

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

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## Hold Fast to GOD

For a while now I have been feeling fairly overwhelmed by the dismal state of the world, in general, and the US specifically. I have felt that we are living in chaos, and every new day seems to bring more of the same. Other submitters have expressed similar sentiments. We comfort each other by remembering that God is in full control and that He has a reason for everything. These reminders do bring comfort, but after listening to the evening news, I begin thinking that this chaos will go on forever. I have felt helpless and ineffectual, and in fact, I am helpless and ineffectual. God Alone has power. [10:65] *Do not be saddened by their utterances. All power belongs to GOD. He is the Hearer, the Omniscient.* I continued to pray to God for strength and submission.

Recently, while I was reading Quran at dawn, I experienced something that I am sure each and every one of us has experienced at one time or another. Two particular verses that were several pages apart, seemed to leap off the page to get my attention. I've read these verses hundreds of times before, but that morning it seemed that I was reading them for the first

time. This is not surprising because we know that God is the teacher of the Quran (55:1-2).

The verses were: [4:146] *Only those who repent, reform, hold fast to GOD, and devote their religion absolutely to GOD alone, will be counted with the believers. GOD will bless the believers with a great recompense* and [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.* I had a strong feeling that God was reminding me of something I really needed to be reminded of. I started to look for similar verses and I found six other verses about holding fast to God (2:256, 3:101, 3:103, 8:45, 22:78, 31:22).

Each of these verses has a different setting but they all reinforce to me that God has sent us a life-line that we need to appreciate and use. The Cambridge English Dictionary defines a life-line as (1) something, especially a way of getting help, that you depend on to lead your life in a satisfactory way, and (2) a rope that is thrown to someone as a way of getting help on which you depend. The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines a life-line

as "a line used to keep contact with a person (such as a diver or an astronaut) in dangerous or potentially dangerous situations." To me, these definitions describe the Quran perfectly! The Quran is our life-line to God. We cannot hold fast to God physically—we cannot withstand His presence in this world as we see in 7:143, but we can hold fast to and grasp God's revelation to us – The Quran. This information has always been available to me, but the gloom and doom I allowed myself to feel caused me to forget. He knows that we all need reassurance at times, and He always provides it (2:260, 8:10-11, 16:102).

There are so many beautiful verses in Quran that I have used to glorify God, but because of my negative attitude, I was using them less often, and I believe that this failure exacerbated my sense of doom. [40:60] *Your Lord says, "Implore Me, and I will respond to you. Surely, those who are too arrogant to worship Me will enter Gehenna forcibly."* I did not realize that my lack of trust in God was really a form of arrogance; rejecting what He decreed for this country and this world out of His specific knowledge.

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Instead of complaining about things I have no control over, I should be glorifying God for the myriad of blessings He has bestowed upon me, the greatest of these being the Quran. It is truly our life-line to God, a life-line that is indestructible and always available to us. Let us see what God, Himself, says about the Quran. [2:2] *This scripture is infallible; a beacon for the righteous.*

[10:37] *This Quran could not possibly be authored by other than GOD. It confirms all previous messages, and provides a fully detailed scripture. It is infallible; for it comes from the Lord of the universe.*

[18:1-2] *Praise GOD, who revealed to His servant this scripture, and made it flawless. A perfect (scripture) to warn of severe retribution from Him, and to deliver good news to the believers who lead a righteous life, that they have earned a generous recompense.*

[4:82] *Why do they not study the Quran carefully? If it were from other than GOD, they would have found in it numerous contradictions.*

[10:57] *O people, enlightenment has come to you herein from your Lord, and healing for anything that troubles your hearts, and guidance, and mercy for the believers.*

[12:111] *In their history, there is a lesson for those who possess intelligence. This is not fabricated Hadith; this (Quran) confirms all previous scriptures, provides the details of everything, and is a beacon and mercy for those who believe.*

[17:9] *This Quran guides to the best path, and brings good news to the believers who lead a righteous life, that they have deserved a great recompense.*

[17:82] *We send down in the Quran healing and mercy for the believers. At the same time, it only increases the wickedness of the transgressors.*

[17:88] *Say, "If all the humans and all the jinns banded together in order to produce a Quran like this, they can never produce anything like it, no matter how much assistance they lent one*

*another."*

[18:54] *We have cited in this Quran every kind of example, but the human being is the most argumentative creature.*

What a beautiful and profound scripture God has given us to study and strengthen our souls with.

