

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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April Fools

“A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.”

Shakespeare

Definition of “fool” (dictionary.com):

Noun: a person who acts unwisely or imprudently; a silly person.

Verb: trick or deceive someone, dupe

Adjective: foolish, silly

By definition, all humans are fools. We acted unwisely, or we wouldn't be here (33:72, 38:67-69). The Quran gives us many verses related to the term “fool”. Let us examine the verses to see what we can learn from them.

Verses mentioning “fool”:

[2:13] *When they are told, “Believe like the people who believed,” they say, “Shall we believe like the fools who believed?” In fact, it is they who are fools, but they do not know.*

[2:130] *Who would forsake the religion of Abraham, except one who fools his own soul? We have chosen him in this world, and in the Hereafter he will be with the righteous.*

[2:142] *The fools among the people would say, “Why did they change the*

direction of their Qiblah?” Say, “To GOD belongs the east and the west; He guides whoever wills in a straight path.”

[6:140] *Losers indeed are those who killed their children foolishly, due to their lack of knowledge, and prohibited what GOD has provided for them, and followed innovations attributed to GOD. They have gone astray; they are not guided.*

[17:29] *You shall not keep your hand stingily tied to your neck, nor shall you foolishly open it up, lest you end up blamed and sorry.*

Hûd [7:66] *The leaders who disbelieved among his people said, “We see that you are behaving foolishly, and we think that you are a liar.” [7:67] He said, “O my people, there is no foolishness in me; I am a messenger from the Lord of the universe.*

Pharaoh [43:54] *He thus fooled his people, and they obeyed him; they were wicked people.*

Jinns [72:4] *“It is the foolish among us who used to utter such nonsense about GOD.*

We can never fool God. [29:4] *Do those who commit sins think that they can ever fool us? Wrong indeed is their judgment.*

Verses mentioning “deceive”:

[2:9] *In trying to deceive GOD and those who believe, they only deceive themselves without perceiving.*

[3:24] *This is because they said, “The hellfire will not touch us, except for a few days.” They were thus deceived in their religion by their own fabrications.*

Satan is always working to deceive us. [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.*

[15:15] *they will say, “Our eyes have been deceived. We have been bewitched.”*

[67:20] *Where are those soldiers who can help you against the Most Gracious? Indeed, the disbelievers are deceived.*

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

God will always protect the believers from deception. [8:62] *If they want to deceive you, then GOD will suffice you. He will help you with His support, and with the believers.*

Verses mentioning “mislead”:

Satan has vowed to mislead as many as he possibly can. [4:119] *“I will mislead them, I will entice them, I will command them to (forbid the eating of certain meats by) marking the ears of livestock, and I will command them to distort the creation of GOD.”* Anyone who accepts the devil as a lord, instead of GOD, has incurred a profound loss.

[22:4] *It is decreed that anyone who allies himself with him, he will mislead him and guide him to the agony of Hell.*

And Satan uses humans to mislead one another, using personal opinions, doubts and wishful thinking. [5:77] *Say, “O people of the scripture, do not transgress the limits of your religion beyond the truth, and do not follow the opinions of people who have gone astray, and have misled multitudes of people; they are far astray from the right path.”*

[20:79] *Thus, Pharaoh misled his people; he did not guide them.*

[6:119] *Why should you not eat from that upon which GOD’s name has been mentioned? He has detailed for you what is prohibited for you, unless you are forced. Indeed, many people mislead others with their personal opinions, without knowledge. Your Lord is fully aware of the transgressors.*

[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!*

[57:14] *They will call upon them, “Were we not with you?” They will answer, “Yes, but you cheated your souls, hesitated, doubted, and became mis-*

led by wishful thinking, until GOD’s judgment came. You were diverted from GOD by illusions.

