



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Behaviour of a Submitter

A Submitter should have a firm faith in the Singularity of God and the Day of Judgment knowing full well that for all our deeds and even thoughts, no matter how trivial, we will be accountable (21:47). We realise the purpose of our creation and we do not live just for ourselves. **[6:162]** 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.*

Most people are self-centered and self-interested and always seek to make maximum profit as businessmen or get the best deal as consumers. As rational humans, we calculate cost and benefit and net gain. This worldly life becomes a be-all and end-all (30:7). Many people are agnostics and some are even atheists. Our time horizon is very short, and we only think of ourselves and our family and talk of the here and now.

As submitters, we should have strong family ties based on a lawful marriage as commanded by God, a common purpose being procreation,

with adultery being strictly forbidden (4:24). In our family, our parents have a special position (17:23, 31:14) especially when they grow old. We have to be kind to our spouses and bring up children sensibly. Our relatives should also be cared for as well as our neighbours (4:36). We have to be concerned about looking after orphans, the economically and physically challenged and the naive.

God is trusting us with a chance to do better (67:2) and we must take responsibility for our actions. Our conduct should always be motivated to seek only His pleasure **[98:8]** *Their reward at their Lord is the gardens of Eden with flowing streams, wherein they abide forever. GOD is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him. Such is the reward for those who reverence their Lord.* Our conduct should epitomise some attributes of God, albeit in our own small way – grace, mercy and justice. So we must fulfill our duties to God and our fellow humans, without resentment and acrimony. We cannot be puffed-up with pride and look down on others (31:18). Our

emotions are irrational and fickle and thus should be tempered with love for the cause of God. We can thus have a permanent and secure basis for dependable, responsible and natural good behavior.

We can live a full worldly life as long as it is within the boundaries prescribed by God (28:77). We all desire a righteous life here and a better one in the Hereafter. **[2:201]** *Others would say, “Our Lord, grant us righteousness in this world, and righteousness in the Hereafter, and spare us the retribution of Hell.”*

We should be neither greedy nor selfish and we should engage in charity within our means and without any anticipation of gratitude or recompense (76:9). Charity can be done secretly or otherwise (2:271). We should get rid of enmity and spite and try being helpful to please God Alone.

To help us, God in His Divine Benevolence revealed a Quran for us – a Scripture of guidelines, parameters, cautions, instructions, warnings, rec-

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ommendations and good news. It is not a Book which newlywed couples walk under nor are virgins meant to get married to it (a malpractice in some regions). An example would be a medical encyclopedia where the properties of medicines are given. However, the prescription will not be of any help if it is worn like a talisman and not applied to our life (62:5, 3:23).

The Quran teaches us Divine etiquette. As submitters, we can't yell or abuse nor be arrogant and conceited.

[2:83] *We made a covenant with the Children of Israel: "You shall not worship except GOD. You shall honor your parents and regard the relatives, the orphans, and the poor. You shall treat the people amicably. You shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat)." But you turned away, except a few of you, and you became averse.*

[31:18-19] *"You shall not treat the people with arrogance, nor shall you roam the earth proudly. GOD does not like the arrogant showoffs. Walk humbly and lower your voice—the ugliest voice is the donkey's voice."*

[17:37] *You shall not walk proudly on earth—you cannot bore through the earth, nor can you be as tall as the mountains.*

So, we must be honest, straightforward and sincere in dealings (4:58). Truthfulness and fair play advance agreements. When there is a lot of deceit and dishonesty there is immense damage done to society (2:188, 205). Corruption spawns hostility and contaminates the situation. We should not be prompted by greed and self-interest and never misrepresent facts to intentionally mislead others.

The dealings of untruthful people are condemned: [83:1-3] *Woe to the cheaters. Who demand full measure*

when receiving from the people. But when giving them the measures or weights, they cheat. [26:181-3] "You shall give full measure when you trade; do not cheat" You shall weigh with an equitable scale. "Do not cheat the people out of their rights, and do not roam the earth corruptingly."

As submitters, we should be even-handed and judicious and not allow ourselves to be influenced by anyone or anything besides God, and we should minimize our personal likes and dislikes. [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.* We should be ready to forgive and forget if this leads to harmony.

