

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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Human Traits—Know Yourself

It is important to learn about our traits as detailed by our Creator. Understanding our human nature and flaws would help us to recognize our mistakes and improve our own qualities. Believers work to suppress the negative traits as defined by God. God thus perfects their light, strengthens their foothold, fixes their works, and diverts them away from evil and aggression.

[50:16] We created the human, and we know what he whispers to himself. We are closer to him than his jugular vein.

[12:53] "I do not claim innocence for myself. The self is an advocate of vice, except for those who have attained mercy from my Lord. My Lord is Forgiver, Most Merciful."

[12:24]We thus diverted evil and sin away from him, for he was one of our devoted servants.

[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.

[47:7] O you who believe, if you sup-

port God, He will support you, and strengthen your foothold.

God has granted us the best physical design (95:4), the hearing, the eyesight and the brain (16:78). However, studying our cognitive, intellectual and emotional human capacities leaves no doubt that we are far from perfect. In fact, the striving to please God alone is never an easy undertaking because of our limited and flawed human nature. The outcome of every battle with Satan is either we allow him to remove our garment of righteousness by exposing one or more of our weaknesses or we aggressively resist his intrusion and strive to polish our righteous qualities and beautify our garment (7:26-27).

Human hesitance is a clear manifestation of the weak human nature (4:28). From the very beginning, we hesitated and failed to make a crucial decision! That was once demonstrated in the High Society when we questioned God's absolute authority under the deception of the rebellious, arrogant and unappreciative Satan. Even though we bore witness that God is the only Lord and Master (7:172), we wavered. We were sent down to earth

by the Most Merciful for a final chance. Most people on earth doubt God's existence despite the instinct of knowing Him (30:30).

Humans Fail to Make a Firm Stand [20:115] We tested Adam in the past, but he forgot, and we found him indecisive.

**20:115 When Satan challenged God's absolute authority (38:69), you and I did not make a firm stand against Satan. God is giving us a chance, on this earth, to redeem ourselves by denouncing Satan and upholding God's absolute authority (Appendix 7).*

[6:2] 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.

Poorly handling adversity is another manifestation of our human weakness. Most humans despair and turn unappreciative and rebellious in the face of hardship:

[4:28] God wishes to lighten your burden, for the human being is created weak.

[17:83] When we bless the human be-

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ing, he becomes preoccupied and heedless. But when adversity strikes him, he turns despondent.

[10:21] When we bestow mercy upon the people, after adversity had afflicted them, they immediately scheme against our revelations! Say, "God's scheming is far more effective. For our messengers are recording everything you scheme."

[42:48] If they turn away, we did not send you as their guardian. Your sole mission is delivering the message. When we shower the human beings with mercy, they become proud, and when adversity afflicts them, as a consequence of their own deeds, the human beings turn into disbelievers.

Because of an inherent weakness, many humans readily accept Satan's invitations (12:103, 12:106, 14:22, 17:89). They are receptive to him and they get easily caught up in the vanities of this world. They sink into this illusion through Satan's whispers. They also get easily swayed by the majority and tend to have minimal resistance to peer and social pressure.

[3:14] Adorned for the people are the worldly pleasures, such as the women, having children, piles upon piles of gold and silver, trained horses, livestock, and crops. These are the materials of this world. A far better abode is reserved at God.

[29:25] 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."

[6:116] If you obey the majority of people on earth, they will divert you from the path of God. They follow only conjecture; they only guess.

The human is egoistic, arrogant and argumentative. These are some of the most disastrous human insecurities or weaknesses. Guided humans know full well that they cannot be with

God, in His kingdom, if they maintain their arrogance or fail to overcome their egos. Satan was banished to earth once he expressed his arrogance. Ego simply obstructs the divine Truth. It pushes us away from God's path and eventually it causes our exile from God's kingdom.

[7:12] He said, "What prevented you from prostrating when I ordered you?" He said, "I am better than he; You created me from fire, and created him from mud."

[7:13] He said, "Therefore, you must go down, for you are not to be arrogant here. Get out; you are debased."

