



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

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## Choices

Every Friday, those who have gathered for the Congregational Prayer (Salat Al-Jumu'ah) could very well have chosen to do something else. But, thank God, all of us do our best to obey God's command in Sura 62 and drop our businesses and gather together to commemorate God. God is certainly going to reward the Submitters for observing His commands and remembering Him frequently (62:10).

It is GOD's law that He never fails to reward.

*[9:120] Neither the dwellers of the city, nor the Arabs around them, shall seek to stay behind the messenger of GOD (when he mobilizes for war). Nor shall they give priority to their own affairs over supporting him. This is because they do not suffer any thirst, or any effort, or hunger in the cause of GOD, or make a single step that enrages the disbelievers, or inflict any hardship upon the enemy, without having it written down for them as a credit. GOD never fails to recompense those who work righteousness.*

*[11:115] You shall steadfastly persevere, for GOD never fails to recompense the righteous*

Whatever we choose or decide, we are responsible for such decisions. We wanted, and God has given us, the freedom of choice.

*[33:72] We have offered the responsibility (freedom of choice) to the heavens and the earth, and the mountains, but they refused to bear it, and were afraid of it. But the human being accepted it; he was transgressing, ignorant.*

Another important thing that I feel we should always remember, is that any commandment in the Quran leaves us with no option for disobedience. Meaning, we must do it. The following verse clearly explains how serious it is to disregard any commandment.

*[33:36] No believing man or believing woman, if GOD and His messenger issue any command, has any choice regarding that command. Anyone who disobeys GOD and His messenger has gone far astray.*

It is very important that we understand the seriousness of all our actions and evaluate the results that may follow thereafter. Hence, it is extremely important that we continuously keep doing the right things,

making the right choices or decisions. I feel the results of making wrong choices or decisions can be compared to that of lying. When we lie we understand that we will have to lie again to cover up the first lie and again and again; it's a vicious circle. It keeps worsening the situation. To make good, one eventually needs to stop lying, admit the mistake and speak the truth. Similarly, when we make a wrong choice, the repercussions thereof keep growing, unless and until we repent and reform and rectify the situation.

*Most People Make the Wrong Choice*  
*[7:96] Had the people of those communities believed and turned righteous, we would have showered them with blessings from the heaven and the earth. Since they decided to disbelieve, we punished them for what they earned.*

GOD has blessed us with Quran and the greatest of all miracles to assure us, and further blessed us with guidance to read the Quran daily. If we compare ourselves with most people we know—our relatives, friends, colleagues, etc.—we will immediately realize that this factor is the most important and distinguishing factor be-

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tween us and them. We are (God willing) believers, we believe in God alone, and are satisfied with Quran alone. We realize that these things certainly give us a clear advantage over others. We (God willing) have a far better likelihood of making it to the High Heaven as compared to others, as we are aware of these facts. For most people, despite reading the Quran, these facts are still hidden from them. We have such valuable information that, if applied as prescribed, it can earn us billions and trillions in our post retirement account.

Let's say if God informed us that the shares of XYZ stock would become 10 times the current price by next week, what would we all do? I would invest whatever I have in that stock without a second thought. That's the best choice; it's information from God. I would only be applying my mind on where I could get loans so that I can invest further.

So, I was trying to figure out that when GOD gives a clear commandment in the Quran and for following the commandment He is going to reward us infinitely, why do I still apply my mind and choose not to follow it? Why do I make or find excuses?

This reflects my weak Submission and lack of respect and reverence for God and His commands. Also, it shows the importance of why God asks us to seek refuge in God from Satan the rejected. The moment you make the wrong choice, it means Satan has won over your mind, and he has successfully gotten you to disobey God and His command.

For example, there was a time when I was regular at Quran studies; I used to attend almost all of them regularly. Then I started to skip them by giving priority to other things or making the wrong choices. Then I started to find reasons to skip again and again and assure myself in justifying them. It reached a point where I didn't even think about Quran studies any more. I guess, the thought was I can do it at

home. However, God tells us:

#### *Quranic Study Groups*

*[18:28] You shall force yourself to be with those who worship their Lord day and night, seeking Him alone. Do not turn your eyes away from them, seeking the vanities of this world. Nor shall you obey one whose heart we rendered oblivious to our message; one who pursues his own desires, and whose priorities are confused.*

When I look back at the sequence of events and assess what had happened, I feel that my wrong choice of not attending the Quran studies has led to many losses. I was setting a bad example for my family and others. It deprived me of so many possible benefits that I could have availed by attending the studies, the loss of which is not possible to assess. Imagine the loss in the post-retirement account. I was duped by Satan and he was successful in putting me out of the race of righteousness and rendered me incompetent due to my own choice.