On the Day of Judgment, among other things, we will be interrogated and held answerable for how and what we earned and how we utilized it. In His Infinite Wisdom, God has made a totally woven economic system put to administrate all features of our actions. Even though it was originally revealed in an era when commerce and economics were quite rudimentary, it has proven itself to be far ahead in its outlook by confronting the challenges of even the so-called "most modern society."

[10:57] *O people, enlightenment has come to you herein from your Lord, and healing for anything that troubles your hearts, and guidance, and mercy for the believers.*

Alim

[17:38] *All bad behavior is condemned by your Lord.*

Marvels of GOD

Part 4 (conclusion)

Which of your Lord's Marvels can you deny?

[2:2] *This scripture is infallible; a beacon for the righteous.*

[55:13++] *Which of your Lord's Marvels can you deny?*

Analyzing more areas of knowledge contained in the Quran in light of modern education and science.

Zoology:

"Animal culture" describes the current theory of cultural learning in non-human animals through socially transmitted behaviors. The question as to the existence of culture in non-human societies has been a contentious subject for decades, much due to the inexistence of a concise definition for culture. However, many leading scientists agree on culture being defined as a process, rather than an end product. This process, most agree, involves the social transmittance of a novel behavior, both among peers and between generations. This behavior is shared by a group of animals, but not necessarily between separate groups of the same species.

The notion of culture in animals dates back to Aristotle and Darwin, but the association of animals' actions with the actual word "culture" first was brought forward with Japanese primatologists' discoveries of socially transmitted food behaviors in the 1940s.

[6:38] *All the creatures on earth, and all the birds that fly with wings, are communities like you. We did not leave anything out of this book. To their Lord, all these creatures will be summoned.*

The creatures on earth live in communities. This was mentioned in Quran 14 centuries ago. Whereas the communal behavior of the birds and animals was

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only discovered by the scientists in the 20th Century.

Birds: [16:79] *Do they not see the birds committed to fly in the atmosphere of the sky? None holds them up in the air except GOD. This should be (sufficient) proof for people who believe.*

[67:19] *Have they not seen the birds above them lined up in columns and spreading their wings? The Most Gracious is the One who holds them in the air. He is Seer of all things.*

Bird migration is the regular seasonal movement, often north and south along a flyway between breeding and wintering grounds, undertaken by many species. Historically, migration was recorded as much as 3,000 years ago by Ancient Greek authors including Homer and Aristotle, and in the Book of Job, for species such as storks, Turtle Doves, and swallows. More recently, Johannes Leche began recording dates of arrivals of spring migrants in Finland in 1749, and scientific studies have used techniques including bird ringing and satellite tracking. Approximately 1800 of the world's 10,000 bird species are long-distance migrants. The Bible also notes migrations, as in the Book of Job (39:26), where the inquiry is made: "Doth the hawk fly by Thy wisdom and stretch her wings toward the south?"

Honey Bee: [16:69] *Then eat from all the fruits, following the design of your Lord, precisely. From their bellies comes a drink of different colors, wherein there is healing for the people. This should be (sufficient) proof for people who reflect.*

Honey bees are an excellent animal species to study with regard to behavior because they are abundant and familiar to most people. Karl von Frisch, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine in 1973 for his study of honey bee communication, noticed bees communicate through the language of dance. Honey bees are able to direct other bees to food sources

through the round dance and the waggle dance (see Nov 1993 Submitters Perspective).

[16:68] *And your Lord inspired the bee: build homes in mountains and trees, and in (the hives) they build for you.*

Thus the above mentioned verse points towards the bees communication with inspiration from God to find the suitable place for building homes where there is a source of food available.

After decades of experiments, Dr. Peter Molan found that all kinds of honey have antibiotic properties. This may be traced to hydrogen peroxide produced from enzymes that bees add to the nectar. He identified a type of honey with unique broad-spectrum antibiotic properties for which there was no synthetic equivalent known. God put this in the Quran [16:69] 1400 years ago.

Ants: Scientists have known for decades that ants use a variety of small chemicals known as pheromones to communicate. Perhaps the most classic example is the trail of pheromones the insects place as they walk. Those behind them follow this trail, leading to long lines of ants marching one by one. However, the insects also use pheromones to identify which nest an ant is from and its social status in that nest. Because this chemical communication is so prevalent and complex, researchers long believed that this was the primary way ants shared information.

