

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

# Submitters Perspective

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## Living a Godcentric Life for Happiness

### In this world and in the Hereafter

**Happiness** is an elusive goal of our lives. When people are asked what they want from life, most often the answer is "happiness." However, when they are asked to define happiness, everyone has a different viewpoint on what makes them happy. Happiness is as subjective as it is elusive.

If there are so many ways to define happiness, can it be summarized in a few words? According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, one definition of happiness is that it is a state of well-being and contentment. That is as concise a description as it can get.

Since happiness is elusive, until we can work out where happiness comes from, we will always be chasing it.

#### Does money buy happiness?

There is always the popular question whether money can buy happiness. Most people realize that although having some money is essential for our basic needs, having more money than

we need does not necessarily make us happier. At some point, money or material things do not provide the happiness we need any longer.

Spike Milligan who was an actor and comedian once said "Money can't buy you happiness, but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery." There are many stories about people who have attained wealth but have had miserable lives.

Henrik Ibsen, a major 19th-century Norwegian playwright of realistic drama and poet, put it succinctly: "Money can buy the husk of things, but not the kernel. It brings you food but not appetite, medicine but not health, acquaintances but not friends, servants but not faithfulness, days of joy but not peace or happiness."

So if money or material things are not necessarily the solution for a true and lasting happiness, what is? What do we need to have?

#### Secret to Happiness

The experts agree that the first step in finding happiness is to understand that happiness always comes from within ourselves. Even if our experience of happiness appears to be coming from an external source, the actual happiness is coming from within us.

For example, Lionel Ketchian, the Founder of the Happiness Club, states that "Happiness is an inner state of well being. A state of well being enables you to profit from your highest: thoughts, wisdom, intelligence, common sense, emotions, health, and spiritual values in your life."

These happiness experts give some good guidelines to their readers on what to do in their lives so that they can stay happy. However, the best guidelines can be found in the revelations of God. After all God is the One who created us. He knows us better than we know ourselves.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

*Should He not know what He created? He is the Sublime, Most Cognizant. (67:14)*

God reveals in the Quran, as He did in the Bible and Torah, the secret of attaining perfect happiness in this life and forever. We learn from God's scriptures that happiness is an exclusive quality of the soul, not the body which is our external garment for this temporary life. Our soul is the real person or "self" that does not expire.

Our happiness depends totally on the degree of growth and development attained by the soul. Thus, a body that attains all the material successes it longs for is not a happy person within unless he or she is a submitter. The Quran, God's Final Testament to humanity, provides a detailed map towards perfect happiness for both body and soul, both in this world and in the eternal Hereafter.

### **Happiness is Submission to God Alone**

Happiness is Submission to God Alone has been a motto of the Submitters. This is not wishful thinking. It is a promise from God for those who worship Him alone and submit to His will. In many verses throughout the Quran, God personally guarantees the believers' happiness, now and forever:

*Absolutely, God's allies will have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve. They are those who believe and lead a righteous life. For them, joy and happiness in this world, as well as in the Hereafter. This is GOD's unchangeable law. Such is the greatest triumph. (10:62-64)*

### **Living a Godcentric Life**

Most people do not give God priority in this life. They are preoccupied with material things, business, family and children, and so on. Their lives revolve around whatever is preoccupying them. God might be in their mind occasionally at the church, mosque or a temple; when they need something from Him or when they are in trouble. But they easily forget God or put Him at the back of their worldly plans.

The submitters, on the other hand, try to live a "Godcentric" life. This simply means that God is the central focus of our lives. We are cognizant of the transparency of our intention and mindful of the accountability of our actions. As a result, our mind, emotions, body, and soul are fully engaged in praise, adoration, remembrance, and worship of the Almighty God, to the best of our ability.

God reminds us in the Quran we should avoid treating the religion as a social function and giving priority to this life, for our own good. Otherwise we suffer the consequences:

*You shall disregard those who take their religion in vain, as if it is a social function, and are totally absorbed in this worldly life. Remind with this (Quran), lest a soul may suffer the consequences of its evil earnings. It has none beside GOD as a Lord and Master, nor an intercessor. If it could offer any kind of ransom, it would not be accepted. They suffer the consequences of the evil works they earn; they have incurred hellish drinks, and a painful retribution because of their disbelief. (6:70)*

### **Loving and pleasing God**

If we love God the most, the number one priority in our lives should be to please God. No one or nothing else should take priority before God. Otherwise we may fall into idol worship without realizing.

