

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Community of Submitters

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RAMADAN

Month of Fasting and Feasting

God tells us everything that we need to know for the Ramadan fast in verses 2:183-187. These verses are straightforward and clear. There is no ambiguity in them. And they are critical for us to follow because, as 2:183 explains, the fast is decreed for us so that we “may attain salvation.”

O you who believe, fasting is decreed for you, as it was decreed for those before you, that you may attain salvation. (2:183)

Specific days (are designated for fasting); if one is ill or traveling, an equal number of other days may be substituted. Those who can fast, but with great difficulty, may substitute feeding one poor person for each day of breaking the fast. If one volunteers (more righteous works), it is better. But fasting is the best for you, if you only knew. (2:184)

Ramadan is the month during which the Quran was revealed, providing guidance for the people, clear teachings, and the statute book. Those of you who witness this month shall fast therein. Those who are ill or traveling

may substitute the same number of other days. GOD wishes for you convenience, not hardship, that you may fulfill your obligations, and to glorify GOD for guiding you, and to express your appreciation. (2:185)

When My servants ask you about Me, I am always near. I answer their prayers when they pray to Me. The people shall respond to Me and believe in Me, in order to be guided. (2:186)

Permitted for you is sexual intercourse with your wives during the nights of fasting. They are the keepers of your secrets, and you are the keepers of their secrets. GOD knew that you used to betray your souls, and He has redeemed you, and has pardoned you. Henceforth, you may have intercourse with them, seeking what GOD has permitted for you. You may eat and drink until the white thread of light becomes distinguishable from the dark thread of night at dawn. Then, you shall fast until sunset. Sexual intercourse is prohibited if you decide to retreat to the masjid (during the last ten days of Ramadan). These

are GOD's laws; you shall not transgress them. GOD thus clarifies His revelations for the people, that they may attain salvation. (2:187)

We see here that God introduces Ramadan in verse 2:183 telling us that He has decreed the fast to help us attain salvation. In verses 2:184-185 He tells us that it is best to fast if at all possible, but if it is not possible He gives us alternatives. Verse 185 also tells us that this is the month in which the Quran was revealed and that our fasting should not be a hardship, rather it should be a means of being appreciative of and glorifying God.

Verse 2:186 is truly wonderful to me for it reminds us that God is always near and He answers our prayers. Then as a bonus, He gives us the secret of how to be guided—all we need to do is believe in and respond to Him!

And finally verse 2:187 gives us the details on how to perform the fast and “...thus clarifies His revelations for the people, that they may attain salvation.”

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

So God gives us all that we need to perform this important practice of our religion, this spiritual feast for our souls.

In Muslim communities around the world Ramadan is a time for both fasting and feasting. For many it is a very social time—a month long holiday of cooking special foods, inviting friends and relatives over and special functions in the mosques. In fact often it is called the Ramadan Feast rather than the Ramadan Fast. Indeed, for some this holy month is not very spiritual at all. For them Ramadan means painful deprivation during the day followed by painful gluttony at night...not much help growing the soul.

Several wonderful articles about Ramadan from years past report that there are many health benefits to fasting (for example, see the Submitters Perspective September 2008 issue at www.masjidtucson.org). However, such benefits are negated by gorging on rich food and staying up all hours of the night socializing.

Much more importantly, what spiritual gain is there from focusing on our stomachs all day and all night? Where is God in that? **Perhaps we might feast spiritually during the day and fast from distractions during the nights...**

Actually you are probably already doing a lot of this automatically. Every time our stomachs growl or we feel parched during Ramadan it reminds us of why we are fasting, of God, our only Lord and Master. It can focus us back on God so that we can be conscious of Him throughout the day, rather than being totally caught up in our daily affairs. This focus is a spiritual feast.

As a bonus you may be amazed to find that you do some of your very best work while you are fasting for

Ramadan. And you are feeding your soul tremendously at the same time!

For me that part did come fairly automatically when I first began doing the Ramadan fast. But then I found myself being totally distracted in the evenings, even though God tells us in various ways that we should be meditating on Him at night (17:79, 25:64, 39:9, 50:40, 73:2, 6 & 20) even when it is not Ramadan. Fortunately we can always read and study the Quran, and the Masjid Tucson web site can help with suggestions on meditation and wonderful articles on the greatness of God. Once I got into the habit of reading the Quran or about God, thinking about Him, or commemorating His name, I found it much easier not to be distracted in the evening. Though I am not nearly as good at it as I wish I were!

