

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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April

Is April for fools? Well, April Fools' Day is the first day of the month, and perhaps you had a trick played on you, or you played one on someone else. It can be silly and fun, though it can also be cruel and hurtful. But this year, April brings us Ramadan, praise God. And Ramadan is no joke.

[2:185] 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.

Fasting during Ramadan is such a gift from God. *[2:183] O you who believe, fasting is decreed for you, as it was decreed for those before you, that you may attain salvation.*

Ramadan is a time to commemorate, celebrate, worship, rejoice; a time to grow our souls and work on shrinking our egos, with the goal of attaining everlasting salvation. It's a time to be as righteous as we possibly can be.

And try to make those righteous thoughts and deeds a habit that can continue throughout the year.

God makes it easy for us. *[2:184] 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.*

Fasting is the best for us, but if we are unable, God gives us a way to make-up by feeding the poor. And we can volunteer to do more. And there are so many more righteous works to do.

[23:60] As they give their charities, their hearts are fully reverent. For they recognize that they will be summoned before their Lord, [23:61] They are eager to do righteous works; they compete in doing them.

[11:114] You shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) at both ends of the day, and during the night. The righteous works wipe out the evil works. This is a reminder for those who would take heed.

[16:96] What you possess runs out, but

what GOD possesses lasts forever. We will surely reward those who steadfastly persevere; we will recompense them for their righteous works.

[29:7] Those who believe and lead a righteous life, we will certainly remit their sins, and will certainly reward them generously for their righteous works.

[3:114] They believe in GOD and the Last Day, they advocate righteousness and forbid evil, and they hasten to do righteous works. These are the righteous.

We at Masjid Tucson wish everyone a most blessed Ramadan 1441 (April/May 2020).

Ramadan 2020

God willing

Ramadan starts April 24 for most of the world (some places in western USA and Canada may start April 23) .

The **Night of Destiny** (Night of Power) will start at the sunset of May 19 for places that begin fasting on April 24.

For more details (including dates for other places), please visit:

<https://masjiduntucson.org/Ramadan/>

RESPONSIBILITY

The Merriam Webster dictionary defines responsible as: liable to be called on to answer; liable to be called to account as the primary cause, motive, or agent; responsible for the job. *Synonyms:* Accountable, answerable, liable.

So, if we look at the Quran, our responsibility as humans started when we chose freedom of choice. Which makes sense. If we want to make the choice, we should be held responsible.

Freedom of Choice

[33:72] We have offered the responsibility (freedom of choice) to the heavens and the earth, and the mountains, but they refused to bear it, and were afraid of it. But the human being accepted it; he was transgressing, ignorant.

Related to that may be the concept that if we're forced, we may not be responsible. Or if we tried our best sincerely, but still fell short. And God knows our intentions. What's in our hearts.

Lip Service Does Not Count

*[16:106] Those who disbelieve in GOD, after having acquired faith, and become fully content with disbelief, have incurred wrath from GOD. The only ones to be excused are those who are forced to profess disbelief, while their hearts are full of faith.**

**16:106 God's wisdom decrees that if someone holds a gun to your head and orders you to declare that you disbelieve in God, you may grant him his wish. What the heart harbors is what counts.*

[2:225] GOD does not hold you responsible for the mere utterance of oaths; He holds you responsible for your innermost intentions. GOD is Forgiver, Clement.

Responsibility for our own works

We are responsible for our own works, so it's important to do righteous works:

[53:39] Every human being is responsible for his own works. [53:40] And everyone's works will be shown. [53:41] Then they will be paid fully for such works.

[34:25] Say, "You are not responsible for our crimes, nor are we responsible for what you do."

[2:134] Such is a community from the past. They are responsible for what they earned, and you are responsible for what you earned. You are not answerable for anything they have done.

[28:55] When they come across vain talk, they disregard it and say, "We are responsible for our deeds, and you are responsible for your deeds. Peace be upon you. We do not wish to behave like the ignorant ones."

And while we are not responsible for others, we are responsible for doing the right thing when we interact with them.

[6:52] And do not dismiss those who implore their Lord day and night, devoting themselves to Him alone. You are not responsible for their reckoning, nor are they responsible for your reckoning. If you dismiss them, you will be a transgressor.

Our "works" may not be restricted to what we physically do, so if we mislead people, we are responsible. Of course, the flip side is, if we mediate something good (4:85), God willing, we get a share of that. Also we see from 29:12-13, that even if someone misleads us (God forbid), we're still accountable for what we choose. Because Satan or any human can only invite. Ultimately each individual chooses for themselves.

[16:25] They will be held responsible for their sins on the Day of Resurrection, all of them, in addition to sins of all those whom they misled by their ignorance. What a miserable load!

