

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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WATER

A Precious Gift



I recently visited the wettest place on earth. It's a city called Cherrapunji in India. We were all surprised to see how barren and dry it looked. Could this really be the wettest place on earth? Were we in the right place? Well, it was and we were. In an online site called extremescience.com, I read: "It's ironic that the wettest place in the world manages to thirst for water each winter when no rain falls at all for months at a time.... People who live there frequently have to travel on foot for several kilometers to bathe and get drinking water."

This is an area that receives perhaps 1200 centimeters (nearly 500 inches) of rain per year. But there are a couple of problems. First, they receive almost all of it during the monsoon season of about 4 to 6 months. So it pours heavily almost constantly. And secondly, the people have decimated the forests of the region so there's nothing to hold in the moisture. As a result, it flows freely down the mountain sides in lovely waterfalls, making the valley below very lush and green, but leaving nothing behind on the hilltop.

Water is a gift from God, a very precious gift. We are all created from water (24:45, 25:54). Our bodies are over 70% water. We need water to survive—to grow our crops, to keep clean, to quench our thirst. And the water comes only from God.

[27:60] Who is the One who created the heavens and the earth? Who is the One who sends down to you from the sky water, whereby we produce gardens full of beauty—you could not possibly manufacture its trees? Is it another god with GOD? Indeed, they are people who have deviated.

[2:22] The One who made the earth habitable for you, and the sky a structure. He sends down from the sky water, to produce all kinds of fruits for your sustenance. You shall not set up idols to rival GOD, now that you know.

[41:39] Among His proofs is that you see the land still, then, as soon as we shower it with water, it vibrates with life. Surely, the One who revived it can revive the dead. He is Omnipotent.

So we need to be aware of this gift, conscious of its awesomeness, and most of all, appreciative of where it comes from. When you live in a desert climate, you become mindful of just how precious water can be. We may go months without rain; then God will send a storm, and the people and the plants will rejoice.

[42:28] He is the One who sends down the rain after they had despaired, and spreads His mercy. He is the only Master, Most Praiseworthy.

[30:48] GOD is the One who sends the winds, to stir up clouds, to be spread throughout the sky in accordance with His will. He then piles the clouds up, then you see the rain coming down therefrom. When it falls on whomever He chooses from among His servants, they rejoice.

[22:63] Do you not see that GOD sends down from the sky water that turns the land green? GOD is Sublime, Cognizant.

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[32:27] Do they not realize that we drive the water to barren lands, and produce with it crops to feed their livestock, as well as themselves? Do they not see?

The system that God set up when He created the earth is truly awesome. Very simply put, moisture evaporates from the surface, joins to form clouds, and falls as rain. The atmosphere holds it all in—the guarded ceiling (21:32). But all kinds of factors have to come into play for enough rain to fall to actually make things grow. We get “virga” all the time in Tucson—the air is so dry that the rain evaporates before reaching the earth. And some places get so much rain all at once that it floods everything. But it’s all in God’s control.

[51:1-4] The blowing winds. Bearing rain. Bringing provisions. Distributing them as commanded.

[7:57] He is the One who sends the wind with good omen, as a mercy from His hands. Once they gather heavy clouds, we drive them to dead lands, and send down water therefrom, to produce with it all kinds of fruits. We thus resurrect the dead, that you may take heed.

God cautions us to be respectful of His gift of water. We turn on a tap and water flows, so we take it for granted. When that doesn’t happen for some reason, we are suddenly aware and appreciative. We need to be more aware all the time. He can remove this gift.

[23:18] We send down from the sky water, in exact measure, then we store it in the ground. Certainly, we can let it escape.

Living in the desert, we know that our water table is sinking lower and lower, just as God says in 67:30. Say, “What if your water sinks away, who will provide you with pure water?”

We need to learn from the lesson of the two men and their gardens (18:32-45). One was proud and arrogant; one was appreciative and humble. Both knew that the beauty and quality of their gardens depended on forces of nature, but only one recognized that it was God who provided those forces. Taking his wealth and status for granted, the arrogant one suffered irreparable losses when God removed the blessing of water, leaving his property barren.

God also gives us examples of what Hell will be like with either putrid water (14:16) or no water.

[7:50] The dwellers of Hell will call on the dwellers of Paradise: “Let some of your water, or some of GOD’s provisions to you flow towards us.” They will say, “GOD has forbidden them for the disbelievers.”

Getting back to the city of Cherrapunji, the wettest place on earth, we see what can happen when we tamper with God’s perfect system for this earth. The trees put down roots which help to hold the soil in place. The population of the area jumped from 7000 to over 100,000 in the last part of the 20th Century. They cleared away the forests without thought to how this would affect the region, and now they are paying a price. All that water falls annually, but they still have to walk miles down into the valley to bathe and to haul water back up to drink.

