

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Food and Drink

With Ramadan just past, we can reflect on some of the lessons and benefits of fasting. Food, drink and its avoidance are central to fasting. It's a great blessing that each day of Ramadan, we can look forward to the breaking of the fast, and our concerns are of the nature of, "What should I have?" It's not, "Will I have food or water?" Thank God we can get as much water and food as we need. The test for us is to eat and drink in moderation. And thank You God for all the variety of foods and delicious provisions.

[51:56] I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone. [51:57] I need no provisions from them, nor do I need them to feed Me. [51:58] GOD is the Provider, the Possessor of all power, the Supreme.

Praise God for providing for us so we can worship Him and fulfill our practices. I'm reminded of Abraham's prayer: *[14:37] "Our Lord, I have settled part of my family in this plantless valley, at Your Sacred House. Our Lord, they are to observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), so let throngs of people converge upon them, and provide for them all kinds of fruits, that they*

may be appreciative.

Abraham saw food and fruits as a means to allow his family to observe *Salat* and be appreciative. Food is not the end goal, but a means to the goal of worshiping God alone. And for us, thank God, this prayer is already answered. We can go to any grocery store and buy all kinds of fruit. Perhaps our test is to be appreciative and charitable since we already have enough, thank God.

[16:114] Therefore, you shall eat from GOD's provisions everything that is lawful and good, and be appreciative of GOD's blessings, if you do worship Him alone.

*Zakat Must Be Given
"On The Day Of Harvest"**

[6:141] He is the One who established gardens, trellised and untrellised, and palm trees, and crops with different tastes, and olives, and pomegranate—fruits that are similar, yet dissimilar. Eat from their fruits, and give the due alms on the day of harvest, and do not waste anything. He does not love the wasters.*

**6:141 Zakat charity is so important, the Most Merciful has restricted His mercy*

to those who give it (7:156). Yet, the corrupted Muslims have lost this most important commandment; they give Zakat only once a year. We see here that Zakat must be given away "On the day we receive income." The proportion that came to us through Abraham is 2.5% of our net income.

[15:19–23] As for the earth, we constructed it, and placed on it stabilizers (mountains), and we grew on it a perfect balance of everything. We made it habitable for you, and for creatures you do not provide for. There is nothing that we do not own infinite amounts thereof. But we send it down in precise measure. And we send the winds as pollinators, and cause water to come down from the sky for you to drink. Otherwise, you could not keep it palatable. It is we who control life and death, and we are the ultimate inheritors.*

**15:20 When we send astronauts into space, we provide them with precisely measured quantities of food, water, and oxygen. God created the spaceship Earth with billions of astronauts who work and reproduce; He supplied them with a self-supporting system that generates oxygen, fresh water, and a great variety of delicious foods and drinks.*

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We need to thank God that we have these blessings. Worldwide it is not the same. According to the UN WFP about 811 million people do not have enough food. And in roughly 60% of the cases the reason for hunger is due to human-caused conflict. This includes places such as Yemen, South Sudan, Congo, Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar (not to mention Ukraine). In Afghanistan more than half the population goes hungry every night (the UN estimates about 23 million are in acute hunger).

Praise God for our blessings. Not only does He provide enough food for us but also clean water.

[16:10] He sends down from the sky water for your drink, and to grow trees for your benefit. [16:11] With it, He grows for you crops, olives, date palms, grapes, and all kinds of fruits. This is (sufficient) proof for people who think.

[27:60] Who is the One who created the heavens and the earth? Who is the One who sends down to you from the sky water, whereby we produce gardens full of beauty--you could not possibly manufacture its trees? Is it another god with GOD? Indeed, they are people who have deviated. [27:61] Who is the One who made the earth habitable, caused rivers to run through it, placed on it mountains, and created a barrier between the two waters? Is it another god with GOD? Indeed, most of them do not know.

We don't want to take it for granted. When it comes to water—the situation is tough for many people. About 2.2 billion people don't have a way to get drinking water on premises (free from contamination and available when needed) according to a CDC article. Further, about 10% of the population of the world (785 million) does not even have access to basic services: that means “a protected drinking water source that takes less than thirty minutes to collect from”. Even in the USA, about 2 million do not have running water or plumbing.

Praise God for water that comes into pipes in our homes. We turn on a faucet and there's always water there. Thank You God. Many people, i.e., roughly 42% of the world's population (that's over 3 billion people) do not have piped water to their homes.