[4:85] Whoever mediates a good deed receives a share of the credit thereof, and whoever mediates an evil work, incurs a share thereof. GOD controls all things.

[29:12] Those who disbelieved said to those who believed, "If you follow our way, we will be responsible for your sins." Not true; they cannot bear any of their sins. They are liars. [29:13] In fact, they will carry their own sins, in addition to

loads of other people's sins for which they were responsible. Most certainly, they will be asked on the Day of Resurrection about their false claims.

A logically related concept (to each soul being responsible for themselves) is that we cannot guide anyone.

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.

Only God Guides

[28:56] 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.

[24:54] Say, "Obey GOD, and obey the messenger." If they refuse, then he is responsible for his obligations, and you are responsible for your obligations. If you obey him, you will be guided. The sole duty of the messenger is to deliver (the message).

Still, it's helpful to remind. Effectively, we submit to God, and recognize God is running everything. However, if we do our part, with good intentions and seeking to please God alone, God willing, we benefit. We remind using Quran (6:70), lest we give people bad reminders. We can only imagine how bad it will be for religious leaders who mislead people using Satan's ideology. We must stick to what God tells us to do in Quran.

Respect for the Word of God

[6:68] If you see those who mock our revelations, you shall avoid them until they delve into another subject. If the devil causes you to forget, then, as soon as you remember, do not sit with such evil people. [6:69] The righteous are not responsible for the utterances of those people, but it may help to remind them; perhaps they may be saved.

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[51:55] And remind, for the reminder benefits the believers.

[4:84] You shall fight for the cause of GOD; you are responsible only for your own soul, and exhort the believers to do the same.

So, along those lines, we are to exhort one another for good. Parents particularly have a responsibility for children (which is not too different from the expectations in this life where parents take responsibility for helping their children and pride in their accomplishments). We cannot force our children, but we can enjoin them. And reflect on how are we doing it. Are we trying to force them? Or are we sincerely doing it to please God?

[20:132] You shall enjoin your family to observe the contact prayers (Salat), and steadfastly persevere in doing so. We do not ask you for any provisions; we are the ones who provide for you. The ultimate triumph belongs to the righteous.

[14:31] Exhort My servants who believed to observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), and to give (to charity) from our provisions to them, secretly and publicly, before a day comes where there is neither trade, nor nepotism.

We are also responsible for our thoughts.

[2:284] To GOD belongs everything in the heavens and the earth. Whether you declare your innermost thoughts, or keep them hidden, GOD holds you responsible for them. He forgives whomever He wills, and punishes whomever He wills. GOD is Omnipotent.

[3:29] Say, "Whether you conceal your innermost thought, or declare it, GOD is fully aware thereof." He is fully aware of everything in the heavens and the earth. GOD is Omnipotent.

[11:5] Indeed, they hide their innermost thoughts, as if to keep Him from knowing them. In fact, as they cover themselves with their clothes, He knows all their secrets and declarations. He knows the innermost thoughts.

[39:7] If you disbelieve, GOD does not need anyone. But He dislikes to see His servants make the wrong decision. If you decide to be appreciative, He is pleased for you. No soul bears the sins of any other soul. Ultimately, to your Lord is your return, then He will inform you of everything you had done. He is fully aware of the innermost thoughts.

The Quran says that greater miracles and blessings mean greater responsibility.

*[5:114] Said Jesus, the son of Mary, "Our god, our Lord, send down to us a feast from the sky. Let it bring plenty for each and every one of us, and a sign from You. Provide for us; You are the best Provider." [5:115] GOD said, "I am sending it down. Anyone among you who disbelieves after this, I will punish him as I never punished anyone else."**

**5:114-115 The Quran's overwhelming miracle (Appendix 1) is described in 74:35 as "One of the greatest miracles," and brings with it an uncommonly great responsibility.*

[2:211] Ask the Children of Israel how many profound miracles have we shown them! For those who disregard the blessings bestowed upon them by GOD, GOD is most strict in retribution.

**2:211 The Quran's mathematical miracle is a great blessing, and brings with it an awesome responsibility (please see 5:115).*

Special Responsibility For Being Close

[33:28] O prophet, say to your wives, "If you are seeking this life and its vanities, then let me compensate you and allow you to go amicably. [33:29] "But if you are seeking GOD and His messenger, and the abode of the Hereafter, then GOD has prepared for the righteous among you a great recompense."

Special Responsibility

[33:30] O wives of the prophet, if any of you commits a gross sin, the retribution will be doubled for her. This is easy for GOD to do. [33:31] Any one of you who obeys GOD and His messenger, and leads a righteous life, we will grant her double the recompense, and we have prepared for her a generous provision.

