

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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The Gift of Water

God has mentioned water and its creation over 35 times in the Quran. I was wondering why God has repeated this so many times. By the grace of God, water is easily available to us and in sufficient quantity in our city, hence we may fail to realize its importance and value. For us water means just turning the faucet. We don't need to put in much effort to get palatable water. It is really due to immense mercy of God that we have easy access to water. But this water reaches us through a well-planned system of God. Right from driving the clouds to a particular place, to sending water down in the form of rain.

[7:57] He is the One who sends the wind with good omen, as a mercy from His hands. Once they gather heavy clouds, we drive them to dead lands, and send down water therefrom, to produce with it all kinds of fruits. We thus resurrect the dead, that you may take heed.

[6:99] He is the One who sends down from the sky water....

We cannot imagine life without water. Critical for the creation of a human life, water further plays an important role in the creation of almost all food.

An adult human body contains around 60% of water. Thus, water becomes the inseparable part of our life. The more we understand how important water is, the more we must thank God for it. It is well known that the limited fresh water supply is becoming an increasingly important issue for many countries. For centuries, access to clean drinking water has been hard for many people, especially the poor. In some areas, water may be available, but it's disease-ridden or contains harmful chemicals, and drinking it can be harmful. In other areas, a viable water supply is simply not available within reasonable distance. A 2006 United Nations report estimated that as much as 20 percent of the world's population does not have access to clean drinking water.

We may wonder: God has given us humans intelligence so why can't we produce water? We know full well that when two atoms of hydrogen link with one oxygen atom, water is produced. This is what we learn in basic chemistry. So why don't we just combine them together and produce water? Well, although we know the chemical formula of water, it is very difficult and dangerous to join these two ele-

ments. To create water, oxygen and hydrogen atoms must be present. It is more than simply mixing them together. Since hydrogen is extremely flammable and oxygen supports combustion, a small spark is sufficient to start the reaction to get hydrogen and oxygen to form water. But this action results in the release of large amounts of energy, and you can easily end up with an explosion which is very dangerous!

Consider an example from history. The Hindenburg, a passenger air ship, began its voyage from Germany to America in May of 1937, with 97 people aboard. This air ship was filled with hydrogen gas to keep it afloat. On 6th May 1937, while landing in New Jersey it exploded and was destroyed in a huge fire ball. This disaster took the lives of over 30 people. Later investigations suggest a small leakage of hydrogen from one of its upper fins which came into contact with the oxygen gas in the atmosphere and through an electro static charge at the air field it caught fire. There was water created in the explosion, however, look at the cost.

To make enough drinking water to sustain the world, a very dangerous and

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extremely large-scale process would be required. Yet, see how God arranged everything for us. Praise be to Him.

[2:22] The One who made the earth habitable for you, and the sky a structure. He sends down from the sky water, to produce all kinds of fruits for your sustenance. You shall not set up idols to rival GOD, now that you know.

[2:60] Recall that Moses sought water for his people. We said, "Strike the rock with your staff." Whereupon, twelve springs gushed out therefrom. The members of each tribe knew their own water. Eat and drink from GOD's provisions, and do not roam the earth corruptingly.

I tried to imagine the twelve different springs and twelve different tribes enjoying its water. It is wonderful how easily God satisfied all the tribes existing with Prophet Moses and did not allow them to dispute. Further, we can learn from the verse which tells us how God instructed them to enjoy the provisions bestowed upon them without corrupting the earth.

[2:164] In the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, the ships that roam the ocean for the benefit of the people, the water that GOD sends down from the sky to revive dead land and to spread in it all kinds of creatures, the manipulation of the winds, and the clouds that are placed between the sky and the earth, there are sufficient proofs for people who understand.

This verse sheds light on the benefit and importance of water and the wonderful planning of God in the creation of this world. God knew well how this world would evolve and develop gradually in stages. Hence for long distance commuting and transporting, initially the easiest and swiftest means was over water. If God had not created oceans and seas, then it would have been impossible to create the network of communication and commerce which benefits us till today and will remain important till the end of

this world. These overwhelming signs of God compel us to bow down before Him in appreciation.

As the scarcity of water increased, people have studied various methods of generating fresh water. However, scientific methods of trying to create water have so far proved very costly.

