Darwin’s Theory of Evolution all life is related and has descended from a common ancestor: birds, fruits, fish and flowers are all related and have evolved from a single cell. Today, we know this could never be. The tremendous advances made in molecular biology, biochemistry and genetics over the past fifty+ years have proved that there are thousands of complex systems on a cellular level. According to Molecular biologist Michael Denton, “Although the tiniest bacterial cells are incredibly small, weighing less than  $10^{-12}$  grams, each is in effect a veritable micro-miniaturized factory containing thousands of exquisitely designed pieces of intricate molecular machinery, made up altogether of one hundred thousand million atoms, far more complicated than any machinery built by man and absolutely without parallel in the non-living world.” This is evident just by observing the intri-

cacies of the eye, the ear and the heart; they are all examples of complexities that were not recognized by Darwin.

In the Quran God clarifies for us that evolution is a continuous process. While a mango can never turn into an apple, a new variety of mango is possible through cross pollination, proving that there is evolution within species. [29:19] *Have they not seen how GOD initiates the creation, then repeats it? This is easy for GOD to do*”. In the same manner a human being will give birth to another human being and not to an ape or vice versa. Additionally, it is also widely accepted that every generation is smarter than the previous one; that is why we find ourselves saying that kids are smarter than we were at their age. Scholar, James R. Flynn published research noting that IQ scores increase from generation to generation in every country that uses the test. Children have higher scores than their parents. This observation has become known as the Flynn effect, and while researchers agree that it happens, they don’t know why it happens. Proving the Quranic verse, [29:20] *Say, “Roam the earth and find out the origin of life.” For GOD will thus initiate the creation in the Hereafter. GOD is Omnipotent. Footnote: We learn from the Quran that **evolution is a divinely guided process**. See Appendix 31 for the details.*

In addition we regularly hear of new species of fish being discovered across the world, be it the blue-bellied night wanderer in the Amazon or the new species of black bass in Florida. While this phenomenon has baffled scientists, believers have been informed of this marvel. [36:36] *Glory be to the One who created all kinds of plants from the earth, as well as themselves, and other creations that they do not even know*. In addition to fish, new species of reptiles like the Itty Bitty Chameleon, mammals like the mouse lemur, etc. are also continuously being discovered. New discoveries are not restricted only to earth and living creatures. Recently scientists have discovered a cosmic “cold spot” that suggests the existence of another universe. This too is not surprising news to believers as God has also told

us about the creation of the seven universes. [2:29] *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 [23:17] We created above you seven universes in layers, and we are never unaware of a single creature in them.*

God has also informed us that:

[40:57] *The creation of the heavens and the earth is even more awesome than the creation of the human being, but most people do not know*. Every day new stars are born and older ones disintegrate.

**A Star is Born:** One of Hubble’s first victories was capturing several embryonic stars or EGGs (evaporating gaseous globules) hiding throughout clouds of hydrogen and helium gas that clump together and begin to generate their own gravity, drawing in nearby gas and dust. Once these balls of gravity grow big enough, nuclear fusion reactions triggers in their cores, **and they become stars**.

The world is baffled about the new discoveries, while those who submit to God and follow His laws know that this is proof from God that evolution is indeed a continuous process and that it will continue till the end of time. God has blessed those who submit to Him with knowledge and certainty on a wide range of topics— evolution is one of them. It serves to strengthen the faith of the submitters and proves that the Quran is indeed from God, as none but the Creator would have knowledge of the future.

RD

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Tucson AZ

ISSN 1089-053X

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## Consolidating the Gains of Ramadan

Each year as we begin Ramadan, we have great hopes of using the month to grow our souls and increase our level of submission. We strive to read more Quran, be more God-conscious, do more righteous works. God willing, during the month, we are able to achieve those goals, so that at the end of the month, we have raised the bar for ourselves. But what happens as we get into the next month and the month after that? Do we maintain that new level of piety and faith, or do we get complacent and allow ourselves to slack off and let our heightened God-awareness wain?

If we find the time to read the Quran for an extra 15 minutes every day during Ramadan, why is it so hard to find that same time a month later? If we remember to recite zikr in the morning and/or the evening during Ramadan, why can't we continue that routine all year? If we are more charitable in donations of food or time to the poor during Ramadan, why shouldn't we carry on that practice every day?

Ramadan isn't just a month to be set aside for worshipping God. It's preparation and practice for the way we should live our lives every single day year round. God has given us this opportunity to focus on ways to grow our souls. Fasting takes us out of our nor-

mal routine and makes us very conscious of God and His commandments. It's a time to concentrate on the one thing that is most important—coming closer to God. *[73:8] You shall commemorate the name of your Lord, to come ever closer and closer to Him.*

So as we come to the final days of Ramadan, let's all of us strive to keep hold of the ways in which we strengthened our submission this month. Hang onto the gains we made and the growth we achieved. It's like going through locks in a canal. We entered Ramadan at one level. We used the month to glorify, praise and commemorate God and thus gradually raised ourselves up. As we exit the month, we are standing at a higher level. We now can choose to move forward maintaining this new level of submission, or we can gradually allow ourselves to be pulled backwards to the previous level. Let's choose to consolidate our gains and keep moving forward.

*[15:98-99] You shall sing the praises of your Lord, and be with the prostrators. And worship your Lord, in order to attain certainty.*

*[33:41-42] O you who believe, you shall remember GOD frequently. You shall glorify Him day and night.*

Anthony

Ramadan 2015: The **Night of Destiny** (Night of Power) will start, God willing, at sunset of July 12<sup>th</sup> for those places that began fasting on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Letter from Prisoner

I'm very thankful for the Quran that was sent from the Masjid. It couldn't have come at a better time. Since I received the Quran, I made it my duty to study and meditate on the word of God daily. All of the material you sent has helped me more than what you know. We all have our own problems that we'll have to deal with, but if you pray to Allah and ask for support during hard times, then that should give you the comfort that you'll need to keep going. I appreciate the staff at the Tucson Masjid for taking time out of their day to make sure that I have the proper literature to continue my walk with Allah. Thank you for your time and I will keep my brothers and sisters in my prayers.

As-Salaam Alaikum,

Cameron

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[Ed. note: To help spread the message, we send Submitters Perspectives to prisoners free of charge and we also distribute Qurans when requested by prisoners. May God guide and bless those who are eagerly seeking His message. Their incarceration may be a great blessing in disguise, if it brings them closer to God.]