[21:19] To Him belongs everyone in the heavens and the earth, and those at Him are never too arrogant to worship Him, nor do they ever waver.

[21:20] They glorify night and day, without ever tiring.

[2:87] We gave Moses the scripture, and subsequent to him we sent other messengers, and we gave Jesus, son of Mary, profound miracles and supported him with the Holy Spirit. Is it not a fact that every time a messenger went to you with anything you disliked, your ego caused you to be arrogant? Some of them you rejected, and some of them you killed.

[25:43] Have you seen the one whose god is his own ego? Will you be his advocate?

[18:54] We have cited in this Quran every kind of example, but the human being is the most argumentative creature.

Other human weaknesses are being anxious, impatient, shortsighted and ignorant. Ignorance flourishes with ego! If we choose to surrender to our egos, we are shielded from the divine knowledge. In contrast, subduing the ego increases the level of awareness and enhances all mental procedures to dwell on and benefit from available knowledge. God confirms to us in Quran that the knowledgeable are more likely to recognize Him and reverence Him (35:28).

[70:19] Indeed, the human being is anxious.

[21:37] The human being is impatient by nature. I will inevitably show you My signs; do not be in such a hurry.

[75:5] But the human being tends to believe only what he sees in front of him.

[17:11] The human being often prays for something that may hurt him, thinking that he is praying for something good. The human being is impatient.

Most humans are unappreciative and transgressing.

[22:66] He is the One who granted you life, then He puts you to death, then He brings you back to life. Surely, the human being is unappreciative.

[32:9] He shaped him and blew into him from His spirit. And He gave you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains; rarely are you thankful.

[40:61] God is the One who designed the night so you can rest in it, and the day lighted. God bestows many blessings upon the people, but most people are not thankful.

[14:34] And He gives you all kinds of things that you implore Him for. If you count God's blessings, you can never encompass them. Indeed, the human being is transgressing, unappreciative.

[96:6] Indeed, the human transgresses.

[96:7] When he becomes rich.

Humans are selfish by nature unless their souls are strong enough to steer them to righteousness and grace instead.

[4:128] ... Selfishness is a human trait, and if you do good and lead a righteous life, God is fully Cognizant of everything you do.

The above traits are some of our human imperfections. The striving to upgrade the above traits to the righteous standards as defined by God in Quran is all that we are here for. The road map is very clear, perfect and fully detailed. Nothing that we need

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for our redemption is left out of this Quran (6:38, 12:111, 6:115). The upgrading path is the difficult one, and we should choose it.

- [90:4] We created the human being to work hard (to redeem himself).
- [90:5] Does he think that no one will ever call him to account?
- [90:6] He boasts, "I spent so much money!"
- [90:7] Does he think that no one sees him?
- [90:8] Did we not give him two eyes?
- [90:9] A tongue and two lips?
- [90:10] Did we not show him the two paths?
- [90:11] He should choose the difficult path.
- [90:12] Which one is the difficult path?
- [90:13] The freeing of slaves.
- [90:14] Feeding, during the time of hardship.
- [90:15] Orphans who are related.
- [90:16] Or the poor who is in need.
- [90:17] And being one of those who believe, and exhorting one another to be steadfast, and exhorting one another to be kind.
- [90:18] These have deserved happiness.

Frank

Round-trip Journey of our Soul

God is teaching us through Quran that our soul was created long before our arrival to the earth. Then our souls became unappreciative of our Lord, and we got involved in the Great Feud.

The Great Feud

[38:67-69] Say, "Here is awesome news. That you are totally oblivious to. I had no knowledge previously, about the feud in the High Society."

*38:69 The feud in the High Society was triggered by Satan's challenge to God's absolute authority. This is definitely the most important event in the history of the human race. We failed to make a firm stand regarding God's absolute authority. This life represents the third and final chance to redeem ourselves (See the Introduction and Appendix 7).

When God out of His mercy gave us a chance to repent and submit, we made the wrong choice again (33:72) and chose to come here as humans.

The Most Gracious out of His mercy has given us another chance, this last one. He created the earth, and He created the body, the temporary house for our soul, from earthly material. To send down all the souls one by one, He created "death".

