



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Blessing in Disguise

Thinking and thanking God, and appreciating His blessings under adversity

[This is a tribute to our wonderful sister Nora who went back to God last month. This article was her speech at the 2006 Conference in Tucson, Arizona. Even though we had already printed it in our November 2006 issue, we publish it again in her honor, and as a reminder for all of us. May God bless her soul. We will all miss her. However we know that she is in a better place enjoying God's provisions.]

In January 2006 I heard the dreaded words that no one wants to hear: "You have cancer." Something I thought could never happen to me actually happened. My immediate reaction was disbelief. "How could this happen to me?" A 22 year old who just graduated from college. But deep down I knew why this adversity had befallen me. This was a test from God: a very difficult test that would require a lot of patience and faith in God. We know from the Quran that any of our claims about submitting to God must be tested:

[3:142] Do you expect to enter Paradise without GOD distinguishing those among you who strive, and

without distinguishing those who are steadfast?

[2:155] We will surely test you through some fear, hunger, and loss of money, lives, and crops. Give good news to the steadfast.

[3:186] You will certainly be tested, through your money and your lives, and you will hear from those who received the scripture, and from the idol worshippers, a lot of insult. If you steadfastly persevere and lead a righteous life, this will prove the strength of your faith.

To be honest with you, the oncoming hardships of the disease scared me at first. But when fear and sadness overtake your thoughts, the only thing to do is turn to God. All disturbing thoughts come from Satan, so I had to seek refuge in God from Satan. Also, recognizing that everything would happen according to God's plan gave me comfort. Trusting in God helped relieve my fear and grief.

[2:112] Indeed, those who submit themselves absolutely to GOD alone,

while leading a righteous life, will receive their recompense from their Lord; they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.

I have faced many obstacles during this test, including surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy. The side effects have opened my eyes to everyday activities that so many of us take for granted. Simply having the strength to sit up or walk around, or being able to chew, swallow, and enjoy food are just a few of those activities. They made me appreciate all of the little things that God enables us to do. It's amazing that you don't notice so many things while you're healthy until you get sick.

Since my illness, I notice when I can breathe normally, walk around, and have an appetite. I thank God for the rare times when I am able to shop at the mall or ride a bike. Thank God I was able to travel here to remind all of you that you should appreciate every aspect and every single moment of your life.

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[67:23] Say, "He is the One who initiated you, and granted you the hearing, the eyes, and the brains. Rarely are you appreciative."

[14:34] And He gives you all kinds of things that you implore Him for. If you count GOD's blessings, you can never encompass them. Indeed, the human being is transgressing, unappreciative.

As a human being, I sometimes find myself having negative thoughts, wondering, and questioning. I ask myself why I have to go through this difficult test, and I find the answer in Sura 6, verse 42.

[6:42] We have sent (messengers) to communities before you, and we put them to the test through adversity and hardship, that they may implore.

I implore God to guide me through this test and help me to remain steadfast. I ask God to heal me and remove my adversity. In the Quran, God gives the example of Job.

[21:83-84] And Job implored his Lord: "Adversity has befallen me, and, of all the merciful ones, You are the Most Merciful." We responded to him, relieved his adversity, and restored his family for him, even twice as much. That was a mercy from us, and a reminder for the worshippers.

I don't know how long I will be going through this test, but God willing I will continue to pray and strive to pass it. Thank God, I have wonderful friends and family that continue to support me and help me, and soon I will triumph.

[2:214] Do you expect to enter Paradise without being tested like those before you? They were tested with hardship and adversity, and were shaken up, until the messenger and those who believed with him said, "Where is GOD's victory?" GOD's victory is near.

Nora

The Righteous Do Not Really Die They Go Straight to Heaven

Give good news to those who believe and work righteousness that they will have gardens with flowing streams. When provided with provisions of fruits therein, they will say, "This is what was given to us in the past." They will be given similar provisions, and they will have pure spouses therein. They abide therein forever. (2:25)

Do not think that those who are killed in the cause of God are dead; they are alive at their Lord, being provided for. (3:169)

Do NOT say about those who are killed in the cause of God, "They are dead." For they are alive, but you do not perceive. (2:154)

O you who believe, you shall respond to God and the messenger when he invites to what keeps you alive. (8:24)

Those who emigrate in the cause of God, then get killed or die, God will surely provide for them a good provision. (22:58)

They do not taste death, beyond the first death, and God spares them the retribution of Hell. (44:56)

He was told, "Enter Paradise." He said, "I wish my people (on earth) know; that my Lord has forgiven me and honored me." (36:26-27)

As for you, O content soul. Return to your Lord, pleased and pleasing. Welcome into My servants. Welcome into My Paradise. (89:27-30)

The angels terminate their lives in a state of righteousness, saying, "Peace be upon you. Enter Paradise (now) as a reward for your works." (16:32)

[See Appendix 17 of **Quran: The Final Testament**, translated by Rashad Khalifa, PhD for more details.]

Comments from Readers

I have been on a search for the truth for quite some time now. I have already dedicated my life to the one true God and was trying to sift through all the false doctrines.

I was raised a Christian but as I got older I started to realize that we were not following any teaching that I could locate, other than the doctrines and by-laws of our church. I separated myself from the church and for a long time was lost.