For example, we know there's water all around us in the form of vapor. Water evaporates from the seas and rivers and oceans. It rises up through the atmosphere where God has designed that it would be collected into clouds. The water returns to us in the form of droplets of rain or flakes of snow. Yet as effortlessly as this process was designed by God, for us to extract water out of the atmosphere is not easy. Modern machines that can use wind power to extract water out of the air cost in the tens of thousands of dollars.

Scientists have also tried cloud seeding for rainfall. In this method, certain chemicals are used to induce rainfall. But this method too is costly and time consuming (and not guaranteed). The cloud seeding method needs multiple trips in planes to fire the chemical in the air. Also, it must be perfectly timed, and clouds must be present to begin with (something only GOD can control).

In summary, we need to accept that water is one of the biggest blessings of God to us. Looking at the different techniques people have tried (and their results), the feasibility of large scale cheap water production becomes bleak. It is due to immense mercy of God that we get palatable water. God not only sends down water from the sky but also preserves it in the ground within our reach for us after the rainy season gets over. The quantity of water discharged from the sky is also in precise measure. Shall we not appreciate this and thank God?

[23:18] We send down from the sky water, in exact measure, then we store it in the ground. Certainly, we can let it escape.

[67:30] Say, "What if your water sinks away, who will provide you with pure

water?"

[18:41] "Or, its water may sink deeper, out of your reach."

For added motivation, we can always remember the wonderful and satisfying feeling we get at the time of breaking the Ramadan fast in the evening. Our famished body at that time gets recharged after drinking water. Although we have many tasty dishes in front of us, what we often reach for first is just a glass of water! God explains to us the effect of water in the following verse.

[41:39] Among His proofs is that you see the land still, then, as soon as we shower it with water, it vibrates with life. Surely, the One who revived it can revive the dead. He is Omnipotent.

I hope we will always remember the immense mercy of God and will not lose the opportunity to thank God whenever we have a glass of water to drink.

Abdul

Reference: "Why can't we manufacture water?", HowStuffWorks.com

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[21:30] Do the unbelievers not realize that the heaven and the earth used to be one solid mass that we exploded into existence? And from water we made all living things. Would they believe?

[16:10] He sends down from the sky water for your drink, and to grow trees for your benefit.

[30:24] Among His proofs is that He shows you the lightning as a source of fear, as well as hope, then He sends down from the sky water to revive a land that has been dead. In these, there are sufficient proofs for people who understand.

[22:63] Do you not see that GOD sends down from the sky water that turns the land green? GOD is Sublime, Cognizant.

[56:68-70] Have you noted the water you drink? Did you send it down from the clouds, or did we? If we will, we can make it salty. You should be thankful.

True Jihad

In most places, it has become customary to fault “Islam” for any act of violence and terrorism in which some of its “followers” are involved. It is the most misunderstood religion in the world, treated with discrimination and apprehension. We, as Submitters, should try to explain the virtues and true spirit of our great religion. We cannot just parrot the hackneyed cliché that *Submission is a not just a religion but a complete way of life*. It must be proven to be so and be in harmony with the demands of the day. All matters in the Quran are totally in sync with the growth and progress in every part of our life.

True Islam (Submission) places so much emphasis on the ethics of integrity and self-control, and yet we see all around us extremism, brutality, bombings and bloodshed. The question arises how such an intrinsically nonviolent message has been so viciously perverted. We must try to eradicate this notion.

The Quran gives us guidance in numerous ways to help us to develop the requisites to fulfill our duties. We are explicitly told that to exist in calm and composure, we have to uphold the principles of balance and equivalence which is the running foundation for the whole universe.

[55:8-9] You shall not transgress the law. You shall establish justice; do not violate the law.

We should encourage common terms and not generate an atmosphere of disagreement, suspicion and hatred. This can, with God’s help, nurture kindness and concern among all people towards one other.

Invitation to All Believers

[3:64] Say, “O followers of the scripture, let us come to a logical agreement between us and you: that we shall not worship except GOD; that we never set up any idols besides Him, nor set up any human beings as lords beside GOD.” If they

turn away, say, “Bear witness that we are submitters.”

We could emphasize shared understandings of teachings of other religions so that we promote a mutually beneficial society. Non-Submitters can, of course, practice their religions unhindered and in peace.

Submission (Islam) is not a secluded or unapproachable creed but cordially intertwined in all religions. Islam does not advocate monasticism. The entire world can be your mosque; you can pray almost anywhere you like. Submission (Islam) is very tolerant.

