

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful*

# Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International  
Community of Submitters

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## Who Are We?

During the past fourteen centuries, traditions, customs, and myths have crept into the religion of Islam (Submission). Gradually, they have become dogma or ritual, to such an extent that anyone who questions them in the light of the Quran finds himself or herself regarded as a dangerous innovator and heretic.

Today, Submission (true Islam) is like a precious jewel that is buried under piles upon piles of man-made innovations, and traditions that have nothing to do with the religion.

Our aim is to return to practicing the religion of Abraham (2:135, 3:95) and sharing the jewel of true Submission with the world. To do so, we must purge the innovations by turning to God alone and by upholding the Quran, the whole Quran, and nothing but the Quran.

### What do Submitter and Submission mean?

Although the word "Submitter" is the English equivalent of the Arabic word "Muslim," and the word "Submission" is the English equivalent of the Arabic word "Islam," the underlying implication of these words is very profound, and far from the superficial meanings

that are traditionally understood or used.

A Submitter can be defined as a person who submits to the will of God. The state of Submission, which can only take place between the person and God Almighty, is the only acceptable form of worship by God (3:19, 85). Therefore, Submission is not just a name of a religion; rather it describes one's devotion to God alone.

Submission is a religion whereby one recognizes God's absolute authority, and reaches a conviction that only God possesses all power; no other entity possesses any power that is independent of Him. The natural result of such a realization is to devote one's life and one's worship absolutely to God alone. This is the First Commandment in all the scriptures, including the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Final Testament (The Quran).

*Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is One God!*

*Therefore you shall adore the Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind,*

*and with all your strength.*

*[ Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Mark 12:29-30, Quran 3:18 ]*

### Unity of All Submitters: Righteous Jews, Christians, etc.

Abraham was a submitter to God alone. So were Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. All God's prophets and messengers were Submitters. They all preached the same basic message of worshiping only God without idolizing anything or anyone beside Him.

*Abraham was neither Jewish, nor Christian; he was a monotheist submitter. He never was an idol worshiper. (3:67)*

We learn from the Quran that while every religion has been corrupted by innovations, traditions, and false, idolatrous doctrines, there may be "Submitters" within every religion. There may be Submitters who are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or anything else. These Submitters, collectively, constitute the only religion acceptable to God. All Submitters who are devoted to God alone, and do not set up any idols beside God, are redeemed into God's eternal kingdom

*(Continued on page 2)*

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(2:62). A criterion of the true submitters is that they will find nothing objectionable in the Quran. Therefore, Submission is a universal faith.

**You may already be a “Submitter”**

How can we know if a person qualifies to be a Submitter? The minimum criteria to be a Submitter in the sight of God are given in the following verses.

*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. (Quran 2:62, 5:69)*

God tells us that Submitters are exceptional. They do not follow the crowd that is following conjecture instead of the truth.

*They are not all the same; among the followers of the scripture, there are those who are righteous. They recite GOD’s revelations through the night, and they fall prostrate. (3:113)*

*If you obey the majority of people on earth, they will divert you from the path of GOD. They follow only conjecture; they only guess. (6:116)*

*Most of them follow nothing but conjecture, and conjecture is no substitute for the truth. GOD is fully aware of everything they do. (10:36)*

God knows who is a Submitter in heart, and guides the individual accordingly to His path. He is the only one who guides.

*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, Jesus, and the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among any of them. To Him alone we are submitters.” (3:84)*

*You cannot guide the ones you love. GOD is the only One who guides in accordance with His will, and in accordance with His knowledge of those*

*who deserve the guidance. (28:56).*

**Messengers and delivering the message**

All of us have the opportunity to deliver the message of worshiping God alone, and thus be “messengers”. Because God knew that televangelists, false prophets, fake preachers, etc., would arise, the Quran gives us some clear guidelines regarding an authorized messenger commissioned by God:

- They advocate the worship of God alone: *To ‘Ād we sent their brother Hūd. He said, “O my people, worship GOD; you have no other god besides Him. You are inventing.” (11:50)*
- They never ask for money from the people: *“I do not ask you for any wage. My wage comes from the Lord of the universe.” (26:109)*
- They bring proof of their messengership: *We narrate to you the history of those communities: their messengers went to them with clear proofs.... (7:101) Have they not learned anything from the previous generations; the people of Noah, ‘Ād, Thamūd, the people of Abraham, the dwellers of Midyan, and the evildoers (of Sodom and Gomorrah)? Their messengers went to them with clear proofs. GOD never wronged them; they are the ones who wronged their own souls. (9:70)*

While God commissions messengers and prophets and authorizes them to carry out missions (5:67, 12:108, 36:13-17, etc.), any righteous person can spread the message (12:108, 16:125, 36:20-25, etc.). God gives us examples of people delivering the message though He does not indicate they are authorized messengers. For example, we have Luqmān and the believing Egyptian among those who invited to God’s message (31:12-19, 40:28-44).

