



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

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Community of Submitters

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## Gambling

### You can't lose if you don't play!

**"There is a very easy way to return from a casino with a small fortune: go there with a large one."**

This quote from author Jack Yelton is a reminder how gambling is illusionary, and losing is almost guaranteed.

The common definition of gambling is two-fold:

- a. To bet on an uncertain outcome, as of a contest.
- b. To play a game of chance for stakes

#### Bad Habit

Gambling is a bad habit that has serious consequences with regard to family and personal life. The National Gambling Impact Study Commission reported that more than 15 million Americans have a serious gambling problem.

Studies show that most people do not realize the devastating impact that the gambling habit can have on them. Gambling may start as just something that people do when they have some spare time and extra change but often it quickly worms its way into their routine and becomes an all encompassing and hard to break addiction that rules their life.

Therefore, when gambling becomes compulsive, it takes over people's entire life, wrecks their marriage, alienates their family, leaves them in financial ruin and de-

stroys their life. Like alcohol abuse, gambling is often a root cause for domestic violence and child abuse.

Furthermore, gambling is bad for people's health and the truly addicted can suffer depression, insomnia, intestinal disorders, migraine and other stress related problems, according to a new study.

God knows us better than we know ourselves. Therefore He prohibited intoxicants and gambling for the good of the believers.

*[5:90] O you who believe, intoxicants, and gambling, and the altars of idols, and the games of chance are abominations of the devil; you shall avoid them, that you may succeed.*

The winnings from gambling are illusionary. The devil wants us to follow this illusion and become losers.

*[4:120] He promises them and entices them; what the devil promises is no more than an illusion.*

*[17:64] "You may entice them with your voice, and mobilize all your forces and all your men against them, and share in their money and children, and promise them. Anything the devil promises is no more than an illusion.*

However, if we follow God's law and avoid gambling and other vices, He promises us much better returns in this life. His recom-

pense in the Hereafter is even better, beyond our imagination.

*[2:268] The devil promises you poverty and commands you to commit evil, while GOD promises you forgiveness from Him and grace. GOD is Bounteous, Omniscient.*

*[5:9] GOD promises those who believe and lead a righteous life forgiveness and a great recompense.*

*[9:72] GOD promises the believing men and the believing women gardens with flowing streams, wherein they abide forever, and magnificent mansions in the gardens of Eden. And GOD's blessings and approval are even greater. This is the greatest triumph.*

*[24:55] GOD promises those among you who believe and lead a 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; they never set up any idols beside Me. Those who disbelieve after this are the truly wicked.*

#### State Sponsored Gambling

Many States now allow gambling in the form of lottery, claiming that it brings quick money to state coffers. However, they overlook the long term effects of gambling over

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the state budgets because it is not as tangible. According to University of Illinois Professor John Kindt's testimony (April 27, 2005) before a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Small Business "for every \$1 the state receives in gambling revenues, it costs the state at least \$3 in increased criminal-justice, social-welfare and other expenses."

The Quran covers this issue that there are some benefits of intoxicants and gambling. However, their possible harm and sinfulness are not worth trying it.

[2:219] *They ask you about intoxicants and gambling: say, "In them there is a gross sin, and some benefits for the people. But their sinfulness far outweighs their benefit..."*

The lottery commercial's common catchy phrase to lure people to spend their hard-earned money on gambling is "You can't win if you don't play." Yes, there are some rare winners for every million or so losers. However, studies show that the windfall from gambling or lottery does not provide long lasting happiness, as the majority of the winners squander their winnings on their bad habits. Some even end up broke, homeless or in jail.

### Gambling and Marriage Problems

According to Terry Ross, the author on articles on marriage, there is a correlation between gambling and marriage problems.

Gambling is one of those increasingly common marriage problems that are often overlooked despite over 50% of compulsive gamblers having been divorced. As with many bad habits, gambling has a real negative impact on family life with the habit often leading to serious financial problems as well as neglect of partners and children and sometimes proving to be a catalyst for abuse.

The escalating habit has been made worse with gambling becoming even more common as a result of the onset of internet gambling. There are now thousands of gambling websites all vying for business and just waiting to encourage more and more people into the regular gambling routine. Online gambling is a really bad habit to get into with the 24/7 access from the comfort of your own home, the loss of the sense of reality when gambling away money and the ease at which the gamblers can add more funds.