Verses mentioning “dupe”:

Humans can be easily duped by Satan and by the idols that humans set up beside God. [2:36] *But the devil duped them, and caused their eviction therefrom. We said, “Go down as enemies of one another. On Earth shall be your habitation and provision for awhile.”*

[7:22] *He thus duped them with lies. As soon as they tasted the tree, their bodies became visible to them, and they tried to cover themselves with the leaves of Paradise. Their Lord called upon them: “Did I not enjoin you from that tree, and warn you that the devil is your most ardent enemy?”*

[3:155] *Surely, those among you who turned back the day the two armies clashed have been duped by the devil. This reflects some of the (evil) works they had committed. GOD has pardoned them. GOD is Forgiver, Clement.*

[6:137] *Thus were the idol worshipers duped by their idols, to the extent of killing their own children. In fact, their idols inflict great pain upon them, and confuse their religion for them. Had GOD willed, they would not have done it. You shall disregard them and their fabrications.*

To summarize, all of these verses show us how foolish we can be, not just on April Fool’s Day, but year-round. We need to seek refuge in God, our only Protector. And implore Him for guidance.

[4:113] *If it were not for GOD’s grace towards you, and His mercy, some of them would have misled you. They only mislead themselves, and they can never harm you in the least. GOD has sent down to you the scripture and wisdom, and He has taught you what you never knew. Indeed, GOD’s blessings upon you have been great.*

OUR DUTY

[9:44] *Those who truly believe in GOD and the Last Day do not ask your permission to evade the opportunity to strive with their money and their lives. GOD is fully aware of the righteous.*

We accepted free will: [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.*

With that choice came responsibilities. We have a duty to strive to please God, to do those things He has commanded us to do in order to be redeemed.

God’s command is a sacred duty: [33:38] *The prophet is not committing an error by doing anything that is made lawful by GOD. Such is GOD’s system since the early generations. GOD’s command is a sacred duty.*

Some of our duties mentioned in Quran include making a will, providing for divorcees and widows, and being equitable even in the most difficult circumstances, like divorce. In order to be redeemed, so we can go to Paradise and be with God, we have to consider these duties carefully. God promises us that if we implore Him, reverence Him, obey Him, and worship Him alone, He will redeem us.

[2:128] *“Our Lord, make us submitters to You, and from our descendants let there be a community of submitters to You. Teach us the rites of our religion, and redeem us. You are the Redeemer, Most Merciful.*

[2:160] *As for those who repent, reform, and proclaim, I redeem them. I am the Redeemer, Most Merciful.*

[7:174] *We thus explain the revelations, to enable the people to redeem themselves.*

Ayyub

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

We will be faced with many challenges throughout our lives. Some circumstances may be very difficult. But it's how we react to the event that sets us apart as Submitters. Let every one of life's situations be an opportunity to strive in the cause of God, to please God. May God help us use a testing situation to respond with kindness. God tells us to treat each other in the best possible manner (17:53), and to use kind words and compassion (2:263).

We accepted the responsibility of free will. We are responsible for our actions, and even our innermost thoughts. God is fully aware of all of them. We may try to hide them, but God knows.

[5:7] Remember GOD's blessing upon you, and His covenant that He covenant-ed with you: you said, "We hear and we obey." You shall observe GOD; GOD is fully aware of the innermost thoughts.

[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.

[35:38] GOD is the Knower of the future of the heavens and the earth. He is the Knower of all innermost thoughts.

[57:6] He merges the night into the day, and merges the day into the night. He is fully aware of the innermost thoughts.

He knows the past and the future. He merges night into day. Of course, He's aware of our every thought.

We must observe God at all times, for it is a duty upon the righteous. We must be obedient servants, striving to please God, in order to be redeemed.

[33:15] They had pledged to GOD in the past that they would not turn around and flee; making a pledge with GOD involves a great responsibility.

[9:104] Do they not realize that GOD accepts the repentance of His worshipers, and takes the charities, and that GOD is the Redeemer, Most Merciful?

[25:71] Those who repent and lead a righteous life, GOD redeems them; a complete redemption.

*[110:3] You shall glorify and praise your Lord, and implore Him for forgiveness. **He is the Redeemer.***

Linda

* * * * *

Worship GOD alone: no Idols, no Titles

[39:45] When GOD ALONE is mentioned, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter shrink with aversion. But when others are mentioned beside Him, they become satisfied.

The majority of people will not succeed in worshiping God alone.

[12:103] Most people, no matter what you do, will not believe.

[12:106] The majority of those who believe in GOD do not do so without committing idol worship.