[67:2] The One who created death and life for the purpose of distinguishing those among you who would do better. He is the Almighty, the Forgiving.

[7:11] We created you, then we shaped you, then we said to the angels, "Fall prostrate before Adam." They fell prostrate, except Iblees (Satan); he was not with the prostrators.

[38:71-2] Your Lord said to the angels, "I am creating a human being from clay. Once I design him, and blow into him from My spirit, you shall fall prostrate before him."

[19:17] While a barrier separated her from them, we sent to her our Spirit. He went to her in the form of a human being.

ing.

The Origin of Man

[32:7-9] He is the One who perfected everything He created, and started the creation of the human from clay. Then He continued his reproduction through a certain lowly liquid. He shaped him and blew into him from His spirit. And He gave you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains; rarely are you thankful.

What is the "spirit" (Ruh in Arabic)? Most of us have a sense of our "body" and how it's different from our "soul" (the real self). However, the concept of the "spirit" is less understood. The root of the word "Ruh" appears in six different forms in the Quran's Arabic text with different meanings, for a total of fifty-seven occurrences (corpus.quran.com). As a noun "Ruh" appears twenty-one times in the Quran (with multiple meanings). One of these is the reference to God's spirit from which He blew into the human (e.g., 15:29, 32:9, 38:72). In Arabic dictionaries, e.g., *Dictionary of the Holy Quran* by Omar, this word *Ruh* is sometimes translated as the "breath of life."

We know we have a soul and a body. In my view, for the body to function as a house for the soul, it needs to be more than a clay shell—and the "spirit" or "breath of life" allows that.

To use an analogy, God gave us a car (the body) that we (the soul) get to drive, so we can inshallah make it back home, by pleasing God.

What is important for our salvation is to remember that the Most Gracious out of His Mercy is giving us one last chance to redeem our souls. And as long as our soul is in this world, we must make the best of the opportunity by fulfilling our true purpose.

The Purpose of Our Existence

[51:56] I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone.

Because in a very short time we will all be at the end of our journey.

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Quran App

Android, iOS, Windows

[73:4] ... And read the Quran from cover to cover.

By God's grace, we have a Quran app available for phones, tablets and PCs. You can read Quran, search for a verse, save your bookmarks and more. Please visit: <https://www.masjiduntucson.org/quran/app>



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End of the journey

[56:83-91] When the time comes and it (your soul) reaches your throat— you will then look around. We are closer to it than you are, but you do not see.

If it is true that you do not owe any accounting—why do you not restore (your soul), if you are truthful?

If he is one of those close to Me—then joy, flowers, and gardens of bliss.

And if he is one of the right—peace is the lot of those on the right.

[36:83] Therefore, glory be to the One in whose hand is the sovereignty over all things, and to Him you will be returned.

[2:156] When an affliction befalls them, they say, “We belong to GOD, and to Him we are returning.”

The key idea is “return” which means “going back to where we came from,” and this is what the title of this article refers to as the “round trip” journey of our soul.

May God help us fulfill the purpose of our life’s journey so we can have a first-class return, God willing, by observing God’s commandments and leading a righteous life.

[17:80] And say, “My Lord, admit me an honorable admittance, and let me de-part an honorable departure, and grant me from You a powerful support.”

Rahim *Author unknown, Submitted by Pari*

Train of Life

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believed they would always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant, i.e., our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will have joy, sorrow, happiness, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and final farewells.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station God will have us step down. So, we must live the best we can, in a manner that pleases God: humble, kind, righteous, charitable, forgiving, offering the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should have set a good example and leave behind good memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

May God bless us with a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give back to the world. More importantly, thank GOD for the journey every moment of the way.

God Willing

35th Annual Conference United Submitters

August 7-9, 2020

Chicago, Illinois



God willing, the annual conference of United Submitters International will be in Chicago, IL, on August 7-9. It is an opportunity to remember God, increase our knowledge and meet our brethren in faith (3:191-195, 18:28, 58:11, 49:10).

We're working on hotel and registration, and God willing will post them 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.

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