



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International
Community of Submitters

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WHAT ARE WE THANKFUL FOR

Thanksgiving in the US is right around the corner. It's a wonderful day, set aside as a day to be thankful to God for His many blessings upon this nation. It has become a day to eat turkey and watch football, but even with that, most people acknowledge that Thanksgiving means a day to give thanks.

So what are we thankful for? Some people might answer their health; some would say family. We might be thankful to have a job, a house, a car. When we sit down and count our blessings, as God says, we can never encompass them (14:34, 16:18). But we know it's important to try.

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

[31:20] Do you not see that GOD has committed in your service everything in the heavens and the earth, and has showered you with His blessings—obvious and hidden? Yet, some peo-

ple argue about GOD without knowledge, without guidance, and without the enlightening scripture

This verse tells us that God's blessings are both evident and less easy to see. Some of the obvious ones are mentioned above, but it also includes a beautiful sunset (39:5), fruits in their colorful wrappings (36:35), our vision and our hearing (32:9), water when we turn on the tap (56:68-70), a good night's sleep (40:61), food on the table (2:172).

What about some of the less obvious or at least less tangible blessings? I think it's important to reflect often on the gift of guidance. Without God's incredible mercy of guiding me to His path, I wouldn't be writing this article today, and you wouldn't be reading it. We'd be like the majority of people in the world, going about this worldly life with no thought of God and His creations. We ask God many times each day in the Contact Prayer to "guide us in the right path." We need to be thankful for the fact

that God gave us the prayers, the means to contact our Creator. It's a tremendous blessing.

[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?

Tied closely to that is awareness of the Hereafter, the great gift of knowing that we will all come before God on the Day of Resurrection and be held accountable for our actions here on earth. God tells us in 38:46 that this is a blessing from Him: *We bestowed upon them a great blessing: awareness of the Hereafter.* If we had no idea of what to expect, we wouldn't be concerned about being righteous. We wouldn't care to do the things that please God. We would be confused and ignorant. Having the awareness makes us want to lead a righteous life, to strive in God's cause, and to seek the ways and means to Him.

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And then there's the great blessing of the messengers. God didn't have to send messengers to help us stay on His path, but He did. [2:151] *(Blessings) such as the sending of a messenger from among you to recite our revelations to you, purify you, teach you the scripture and wisdom, and to teach you what you never knew.* This includes Dr. Khalifa and the wonderful translation of the Quran that makes it easier for us to understand and follow God's guidance. And of course, it includes the Quran itself, which is a guide and a healing and a mercy.

Another seldom seen blessing is God's protection. [5:11] *O you who believe, remember GOD's blessings upon you; when some people extended their hands to aggress against you, He protected you and withheld their hands. You shall observe GOD; in GOD the believers shall trust.*

Praise God, we don't have to physically fight or face physical aggression, but I think we want to be thankful for His protection every day. Most often we aren't even aware that we've been protected. But sometimes we see the car accident happen and realize that if we'd left five minutes earlier, that might have been us. God is in full control of everything on earth; only with His protection can we survive. We need to appreciate this blessing.

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

Remembering God should be an everyday occurrence. Throughout each and every day, appreciating His blessings and commemorating His name should be a priority. Thanksgiving Day is just another excuse to be thankful

and reflect on all of God's great gifts to each one of us. We will be questioned on the Day of Resurrection about all our blessings (102:8). If we take them for granted here, we won't be eligible to enjoy the true blessings of the Hereafter with God.

[27:19] ... "My Lord, direct me to be appreciative of the blessings You have bestowed upon me and my parents, and to do the righteous works that please You. Admit me by Your mercy into the company of Your righteous servants."

[16:114] *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.*

[31:12] ... "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.*

[39:66] *Therefore, you shall worship GOD alone, and be appreciative.*

Lydia

More verses on thankfulness and being appreciative

[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.*

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

[4:147] *What will GOD gain from punishing you, if you became appreciative and believed? GOD is Appreciative, Omniscient.*

[7:10] *We have established you on earth, and we have provided for you the means of support therein. Rarely are you apprecia-*

tive.

[16:78] *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.*

[23:78] *He is the One who granted you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains. Rarely are you appreciative.*

[25:62] *He is the One who designed the night and the day to alternate: a sufficient proof for those who wish to take heed, or to be appreciative.*

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

[30:46] *Among His proofs is that He sends the winds with good omen, to shower you with His mercy, and to allow the ships to run in the sea in accordance with His rules, and for you to seek His bounties (through commerce), that you may be appreciative.*

[31:14] *We enjoined the human being to honor his parents. His mother bore him, and the load got heavier and heavier. It takes two years (of intensive care) until weaning. You shall be appreciative of Me, and of your parents. To Me is the ultimate destiny.*

[39:7] *If you disbelieve, GOD does not need anyone. But He dislikes to see His servants make the wrong decision. If you decide to be appreciative, He is pleased for you. No soul bears the sins of any other soul. Ultimately, to your Lord is your return, then He will inform you of everything you had done. He is fully aware of the innermost thoughts.*

[67:23] *Say, He is the One who initiated you, and granted you the hearing, the eyes, and the brains. Rarely are you appreciative."*

[76:3] *We showed him the two paths, then he is either appreciative, or unappreciative.*

[80:17] *Woe to the human being; he is so unappreciative!*

[100:6] *The human being is unappreciative of his Lord.*

To read or not to read, That is the question... or is it?

