

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful*

# Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International  
Community of Submitters

www.masjiduntucson.org



Published by Masjid Tucson  
Rabi II 1428

All Rights Reserved

## GUIDANCE—A GIFT FROM GOD

**T**here are so many gifts from God in our lives. We have to try to remember to be thankful for each of them. I think sometimes overlooked is the ultimate gift that makes everything else possible—and that's the gift of guidance.

How does an American woman raised in the Episcopal church find her way into an exotic religion like Islam? My mother asked me that once, assuming I would name some person who brought me into it, but at that moment I realized without question that it was God who brought me here. The Christian tradition in which I was raised doesn't really allow for God's involvement in our day to day activities. So this was an alien concept to my mother. But with this gift of guidance comes the understanding that God is doing everything; He is running every moment of my life; He is with me continuously. Without His guidance to that understanding, I would have continued blundering without knowledge.

God is so incredibly merciful. He doesn't just tell us we have to worship Him or we won't make it to heaven. He spells out how to achieve this. Then He sends scripture, messengers and individual guidance. He told Adam and Eve and their descendants:

*"Go down therefrom, all of you. When guidance comes to you from Me, those who follow My guidance will have no fear, nor will they grieve." (2:38)*

God offers this guidance to everyone. There are many moments in our lives when we either recognize that guidance, accept it and follow it, or ignore it and carry on in darkness. God then enhances that choice. In our contact prayers, 17 times a day, the one thing we ask of God is:

*Guide us in the right path, the path of those whom You blessed; not of those who have deserved wrath, nor of the strayers. (1:6-7)*

We were all of us in darkness until God guided us into the light, into understanding and knowledge. He tells us at the end of 2:198:

*You shall commemorate Him for guiding you; before this, you had gone astray. Being thankful for that guidance is an important thing for us to remember.*

*God guides those who seek His approval. He guides them to the paths of peace, leads them out of darkness into the light by His leave, and guides them in a straight path.(5:16)*

Very early in Sura 2, God describes the righteous: *This scripture is infallible; a beacon for the righteous; who believe in the unseen, observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), and from our provisions to them, they give to charity. And they believe in what was revealed to you, and in what was revealed before you, and with regard to the Hereafter, they are absolutely certain. These are guided by their Lord; these are the winners. (2:2-5)*

If we are guided by God, we are winners. Therefore, guidance is a gift without price. In many verses, God reminds us of the power of this gift.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

*They act as if they are doing you a favor by embracing submission! Say, "You are not doing me any favors by embracing Submission. **God is the One who is doing you a great favor by guiding you to the faith, if you are sincere.**" (49:17)*

*Whomever God guides is the truly guided one, and whomever He commits to straying, these are the losers. (7:178)*

This guidance is not an arbitrary gift. God doesn't pick and choose at random. He is fully aware of those who deserve the guidance, those who will recognize it and follow it, and those who will listen heedlessly and then turn away, following instead their own opinions.

*Had God willed, He could have made you one congregation. But He sends astray whoever chooses to go astray, and He guides whoever wishes to be guided. You will surely be asked about everything you have done. (16:93)*

*You cannot guide the ones you love. God is the only One who guides in accordance with His will, and in accordance with His knowledge of those who deserve the guidance. [28:56]*

Another interesting thing about guidance is that it seems to be a process. If we allow ourselves to receive it, then

God increases it; the sequence and timeframe will be appropriate to each individual. God describes this process of receiving guidance in almost physical terms. Our whole being cringes away from the awesomeness of God; then God actually softens the hearts and minds of those who are striving to let Him in. God makes a comparison in terms we can understand. He describes someone willing to accept Submission as having a wide open heart. And someone unwilling to seek God's guidance is like someone at the top of Mt Everest, his chest constricted until it is physically painful.