We know that we cannot associate anything with God—no idols. He has no partners, no son, He needs no one. We must steadfastly persevere in our worship of God alone.

To be steadfast is to be firm and unwavering. And to persevere is to continue on a course of action even in the face of difficult times.

[2:153] O you who believe, seek help through steadfastness and the Contact Prayers (Salat). GOD is with those who steadfastly persevere.

[3:200] O you who believe, you shall be steadfast, you shall persevere, you shall be united, you shall observe GOD, that you may succeed.

[11:115] You shall steadfastly persevere, for GOD never fails to recompense the righteous.

[11:11] As for those who steadfastly persevere, and lead a righteous life, they deserve forgiveness and a generous recompense.

We should steadfastly persevere to grow our souls in this world. We can be like young Mari Copeny. She contacted President Barak Obama in 2014 and alerted him (and the nation) to the horrible water crisis in Flint, Michigan. She was only 8 years old at the time, but it didn't stop her from persisting in trying her best. She continues to be an activist, fighting injustice and bullying and raising money for school supplies and gifts for needy children. That's being steadfast.

Can we be that steadfast for God? If we want to make it to Heaven, we must be steadfast in our devotion and obedience to God.

[23:111] "I have rewarded them today, in return for their steadfastness, by making them the winners."

We know that turning to idols for anything is worse than useless.

[16:20] As for the idols they set up beside GOD, they do not create anything; they themselves were created.

Steadfastly persevering in worshiping God means avoiding all idol worship.

Religious leaders—the people with "titles"—can be idols. People may listen to them instead of God. Titles are an important part of most religions. In Christianity, there are many church titles that people strive to achieve. Deacon, priest, elder, preacher, minister, pastor, bishop, archbishop, cardinal, pope. There can be intrigue and in-fighting for those titles and people with those titles may be revered, even idolized. Other religions have similar hierarchies and titles. In truth, these titles are meaningless. If we obey people with titles instead of obeying God, it is idol worship.

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

Many traditional places of worship treat religion as a social function. I recall a time I attended church and it was an ordeal. It was like a fashion show with lots of glitz. A choir was singing while we filed in. The preacher talked all about his life with Jesus, and they passed the collection plate about 5 times. It seemed to last for hours! But where was God in all of this?

[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.

[3:79] Never would a human being whom GOD blessed with the scripture and prophethood say to the people, "Idolize me beside GOD." Instead, (he would say), "Devote yourselves absolutely to your Lord alone," according to the scripture you preach and the teachings you learn. [3:80] Nor would he command you to idolize the angels and the prophets as lords. Would he exhort you to disbelieve after becoming submitters?

We must worship God alone, no idols, no titles. If your god has a birthday, if he has a mother, then he isn't God.

[2:136] 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 Patri-

archs; and in what was given to Moses and Jesus, and all the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among any of them. To Him alone we are submitters."

May God help us steadfastly persevere in worshipping Him. Let us live a righteous life so we earn a "title" we want to be known as: "Submitter."

Taareq

* * * * *

Psalm 25

- 1 In You, Lord my God,
I put my trust.
- 2 I trust in You;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 3 No one who hopes in You
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.
- 4 Show me Your ways, Lord,
teach me Your paths.
- 5 Guide me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are God my Savior,
and my hope is in You all day long.
- 6 Remember, Lord, your great mercy
and love, for they are from of old.
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;

according to Your love remember me,
for You, Lord, are good.

8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore He instructs sinners in His ways.

9 He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them His way.

10 All the ways of the Lord are loving and
faithful

toward those who keep the demands of
His covenant.

11 For the sake of your name, Lord,
forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

12 Who, then, are those who fear the Lord?
He will instruct them in the ways they
should choose.

13 They will spend their days in prosperity,
and their descendants will inherit the
land.

14 The Lord confides in those who fear Him;
He makes His covenant known to them.

15 My eyes are ever on the Lord,
for only He will release my feet from
the snare.

16 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.

17 Relieve the troubles of my heart
and free me from my anguish.

18 Look on my affliction and my distress
and take away all my sins.

*[Ed. note: Many of us enjoy reading
Psalms, especially during Ramadan.]*