[56:68] Have you noted the water you drink? [56:69] Did you send it down from the clouds, or did we? [56:70] If we will, we can make it salty. You should be thankful.

[31:10] He created the heavens without pillars that you can see. He established on earth stabilizers (mountains) lest it tumbles with you, and He spread on it all kinds of creatures. We send down from the sky water to grow all kinds of beautiful plants.

[32:27] Do they not realize that we drive the water to barren lands, and produce with it crops to feed their livestock, as well as themselves? Do they not see?

Even here in Arizona, where we've been in a drought for about 20 years (low rainfall), God continues to provide us with water. He has designed an underground aquifer system that stores water for the future. The water is purified as it sinks through the layers of earth and then stays underground without draining away.

*[39:21] Do you not see that **GOD** sends down from the sky water, then places it into underground wells, then produces with it plants of various colors, then they grow until they turn yellow, then He turns them into hay? This should be a reminder for those who possess intelligence.*

And even other means that humans use to collect and store water such as building reservoirs—the ability to design those and store water without spoiling comes from God.

[15:22] And we send the winds as pollinators, and cause water to come down from the sky for you to drink. Otherwise, you could not keep it palatable.

Thank You God for being our Best and only Provider. May God forgive me for all the times I forget to thank Him. May God help me pass my tests of being appreciative and charitable.

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Faiz

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The Feast of Sacrifice: An innovation

God has decreed the pilgrimage during the holy months:

[2:197] Hajj shall be observed in the specified months. Whoever sets out to observe Hajj shall refrain from sexual intercourse, misconduct, and arguments throughout Hajj. Whatever good you do, GOD is fully aware thereof. As you prepare your provisions for the journey, the best provision is righteousness. You shall observe Me, O you who possess intelligence.*

**2:197 Hajj can be observed any time during the Sacred Months: Zul-Hijjah, Muharram, Safar, and Rabi l. Local governments restrict Hajj to a few days for their own convenience. See 9:37*

Sacrifice is one of the rites of pilgrimage, to be performed during Hajj by those who are participating in the Hajj:

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[22:32] *Indeed, those who reverence the rites decreed by GOD demonstrate the righteousness of their hearts. [22:33] The (livestock) provide you with many benefits for a period, before being donated to the ancient shrine. [22:34] For each congregation we have decreed rites whereby they commemorate the name of GOD for providing them with the livestock. Your god is one and the same god; you shall all submit to Him. Give good news to the obedient. [22:35] They are the ones whose hearts tremble upon mentioning GOD, they steadfastly persevere during adversity, they observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), and from our provisions to them, they give to charity. [22:36] The animal offerings are among the rites decreed by GOD for your own good. * You shall mention GOD's name on them while they are standing in line. Once they are offered for sacrifice, you shall eat therefrom and feed the poor and the needy. This is why we subdued them for you, that you may show your appreciation. [22:37] Neither their meat, nor their blood reaches GOD. What reaches Him is your righteousness. He has subdued them for you, that you may show your appreciation by glorifying GOD for guiding you. Give good news to the charitable.*

**22:36 Animal offerings from the pilgrims conserve the resources at the pilgrimage site. Note that almost 2,000,000 pilgrims converge on Mecca during pilgrimage.*

Many traditional Muslims (Sunnis and Shiites) celebrate the "Feast of Sacrifice" believing it to be an obligation from God (even for those who do not perform Hajj). They observe it on the tenth day of the month of Zul-Hijjah (of the lunar calendar). Each family sacrifices an animal to celebrate Eid Al Adha according to a series of rules for different types of livestock. This means that millions of animals are slaughtered around the world.

The following are some examples of the difficulties and problems associated with this event:

Health problems: Hygiene problems due to waste and blood during the slaughter of animals concentrated in a short period of time. And due to difficulties in management of waste and offal.

Economic problems: around the time of Eid, there is both waste and a drop in prices of raw materials such as leather and sheep's wool. This is because they are generated (and sometimes discarded) in huge quantities. These are important commodities for industry and crafts. Beneficiaries are often not the poor, but rather wealthy businesses.

Public health problems: Increase in cardiovascular disease, cholesterol, diabetes and gout due to overconsumption of meat.

Socio-economic problems: Paradoxically, poor families are more likely to feel obligated to celebrate this holiday than wealthy families. The purchase of an animal to be sacrificed can cause some of them financial difficulties. They are under social pressure because Eid is presented as a religious obligation. Following tradition, 2/3 of the meat sacrificed by wealthy families is given to family and friends and only 1/3 to the poor.

