

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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For a Greater America

We Americans need to examine ourselves in this time of disquiet and uncertainty. Have we lost sight of the spirit and the principles that this nation was founded on? Our founding fathers were “theists.” They had a strong belief in God. That He was watching over them, guiding their actions, blessing their righteous efforts. Part of that fundamental belief was that no one had the right to dictate their religious beliefs on another. Thomas Jefferson understood this when he said: “It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no God.” And he also said: “The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time.” (brainyquote.com)

The Quran says: [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.*

George Washington in his first inaugural address to the very young nation said that it would be “peculiarly improper” to begin his speech without giving “my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over

the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes.... In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own.... [with] pious gratitude, along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage.”

He ended his address with these words: “Having thus imparted to you my sentiments ..., I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the Human Race in humble supplication so His divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.”

The success of this government must depend on knowing that God is our Savior and our Guide. We’re not talking about Abraham or Jesus or Bud-

dha or Muhammad. We’re talking about God, the One, the Supreme. Moses said to his followers: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). And Jesus said exactly the same thing to his disciples, that worshiping God alone is the most important commandment (Mark 12:29-30). And the Quran says repeatedly: [20:98] *Your only god is GOD; the One beside whom there is no other god. His knowledge encompasses all things.* [28:70] *He is the one GOD; there is no other god beside Him. To Him belongs all praise in this first life, and in the Hereafter. All judgment belongs with Him, and to Him you will be returned.* [59:22] *He is the One GOD; there is no other god besides Him. Knower of all secrets and declarations. He is the Most Gracious, Most Merciful.*

If we strip away all the human-made innovations and remove the veneration of the various messengers from God, we can return to the Truth, the worship of God ALONE. That’s what this country was founded on; that’s what made us great; and that’s what has

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been lost in the last hundred years or so. We have begun to think we're entitled to all this. We take for granted that our privileges and our blessings will always be there because we deserve them. Even Washington anticipated that God's blessings would continue when he said: "along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage." But he said this humbly and, I think, with a belief that our faith and trust in God would not diminish. Some months after his inauguration, he declared a day of Thanksgiving and in his proclamation he said: "... it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.... And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations." (See *Submitters Perspective* November 2012 for the whole proclamation).

And Abraham Lincoln in the midst of the Civil War also declared a day of Thanksgiving, acknowledging "...the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.... I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

This was in the thick of a horrible war that was dividing the nation. We are so much better off today, yet we are divided and faced with bigotry against race and religion, with ugly, angry words instead of bullets. And as Lincoln observed, God will punish us for our sins. He is Most Merciful, but He is also strict in enforcing retribution.

Can we turn this around? Can we return to a nation of prosperity and blessings? God willing, we can. God is the Forgiver. He is Most Merciful. He

is the Redeemer. So, if we remember that all blessings come only from God, if we are appreciative and thankful, if we honor and commemorate only God, He will respond with more blessings. [14:7] *Your Lord has decreed: "The more you thank Me, the more I give you." But if you turn unappreciative, then My retribution is severe.* He gives us more when we thank Him—we can see that in American history. When we were righteous and appreciative, our blessings came abundantly. But His retribution is also clear and obvious. We have turned away from God, thinking that humans or technology will help us. And God is showing us a taste of His retribution.

Our solution is to return to God. Remember Him with prayers of supplication and thanksgiving. Teach our children to be righteous, honest and God-fearing, God-loving. Treat each other kindly and charitably. Acknowledge that God is the Supreme Power and that we have no authority except what He gives us. Keep God in our hearts all the time. That's the only thing that will make, and keep, America great. (see Appendix 36: *What Price a Great Nation*, in *Quran, The Final Testament*, translated by Rashad Khalifa, Ph.D.)

[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.*

[7:205-6] *You shall remember your Lord within yourself, publicly, privately, and quietly, day and night; do not be unaware. Those at your Lord are never too proud to worship Him; they glorify Him and fall prostrate before Him.*

[3:76] *Indeed, those who fulfill their obligations and lead a righteous life, GOD loves the righteous.*

[19:96] *Surely, those who believe and lead a righteous life, the Most Gracious will shower them with love.*

You can be President

The past US Presidential race was perhaps the most followed and speculated event worldwide in 2016. What lessons can we learn from it?

Firstly, we must remember that God decides the outcome of everything. We do not know His plan but we do know that everything is in His control, and with good reason. Our job is to submit to His will and follow His commands to obey those in charge of us and cooperate in matters of righteousness (4:59, 5:2).