*If God renders one's heart content with Submission, he will be following a light from his Lord. Therefore, woe to those whose hearts are hardened against God's message; they have gone far astray. God has revealed herein the best Hadith; a book that is consistent, and points out both ways (to Heaven and Hell). The skins of those who reverence their Lord cringe therefrom, then their skins and their hearts soften up for God's message. Such is God's guidance; He bestows it upon whoever wills (to be guided). As for those sent astray by God, nothing can guide them. (39:22-3)*

*Whomever God wills to guide, He renders his chest wide open to Submission. And whomever He wills to send astray, He renders his chest intolerant*

*and straitened, like one who climbs towards the sky. God thus places a curse upon those who refuse to believe. [6:125]*

Guidance from God is a very personal, individualized gift. And it's so very important for us to recognize it, follow it and be appreciative of it. We want to be among those who are invited into Paradise, pleased and pleasing. Only with God's guidance will we make it. We don't want to be like those described in 39:54-60, who actually have the audacity to say: "Had God guided me, I would have been with the righteous." Or 3:86: *Why should God guide people who disbelieved after believing and after witnessing that the messenger is truth, and after solid proofs have been given to them? God does not guide the wicked.*

We want to be among those described in 22:54: *Those who are blessed with knowledge will recognize the truth from your Lord, then believe in it, and their hearts will readily accept it. Most assuredly, God guides the believers in the right path. And 19:76: God augments the guidance of those who choose to be guided. For the good deeds are eternally rewarded by your Lord, and bring far better returns.*

*Lydia*

## **A reader's sharing of personal feelings and appreciation of GOD Alone**

... I'm learning to realize that I must take it one day at a time. I'm learning the beauty of [the Quran] inshallah (God willing). I'm learning the grace and beauty of GOD's eternal love and mercy. I'm learning that indeed the Quran is the mind and will of the Most Gracious in my life. I'm learning that the Quran is the easiest and most interesting book to read. It's clear and concise in making the impression upon my mind the contrast of good and evil. Its allegories and parables are most beautiful and poetic. It's remarkable how easy it is to recite and memorize the sayings of the Quran.

Truly like magic the Quran has me spellbound. For the FIRST time in my life I can appreciate GOD Alone. Never did I realize before the significant of that glorious phrase "Worship GOD Alone!" For the FIRST time ever I feel connected to the Universe and the Creation of all things. For the FIRST time ever I feel connected to the pattern of all things. For the FIRST time ever I'm thanking and praising GOD Alone for everything small and great as I observe the magnificent glorious creation of all things....The more I praise GOD the more He gives me peace and joy. The more I read the Quran the more I want to praise GOD Alone. I praise GOD Alone as I conclude my e-mail of appreciation for this wonderful morning in a small mid-western town with a verse from the Quran, remembering what Abraham said:

**[19:48] "I will abandon you and the gods you worship beside GOD. I will worship only my Lord. By imploring my Lord alone, I cannot go wrong."**

This verse gives me a good answer to whom might question my religion. I can simply reply, "If I implore GOD Alone, how can I go wrong?" ... **Rodney**

## God's Amazing Creature: Dog

Dogs are amazing animals. People have forged an intimate link with dogs all the time. These amazing creatures protect people, provide services to them and sometimes sacrifice their lives for them. The dogs can be part of our family; it can be easily exemplified from a story of the Quran of the believing men who spent so many years in the cave with a dog!

*[18:18] You would think that they were awake, when they were in fact asleep. We turned them to the right side and the left side, while their dog stretched his arms in their midst. Had you looked at them, you would have fled from them, stricken with terror.*

*[42:29] Among His proofs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the creatures He spreads in them. He is able to summon them, when He wills.*

Like parents and their children, everyone believes that their dog is the best, the cutest, the smartest. But some dogs stand out in the crowd. These are "extraordinary dogs," whose hard work, love, and devotion not only enhance human life, but change it.