*[90:4] We created the human being to work hard (to redeem himself). ...*

*[90:10] Did we not show him the two paths? [90:11] He should choose the difficult path.*

*[9:24] Proclaim: "If your parents, your children, your siblings, your spouses, your family, the money you have earned, a business you worry about, and the homes you cherish are more beloved to you than GOD and His messenger, and the striving in His cause, then just wait until GOD brings His judgment." GOD does not guide the wicked people.*

So, the message to myself is: It may seem difficult at times to move out of the wrong choice, but making the right choice is most important. This is what the test is all about. We already made a wrong choice before and now we are aware of it, so why is there a need to think?

We humans think that we are very smart and we are doing everything correctly, but we are too scared to do a reality check and we want to live in that world of lies. We keep convincing and lying to ourselves everyday about

things we do. We all have our weaknesses and Satan attacks us right there.

*[6:44] When they thus disregard the message given to them, we open for them the gates of everything. Then, just as they rejoice in what was given to them, we punish them suddenly; they become utterly stunned.*

But we know how to be protected from Satan. *[23:97] Say, "My Lord, I seek refuge in You from the whispers of the devils. [23:98] "And I seek refuge in You, my Lord, lest they come near me."*

And then we need to repent and reform. *[3:147] Their only utterance was, "Our Lord, forgive us our sins, and our transgressions, strengthen our foothold, and grant us victory over the disbelievers."*

We are all answerable to God alone and will certainly return to Him and He will judge among us equitably, without the slightest injustice. All the choices that we made are going to make a difference. Remember that if we are one of those who will barely miss hell, it could be a matter of one better choice.

#### *A Great Triumph*

*[3:185] Every person tastes death, then you receive your recompense on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever misses Hell, barely, and makes it to Paradise, has attained a great triumph. The life of this world is no more than an illusion.*

*[3:160] If GOD supports you, none can defeat you. And if He abandons you, who else can support you? In GOD the believers shall trust.*

Ubaid

If you have an article you'd like to see in a future issue, please send it to: [info@masjiduntucson.org](mailto:info@masjiduntucson.org). Like the article above, it may be derived from a sermon. You've already done the research and looked up the verses. Now you can share the idea. The whole submitter community may benefit, God willing.

# LESSONS FROM TRAVEL

... Roam the earth ... (3:137, 6:11, 27:69, 30:42)

I have been blessed to travel and there are valuable lessons to be learned from travel—whether it's just from one town to another or to a far-away country. Thank God, travel today is so easy, but God has always provided the means to travel—from the camel to the ship to the airplane. [10:22] *He is the One who moves you across the land and sea.*

The journey itself is the first part to consider. God is in full control of everything, and we have to remember that fact when we travel. He is the One who moves you.

Food is a wonderful part of travel—the world is full of different foods for different tastes. I've tried some exotic things in my travels—some I liked and some I didn't. But God is the Provider. [6:142] *Some livestock supply you with transportation, as well as bedding materials. Eat from GOD's provisions to you, and do not follow the steps of Satan; he is your most ardent enemy.*

Praise be to God who has filled the world with abundant provisions. The earth is designed to feed and sustain every single creature, and if God wants, He can have every creature eat and enjoy whatever it wishes. He sends down the provisions in exact measure. This means there is an adequate amount of food for everyone on earth, even though it may appear unequally distributed. If we are guilty of denying someone else his provision by taking more than our share, then God will surely account for it on the Day of Resurrection. The food a person wastes can be the relief of hunger for another. [16:5] *And He created the livestock for you, to provide you with warmth, and many other benefits, as well as food.*

Another blessing of travel is the animals you get to experience. [45:3-4] *The heav-*

*ens and the earth are full of proofs for the believers. Also in your creation, and the creation of all the animals, there are proofs for people who are certain.* Different parts of the world have very different animals, and God has made each creature to survive in its own niche, like the camel in the desert or the fish in the sea. And the migration of birds from one place to another is amazing. [24:41] *Do you not realize that everyone in the heavens and the earth glorifies GOD, even the birds as they fly in a column? Each knows its prayer and its glorification. GOD is fully aware of everything they do.*

## Overwhelming Signs of God

[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.*

[14:25] *It produces its crop every season, as designed by its Lord. GOD thus cites the examples for the people, that they may take heed.*

The creation of the earth, its rotation and its seasons, are miracles that you get to experience when you travel. In Mumbai, we don't really see seasonal changes, but many parts of the world go through dramatic changes. I don't know how people can cope with days of constant sunlight or days with no sun at all. But God talks about seasons in the Quran (14:25, 106:2), and it's something to enjoy when you travel. [21:33] *And He is the One who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon; each floating in its own orbit.*

Another experience is being in a place, like Mauritius, where the two seas merge. You can actually see and taste how God has separated the waters. [25:53] *He is the One who merges the two seas; one is fresh and palatable,*

*while the other is salty and undrinkable. And He separated them with a formidable, inviolable barrier (evaporation).*

The different colors of the flowers, birds and people, the languages (roughly 6500 spoken languages in the world and India has about 1650 of them), the tall buildings, the world cultures and ecosystems are all gifts from God for us to enjoy when we travel.

