

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International
Community of Submitters

www.masjiduntucson.org



Published by Masjid Tucson
Zul-Qi'dah 1434

All Rights Reserved

Men in Islam

Across the world the plight of women in Islam is looked upon with great concern as most people confuse cultural traditions with religion. Not many people are aware that Islam is the only religion that offers women perfect freedom. Unfortunately the fear and insecurity of men has led them to dominate and suppress women. As a result, the West predominantly looks at the religion as the promoter of suppression. While the focus is on women in Islam the role of the men goes unaccounted for.

While God has chosen men to lead families this should in no way be construed as a license for men to belittle women. Islam lays great emphasis on moral behavior, resting the foundation of a civil society on the shoulders of men.

[4:34] The men are made responsible for the women, and GOD has endowed them with certain qualities, and made them the bread earners. The righteous women will cheerfully accept this arrangement, since it is GOD's commandment, and honor their husbands during their absence...

God address all issues that allow for a perfect society. Perfect does not mean that there will be no problems (some will always break the law), but it means that society will be better equipped to

deal with issues in a more responsible and equitable manner.

A good example has been set in the behavior of prophets and messengers. They were men who not only possessed strength of character but also exhibited patience and courage in the face of adversity. The example of all God's prophets/messengers is exemplary as it serves to demonstrate extreme courage, understanding, knowledge and wisdom. Standing alone, in the presence of hundreds of people, preaching the worship of **God alone**, would not only take courage but also knowledge of the topic and wisdom to act appropriately. There were times when messengers were disappointed and lost the battle, but faith in God and patience would have taught them to wait and fight the winning war, exhibiting qualities of strategic thinking, planning and execution. Essential qualities required in a global society where most of the world is fighting Islam. It is necessary for Submitters to lead by example by displaying patience, understanding and tolerance not only amongst those who do not follow Submission but also amongst each other.

In today's world where typical actions are reactions to situations, God's system is distinct. He addresses the root of the problem.

[24:30] Tell the believing men that they shall subdue their eyes (and not stare at the women), and to maintain their chastity. This is purer for them. GOD is fully Cognizant of everything they do.

A simple commandment such as 'subdue your eyes' leads to modest behavior, that will in turn address concerns of sexual harassment. Even issues of homosexuality are firmly dealt with, where God tells us in no uncertain terms that homosexuality is an abomination

[Quran 7:80-81] Lot said to his people, "You commit such an abomination; no one in the world has done it before! You practice sex with the men, instead of the women. Indeed, you are a transgressing people".

[Bible Leviticus 18:22] You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

Society is afraid to take a stand on the issue but God does not shy from anything.

God's system provides for civil society, giving men no authorization to suppress or harass women. To the contrary God has provided women with answers to all matters in the Quran, thereby freeing them from the clutches of the tyranny imposed upon them by men. Some basic rules addressed by God are:

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Rules of communication: [41:34] *Not equal is the good response and the bad response. You shall resort to the nicest possible response. Thus, the one who used to be your enemy may become your best friend.*

While this commandment holds true for both men and women, it serves to pinpoint that we cannot force our views on anyone, religious or otherwise. This means that if you cannot even speak badly to each other, then you certainly cannot act badly; leaving no justification for violence at all—violence not only physical, but also verbal assaults. Moreover communication is key to getting God's message across, if we are not able speak nicely then how are we going to spread God's message.

Clothing: the commandment is very clear. [33:59] *O prophet, tell your wives, your daughters, and the wives of the believers that they shall lengthen their garments. Thus, they will be recognized (as righteous women) and avoid being insulted. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

[24:31] *And tell the believing women to subdue their eyes, and maintain their chastity. They shall not reveal any parts of their bodies, except that which is necessary. They shall cover their chests...*

[7:31] *O children of Adam, you shall be clean and dress nicely when you go to the masjid....*

This clarifies that covering women from head to toe has not been advocated by God. The 'Hijab' (veil that covers the head) and the long flowing garments that are adopted by traditional Muslim women are originally clothes worn by the women of Arabia, where they would serve as a cover from sand storms and the harsh sun. So what started out as a *regional requirement* now serves as a tool for men to control and silence women. Nowhere does God tell us to dress differently, as that would lead to alienation from mainstream society, leading to prejudice based on clothing. This would in turn encourage isolation that leads to further alienation.

Illegal prohibitions: [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. Salat constitutes a prime source of nourishment for the soul. Over the centuries men have added several illegal prohibitions that stop women from attaining that growth. Well-known prohibitions include not being allowed to pray or fast or attend the congregational prayer during menstruations.

[62:9] *O you who believe, when the Congregational Prayer (Salat Al-Jumu'ah) is announced on Friday, you shall hasten to the commemoration of GOD, and drop all business. This is better for you, if you only knew.*

Nowhere does God tell us that the Jumu'ah is only meant for men and not women.