*[45:13] He committed in your service everything in the heavens and the earth; all from Him. These are proofs for people who reflect.*

*[39:62] GOD is the Creator of all things, and He is in full control of all things*

Chip is a sheep-herding Border Collie dog that lives in northern England with his owner, Raymond McPherson. Sheep-herding dogs make sure all of the sheep go where the farmer wants them. They must do this without hurting the sheep. This is an important job, and Raymond thinks Chip is the best at it. "He's so dedicated...so responsive to commands. We regard each other as a working partnership. He's not only a working partner, he's a friend." Border Collies love to herd and they love to work. "My dogs are very happy when they are working. The expressions on their faces tell the tale. If you want to be cruel to them, don't give them any work." Managing sheep is exhausting work, but Border Collies like Chip can work a sixteen-hour day and still be ready for more!

*[59:24] He is the One GOD; the Creator, the Initiator, the Designer. To Him belong the most beautiful names. Glorifying Him is*

*everything in the heavens and the earth. He is the Almighty, Most Wise.*

*[14:34] 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.*



Hasty is a Golden Retriever dog who lives in the Colorado Rockies with his owner and trainer, Patty Burnett. If you ever happen to go skiing there one day, and have a serious accident,

Hasty might be the one to rescue you. That's because Hasty is a Search and Rescue Dog. During a rescue mission for someone buried in an avalanche, Hasty would be the first one to find them, and to dig out a hole for the person to breathe fresh air. How did Hasty learn to be a Rescue Dog? By playing "Hide and Seek," of course! It's true—Hasty had to learn this and other search games, plus he has to practice rescuing all the time. In rescue drills, a member of the snow team is buried in a cave six feet below the surface. Hasty uses his powerful nose to find him. Hasty's sense of smell is thousands of times more powerful than a human's. He may be having fun, but, one day, Hasty could be an avalanche victim's only hope.

*[6:102] Such is GOD your Lord, there is no god except He, the Creator of all things. You shall worship Him alone. He is in control of all things.*

*[16:18] If you count GOD's blessings, you cannot possibly encompass them. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

Bob Himrod was a soldier who fought in the Vietnam War. At the age of 18 he joined a special branch of the military called the Scout Dog Platoon. From that moment on, he worked side-by-side with his new partner, a young German shepherd named Cracker. Dogs have been helping us fight our wars nearly as long as we've been having them. As Scout Dogs, they are used to detect the enemy and warn of approaching danger. In Vietnam, Scout Dogs could detect the enemy better than anything else. "A handler and a dog became a team, and you became totally dependent on one another. Cracker looked to me for her protection, and I looked to her for my protection." Sadly, Cracker bravely died in the war when she stepped on a land mine. "If she hadn't been there to take the blast, I don't think

I'd be here today. She was my best friend over there."

*[31:20] Do you not see that GOD has committed in your service everything in the heavens and the earth, and has showed you with His blessings—obvious and hidden? Yet, some people argue about GOD without knowledge, without guidance, and without the enlightening scripture.*

Imagine trying to open a door, or flip a light switch, with your hands tied behind your back. For some people with disabilities, like 14-year-old Chad Norris, everyday actions that many of us take for granted become nearly impossible tasks. Luckily, Chad has found help from a very special dog named Twany. A dog, you say? That's right. Twany is what is called a Service Dog, and for many disabled people like Chad, these dogs are an essential part of their lives. But Twany is also special in another way. She was trained to be a Service Dog by Carolyn, a woman who lives in prison. Carolyn felt happy to be able to do something good for herself, and for Chad and Twany:

"Twany's helping Chad a lot. She's giving him independence where other people don't have to help him. She's there for him." Chad's mother is glad to see him go to school with Twany: "For the first time in Chad's life, he's able to do things on his own. If he drops something (in the hall or in class), Twany's there."

*[45:4] Also in your creation, and the creation of all the animals, there are proofs for people who are certain.*

If you had to be in a hospital for a few weeks, what would cheer you up? How about a visit from a cute, cuddly, happy dog? Well, that's exactly what Molly and Scooter do several times a month for children who are in hospitals.

*[40:62] Such is GOD your Lord, the Creator of all things. There is no god except He. How could you deviate?*

Molly and Scooter are called Therapy Dogs, and kids love to be visited by them. "I was in the hospital for a month, and I really missed my dog at home. When these dogs came in, they jumped right into my bed and just licked me, and that made me feel a lot better."