God uses water as an example in the Quran relating to the charitable. If we believe in God, follow His commands, worship Him alone, and give cheerfully to charity, we can be like a land lush and green, enjoying God’s provision of rain, even if it’s only in small amounts. If we disbelieve and are unappreciative as we go through life, no amount of rainfall will be sufficient. It will be like Cherrapunji where it simply pours off the side of the hill and washes away the soil, leaving a dry and barren landscape, making it hard to believe this is the wettest place on earth.

[2:264] O you who believe, do not nullify your charities by inflicting reproach and insult, like one who spends his money to show off, while disbelieving in GOD and the Last Day. His example is like a rock covered with a thin layer of soil; as soon as heavy rain falls, it washes off the soil, leaving it a useless rock. They gain nothing from their efforts. GOD does not guide disbelieving people.

[2:265] The example of those who give their money seeking GOD’s pleasure, out of sincere conviction, is that of a garden on high fertile soil; when heavy rain falls, it gives twice as much crop. If heavy rain is not available, a drizzle will suffice. GOD is Seer of everything you do.

Lydia

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Some verses on appreciating God’s blessings

[16:112] GOD cites the example of a community that used to be secure and prosperous, with provisions coming to it from everywhere. But then, it turned unappreciative of GOD’s blessings. Consequently, GOD caused them to taste the hardships of starvation and insecurity. Such is the requital for what they did.

[27:73] Your Lord is full of grace towards the people, but most of them are unappreciative.

[28:58] Many a community we annihilated for turning unappreciative of their lives. Consequently, here are their homes, nothing but uninhabited ruins after them, except a few. We were the inheritors.

[31:12] We have endowed Luqmaan with wisdom: “You shall be appreciative of GOD.” Whoever is appreciative is appreciative for his own good. As for those who turn unappreciative, GOD is in no need, Praiseworthy.

Comments from Incarcerated Brothers

Dear United Submitters International:

As salaam Alaikum my dearly beloved brothers and sisters in faith...

In light of all that is going on with our fellow brothers and sisters in faith, we as a community, must turn to the gift which has been bestowed upon us. Islam has been neglected for many years now, and it is evident by all that is going on around the world.

Quoting from the book 'Quran, Hadith and Islam,' written by Rashad Khalifa, Ph.D. whom I am convinced is the Messenger of the Covenant, "The 'Muslim' countries are the poorest, most miserable, least developed and most tyrannized countries on earth."

Possessing limited knowledge concerning the matter, I must agree with that in which has been quoted. Hearing the testimony (ies) of our brothers and sisters in faith, who have gone through the hardship first hand tells me that truth resides in the stated quote... we've lost sight of our created purpose. In (51:56) GOD states, "I did not create the jiins and the human except to worship Me alone." We often find ourselves to be derelicts in our duty.

(6:161-162) "Say, My Lord has guided me in a straight path—the perfect religion of Abraham, monotheism. He never was an idol worshipper. "Say, My Contact Prayers (Salat), my worship practices, my life and my death are all devoted absolutely to GOD alone, the Lord of the universe."

Constantly repeating the above verses will lead to one being reminded of his or her created purpose. Everything that is done within our daily lives that is righteous as stated in chapter 6 verse 162 "My worship practices, my life and my death are all devoted absolutely to GOD alone." This will prevent what is being witnessed around the world.

My dearly beloved brothers and sisters in faith, I end this letter here, with the hopes that it benefits, as I have been benefited.

As Salaam Alaikum

Christopher

* * * * *

Salamun 'Alaikum,

I humbly greet you and ask for a few brief minutes of your time...

I wish to begin this letter with an honest show of my gratitude, but due to the current circumstances, we must settle for a simple, "Thank You!" You not only processed and sent my order quickly, but when this facility made an issue of having no proof of purchase... You responded quickly, and I truly commend you for your services.

I want to be as brief as I possibly can, so please bear with my attempt to communicate a little bit about myself, and what direction I am heading in.

First off, I am thirty one years old and I have a story all of us are far too familiar with. With a family member, or someone we know has a child or loved one with my story. I lead (as in the past-tense) a life of gangs, drugs, and violence... I found myself slammed down in complete isolation for a few years of my life... I had an epiphany within that time, and I began to truly search for my own identity... As I had taken on the roles I was cast in throughout my young life... never ever developing my own individuality ... Through my discoveries of myself my search for the "Truth" began.

I've researched and studied most religions, forms of philosophy, mythology, and new age spiritual cults that you can think of, and some most probably never even heard of. It was through my research on Catholicism that I began to learn some staggering facts about today's Christianity, and the so called "Traditions" of the church.

Allah blessed me, by guiding me to Islam by means of the Quran. I had a Yusuf Ali translation sent into me while still in what this state deems Administrative Segregation... The Quran consumed my days and Allah answered all my prayers... Most importantly my questions... I've always believed in the "Creator" but I grew up being confused by this "Trinity," and praying to some man hanging on a cross.