God also provides two additional and especially wonderful ways to focus on Him specifically during Ramadan:

- The practice of retreating to the mosque during the last ten nights of Ramadan (2:187 & 89:2).
- Commemorating Him on the Night of Destiny (97:1-7).

So not only does God tell us all we need in order to fast, but He provides the spiritual feast as well.

May this Ramadan provide the best nutrition ever for the real you—your soul!

Blessed Ramadan everyone

Lisa

[25:64] In the privacy of the night, they meditate on their Lord, and fall prostrate.

[39:9] Is it not better to be one of those who meditate in the night, prostrating and staying up, being aware of the Hereafter, and seeking the mercy of their Lord? Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only those who possess intelligence will take heed.

Comments from a striving Submitter

Salam Alaikum Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for the kind comments about the quranaloneislam.org website. I have been very busy which was why I took so long to write back to you. I am so sorry that I waited one week before responding. I am here in Tampa Florida ready to serve God for the Praise and the Worship of God Alone.

I really would like to see a mosque here in Tampa that preaches and teaches true Islam, also where we could come together to study the "Quran: The Final Testament" by Rashad Khalifa, which is simply the very best Quran translation available for people to study. I came into the truth of pure monotheism actually years ago while a Christian and Bishop in the Orthodox Church.

I left the church, converted to Islam, and saw where traditional Islam had been totally corrupted. I began my search of the true and straight path, the creed of Abraham. I felt then as I still do today that I found the truth that I was looking for through the Masjid Tucson website. I knew then and there that I was a submitter, and I needed to go into fellowship with other submitters.

I simply absorbed the information on the Masjid Tucson website, and the Submission.org website, purchased a true Quran translation in English by Rashad Khalifa, and I began to study the Quran with a renewed interest. I am deeply appreciative for the work that all of my brothers and sisters are doing at Masjid Tucson, as well as other websites of submitters throughout the world.

Write back to me whenever you can, and I will be awaiting your soon and quick reply. I pray that God continues to bless all of my brothers and sisters at Masjid Tucson and that God continues to let all of you grow in numbers there as well inshallah (God willing).

If anyone would like to correspond with me then you may go to the website quranaloneislam.org and complete our contact form on the contact us page, and inshallah (God willing) I will respond back to you as soon as possible. If anyone would like to become an author at our website, register as a subscriber, then let me know who you are and inshallah (God willing) I will upgrade you to full author status.

Salam Alaikum

Paul D. Ph.D

Conference report 2011

Unity of All Submitters

[2:62] *Surely, those who believe, those who are Jewish, the Christians, and the converts; anyone who (1) believes in GOD, and (2) believes in the Last Day, and (3) leads a righteous life, will receive their recompense from their Lord. They have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.*

Unity was the theme of the 26th annual conference of the United Submitters International, held on July 15-17, 2011. This conference took place in Herndon, Virginia, just outside of our nation's capitol. It was the first time the conference has been held in an eastern location, and it was very well attended. Over 250 submitters from around the world made their way to the Washington, DC area to unite with all those who support God and His message.

The truly electrifying experience was when first-time attendees were asked to come forward. They kept coming and coming. There were more new people than ever before—60 or 70 at least, and as they told how they came to the message, it was easy to see God's hand in every path. One found us on "google;" several came through the web site; and one man told of a Sunni Imam who was condemning Dr Khalifa. This caused him to investigate and to see the truth. Only by God's grace. Some new submitters discovered that they lived close to each other but had never met. Two turned out to work in the same building! So it was an eye-opening event for everyone—new and experienced, young and old. It brought tears of joy to see the future of God's message in such good hands.

The Friday Khutba (sermon) was given by brother Rodd from the Bay Area. He spoke of the importance of unity among submitters and tolerance of others at different places on the Path. Remember that we are a family.

[49:10] *The believers are members of one family; you shall keep the peace within your family and reverence GOD, that you may attain mercy.*

And he reminded us that all submitters will be tested.

[2:155] *We will surely test you through some fear, hunger, and loss of money, lives, and crops. Give good news to the steadfast.*

[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 worshipers, a lot of insult. If you steadfastly persevere and lead a righteous life, this will prove the strength of your faith.*

The speeches were all wonderful. Long-time submitters shared their experiences, their outlook on God's creation, and their ideas for ways to strive in God's cause. New submitters shared their enthusiasm and excitement and insight. One enjoyable talk included the concept of staying in the "now," with the quote "You gotta be where you're at, cuz you're already there."

