

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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THE GREATEST TRIUMPH

God uses that phrase in over a dozen places in the Quran. And almost every time it's relative to making it to Paradise:

"Whoever is spared (the retribution), on that day, has attained His mercy. And this is the greatest triumph." [6:16]

GOD promises the believing men and the believing women gardens with flowing streams, wherein they abide forever, and magnificent mansions in the gardens of Eden. And God's blessings and approval are even greater. This is the greatest triumph. [9:72]

God promises that those who worship Him alone, believe in the last day and lead a righteous life will have no fear and no grief. And we know that God never breaks His promise (3:9, 30:6). So when God promises this, it's more than a promise; it's a guarantee. It's certainly the "greatest triumph."

God doesn't promise that everyone will receive this gift; He promises it in 9:72 for the believing men and women. In 5:119 He promises it for the "truthful." In 9:111, He promises it for those who fight in His cause, "willing to kill and get killed." In 9:100, He

promises it for those who immigrated and those who supported the immigrants.

God tells us that we must hear and obey if we want to be worthy of receiving this great blessing. And He keeps giving us the means to follow His path. He sends scripture containing His guidance and His commandments. We must carefully and correctly follow the guidance contained therein. *We passed the scripture from generation to generation, and we allowed whomever we chose from among our servants to receive it. Subsequently, some of them wronged their souls, others upheld it only part of the time, while others were eager to work righteousness in accordance with God's will; this is the greatest triumph.* [35:32]

And He sends messengers to clarify and purify the message, another great gift from God. To be able to achieve the triumph of Paradise, we must be willing to listen to, learn from, and obey the messengers. *These are God's laws. Those who obey GOD and His messenger, He will admit them into gardens with flowing streams, wherein they abide forever. This is the greatest triumph.* [4:13]

One of the great blessings is that this "great triumph" isn't only something in the far distant future. God gives us glimpses of this reward right here and now. We all have experienced something wonderful happening unexpectedly, and hopefully we turn to God in appreciation.

Absolutely, God's allies have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve. They are those who believe and lead a righteous life. For them, joy and happiness in this world, as well as in the Hereafter. This is God's unchangeable law. Such is the greatest triumph. [10:62-4]

There's a story in Sura 37 under the subtitle: *The Dwellers of Heaven Visit the Dwellers of Hell*. These verses illustrate not only how great is this "greatest triumph" but also how narrow is our margin for error. We need to be very careful not to allow disbelieving friends and relatives to shake our resolve to worship God alone.

They will come to each other, and confer with one another.

One of them will say, "I used to have a friend.

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“He used to mock: ‘Do you believe all this?’

“After we die and turn into dust and bones, do we get called to account?”

He will say, “Just take a look!”

When he looks, he will see his friend in the heart of Hell.

He (will go to him and) say, “By GOD, you almost ruined me.

“If it were not for my Lord’s blessing, I would have been with you now.

“(Do you still believe) that we die,

“only the first death, and we never receive any requital?”

Such is the greatest triumph.

This is what every worker should work for. [37:50-61]

It might be a narrow escape indeed.Whoever misses Hell, barely, and makes it to Paradise, has attained a great triumph. The life of this world is no more than an illusion. [3:185] But God promises that those who steadfastly persevere, even in the face of persecution and hardship, will receive a reward without price, the “greatest triumph.”

Surely, those who believed and led a righteous life, have deserved gardens with flowing streams. This is the greatest triumph. [85:11]

Lydia

God’s Promise

[24:55] GOD promises those among you who believe and lead a righteous life, that He will make them sovereigns on earth, as He did for those before them, and will establish for them the religion He has chosen for them, and will substitute peace and security for them in place of fear. All this because they worship Me alone; they never set up any idols beside Me. Those who disbelieve after this are the truly wicked.

You know better than I

(From the movie, “Joseph, the King of Dreams”)

I thought I did what’s right
I thought I had the answers
I thought I choose the surest way
but that road brought me here.