However, several years ago, researchers began to notice that adults in some ant genera, such as *Myrmica*, made noise. These types of ants have a specialized spike along their abdomen that they stroke with one of their hind legs, similar to dragging the teeth of a comb along the edge of a table. Preliminary studies seemed to indicate that this noise serves primarily as an emergency beacon, allowing ants to shout for help when being threatened by a predator.

Some scientists feel that the discovery doesn't mean that chemical communi-

cation in ants is less important. Dr. DeVries, an entomologist, says, "Ants live in these enormously sophisticated societies," he says. "Acoustic signaling adds another gorgeous piece to what we know about how insect societies communicate."

We find specific information about the communication between ants in the following sura.

[27:17-8] *Mobilized in the service of Solomon were his obedient soldiers of jinns and humans, as well as the birds; all at his disposal. When they approached the valley of the ants, one ant said, "O you ants, go into your homes, lest you get crushed by Solomon and his soldiers, without perceiving."*

[45:3-4] *The heavens and the earth are full of proofs for the believers. Also in your creation, and the creation of all the animals, there are proofs for people who are certain.*

To attribute the presence of scientific facts in the Quran to coincidence, would be not only illogical but against common sense and a true scientific approach. Yet Quran invites all humans to reflect on the creation of this universe in the following verse.

[3:190] *In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, there are signs for those who possess intelligence.*

The mathematical and scientific proofs in the Quran prove without any doubt that this book indeed is from God. It is simply impossible for any human being to produce such a book 1400 years ago. It is the duty of every follower of this book to utilize this ocean of knowledge to invite people to Submission (Islam). And leave the rest to God, for He is the only One who can guide.

Abdul Ghani

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Praying for the Believers

I find it wonderful that God tells us to ask forgiveness for all believing men and women:

[47:19] You shall know that: “There is no other god beside God,” and ask forgiveness of your sins and the sins of all believing men and women. God is fully aware of your decisions and your ultimate destiny.

When we pray for each other the family bond among the believers is strengthened. Also, praying for someone else reminds us that we are all **fallible humans in need of God’s grace and mercy.**

Many years ago it was suggested to me to pray for someone with whom I was having a misunderstanding. I found that doing so changed the entire nature of our interaction, and by **God’s infinite grace and mercy we soon became fairly good friends.** This wonderful practice continues to have a tremendous impact in my life.

But is it just for forgiveness of the believers that we should pray?

Actually, when you think about it, God encourages us to pray for peace for each other every time we greet **each other. Isn’t it beautiful to ask God to bless someone with “Peace be**

upon you” or “Peace be with you?”

For we know that God Himself is the Peace (59:23), and so when we greet each other with *“a greeting from God that is blessed and good”* (24:61) we are praying for God to be with that person—a wonderful prayer indeed.

Prayers need not be just for the **righteous. We can pray for God’s gift of guidance for all.** God tells us to seek peace even for those who are engaged in vain talk. The reminder of peace, certainly benefits our soul, and may be a catalyst of change for theirs:

[28:55] When they come across vain talk, they disregard it and say, “We are responsible for our deeds, and you are responsible for your deeds. Peace be upon you. We do not wish to behave like the ignorant ones.”

Even for those who are disbelievers God tells us:

[43:89] You shall disregard them and say, “Peace;” they will surely find out.

Thus this best of all greetings is intended for all people. Ultimately, we cannot know where any human being will end up in Submission. Someone may appear hopeless, and yet like the once arrogant magicians submit a complete submission and end up in a higher rank than we could ever have imagined, perhaps

far above our own.

We see a similar wonderful greeting surviving from the time of the Moors in Spain with the Spanish **“Vaya con Dios” or “Go with God.”** Its counterpart, a reminder of God **while wishing farewell, is “Adios” or “To God.”**

With so much misunderstanding in the world, and even among members of our own community, it is a great blessing to greet each other with a *“greeting from God that is blessed and good.”* Though we are not told so directly, perhaps it helps keep Satan from driving a wedge among us:

[17:53] Tell My servants to treat each other in the best possible manner, for the devil will always try to drive a wedge among them. Surely, the devil is man’s most ardent enemy.

Lisa

[10:10] Their prayer therein is: “Be You glorified, our god,” their greeting therein is, “Peace,” and their ultimate prayer is: “Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.”

[42:5] The heavens above them almost shatter, out of reverence for Him, and the angels praise and glorify their Lord, and they ask forgiveness for those on earth. Absolutely, GOD is the Forgiver, Most Merciful.