Divorce: God's perfect system even accounts for divorce, which shows that God is aware that there will be divorcees. However He has made provision for the divorcees too.

[2:241] *The divorcees also shall be provided for, equitably. This is a duty upon the righteous.*

In God's system both the men and women are equal as far as religion is concerned: God does not make gender distinctions. [33:35] *The submitting men, the submitting women, the believing men, the believing women, the obedient men, the obedient women, the truthful men, the truthful women, the steadfast men, the steadfast women, the reverent men, the reverent women, the charitable men, the charitable women, the fasting men, the fasting women, the chaste men, the chaste women, and the men who commemorate GOD frequently, and the commemorating women; GOD has prepared for them forgiveness and a great recompense.*

Islam does not raise the status of men above that of women or vice versa in **matters of religion**. To the contrary, both are held equally responsible for their actions in this life and the hereafter. Following God's commandments will lead to contentment that is required for a healthy society—a society without prejudice and gender-based discrimination.

Conference 2013

[5:35] *O you who believe, you shall reverence GOD and seek the ways and means to Him, and strive in His cause, that you may succeed.*

The 28th annual conference of the United Submitters International was held in Tucson, Arizona on August 16-18, 2013. It was wonderful to gather together with fellow submitters from around the world, but the absence of Brother Abdullah was deeply felt. He has opened and closed these conferences for more than twenty years, and he was missed.

This year the Friday sermon was delivered by Brother Sam of Tucson. He spoke of striving in the cause of God and being steadfast in our striving. These are important reminders for us all. It was good to see many familiar faces, and it's always such a joy to meet the submitters attending the conference for the first time. Everyone has their own story on how they came to receive the message, and it's an inspiration for all of us to hear it from them.

The talks over the three days were, as always, inspiring, heartwarming and fun. It's a great blessing to have submitters sharing their experiences and outlooks. There is so much that we can learn from one another when we are willing to listen and grow. Topics ranged from the ego to iron to other planets in our solar system to a live demonstration from a trained dog, one of God's true submitting creatures. It was great variety, and the talks were delivered with enthusiasm and passion.

The zikr was led by many beautiful singers among us, and it was so enjoyable. It lifts your spirit to share with so many others your joy of worshiping God and striving in His cause. It is truly a unifying experience to sing the praises of our Lord. [15:98-9] *You shall sing the praises of your Lord, and be with the prostrators. And worship your Lord, in order to attain certainty.*

RD

(Continued on page 4)

CAUSE AND EFFECT

There are many who have a delusion that even if there were a real Creator, the universe continues to function in accordance with set and unalterable laws and that the Creator is not essentially in attendance or even necessary. They believe that God has done the groundwork of a preset and irreversible structure of nature and everything happens mechanically, liberated from God's continuous command, and overseeing is not necessary; that we do mold our own destinies. This is the theory of cause and effect—God is the cause and what we have around us is natural effect.

The Quran obviously will challenge this as God is involved all the time.

[6:59] *With Him are the keys to all secrets; none knows them except He. He knows everything on land and in the sea. Not a leaf falls without His knowledge. Nor is there a grain in the depths of the soil. Nor is there anything wet or dry, that is not recorded in a profound record.*

[55:29] *Imploring Him is everyone in the heavens and the earth. Every day He is in full control.*

We understand that there is no power independent of God.

It is not possible for us to comprehend the capability of God and His all-inclusive Dominance. God notifies us of His incomparability in:

[2:255] **GOD:** *there is no other god besides Him, the Living, the Eternal. Never a moment of unawareness or slumber overtakes Him. To Him belongs everything in the heavens and everything on earth. Who could intercede with Him, except in accordance with His will? He knows their past, and their future. No one attains any knowledge, except as He wills. His dominion encompasses the heavens and the earth, and ruling them never burdens Him. He is the Most High, the Great.*

The Arabic work "kursi" used in this verse is not necessarily a chair or even a throne. It's an Almighty

Guardianship which administrates and maintains the universe.

There are many unique events which are contrary to the belief that nature will work only according to expected laws. Fire will certainly burn us and we would drown underwater unless adequate precautions were taken.

[33:62] *This is GOD's eternal system, and you will find that GOD's system is unchangeable.*

But God Himself can send miracles or modify the natural laws. For example, Abraham was thrown in the fire by his father unprotected but he came out safe and sound.

Profound Miracle

[21:68-69] *They said, "Burn him and support your gods, if this is what you decide to do." We said, "O fire, be cool and safe for Abraham."*

Correspondingly, the giant waves of the sea did not drown Moses and the Children of Israel during their exodus from Egypt. Instead, the waves cleared a safe and dry path for them through the water.

