



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International
Community of Submitters

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Thanksgiving

November is Thanksgiving time in the United States. We know that every day is a time for giving thanks, but by God's grace, some of our early leaders had the foresight to set aside a time especially for thanking God. On October 3, 1789, George Washington issued his Thanksgiving Proclamation. It called on all Americans to "acknowledge the providence of Almighty God." To dedicate a specific day in November "to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be." (See Submitters Perspective, November 2012 for complete Proclamation).

74 years later, on October 3, 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln solidified that Proclamation by making Thanksgiving a permanent national holiday. In Lincoln's proclamation, he mentioned all the positive things Americans had experienced even while fighting a war. And he proclaimed: "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger

for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

Each one of us has so much to be thankful for. We know: *[16:18] If you count GOD's blessings, you cannot possibly encompass them. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

We could never list all of the gifts and joys that God has put in our lives. All of us can be grateful for God's guidance, mercy and forgiveness.

Additionally, here are some things that fellow Submitters have recognized as special blessings (thank you all for sharing). As we read them, let's think of the

good things in our life and offer thanks to Almighty God for them all.

I'm so very thankful for God's guidance, it's a great gift for my soul, and something I never expected in my life. Also the daily Contact Prayers, such a beautiful way to remember God and to show our submission in prostration. And I'm so thankful for all the dogs God brought into my home. They were all wonderful gifts and taught me so much and gave me such joy.

I'm so thankful for the security that God has provided for me (no war or disasters, etc.) and that God gave me another chance after the Great Feud to redeem my soul.

I'm thankful for the awesome beauty of God's creation, which helps me to keep Him as my focus. And I'm also very thankful for the wonderful technology that lets me stay in touch with the Submitters—my real family.

I am grateful for Quran. Reading it soothes my soul. And I am grateful for the HUGE Blessing of being able to work from home indefinitely!

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I'm thankful for God's gift of the Quran so we have a roadmap to return to Him. And His provision of a physical community of family of submitters locally, as well as spiritual family around the world.

I am thankful for Quran Study, an opportunity to expand on my belief in Allah, one God. Quran Study teaches me how to live as a submitter. It keeps me on a path to paradise. It connects me to God's messengers and prophets. And I am thankful to God for NATURE & the GREAT OUTDOORS: mountains, beaches, trails, waterfalls, sun, and parks. To experience these creations of God always feeds my spirit, bringing me closer to Allah.

I'm so thankful that GOD provided for us the knowledge of what completes us. HE alone. And that GOD provides so many submitter creatures and creations around us to provide for us and serve us.

I'm truly thankful for God's guidance and God's protection on me and my loved ones.

I thank God for giving me the AEVQ [Authorized English version of Quran], the complete Manual to, God willing, see me through this life and the all-important Hereafter. Not only did the Most Gracious give me the Manual but also sent an Instruction Engineer (a messenger) with it to explain to me matters that I could never have comprehended. I thank God for the placement of my Soul with a wonderful Submitter family so I have a chance to save myself for Eternity. But for God's Mercy, I could have been born centuries ago in a Cannibalistic or a "Thugee" tribe. I thank God for giving me more than enough provisions to meet my needs and those of my family. I thank God for giving me two scatter-brained Irish Setter dogs for 15 years each and a plotting and scheming yet nearly invisible cat for 18 years. Thank You so much God, You have given me so much more.

I am so grateful that God has provided for me, guided me, blessed me, protected me all the years of my life so far. I am grateful for all of the family that God has given me, especially my "spiritual family" of believers!! There really is no end to my Thankfulness!! It moves me to want to lift my hands in total praise to Him each time I make Salat....TUG [Thank You God]!!

I am so thankful to be guided to the truth. Praise God!

For the soul, I am grateful for the daily appreciation sessions that we hold. Every day a group of us get together on Skype and share 3 things for which we are grateful. Sometimes it is a short and sweet session, but it serves as a great reminder of GOD's blessings upon us every day, it helps us connect with the real family, and it is refreshing for the soul. For the body, I recently needed to renew my gym membership. I signed up at the local gym and they charged me \$99 enrollment fee and an expensive bi-weekly fee. I thought nothing of it, but then by GOD's Grace, my mother reminded me that I should call head office, maybe they'll have better deals. I wanted to do this, but forgot, so praise GOD for His reminders. I called and they refunded me the \$99, gave me a much cheaper bi-weekly fee, and I got a month free membership out of the whole deal of canceling and re-signing. Isn't that amazing! Thank You, GOD!

I am very thankful for God's law book, (Quran), which is a beacon for my life. And I am thankful for technology that God grants us to be connected to all over the world.

