

United Submitters International

Masjid Tucson, P.O. Box 43476, Tucson, AZ 85733
Telephone: (602)323-7636



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Quranic Justice *Continued*

kin may demand the death sentence, but they are encouraged to pardon the murderer and be compensated for their loss.

This principle easily extends to lesser offenses. When someone is found to have committed a crime, locking him away will only turn him into an unproductive and alienated person. It will also put him in an environment that perpetuates his or her criminal habits. Instead society should enforce a system where the criminal has to compensate the victim by working to "pay them back." In this way the victim is helped. The criminal has a chance to redeem himself or herself and become a productive member of the society. (As it is now, someone who wishes to turn his life around must combat the label of "prisoner.") Perhaps most importantly,

the innocent families of both victim and criminal are saved from terrible emotional and economic deprivation.

Recently, a few judges have begun to use some innovative sentencing. One such example is Judge Joe Brown of Memphis, Tennessee. Judge Brown has used the principle of compensation by allowing victims, accompanied by deputies, to go into the burglar's home and take what they want, up to a limit close to what was stolen from them. The results have helped the victims get beyond their anger, and have given the burglars a sense of the loss they inflicted—and has kept them out of jail.

There are some crimes which are so horrendous that there is little or no hope that a soul who has sunk to such depths will ever reform. In such cases the Quran does allow banishment—of which imprisonment is a modern equivalent (5:33).

Lisa Spray

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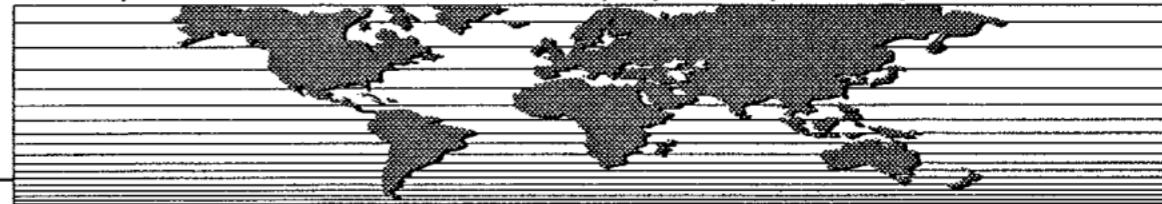
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In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Quranic Justice

One of the most difficult problems facing our modern society is how we should enforce justice. When a person is found guilty by a panel of his peers, what then?

Now, of course, the most likely result is imprisonment, especially for those coming from less privileged backgrounds.

What does that really mean? Let us stop and think about it. The cost of keeping the average prisoner behind bars is often much more than many of those same people would have had to live on if they were not imprisoned.

But there is a much greater cost. That is the cost to the families who are deprived of what is often the major or only source of provision for them.

Not only that, the victims of the crime remain without compensation, and if the crime involved the death of a primary provider, they are irreversibly deprived of that source of income as well.

Of course this deals only with the economic issues, and leaves aside the even greater expense to the happiness and emotional well being of everyone involved.

In recent years, the terrible overcrowding of the nation's prisons has become almost overwhelming. A vast amount of capital is set aside annually to build more facilities which will continue to be essentially eco-

nomic black holes—sucking up enormous amounts of money and human energy for little or no rehabilitation among the imprisoned population. In fact, there are good indications that the most likely

replace what they stole (and the Quran indicates that their hand should be superficially marked—not cut off, as has been the traditional interpretation!)

The Quran reiterates that the punishment is equivalence and compensation:

O you who believe, equivalence is the law decreed for you when dealing with murder — the free for the free, the slave for the slave, the female for the female. If one is pardoned by the victim's kin, an appreciative response is in order, and an equitable compensation shall be paid. This is an alleviation from your Lord and mercy. Anyone who transgresses beyond this incurs a painful retribution.

Equivalence is a life saving law for you, O you who possess intelligence, that you may be righteous. (2:178-179)

Murder is a very serious crime in God's eyes. So serious that He tells us:

...we decreed for the Children of Israel that anyone who murders any person who had not committed murder or horrendous crimes, it shall be as if he murdered all the people. And anyone who spares a life, it shall be as if he spared the lives of all the people.... (5:32)

We see in 2:178-9 that even for this most terrible crime of murder, equivalence and compensation are the law. The victim's

continued in the last page

Mark your calendar

God willing, the 9th Annual International Conference of United Submitters will be held on August 20-22, 1993, in Phoenix, Arizona. Details will be given in the coming issues of the Submitters Perspective. Make your plans to attend this important event and to meet submitters from all over the world.

Submission Prose-Poem

[The following is a talk delivered by sister Fareil Sanders to the Quranic Society of New York. The poetry of her words and the strength of her message are inspirations for us all.]

Praise be to God. We bear witness that there is no god besides the One God.

Today I am not addressing the majority, only SOME people. I am reading from Sura 103, "the Afternoon." By the afternoon, the human being is utterly lost—except those who believe and lead a righteous life, and exhort one another to uphold the truth and exhort one another to be steadfast.