[2:50] *Recall that we parted the sea for you; we saved you and drowned Pharaoh's people before your eyes.*

Thus God can instruct natural elements like fire and water to cease to perform in their customary order. God wanted to save Abraham from a painful death and Moses, Aaron and the Children of Israel from annihilation. He brought about a brief pause in a law of nature. God made Solomon able to communicate with the ants and the birds, which is in opposition to our perceived "natural" laws. But God can do whatever He desires.

During the time of Prophet Muhammad, God was the One who made the believers triumph in the many battles fought.

God Controls Everything and Plans for the Believers

[8:42-44] *Recall that you were on this side of the valley, while they were on the other side. Then their caravan had to move to lower ground. Had*

you planned it this way, you could not have done it. But GOD was to carry out a predetermined matter, whereby those destined to be annihilated were annihilated for an obvious reason, and those destined to be saved were saved for an obvious reason. GOD is Hearer, Omniscient. GOD made them appear in your dream (O Muhammad) fewer in number. Had He made them appear more numerous, you would have failed, and you would have disputed among yourselves. But GOD saved the situation. He is Knower of the innermost thoughts. And when the time came and you faced them, He made them appear fewer in your eyes, and made you appear fewer in their eyes as well. For GOD willed to carry out a certain plan. All decisions are made by GOD.

[8:17] *It was not you who killed them; GOD is the One who killed them. It was not you who threw when you threw; GOD is the One who threw. But He thus gives the believers a chance to earn a lot of credit. GOD is Hearer, Omniscient.*

The Quran proves very clearly the Might and Ability of an ever-watching and all-knowing God. All miracles come only from God and even the most diehard unbeliever who studies (with an unprejudiced mind) the greatest miracle of number 19 would realize that God is not a one-off Creator but *the Initiator* and *the Designer* of all that exists in the universes.

[59:22] *He is the One GOD; there is no other god besides Him. Knower of all secrets and declarations. He is the Most Gracious, Most Merciful.*

[59:23] *He is the One GOD; there is no other god besides Him. The King, the Most Sacred, the Peace, the Most Faithful, the Supreme, the Almighty, the Most Powerful, the Most Dignified. GOD be glorified; far above having partners.*

[59:24] *He is the One GOD; the Creator, the Initiator, the Designer. To Him belong the most beautiful names. Glorifying Him is everything in the heavens and the earth. He is the Almighty, Most Wise.*

Alim

MASJID TUCSON United Submitters International

PO Box 43476 Tucson AZ 85733-3476 USA

Tel/Fax: (520) 323 7636

internet web site www.masjiduntucson.org

e-mail: info@masjiduntucson.org masjiduntucson@gmail.com

Non-profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson AZ

ISSN 1089-053X

Happiness is Submission to God Alone

Keep up with history in the making. Subscribe now.

\$12/yr. U.S., Canada and Mexico, \$19/yr. overseas.

(Continued from page 2)

When Sunday noon came around, we enjoyed our last prayer together and then took the time for many photos so we can hold onto the memories throughout the year. Then, more than 100 people went to Masjid Tucson for a pizza/Begee's party. It was fun to have everyone gather together and enjoy God's bounties.

Many people had to leave then, but for those who remained in Tucson, on Monday, we took a trip to the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, a world-renowned zoo and botanical sanctuary. In spite of the heat, everyone seemed to really enjoy seeing the variety of desert plants and animals. It's wonderful to have the opportunity to appreciate the diversity of God's creations.

By God's Grace, the conference was a great success. Thanks to Him, and to the local community for putting it all together. And thanks to everyone who traveled from great distances to come together with their fellow submitters in the worship of God. May God bless us all and give us a wonderful year of growth in submission. And may He allow us all to unite again in 2014.

Nargis and Lydia

[29:69] *As for those who strive in our cause, we will surely guide them in our paths. Most assuredly, GOD is with the pious.*

Letters from Readers

Salaam,

I received my copy of the Quran the other day and am so excited to finally have it. I love your website and all the information on it. I was raised Catholic but spent most of my life trying to find the truth. For the first time in my life, I feel close to God because I am now worshipping Him Alone. Everything makes sense now. I'm sharing the Quran with my 19-yr. old daughter and helping her to understand what Islam means. I had previously read the entire 114 suras by Rashad Khalifa online and was in the process of reading them over again when I got my Quran. Again, thank you and may God bless you all.

Judith B.

Peace be with you,

I would like to express my deep gratitude for the site. By the will of God I learned a lot of useful information. Unfortunately without knowing the English language, I use the Google translator. But thank God there is an opportunity to read Rashad Khalifa translation of the Quran. Delightful and very strong. ... there is only God.

Thank you very much and may God help in this matter.

Ярослав К.

Ed. note: Submitters are working on a Russian translation of the Quran; God willing it will be available at: <http://www.masjiduntucson.org/russian/>

Be included in our email list for weekly reminders

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.*