I would like to share some of the beautiful passages from Quran that I read when I glorify God:

[20:130] *Therefore, be patient in the face of their utterances, and praise and glorify your Lord before sunrise and before sunset. And during the night glorify Him, as well as at both ends of the day, that you may be happy."*

[2:286] *GOD never burdens a soul beyond its means: to its credit is what it earns, and against it is what it commits. "Our Lord, do not condemn us if we forget or make mistakes. Our Lord, and protect us from blaspheming against You, like those before us have done. Our Lord, protect us from sinning until it becomes too late for us to repent. Pardon us and forgive us. You are our Lord and Master. Grant us victory over the disbelieving people.*

[3:8] *"Our Lord, let not our hearts waver, now that You have guided us. Shower us with Your mercy; You are the Grantor."*

[12:101] *Initiator of the heavens and the earth; You are my Lord and Master in this life and in the Hereafter. Let me die as a submitter, and count me with the righteous.*

[14:40] *My Lord, make me one who consistently observes the Contact Prayers (Salat), and also my children. Our Lord, please answer my prayers.*

[17:80] *And say, "My Lord, admit me an honorable admittance, and let me depart an honorable departure, and grant me from You a powerful support."*

[18:38] *As for me, GOD is my Lord, and I will never set up any other god besides my Lord.*

[30:40] *GOD is the One who created you. He is the One who provides for you. He is the One who puts you to*

*death. He is the One who resurrects you. Can any of your idols do any of these things? Be He glorified. He is much too exalted to have any partners.*

[25:63-66] *The worshipers of the Most Gracious are those who tread the earth gently, and when the ignorant speak to them, they only utter peace. In the privacy of the night, they meditate on their Lord, and fall prostrate. And they say, "Our Lord, spare us the agony of Hell; its retribution is horrendous. "It is the worst abode; the worst destiny."*

I am feeling so much better now. I was in dire need of God's forgiveness and mercy and guidance. I really needed to reaffirm my belief of how important the Quran is to my health and well-being. I became distracted by such unimportant events – events that could not harm or benefit my soul.

[25:3] *Yet, they set up beside Him gods who do not create anything—they themselves are created—and who possess no power to even harm or benefit themselves, nor do they possess any power to control life, or death, or resurrection.*

We need to often reaffirm our belief and faith in God Alone and hold fast to Him, and read the Quran as much as we can—the best life-line in the entire seven universes!

Lory

\* \* \* \* \*

## ILLUSIONS

The meaning of the word illusion is an instance of a wrong or misinterpreted perception of a sensory experience, a deceptive appearance or impression, a false idea or belief. Synonyms are: mirage, hallucination, apparition, phantasm, phantom, vision, fantasy, figment of the imagination, delusion, misapprehension, misconception, deception, false impression, mistaken impression

God warns us in the Quran that the life of

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this world is no more than an illusion.

*[3:185] Every person tastes death, then you receive your recompense on the Day of Resurrection. 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.*

This verse says that if we barely miss hell and make it to heaven, we have attained a great triumph. It highlights and confirms the extent and density of illusion in this worldly life.

How many people are actually seeking the right path? We are blessed to be searching for God's guidance, because somewhere in our heart we were on the lookout for the truth, the right path. We know, as per God's system, we need to first decide to believe that God alone is sufficient for us and only then God will guide us.

*[2:213] The people used to be one community when GOD sent the prophets as bearers of good news, as well as warners. He sent down with them the scripture, bearing the truth, to judge among the people in their disputes. Ironically, those who received the scripture were the ones who rejected any new scripture, despite clear proofs given to them. This is due to jealousy on their part. GOD guides those who believe to the truth that is disputed by all others, in accordance with His will. GOD guides whoever wills in a straight path.*

Belief is not limited to belief in God. Many people believe in God, yet they are going to hell. Unfortunately, despite their belief in God, they still commit idol worship (12:106), and idol worship is unforgivable if maintained until death.

*They Believe in God*

*Yet, They Are Going to Hell*

*[39:38] If you ask them, "Who created the heavens and the earth?" they will say, "GOD." Say, "Why then do you set up idols beside GOD? If GOD willed any adversity for me, can they relieve such an*

*adversity? And if He willed a blessing for me, can they prevent such a blessing?" Say, "GOD is sufficient for me." In Him the trusters shall trust.*

Further, we must totally submit to God. Emphasis on **totally**:

*[39:17] As for those who discard the worship of all idols, and devote themselves totally to GOD alone, they have deserved happiness. Give good news to My servants.*

*[39:54] You shall obey your Lord, and submit to Him totally, before the retribution overtakes you, then you cannot be helped.*

*[4:64] We did not send any messenger except to be obeyed in accordance with GOD's will. Had they, when they wronged their souls, come to you and prayed to GOD for forgiveness, and the messenger prayed for their forgiveness, they would have found GOD Redeemer, Most Merciful. [4:65] Never indeed, by your Lord; they are not believers unless they come to you to judge in their disputes, then find no hesitation in their hearts whatsoever in accepting your judgment. They must submit a total submission.*

I want to be successful in life. I want to be happy in life. Being successful means the achievement of desired/planned visions and goals.

