

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Compassion

If someone shows kindness, caring and a willingness to help others, they are showing compassion. It is a word used for a positive and admirable emotion that has to do with being thoughtful and decent. It shows humility, pity, sympathy and concern in understanding people, for the situation or sufferings they are going through.

There are many ways that we can exhibit compassion. Showing kindness and respecting privacy by relaxing your judgments and putting yourself in someone else's shoes; listening generously; having a comforting and positive outlook towards someone and their situation or misfortunes. This shows high emotional intelligence among the people who have this admirable trait, and it is also considered an act of charity.

It means to recognize the sufferings of others and take action to help them whenever possible, to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and to defend the rights of the poor, needy and oppressed.

The Quran and the Bible talk of God's compassion:

[59:10] Those who became believers after them say, "Our Lord, forgive us and our brethren who preceded us to the faith, and keep our hearts from harboring any hatred towards those who believed. Our Lord, You are Compassionate, Most Merciful."

Psalm 145:8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Psalm 116:5 The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

We know that, as Submitters, we want to emulate those traits of God in our lives. Compassion in words and actions is a very admirable characteristic that each of us should aim to master.

[2:262] Those who spend their money in the cause of GOD, then do not follow their charity with insult or harm, will receive their recompense from their Lord; they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve. [2:263] Kind words and compassion are better than a charity that is followed by insult. GOD is Rich, Clement.

God willing

38th Annual Conference

United Submitters

July 28-30, 2023

Vancouver BC, Canada

The annual conference of United Submitters International will be in Vancouver, from July 28-30, God willing. It's an opportunity to remember God, increase our knowledge and meet our brethren in faith (3:191-194, 18:28, 58:11, 49:10). For details please see: <https://www.masjiduntucson.org/conference> or email: info@masjiduntucson.org

The Messenger's Kindness

[3:159] It was mercy from GOD that you became compassionate towards them. Had you been harsh and meanhearted, they would have abandoned you. Therefore, you shall pardon them and ask forgiveness for them, and consult them. Once you make a decision, carry out your plan, and trust in GOD. GOD loves those who trust in Him.

[9:117] GOD has redeemed the prophet, and the immigrants (Muhājireen) and the supporters who hosted them and gave them refuge (Ansār), who followed him during the difficult times. That is

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when the hearts of some of them almost wavered. But He has redeemed them, for He is Compassionate towards them, Most Merciful.

When we think of athletes, we think of them working so hard to master their chosen sport, going through different types of training for building strength, speed, flexibility and mobility, precision, power, muscle coordination, balance, core strength and endurance. Whatever goal they are striving for—Olympic gold, World Cup soccer, Super Bowl champ—they put in the time and effort necessary to reach that goal.

We are not tennis players, boxers or Marathon runners but we are players in a game that is called the Game of Life. Our aim is winning God's pleasure and forgiveness and gaining entry to the Everlasting Paradise. This is much much bigger than the biggest prize money or the shiniest gold medal. We are not dealing with conditioning our physical bodies but with conditioning our souls over the whole period of our life span, so as to purify ourselves to enter Paradise.

We look at the examples from the Quran of the Prophets and the Immigrants who left their homes for the sake of God. We see what all they had to go through. And we read about those who were martyred for the sake of God and what they endured. Endure means to suffer something painful or difficult patiently; to remain steadfast and to deal with and accept something unpleasant.

The Inevitable Test

[3:186] You will certainly be tested, through your money and your lives, and you will hear from those who received the scripture, and from the idol worshippers, a lot of insult. If you steadfastly persevere and lead a righteous life, this will prove the strength of your faith.

So will we have to endure and have faith throughout our lives, through all

the tests that come our way, keeping faith in God and His promise that victory will come. We will need to remain steadfast in the face of adversity.

The Test is Mandatory

[29:2] Do the people think that they will be left to say, "We believe," without being put to the test?

[29:3] We have tested those before them, for GOD must distinguish those who are truthful, and He must expose the liars.

We always hope that God will be Compassionate with us. *[6:103] No visions can encompass Him, but He encompasses all visions. He is the Compassionate, the Cognizant.*

And we know that to be worthy of that compassion, we need to work hard to please God. *[2:207] Then there are those who dedicate their lives to serving GOD; GOD is compassionate towards such worshippers.*

To earn God's compassion, we need to be compassionate to others. Someone going through a test may need our sympathy, our charity, or perhaps just a hug. Our goal is to achieve Paradise, and the way there is through kindness, consideration, strength and steadfastness. It's worshipping God alone, obeying His commands, and following His guidance.

