

United Submitters International

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Happiness is Submission to God Alone



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Thanksgiving

cont'd from the first page

and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a government of wise, just and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best."

(3rd October 1789)

It is a wonderful idea for any government to set aside a day for remembering God and appreciate the blessings that He bestowed on the country. As individuals, however, we cannot afford to be thankful to God once a year. God gives us so many blessings that we should be appreciative of Him every day, even every minute of our lives. Even those of us who are not as fortunate as some others in this material world can find many things in our lives that God has blessed us with.

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]

It is unfortunate that the Thanksgiving Day is becoming a day where remembering God is at the bottom of people's list of things to do on that day, if it is in their list at all. Ironically, the majority of people who realize the true meaning of Thanksgiving are more likely to set up idols besides God. As a result of this idol worship, their thanks and good works will go in vain because God does not forgive idolatry if it is maintained until death.

It has been revealed to you, and to those before you that if you ever commit idol worship, all your works will be nullified, and you will be with the losers. [39:65]

We pray to God that He guides us in His right path, helps us to be appreciative of His blessings, and counts us among the righteous.

We created the human from a liquid mixture, from two parents, in order to test him. Thus, we made him a hearer and a seer. We showed him the two paths, then he is either appreciative, or unappreciative. [76:2-3]

Abdullah Arik

References: George Washington 1732-1799, Howard F. Bremer, 1967, World Book Encyclopedia, 1992.

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In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Thanksgiving to God

God brought you out of your mothers' bellies knowing nothing, and He gave you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains, that you may be appreciative. [16:78]

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. [16:114]

One of the traits of the believers is that they are appreciative of God's blessings to them. In fact, in many verses of the Quran, being appreciative and thankful is linked to believing in God and the Hereafter. The Arabic word "kaafir," for example, has both the meaning of unappreciative and disbeliever.

In the Quran, it is very clear that God blesses people and the communities who are appreciative of His provisions.

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]

In the United States and Canada, a day of each year is celebrated as the Thanksgiving Day. To understand the true meaning of the Thanksgiving, we have to look into its original purpose and how it was established.

History of Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day is a day set aside each year for giving thanks to God for blessings received during the year. On this day, people give thanks with feasting and prayer. The holiday is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States and on the second Monday of October in Canada.

The first Thanksgiving observance in America was entirely religious and did not involve feasting. On Dec. 4, 1619, a group of 38 English settlers arrived at Berkeley Plantation, on the James river near what is now Charles City, Virginia. The group's charter required that the day of arrival be observed yearly as a day of thanksgiving to God.

The historical observance most associated with present Thanksgiving was the celebration of the Plymouth colonists (frequently called pilgrims). The settlers, who came to America for religious freedom had lost about half of their members during their first winter in Massachusetts. But new hope arose in the summer of 1621. The settlers expected a good corn harvest, despite poor crops of peas, wheat and barley. Thus, in early autumn, governor William Bradford arranged a harvest festival to give thanks to God for the progress the colony had made.

The custom of Thanksgiving Day spread from Plymouth to other New England colonies. During the Revolutionary war, eight special days of thanks were observed for victories and for being saved from dangers. In 1789, America's first President, George Washington, issued a general proclamation naming November 26 a day of national thanksgiving. This "Thanksgiving Proclamation" is quoted below in its entirety.

George Washington's Proclamation:

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and

"Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint committee, requested me 'to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness';

"Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the twenty-sixth of November next to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our service and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquillity, union and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge: and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

"And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplication to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our duties properly

continued in the last page

And your Lord inspired the bee: build homes in mountains and trees, and in (the hives) they build for you. [16:68]

Then eat from all the fruits, following the design of your Lord, precisely. From their bellies comes a drink of different colors, wherein there is healing for the people. This should be (sufficient) proof for people who reflect. [16:69]

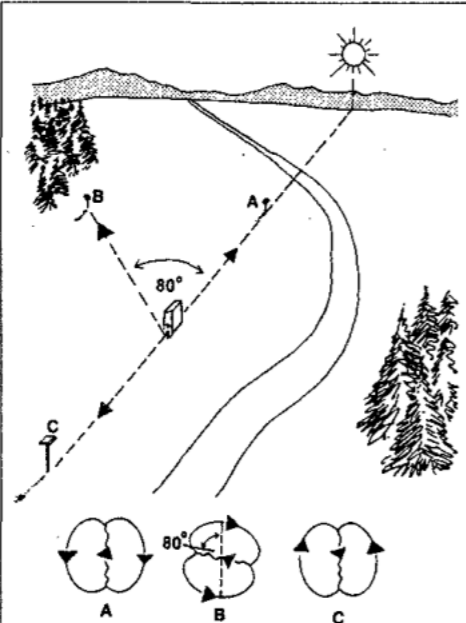
The italicized phrase in the verse, reads in Arabic "subula rabbiki" which literally means the "paths of your Lord." In fact, we know now what was not known at the time of the revelation of the Quran; that the bee does indeed literally, in seeking provisions, follows paths designed by God in a very special and miraculous way.