Research has shown that online gamblers are more likely to have the most serious gambling

habits/ addictions and the families of those addicted suffering a greater intrusion into their everyday lives.

### What is good for us?

God is the One who created us and knows what is good and bad for us. He prohibited gambling along with intoxicants because they are bad for us. It distracts us from remembering God.

[5:91] *The devil wants to provoke animosity and hatred among you through intoxicants and gambling, and to distract you from remembering GOD, and from observing the Contact Prayers (Salat). Will you then refrain?*

God is the one who provides and controls our provisions. To get something without working for it through gambling is against God's law. Whatever God provides, however small, is better than a fortune that is not blessed.

[10:31] *Say, "Who provides for you from the heaven and the earth? Who controls all the hearing and the eyesight? Who produces the living from the dead, and the dead from the living? Who is in control of all things?" They would say, "GOD." Say, "Why then do you not observe the commandments?"*

[11:86] *"Whatever GOD provides for you, no matter how small, is far better for you, if you are really believers. I am not a guardian over you."*

If we want to get a big return for the money we spend, we should try spending in the cause of God in righteousness. God promises that this is the best investment we can do and there is no such thing as losing.

[2:261] *The example of those who spend their monies in the cause of GOD is that of a grain that produces seven spikes, with a hundred grains in each spike. GOD multiplies this manifold for whomever He wills. GOD is Bounteous, Knower.*

Furthermore, if we are thankful and appreciative of God's blessings, He gives us even more.

[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.*

So, the real winners actually are those who spend their money in the cause of God, obey His laws, appreciate His blessings and refrain from gambling!

Abdullah

## Intelligence

Intelligence is formally defined as "the ability to learn, to understand, and to cope." Each creature is endowed with a kind of intelligence befitting its nature. God endowed us with minds so that we can use common sense, reason, and logic to adequately adapt to our world and ultimately realize that God exists, that He is the one Lord and Master of creation (20:54).

*"He gave you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains, that you may be appreciative." (16:78)*

In themselves, memory and sensory perception do not constitute intelligence. Animals can surpass man in every category of sense experience and memorizing species-specific information.

Human intelligence serves a purpose that extends beyond survival and coping. Human intelligence is inextricably linked to the worship of God alone.

*"You shall observe Me, O you who possess intelligence." (2:197)*

*"He bestows wisdom upon whomever he chooses, and whoever attains wisdom, has attained a great bounty. Only those who possess intelligence will take heed." (2:269)*

### Misuse of Intelligence

The greatest misuse of intelligence is not heeding God's guidance and commands. Intentional rejection of God's guidance reduces the individual to the lowest of creatures.

*"We have committed to Hell multitudes of jinns and humans. They have minds with which they do not understand, eyes with which they do not see, ears with which they do not hear. They are like animals; in fact,*

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*they are far worse—they are totally unaware.” (7:179)*

*“The worst creatures in the sight of God are the deaf and dumb, who do not understand.” (8:22)*

Most people have a narrow view of what intelligence is. They think it is reflected in performance on achievement and aptitude tests, popularity, career choice, and material success.

For some, another sign of intelligence is “not depending on religion or God.” The majority follow whatever is deemed as reasonable by their parents, leaders, scholars, celebrities, and traditional beliefs. So-called “smart successful” individuals who discard God’s guidance are irrational and foolish.

*“What is wrong with your logic? Why do you not take heed? Do you have solid proof?” (37:154-6).*

*“The soul and Him who created it. Then showed it what is evil and what is good. Successful is one who redeems it. Failing is one who neglects it.” (91:7-10)*

### **Only the Intelligent Worship God Alone**

In the Quran, repeated phrases that are written after advice, examples, and warnings are: “for people who think, for people who hear, for people who understand, for people who reflect, for people who know, for people who take heed, and for people who believe.” The intelligent are also described as believing in the whole scripture (3:7), able to distinguish between good and bad (5:100), aware that Satan misleads (36:62), open-minded and accepting of best opinions (39:18), and able to learn from previous generations (12:111).

Verses 13:19-24 describe the intelligent as: knowing that God’s revelations are true, fulfilling their pledge to God, not violating the covenant, join-

ing what God commands to be joined, reverencing their Lord, observing the Contact (Salat) prayers, steadfast, seeking their Lord, paying their Zakat and giving to charity secretly and openly, and countering evil with good.