And like God’s authorized messengers mentioned in the Quran, we are not responsible for guiding anyone (2:272, 28:56). All we can do is invite, and leave the rest to God.

*[5:99] The sole duty of the messenger is*

*to deliver the message, and GOD knows everything you declare and everything you conceal.*

*God is the Only One Who Guides [2:272] You are not responsible for guiding anyone. GOD is the only one who guides whoever chooses (to be guided). Any charity you give is for your own good. Any charity you give shall be for the sake of GOD. Any charity you give will be repaid to you, without the least injustice.*

**Who Are We? God willing, Submitters**

*Submitters*

*[41:33] Who can utter better words than one who invites to GOD, works righteousness, and says, “I am one of the submitters”?*

*[41:34] Not equal is the good response and the bad response. You shall resort to the nicest possible response. Thus, the one who used to be your enemy, may become your best friend.*

*[41:35] None can attain this except those who steadfastly persevere. None can attain this except those who are extremely fortunate.*

*[from the September 2011 Submitters Perspective, reprinted and revised]*

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*[31:22] Those who submit completely to GOD, while leading a righteous life, have gotten hold of the strongest bond. For GOD is in full control of all things.*

*[2:112] Indeed, those who submit themselves absolutely to GOD alone, while leading a righteous life, will receive their recompense from their Lord; they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.*

*[3:102] O you who believe, you shall observe GOD as He should be observed, and do not die except as Submitters.*

*[4:125] Who is better guided in his religion than one who submits totally to GOD, leads a righteous life, according to the creed of Abraham: monotheism? GOD has chosen Abraham as a beloved friend.*

# Hunger and appreciation

In the United States, about \$165 billion worth of food is wasted annually according to some estimates. And about 40 percent of all food in this country goes uneaten. How does this happen? There are many factors from the farm to the table that play a part in this terrible waste.

*[6:141] He is the One who established gardens, trellised and untrellised, and palm trees, and crops with different tastes, and olives, and pomegranate —fruits that are similar, yet dissimilar. Eat from their fruits, and give the due alms on the day of harvest, and do not waste anything. He does not love the wasters.*

**Farming:** Roughly 7 percent of the produce grown in the US simply gets stranded on fields each year. Sometimes growers plant more than will ever be used, just in case of disease and bad weather. And some of the crop will not meet standards for shape and color.

**Post-harvest and packing:** After the crops have been gathered from the fields, farmers must be sure it meets minimum standards for size, color, and weight. Only about half of the vegetables on some fields actually leaves the farm. The rest is simply thrown away, though one would hope that much of this waste goes into mulch.

**Processing and distribution:** A lot of food gets lost in the manufacturing stage. There may be technical malfunctions, especially with refrigeration. If food sits too long at improper temperatures, it may spoil. Another problem is that stores often reject shipments, and then the distributor must find somewhere else to unload the goods. This can be time consuming and difficult, so often the food is just dumped. To prevent such waste, the food can be donated to a Food Bank, where it can be given to those in need.

**Retail and grocery stores:** Stores are another point of food waste. According to the USDA grocery stores discard \$15 billion worth of fresh foods such as fruits and vegetables each year. The current practice is to look at this as the cost of doing business. Supermarkets feel it's better to have too much and throw out the unused than let shelves look empty. It's also important that the food looks appealing to customers. Shoppers don't want bruised vegetables and fruit, so slightly damaged but still perfectly edible produce is often discarded. Then there's the "sell-by" expiration dates. On average, stores are estimated to discard over \$2000 worth of food daily because of the sell-by date. Most of this food is good and safe to eat. Again, if organizations partner with a food bank, the food could be used by people in need.

**Food service and restaurants:** In restaurants, a lot of food is wasted in the kitchen. Things fall on the floor or are improperly cooked and have to be discarded. Restaurants also like to have all their menu items always available, so they will keep more food than they actually need. Many chain restaurants have a policy that all remaining food must be thrown out at the end of every day so customers can be assured of fresh food. Another issue is restaurants make large serving sizes, more than the average person can or should eat. Any leftovers must be thrown away.

**Households:** It's estimated that each American household throws away over \$1000 worth of food a year. We talk about money down the drain; this is like throwing money into the garbage. This is where we can really do our part, by not buying, cooking, or putting on our plate more than we can eat; by clearing out our shelves and taking the excess to a food bank or shelter; by donating time and money to a local food bank, or starting one if there isn't one locally.

