

United Submitters International

Masjid Tucson, P.O. Box 43476, Tucson, AZ 85733-3476
Telephone: (602)323-7636



Happiness is Submission to God Alone

Non-profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson, AZ
Permit #201

Keep up with history in the making. Subscribe now:
\$19/yr Overseas, \$12/yr U.S., Canada and Mexico.

All the creatures on earth are communities like you ... [6:38]

THE ANT KINGDOM

Of all the myriad of animal systems that God has set up on earth, certainly ants are among the most amazing. There are about 10,000 species of ants, and they live essentially everywhere on earth. They have been around for 100 million years or so, with fossil ants nearly identical to ants of today. Most species live in highly organized colonies with a queen, a few males for mating and many female workers.

In starting a new colony, an amazing string of instinctive behaviors occurs. The queen flies out, is mated (like the honeybee, the males fall dead), and finds a new place. She makes a shallow nest and dismantles her wings. She uses the wings as food and also absorbs the flight muscles in her body as nutrition. That may support her for a year with no other food. Unlike the queen bee who is accompanied to a new place by many workers, the queen ant goes all alone and must provide for herself until new workers hatch.

She lays eggs—100 an hour, 30,000 in a week. After about 20 days, the eggs turn into wormlike larvae, which the queen washes and feeds. After another 20 days or so, the ants are ready to face the world. They instinctively know the role they are to play. The first ones out are always worker/gatherers. They go out and get food to bring back to the nest for the queen. Her job now is only to lay eggs.

There is a specific division of labor among the ants. Unlike the bees, that

progress from one job to another, the ant is born into the job it will perform for life. The nurses are meticulous in caring for the young. They make sure dirt doesn't get into body segments, constantly licking the eggs and larvae. They carry them gently to the proper place within the colony for each stage of development—the right amount of moisture, warmth, etc. They move them to upper chambers for warmth during the day and lower chambers at night. If it is raining outside, the nurses will dash around carrying their charges lower and lower where the rain might not penetrate.

Worker ants concentrate on enlarging the nest, digging new chambers underground, making repairs where needed. They also keep the colony clean, removing dirt and debris and the dead. Soldiers are equipped with larger heads, a hard armorlike covering and larger and stronger jaws. They will attack insects, both for protection and for food. Gatherers get the food. They can carry up to 50 times their weight. Or they may go as far away as 600 feet and return with a single seed to store deep in the nest for the future—similar to a man walking 6 miles to the store and back for a loaf of bread.

Ant colonies depend on the female of the species for their creation and their continued existence. The queen and all the workers are female. Interestingly, scripture clearly indicates the female gender of worker ants—a fact that could not have been known when the Quran was revealed and certainly not when the Old Testament was written. Yet Proverbs

chapter 6, verses 6 through 8 says: *Go to the ant, O sluggard, study her ways and learn wisdom; for though she has no chief, no commander or ruler, she procures her food in the summer, stores up her provisions in the harvest.* And in the Quran, sura 27, entitled "The Ant," there is the charming story of Solomon's troops, verses 18 and 19: *When they approached the valley of the ants, one ant said, "O you ants, go into your homes, lest you get crushed by Solomon and his soldiers, without perceiving." He (Solomon) smiled and laughed at her statement...* Both references are pointedly feminine, again something that would not have been known at the time.

God has provided some amazing ways of life among the many species of ants. There are ants which steal eggs from other ant colonies and raise them as slaves. There are army ants which are constantly moving and hunting down insects. There are ants which keep herds of aphids and actually milk them, enjoying the substance the aphids produce from flowers. There are ants which work in teams to sew leaves together to use in building their nests. And there are "parasol" ants which carry large leaf segments over their heads like umbrellas back to the nest, where they partially chew them, then use them as mulch to grow mushrooms—their food of choice.

"He created the earth for all creatures... Which of your Lord's marvels can you deny?" [55:10,13]

Lydia Kelley / Tucson

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of United Submitters International Published by Masjid Tucson August 1993 Rabi I 1414 Vol. 9 No. 8



Think and Thank

And He gives you all kinds of things that you implore Him for. If you count GOD's blessings, you can never encompass them. Indeed, the human being is transgressing, unappreciative. [14:34]

God has given us many things in life that we should be thankful for. Houses, cars, children, our health, and many more. But who is counting? Many of us seldom think of what we have but always of what we lack. This tendency leads us to be greedy, and is probably one of the reasons for most of the misery on earth. We cannot have enough of anything, and always want more. We never get tired of asking for more.