His throne is on water, out of which the eternal flowing streams bring life to all matter. His provisions are inexhaustible. He meters it out as He wills. If God were to withhold your water, which god other than God could bring you sustenance?

God alone is the sovereign Lord, Almighty, Sublime. His power is awesome. He rules with absolute authority, and He has established the law. Do not transgress the law, O you who believe. God is the most Gracious Respite—swift in reckoning. He is the most Merciful, but if you revert to transgression, He counters with retribution. He is Omnipotent. He that is to be feared, Himself is fearless, Master of Judgement. God bears witness that there is no god except He, and so do the angels and those who possess knowledge. To God prostrates everything in the heavens and the earth, and so do SOME people. In sha Allah (God willing), SO / ME.

Pillar 1, Practice 1

Some people have come here today upholding the law of verse number 62:9-11 and to bear witness again and again that there is no god but God, keeping the covenant they made willingly. Insha Allah, SO / ME.

The majority of the people unknowingly, belligerently blunder blindly in the background behind us, willingly idol worshiping what can never harm them or benefit them, save for God alone.

From Adam to Abraham, Moses to Muhammad and the community of Rashad, they have all been warned at least 2,698

times. Only some people will take heed and not transgress the law. Only some will be reminded as they walk through the graveyards of the huge, mighty dinosaurs that God can replace our aged, muddy, lowly, liquid lives for 19 minutes of funeral music and another creation. This is easy for God to do.

Pillar 2, Practice 2

Some people with a "key" are made aware. Law number 2:43 says that five times and seventeen sets a day their arms and knees come preset bendable, and their heads beg to bow. Their feet are like stakes grounded for prostration to their creator, the Almighty. In sha Allah, SO / ME.

The majority are devils. Their duty is to deliberately deceive the dumb from doing the contact prayer (*Salat*) that would deliver them from the dungeons of Hell. God offers peace.

There are key numbers to solving the lotto. The mayor has the keys to the city. There are keys that lock you up. And Qaroon had keys that were so heavy he could barely carry them. But God gave the real key; He gave Adam the words through which he could be redeemed. Abraham was given the seed and the way with it. Jesus walked it and talked it. Muhammad wrote it and fought in the cause of it. Rashad purified and confirmed it and was martyred. It is for all the people—the Final Scripture. It will be heeded only by SOME.

Pillar 3, Practice 3

SOME people readily offer the charity, gathering up spouses, children, and monies and the preset time allotted them, eagerly giving 2.5% *Zakat* (obligatory charity) and more for the benefit of their own souls observing the law of verse number 2:195. In sha Allah, SO / ME.

It is sad that the majority sits silently, secretly studying the *shirk* (idol worship) of stinginess, hoarding illusions of grandeur, losing the purpose, the soul of their existence, the paradise, and the reward of returning to their Lord, the Bountiful.

Give now while God is accepting. Give now while God is willing to buy from the believers their lives and their properties for Paradise (9:111). Give before a day

when you would ransom your Mercedes and your mother for a closer walk with the King of kings.

Pillar 4, Practice 4

SOME people don't have to have it. Whatever it is, from it they abstain, knowing that God is the Sustainer. They follow the law of verse number 2:185 and observe fasting. In sha Allah, SO / ME.

The majority make much matter to meter out many morsels for their mini mouths, remaining mindless of what was revealed during the month of Ramadan, providing guidance and mercy from the Most High.

And their hearts desired bitter herbs and onions and garlic, and they themselves became rooted to the ground. Looking up arrogantly they asked, "What manner of quail is this?" To some people it is from God—the best provision. Anything other than what is provided becomes foam of fabricated *hadith*, while the hadith of God feeds truth and guiding light into the heart, that it may be fulfilled.

Pillar 5, Practice 5

SOME people during the four holy months, in keeping the law of verse number 22:27, will file together at the Sacred Shrine to observe the Hajj pilgrimage. They will come from every corner of the earth—by land, sea, air, walking, creeping, crawling, crying out "God alone." In sha Allah, SO / ME.

The majority are prevented from moving from their material prison. Most are preoccupied with maintaining and protecting their mass provisions of fuel for the fire. The majority have turned their backs to *Qiblah* (direction of prayer) only to face the horrors of the inevitable. They have transgressed the law. They did not practice the pillars that held up their covenant. They are the losers.

And for the winners, they were submitting, steadfast, stern, subdued, seekers of *Salat*, sacrificing, sharing, supporting, striving scripturians, saved by God with a smile from the recorders: "Praise be to God for He knows what we did not know. You have been redeemed."

You are SOME people. In sha Allah, SO / ME.

The Unique Properties of Water Accident or Design?

As familiar as water is to all of us, being one of the most stable as well as most abundant compounds on earth, it is, nonetheless, an "odd" one. In many respects it is one of the "strangest" substances known to science. Almost all its properties—boiling point, melting point, etc.—are "anomalously" higher or lower

than what one might expect based on its molecular mass of 18 amu (atomic mass units). Certainly these unexpected properties of water make it a uniquely useful liquid (at room temperature and 1 atmosphere) and the basis for life. No other liquid can be substituted for water in the role it plays. The following is a summary of some of its unique characteristics.