[57:9] He is the One who sends down to His servant clear revelations, in order to lead you out of the darkness into the light. GOD is Compassionate towards you, Most Merciful.

Ayaz

* * * * *

Be Reverent

One of the early reminders or commandments we see in the Quran is to be reverent. In Sura 2, after the "great feud" and Adam being sent down, in 2:40 we see: *O Children of Israel, remember My favor, which I bestowed upon you, and fulfill your part of the covenant, that I fulfill My part of the covenant, and reverence Me.*

The idea of reverence is repeated in 2:45-46: *You shall seek help through steadfastness and the Contact Prayers (Salat). This is difficult indeed, but not so for the reverent, who believe that they will meet their Lord; that to Him they ultimately return.*

Also *[23:1] Successful indeed are the believers; [23:2] who are reverent during their Contact Prayers (Salat). [23:3] And they avoid vain talk.*

Sura 23 is titled, "The Believers." And it describes many important qualities we should work towards if we want to be successful and inherit Paradise. The first that's listed is being reverent in Salat. Of course, we must observe all of God's commandments including staying away from vain talk, giving zakat, being chaste, being honest and trustworthy (23:4-11). And perhaps there's a connection between them. If one is mindful and reverent of God, that may help us to incorporate the positive traits of believers into our lives. And as we observe commandments, it may augment our reverence. So it's a "cycle of good". Perhaps the prostration in Salat, for example, helps us be more reverent. For the people of the scripture: *[17:109] They fall down on their chins, prostrating and weeping. For it augments their reverence.*

What does the word reverence mean? I think we all have a sense of it. Let's also look at the dictionary:

Noun: Deep respect for. Verb: Regard or treat with deep respect.

Synonyms: respect - veneration - esteem - obeisance - regard *verb.* venerate - respect - honor

From this, I take away the sense of deep respect, esteem, regard, honor. When we reverence God, we look up to Him and regard Him as our Lord, our Master, the only One worthy of all worship. If we want to submit to God, the Lord of the

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universe, then it seems we must start with this deep respect or reverence for God. And that will help us obey Him, glorify Him, and submit to God knowing who He is, how great He is.

The command to reverence God has been around since the beginning, i.e., well before the Quran. We see an example with Adam's son who refuses to harm his brother and instead practices being reverent of God (5:28). We see that the commandment to reverence God was sent to previous prophets. [4:131] *To GOD belongs everything in the heavens and the earth, and we have enjoined on those who received the scripture before you, and enjoined on you, that you shall reverence GOD. If you disbelieve, then to GOD belongs everything in the heavens and the earth. GOD is in no need, Praise-worthy.*

[16:2] *He sends down the angels with the revelations, carrying His commands, to whomever He chooses from among His servants: "You shall preach that there is no other god beside Me; You shall reverence Me."*

In Sura 26, all of the messengers remind their people to reverence God. This says, to me, that it's a universal command. And one reason could be that if we are reverent, our hearts can open to listen to God. So, if the community of Noah or Shuaib or Moses (or of any messenger) had reverence in their hearts for God, they would listen to the message. They would benefit from what the messenger was telling them—which is information from God. It's not for any personal gain of the messenger, but rather for the soul of the listener.

For example, in 8:29 we see that if we reverence God, God will enlighten us, remit our sins and forgive us. The Quran is for the reverent.

[20:2] *We did not reveal the Quran to you, to cause you any hardship. [20:3]*

Only to remind the reverent. [20:4] A revelation from the Creator of the earth and the high heavens.

[6:51] *And preach with this (Quran) to those who reverence the summoning before their Lord—they have none beside Him as a Lord and Master, nor an intercessor—that they may attain salvation.*

[39:23] *GOD has revealed herein the best Hadith; a book that is consistent, and points out both ways (to Heaven and Hell). The skins of those who reverence their Lord cringe therefrom, then their skins and their hearts soften up for GOD's message. Such is GOD's guidance; He bestows it upon whomever He wills. As for those sent astray by GOD, nothing can guide them.*

[87:9] *Therefore, you shall remind; perhaps the reminder will benefit. [87:10] The reverent will take heed.*

If we are reverent, we will take heed. And it seems it goes back to what's in our hearts. Perhaps that emphasizes true reverence—it comes from the heart, from within each individual. [21:49] *The ones who reverence their Lord, even when alone in their privacy, and they worry about the Hour.*

[36:11] *You will be heeded only by those who uphold this message, and reverence the Most Gracious—even when alone in their privacy. Give them good news of forgiveness and a generous recompense.*

Another aspect of reverence seems to go with "hope" when it comes to worship. It may help us understand the purpose of our life and the reason we worship God alone.

