

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International  
Community of Submitters

www.masjidtucson.org



Published by Masjid Tucson  
Safar 1444

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## The Danger of Jealousy

The Biblical story of Saul and David can be found in 1 Samuel. It's a story of jealousy and anger, leading to unrighteous behavior. Jealousy may not seem like a major sin in our daily lives. We all get a little jealous of people from time to time; what's the big deal?

But 1 Samuel 18:1-16 has a story about jealousy getting out of hand. In the story, the king, Saul, reacted with extreme jealousy against David. He feared David's success in battle and people praising David more than the king. His fear and insecurity led to jealousy. In the story, the king was afraid David might try to unseat him. His jealousy grew so deep that he wanted to kill David on more than one occasion.

Jealousy generally refers to the thoughts or feelings of insecurity, fear, and concern over a relative lack of possessions. It can include emotions such as anger, resentment, inadequacy, disgust and helplessness.

Jealousy is common in human relationships, and some studies observe jealousy in infants as young as five

months. Shakespeare used the term "green-eyed monster", and so the color green has long been associated with jealousy and envy, "green with envy".

Jealousy involves fearing losing what one has, while envy is generally thought to be the desire for something someone else has. The words are often used interchangeably, perhaps because people can experience both at the same time. The word "jealousy" is often used to apply to both experiences of jealousy and experiences of envy.

Jealousy may involve fear of loss, suspicion of or anger about a perceived betrayal, low self-esteem, uncertainty, loneliness, and/or distrust.

Most of us have experienced jealousy. We know it's an emotion that humans are tested with. But we know it's dangerous to allow jealousy to fester. We need to seek refuge in God when we feel the first stirring of jealousy. Only God can remove those feelings, and He promises that He will do that for the believers in Paradise. [15:47] *We remove all jealousy from their hearts. Like one family, they will be on adjacent furnishings.*

We need to have confidence in who God made each of us to be. We need to stop comparing ourselves to anyone else. We need to *Be content with your lot (74:6)*. The most important thing we can do when we feel that "green-eyed monster" creeping up on us is to seek refuge in God.

[41:36] *When the devil whispers an idea to you, you shall seek refuge in GOD. He is the Hearer, the Omniscient.*

[7:200] *When the devil whispers to you any whisper, seek refuge in GOD; He is Hearer, Omniscient.*

God gives us many examples in the Quran where jealousy leads to straying off the path, rejecting His revelations, and ultimately disbelief.

[2:109] *Many followers of the scripture would rather see you revert to disbelief, now that you have believed. This is due to jealousy on their part, after the truth has become evident to them. You shall pardon them, and leave them alone, until GOD issues His judgment. GOD is Omnipotent.* (also 2:213, 3:19, 6:124)

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It causes people to break up into sects, something God strongly condemns (6:159, 30:32).

*[42:14] Ironically, they broke up into sects only after the knowledge had come to them, due to jealousy and resentment among themselves. If it were not for a predetermined decision from your Lord to respite them for a definite interim, they would have been judged immediately. Indeed, the later generations who inherited the scripture are full of doubts. (also 45:17)*

The Bible also strongly condemns jealousy. The tenth commandment says “do not covet.” When we covet something someone else has, we are saying that God, the best Provider, has not given us enough. We can certainly implore God for anything. But we must accept that the answer is sometimes “no.” And be content with that.

*Supplication: A Form of Worship [40:60] Your Lord says, “Implore Me, and I will respond to you. Surely, those who are too arrogant to worship Me will enter Gehenna, forcibly.” \*40:60 Supplication, imploring God for anything, even material luxuries, is a form of worship. Hence the commandment to implore God whenever we have any need. An atheist will never implore God for anything.*

How do we get rid of jealous thoughts?

We can make a list of those times when we experience jealousy to help us identify what triggers the emotion. Think about whether this thing you’re jealous about would actually make you happier if you received it. God knows what’s best for us, and He always gives us what we need.

We can also inventory the blessings God has given us, the greatest being His guidance. We can take time to appreciate the blessings. “Count your blessings, name them one by one.”

*[16:18] If you count GOD’s blessings, you cannot possibly encompass them. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

Know that Satan will work on us, using jealousy as a tool. Again, we need to seek refuge in God from all of Satan’s whispers.

The comfort is in knowing that God will take away this destructive emotion in the end.