[2:256] There shall be no compulsion in religion: the right way is now distinct from the wrong way. Anyone who denounces the devil and believes in GOD has grasped the strongest bond; one that never breaks. GOD is Hearer, Omniscient. No one needs to compulsorily accept and profess Islam.

Yet, people kill in the name of “Islam”. They use Quranic verses to justify suicide bombings and other acts of violence. This is due to lack of knowledge of the whole Quran. “Clerics” argue on petty topics instead of absorbing the essence of Quranic precepts. Their *fatwas* are thoughtlessly carried out by those who have made up their minds to assert Islam as a religion that sanctions radical belligerence. They present a totally disfigured picture of the religion that lays a greater prominence on “*jihad*” which they translate as a “militaristic struggle” than on peaceful non-violent ways to seek redress on any wrong done to “Muslims”.

The word “*jihad*” is entirely misinterpreted. It does not mean war, which in any case can only be performed in self-defense. *[2:193] You may also fight them to eliminate oppression, and to worship GOD freely. If they refrain, you shall not aggress; aggression is permitted only against the aggressors.*

We are also duty-bound to cease conflict should the provoker consequently lean towards peace. *[9:6] If one of the idol*

worshippers sought safe passage with you, you shall grant him safe passage, so that he can hear the word of GOD, then send him back to his place of security. That is because they are people who do not know.

In fact, Islam seen in Quran is so tolerant that God tells us:

[6:108] Do not curse the idols they set up beside GOD, lest they blaspheme and curse GOD, out of ignorance. We have adorned the works of every group in their eyes. Ultimately, they return to their Lord, then He informs them of everything they had done.

“*Jihad*” is a struggle which we induce against ourselves and on behalf of ourselves (souls). We are urged to preserve all places of worship where the name of God is mentioned including churches, synagogues and mosques.

[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.

We do not want to interfere with followers of other religions in practicing their worship.

Not surprisingly, the word “*sword*” does not appear in the Quran even once, but there is a *Sura* called *The Pen*. God’s religion stands for peace. When a Submitter (Muslim) meets another believer, his greetings are, “*Peace be unto you.*” The Quran makes prominent the significance of knowledge and encourages us to keep acquiring it.

[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.”

The spirit of Submission (Islam) is that its entire flock should live together serenely,

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and worship God alone without any sectarian bias or discord. The universal brotherhood can be evidenced during Hajj where pilgrims of all colours and languages showcase unison and self-control in a mass scale.

[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.

[49:10] The believers are members of one family; you shall keep the peace within your family and reverence GOD, that you may attain mercy.

We can never ever praise and thank God enough for giving us the Quran and so many other bounties. The Quran is muttered as a “remedy” for the sick and mumbled in the graveyard for the “salvation” of the dead. But that’s not its true purpose. It should be made functional in everyday life. It awards us enlightenment, prudence and sensibility.

These Are All the Words We Need

[31:27] If all the trees on earth were made into pens, and the ocean supplied the ink, augmented by seven more oceans, the words of GOD would not run out. GOD is Almighty, Most Wise.

Alim

Ramadan 2017

God willing the month of Ramadan (2:183-7) is coming soon. The new moon times for determining the beginning and ending of Ramadan are given below in UTC (Universal time) or GMT.

May 25, 2017: 19:44 PM (UTC/GMT)

June 24, 2017: 02:31 AM (UTC/GMT)

The actual time for each time zone is relative to UTC. In order to calculate the Ramadan start date, compare the time of the New Moon with the Sunset in your location. If the new moon is before sunset, we fast the next day, God willing. Similarly, to determine the last day of fasting, compare the time of the next New Moon with the sunset in your location. If the new moon is before sunset, the Ramadan month is complete on that day. Otherwise one fasts the next day.

Based on this, God willing, Ramadan dates for Western USA & Canada, are: **May 26 – June 23, 2017.**

For Central and Eastern USA and Canada, South America and parts of West Europe, God willing the dates are: **May 26 – June 24, 2017.**

For most of Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, God willing the dates are: **May 27 – June 24, 2017.**

For more details on how dates are calculated, please refer to [September 2009](#) issue of the Submitters Perspective, and <http://masjiduntucson.org/Ramadan/>

God Willing

32nd Annual Conference

United Submitters

July 28-30, 2017

Tucson, Arizona



God willing, the annual conference of United Submitters International will be in Tucson AZ, on July 28-30. 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).

Registration and hotel details are available online at:

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.