The miraculous mathematical code in the Quran—built-in proof of divine authorship—is simple to understand but impossible to imitate. Along with the Quran, the code is the ultimate ‘intelligence test.’ Only the intelligent pass this test, and only the intelligent realize that God is the One and only Lord, and He alone is to be worshiped.

*Douglass B. Ph.D.*

*[Reprinted from October 1990 S.P.]*

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## **Who Are We?**

During the past fourteen centuries, traditions, customs, and myths have crept into the religion of Islam (Submission). Gradually, they have become dogma or ritual, to such an extent that anyone who questions them in the light of the Quran finds himself or herself regarded as a dangerous innovator and heretic.

True Islam (Submission) today is like a precious jewel that is buried under piles upon piles of man-made innovations, and traditions that have nothing to do with the religion.

Our aim is to purge these innovations by upholding the Quran and nothing but the Quran alone, and present the jewel of true Submission to the world.

### **What is Submitter and Submission?**

Although the word “Submitter” is the English equivalent of the Arabic word “Muslim,” and the word “Submission” is the English equivalent of the Arabic word

“Islam,” the underlying implication of these words is very profound, and far from the superficial meanings that are traditionally understood or used.

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 be the only acceptable form of worship by God. (3:19, 85). Therefore, 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 only God 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).

### **Unity of All Submitters - Righteous Jews, Christians etc.**

Abraham was a submitter to God alone. So were Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. All God’s prophets and messengers were Submitters. They all preached the same basic message of worshiping only God without idolizing anything or anyone beside Him.

*Abraham was neither Jewish, nor Christian; he was a monotheist submitter. He never was an idol worshiper. (3:67)*

We learn from the Quran that while every religion has been corrupted by innovations, traditions, and false, idolatrous doctrines, there may be “Submitters” within every religion. There may be Submitters who are Christian by association, or Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or anything else. These Submitters, collectively, constitute the only religion acceptable to God. All Submitters who are devoted to God alone, and do not set up any idols beside God, are redeemed into God’s eternal kingdom. Therefore, Submission is a universal faith.

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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)

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### You may already be a "Submitter"

How can we know if a person qualifies to be called a Submitter? The minimum criteria to be a Submitter in the sight of God are given in the following verses.

*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. (Quran 2:62, 5:69)*

God tells us that Submitters are exceptional. They do not follow the crowd that is following conjecture instead of the truth.

*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. (3:113)*

*If you obey the majority of people on earth, they will divert you from the path of GOD. They follow only conjecture; they only guess. (6:116)*

*Most of them follow nothing but conjecture, and conjecture is no substitute for the truth. GOD is fully aware of everything they do. (10:36)*

God knows who is a Submitter in heart, and guides the individual accordingly to His path. He is the only one who guides.

*Say, "We believe in GOD, and in what was sent down to us, and in what was sent down to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Patriarchs, and in what was given to Moses, Jesus, and the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among any of them. To Him alone we are submitters." (3:84)*

*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)*

### Submitters – Join the email list

Let us hear from you to join us for networking of submitters by email with weekly reminders from the Quran.

We would like every submitter, whether receiving our newsletters or not, to be included in the email list. God willing you can join the list by sending an email to [info@masjiduntucson.org](mailto:info@masjiduntucson.org) and indicating 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.

Be proactive. Make it happen, God willing.

*...GOD does not change the condition of any people unless they themselves make the decision to change.... (13:11)*

## God ALONE Worthy of Worship

*[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.*

*[27:61] Who is the One who made the earth habitable, caused rivers to run through it, placed on it mountains, and created a barrier between the two waters? Is it another god with GOD? Indeed, most of them do not know.*

*[27:62] Who is the One who rescues those who become desperate and call upon Him, relieves adversity, and makes you inheritors of the earth? Is it another god with GOD? Rarely do you take heed.*

*[27:63] Who is the One who guides you in the darkness of land and sea? Who is the One who sends the winds with good news, signaling His mercy? Is it another god with GOD? Most exalted is GOD, above having any partner.*

*[27:64] Who is the One who initiates the creation, then repeats it? Who is the One who provides for you from the heaven and the earth? Is it another god with GOD? Say, "Show me your proof, if you are truthful."*