*[7:43] We will remove all jealousy from their hearts. Rivers will flow beneath them, and they will say, “GOD be praised for guiding us. We could not possibly be guided, if it were not that GOD has guided us. The messengers of our Lord did bring the truth.” They will be called: “This is your Paradise. You have inherited it, in return for your works.”*

*Frank*

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## GLASS HOUSES

There’s a saying: “People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones.” Jesus said it even better in the New Testament. The people wanted to stone to death a woman who was accused of adultery. Jesus told them: “Let the man among you who has no sin be the first to cast a stone at her.” [John 8:7]

Is there anyone without sin? The Quran seems to indicate no. *[35:45] If GOD punished the people for their sins, He would not leave a single creature on earth. But He respites them for a predetermined interim. Once their interim is fulfilled, then GOD is Seer of His servants.*

Not one of us can claim to be sinless, even if we live a most pure life here. The very fact that we are here as humans clearly shows that we have sinned. We failed to uphold God’s absolute authority when Satan challenged God’s Omnipotence. To a greater or lesser degree, every one of us humans showed idolatrous inclinations. And we know there’s no greater sin than idol worship.

This is not to say we cannot remind. A reminder with kindness and love can

benefit another, but harshness will likely repel. The embrace of wisdom and kind enlightenment is very different from the stones of criticism and ridicule. So, why do we criticize and ridicule others? Perhaps we think it will deflect criticism from ourselves. It’s always easier to blame someone else than to accept the blame yourself. It’s always easier to see faults in others than to examine our own shortcomings. But this is exactly what we need to do—examine ourselves (59:18).

*[34:50] Say, “If I go astray, I go astray because of my own shortcomings. And if I am guided, it is because of my Lord’s inspiration. He is Hearer, Near.”*

God does not wish for us to go astray. *[39:7] If you disbelieve, GOD does not need anyone. But He dislikes to see His servants make the wrong decision. If you decide to be appreciative, He is pleased for you. No soul bears the sins of any other soul. Ultimately, to your Lord is your return, then He will inform you of everything you had done. He is fully aware of the innermost thoughts.*

God has stacked the deck in our favor that we may make it to Paradise. For each sin we commit we are penalized only once. But for each good deed or righteous act, we are rewarded manifold.

*[6:160] Whoever does a righteous work receives the reward for ten, and the one who commits a sin is required for only one. No one suffers the slightest injustice.*

*[2:261] The example of those who spend their monies in the cause of GOD is that of a grain that produces seven spikes, with a hundred grains in each spike. GOD multiplies this manifold for whomever He wills. GOD is Bounteous, Knower.*

This system of God’s is so incredible. We don’t deserve this much mercy, but it’s His promise to us and He never breaks His promise. We rebelled against His ab-

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solute authority and wavered in our devotion to Him. But instead of putting us all in hell where we deserve to be, He gave us this final chance to redeem ourselves by coming to the worship of God alone. But it has to be wholeheartedly.

*[26:89] Only those who come to GOD with their whole heart (will be saved).*

*[37:40,74,128,160] Only GOD's servants who are absolutely devoted to Him alone (will be saved).*

If our time is consumed worrying about what's going on for others, then our whole heart is not with God. God knows what's happening for each individual—its course and its final destiny. We don't have to be concerned. What we need to do is worry about our own faults; look deep inside ourselves and sincerely try to clean up the mess in there. Our examples come from the messengers, and they were worried about their own necks.

*[21:26] Yet, they said, "The Most Gracious has begotten a son!" Glory be to Him. All (messengers) are (His) honored servants. [21:27] They never speak on their own, and they strictly follow His commands. [21:28] He knows their future and their past. They do not intercede, except for those already accepted by Him, and they are worried about their own necks.*

Excellent advice comes in *[5:105] O you who believe, you should worry only about your own necks. If the others go astray, they cannot hurt you, as long as you are guided. To GOD is your ultimate destiny, all of you, then He will inform you of everything you had done.*

That's something we should remember. If someone else goes astray, behaves unrighteously, or disbelieves in the message, it doesn't hurt us and it certainly doesn't hurt God. As long as we can remain steadfast on the straight path, God

will protect us and guide us.

So whether or not you live in a glass house, don't throw stones. Why waste time criticizing someone else?

*"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?" [Matthew 7:3-4]*

May God guide us to concentrate our efforts on worshiping Him alone and improving our souls, so that we can enjoy Paradise for eternity.