Let me deal with one I created as an individual. I provided him with lots of money. And children to behold. I made everything easy for him. Yet, he is greedy for more. [74:12-15]

If we had everything we could possibly think of and we saw someone who had something we did not have, we would probably want to have that too, and right away. The greed nurtures our disbelief in God. We turn unappreciative.

How much are our eyes worth?

Often we realize and appreciate what we have after we lose it temporarily or after seeing someone who does not have it. For example, we rarely thank God for our health until we get sick. Then we loudly implore God to heal us. As soon as we feel better, we forget God and turn unappreciative again. (16:53-54) It never occurs to us that our eyes, hands, feet, and

everything we have, are blessings from God until we see blind or handicapped people. The following words of a wise man expresses this attitude:

I had the blues because I had no shoes, Until upon the street, I met a man with no feet.

Would any of us take a million dollars for our eyes, or our hands? God gave us all these priceless blessings unconditionally. In return, we should worship Him alone, and be appreciative of what He has given us.

The more appreciative we are of God's blessings, the better believers we can become, and the more blessings God promises to give us. In many verses of the Quran, believing in God and in the Hereafter is linked to being appreciative, and the word "kaafir" means both disbeliever and unappreciative.

Your Lord has decreed: "The more you thank Me, the more I give you." But if you turn unappreciative, then My retribution is severe. [14:7]

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

Do we have or do we lack?

When we are given half a glass of water, do we think that the glass is half full, or half empty? It sounds like a silly question, but it may tell us about how we feel in what God blessed us with. For example, do we thank God that we are driving a nice late model car, or complain that we are not driving a luxury car instead?

We can set a goal for ourselves to drive the car of our dreams by God's will in the future, but we should be thankful of what we have now. We should try our best, then whatever God provides us, we should be content and thankful for it, not oblivious or objecting. If we want happiness in this life and in the Hereafter, we should start counting what we have, not what we lack.

Whatever God provides for you, no matter how small, is far better for you, if you are really believers... [11:86]

Abdullah Arik

QURAN

THE FINAL TESTAMENT

Authorized English Version

Translated from the Original

by

Rashad Khalifa, Ph.D.

Beautiful Paperback, 540 Pages

Glossary, Index, Appendices

English Text Only

\$9.50

Now Available!

Quran Translation On Disk

QT Version 3.0

For IBM Compatible Computers.

Search capability
Topic and HelpFacilities
Print Option and many more.

Available on two HD 3.5" diskettes with instructions how to install/use the program. Requires 6 MB of hard disk space.

\$7.50

God has completely and fully detailed all things, including the description of the human being in the Quran. God explains in the Quran that we live in temporary exile and how that came to be as a result of the great feud and our failure to make a firm stand with God alone. But, through God's immeasurable mercy, we have been gently and completely provided for in a perfectly provisioned world, like a great spaceship. All things are perfectly measured, perfectly timed, perfectly designed. By God's design, every thought we have, every action we take, every consequence we experience, every person we meet, everything our eyes see and our ears hear—all are created as our total life experience in this world on an individually tailored basis by Almighty God (16:78, 90:4-7). And the best provisions of all are the abundant reminders from God of His love, mercy, greatness, truth, wonder and the "only way home" to reunion with Him.

God takes a great deal of time in Quran to describe us, the human being. There seem to be two categories of descriptions. The physical human being, the body, the garment, is always described in terms of perfection. The creation/reproduction of the human being, from dust, to the lowly liquid, to the clot, the drop, the fetus, in three stages of darkness, for a predetermined time in a protected repository, to being brought out knowing nothing, growing to maturity, and eventually, death (22:5, 23:12-15, 39:6). We are told by God that the "garment" is in total prostration to God. The chemical reactions in our bodies, the bones, and cartilage that enables us to walk, stretch, bend, run, do all things; the digestive system, the natural immune system that this wondrous machine comes with, which recognizes intruders and acts to protect the body with no conscious effort of ours; the marvelous brain which is programmed to tell the body what to do and when, sending invisible messages to every cell, each of them mini-universes themselves, each moment of our lives—all this is prostration to God, and all this is a sign to the people of the signs within ourselves. Even if we do not see the signs in the world around us, which are seemingly impossible to avoid, we can never fail to see and feel the wonder of perfection therein. And this is only clay and water, by God's own description (16:4, 22:5, 23:12-15). Yet, we walk on the moon, we fly as the

The Human Being

birds do, we "invent" machines to do our work for us, and much more! Clay and water. Total prostration. What a gift! What joy to think of all this being presented to each of us. We each get our own and do not have to envy another's possession.