One of the most remarkable communication systems found in the non-human world is that of the European honeybee. Beekeepers had long suspected that bees communicated with each other before the properties of this communication system were scientifically established. For example, beekeepers noticed that if a single bee happens upon a particularly rich source of nectar or pollen, other bees from the hive will soon be found at the food source in significant numbers. The facts about bee behavior are now much better understood. Research by Karl von Frisch and his colleagues have identified the most important properties of the bees communication system and shown that when a foraging bee has discovered a rich food supply and returns to the hive, it is able to communicate a surprisingly complex message to its hivemates. The transmitted message is actually a recruitment device, indicating to the hivemates how far to fly, what direction to fly, and what type of food to seek.

The scout bee's message is communicated through patterns of movement, called "dancing," on the vertical walls of the hive. There are two major types of dance depending on the location of the food source with respect to the hive: the round dance and the tail-wagging dance. When the food source is relatively close the round dance is performed. For distances greater than 100 meters, the bee performs the tail-wagging dance. This ability of the bees to indicate food sources beyond 100 feet is truly impressive. Since the food source is far away, it would not be sufficient for the bee to simply communicate the existence of a food source without an indication of the direction of the

The Bee and the Paths of our Lord

food. If, for instance, the recruited bees were to search randomly for a food source one kilometer away, they would have to search an area of 3 million square meters! In fact, the European honeybee performs a dance that not only indicates the direction the recruited bees must travel but also enables them to fly the proper distance. Both aspects of the dance have a remarkable degree of accuracy.



Relation of solar-oriented flight to force of gravity. Box at center of landscape is the hive; three test feeding stations, A, B, and C, surround it. At bottom: dances corresponding to the paths to the three feeding stations. (Adapted from von Frisch 1967.)

The tail-wagging dance consists of two roughly semicircular paths of movement with a straight-line portion in between, during which the bee waggles. The dance serves to communicate three vital pieces of information to the recruited bees. First, the orientation of the straight line portion of the dance communicates the direction that the bees must fly with respect to the position of the sun. Since the walls of the hive are vertical the scout bee is not able to "point" directly toward the location of the food source. The dance is gravity oriented and functions as a compass or map to direct the solar-oriented flight of the bees. For example, if the recruited bees are to fly, 80° to the left of the sun, the dance will be oriented 80° to the left of vertical (see figure). One remarkable aspect of this system is that the foraging scout bee communicates to the recruited

bees about a path that the scout bee has not actually flown. The scout bee returns to the hive after finding food and communicates to the other bees what is in effect the "reverse" of the trip he has just taken.

Second, the length of time spent during the tail-wagging portion of the dance communicates the distance that must be flown. During the straight line, tail-wagging portion of the dance, the bee makes a special buzzing sound and it is believed that is the length of time of this buzzing that communicates the distance to the food source. There is also an inverse relationship between the amount of time spent during the straight line portion of the dance and the total number of circuits performed per unit of time. The fewer number of circuits per unit of time, the farther the source is from the hive. Experiments have shown that bees can accurately communicate distances up to 11 kilometers or 7 miles. Finally, the general level of excitement during the dance communicates the richness of the source.

Experiments have shown that the bee is able to communicate both the direction and distance of food with remarkable accuracy. There is also clear evidence that these dances are a part of the genetic make-up of the bee. That is, given relevant triggering experience from the environment, such as experience with the sun and its orientation and movement across the sky, the bee is "programmed" to develop this system of orientation and the ability to communicate it to other bees. Other than increasing the precision of its communication activities through experience, there is no evidence that the bee has to learn any of its behavior; it is innate. Bees raised outside the hive, function normally when reintroduced to the hive.