Often new submitters ask if they should read the subtitles, footnotes and appendices in Dr. Rashad Khalifa's translation of the Quran. Depending on whom they ask they will get different answers.

In some Quran study groups this has become quite an issue, with different Submitters taking different stances. Some say that they must not be read because they are not in the original Arabic Quran, while others say they must be read because they are the teaching of the Messenger of the Covenant. In a few situations perhaps even rules have been made.

But I would like to suggest that to read or not to read is not really the question. Rather it is: Why we are trying to tell how others they should be following Submission? (May God forgive me, I have done it too, so I am speaking to myself as well.)

In my personal understanding true Islam, Submission, is not an organized religion. To me there is no religious hierarchy but rather each of us is individually responsible to God alone. We stand before Him absolutely on our own. So to me each of us must make our own decisions; it is our neck. Of course we are encouraged to consult with one another:

[42:38] They respond to their Lord by observing the Contact Prayers (Salat). Their affairs are decided after due consultation among themselves, and from our provisions to them they give (to charity).

However, this is different from our trying to make rules that others must follow. When we are consulted we should of course give our understanding while recognizing that indeed others have an equal right to their understanding.

[2:256] There shall be no compulsion in religion: the right way is now distinct from the wrong way. Anyone who denounces the devil and believes in GOD has grasped the

strongest bond; one that never breaks. GOD is Hearer, Omniscient.

I personally find wonderful information, knowledge and wisdom in Dr. Khalifa's words, both written and spoken and captured on tape. But they are not a source of religious law. God tells us clearly that the scripture is the only such source:

*Quran: Fully Detailed**

[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.

**6:113-115 Upholding any source beside the Quran reflects disbelief in the Quran (Appendix 18).*

Nor are they a source of guidance:

Quran, the Whole Quran, and Nothing But the Quran

[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 whom-ever 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."

**6:19 This verse proclaims the Quran as the only source of religious guidance. Those who uphold additional sources, such as Hadith & Sunna (lies attributed to the Prophet), are defined as idolators.*

These are my thoughts, but I must respect those who have a different opinion. After all, God is guiding each of us individually.

[64:11] Nothing happens to you except in accordance with GOD's will. Anyone who believes in GOD, He will guide his heart. GOD is fully aware of all things.

One of the great joys of Submission is the diversity we are blessed with in our community. We come from different nationalities and different religious, cultural, educational and family

backgrounds. And yet we form the bricks in one wall. And the fact that each brick is a slightly different shape makes us stronger, like walls of mortar-less natural stones whose shapes are so perfectly fitted together that they are still standing thousands of years later.

What a gift. Praise God. May He continue to make our wall a strong and resilient one!

Lisa

Submission: Universal Religion

Submission is not just a name of a religion; rather it describes one's devotion to God alone. Submission is a religion whereby one recognizes God's absolute authority, and reaches a conviction that God alone possesses all power; no other entity possesses any power that is independent of Him. The natural result of such a realization is to devote one's life and one's worship absolutely to God alone. This is the First Commandment in all the scriptures, including the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Final Testament (The Quran).

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, Mark 12:29-30, Quran 3:18)

Who is a Submitter?

A Submitter can be defined as a person who submits to the will of God. The state of Submission, which can only take place between the person and God Almighty, is considered to

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be the only acceptable form of worship by God (Quran 3:19). The minimum criteria to be a Submitter are given in the following verses the Quran:

Surely, those who believe, those who are Jewish, the Christians, and the converts; anyone who (1) believes in GOD, and (2) believes in the Last Day, and (3) leads a righteous life, will receive their recompense from their Lord. They have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve. (2:62, 5:69)

The Submitters follow the religion of Abraham, monotheism (2:135). It was the religion of all prophets, including Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (4:125). Even though God gave these prophets and their followers different rites (22:34), they were all Submitters to God, and God alone. However, after each prophet, the people gradually distorted their religion and corrupted them by man-made innovations and doctrines that have nothing to do with the original teachings of the prophet.

We believe that the Submission today is like a precious jewel that is buried under piles upon piles of customs, hearsay and man-made innovations. Our aim is to purge these innovations by upholding the Quran alone, and pre-

sent the jewel of true Submission to the world. If you want to be part of the history in the making, you can join us in our cause. There is no membership fee. All you need is to drop us a note. God bless you.

*ICS/Masjid Tucson
(A nonprofit organization)*

Submission: The Only Religion

[3:19] The only religion approved by GOD is Submission. Ironically, those who have received the scripture are the ones who dispute this fact, despite the knowledge they have received, due to jealousy. For such rejectors of GOD's revelations, GOD is most strict in reckoning.

Righteous Jews & Christians

[3:113] They are not all the same; among the followers of the scripture, there are those who are righteous. They recite GOD's revelations through the night, and they fall prostrate.

One God/One Religion

[29:46] Do not argue with the people of the scripture (Jews, Christians, and Muslims) except in the nicest possible manner - unless they transgress—and say, We believe in what was revealed to us and in what was revealed to you, and our god and your god is one and the same; to Him we are submitters."

Weekly reminders by email

We have been sending weekly reminders to submitters in our email list and it is a great success, praise God. 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.

Note: Your comments are also welcome and appreciated.