God also describes the full and complete range of behavior that we, the human being are capable of. God is always honest with us, and therefore, tells us things we do not want to hear about ourselves. Examples are many and repetitive. The human being is averse to reminders from God; only a few of us take heed, even with concrete examples in front of us. We can be unjust, choosing to satisfy our ego before our real self, choosing this life—this temporary illusion—as our only goal, and a low one at that. We can be a manifest opponent to God, defiant, and most arrogant, believing in our own cleverness (36:77). We are hasty, choosing a life of instant pleasure here and now (17:11, 41:49). We turn desperate in times of adversity, and believe and act as if we were an independent god. We can be parsimonious (stingy), contentious, argumentative as we challenge God and object to what He has provided us (17:100, 43:58). We are forgetful and lacking in spiritual and emotional strength (36:30, 20:115). Our knowledge is limited, as we know only what God reveals, yet we ignore the real source of all knowledge. We can hate the truth, and actively seek to conceal it, distort it, or ignore it. We are greedy, when even the richest among us are still "in need" of more (41:49). We are disbelieving, even of what is in front of us, that can be touched and experienced with all our senses (75:5). And we can be despondent, in total loss, hopeless, when we turn from God and face our own stark limitations, reminded over and over again of our vulnerability (103:2-3). We doubt what cannot be seen, and fiercely hold on to those doubts. We lie, transgress against others on a consistent basis, and are at root wicked and selfish (96:6). We foolishly and easily love another human being who has done nothing for us—nothing at all. And we will bend in incredible ways to please the loved one, while finding it hard to love God, who provided the loved one in the first place. And finally, God describes us as unappreciative (36:30, 40:61, 43:15).

Why would God take so much time to tell us of our miserable natures, and give so many examples of our foolishness, and evident intent to repeat the single worst error of our lives? The Most Gracious also describes the opposite of our natures, that which we can strive to be, and toward which, if only we ask, God will guide us.

The human being is also capable of truthfulness in all things, knowing that God protects the truthful; courteous to all people under all circumstances, except when aggressed against; forgiving, knowing we are all capable of mistakes; calm, replacing our anger with supplication to God; steadfast in the face of all things, no matter how adverse they may seem at the time; patient, knowing we will receive all that is meant for us, and none can divert it. We can submit to God, repent to God, knowing we are striving toward perfection, knowing God will forgive all things but one (idol worship). We can be righteous, which includes honesty, fairness, justice, compassion, charity, equitability, and lawfulness. We can be kind, peaceful, and love the truth, and actively seek it in all things, trusting in God's infinite wisdom and guidance (3:160). We can invite to goodness, and can recognize the signs in the heavens and in ourselves that tell of God's mercy, goodness and light. We can be obedient, amiable, humble, satisfied, and certain of God's many guarantees to the believers. We can have no fear, no grief. We can know the right path, and continually strive for it. Most of all, we can be appreciative (4:147, 5:89). We can strive to overcome the miserable side of our natures, because God identifies it for us clearly, so we can eliminate it.

God gives us instructions—clear, concise, simple instructions. Kill our ego. That which distracts us from our real purpose. (However, if we choose our ego over God, He will provide the illusion of security for our ego, as we wish). Then there is repentance. If we do repent, God is so merciful as to respite us just once for each sin, but rewards us ten times for every righteous work (6:160). Supplication is a form of worship. We are told to ask God for all things. This recognizes that whatever comes to us is always from God, and from no others. And God instructs us to make a firm decision, to be 100% certain. We are cautioned not to confuse study and searching with disbelief, but to keep

continued

Russia, Lenin, and Idol Worship

Have you seen the one whose god is his own ego? Are you going to be his advocate? (25:43)

Have you noted the one whose god is his ego? Consequently, God sends him astray, knowingly, and seals his hearing and his mind, and places a veil on his eyes. Who then can guide him after such a decision by God? Would you not take heed? (45:23)

They say, "We only live this life; we live and die and only time causes our death!" They have no sure knowledge about this; they only conjecture. (45:24)

If we want to understand the Russians of the communist era, we can apply verse 25:43 and read as follows:

"Have you seen Lenin, whose god was his own ego? Are you, the Russians, going to be his advocate?"