[7:56] *Do not corrupt the earth after it has been set straight, and worship Him out of reverence, and out of hope. Surely, GOD's mercy is attainable by the righteous.*

[32:16] *Their sides readily forsake their beds, in order to worship their Lord, out*

of reverence and hope, and from our provisions to them, they give.

So perhaps with reverence, God gives us hope. And reverence gives us strength. Remember Adam's son? In 5:28 we see Adam's son was able to be patient and observe God because he revered God: [5:28] *"If you extend your hand to kill me, I am not extending my hand to kill you. For I reverence GOD, Lord of the universe.*

It takes great strength of character and mental discipline not to be provoked when your brother is threatening to kill you. And other verses tell us something similar, that if we reverence God, we can hold fast to Him even in what appear to be difficult times. When God told the Children of Israel to enter the holy land they were afraid. Without the reverence, people get caught up in worldly fears. Reverence prepares our hearts to trust God and to submit.

[5:21] *"O my people, enter the holy land that GOD has decreed for you, and do not rebel, lest you become losers."*

[5:22] *They said, "O Moses, there are powerful people in it, and we will not enter it, unless they get out of it. If they get out, we are entering."*

[5:23] *Two men who were reverent and blessed by GOD said, "Just enter the gate. If you just enter it, you will surely prevail. You must trust in GOD, if you are believers."*

It takes work to reverence God. There are distractions and my mind is often pulled away. This may be why God tells us to work at it. [71:13] *Why should you not strive to reverence GOD?*

We know that to make God our God, we must remember Him most of our day. This is a selfish but fundamentally important type of striving—a striving to reverence God. To observe His commands. [5:35] *O you who believe, you shall reverence GOD and seek the ways*

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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 (or: masjiduntucson@gmail.com)

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and means to Him, and strive in His cause, that you may succeed.

In this world, people like to attain high ranks. Whether it's excellence in sports or business, or winning political office or becoming superstar entertainers. We are taught from a young age to strive to be the best we can. But what about striving to reverence God? Because whatever I'm striving for in this world, striving to reverence God provides better rewards, eternal rewards.

[83:22] The righteous have deserved bliss. [83:23] On luxurious furnishings they watch. [83:24] You recognize in their faces the joy of bliss. [83:25] Their drinks will be spiced with nectar. [83:26] Its spice is like musk. This is what the competitors should compete for.

When it comes to being reverent of God, it's a form of striving we can all do. It doesn't matter if we're rich or poor. Tall or short. Young or old. Everyone can work hard to be reverent in the Salat. Satan is trying to distract us. And by building the mental discipline to be focused during the Salat, it's a stepping stone to being mindful of God through our day, God willing.

[29:45] You shall recite what is revealed to you of the scripture, and observe the

Contact Prayers (Salat), for the Contact Prayers prohibit evil and vice. But the remembrance of GOD (through Salat) is the most important objective. GOD knows everything you do.

All other creatures already reverence God. We humans are the ones trying to catch up.

[13:13] The thunder praises His glory, and so do the angels, out of reverence for Him. He sends the lightning bolts, which strike in accordance with His will. Yet, they argue about GOD, though His power is awesome.

[16:49] To GOD prostrates everything in the heavens and everything on earth — every creature—and so do the angels; without the least arrogance. [16:50] They reverence their Lord, high above them, and they do what they are commanded to do. [16:51] GOD has proclaimed: "Do not worship two gods; there is only one god. You shall reverence Me alone."

[42:5] The heavens above them almost shatter, out of reverence for Him, and the angels praise and glorify their Lord, and they ask forgiveness for those on earth. Absolutely, GOD is the Forgiver, Most Merciful.

Let's all work on reverencing God more and more, following His commands, and being mindful of Him in all the things we do.

[3:30] The day will come when each soul will find all the good works it had done brought forth. As for the evil works, it will wish that they were far, far removed. GOD alerts you that you shall reverence Him alone. GOD is Compassionate towards the people.

[16:51] GOD has proclaimed: "Do not worship two gods; there is only one god. You shall reverence Me alone."

[33:39] Those who deliver GOD's messages, and who reverence Him alone, shall never fear anyone but GOD. GOD is the most efficient reckoner.

God promises eternal rewards for those who do.

[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."