*[35:3] O people, remember GOD's blessings upon you. Is there any creator other than GOD who provides for you from the heaven and the earth? There is no other god beside Him. How could you deviate?*

(Continued on page 4)

MASJID TUCSON United Submitters International

PO Box 43476 Tucson AZ 85733-3476 USA

Tel/Fax: (520) 323 7636

internet web site [www.masjiduntucson.org](http://www.masjiduntucson.org)

e-mail: [info@masjiduntucson.org](mailto:info@masjiduntucson.org) [masjiduntucson@gmail.com](mailto:masjiduntucson@gmail.com)

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

ISSN 1089-053X

*Happiness is Submission to God Alone*

Keep up with history in the making. Subscribe now.

\$12/yr. U.S., Canada and Mexico, \$19/yr. overseas.

*(Continued from page 3)*

Therapy Dogs come in all shapes and sizes. They just need to be well-behaved and friendly. "They have a sixth sense. If you're sick, they want to lay down next to you and give you love." Therapy Dogs like Molly and Scooter are treatment in a huggable form.

Training is one of the most important aspects of raising a dog. Training serves to strengthen the bond between a dog and his owner. It builds communication, understanding, and mutual respect. Training also gives the dog owner the voice control necessary to prevent numerous potential tragedies. A well-behaved, trained dog is a pleasure to own. Dog training truly benefits us; an example is given in the Quran.

*[5:4] They consult you concerning what is lawful for them; say, "Lawful for you are all good things, including what trained dogs and falcons catch for you." You train them according to GOD's teachings. You may eat what they catch for you, and mention GOD's name thereupon. You shall observe GOD. GOD is most efficient in reckoning.*

Sadly, in traditional Islam, dogs are considered dirty animals based on so-called *hadith* falsely attributed to the prophet. The majority of Muslims fail to understand that hadiths are not the words of the prophet. Additionally, they fail to understand that the Quran is the only hadith of the prophet that was sent down to him from God.

*[45:6] These are GOD's revelations that we recite to you truthfully. In which Hadith other than GOD and His revelations do they believe?*

*[16:116] You shall not utter lies with your own tongues stating: "This is lawful, and*

*this is unlawful," to fabricate lies and attribute them to GOD. Surely, those who fabricate lies and attribute them to GOD will never succeed.*

*[6:19] Say, "Whose testimony is the greatest?" Say, "GOD's. He is the witness between me and you that this Quran has been inspired to me, to preach it to you and whomever it reaches. Indeed, you bear witness that there are other gods beside GOD." Say, "I do not testify as you do; there is only one god, and I disown your idolatry."*

*[6:114] Shall I seek other than GOD as a source of law, when He has revealed to you this book fully detailed? Those who received the scripture recognize that it has been revealed from your Lord, truthfully. You shall not harbor any doubt.*

*[10:59] 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?"*

May God guide all of us.

M. Irtaza

- Refs: 1. [www.thirteen.org/](http://www.thirteen.org/)  
2. [www.dogpatch.org/](http://www.dogpatch.org/)  
3. Quran - translated by Rashad Khalifa, Ph.D.



God Willing

22<sup>nd</sup>

## Annual Conference United Submitters

July 27-29, 2007  
Ontario, CA

God willing mark your calendars and make plans for the 2007 Annual Conference of the Submitters. The registration deadline is June 19.

We set up a web page on the internet to circulate the conference information at

[www.masjiduntucson.org/conference/](http://www.masjiduntucson.org/conference/)

You can reach us by email or phone if you have any questions. God willing, we are looking forward to seeing you all at the conference.

\*\*\*\*\*

## QURAN: The Final Testament Translated by Dr. Rashad Khalifa

Special bulk pricing:  
A box of 28 English only or a box of 20 English with the Arabic text Qurans is \$250 including the shipping in the USA. The Qurans are millennium editions. They have durable covers and are library quality. You can now order our publications on line at <http://www.masjiduntucson.org/publications/catalog/indexBooks.html>