Here is something I'm grateful to God for: The gift of submitter friends that keep me on the straight and narrow path, that I pray will lead back to Him. And the ability to appreciate and enjoy music. It's such a stress buster for me and a reminder that God loves me and allows me this pleasure every time I listen to music.

I am thankful that GOD allowed me to spend thirty-seven years with Nahid jaan (my late wife). I learned a lot from her, especially acts of kindness to others. And I am thankful that GOD allowed me to quit smoking since 1981. I've felt very healthy ever since. Praise GOD.

I am ever grateful I got the Quran which reminds me daily of my shortcomings and guides me to correct my future. And I am thankful for the technology GOD has blessed us with. We are able to do conferences, Quran Studies etc. And stay connected to the real family. Mashallah.

Thank God for providing us with all the detailed information we need in the Quran. Take a moment and think about how much information and details are in this world. There are books in libraries, books that don't make it to libraries, the internet filled with information on almost any topic you can think of, stories passed down from generation to generation, scrolls, information in other languages, hieroglyphics, and many other sources of information. Imagine if we had to sift through all this information to find the truth. I would be overwhelmed and probably give up. Through God's mercy we are provided with one book that contains all the detailed information we need. Now, that makes it a lot easier and feels like it is obtainable to find the truth. Praise be to God, Lord of the universe, thank God!

I am so thankful for my brothers and sisters in faith. They are such good examples for me. I have learned so much just by being here, praise God. And I'm thankful for my dog, Billy. He is a true submitter. I am so thankful for his health, and he makes me laugh!

I am thankful of being healthy to enjoy God's blessing such as fresh air, water, food, and space with freedom to choose. And I am also thankful to be able to read, write, and understand others with patience.

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I'm thankful for Quran studies. They keep your compass focused on appreciating God's teachings. And I'm so thankful for America; being in a country that's so free, lots of natural beauty, and a melting pot of many different cultures brings so much joy.

I'm extremely thankful to God for bringing me from a confused state of faith and religion to Submission to God alone, something that I've always believed in but never had the name for. And I'm extremely thankful for the wonderful wife and child God has placed in my life who, during my trials and tribulations, help me to keep my focus on God alone through their love and understanding.

Every day is a day of thanksgiving to our Most Merciful Lord. I am grateful for being given two wonderful families—my birth family and my submitting family. [49:10] *The believers are members of one family....* And I am so thankful that I have to worry only about my own soul, a full-time endeavor. [2:272] *You are not responsible for guiding anyone....* [28:56] *You cannot guide the ones you love....* A happy and blessed Thanksgiving Day to all my submitting family.

I am grateful for GOD's reminder of killing the ego (not that I am always able to do that) but I thank God for the awareness. And I am also grateful for God allowing us to eat the foods that we want except that which is bad for us. The different flavors, textures, cuisines, taste buds to enjoy. Ma-shallah.

I am so thankful for the message of worship of God alone, and the Quran that teaches me how to be a better person and the wisdom and knowledge that comes with it. This book makes my soul so happy every day. And I am thankful for my health and my husband and children and grandchildren, the love I share with them warms my heart, and also my job that keeps me busy.

I'm so grateful that God is the Best Designer and knew how to design my path in this life to guide me to The Truth. And I'm thankful for the health God has blessed me with! Praise God! And yes, thank God for my companion dog Levi and for the amazing comfort He gives us in the shelters of our homes.

I am thanking God for the sight, the most important organ of our body, because we can realize the greatness of God, and I am thanking God for the memory that He gives to us, because we can use, easily, our memory to follow the teaching of the messenger of God to purify our soul. We read the Bible and Quran for soul growth, so thank You God. And I thank God for the house where we are living every day, night and day, warming us up in winter, while it is cold outside and refreshing us in the summer while it's hot outside. Our house is where we find everything we need to have a perfect life and be happy.

I am truly thankful for having a community where you could talk about God and all His blessings. And I am also extremely thankful that God set up this world with different animals and plants, and anything else you can think of. Imagine you could have gone to a barren land and there was nothing to enjoy. Or, have no pets to share their love with true submission attitude with you.

I'm thankful to God for granting us peace. This world is in no shortage of supply of stress factors and provides much things to worry about starting with our health—not to mention the constant reminders about COVID19 threat—work stressors, home and financial obligations. However, as submitters to God alone, we can have a peace of mind that God is in full control of all matters. We can have a peace of mind that as long as we do our part and submit to the will of God, He guarantees perfect happiness for us in this life and in the hereafter. Thank You, God!

