

United Submitters International

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Happiness is Submission to God

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Lard Is NOT Prohibited

"O you who believe, do not prohibit good things that are made lawful by God. Do not transgress; God dislikes the transgressors" (5:87). One of the important commandments in the Quran is not to prohibit lawful things and not to seek other than God as a source of law.

God has detailed for us what is prohibited in many verses of different suras, and made it clear that the meat of pigs is specifically prohibited, not the fat (2:173, 5:3, and 16:115). God strongly specified the only dietary prohibitions in Sura 6:145 by using a double negative statement, "Say, I do not find in the revelations given to me any food that is prohibited for any eater except: (1) carrion, (2) running blood, (3) the meat of pigs, for it is unclean, and (4) the meat of animals blasphemously dedicated to other than God...." The specificity of these prohibitions are even more obvious in 6:146 where fat is specifically prohibited for the Jewish, "For those who are Jewish we prohibited animals with undivided hoofs; and of the cattle and sheep we prohibit the fat, except that which is carried on their back, or in the viscerae, or mixed with bones...."

If we think about it, why would God make pig's fat available for us on a wide range? Why would God let us have lard sold in the stores and used in many products like cake, cookies, tortillas, soap and more? Why specifically pig's fat, not sheep fat or cattle fat? If we try to find answers to all these questions we may realize that God rendered lard as a test to distinguish those who obey Him alone from those who follow the majority of the people. Therefore, we should eat from God's provisions and be appreciative. God says in Sura 5:88, "Eat from the good and lawful things that God has provided for

you, and observe God, in whom you are believers."

From the medical point of view, there are some diseases caused by eating pig's meat which are not caused by eating the fat. Certain parasites form cysts specifically in pig's meat, not in pig's fat. Trichinosis is caused by a parasite called Trichinella Spiralis which encysts in the pig's muscles and is transmitted by eating inadequately cooked pork. This disease can affect the heart, the brain, the joints and the muscles. There is no treatment for trichinosis except in the very early stages. Eating undercooked pork may also cause Taenia Solium, or pork tapeworm, which may cause cysticercosis. The larvae of this tapeworm can disseminate to many organs especially the eyes and the brain.

Toxoplasmosis is another disease transmitted chiefly by eating improperly cooked pork or pig's meat. The larvae of this parasite encyst specifically in the pig's muscles or meat. Toxoplasmosis can be devastating causing blindness and severe brain damage. Maternal infection during early pregnancy may be asymptomatic, but placental involvement can result in stillbirth, pneumonia, jaundice or inflam-

mation of the fetus's heart or brain often with lethal results. We notice that these diseases are caused by eating pig's meat not pig's fat.

We abstain from eating pork, not because it is harmful, but because we listen to God and we obey; and we eat lard, not because it does not transmit diseases but because we obey God alone and we uphold His teachings alone. God says in Sura 16:114, "Therefore, you shall eat from God's provisions everything that is lawful and good and be appreciative of God's blessings, if you do worship Him alone."

We may enjoy eating the delicious cookies, cakes and tortillas made of lard; we do not have to read the ingredients, we do not need to worry about breaking human laws. We should always remember that if we follow the majority of people, they will divert us from the straight path.

"Say, 'Did you note how God sends down to you all kinds of provisions, then you render some of them unlawful, and some lawful?' Say, 'Did God give you permission to do this? Or, do you fabricate lies and attribute them to God?'" (10:59)

Soad Khalifa

6th Annual International Conference

of the United Submitters

August 30, 31, September 1

God-willing, please let us know your plans to attend before the end of July.

Attendance to this conference is by invitation only. Registration fees are \$76 for individuals and \$152 for families. This includes comfortable hotel accommodations, daily meals, and child care for children under the age of 12. If you would like to be a speaker, please inform us as soon as possible. Checks should be made payable

To Masjid Tucson

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

SUBMITTERS PERSPECTIVE

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Editor: Sam Khalifa / Masjid Tucson

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

GOD PROCLAIMS THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS

"They said, 'The Most Gracious has begotten a son!' You have uttered a gross blasphemy. The heavens are about to shatter therefrom, the earth is about to tear asunder, and the mountains are about to crumble. Because they invented for the Most Gracious a son. It is not befitting the Most Gracious that He should beget a son. Every single one in the heavens and the earth is a servant of the Most Gracious" (19:88-92).

