



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Basic human rights and justice

A colossal dilemma we face today is the rejection of basic human rights and the abandonment for unprejudiced justice. Islam (Submission) is the outstanding religion which renders the most suitable and efficient guidance for suppressing these predicaments. It exhibits an appealing way of life which meets the demands of any intellectual and political background of the world.

From time to time, God sent Scriptures, Prophets, Messengers and Saints to guide humanity and to establish justice. The individual who does good should be rewarded and who does evil must be punished. If there was no justice at all in the world, there would be even more anarchy, brutality and oppression than we already witness today.

One of the most important things we learn from the Quran is being just. It is related to devotion. [5:8] *O you who believe, you shall be absolutely equitable, and observe GOD, when you serve as witnesses. Do not be provoked by your conflicts with some people into committing injustice. You shall be absolutely equitable, for it is*

more righteous. You shall observe GOD. GOD is fully Cognizant of everything you do. [5:2] ... Do not be provoked into aggression by your hatred of people who once prevented you from going to the Sacred Masjid. You shall cooperate in matters of righteousness and piety; do not cooperate in matters that are sinful and evil. You shall observe GOD. GOD is strict in enforcing retribution.

We have to be so dedicated in advocating justice that our enmity with some does not even turn them away from the path of justice. We are told to be just and refrain from doing injustice [16:90] *GOD advocates justice, charity, and regarding the relatives. And He forbids evil, vice, and transgression. He enlightens you, that you may take heed.*

[57:25] *We sent our messengers supported by clear proofs, and we sent down to them the scripture and the law, that the people may uphold justice. And we sent down the iron, wherein there is strength, and many benefits for the people. All this in order for GOD to distinguish those who*

would support Him and His messengers, on faith. GOD is Powerful, Almighty. This verse tells us that God sent His messengers and Scriptures to enlighten the people so they know the law and learn how to do justice.

The Quran says that God loves those who do justice. [49:9] *If two groups of believers fought with each other, you shall reconcile them. If one group aggresses against the other, you shall fight the aggressing group until they submit to GOD's command. Once they submit, you shall reconcile the two groups equitably. You shall maintain justice; GOD loves those who are just.*

[4:135] *O you who believe, you shall be absolutely equitable, and observe GOD, when you serve as witnesses, even against yourselves, or your parents, or your relatives. Whether the accused is rich or poor, GOD takes care of both. Therefore, do not be biased by your personal wishes. If you deviate or disregard (this commandment), then GOD is fully Cognizant of everything you do.*

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This makes it evident that we have to be just not only with regular people but also our enemies. The bottom line is that we have to be just even with our adversaries.

[5:42] They are upholders of lies, and eaters of illicit earnings. If they come to you to judge among them, you may judge among them, or you may disregard them. If you choose to disregard them, they cannot harm you in the least. But if you judge among them, you shall judge equitably. GOD loves those who are equitable.

There are three reasons which usually take people away from the path of justice: one is envy, one is hostility and the third is association. We are expressly exhorted by the Quran not to be influenced by these factors. *[38:26] O David, we have made you a ruler on earth. Therefore, you shall judge among the people equitably, and do not follow your personal opinion, lest it diverts you from the way of GOD. Surely, those who stray off the way of GOD incur severe retribution for forgetting the Day of Reckoning.* Usually whatever we do, we do for the sake of ourselves or our families but via this verse we are ordered that as believers we have to do justice for the sake of God who highlights its significance. Justice is to be uninfluenced by self interest.

Equality does not mean that each and every individual is equal in all respects. The sole criterion for giving preference is piety. *[49:13] O people, we created you from the same male and female, and rendered you distinct peoples and tribes, that you may recognize one another. The best among you in the sight of GOD is the most righteous. GOD is Omniscient, Cognizant.* We have to determine an issue on the basis of equity, impartiality, justice and honest evidence. We have to stand unyielding for justice even

though it may be disadvantageous to our own welfare. *[16:90] GOD advocates justice, charity, and regarding the relatives. And He forbids evil, vice, and transgression. He enlightens you, that you may take heed.*

[4:105] We have sent down to you the scripture, truthfully, in order to judge among the people in accordance with what GOD has shown you. You shall not side with the betrayers. Justice is the core, justice is the foundation. We have to be fair with all, Muslims, non Muslims, relatives, orphans, the poor and the needy.