Now let's consider the impact of a ruler on a country. The US President at the White House (for example) will be awarded the mandate to be the most powerful decision maker for US citizens. The President's decisions impact you, your country and even the rest of the world. But this 'apparent power' is **only** in the earthly, material world. God is ultimate Ruler of our Earth and the universe! All rulers are subservient to the Almighty, whether people know it or not.

In this world, rulers have the power to institute change that can impact the lives of millions. But let's focus on the entity you are really responsible to bring positive change to, constantly: **Your Soul**.

So consider this. What change can you bring to your life to make your soul grow better today? What change can you bring in people's lives that will help them be better people God willing? Would you like to be the next "President?" Be at the "White House" and make decisions for real change for actions that please God?

I'm not talking about the US President or the White House in Washington D.C. I'm talking about the "White House" you will build on Earth for you and your family—the house of righteous thoughts, ideas and actions. That is the house people will

Lydia

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look up to and most importantly, the home God will exalt (24:36-38). From that powerful position, God will support you to bring positive change to help people become more righteous, happy in this world, and then achieve the ultimate "White House" in Heaven, where everything is pure and perfect.

You could be this 'real' president on Earth, God willing—but with a difference. You may not get fame or earthly reverence and obedience associated with a king, queen, president or prime minister. But in your own quiet way, you will be a leader in the background influencing huge change in people. And you'll be working directly for the Absolute Ruler and President of the Universe.

God's Promise

Kings and Queens on Earth

[24:55] GOD promises those among you who believe and lead a righteous life, that He will make them sovereigns on earth, as He did for those before them, and will establish for them the religion He has chosen for them, and will substitute peace and security for them in place of fear. All this because they worship Me alone; they never set up any idols beside Me. Those who disbelieve after this are the truly wicked.

That's the kind of president you should aim to be. Don't think you can? Yes we can. And you can do it right now. You don't need to file a nomination and influence people for votes. You just tell God you want to work for His "Presidency" to create presidential level change in the world, and you will get the job on the spot. Remember, you are the only kind of president that can help bring real happiness to people. Real change comes by choice from within, not from forcing anyone. You show people the path and try to establish the system God has already decreed (22:41). That's all God wants you to do (keeping in mind that eventually only He guides and allows change).

Each of you can bring change to the world in your own way. And when you change your mindset to doing this for others, you will be happier. I see a lot of discontent in some submitters because they try to manage and control other people's Submission to God. Or they live in a small world of jealousy and ego, trying to be in the know of or center of everything. It is so important to be compassionate and set a good example. Sometimes keeping your mouth shut (e.g., don't insult or hurt someone), or curbing jealousy and not judging others' actions can also be a big change.

So think about what positive, 'soul impacting' change you can bring to yourself and others. Never think that anything you do in this direction is too small. I learned a fabulous lesson about this from brother Tom regarding Moses's Staff. Once it had God's name on it, from an ordinary staff it became an extraordinary staff that helped to change the entire game in Egypt (20:17-21, 26:32-45). So yes, you can help to bring real change in the world by God's leave.

It can begin with a small step forward. We can help one another explore ideas to advocate God's truth. We can use media technologies to spread God's message in a loving, peaceful, non-threatening way. God gave us the computer (27:82) and the technology of today to reach people in all corners of the world. How can we use these resources effectively to inform the world of God's greatness, His mercy, His generosity, and fantastic system of happiness and eternal life?

That should be the goal of every president! May God grant us the opportunities to strive for the "Ultimate White House." As Pharaoh's wife prayed:

[66:11] And GOD cites as an example of those who believed the wife of Pharaoh. She said, "My Lord, build a home for me at You in Paradise, and save me from Pharaoh and his works; save me from the transgressing people." (Our "White House" at God.)

God's Warnings

[11:1] A.L.R. This is a scripture whose verses have been perfected, then elucidated. It comes from a Most Wise, Most Cognizant.

The Quran: Messenger of God [11:2-3] Proclaiming: "You shall not worship except God. I come to you from Him as a warner, as well as a bearer of good news. "You shall seek your Lord's forgiveness, then repent to Him. He will then bless you generously for a predetermined period, and bestow His grace upon those who deserve it. If you turn away, then I fear for you the retribution of an awesome day."

[78:40] We have sufficiently warned you about an imminent retribution. That is the day when everyone will examine what his hands have sent forth, and the disbeliever will say, "Oh, I wish I were dust."