One of the most controversial religious principles for the longest time has been around the issue of Jesus Christ, and his relationship with God. There is obviously a major difference in the Quran's explanation of Jesus, and that of the ministers, priests, and people who call themselves Christians. We have all observed the evangelists on television proclaiming Jesus as the son of God, as part of trinity, and even saying he is God. How any God-fearing person can take the chance to implore any person, or thing, other than God is really hard to understand. Yet time after time, these Christian preachers mention Jesus as much as God, proclaim that Jesus will, and can, intercede on behalf of them, and that their salvation depends on believing in Christ, etc. Sometimes in the midst of their sermons they will tell the people to avoid idolatry which is the biggest contradiction or hypocrisy they can utter. You wonder if they really take the time to understand their so-called beliefs or utterances. It really seems unnatural for anyone to implore any god besides God. How can any God-fearing person take this chance and go against their natural instincts? If only

they substitute the word God for Jesus Christ their sermons and statements would be correct.

The Quran gives us the truth and clear understanding of Jesus Christ. Verse 2:116-117 states, "They said, 'God has begotten a son!' Be He glorified. Never! To Him belongs everything in the heavens and the earth; all are subservient to Him. He is the Initiator of the heavens and the earth. To have anything done, He simply says to it, 'Be,' and it is." The birth of Jesus and explanation is further understood in other verses. Sura 3:42 says, "The angels said, 'O Mary, God has chosen you. He has purified you, and has chosen you over all the women.'" Verse 3:45, "The angels said, 'O Mary, God gives you good news of a Word from Him whose name shall be 'The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary. He will be prominent in this world and in the Hereafter, and one of those closest to Me.'" Verse 3:47, "She said, 'My Lord how can I have a son when no man has touched me?' He said, 'God thus creates whatever He wills. To have anything done, He simply says to it, 'Be,' and it is.'" Sura 3:59-61, "The example of Jesus as far as God is concerned is the same as that of Adam. He created him from dust then said to him, 'Be,' and he was. This is the truth from God, do not harbor any doubt about it. If anyone argues with you after this knowledge has come to you then say, 'Let us summon our children and your children, our women and your women, ourselves and yourselves, then let us evoke God's curse upon the liars.'" You can see that these are very strong verses not to be taken lightly.

It's very dangerous to make the claims about Jesus which some people proclaim, and this may cause some people to worry or grieve about others. It's natural for a good-hearted person to be concerned about others. Verse 18:2-6 states, "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 beautiful recompense. Wherein they abide forever. And to warn those who said, 'God has begotten a son!' They possess no knowledge about this, nor did their parents. What a blasphemy comes out of their mouths. What they utter is a gross lie. You may blame yourself on account of them, because they do not believe in this narration, and you may be saddened."

Like claiming that Jesus is the son of God, another blasphemous claim is that Jesus is God or part of trinity. These claims may be the largest successful tricks of Satan and also the most idolatrous. The Quran gives some very strong verses in regard to these statements. Sura 4:171, "You shall believe in God and His messengers, and do not say, 'Trinity.' Stop, for your own good. God is only one god...." Sura 5:17, "Pagans indeed are those who say that God is the Messiah, son of Mary. Say, 'Who could prevent God if He willed to annihilate the Messiah, son of Mary, and his mother, and everyone on earth...?' Sura 5:72-74, "Pagans indeed are those who say that God is the Messiah, son of Mary. The Messiah himself said, 'O Children of Israel you shall worship God; my Lord and your Lord....'" (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Jesus Continued...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)
Pagans indeed are those who say that God is a member of a trinity. There is no God except one god. Unless they refrain from saying this, those who disbelieve among them will incur painful retribution. Would they not repent to God and ask His forgiveness? God is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

The Quran clearly informs us that all the prophets and messengers preached the worship of God alone, and never would they tell the people to worship them. In fact they will disown the people who idolized them. In Sura 5:116-118, "God will say, 'O Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to the people, 'Worship me and my mother besides God?'" He will say, 'Be you glorified, I could not utter what was not the truth. Had I said it, You would have known it. You know my thoughts, and I do not know Your thoughts. You know all secrets. I told them only what You commanded me to say, that: "You shall worship God, my Lord and your Lord..." If You punish them they are Your creatures. If You forgive them, You are Almighty, Most Wise.'" Another strong example is found in Sura 11:18,21, "Who are more evil than those who fabricate lies about God? They are the ones who lose their souls. Even the idols they have set up will disown them." One final statement is found in Sura 19:81-82, "They worship besides God other gods that they hope will help them. On the contrary, their idols will reject their idolatry; they will be enemies."