One person defined success as follows: "Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to do your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming." Success is an attitude. Success requires maximum effort.

Happiness is a sense of well-being, joy, or contentment. Different people feel happiness for different reasons.

For some, happiness is linked to success. But we see many people in the world after achieving what they desire are not happy and content.

The reason is simple, no matter what amount of material success one attains,

unless the soul is happy, the person cannot be happy.

*[100:6-11] The human being is unappreciative of his Lord. He bears witness to this fact. He loves material things excessively. Does he not realize that the day will come when the graves are opened? And all secrets are brought out. They will find out, on that day, that their Lord has been fully Cognizant of them.*

This worldly life is such an illusion, but despite knowing the facts we sometimes can't hold ourselves back. We may feel we will be "left behind." Also, this chase is endless as we are all chasing a moving number. The moment you achieve a number, you realize that this is not enough, and you want more.

*[74:11-15] Let Me deal with one I created as an individual. I provided him with lots of money. And children to behold. I made everything easy for him. Yet, he is greedy for more.*

We also see that we have been brought up to believe that without material success there is no life and no respect. We are taught that the most respectable person is the one whose net worth is highest. When you are doing a business deal and you are the bigger company of the two, you demand more respect and you dictate the terms. Hence, we demand respect and preference if we are more "successful" than others, not realizing that this material wealth is just a test.

There is no harm in seeking material success, but we need to ask ourselves what is the limit? Are we ready for what we are asking? What is the cost of it? We need to understand with every resource that we have comes responsibility and answerability to God. Are we ready for it? Are we ready to give up our horses forever if we missed one contact prayer, as Solomon did (38:34)?

We need to understand that God has defined a system for everything and predetermined everything even before our

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creation. So whatever provisions we are enjoying today were planned billions of years ago. Of course, God controls the provisions and may increase or reduce them as He wills (13:26, 29:62, 39:52).

If we look back at our lives do we see we have always been running after material things? Do we keep ourselves so busy that we are not fulfilling the sole purpose of our creation (51:56)? God says that He created the human being to work hard in order to redeem our souls (90:4).

#### *The Purpose of Our Existence*

*[51:56] I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone.*

This worldly life is just an illusion. Let us not be chasing new targets every day and not be content with what God has blessed us with. The things that we are chasing may be of no significance in the Hereafter. Just imagine in the Hereafter what will we answer to God when He asks what did we do with our lives? You can't say I was busy chasing material success.

*[6:27] If only you could see them when they face the hellfire! They would say then, "Woe to us. Oh, we wish if we could go back, and never reject our Lord's revelations, and join the believers." [6:28] As a matter of fact, (they only say this because) their secrets have been exposed. If they go back, they will commit exactly the same crimes. They are liars.*

The success and happiness we desire, God controls it all. And even if we achieve all the things we desire, we cannot change our fate unless we believe and do the things prescribed by God.

God has perfectly placed us all wherever we are. Everything has been precisely measured and customized for us. Irrespective of the amount of wealth we all have, we may still find more that we want to do in this world. But eventually we will all be evaluated based only on our soul growth.

Hence, aiming and working towards the right success is the key. Success is not achieving a lot of money and fame; it is the right deployment of all the resources God has bestowed upon us in the manner required by God.

Real success is making it back to the heaven, but in order to achieve the real success we need to understand the purpose of our life. God does not need anything from us. It is for our own sake that we need to submit totally to God alone. We need to know that God controls everything. We must work to be thankful for everything He has blessed us with. And repent to Him for our transgressions.

*[66:8] O you who believe, you shall repent to GOD a firm repentance. Your Lord will then remit your sins and admit you into gardens with flowing streams. On that day, GOD will not disappoint the*

*prophet and those who believed with him. Their light will radiate in front of them and to their right. They will say, "Our Lord, perfect our light for us, and forgive us; You are Omnipotent."*

*[4:17] Repentance is acceptable by GOD from those who fall in sin out of ignorance, then repent immediately thereafter. GOD redeems them. GOD is Omniscient, Most Wise.*

*[4:146] Only those who repent, reform, hold fast to GOD, and devote their religion absolutely to GOD alone, will be counted with the believers. GOD will bless the believers with a great recompense.*

Repentance must be followed by reformation in order to be forgiven. Look at those who devote themselves to God.

*[2:207] Then there are those who dedicate their lives to serving GOD; GOD is compassionate towards such worshippers. [2:208] O you who believe, you shall embrace total submission; do not follow the steps of Satan, for he is your most ardent enemy.*

God says that He is compassionate towards such worshippers! How many of us are ready to dedicate our lives to serving God? Dedicate can be defined as: devote (time or effort) to a particular task or purpose; to commit, surrender and sacrifice. Devote ourselves to God, not to the illusions of this worldly life.

Ubaid