

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

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## Be Kind

### **... exhorting one another to be kind. (90:17)**

God tells us to exhort one another to be kind. Implicit in that is that we should be kind ourselves. We should be kind to our family and friends; we should be kind to those in need; we should be kind to strangers; we should be kind to the earth. He tells us that this is the difficult path, and if we can follow it, we will deserve happiness forever.

*[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.*

There's nothing we want more than to attain the happiness that God promises. So, we're willing to walk on the difficult path to achieve that.

How difficult it must have been for people to go against the norm of the day and free their own slaves and work for the emancipation of others. How difficult it can be to face hardship yourself and still find the way to feed and clothe others in need. So, it can be a difficult path.

But in 87:8 God tells us: *We will direct you to the easiest path.* So, is it difficult or is it easy? Yes! It can certainly be both. In worldly terms, it may be very hard to buck the trend, but in spiritual terms, God is telling us that He will make it easy.

Today this country is so divided that you can hear people talk of civil war. This past political campaign was the ugliest in a long time, with both sides heaping foul words on the other, sometimes almost inciting to violence. And this culminated in the invasion of the Capitol on January 6. The nastiness, the hostility, the aggression was on view to the whole world. How on earth can we become KIND again?

By choosing the difficult path.

I can start by being kind. When someone cuts me off in traffic, I have a choice. I can curse, make rude physical gestures, or I can smile and say praise God. If someone makes an unkind remark to me, I can respond in kind or I can respond with kindness. God tells us in the Quran to counter evil with good (13:22, 28:54). It's a trait of the righteous. Again, a smile can go a long way to defuse a situation. And if it doesn't (sometimes a smile makes the rude person angrier), I can just walk away, saying praise God.

We're told in 4:5 to take care of orphans by clothing them and treating them kindly. We're told to take care of relatives, orphans and needy persons when distributing the inheritances ... *you shall give them therefrom, and treat them kindly.* (4:8). And in many places in the Quran we're told to take special care of our parents. *[17:24] And lower for them the wings of humility, and kindness, and say, "My Lord, have mercy on them, for they have raised me from infancy."*

We're told in *[25:63] The worshipers of*

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*the Most Gracious are those who tread the earth gently, and when the ignorant speak to them, they only utter peace.* This is a trait of the righteous. We're instructed in this verse both to take care of this planet that God has provided for us and also to be kind to those who don't understand by simply offering them peace.

God tells us that *[2:263] Kind words and compassion are better than a charity that is followed by insult.* So, any time we can insert a kind word into a situation, it is a sort of charity. We have no right to feel superior to any other human being, no matter how disreputable their situation may seem, no matter how much we think their opinion is wrong. Our only difference in the sight of God is our righteousness. Being kind, offering support and help, and showing compassion are all signs of righteousness that we want to cultivate. And when we can demonstrate that kindness, perhaps we can become an example for others and kindness can spread. Abraham, "God's beloved friend" (4:125), is described by God: *[11:75] Indeed, Abraham was clement, extremely kind, and obedient.* And we know that Abraham prayed to be a good example to future generations (26:84), and indeed his examples of righteous behavior are cited often in Quran (43:28, 60:4).

Kindness, according to Google, is the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. How can we restore these traits to a nation that has seemed to lose sight of the importance of these virtues? I think it has to start with me, with each of us as an individual. I still believe most people are kind at the core. And when shown kindness, most people will respond with kindness. I can't complain about a whole nation of unkind people if I don't treat everyone with absolute kindness all the time. So, kindness, like everything else, begins at home.

Start small. Be kind. Give charity. Do righteous works. All revolutions begin with a few people wanting to make a change. Then, if it's God's will, it spreads. And before you know it, a republic is formed in America; autocratic rulers in France are overthrown; the Berlin wall comes down. History is full of revolutions sparked by a desire to change for the better.

The most important single factor, of course, is people willing to return to the recognition of a Supreme Being and the worship of God alone. *[11:90] "You shall implore your Lord for forgiveness, then repent to Him. My Lord is Most Merciful, Kind."* If we turn to God, repent to Him, seek His help in spreading kindness in this world, then we will always find that God is Kind to us. In fact, He is the Most Kind: *[85:14] And He is the Forgiving, Most Kind.*

We should choose to be kind and we should exhort one another to be kind. That way the "difficult path" becomes the "easiest path." That's God's promise. We want to be among the people who will meet up in Paradise and remember all the times on earth when they obeyed God's commands, steadfastly persevered in spite of adversity, and offered kindness in an unkind world.

*[52:25] They will meet each other and reminisce among themselves.*

*[52:26] They will say, "We used to be kind and humble among our people.*

*[52:27] "GOD has blessed us, and has spared us the agony of ill winds.*

*[52:28] "We used to implore Him; He is the Most Kind, Most Merciful."*

Lydia

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## HOW TO TREAT ONE ANOTHER

How should we treat one another in this world? God has given us perfect guidelines.

*[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.*

*Treat Each Other Amicably*

*[17:53] Tell My servants to treat each other in the best possible manner, for the devil will always try to drive a wedge among them. Surely, the devil is man's most ardent enemy.*

*[29:46] Do not argue with the people of the scripture (Jews, Christians, & Muslims) except in the nicest possible manner—unless they transgress— and say, "We believe in what was revealed to us and in what was revealed to you, and our god and your god is one and the same; to Him we are submitters."*

*[16:125] You shall invite to the path of your Lord with wisdom and kind enlightenment, and debate with them in the best possible manner. Your Lord knows best who has strayed from His path, and He knows best who are the guided ones.*

Even if there are major disagreements, eventually, God tells us simply to disregard them, but in a nice manner.