So I put up a fight
and told You how to help me
but just as I have given up
the truth is coming clear

You know better than I
You know the way
I’ve let go the need to know why
for You know better than I

If this has been a test
I cannot see the reason
But maybe knowing I don’t know
is part of getting through

I’ve tried to do what’s best
and faith has made it easy
to see the best thing I can do
is put my trust in You

You know better than I
You know the way
I’ve let go the need to know why
for You know better than I

I saw a cloud and thought it was the sky

I saw a bird and thought that I could follow

but it was You who taught that bird to fly

If I let You reach me
will You teach me

You know better than I
You know the way
I’ve let go the need to know why
I take what answers you supply
You know better than I

Illustrations of Prophet on Internet

Wikipedia.org published an article on the Prophet Muhammad. This article includes the following illustrations of the Prophet Muhammad: (1) the earliest surviving image of the Prophet Muhammad from Rashid al-Din's Jami' al-Tawarikh, approximately 1315, depicting the episode of the Black Stone, (2) the 15th century illustration in a copy of a manuscript by Al-Biruni, depicting the Prophet preaching the Quran in Mecca, and (3) the 16th century Ottoman illustration depicting the Prophet at the Kaaba. These art works were performed by some early Muslims who were creative and rich in culture.

A petition was initiated by some Muslim organizations to remove the pictures from Wikipedia. The question to ask to them is why they are bothered by these art works being shown?

The Quran does not prohibit any good provision as we understand from the following:

[7:32] Say, “Who prohibited the nice things GOD has created for His creatures, and the good provisions?” Say, “Such provisions are to be enjoyed in this life by those who believe. Moreover, the good provisions will be exclusively theirs on the Day of Resurrection.” We thus explain the revelations for people who know.

Displaying an image or a statue for the purpose of education or entertainment should be considered a good provision. King Solomon, a messenger of God, enjoyed statues as good provisions:

[34:13] They made for him anything he wanted—niches, statues, deep pools, and heavy cooking pots.

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O family of David, work (righteousness) to show your appreciation. Only a few of My servants are appreciative.

On the other hand, displaying an image or statue or anything for the purpose of worshiping should be considered a bad provision. Worshiping a statue is condemned by God as we understand from many verses of the Quran:

[6:74] *Recall that Abraham said to his father Azar, "How could you worship statues as gods? I see that you and your people have gone far astray."*

The Quran does not mention anywhere that making images of the Prophet is unacceptable. We have to remember that the Prophet was a human being like us:

[18:110] *Say, "I am no more than a human like you, being inspired that your god is one god. Those who hope to meet their Lord shall work righteousness, and never worship any other god beside his Lord."*

[3:144] *Muhammad was no more than a messenger like the messengers before him. Should he die or get killed, would you turn back on your heels? Anyone who turns back on his heels, does not hurt GOD in the least. GOD rewards those who are appreciative.*

What is really prohibited in the Quran?! The worshiping of the Prophet, isn't it?!

[3:79] *Never would a human being whom GOD blessed with the scripture and prophethood say to the people, "Idolize me beside GOD." Instead, (he would say), "Devote yourselves absolutely to your Lord alone," according to the scripture you preach and the teachings you learn.*

And what is the Quranic warning about those masjids (mosques) that uphold idol worship?!

[9:107] *There are those who abuse the masjid by practicing idol worship,*

dividing the believers, and providing comfort to those who oppose GOD and His messenger. They solemnly swear: "Our intentions are honorable!" GOD bears witness that they are liars.

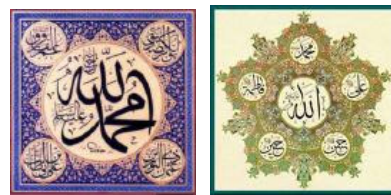
[9:108] *You shall never pray in such a masjid. A masjid that is established on the basis of righteousness from the first day is more worthy of your praying therein. In it, there are people who love to be purified. GOD loves those who purify themselves.*

[9:109] *Is one who establishes his building on the basis of reverencing GOD and to gain His approval better, or one who establishes his building on the brink of a crumbling cliff, that falls down with him into the fire of Hell? GOD does not guide the transgressing people.*

[9:110] *Such a building that they have established remains a source of doubt in their hearts, until their hearts are stilled. GOD is Omniscient, Most Wise.*