This knowledge that God has granted us about the bees communication system, sheds a different light on our understanding of the Quranic verse quoted above. The bee, does in fact, literally, obtain its provisions by following the paths communicated by the scout bee through a system of communication designed by our Lord, the Creator of the heavens and the earth and the One who provides for all creatures on this earth. Praise be to Him.

Martha Schulte-Nafseh

Reference: Akmajian, A, Richard Demers and Robert Harnish (1984) Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication. MIT Press. Cambridge, MA.



The life of M. Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, has been encoded with the number 19. Believers who have been blessed with the knowledge of the role of the number 19 in the Quran can easily understand the divine message behind this awesome phenomenon.

The manifestation of number 19 throughout the life of Atatürk is an example of God's promise in the Quran: *We will show them our signs in the horizons, and within themselves, until they realize that this is the truth. Is your Lord not sufficient? He witnesses all things* (41:53). The Quran teaches us that the worst people in the world are those who fabricate lies and attribute them to God (18:15; 29:68; 31:6; 42:21).

According to this Quranic criterion, some of the Muslim clergy ('ulama) of the Ottoman Empire were among the worst people. They taught superstitions and baseless prohibitions and presented them as God's religion. They issued religious decrees on demand justifying sultans' killing of innocent people. They did not allow the printing machine in the country for about 300 years, declaring that it was a satanic invention. They treated women as slaves. The sultans (who were also caliphs) and 'ulama of the Ottomans were the continuation of the satanic kingdoms (caliphates) of the Umayyads and the Abbassids. The Almighty God stopped this kingdom, which gradually became corrupt, by supporting Atatürk.

It is a matter of historical fact that Atatürk was granted victory over the powerful rulers of the Ottoman empire. Given the great number of ways in which the number 19 figured in Atatürk's life, we come to an understanding of how God, through Atatürk, brought about the defeat of those sultans and 'ulama who ruled, they claimed, in the name of God, but who in fact spread evil and lies about the religion of submission to God alone and oppressed their subjects.

Ataturk Was Supported By God Against the Corrupt Caliphs

Edip Yuksel

The list below is some of historical facts which can be verified in encyclopedias and history books.

- His birth year: 1881 (19x99).
- His number in the birth register: 19.
- The number of his birth certificate: 993814 (19x52306).
- Started his political activity in 1900.
- Graduated from the military school as the 19th Turk.
- Registered to the 57th (19x3) military academy.
- Joined the army as 38th (19x2) captain.
- Commanded the 38th (19x2) regiment.
- Commanded the 57th (19x3) regiment.
- Promoted to colonel in December 19, 1915.
- 19 days later became the commander of the 19th division.
- Arrived in Samsun and started the struggle against the enemy May 19, 1919. (May 19 is an official holiday in Turkey).
- On the way to Samsun, there were 19 commanders in the ship including him.
- He was given the titles Marshal and General on September 19, 1921.
- The total number of medals of honor he received: 19.
- His seat number in the first Great National Assembly: 19.
- His house number in Istanbul: 76 (19x4).
- Died on November 10, 1938 (19x102), at the age of 57 (19x3).
- His funeral took place on November 19, 1938.
- The 19th march of Chopin with 19 notes was played during his funeral.
- The money that he left in his bank account was 19,000 Liras.
- The numbers of letters in his name, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk: 19.

People of the Scripture: A Symposium

In an effort to promote understanding and dialogue among people of the scripture, ICS has sponsored a symposium in which representatives of the three major monotheistic religions of the world (Jews, Christians, Muslims) gathered to discuss various topics. Participants, about 10 people from each group, met in a four-hour session twice on two consecutive Sunday afternoons (Oct. 31, Nov. 7). Topics covered were:

Session I Parenthood, women, homosexuality, divorce, aggression and family.

Session II Worship practices, hereafter, monotheism and religion of the future.

The conference overall was quite successful in:

- 1) Giving the participants the chance to listen to different views of each group on the topics covered.

- 2) Allowing us to present God's message to other groups, at least in an indirect way. For example, all attendants repeatedly listened to verses of the Quran recited to them. Also, they have heard about the mathematical miracle of the Quran.

- 3) Allowing us to present to other groups the difference between following the traditions in religion and following the Scripture alone.

- 4) Showing that dialogue and tolerance are good ways to open channels of communication between different religions in this country and the world (as opposed to bloodshed).

In conclusion, we hope that this kind of approach to educating people about God and His scriptures, in general, may very well promote an atmosphere of tolerance and peace among all religions of the world.

Yasser Alkadi