*Yet, some people set up idols to rival GOD, and love them as if they are GOD. Those who believe LOVE GOD the most.... (2:165)*

Our idols could be money, business, property, our children, the saints and messengers etc.—anything that rivals God in worshiping Him alone.

We know that God is watching over us and knows what we are trying to do. God is not pleased by our mere utterances, but by our actual intentions or actions to carry out His commandments. When pleasing God through our righteousness becomes the most important aspect of our life, God promises us that wonderful things will happen in our lives:

*God promises those among you who believe and lead righteous life, that He will make them sovereigns on earth, as He did for those before them, and will establish for them the religion He has chosen for them, and will substitute peace and security for them in place of fear. All this because they worship Me alone, without setting up any idols besides Me. Those who disbelieve after this are the truly wicked" (24:55).*

### **Worshipping God alone**

The First commandment in all scriptures of God makes it very clear that our devotion to God should be indivisible. In the Old Testament we read:

*Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is One God! Therefore you shall adore the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)*

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 2)*

The basic theme of all religions has always been the same: There is only one God, and we should worship Him alone. In the New Testament, under the subtitle of "The Greatest Commandment," we read:

*One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.' (Mark 12:28-29 New International Version)*

Worshipping God alone is also the theme of the Quran, the Final Testament. It is emphasized in many verses. There is no ambiguity about it.

*He is the Living;  
there is no god except He.  
You shall worship Him alone,  
devoting your religion  
absolutely to Him alone.  
Praise be to GOD,  
Lord of the universe.  
(40:65)*

### **Don't have to give up this world**

Thus if we live a Godcentric life by making God a priority, we reap the benefits, not only in the Hereafter, but in this life as well. We don't have to neglect this life to achieve our goal of pleasing God; we just need to be conscious of what our real priority is in all aspects of our lives. Then trust in God and act on it.

*"Use the provisions bestowed upon you by GOD to seek the abode of the Hereafter, without neglecting your share in this world. Be charitable, as GOD has been charitable towards you. Do not keep on corrupting the earth. GOD does not love the corruptors." (28:77)*

Living a Godcentric life may not seem practical and may sound difficult in this materialistic world, but God promises to make it easy for those who make the "tough choice."

*.... Anyone who reverences GOD,  
He makes everything easy for him.  
(65:4)*

All we need to do is try and do our best; then leave the rest to God...

*Abdullah*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **A Submitter's Journey to Submission**

Hello,

My name is K. I overflowed with emotion when I found your pages, which broke me down into uncontrollable tears of joy and some complex feelings. Let me introduce myself.

I started reading the a translation of the Koran (Quran) by Yusuf (?can't remember surname?) when I was 19 years old and was SO surprised to find that it's teachings were very far from the stereotype of what I had grown up to know was Islam - but was perhaps rather Muhammadism?

As soon as I was aware (of the truth in the Quran), I sought out the Islamic Society in University to ask them about what I had discovered. I told them that to me the Koran (Quran) seemed inspired; they then asked if I believed in one God, and I replied "Of course I did because I was a Christian." They told me that in fact by these two criteria that I believed in, I was also qualified to be a Muslim.

Though I was not sure about this, they invited me to sit with them as they prayed their Friday prayer and then join their discussion afterwards. After their prayers, imagine my surprise when I learned that there was somebody there today who had just accepted Islam how appropriate. Imagine how much more surprised I was, when I learned that the person they spoke of was me! I was invited to repeat the shahada (declaration of faith) though perhaps it would have been impossible to refuse. This was followed by cheers and about a hundred handshakes.

I had been a composer in my spare time and was studying music at the university. A few hard line Muslims took me under their wing and advised me to change my subject. I, however, had always believed that music could be developed into a scientifically prescribable therapy and started to go through my most difficult time. I tried my best to do what was expected, but felt myself being pulled further and further away from the understanding that I had of the meanings in the Koran.

I remembered reading a line in the Koran that stated something to the effect of the message being sent to smash the hadiths and as much as I tried to remember where this was I could not find it when I needed it as a defense against those trying to pump me full of their ideas. I was introduced to so much literature, and even given a new "translation" of the Koran which had all of the hadiths inserted alongside the 'unclear lines' of the Koran for clarification of the meanings. Suddenly all the spiritual allegory I had seen was replaced with literal and forced explanations.