Justice and equitable conduct is prescribed for all believers particularly on those who are in authority, who should advance and enhance the cause of justice in their particular scopes. *[22:41] They are those who, if we appointed them as rulers on earth, they would establish the Contact Prayers (Salat) and the obligatory charity (Zakat), and would advocate righteousness and forbid evil. GOD is the ultimate ruler.*

In general matters, the Quran imparts precise doctrines of primary significance as to the manner of providing justice. We have:

[4:32] You shall not covet the qualities bestowed upon each other by GOD; the men enjoy certain qualities, and the women enjoy certain qualities. You may implore GOD to shower you with His grace. GOD is fully aware of all things. [2:188] You shall not take each others' money illicitly, nor shall you bribe the officials to deprive others of some of their rights illicitly, while you know. [11:85] "O my people, you shall give full measure and full weight, equitably. Do not cheat the people out of their rights, and do not roam the earth corruptingly.

[17:35] You shall give full measure when you trade, and weigh equitably. This is better and more righteous. [8:27] O you who believe, do not betray GOD and the messenger, and do not betray those who trust you, now that you know. [2:283] If you are traveling,

and no scribe is available, a bond shall be posted to guarantee repayment. If one is trusted in this manner, he shall return the bond when due, and he shall observe GOD his Lord. Do not withhold any testimony by concealing what you had witnessed. Anyone who withholds a testimony is sinful at heart. GOD is fully aware of everything you do. [17:34] You shall not touch the orphans' money except for their own good, until they reach maturity. You shall fulfill your covenants, for a covenant is a great responsibility. [83:1] Woe to the cheaters. [5:87] O you who believe, do not prohibit good things that are made lawful by GOD, and do not aggress; GOD dislikes the aggressors.

Also, in respect to punishment the Quran says *[42:40] Although the just requital for an injustice is an equivalent retribution, those who pardon and maintain righteousness are rewarded by GOD. He does not love the unjust.* This means that the penalty should be proportionate to the violation perpetrated. However, the act of pardoning and making a settlement is ideal if the wronged or offended person so desires.

[42:42-43] The wrong ones are those who treat the people unjustly, and resort to aggression without provocation. These have incurred a painful retribution. Resorting to patience and forgiveness reflects a true strength of character.

At the same time, the Quran acknowledges the merit of self defense. *[26:227] Exempted are those who believe, lead a righteous life, commemorate GOD frequently, and stand up for their rights. Surely, the transgressors will find out what their ultimate destiny is.*

In conclusion, justice in Islam (Submission) is more all-inclusive and essential than in any other way

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of life. A genuine State of Submission should have its primary purpose as the dispensation of justice. Justice is not only understood to be a belief but it is a sacred conscientiousness which is to be carried out within the limits of the Quran. The allocation too would symbolise an honest act of dedication to God alone.

Thus, all citizens have the right of justice and total equality in the view of the law. Their responsibilities are equal. [49:10] *The believers are members of one family; you shall keep the peace within your family and reverence GOD, that you may attain mercy.*

Alim C. /India

[Ed.'s note: This article is based on the khutbah given by brother Alim in Mumbai. His entire khutbah can be accessed at <http://www.masjiducson.org/submission/practices/salat/friday/>

* * * * *

Why people use drugs

The use of drugs to alter consciousness is nothing new. It has been a feature of human life throughout history. Alcohol has always been the most commonly used drug because of the ease in producing it by fermentation. In many cultures, the consumption of drugs and alcohol has been associated with one's entrance into the adult social world.

The Arabic word "khamr" (intoxicant) is from the root word "kamara" which means "to cover or obscure." Contrary to what many people think, drugs cloud and cover the mind rather than open it up.

The so-called high that people think they experience when intoxicated is actually a state of disorientation and looseness portrayed as pleasure. The devil not only leads one to take intoxicants, but continues to entice the intoxicated person to do things that they would refrain from when sober or oriented.

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 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? (5:90-91).

In addition to the need to feel good and overcome anxieties, peer acceptance and approval are critical factors underlying drug consumption and addiction. Most people have been socialized to be overly-dependent on someone or something in the material world to make them happy. Many people also turn to intoxicants to make them happy. There is a myth that drugs allow an individual to imagine being what he or she wants to be free of inhibitions, worries, and tension. Drugs are also sought as a means toward inner-fulfillment; many people are lead to believe that chemical substances and drugs are a cure-all for their negative feelings.

Despite widespread use and acceptance of so-called legal drugs like alcohol, there can be no compromise regarding their prohibition by God. God knows us more than we know ourselves. God certainly knows what can make us really happy, and He knows what is dangerous to us.

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." ... (2:219)

Recent studies show that every year cigarette smoking causes 390,000 deaths, alcohol causes 90,000 deaths, cocaine causes 8,000 deaths, and heroin causes 6,000 deaths. Alcoholism accounts for about fifteen percent of all deaths annually in the United States and costs more than forty-eight billion dollars in health costs and lost productivity. That amount averages to two hundred dollars per year for every man, woman, and child in the United States.

