

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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WHAT IS ISLAM?

Although the question jars on some Muslims ears, to pose it in the context of the current international situation is both valid and acutely relevant. Not only Muslims, but the West, and therefore the world, for different reasons, of course, are confused as to what Islam is.

To put the answer first, succinctly, the answer is this: we must clearly distinguish the Islam as taught and propagated by the prophets, at least from the time Prophet Abraham right down to the last of the prophets, Muhammad, solely represented by the last perfected of God's scriptures to mankind, the Quran. **This is the true Islam.**

The other 'Islam' that most Muslims inherited from their great-grand fathers, was codified and falsely sanctified in the tombs of traditional theology and jurisprudence, from around three hundred

years after Prophet Muhammad's death. **To put it simply: It is the Islam of the Prophets versus the 'Islam' of the theologians.**

What are the major differences between the two? It is extremely important that the Muslims and the West understand this now in order to avoid further pain and disasters for both.

Firstly, the first and true Islam is **first and foremost inclusive, whereas the second practices exclusivity**. This is because true Islam recognizes and acknowledges all the prophets and messengers of God, from Adam to Muhammad, including Moses and Jesus, to whom God gave the Old and the New Testaments. Verse 2:62 of the Quran acknowledges, among many other similar verses, the original monotheism of the Jews, Christians and other religions, whose adher-

ents are promised salvation in these verses.

Secondly, the first and true Islam **accepts and practices toleration of other religions, whereas the second does not**. The verse "To you is your religion; to me is my religion." (Quran 109:6) unequivocally testifies to this.

Thirdly, the first and true Islam **accords perfect and absolute freedom of belief, whereas the second does not**. This is because the second 'Islam' interprets the Quran by the *Hadith*, the so-called Prophetic Traditions, made compulsory on Muslims after Imam Shafie so enunciated it in his book, *Al-Risala*, two hundred and fifty years after Prophet Muhammad's death.

Cont'd on page 2

Fourthly, the first and true Islam

What Is Islam?

Cont'd from page 1

proclaims itself the Religion of Truth (Quran 48:28; 9:33; 41:53 & 61:9) **and the Religion of God** (Quran 110:2), which will naturally prevail over all false religions in the future. This will come about, not through force, but through the inevitable but natural triumph of truth over falsehood.

Fifthly, the first and true Islam **propagates a world legal system based on justice and compassion**, whereas the second's legal system, the so-called *Shariah* is arbitrarily based on many mistaken perceptions by traditional legal practitioners, as witness the so-called fixed *Hudud* laws. The Arabic word 'hudud' (sing. 'had') actually means 'boundary.' It has nothing to do with law. The word clearly refers to the parameters of the Islamic worldview, or in today's terminology, 'paradigm.'

Sixthly, the first and true Islam **places human welfare as the highest priority on par with obedience to God, as witness God's elevation of the human being to a status of His vicegerent in the Cosmos**. Whereas the 'Islam' of the theologians almost crashes the human being beneath the weight of Divine Omnipotence, of course, under their self-proclaimed tutelage.

Seventhly, the first and true Islam **has no priesthood, whereas the second has, giving themselves the false title of 'Guardians of the Faith.'** In the first and true Islam, the individual approaches God directly without any intermediary, for the very idea of intermediary automatically nullifies monotheism.

Eightly, the first and true Islam **teaches and propagates democratic governance as opposed to a theocracy** propagated by the second 'Islam,' as witness Iran under the mullah. Moreover, it teaches and propagates a humanistic and moral governance. It also advocates a just and fair economic and financial system, free from usury. For example, in Medina, Prophet Muhammad set up the first city-state (later to become the first nation-state to cover the whole of the Arabian Peninsula), with a written constitution, in the history of the world. This nation-state is not to be counter-posed to the idea of either a Universal *Ummah* or an international society, just as nationalism is not contradictory to internationalism.

Ninethly, the first and true Islam **allows pluralism in religion, culture, politics and law**, as it believes firmly in the triumph of truth, justice and compassion in the end, as this is actually the Grand Divine Plan for mankind.