The Bible itself, which is confirmed in the Quran as a scripture from God, gives clear statements about the truth of Jesus. The following verses which happen to be from the Bible, are very clear to an open-minded sincere person seeking the truth about God. "All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God" (Romans 8:14). "Whoever welcomes me welcomes, not me, but Him who sent me" (Luke 9:48, John 13:20, Matthew 20:40, Mark 9:37). "None of those who call me Lord will enter the Kingdom of God, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). "As He was setting out on a journey a man came running up, knelt down before him, and asked, 'Good teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?' Jesus answered, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone'" (Mark 10:17-18). There are many more verses in the

Bible like these which indicate that Jesus advocated the worship of God, and not himself.

The problem with most of the Christian evangelists is that they dwell on the false preachings of injections which have been added into the Bible. These blasphemies probably occurred during the Nicene Conference some 300 years after Jesus's death. The devil is very tricky and somehow he gets people to fall into idol worship. The majority of the Bible preaches God alone, yet some Christians isolate and concentrate on the blasphemies which have been added, and neglect preaching the truth in the Bible.

The Quran clearly states that there will be no intercession on the Day of Judgment, "Beware of the day when no soul can avail another, no intercession is accepted, no ransom can be paid, and no one can be helped" (2:48). "The day will come when He says, 'Call upon My partners whom you claimed to be gods besides Me,' they will call on them, but in vain. A gulf of hatred will separate them from each other" (18:52). "No soul can carry the sins of another soul. If a soul that is loaded with sins implores to have part of its load removed, no other soul can carry any part of it, even if they are related..." (35:18). Another good example is found in 36:23, "Shall I set up besides Him (powerless gods)? If the Most Gracious willed any harm for me, their intercession will not help me one bit, nor can they rescue me." The Quran says in verse 39:44 that all intercession belongs to God. To believe that anyone other than God can intercede on our behalf to have our sins forgiven or our wishes fulfilled is setting up partners with God. This is idolatry. These are serious issues and we must refrain from any type of idolatry if we are God-fearing people looking for redemption. Even to utter something as blasphemous as trinity, son of God, or Jesus is God, without even believing it is a serious offense. God holds us responsible for our utterances. We're informed in the Quran that on the Day of Judgment, "Those who disbelieved will be told when God alone was advocated you disbelieved, but when others were mentioned besides Him, you believed. Therefore, God's judgment has been issued. He is the Most High, the Great" (40:12).

As there is controversy about Jesus's life and its meaning, the same holds true for his death. Many people believe that Jesus died for their sins and that a person must believe this to attain salvation. A common and illogical Christian response is, "How do you know if you're going to heaven if you don't give your sins to Jesus? He was the only perfect man, and we are all sinners." The answer is simple. God is the only one who forgives and to only God should someone repent, implore, and reverence. We can't even mention anyone else's name next to God for he has no partners. It is true that everyone has sinned and the Quran even says that if God were to annihilate everyone for their sins there wouldn't be a human standing. God knows people will sin and he is actually pleased when we implore and ask for His forgiveness.

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

2:222, "...God loves the repenters...."

4:146, "As for those who repent, reform, and hold fast to God, and devote their religion absolutely to God alone, these are to be counted with the believers...."

8:38, "Tell those who disbelieved: if they stop, all their past will be forgiven...."

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?"

11:3, "You shall seek your Lord's forgiveness, then repent to Him. He will then bless you generously for a predetermined period, and bestow His grace upon those who deserve it...."

11:52, "O my people, seek forgiveness from your Lord, then repent to Him. He will then shower you with provisions from the sky, and augment your strength...."

11:90, "You shall implore your Lord for forgiveness, then repent to Him. My Lord is Most Merciful, Kind."

19:60, "Only those who repent, believe, and lead a righteous life will enter Paradise, without the least injustice."

Praise Be to God!

by Ahmed Rayan

Pilgrimage: Hajj and 'Umrah

God teaches us in the Quran that all religious practices came to us through Abraham. The contact prayers (Salat), the obligatory charity (Zakat), fasting (Syaam), and pilgrimage (Hajj) were commanded by God to Abraham and his followers. God says in Sura 6:161-162, "Say, 'My Lord has guided me in a straight path: the perfect religion of Abraham, monotheism. He never was an idol worshiper.' Say, 'My contact prayers (Salat), my worship practices, my life and my death, all belong to God, Lord of the universe.'"