I'm so thankful for God's guidance that is a powerful gift for my soul. I'm so thankful for the healing of my soul that God gives me when I need it. I'm so thankful for God's love that has never failed me in my path which creates blooming in my mind and heart. I'm so thankful for the peace that God gives to us that creates security, freedom, kindness, and love. I'm so thankful for having God in our world who is the most honorable gift in the whole universe because He is the Most Gracious. I'm thankful for God who guides us to be in the service of other people like other creatures such as trees, the sun, and mountains.

I am thankful for God's gifts of repentance and forgiveness, and a lifetime of chances to do better. And thank You dear Lord for blessing me with a good family.

I'm thankful to God for all the pinches. Small and big, short and long, with every pinch He molds me into a better submitter. I am truly grateful for every lesson He teaches me for my soul. Thank you, God, for your guidance and mercy. At my lowest, my darkest and saddest moments you pick me up with your words (verse 22:15). Thank you, God, for allowing me to read your Quran and heal. And I am thankful to God for the morning hot chocolate. When it is cold and freezing outside, it is a good "pick me up" before work. And the list goes on and on and on... All praise and Glory be to God alone.

What a beautiful idea this is! There are so many things I'm thankful for, but I picked these: (1) I'm so thankful for the gift of online Quran studies. God made sure we could continue to nourish our souls and be content in each other's company even during the pandemic. And (2) I'm thankful for the gift of children and how much they resemble their lineage in appearance and yet are unique in their own ways. At times, you may be delighted to see the face of a long-lost grandparent or a sibling reflected in their faces and

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MASJID TUCSON United Submitters International

PO Box 43476 Tucson AZ 85733-3476 USA

Tel: (520) 323 7636

internet web site: www.masjiduntucson.org

e-mail: info@masjiduntucson.org (or: masjiduntucson@gmail.com)

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you wonder, is there even a limit to the variety in God's creations? Certainly not! Our Lord is Sublime. Our Lord is the Most High, the Great.

I'm so thankful to God for guiding me to move to this country so I could receive His message. And I'm so thankful to God for blessing me with a wonderful spouse that gives me tranquility and two beautiful children. Mā Shā Allāh.

I'm so thankful for God's reassurance: no matter how difficult the path God never leaves me. So very Grateful to God. God covers so many of my faults without which I am destined for hell. He Forgives me and immediately lets me know He has forgiven me. And I thank Him for my Submitting parents and family who time and again show me how amazing God is to give me such an immense blessing; my crazy cats who do all their funny antics that I thought not possible; my beautiful plants which are happy all the time. They really seem to be glorifying God, and you get to learn patience and love from them.

I thank God for a cool gentle breeze on a hot day. Such a blessing that soothes my soul and is divine proof of God's Mercy. And I thank God for the ability to pay for food, shelter and anything else I may need.

I have so much to thank God for, I cannot think of one over the other but my most favorite of all is the guidance / the prescription to our happiness. I am thankful to God for His CLEAR instructions in Quran for our salvation / everyday life. It is truly amazing to see my submitter family (my daughter) giving friendly reminders through God's words in order to bring me back to Him if at times I fail to recognize God is running everything. I am also thankful to God for all the LOVE I feel through my daughter and our three birds. Interesting indeed is how the birds express their affection to us every day. God shows His Mercy through everything I feel. Not sure if feeling deeply is a bad or good thing but I feel so deeply that my eyes tear up with happiness, when I see God's mercy. My daughter is a HUGE blessing upon me and at times I feel she is a test but the moment I am getting upset with her and she comes back at me with "mom, I am a test for you, and you don't want to fail...", is when my heart within feels a sense of happiness that she can understand God's place and His system. Maa Shaa Allah.

I'm very thankful for the health of my friends and family and myself from God.

I thank GOD that He has shown me the path to Him and that He has blessed us with a clarifying messenger through whom He purified our reli-

gion for us so we can focus on devoting all our religion practices to Him and to let us know what we never knew before. And I'm thankful to GOD for the irresistible smile that He has given to my 11-month-old daughter and creating the circumstances that now I get to witness it every morning.

I was sentenced to be executed by the Islamic Republic of Iran because of my political activities, but God saved me and I was released after just one year in jail. And I was diagnosed with MS (Multiple Sclerosis) disease and I was not able to walk because of that, but after a while the plaques on my spine died on their own and I was able to walk. Praise God.

Thank You, God, for my being able to "sing your praises." By God's grace, I find zikr to be a very soul-nourishing form of worship. And I thank God for the various social welfare projects He has blessed me to be a part of. It has helped me be more appreciative of God's countless blessings.

[Praise God, we had so many wonderful responses to this from all over the world that it will be continued in the December issue, God willing. We thank everyone who participated to make these issues special. Every month, every day, is truly Thanksgiving.]

[2:152] You shall remember Me, that I may remember you, and be thankful to Me; do not be unappreciative.