Here in Tucson, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve the needy through a food pantry. By God's grace we have

helped over 18,000 families and almost 40,000 individuals. We thank everyone for their contributions to this effort.

God condemns wastefulness and hoarding and tells us to be appreciative of the food He has provided for us.

*[2:168] O people, eat from the earth's products all that is lawful and good, and do not follow the steps of Satan; he is your most ardent enemy.*

*[2:172] O you who believe, eat from the good things we provided for you, and be thankful to GOD, if you do worship Him alone.*

*[6:118] You shall eat from that upon which GOD's name has been pronounced, if you truly believe in His revelations.*

*[52:19] Eat and drink happily, in return for your works.*

I must be very thankful to God that I have a roof over my head and food on my plate. We all must be appreciative.

*[8:26] Remember that you used to be few and oppressed, fearing that the people may snatch you, and He granted you a secure sanctuary, supported you with His victory, and provided you with good provisions, that you may be appreciative.*

*[14:7] Your Lord has decreed: "The more you thank Me, the more I give you." But if you turn unappreciative, then My retribution is severe.*

*[16:114] Therefore, you shall eat from GOD's provisions everything that is lawful and good, and be appreciative of GOD's blessings, if you do worship Him alone.*

*[31:12] We have endowed Luqmān with wisdom: "You shall be appreciative of GOD." Whoever is appreciative is appreciative for his own good. As for those who turn unappreciative, GOD is in no need, Praiseworthy.*

*[39:66] Therefore, you shall worship GOD alone, and be appreciative.*

## Reference

How the US manages to waste \$165 billion in food each year, Washington Post.

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## 2017 Conference Report

*[4:175] Those who believe in GOD, and hold fast to Him, He will admit them into mercy from Him, and grace, and will guide them to Him in a straight path.*

*[62:1] Glorifying GOD is everything in the heavens and everything on earth; the King, the Most Sacred, the Almighty, the Most Wise.*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual conference of the United Submitters International was held in Tucson, Arizona July 28-30, 2017. The khutba was delivered by brother Robert who spoke eloquently about community and its importance in our lives. "Community," broken down, means "common" plus "unity." In common we have the worship of God and the Quran as our guiding scripture, and that's what unites us. He included reminders on how to strengthen our communities and improve our submission.

At every conference, there is always the joy of catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. Those submitters attending their first conference shared with us their journey into submission and their delight in coming together with submitters from around the world. For some, this was their first opportunity to be among a large group of like-minded submitters, and you could see it was an exhilarating experience for them. It's always difficult to be on your own, and such a

blessing to find others who share their love of God.

The speeches over the three days covered a wide range of topics. There was a lot of appreciation of God's wonderful creations. We were reminded how important it is to work on improving our own submission. One of the new submitters said that when asked at immigration what kind of conference he was attending, he answered "self-improvement." This is the goal of each one of us. And we all grow in stages, at our own pace. God allows each of us this time to increase our submission, and He rewards us for our efforts. Another first-time attendee reminded us all that our journey into submission isn't as important as our journey in submission.

*[5:35] O you who believe, you shall reverence GOD and seek the ways and means to Him, and strive in His cause, that you may succeed.*

*[29:69] As for those who strive in our cause, we will surely guide them in our paths. Most assuredly, GOD is with the pious.*

Zikr was enjoyed each evening, as a way to close the day's events. It lifts our spirit to share with so many others our joy of worshiping God and striving in His cause. It is truly a soul-lifting experience to commemorate our Lord. It is such a blessed form of worship. *[13:28] They are the ones whose hearts rejoice in remembering GOD. Absolutely, by remembering*

*GOD, the hearts rejoice.*

*[15:98-9] You shall sing the praises of your Lord, and be with the prostrators. And worship your Lord, in order to attain certainty.*

When Sunday noon came around, we enjoyed our last prayer together and then more than 100 people went to Masjid Tucson for a pizza/EEgee's party. It was fun to have everyone gather together and enjoy God's bounties.

For people who were able to stay a day longer, we arranged a drive up Mt. Lemmon, which is a beautiful, woody area just outside of Tucson. About 60 people went to enjoy a picnic lunch, some hiking and the nice cool temperatures of the higher elevation. After our noon prayer on the mountain, we came back down. Still unable to say goodbye, we arranged a pot luck feast at the Mosque for a final lovely get-together. It's always such a wonderful feeling to join with other submitters and come together with the focus on worshiping God alone. This sense of unity and purpose keeps us energized for the coming year.

*[24:38] GOD will certainly reward them for their good works, and will shower them with His grace. GOD provides for whomever He wills without limits.*

*[17:19] As for those who choose the Hereafter as their priority, and work righteousness, while believing, their efforts will be appreciated.*

*Nargis and Lydia*