

United Submitters International

Masjid Tucson, 739 E 6th St, Tucson, AZ 85719, USA
Telephone: (602)791-3989

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Thoughts to be shared... In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Change

There is much to reflect in the years that have passed, Our world has faced change in things we all thought would last. God controls all that happens and it's for the best, To submit and be happy is our promised test.

The way we face change will show us just who we are, If we fight and protest our souls haven't grown far. One thing that we know will not change is our mission, We must teach to the world God's path of Submission.

We acknowledge no truth more important than this, Any force that distracts we must vow to dismiss. With the changes and problems that come through each life, We'll submit to one God and confront any strife.

The more that we strive the larger our souls will grow, God grants His wisdom which has a worth we can't know. With wisdom we learn the blessed role that change will play, For change brings a strength perfecting us to God's way.

Susan Erisen

Honest Truth

God is Merciful, Powerful, and Strong, Obey His commandments, you won't go wrong. Disbelievers are confused, unsure what to do, They have no idea they should be listening to You.

Hypocrites lie, they say with believers they will not part, But God alone knows what's in their hearts. They think we are strange, they think we are odd, But they can never run away from God.

We have strived and struggled to be our best, For our goal in life is to pass our test. You can believe in what's right and take a stand, But leave it to God for it's all in His hands.

Sarah J. Drecha Erisen, age 10

6th Annual International Conference of the United Submitters 1991

August 30, 31, September 1

God-willing, please let us know your plans to attend before the end of July. Attendance to this conference is by invitation only. Registration fees are \$76 for individuals and \$152 for families. This includes comfortable hotel accommodations, daily meals, and child care for children under the age of 12. If you would like to be a speaker, please inform us as soon as possible. Checks should be made payable to Masjid Tucson. Praise God we look forward to seeing all of you.

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

SUBMITTERS PERSPECTIVE

Monthly Bulletin of United Submitters International *** Proclaiming the only religion acceptable to God

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Editor: Sam Khalifa / Masjid Tucson

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

WORSHIP OF GOD ALONE WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS

"Among the people there is the one who worships God conditionally. If things go his way, he is content. But if some adversity befalls him, he makes an about-face. Thus, he loses both this life and the Hereafter. Such is the real loss (22:11).

This life is the last chance we have to change our condition. We accepted an immense burden on our souls, even though God had given us many chances in the other dimension to realize our tremendous crime. In our first dimension there was God and His creatures. One of His creatures, namely the devil, had the idea he could be a god besides God (The Great Feud, Sura 38:67-83). Out of His limitless mercy, God gathered the humans, as mentioned in Sura 7:172, to bear witness that God alone is our Lord. We all bore witness. God then offered us the freedom of choice, the responsibility as God states in Sura 33:72. The heavens, mountains and earth refused to accept this condition, this burden. But the human being ignorantly accepted it.

After witnessing God's endless mercy and His perfect absoluteness, the human transgressed with his desire to see how the devil would do as a god. Humans fell into the devil's trap by accepting this condition. Mankind has been exiled from heaven and has placed himself in deep trouble by putting this condition on his soul as a horrendous burden. God explains in Sura 13:11, "Shifts of angels take turns, in order to stay with each one of you - they are in front of you and behind you. They stay with you, and they guard you in accordance with God's commands. Thus, God does not change the condition of any people unless they themselves make the decision to change. If God wills any hardship for any people, no force can stop it; they have none

besides Him as a Lord and Master."

How have we been doing in this dimension? Have we been putting the same conditions on our souls which we did in the other dimension as ignorant transgressors? God has given us many examples in the Quran so we can learn not to fall into transgression by practicing conditional worship. One example is found in Sura 2:54-55, "Recall that Moses said to his people, 'O my people, you have wronged your souls by worshipping the calf. You shall repent to your Creator, and kill your egos. This is better for you, in the sight of your Creator.' He did redeem you, for He is the Redeemer, Most Merciful. Recall that you said, 'O Moses, we will not believe unless we see God, physically.' Consequently the lightning struck you, as you looked." Another example is found in Sura 22:11, "Among the people there is the one who worships God conditionally. If things go his way, he is content. But if some adversity befalls him, he makes an about-face. Thus, he loses both this life and the Hereafter. Such is the real loss." Similarly in Sura 29:10, our Creator says, "Among the people there are those who say, 'We believe in God,' but as soon as they suffer any hardship because of God, they equate the people's persecution with God's retribution. And if victory from your Lord comes your way, they say, 'We were with you.' Is God not fully aware of the people's innermost thoughts?"