The meditation on God, zikr, led by Parisa, Meauvelle, and other beautiful singers among us, was so enjoyable. It lifts your spirit to share with so many others your joy of worshiping God and striving in His cause. It is truly a unifying experience to sing the praises of our Lord.

One of the high points of the conference was the announcement of an engagement. Two beautiful young submitters, Huda from Vancouver and Ahmed from Toronto, met on Facebook only 6 weeks before the conference. They felt an attraction even over all that distance. They met for the first time at the conference, and Ahmed says he knew immediately that she was the one. With a heartfelt "Al-Fatehah" all of us wished them a long, lovely, happy marriage, with both of them focused on pleasing God first and foremost. He is the One who connected them on Facebook. He is the One who brought them together at the conference. And He is the One who will bless their lives together.

[30:21] *Among His proofs is that He created for you spouses from among yourselves, in order to have tranquility*

and contentment with each other, and He placed in your hearts love and care towards your spouses. In this, there are sufficient proofs for people who think.

Another interesting thing was a challenge to become involved in a charity that distributes clean drinking water to areas of Africa where water is heavily polluted and not easily available. Brother Rahim and sister Maryam reminded us how blessed we are to be able to turn on a tap and get hot or cold water any time we desire it. You can go to the link at <http://mycharitywater.org/masjdtucson> to check out the details or to contribute.

Many of us took advantage of the sites in and around DC. The monuments are beautiful to look at, especially all lit up at night. It's a blessing from God to be in a country where we're free to practice submission and to gather as a group without fear of government reprisal.

It was a wonderful conference, and we're grateful to the submitters in and around the DC area who worked hard to put it together. Everyone came away energized and refreshed and ready to enjoy another year striving in God's cause, maintaining unity, practicing tolerance, and worshiping God Alone.

[57:10] *Why do you not spend in the cause of GOD, when GOD possesses all wealth in the heavens and the earth? Distinguished from the rest are those among you who spend before the victory and strive. They attain a greater rank than those who spend after the victory and strive. For each, GOD promises salvation. GOD is Cognizant of everything you do.*

Lydia and Nargis

Ed.'s notes: For available 2011 conference presentations, please check the web page at

<http://www.masjdtucson.org/conference/2011/>

If you have not submitted your presentation yet, please do it for the benefit of others, God willing by sending it to info@masjdtucson.org.

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More comments from Submitters

Peace,

...Most of my life I have been an ignorant idol worshipper, ranking hearsay and collections of books that were written 200 years after the Prophet had died with the word of God.

The undenyng truth was revealed to me through the messenger of the covenant, Rashad Khalifa, and from being a Sunni and raised as Sunni, I became a submitter. Which has special meaning, it means that when I stand in prayer throughout the day and recite *Al-Fatiha*, I am in essence submitting, I pray my Lord, the one God, not to leave me heedless in my prayers, that I take it to my heart and soul, and to see the truth of the words and remember the Creator through these harmonious and mystical and numerically structured words.

Rashad Khalifa discovered the mathematical code in the scripture, and like the refiners fire, left many and numerous occurrences of the number 19, throughout the Book, which suggests the validity of the Quranic verse that God has counted the number of all things...

Kashif H

* * * * *

Hello Masjid Tucson,

I have been savoring your website with best scrutiny and love the way it has compiled all the wonderful things that Allah (God) has preserved for us.

However, I am an American that IS totally ignorant of the Arabic language and deeply feel obligated to learn to recite the 5 daily prayers in Arabic; but I cannot.

Is there somewhere that I can learn to pronounce these words proper without tarnishing the prayers; is it okay to recite them in English as so I do not leave out my appointed prayers, until I learn the proper?

It is because I will continue to pray to Allah, although I cannot speak/pronounce Arabic; not being able to speak Arabic would not constitute as an excuse to not pray, so I recite them the best way I can in English.

Thank you in advance,

Jason S

Ed.'s notes: God willing, the Contact Prayer video should be helpful, so please check the web page

<http://www.masjiduntucson.org/publications/videos/>

For publications available, refer to our catalog page

<http://www.masjiduntucson.org/publications/catalog/>

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