*[39:73] Those who revered their Lord will be led to Paradise in throngs. When they get to it, and its gates are opened, its guards will say, "Peace be upon you; you have won. Therefore, you abide here-in forever."*

*[39:74] They will say, "Praise be to GOD, who fulfilled His promise to us, and made us inherit the earth, enjoying Paradise as we please." What a beautiful recompense for the workers!*

*[39:75] You will see the angels floating around the throne, glorifying and praising their Lord. After the equitable judgment is issued to all, it will be proclaimed: "Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe."*

Lydia

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## PRAISE GOD

God is the Truth  
 Quran is the proof  
 Life is a blessing  
 And living life is a lesson.

The truths, proofs, blessings, and lessons from God in the Quran.

### The Truth

*[69:51] It is the absolute truth.*

*[43:78] "We have given you the truth, but most of you hate the truth."*

*[50:5] They rejected the truth when it came to them; they are utterly confused.*

*[47:3] This is because those who disbelieve are following falsehood, while those who believe are following the truth from their Lord. GOD thus cites for the people, their examples.*

We can see that the truth comes from God.

*[45:29] This is our record; it utters the truth about you. We have been recording everything you did.*

*[42:17] GOD is the One who sent down the scripture, to deliver the truth and the law. For all that you know, the Hour (Day of Judgment) may be very close.*

*[39:5] He created the heavens and the earth truthfully. He rolls the night over the day, and rolls the day over the night. He committed the sun and the moon, each running for a finite period. Absolutely, He is the Almighty, the Forgiving.*

*[53:28] They had no knowledge about this; they only conjectured. Conjecture is no substitute for the truth.*

Conjecture is an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information; a guess. We have the truth from God in the Quran. We don't need to guess about anything related to our religious guidance.

### The Proof

*[45:3] The heavens and the earth are full of proofs for the believers. [45:4] Also in your creation, and the creation of all the animals, there are proofs for people who are certain.*

*[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.*

Think of all the creatures God has placed perfectly on earth. You don't

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ISSN 1089-053X

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see a polar bear in the woods, or a koala bear out on the ice.

*[13:3] He is the One who constructed the earth and placed on it mountains and rivers. And from the different kinds of fruits, He made them into pairs—males and females. The night overtakes the day. These are solid proofs for people who think.*

*[16:12] And He commits, in your service, the night and the day, as well as the sun and the moon. Also, the stars are committed by His command. These are (sufficient) proofs for people who understand.*

Thank You, God. The whole earth could have had it like the polar region with months of sunlight and months of darkness. Instead, we have the gift of the night and the day.

*[42:35] Those who argue against our proofs will find out that they have no basis.*

How can anyone argue against God's proofs? God and His scriptures provide us the real proof.

### **The Blessings**

*[102:8] Then you will be questioned, on that day, about the blessings you had enjoyed.*

*[48:1] We have bestowed upon you (O Messenger) a great victory.*

*[48:2] Whereby GOD forgives your*

*past sins, as well as future sins, and perfects His blessings upon you, and guides you in a straight path.*

*[42:26] Responding to Him are those who believe and lead a righteous life. He will shower them with His blessings. As for the disbelievers, they have incurred a severe retribution.*

*[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.*

The word "bestow" means to confer or present. God offers His blessings, but most people are unappreciative.

*[16:18] If you count GOD's blessings, you cannot possibly encompass them. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

*[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.*

All of the blessings from the heaven and the earth are from God. We can't make our hearts beat or our lungs breathe; we can't make our eyes see, our ears hear, or our mouths speak.

### **The Lessons**

*[30:37] Do they not realize that GOD increases the provision for whomever He wills, or reduces it? These should*

*be lessons for people who believe.*

*[24:44] GOD controls the night and day. This should be a lesson for those who possess eyes.*

*[50:37] This should be a lesson for everyone who possesses a mind, or is able to hear and witness.*

*[69:12] We rendered it a lesson for you, that any listening ear may understand.*

*[16:66] And in the livestock there is a lesson for you: we provide you with a drink from their bellies. From the midst of digested food and blood, you get pure milk, delicious for the drinkers.*

*[15:75] This is a lesson for those who possess intelligence.*

We need to recognize that God is the Truth, that His Quran provides the proof, that this life is a blessing, and living it shows us the lessons. If we are appreciative of God and all He provides, He will continue to guide us on the right path.

*[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.*

*[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.*

Taareq