Eventually I managed to escape the eye of my overseers who nearly managed to cause an irrevocable rift between myself and my family. But in my heart I still wanted to be a Muslim in the way I had first understood it. I moved to Korea to be united to my Baptist bride.

I met some Iranians who were seeking refuge in Korea and we talked about Islam and found that we had the same idea that the Koran was all that was necessary for Muslims but that unfortunately very few Muslims actually know what is written in the Koran. There is one Mosque in Korea, and I built up enough courage to go but was introduced to an American Muslim who wanted to remind me that the fundamentals were all important. I was basically scared off the path.

I so much wanted to establish with the sane Muslims there—a peaceful non imposing mosque where we could help each other study the Koran (Quran) and even spread the true Quranic version of Islam to the Korean community which is currently being overtaken by thousands of strange sects of "Christianity."

I am now in Poland where I have been working on trying to find out the reasons why the themes which appear in Genesis can be used as literal explanations for the construction of certain Chinese ideograms by putting together a chronology of Central Eurasian migration.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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*(Continued from page 3)*

I have more interestingly been working on understanding the psychological impact of the Universal Semantic Code and its therapeutic value in music. I had been introduced to the book *Cracking the Bible code* by my tutor, and was looking for sites about Islam when I stumbled across your pages.

...I have so much that I want to share and learn. I have almost forgotten read Arabic these days but I never stopped reciting the first sura (chapter) learned off by heart. More importantly is that now my wife is showing an interest in coming to Islam too. I cannot say how much feeling was generated when I read for the first time what I knew to be true from the start but that there were others who knew that traditions could be abandoned and a return to a pure Quranic teaching is necessary.

This was really the miracle for me...

Peace

*A Submitter*

## **Man arrested in '90 slaying of controversial religious leader at local mosque**

Tucson Citizen, April 28, 2009, 11:03 p.m.  
[Eric Sagara](mailto:esagara@tucsoncitizen.com) (esagara@tucsoncitizen.com)

Nearly two decades of mystery and intrigue may be drawing to a close with the arrest of a man suspected of killing a local imam. Calgary Police Services in Canada arrested Glen Cusford Francis, a 52-year-old citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, on Tuesday on suspicion of killing 55-year-old Rashad Khalifa, according to a news

release issued by the Tucson Police Department.

On Jan. 31, 1990, Khalifa was found stabbed to death in the kitchen of the Masjid of Tucson, the mosque where he worked. The mosque is at East Sixth Street and North Euclid Avenue.

Khalifa had gained international attention for his computer analysis of the Koran and his claims that two verses were written by Satan, not God.

Police say Khalifa had been receiving death threats in the months leading up to his killing because of his controversial interpretation, and authorities in Colorado uncovered a plot to kill him.

According to Tucson Citizen archives, seven people were indicted in Colorado on charges of conspiracy to kill Khalifa.

All seven were believed to be members of FUQRA, a Muslim extremist group that had been tied to terrorist activities.

The plot was uncovered by police in Colorado Springs when they found explosives in a locker in 1989 while investigating a burglary.

Notes on how to kill Khalifa, diagrams and photos of the mosque, as well as planned escape routes, were found by detectives, archives show.

Authorities told Khalifa of the plot but four months later he was found dead in Tucson.

At least six of the seven men were convicted of charges related to the conspiracy.

The seventh, Edward Flinton, a citizen of Pakistan, fled before being arrested in 1996, according to Citizen archives....

## **Suspect in 1990 Tucson mosque murder arrested in Calgary**

By Stephane Massinon, Calgary Herald  
April 29, 2009 2:06 PM

**The Calgary Police Service arrested Glen Francis, 52, on an international provisional arrest warrant and he has been charged with first degree murder, according to the Tucson Police Department.**

CALGARY - A man was arrested Tuesday in Calgary for his alleged role in the murder of a controversial imam in Tucson, Arizona in 1990.

The Calgary Police Service arrested Glen Francis, 52, on an international provisional arrest warrant and he has been charged with first degree murder, according to the Tucson Police Department.

He is accused of killing Dr. Rashad Khalifa in a mosque. Khalifa had received numerous death threats because of his interpretation of the Quran.

According to the Arizona Daily Star, Khalifa claimed to be a messenger of God and used a computer to decipher codes of the Islamic holy book. He taught that people ought to worship God instead of Mohammed or Jesus Christ....

*[Ed's note: The excerpts for the above news were taken from Tucson Citizen and Calgary Herald newspapers. For the complete articles, check their web sites.]*