Travel makes us appreciate God in so many ways. Sometimes we get lost when traveling, and then we realize how we have to turn to God. Some people only turn to God in those times: *"If You only save us this time, we will be eternally appreciative."* (10:22) And even though they implore God for help when lost or afraid, most then turn unappreciative. [17:67] *If you are afflicted in the middle of the sea, you forget your idols and sincerely implore Him alone. But as soon as He saves you to the shore, you revert. Indeed, the human being is unappreciative.* But we know that we have to implore God always, in times of joy as well as fear (21:90), and we have to thank Him when He does guide us home.

May we all be blessed to enjoy travels, experience God's great gifts, and appreciate His bounties.

Uzair

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[22:46] *Did they not roam the earth, then use their minds to understand, and use their ears to hear? Indeed, the real blindness is not the blindness of the eyes, but the blindness of the hearts inside the chests.*

[67:15] *He is the One who put the Earth at your service. Roam its corners, and eat from His provisions. To Him is the final summoning.*

[45:12] *GOD is the One who committed the sea in your service, so that the ships can roam it in accordance with His laws. You thus seek His provisions, that you may be appreciative.*

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## Time of Death Predetermined

I know that soon I will no longer have in my life one of my dogs. She is over 15 years old. I've had her for more than 13 years, by God's grace. One of the wonderful things about dogs (or cats, or any animal) is that they are perfect Submitters. They don't worry about the past or the future; they are happy in the right now. Whether we were on a long trip or a simple visit to a park, my dog was equally happy, thank God.

She's still happy in each day. Now, her walks are barely up my driveway, but she doesn't complain. She doesn't think wistfully of the times she could run and play. She just does whatever she can do and is happy with it. She's not even thinking that soon she will die.

But, of course, I am. I try to simply enjoy each day that God gives us together, but I can't help thinking about the future, about how empty my house will feel without her presence. And I wonder when that time will come.

I need to leave it to God. He is the only One who knows the time of death. So, just to remind myself, I pulled up these verses.

*[6:60-61] He is the One who puts you to death during the night, and knows even the smallest of your actions during the day. He resurrects you every morning,*

*until your life span is fulfilled, then to Him is your ultimate return. He will then inform you of everything you had done. [6:61] He is Supreme over His creatures, and He appoints guards to protect you. When the appointed time of death comes to any of you, our messengers put him to death without delay.*

*[10:55] Absolutely, to GOD belongs everything in the heavens and the earth. Absolutely, GOD's promise is truth, but most of them do not know. [10:56] He controls life and death, and to Him you will be returned.*

*[39:42] GOD puts the souls to death when the end of their life comes, and also at the time of sleep. Thus, He takes some back during their sleep, while others are allowed to continue living until the end of their predetermined interim. This should provide lessons for people who reflect.*

*[63:11] GOD never delays the appointed time of death for any soul. GOD is fully Cognizant of everything you do.*

*[6:2-3] He is the One who created you from mud, then predetermined your life span, a life span that is known only to Him. Yet, you continue to doubt. He is the one GOD in the heavens and the earth. He knows your secrets and your declarations, and He knows everything you earn.*

*[13:41] Do they not see that every day on earth, brings them closer to the end, and that GOD decides their life span,*

*irrevocably? He is the most efficient Reckoner.*

*[30:8] Why do they not reflect on themselves? GOD did not create the heavens and the earth, and everything between them, except for a specific purpose, and for a specific life span. However, most people, with regard to meeting their Lord, are disbelievers.*

*[3:145] No one dies except by GOD's leave, at a predetermined time. Whoever seeks the vanities of this world, we give him therefrom, and whoever seeks the rewards of the Hereafter, we bless him therein. We reward those who are appreciative.*

So, when the moment comes when it's her time, I can release her from this world and allow her to return to God joyfully. It's not my decision; it's already decreed by God even before creation. And with certainty, she will be in Heaven, enjoying the company of my past dogs who graced my life.

*[6:38] All the creatures on earth, and all the birds that fly with wings, are communities like you. We did not leave anything out of this book. To their Lord, all these creatures will be summoned.*

*[42:29] Among His proofs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the creatures He spreads in them. He is able to summon them, when He wills.*

Lydia