Chronic drug addiction leads to a drug personality—the type of person whose action and thoughts are determined by his constant need to take drugs. Drug personalities may anger easily, can become violent, are frequently depressed, alienated from family members, have few friends except fellow addicts, are unable to maintain jobs, often feel persecuted, and may be unable to acknowledge their addiction; drugs become their idols.

"He idolizes what is more apt to harm him than benefit him. What a miserable lord; what a miserable companion." (22:13)

Worship God Alone To Overcome Drug Abuse

Because of their addictive quality, drugs and intoxicants stay with a person for a long time. In order to stop taking drugs, a person must have a better substitute in life—a belief, a bond, a greater motivation to seek happiness and balance in fulfilling ways. God is the source of all happiness. When a person begins to realize this, he or she can wean away from substance abuse. In the Quran, God enjoins worshipers not to pray when intoxicated.

O you who believe, do not observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) while intoxicated, so that you know what you are saying..." (4:43)

Evidently, during the time verse 4:43 was revealed, there were people who took intoxicants, probably alcohol. Yet, they were motivated to pray to God and seek His guidance. Being human, we are all susceptible to Satan's tricks to distract us from remembering God. The sincere believers who took intoxicants gradually overcome their alcoholism to please God. How could a sincere believer pray five times a day and continue to take intoxicants? Verse 4:43 also indicates that alcohol obscures the mind.

Happiness and peace of mind is only attainable by worshiping God alone, and God relieves one from confusion, fear, grief and a sense of hopelessness.

Anyone who works righteous, male or female, while believing, we will surely grant them a happy life in this world, and we will surely pay them their full recompense (on the Day of Judgment) for their righteous works. (16:97)

The more one depends on drugs, the more unhappy one becomes. The drug user must learn to trust God and stop taking intoxicants. This is the most effective substance or drug abuse program.

If anyone thinks that God cannot support him in this life and in the Hereafter, let him turn completely to (his creator in) heaven, and severe (his dependence on anyone else). He will see that this plan eliminates anything that bothers him.

We have thus revealed clear revelations herein, then God guides whomever He wills. (22:15-16).

Frank Y.

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Comments from a Russian Submitter

Peace be upon you,

I look forward to getting the published Quran. I copied the electronic copy of the Quran translated into English by Dr. Rashad Khalifa...

I was fortunate to accept Islam when God showed me His way years ago. However, hijab (head cover) always was my problem. I have a Russian version of the Quran that was translated in 19th century. And it says in it that "cover your bosom." Therefore, I didn't cover my head even though I was told that this is a must.

Finally, I asked God to tell me the truth: should I or should I not to wear a hijab. And in a couple of days I opened your website. And I know that God gave me the answer. Besides that, I was questioning many *[traditional]* Muslim practices because they were not in the Quran. I read the Quran in Russian for many times since I accepted Islam. Now I know that I am on a right path to God. Thank you so much for your service.

God Bless you,

Sincerely,

Mila

[Ed.'s note: God willing sister Mila is going to translate the Quran into Russian. May God bless her; give her time, energy and guidance to complete this noble project. Praise God, she agreed to provide us copies of her work to put on our web site as she makes progress.]

Weekly Reminders by Email

Praise God, the weekly email reminders have been popular and our list is growing. The weekly reminder email is short and usually consists of the topic of the week, some related verses from the Quran and the links to get the details. The reminder is sent every Thursday, God willing.

Please help us to help you and other submitters by joining the list and by being proactive, God willing. Email us with a short note at info@masjiduntucson.org

Comments from a Submitter re:Conference

Dear fellow submitters,

My partner and I would very much like to attend the 27th Annual Submitters Conference. We live in East Sussex in England and would very much like an opportunity to meet with other submitters who worship God alone.

I feel incredibly blessed to have become a submitter in May 2011 after reading Rashad Khalifa's translation of the Quran. He has been a submitter for approximately 10 years.

Please can you inform us of how we can apply to be part of this wonderful event.

Inshallah (God willing) we will hear from you soon.

C./England

God Willing

27th

Annual Conference United Submitters

July 13-15, 2012

Los Angeles, California



God willing start making plans for attending the Annual Conference of the Submitters.

The hotel is right next to Disneyland in Anaheim. God willing if you are planning to go to Disneyland, you can purchase discount tickets upon arrival at the hotel. But tickets and prices are subject to availability.

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 being 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.