God's system is never changeable, however, the human tries to change God's system by creating his own conditions and

underestimating God's absolute authority. We have to give up our personal conditions by following the word of God alone, found in the Quran, in order to achieve salvation.

The majority of people, like the people of Noah, Moses, and Jesus, placed conditions on their worship and went astray. Some of the people of Jesus went so far astray that Jesus was crucified and killed unjustly. In our time, Dr. Rahsad Khalifa, the Messenger of the Covenant discovered, by God's grace, the miraculous code in the Quran based on the number 19 - which is one of the Greatest Miracles. God presented this tremendous miracle to the world. The so-called Islamic countries totally accepted the miracle and were thrilled by it. They quickly changed their minds when the Messenger of the Covenant told them that they must give up Hadith and Sunna and follow Quran alone if they really believe and accept this irrefutable, great miracle of Quran. The moment they were told to give up Hadith and Sunna, all of the Arab nations rejected this miracle from God which proved that they never really believed in it from the beginning. In addition to this, they killed the Messenger of God, Dr. Rashad Khalifa, unjustly. God showed the Arabs, through His messenger, that they would rather insist on going to Hell than change their conditions to attain salvation from God by upholding Quran alone.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Conditional Worship Continued...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

This world is Satan's dominion. God teaches us in the Quran that the devil is determined to take all the humans with him to Hell. The only ones to be saved are those who absolutely devoted themselves to God alone, and never put any conditions on their souls to deceive themselves away from the truth of God. The Almighty says in Sura 2:155-156, "We must test you with some fear, hunger, and loss of money, lives and crops. Give good news to the steadfast, who say, when an affliction befalls them, 'We belong to God, and to Him we ultimately return.'"

The nature of the human being is such that he makes excuses not to change his condition by claiming he is doing what was taught by his parents. An example of this can be found in Sura 31:21, "And when they are told, 'Follow these revelations of God,' they say, 'No, we follow only what we found our parents doing.' What if the devil is leading them to the agony of Hell?" Another excuse the human will give for not changing a condition, is that God must will it this way or it would not be happening. These are the ones who are

actually blaming God for not changing their condition as in Sura 16:35, "The idol worshipers say, 'Had God willed we would not have worshiped any idols besides Him, nor would our parents. Nor would we have prohibited anything besides (what was prohibited by) Him.' Those before them have done the same. Can the messengers do anything but deliver the message?" Often times people will say they will change their condition when faced with an adversity. They attempt to make a bargain with God, yet they ultimately break their part of the bargain. This is shown in Sura 6:63-64, "Say, 'Who can protect you in the darkness of the land or the sea?' You implore Him loudly, as well as secretly: 'If He only saves us this time, we will be appreciative.' Say, 'God does save you this time, and other times as well, then you still set up idols besides Him.'"

There are many people who believe in only part of the Quran which benefits them or fits their lifestyle, yet reject the parts which tell them to change the condition they are currently in. When they find out they need to change some conditions in their life which they do not want to change, you will find them resist-

ing strongly, "O you who believe, when you are told, 'Mobilize in the cause of God,' why do you become heavily attached to the ground? Have you accepted this worldly life in place of the Hereafter? The materials of this world are nil, compared to the Hereafter" (9:38). They only wish to follow God and His commandments with conditions of their choosing.

God is so merciful and He is the Most Gracious. He has committed in our service everything in the heavens and the earth such as the mountains, oceans, rivers, all the beautiful flowers and animals, and His other wonderful creations. He has done this to show us we have put a terrible condition on our souls by not standing for God's Absoluteness and Greatness. Now this life is the last chance to replace this condition and return back to our Creator and attain salvation. "Absolutely, to God belongs everything in the heavens and the earth. He fully knows every condition you may be in. Thus, the day you are returned to Him, He will inform them of everything they had done. God is fully aware of all things" (24:64).
Muhtesem Erisen

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God Says There Are Believing Poets!

by Susan Erisen

Contrary to what many people believe, God says in the Quran that there are believing poets and songwriters. Although there are verses which show how some poets can use their words to mislead people, not all verses in Quran view poets negatively. God warns us to beware of the poets who do not follow His true path. This, however, does not make all poets evil. We must always remember to take the Quran as a whole. We are required to study everything God says about poets and songwriters before condemning all of them.