Sadly, in the Muslim world, almost everything advocated or implemented in the name of Islam originates from the various *hadith* books, which were compiled by non-Arabs 200 years after the demise of the Prophet. The religion they observe today has nothing to do with the Islam preached by Abraham and Muhammad. Almost everything Muslims do is against the Quranic standard: their *Shahadah* (statement of faith), *Adhan* (call to prayer), Ablution, Salat prayers, *Zakat* charity, Hajj and all other practices. Millions of *hadith* followers today practice a form of idolatry that is similar to the idolatry of Meccan people during the Prophet's time. The *hadith* followers believe that the Prophet will intercede on their behalf. They remember and revere the Prophet and his family beside God in all aspect of their religious activities: making *darwood* (expression of love to Prophet), in-

voking the Prophet's name in the *Adhan* and the Salat prayers, observing *Milad* (his birthday), visiting the Prophet's tomb at Medina during Hajj, adding the Prophet's name next to God Almighty in the *Shahadah*, displaying the Prophet's name next to God on the masjid wall, houses, etc.



"The symbols of shirk (idolatry) by Sunni and Shia Muslims"

Prohibiting the use of the mind has crippled the intellect of Muslims in comparison with others. The minds of Muslims have been benumbed for centuries, neutralized by false *hadiths*. The teaching of the Quran gives the mind a noble place. God deems human beings who do not use their minds worse than animals as understood from this verse:

[7:179] *We have committed to Hell multitudes of jinns and humans. They have minds with which they do not understand, eyes with which they do not see, and ears with which they do not hear. They are like animals; no, they are far worse—they are totally unaware.*

Abraham was the father of the religion of Islam and Muhammad was the follower of the religion of Abraham. Why don't they get upset seeing the images of Abraham in books or websites?! Was Abraham's status, the father of Islam, lower than Muhammad, the follower of Islam?!

[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.*

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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.

Jesus was one of the prophets of Islam and according to the Quran, Muslims shall not make any distinction among any of God's prophets and messengers. Why don't Muslims get upset viewing the image of Jesus but get utterly upset seeing the image of Muhammad?! Why do they make distinction among God's prophets?!

[2:136] Say, "We believe in GOD, and in what was sent down to us, and in what was sent down to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Patriarchs; and in what was given to Moses and Jesus, and all the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among any of them. To Him alone we are submitters."

The imaginary prohibition on the image of Prophet Muhammad gives him a godly image in the hearts of millions of Muslims who were taught to think that Muhammad was created from light! Consequently, they are making *darwood* and praising him day and night beside God!

Muslims don't get upset even seeing images of God in books or websites! Why?! Do they have more love for the Prophet Muhammad than God Almighty?!

[2:165] Yet, some people set up idols to rival GOD, and love them as if they are GOD. Those who believe love GOD the most. If only the transgressors could see themselves when they see the retribution! They will realize then that all power belongs to GOD alone, and that GOD's retribution is awesome.

[3:144] Muhammad was no more than a messenger like the messengers before him. Should he die or get killed, would you turn back on your heels? Anyone who turns back on his heels, does not hurt GOD in the least. GOD rewards those who are appreciative.

[18:110] Say, "I am no more than a human like you, being inspired that your god is one god. Those who hope to meet their Lord shall work righteousness, and never worship any other god beside his Lord."

Last but not least, there is no compulsion in Islam. So, why there is a petition initiated to remove the pictures from Wikipedia?!

[2:256] There shall be no compulsion in religion: the right way is now distinct from the wrong way. Anyone who denounces the devil and believes in GOD has grasped the strongest bond; one

that never breaks. GOD is Hearer, Omniscient.

M. Irtaza

Comments From a Christian

Hello,

My name is Dan and as a Christian and a perpetual learner, I wanted to learn more about Islam.

I really enjoyed your site and found it to be very informative and helpful. It contains perspectives which are easy to understand and by also using wikipedia.org, I have been able to gain a substantial amount of knowledge regarding Islam, the Quran, and true tenets of Islam....

Thank you for your work

Dan H

God Willing

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United Submitters

August 1-3, 2008

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This is the final reminder. The registration forms and hotel information are available at www.masjiduntucson.org/conference

If you have any questions, please email us. God willing, we are looking forward to seeing you all at the conference.