Due to my isolation... my idea of Islam was what the Quran spoke of... what was revealed within those sacred pages. Then I was released back to general population where I was bombarded with questions like, "Are you Sunni or Shi'a?" I was given Hadith books, and was essentially beginning to be indoctrinated into all these traditions... I found myself reaching a point where Islam wasn't as beautiful as I had remembered, when I was consumed with the Quran.

So I stepped away from the majority, and I got back into that pure book which is perfect and complete. Then I began to notice and understand why the Quran spoke of those who had gone astray, e.g., Jews and Christians... Allah knew that the Muslims would follow the same path... As history seems to repeat itself, "The majority of Muslims." I must say! So these things were being made clear to me amongst many other things, and Islam began to blossom in my heart... and resonate throughout my life. I began to discuss these things with others... for around 5 weeks now I have been teaching this small community after our Jum'u'ah prayers... I've been just bringing them back to the Quran, and asked them all to agree on letting everything else go... "Everything we've learned about Islam from a book other than the Quran... we must let it all go..."

Now last week I received my Quran the Final Testament by Rashad Khalifa, Ph.D., and it's been a real blessing to read... I came to the part on the covenant of the messenger, and I must admit... I stumbled momentarily, but I realize it stemmed from my past indoctrination. I can honestly say I do believe in my heart, and with my mind that Dr. Rashad Khalifa is the fulfillment of the covenant. To weigh the evidence and say otherwise would be nothing but ignorance.

Now this community here has listened to me communicate Islam, and Allah has begun to remove the veils from our vision... More Qurans are soon to be purchased, just as I have already ordered a few more publications through you.

Now here are the questions which are already on the minds of some ... are there Masjids here in Colorado who follow true Islam? I believe not... I know in my heart this is going to spread and the pure teachings of Islam are gonna start being taught... I'm looking into beginning a website to keep "submitters" in contact for support outside of incarceration... I long to bring more to the truth, and the success rate is already surprising. Now, I know most of your information is for on-line study... I ask what we can do ... to further provide our assistance in maybe beginning to form a "community" in Colorado... in organizing individuals and spreading the truth, through educating ourselves?

Sorry for the length of my writing, and I appreciate all your time

Respectfully,

Kelly

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Comments from a Sister Weekly Reminders by Email

Peace be upon you,

I have just recently discovered Submission a few months back after growing up as a Shia Muslim my whole life and thinking I was on the right path. I became very intrigued by the knowledge I found on your site and from submission.org. Many things that aroused questions in my mind have been answered in the articles I have read, and I still learn something new every time!

The transition away from the Islam I grew up with has proven to be a struggle bringing about other questions, but I hope that you will remember me in your supplications so that God will grant me the strength and ease in choosing the right path, and then help me to steadfastly preserve on it, In-shAllah.

I have been asked to speak in front of a religious studies class at a local college about my decision of not wearing the 'hijab'. What better source to use for my speech than the Holy Quran?! Also, I must say that I agree that Dr. Rashad Khalifa's translation is the best English translation of the Holy Quran that I have read.

I am aware that you can send translations of the Quran translated by Dr. Rashad Khalifa. However, I noticed this was English text only. I was wondering if you can tell me if there is a translation available that also has the Arabic text included, as well as the English translation, and how much it would cost? I would really appreciate this.

Thanks and may Allah bless us all and keep up on the right path,

N.H.

Praise God, we have started sending weekly reminders to submitters who are in our email list. The weekly reminder email is not very long. It usually consists of the topic of the week, and the corresponding link or links to get the information from. The reminder is sent every Thursday, God willing.

[51:55] And remind, for the reminder benefits the believers.

We would like every submitter, whether receiving our newsletters or not, to be included in the list. God willing you can join the list by sending an email to info@masjiduntucson.org and saying that you want to be in the weekly reminder list. If you want to make it a really short email, just write "weekly reminder" in the subject line and send it.

If you also include in the email the city and state that you live in, God willing we can compile this information and use it for the submitters without a community who are asking to communicate with other submitters in their area.

Please help us to help you and other submitters by joining the list and by being proactive, God willing.

[3:200] O you who believe, you shall be steadfast, you shall persevere, you shall be united, you shall observe GOD, that you may succeed.

[87:9] Therefore, you shall remind; perhaps the reminder will benefit.

God Willing

26th

Annual Conference United Submitters

July 15-17, 2011

Herndon, Virginia



God willing start making plans for attending the Annual Conference of the Submitters. The hotel is near Washington Dulles Airport.

The web page on the internet to circulate the conference information is

www.masjiduntucson.org/conference

God willing, the registration forms and hotel information are posted there with password access.

The password can be obtained by emailing us at info@masjiduntucson.org

Act now and register early so that we can organize it better, God willing.