Let's look at a similar situation regarding imams (religious leaders). God states in the Quran in Sura 28:41, "We made them imams who led their people to Hell; on the Day of Resurrection they will have no help." After reading this verse should we come to the conclusions that all imams will go to Hell? We would be committing a sin if we did this. It is our responsibility to look at all verses regarding imams. In Sura 21:73, God speaks of righteous imams, "We made them imams who guided in accordance with our commandments, and we taught them how to work righteousness, and how to observe the contact prayer (Salat) and the obligatory charity (Zakat). To us, they were devoted worshipers." By studying all verses applicable to imams we find God's complete message regarding these religious leaders. Those imams, or leaders, who follow God's path of worshiping Him alone, with no idols, will enter paradise, and those who do not follow God's true path will suffer the agony of Hell.

The people who follow the worship of God alone will attain the everlasting reward of peace and eternal happiness in heaven with the Almighty. This is true for all people, including poets and songwriters. God proclaims this about poets in the Quran in Sura 26:227 entitled, The Poets, "Exempted are those who believe, lead a righteous life, commemorate God frequently, and stand up for their rights. Surely the

transgressors will find out what their ultimate destiny is." Also it is found that the individual digits of the sura and verse number, 2+6+2+2+7 equal a total of 19, a part of the miraculous code found in the Quran. Believers who are poets need to stand up for their rights and sing and write about our Glorious God. Our Creator gives the inspiration and the words of truth.

There are other verses from God's scripture which support the positiveness of poets and songwriters. God mentions many times in the Quran the Psalms of David. According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, the definition of Psalm is, "a sacred song or poem used in worship," and "a collection of sacred poems forming the Book of Psalms." In two Suras, 3:184 and 35:25, God has this to say, "If they disbelieve you, those before them have also disbelieved. Their messengers went to them with clear proofs, and the Psalms, and the enlightening scriptures." God mentions the Psalms here as an example of one of the ways He presents His message to people. The Almighty explains how He inspired the messengers and speaks of the Psalms as one of His inspirations, "We have inspired you, as we inspired Noah and the prophets after him. And we inspired Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, the Patriarchs, Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon. And we gave David the Psalms" (4:163). In Sura 21:105, God talks about His teachings from the Psalms, "We have decreed in the Psalms, as well as in other scripture that the earth shall be inherited by my righteous worshipers." It can easily be understood from this verse that our Creator is using poetry and songs to teach the human. Another important verse where the importance of the Psalms is stressed is in Sura 17:55, "Your Lord is the best knower of everyone in the heavens and the earth. In accordance with this knowledge, we preferred some prophets over others; for example we gave David the Psalms." David was preferred by God over

other prophets with the beautiful gift of the Psalms or "collection of sacred poems."

God's gift of poetry and song should be something we are thankful for. There will always be those who abuse the gifts from the Almighty, no matter what they are. Poems and songs written to spread and teach God's true and only religion should never be rejected. We must not create prohibitions where they do not exist. God has clearly shown that He does not prohibit poetry or song if used in practicing the worship of Him alone. How then, can the human being condemn it?

Thank God for all of the gifts He has given us. May we never turn unappreciative nor forgetful. The following is but a minute sample to be shared of the beautiful Psalms given to David by God.

Psalm 45:1, "My heart is overflowing with a beautiful thought. I will write a lovely poem to the King; for I am as full of words as the speediest writer pouring out his story."

Psalm 92:2-4, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to Your name, Most High, to proclaim Your kindness at dawn and Your faithfulness throughout the night, with ten-stringed instrument and lyre, with melody upon the harp."

Psalm 98:1, "Sing a new song to the Lord telling of His mighty deeds...."

Psalm 98:4-9, "Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; break into song; sing praise. Sing your praises accompanied by music from the harp. Let the cornet and trumpets shout! Make a joyful symphony before the Lord, the King! Let the sea in all its vastness roar with praise! Let the earth and those living on it shout, 'Glory to the Lord.' Let the waves clap their hands in glee, and the hills sing out their songs of joy before the Lord; for He is coming to judge the world in perfect justice."

ALL PRAISE BE TO GOD!