Tenthly, the first and true Islam, **seeks, works towards and struggles for a just world, where as the second 'Islam' is a hotch-potch of confusion, leading mankind nowhere**. It also envisions an unending moral and spiritual ascent for Man. The first and true Islam was that way at the time of the prophets and it has been that way since. It shall be realized, as this is God's Grand Plan for His Humanity. None can frustrate it.

It is obvious that correction must now be made to bring forth the first and true Islam to the Muslims themselves and to the world. This clearly cannot be done by the detractors of Islam, the enemy from without and from within. The Muslims themselves must reclaim this Islam of the Prophets from their theologians who have falsely arrogated the power of God to themselves. But the Muslims must also realize that there exist true believers in the One God in other religions and they must work closely with them to bring about a better and just world for our children and for posterity.

Kassim A / Malaysia

[Quran 8:8] For He has decreed that the truth shall prevail, and the falsehood shall vanish, in spite of the evildoers.

[Quran 29:46] Do not argue with the people of the scripture (Jews, Christians, and Muslims) except in the nicest possible manner—unless they transgress—and say, We believe in what was revealed to us and in what was revealed to you, and our god and your god is one and the same; to Him we are submitters.

Ramadan 2006

God willing

Sep 23 – Oct 22

The Night of Destiny (Night of Power) is on October 18, 2006.

For more information and details, please see our Ramadan page at <http://www.masjidtucson.org/submission/practices/ramadan/index.html>

God bless.

PASSING THE TEST

Why do they not study the Quran carefully? Do they have locks on their minds? [47:24]

Studying the Quran is an important part of our growth and development as submitters. It's also a wonderful blessing. In a recent Quran study, we noted one phrase in the verses we were reading and our discussion set off a whole new train of thought for me.

We know that we're here on earth by God's great mercy as a final chance to redeem our souls and come back to God. It's a test.

Do the people think that they will be left to say, "We believe," without being put to the test? We have tested those before them, for GOD must distinguish those who are truthful, and He must expose the liars. [29:2-3]

In fact, this whole life is preparation for the ultimate final exam on the Day of Resurrection. But the most amazing thing is that it's an open book test! God has given us all the answers and encourages us repeatedly to go to the source, the Quran, and check those answers. *We made the Quran easy to learn. Does any of you wish to learn? [54:17]*

In school as you go through a course, the professor will frequently come to some point that he or she considers critical and will tell you to remember this; it will be on the exam. That's the same sort of phrase we found in the Quran as we were reading in Sura 8:

.... You should know that GOD's retribution is severe. [8:25]

You should know that your money and your children are a test, and that GOD possesses a great recompense. [8:28]

If they turn away, then you should know that GOD is your Lord and Master; the best Lord and Master, the best supporter. [8:40]

God is telling us that we should know these things; they're on the test. We need to be aware that if we ignore God's guidance, if we disbelieve or idol worship, if we are distracted by worldly things, then God's retribution is severe. But if we remember that God is our only Lord, if we follow His commandments and worship Him Alone, then He is there for us as the very best supporter.

We went to QT and pulled up all the verses containing that phrase and found some varied information that God's telling us we should know. Most of them concern His qualities and attributes, important things for us to remember.

..... You should know that GOD knows your innermost thoughts, and observe Him. You should know that GOD is Forgiver, Clement. [2:235]

..... You should know that GOD is Almighty, Most Wise." [2:260]

.... You should know that GOD is Rich, Praiseworthy. [2:267]

.... You should know that GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful. [5:34]

.... You should know that GOD knows everything in the heavens and the earth, and that GOD is Omniscient. [5:97]

.... You should know that GOD is closer to you than your heart, and that before Him you will be summoned. [8:24]

Then there are reminders that we're not in charge of what others say and do, only God controls that.

We know that you may be saddened by what they say. You should know that it is not you that they reject; it is GOD's revelations that the wicked disregard. [6:33]

If their rejection gets to be too much for you, you should know that even if you dug a tunnel through the earth, or climbed a ladder into the sky, and produced a miracle for them (they still would not believe). Had GOD willed, He could have guided them, unanimously. Therefore, do not behave like the ignorant ones. [6:35]

Finally, there are reminders of the consequences of our actions.