So also in terms of worldly blessings. It seems reasonable that we're responsible for what God gives us. And the more we have, the more we are responsible for.

[24:22] Those among you who are blessed with resources and wealth shall be charitable towards their relatives, the poor, and those who have immigrated for the sake of GOD. They shall treat them with kindness and tolerance; do you not love to attain GOD's forgiveness? GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

To conclude: we chose free will (33:72). So, we are responsible for what we think and do. May God help us choose the right path so that when we stand before Him, we are ready to present our account.

The Believers

[69:19-20] As for the one who receives his record with his right hand, he will say, "Come read my record. I did believe that I was going to be held accountable."

[90:11] He should choose the difficult path. [90:12] Which one is the difficult path? [90:13] The freeing of slaves.

[90:14] Feeding, during the time of hardship. [90:15] Orphans who are related.

[90:16] Or the poor who is in need.

[90:17] And being one of those who believe, and exhorting one another to be steadfast, and exhorting one another to be kind. [90:18] These have deserved happiness.

Faiz

Be included in our email list for weekly reminders

God has blessed us with the opportunity to send weekly emails to submitters on our list. The email is not long. It usually consists of a topic and the related Quranic verses, and links to get more information. The reminder is sent once a week, on Thursday (or Friday), God willing.

[51:55] And remind, for the reminder benefits the believers.

You can join the list by visiting <https://masjidtucson.org/current/weekly.html> or by emailing us: info@masjidtucson.org and saying you want to be in the weekly reminder list. If you want to make it a really short email, write "weekly reminder" in the subject line and send it.

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Praise be to GOD

In 6 Quranic verses, God repeats the phrase “Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.”

[1:2] *Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.*

[6:45] *The wicked are thus annihilated. Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.*

[10:10] *Their prayer therein is: “Be You glorified, our god,” their greeting therein is, “Peace,” and their ultimate prayer is: “Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.”*

[37:182] *Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.*

[39:75] *You will see the angels floating around the throne, glorifying and praising their Lord. After the equitable judgment is issued to all, it will be proclaimed: “Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.”*

[40:65] *He is the Living; there is no god except He. You shall worship Him alone, devoting your religion absolutely to Him alone. Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.*

These verses show us that whether it's in this life (1:2) or in the Hereafter (10:10, 39:75), all praise belonging to God is a matter of fact. It is a timeless statement. We also see: [28:70] *He is the one GOD; there is no other god beside Him. To Him belongs all praise in this first life, and in the Hereafter. All judgment belongs with Him, and to Him you will be returned.*

It is also a blessing from God that we can say, “*Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.*” every day in our Contact Prayers (*Salat*). We shouldn't be waiting for the Hereafter to proclaim this eternally true statement; we must start now. God willing that will help us be among those described in: [17:52] *The day He summons you, you will respond by praising Him, and you will then realize that you had lasted in this life but a short while.*

[26:88-89] *That is the day when neither money, nor children, can help. Only those who come to GOD with their whole heart (will be saved).*

This statement—*praise be to God*—also is a means of uniting people under the banner of God alone. All submitters from all religions are happy to recognize and utter this statement. It is the truth. It removes the human factors and focuses on praising the One True God.

[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.*

[110:1] *When triumph comes from GOD, and victory. [110:2] You will see the people embracing GOD's religion in throngs. [110:3] You shall glorify and praise your Lord, and implore Him for forgiveness. He is the Redeemer.*

I'd like to share some mathematical facts, based on the Quran's common denominator, the number 19, spanning the six verses with the phrase: “Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.” These facts increased my faith.

Adding sura numbers (from the six verses), we get: $1+6+10+37+39+40 = 133 = 19 \times 7$.

These 6 verses have the following number of letters: 1:2 has 17, 6:45 has 41, 10:10 has 64, 37:182 has 18, 39:75 has 75, and 40:65 has 52. If we add up the sura numbers, verses and letters we get: $1+2+17 + 6+45+41 + 10+10+64 + 37+182+18 + 39+75+75 + 40+65+52 = 779 = 19 \times 41$.

Among these six occurrences, the phrase “Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe,” occurs in the last verse of two of these suras, i.e., Suras 37 and 39. If we sum them up, we get: $37+39 = 76 = 19 \times 4$.

There are additional mathematical relationships with the occurrence in 39:75. $39+75 = 114 = 19 \times 6$ (There are 114 suras in the Quran). From Sura 1 (the first occurrence of the phrase) to Sura 39, we have 38 suras = 19×2 .

Abeer

References:

- “Universal Unity”, *Submitters Perspective*, September 1987, by Rashad Khalifa.
- “One of the Great Miracles [74:35]”, *Appendix 1, from Quran The Final Testament*, Authorized English Version, by Rashad Khalifa.