1. To demonstrate how some properties of water (H_2O) are "anomalous," we compare it with other compounds in the series, H_2S , H_2Se , H_2Te , replacing Oxygen by Sulfur, Selenium and Tellurium (all in the same group and chemically close). It is a general trend that within a given series of compounds, boiling points and melting points increase with the increasing atomic weight of elements. Accordingly, if we plot these properties of the four compounds against their atomic weight, we expect them to follow this pattern. They all do except water. For example, being the lightest compound in the group water is expected to have a boiling point close to $-75^{\circ}C$ ($-105^{\circ}F$). This is nowhere close to the actual boiling point of water, which is $+100^{\circ}C$ ($+212^{\circ}F$). Similarly, water is expected to have a freezing point at about $-100^{\circ}C$ ($-145^{\circ}F$). This is again much different than the actual freezing point of water. If water did have the "expected" boiling and freezing points, the result would be dramatic. (Actually there would not be life, at least of the kind that we're all familiar with).

2. The fact that water in the solid phase (ice) is less dense than the liquid phase (water expands on freezing and ice floats on top) is taken for granted by most of us and may on occasion cause annoyance as it results in cracking water pipes and pools during winter. Yet this virtually unique property of water is essential for marine life.

If ice were denser than water, it would

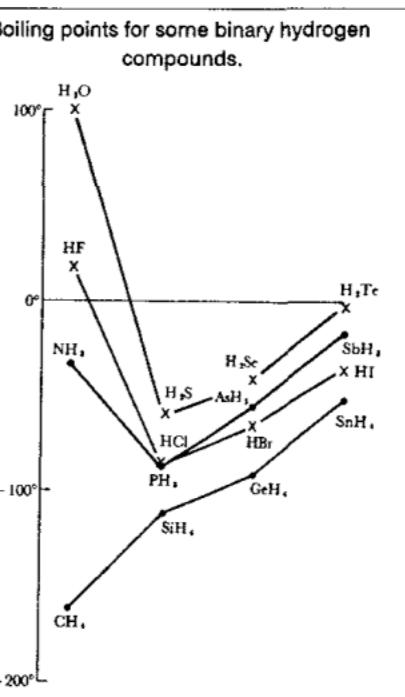
sink and accumulate at the bottom of the oceans and lakes. Water in oceans and lakes would show radical temperature changes with depth.

As it is, the ice floats at the top, thereby isolating water and marine life below, keeping the temperature from dropping to the freezing point, and maintaining water as a liquid for marine life.

3. Water has a higher specific heat (the amount of energy it takes to raise its temperature) than all of the compounds in the above series, and higher than almost all organic compounds. The typically higher values of both specific heat and thermal conductivity allow water to be used as a storage of heat, and to buffer the temperature of its surroundings. Without this property, we would have extremes of temperature each day (people who live in the desert experience that—very hot during the day, cold at night).

4. Water also has a very high surface tension, a phenomenon in which the surface acts as though it were a thin, invisible, elastic membrane. It is because of this property that you can place a needle on the surface of water if you do not break the surface.

A consequence of this property is that it allows biochemically important com-



pounds to concentrate near the liquid surface and making some biochemical reactions more rapid.

The high surface tension is responsible for the so called capillary effect—rise of water in capillary tubes. This property is largely responsible for the transport of water, against gravity, within plants.

5. The dielectric constant (measure of charge distribution within a molecule) for water exceeds just about any other liquid, thus allowing it to dissolve polar compounds, $NaCl$ (table salt), into their constituent ions, Na^+ and Cl^- . We tend to forget that water is, after all, the least expensive and most effective cleaning agent.

This also causes biologically important compounds such as enzymes and nucleic acids to exhibit what is known as the hydrophobic effect. By aligning themselves toward or away from water molecules, enzymes are, in effect, formed into their "active shape." It is established, biochemically, that it is the "shape" of enzymes that enables them to catalyze biochemical reactions in the living cell. The same enzyme, if laid out differently, would become inactive, thereby bringing the life process to a halt.

Are these facts simply an accident, or are they a result of a well thought out design? This question is answered in the Quran: "Everything we created is perfectly measured." (54:49)

Once again, as in countless other examples, life and the evolution of life would not have been possible without the specific design of God. In this case, it is the properties of water molecules which depend almost exclusively on the special hydrogen bonding between oxygen and hydrogen. Any variation from the known water structure would have resulted in vastly different properties for water with no possibility of life.

Do the unbelievers not realize that the heaven and the earth used to be one solid mass that we exploded into existence? And from water we made all living things. Would they believe? (21:30)

And God created every living creature from water... (24:45)

He is the One who created the heavens and the earth in six days—and His (earthly) domain was completely covered with water ... (11:7)

Hussein Kowsari