Pilgrimage is one of the pillars of Submission and is carried out by visiting the Sacred Mosque in Mecca, "Our Lord, I have settled part of my family in this plantless valley, at Your Sacred House. Our Lord, they are to observe the contact prayers (Salat), so let throngs of people converge upon them..." (14:37). Hajj can be observed any time during the four Sacred Months- Zul Hijjah, Muharram, Safar, and Rabi'I (12th, 1st, 2nd, 3rd months), "Hajj pilgrimage shall be observed during specific months..." (2:197). "The count of months, as far as God is concerned, is twelve. This has been God's law, since the day He created the heavens and the earth. Four of them are sacred..." (9:36). 'Umrah can be observed any time during the year. One of the major duties of the Messenger of the Covenant was to correct the Sacred Months when Hajj can be observed.

The first step in pilgrimage is the "Ihram" which is done by taking a shower and wearing the "Ihram" clothes. Men are not supposed to wear clothes with any sewing, therefore they cover their bodies with sheets of material; while women may wear a modest comfortable dress. The second step is "Alttawaf" which is walking around the Ka'aba seven times while glorifying and praising God at the Sacred Mosque, "We rendered the Ka'aba shrine a focal point for the people, and a safe sanctuary. You may use Abraham's station as a prayer house. We commissioned Abraham and

Ismail: 'The two of you shall purify My house for those who visit it, those who retreat therein, and those who bow and prostrate (2:125). Pilgrims say specific words to commemorate God; these words are "Labbayka Allaahumma Labbayk" or "My Lord, I have responded to You," and "Labbayka Laa Shareeka Laka Labbayk" or "I have responded to You and proclaim that there is no god besides You. I have responded to You." The next step of Hajj is "Assa'ay" or walking between Safa and Marwah seven times, "The knolls of Safa and Marwah are consecrated by God. When observing Hajj or 'Umrah, one may traverse the distance between them..." (2:158). By doing these three steps, pilgrims finish Umrah.

To complete Hajj, the pilgrims must glorify God at 'Arafaat, "...When you file from 'Arafaat you shall commemorate God at the Sacred Shrine. You shall commemorate Him for guiding you; before this, you had gone astray" (2:198). Pilgrims pray sunset at 'Arafaat and then go to Muzdalifah to observe the night prayer and to pick up 21 pebbles for the stoning at Mina symbolizing the rejection of Satan's polytheism. This is done by throwing seven pebbles at each of three stations of stoning, "He said, 'Therefore, you must get out; you are banished'" (15:34). From Muzdalifah the pilgrims go to Mina to spend a few days, "You shall commemorate God for a number of days (in Mina); whoever hastens to do this in two days commits no sin, and whoever stays longer commits no sin, so long as righteousness is maintained..." (2:203). At Mina, the pilgrims commemorate God's intervention to save Ismail and Abraham from Satan's trick, by offering an animal sacrifice on the first morning at Mina, "We ransomed (Ismail) by substituting an animal sacrifice" (37:107). We should remember that one of the principal duties of God's Messenger of the Covenant was to proclaim that God never ordered Abraham to kill his son. As a true submitter Abraham was willing to

sacrifice his only son, when he believed the dream which was inspired by Satan, "They both submitted, and he put his forehead down (to sacrifice him). We called him, 'O Abraham. You have believed your own dream.' We thus reward the pious" (37:103-105). After the stoning ceremonies, the pilgrims go back to Mecca to walk seven times around the Ka'aba as the last step of Hajj pilgrimage. Throughout Hajj, the pilgrims continue praising God while following specific rules according to God's teachings in Sura 2:197, "...Whoever sets out to observe Hajj therein shall abstain from sexual intercourse, misbehavior, and arguments throughout Hajj. ...As you prepare your provisions for the journey, remember that the best provision is righteousness...."

It is very important to know that these are the only steps of Hajj. Visiting Muhammad's tomb during Hajj as another sacred mosque, is an innovation added later. God told us about only one Sacred Mosque. Whoever visits the prophet's tomb, commits idolatry and nullifies his Hajj. This is the religion of Abraham; all practices of Submission came to us through him, and the prophet Muhammad did not exist before Abraham. Therefore, we should submit to the Lord of the universe; uphold His teachings alone, "Who would forsake the religion of Abraham except one who cheats his own soul...?" (2:130) After God has pointed out the religion for us, we should not die except as submitters.

Hajj can be a great conference where submitters come from the farthest locations of different nations to respond to God alone. We should ask God to direct us to do the righteous works that please Him and to admit us, by His mercy, to be one of His righteous servants; we also ask Him to let us visit the Sacred Mosque secure. "He is the one who sent His messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth, to make it prevail over all other religions. God suffices as a witness" (48:28).