*[73:10] And remain steadfast in the face of their utterances, and disregard them in a nice manner.*

*[5:13] It was a consequence of their violating the covenant that we condemned them, and we caused their hearts to become hardened. Consequently, they took the words out of context, and disregarded some of the commandments given to them. You will continue to witness be-*

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*trayal from them, excepting a few of them. You shall pardon them, and disregard them. GOD loves those who are benevolent.*

*[5:42] They are upholders of lies, and eaters of illicit earnings. If they come to you to judge among them, you may judge among them, or you may disregard them. If you choose to disregard them, they cannot harm you in the least. But if you judge among them, you shall judge equitably. GOD loves those who are equitable.*

*[6:70] You shall disregard those who take their religion in vain, as if it is a social function, and are totally absorbed in this worldly life. Remind with this (Quran), lest a soul may suffer the consequences of its evil earnings. ...*

*[7:199] You shall resort to pardon, advocate tolerance, and disregard the ignorant.*

God is the only One who knows what’s in a person’s heart. We need to leave the judgment to God.

*[6:112] We have permitted the enemies of every prophet—human and jinn devils—to inspire in each other fancy words, in order to deceive. Had your Lord willed, they would not have done it. You shall disregard them and their fabrications.*

*[7:180] To GOD belongs the most beautiful names; call upon Him therewith, and disregard those who distort His names. They will be requited for their sins.*

*[43:89] You shall disregard them and say, “Peace;” they will surely find out.*

*[52:45] Disregard them until they meet the day in which they are struck.*

*[15:94] Therefore, carry out the orders given to you, and disregard the idol worshippers.*

*[32:30] Therefore, disregard them and*

*wait, they too are waiting.*

We need to take care of ourselves and our submission, and remember to always trust in God.

*[33:48] Do not obey the disbelievers and the hypocrites, disregard their insults, and put your trust in GOD; GOD suffices as an advocate.*

*Choose Your Friends Carefully*

*[53:29] You shall disregard those who turn away from our message, and become preoccupied with this worldly life.*

*[58:19] The devil has possessed them, and has caused them to disregard GOD’s message. These are the party of the devil. Absolutely, the party of the devil are the losers.*

*Run For Your Life*

*[58:22] You will not find people who believe in GOD and the Last Day befriending those who oppose GOD and His messenger, even if they were their parents, or their children, or their siblings, or their tribe. For these, He decrees faith into their hearts, and supports them with inspiration from Him, and admits them into gardens with flowing streams wherein they abide forever. GOD is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him. These are the party of GOD. Most assuredly, GOD’s party are the winners.*

Ahmed

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## Parable of the King & his wives

Once upon a time there was a rich King who had four wives. He loved the 4th wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to the finest of delicacies. He gave her nothing but the best.

He also loved the 3rd wife very much and was always showing her off to neighboring kingdoms. However, he feared that one day she would leave him

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for another.

He also loved his 2nd wife. She was his confidante and was always kind, considerate and patient with him. Whenever the King faced a problem, he could confide in her, and she did her best to help him get through life.

The King's 1st wife was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining his health and happiness. However, he did not really love the first wife.

One day, the King fell ill, and he knew his time was short. He thought of his luxurious life and wondered, "I now have four wives with me, but when I die, I'll be all alone." Thus, he asked the 4th wife, "I have loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"No way!", replied the 4th wife. And she walked away without another word. Her answer cut like a sharp knife right into his heart.

The sad King then asked the 3rd wife, "I have loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"No!", replied the 3rd wife. "Life is good! When you die, I'm going to remarry." His heart sank.

He then asked the 2nd wife, "I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time.", replied the 2nd wife. "At the very most, I can only send you to your grave." The king was at a loss for words.

Then a voice called out: "I'll leave with you and follow you no matter where you go." The King looked up, and there was his first wife. She was so skinny as she suffered from malnutrition and neglect. Greatly grieved, the King said, "I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!"

The analogy of the 4 wives in our lives is:

The 4th wife is our body. No matter how much effort we lavish in making it look good, it will leave us when we die.

The 3rd wife is our possessions, status and wealth. When we die, it will all go to others.

The 2nd wife is our family and friends. No matter how much they love us, the furthest they can stay by us is up to the grave.

And our 1st wife is our soul. Often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the world. However, our soul is the only thing that will follow us wherever we go.

Strengthen and nourish it now through devotion to God alone. For the soul is the only part of us that goes beyond this world to the Day of Judgment and through Eternity.

*[18:45] Cite for them the example of this life as water that we send down from the sky to produce plants of the earth, then they turn into hay that is blown away by the wind. GOD is able to do all things.*

*Rearranging Our Priorities*  
*[18:46] Money and children are the joys of this life, but the righteous works provide an eternal recompense from your Lord, and a far better hope.*

*[2:281] Beware of the day when you are returned to GOD, and every soul is paid for everything it had done, without the least injustice.*

*[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.*

May God guide and forgive us and help us work hard to grow our souls.

*Author Unknown (Internet adaptation)*