O you who believe, do not follow the steps of Satan. Anyone who follows the steps of Satan should know that he advocates evil and vice. If it were not for GOD's grace towards you, and His mercy, none of you would have been purified. But GOD purifies whomever He wills. GOD is Hearer, Knower. [24:21]

Anyone hoping to meet GOD, (should know that) such a meeting with GOD will most assuredly come to pass. He is the Hearer, the Omniscient. [29:5]

Thus, the followers of previous scripture should know that they have not monopolized GOD's mercy and grace, and that all grace is in GOD's hand. He bestows it upon whomever He wills. GOD is Possessor of Infinite Grace. [57:29]

God will not make the test tricky or difficult. If we study and practice faithfully, He's given us all the tools we need to pass with flying colors.

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Passing the Test

Cont'd from page 3

We have given them a scripture that is fully detailed, with knowledge, guidance, and mercy for the people who believe. [7:52]

It is evident to those who are blessed with knowledge that this revelation from your Lord to you is the truth, and that it guides to the path of the Almighty, the Most Praiseworthy. [34:6]

If we don't study and strive to kill our ego, then it doesn't matter how "intelligent" we may be. Failing this test isn't a minor blot on our record, and we don't get to repeat the course.

Have you noted the one whose god is his ego? Consequently, GOD sends him astray, despite his knowledge, seals his hearing and his mind, and places a veil on his eyes. Who then can guide him, after such a decision by GOD? Would you not take heed? [45:23]

Beware of a retribution that may not be limited to the evildoers among you. You should know that GOD's retribution is severe. [8:25]

Lydia

A view from behind bars

Dear Fellow Submitters,

I have read a copy of "Quran, Hadith and Islam" which you provided to Chaplain Stine at this facility. I am impressed with how simply the facts are laid out for anyone to understand. In my previous letters to you, I have explained how I have been opposed to "Hadith and Sunna" for quite sometime, and after reading Dr. Khalifa's translation of the Quran and its appendices, I accepted the challenge to ask the Muslims here to omit the name of Muhammad from the *Adhan* and from the prayers. Also, to not make Muhammad's name part of the *Shahada*. Just as Dr. Khalifa predicted, my requests were met with great anger. When I provided the Quranic proof for what I was asking, I was accused of rejecting the faith.

While I find comfort in my submission to God alone, I can't help but to feel a profound sadness that people I have come to know and respect and call my brothers, are so quick to reject the words of God without even a second thought. I have made my second attempt with them, and in accordance with the Quran, since they reject the Quran and make a mockery of God's verses, I have completely removed myself from them.

Aside from the Quran, I find comfort in knowing that there are true submitters out there who are striving as I am to live by the Quran and to spread the Truth. I don't think I fully realized until yesterday how serious this problem is, and I fooled myself into thinking that some of the congregants would see the error of their ways and strive to become true submitters. I was wrong.

As a human I am a social creature. I want, I need to have a circle of companions who accept me for who I am, and I will do the same for them. Masjid Tucson is the only thing I have found, thus far, which seems to fit these criteria... Certainly, we are all members of the world wide community of submitters, but it would comfort me to know that there is a home base where I can always return.

I am incarcerated in Virginia, and I don't know when I will be released. It doesn't matter, really. To my knowledge, Masjid Tucson is unique in its capacity for true submission. As a long distance member of Masjid Tucson, I'm afraid I will not have much to offer. But I will strive to submit to God Alone and I will try to participate in functions in any way I can, even if it's only with my prayers. From time to time, I might submit an article to Submitters Perspective...

In my situation, I have nobody to relate to. I know that it is not easy for someone out there to find time to write. And I have thoroughly enjoyed the newsletters which have been sent thus far. In the future I hope to purchase a subscription, inshaAllah.

To sum up, thank you for all of your contributions to promote True Submission to God Alone. And please count me among the membership of Masjid Tucson. I pray that God will provide a way for me to one day actually attend the services there and be a viable member of the community of Submission to God Alone.

From one who is poor before his Lord, yet constantly enriched by His Blessings.

Kyle P.