In fact, the Russians were his earnest advocate until recently. They not only disregarded any opinion other than their god Lenin's opinion, they even hated people such as dissidents or foreigners who expressed other opinions. The result is that today they suffer misery and humiliation.

We see on TV that monuments to Lenin are being brought down and that is not happening just because he was bad. He was much worse than that. If he was simply a bad or unacceptable person, we could ignore him and mind our own business. The seriousness of the case is that

The Human Being cont'd

asking and learning, to use our minds, knowing that if we really seek the truth, God will guide our minds and hearts. We are instructed to look at the world around us. We have all seen videos and TV programs which describe the world around us in perfect, if puzzling ways—what I call "profiles in prostration" (35:28). We are shown things that seem like miracles, but which fit God's perfect design, and we can see the recurring patterns in all of them. Trees, flowers, animals, stars, books from God, messengers—all things are provided in multiple forms and varieties to provide the one single message—One God. It seems impossible to miss it.

Among the instructions are Salat and Zakat. God gives us every chance to build our soul-strength. Zakat teaches us that

his own ego was his idol and he was the idol of his followers. If we think deeply, we can understand that when an idol (monument) to an idol (Lenin) is being brought down it's like a visual manifestation of the Quranic words: *Do you then worship beside GOD what possesses no power to benefit you or harm you? (21:66)* The time required to bring down a monument may be short, but it can serve to trigger many thoughts in our mind. It is not simply a monument coming down; its meaning goes far beyond that.

It was not only the communist party that expanded Leninism into all spheres of life. Most of the Russians also had an unquestioning belief that following Lenin's path would lead them to prosperity and success. It's true they appear to have prospered for a while, but as they did not uphold the ultimate truth, the Quran, which forbids idolatry, their success and prosperity were temporary.

This man, Lenin, who advocated the view that religion is "the opiate of the masses," was himself transformed into a saint-like idol by his followers. This demonstrates that human beings are very prone to set up idols and worship them, irrespective of their religious affiliation. The example of Lenin is a prime modern day example of the human tendency to idol worship. The tendency can be found not only in Russia, but in any nation. If an atheist like Lenin can be raised as an idol to such a degree and for so long, it is quite understandable

that there exists a great temptation to idolize the messengers of God or saints.

Among the former Soviet bloc countries, two of them are worse off than the others. They are the former Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia. Both of them are disintegrating, ravaged by ethnic violence and facing serious socio-political problems. Why is this happening? Czechoslovakia was also divided, but peacefully. Why then are two countries of the former Soviet bloc facing additional problems? Is the difference due to the fact, perhaps, that the former Soviet Union set up Lenin as an idol and the former Yugoslavia set up Tito as an idol while the other Soviet bloc countries did not set up such idols?

Now, if we think of the poor countries of the world, we readily assume that a lack of resources is the reason for their poverty. But is that the reason? Why is there an apparent lack of natural resources? What about the human resources they possess? Perhaps there are resources in these countries but God has not blessed them with the ability to find them and use them to their benefit because of their idol worship? Who are their idols? Alongside other idols that they might have, people are setting up political and social idols—turning to political and social leaders to solve their problems instead of following the Quran.

Serajul Arefin / Canada

we are all from one family, and that to give of the things we love is the most difficult thing for the human being. Yet, if we can part with a small percentage of what is provided us, we can receive back multiple rewards, both here and in the Hereafter. We are instructed to accept the "polishing process" God puts us through once we declare we are worshippers of Him alone. We know that every step along the way is that much closer to the day when we can be in God's presence once more.

So, with all these provisions, and having been presented with a full and complete picture of all the things we can be in the extreme, God leaves us to choose for ourselves. To decide our own futures. No one is excluded. God really does love us. He reminds us daily, five times a day to be with Him, and of His presence each moment in our lives, as we learn what 24 hour

God-consciousness really is. In Psalm 91, God tells us that not a scratch will touch us with our Lord as protector. God tells us in the Quran how glorious and peaceful Heaven is, how wonderful to just barely miss Hell. We will not be surprised at anything. No fear of the unknown. No nightmares. No doubts. God reveals Himself to each soul personally, and does not stand back, silently waiting to see if we can make it or not. God has given us the proven word from Him, and in it, a mathematical miracle that is not vague, or conditioned upon faith alone, but which is unassailable, verifiable, tangible—a miracle for all time, and all people.

Happiness is a quality of the soul, not the body. Love is a quality of the soul, not the body. Both come only from God and are demonstrated in each of our lives daily.

Kathryn Kolton / Tucson