Animal offerings are linked to the Hajj ritual (22:26-38). They are therefore reserved for pilgrims when they make the pilgrimage to Mecca. Verse 28 states: "Eat therefrom and feed the despondent and the poor." This is the true purpose of the sacrifice.

It is forbidden to hunt during this period to conserve resources and avoid waste (5:1-2). We can see that with Eid as currently practiced, the opposite result is occurring. Moreover, this festival gives a negative image of *Islam* by complicating the religion that God wants to be simple.

Thus, instead of inviting other people to embrace the religion of God, they push them away because of the contradictions and constraints that these innovations generate.

[22:78] *You shall strive for the cause of*

GOD as you should strive for His cause. He has chosen you and has placed no hardship on you in practicing your religion—the religion of your father Abraham. He is the one who named you "Submitters" originally. Thus, the messenger shall serve as a witness among you, and you shall serve as witnesses among the people. Therefore, you shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and hold fast to GOD; He is your Lord, the best Lord and the best Supporter.

Many traditions associated with this Eid are not from Quran, but instead come from laws and customs made by men.

The Idols:

*Innovating New Religious Laws**

[42:21] *They follow idols who decree for them religious laws never authorized by GOD. If it were not for the predetermined decision, they would have been judged immediately. Indeed, the transgressors have incurred a painful retribution. **

**42:21 The Islam of today's Muslim world has been so distorted, it has become a Satanic cult. The Ulama, or religious scholars, have added many extraneous laws, prohibitions, dress codes, dietary regulations, and religious practices never authorized by God. This is one of the main reasons for sending God's Messenger of the Covenant (9:31, 33:67, and Appendix 33).*

Some traditional Muslims (Sunni and Shi'a) commemorate this feast believing that God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son. Then when he was about to do so, an angel appeared and ordered him to sacrifice a sheep, which he brought to him, in exchange of his son.

The Qur'an refutes this version which has come down to us through the hadith and the Bible. God never commanded Abraham to kill his son because He never commands sin (7:28). This was a satanic dream.

*Satanic Dream**

[37:102] *When he grew enough to work with him, he said, "My son, I see in a*

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dream that I am sacrificing you. What do you think?" He said, "O my father, do what you are commanded to do. You will find me, GOD willing, patient."

[37:103] *They both submitted, and he put his forehead down (to sacrifice him).*

[37:104] *We called him: "O Abraham.*

[37:105] *"You have believed the dream." We thus reward the righteous.*

[37:106] *That was an exacting test indeed. [37:107] We ransomed (Ismail) by substituting an animal sacrifice.*

*37:102 *The Most Merciful never advocates evil (7:28). As with Job, Satan claimed that Abraham loved his son too much, and was permitted to put Abraham to that severe test.*

The Qur'an is clear that God intervened and prevented the sacrifice of Ismail by his father. Although Abraham was wrong to consider sacrificing his son, we know he was willing and eager to please God. God calls him an exemplary vanguard in his submission to God (16:120). Ismail's attitude in this story is another lesson in submission to God and the trust we should have in our Creator.

God rewarded them by saving them from the devil's schemes. Although this story reflects God's infinite mercy, people still blaspheme by spreading lies about God.

If one can believe that God, the Most Merciful, would order Abraham to kill his son, one can believe and follow many

harsh and unjust laws. This may be a reason why many who follow traditions and the laws of religious scholars find it difficult to adapt in non-Muslim societies. Their customs, beliefs and demands bring them into conflict with the laws of the host countries. This contradicts the universal character of submission to God alone—true Islam—which is a religion that allows the individual and society to live in perfect harmony throughout the world. May God help us follow His laws alone and avoid innovations.

Adil

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Charity Water 2022

By God's grace we have launched the charity water fundraising campaign for 2022, with a strong start. May GOD accept from all of us and bless us in our affairs with His guidance. These opportunities are truly a gift from Him so we can attain righteousness and be redeemed.

<https://www.charitywater.org/masjiduntucson-org>

More details will also be shared at the conference, God willing, see you there.

[3:92] *You cannot attain righteousness until you give to charity from the possessions you love. Whatever you give to charity, GOD is fully aware thereof.*

God Willing

37th Annual Conference
United Submitters
July 29-31
Tucson, Arizona



God willing, the annual conference of United Submitters International will be in Tucson AZ, on July 29-31. 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 will, God willing, be available soon 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.