[4:165] Messengers to deliver good news, as well as warnings. Thus, the people will have no excuse when they face God, after all these messengers have come to them. God is Almighty, Most Wise.

Out of mercy, God sent His scriptures with good news as well as warnings.

[77:1-6] (Angels) dispatched in succession. To drive the wind. Stir up clouds. Distribute the provisions. Deliver messages. Good news, as well as warnings.

As for the disbelievers, not only do they ignore the warnings, but they also use them to attack the truth, undermine God's justice and mercy and repel others from God's words and His right path. They do not like the warnings, they are offended by them. They continue to live in denial with sealed hearts, blind eyes and deaf ears, unable to recognize the truth. Their denial feeds their defiance and lets them live this life as heedless and soulless creatures. Now as the warnings and the good news came to them, they will never be able to get away with their lying that they didn't receive any guidance. Their shame and remorse, from the moment of their death and on, is fully deserved and a just requital.

Kais

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MASJID TUCSON United Submitters International

PO Box 43476 Tucson AZ 85733-3476 USA

Tel: (520) 323 7636

internet web site www.masjiduntucson.org

e-mail: info@masjiduntucson.org masjiduntucson@gmail.com

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[54:4-5] *Sufficient warnings have been delivered to alert them. Great wisdom; but all the warnings have been in vain.*

[18:101] *They are the ones whose eyes were too veiled to see My message. Nor could they hear.*

[26:6] *Since they disbelieved, they have incurred the consequences of their heedlessness.*

They choose to fool themselves and cheat their souls. Satan, then, steps in to convince them of false doctrines and justifications to satisfy their wishes and meet their own standards. Consequently, God augments their loss (35:39, 2:10). Humans use some defense mechanisms for survival. Disbelievers are oblivious to the fact that when these defense mechanisms conflict with their faith in God, they are not preserving but rather damaging their own souls. They pay attention to coping with this life while ignoring the eternal one and their real selves.

[64:3] *He created the heavens and the earth for a specific purpose, designed you and perfected your design, then to Him is the final destiny.*

[51:55-57] *And remind, for the reminder benefits the believers. I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone. I need no provisions from them, nor do I need them to feed Me.*

[90:4-5] *We created the human being to work hard (to redeem himself). Does he think that no one will ever call him to*

account?

They only like to hear what goes with their own ideologies and wishes and dismiss what threatens their goals or challenges their lusts and desires. Their own definition of the divine mercy and compassion is flawed and abusive as it justifies a complete negligence of God's warnings and an irresponsible behavior under the banner of freedom. They fail to understand that God's mercy is a manifestation of His justice in judging the wicked and enforcing His laws.

[16:90] *God advocates justice, charity, and regarding the relatives. And He forbids evil, vice, and transgression. He enlightens you, that you may take heed.*

[68:35-36] *Shall we treat the Submitters like the criminals? What is wrong with your logic?*

[5:98] *Know that God is strict in enforcing retribution, and that God is Forgiving, Most Merciful.*

They will confess their poor judgment when it is too late for a second chance:

[67:8-10] *... Whenever a group is thrown therein, its guards would ask them, "Did you not receive a warner?" They would answer, "Yes indeed; a warner did come to us, but we disbelieved and said, 'God did not reveal anything. You are totally astray.' " They also say, "If we heard or understood, we would not be among the dwellers of Hell!"*

[7:53] *Are they waiting until all*

(prophecies) are fulfilled? The day such fulfillment comes to pass, those who disregarded it in the past will say, "The messengers of our Lord have brought the truth. Are there any intercessors to intercede on our behalf? Would you send us back, so that we change our behavior, and do better works than what we did?" They have lost their souls, and their own innovations have caused their doom.

As for the believers, they accept both warnings and good news from God as powerful and meaningful reminders. They work righteousness and take heed in joy and reverence. Their reverence for God makes them heed the warnings and consider them a blessing that renders their vision sharper and their hearts more receptive to God's laws. They become more aware and more appreciative of guidance. Warnings keep them more vigilant not to hurt or regress their souls.

[87:9-11] *Therefore, you shall remind; perhaps the reminder will benefit. The reverent will take heed. The wicked will avoid it.*

[35:18] *... The only people to heed your warnings are those who reverence their Lord, even when alone in their privacy, and observe the Contact Prayers (Salat). Whoever purifies his soul, does so for his own good. To God is the final destiny.*

Let us all be appreciative of and heed the warnings from God.

Frank