I recently starting researching facts about religions and trying to uncover the true word of God that wasn't changed and altered by many different alterations. I felt moved when I started to look up Islam and thought to myself: I have found it.

I admit I became disheartened when I found the mixed teachings of the Hadith. I didn't quite understand them or their purpose within the Islamic religion, but everywhere I turned they seemed to be quite important to those who followed.

I do believe that the Quran is the word of God but was so perplexed by the traditions and rituals being performed according to the teachings in the Hadiths. I decided to research the Hadiths and what they were and why they were so important. I came to find out that maybe they shouldn't be that important: as in how we worship or submit.

I am so thankful I found your website. I know the Creator guided me here to see the truth. Thank you for clearing up all these confusing barriers that have been placed in our way.

Peace to you all.

Brother Michael

Peace be upon you.

We are a mosque in Mauritius who has submitted to Islam via Quran only. Thanks to you if you could send us additional information about you.

Mauritius submitters

GROSS SINS AND TRANSGRESSIONS

We have lots of verses telling us of the traits of submitters, the things we are supposed to do in order to make it back to God. But the Quran also has verses that tell us what NOT to do, the things to avoid, the things that Satan tries to trick us into doing repeatedly. It might be a good idea to just look at those things that God considers a “gross offense” so that we can avoid them.

First and foremost, we know that idolatry is a gross sin, as Luqmaan informs his son: *Recall that Luqmaan said to his son, as he enlightened him, “O my son, do not set up any idols beside GOD; idolatry is a gross injustice.”* [31:13]

GOD does not forgive idolatry, but He forgives lesser offenses for whomever He wills. Anyone who sets up idols beside GOD, has forged a horrendous offense. [4:48]

Placing anyone beside God is a terrible blasphemy.

They said, “The Most Gracious has begotten a son”! You have uttered a gross blasphemy.

The heavens are about to shatter, the earth is about to tear asunder, and the mountains are about to crumble. Because they claim that the Most Gracious has begotten a son. It is not befitting the Most Gracious that He should beget a son. Every single one in the heavens and the earth is a servant of the Most Gracious. [19:88-93]

We are told that gambling, drinking and committing adultery are gross offenses in the sight of God.

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]

You shall not commit adultery; it is a gross sin, and an evil behavior. [17:32]

Murder

Murder is certainly considered a gross sin, including abortion.

You shall not kill your children due to fear of poverty. We provide for them, as well as for you. Killing them is a gross offense. [17:31]

Say, “Come let me tell you what your Lord has really prohibited for you: You shall not set up idols besides Him. You shall honor your parents. You shall not kill your children from fear of poverty—we provide for you and for them. You shall not commit gross sins, obvious or hidden. You shall not kill - GOD has made life sacred—except in the course of justice. These are His commandments to you, that you may understand.” [6:151]

There are also some things that in today’s society are commonplace, but that God tells us are horrible offenses. Therefore, we must take care to avoid them.

Anyone who earns a sin, then accuses an innocent person thereof, has committed a blasphemy and a gross offense. [4:112]

Have you noted those who exalt themselves? Instead, GOD is the One who exalts whomever He wills, without the least injustice. Note how they fabricate lies about GOD; what a gross offense this is! [4:49-50]

Those who conceal our revelations and guidance, after proclaiming them for the people in the scripture, are condemned by GOD; they are condemned by all the condemners. [2:159]

Do not marry the women who were previously married to your fathers - existing marriages are exempted and

shall not be broken - for it is a gross offense, and an abominable act. [4:22]

.... You are not to hurt the messenger of GOD. You shall not marry his wives after him, for this would be a gross offense in the sight of GOD. [33:53]

Those who persecute the believing men and the believing women, who did not do anything wrong, have committed not only a falsehood, but also a gross sin. [33:58]

You fabricated it with your own tongues, and the rest of you repeated it with your mouths without proof. You thought it was simple, when it was, according to GOD, gross. [24:15]

Surely, those who falsely accuse married women who are pious believers have incurred condemnation in this life and in the Hereafter; they have incurred a horrendous retribution. [24:23]

The blessing from God is that He makes it very clear what we should and should not do. It’s never ambiguous. And despite how clear it is, He knows we’re going to slip and commit sins. If we can be like Jonah and recognize our mistakes and repent to God, we will find God forgiving.

And Zan-Noon (Jonah, “the one with an `N` in his name”), abandoned his mission in protest, thinking that we could not control him. He ended up imploring from the darkness (of the big fish’s belly): “There is no god other than You. Be You glorified. I have committed a gross sin.” [21:87]

If you refrain from committing the gross sins that are prohibited for you, we will remit your sins, and admit you an honorable admittance. [4:31]

Lydia

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Lord, Forgive me (The world is mine)

Today upon a bus, I saw a lonely maid with golden hair,
I envied her, she seemed so gay, and I wished I were as fair.
When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle;
she had one foot and used a crutch, but as she passed, she had a smile.
“Oh, God forgive me when I whine; I have two feet, the world is mine.”

And when I stopped to buy some sweets,
The lad who sold them had such charm. I talked with him, he said to me,
“It’s nice to talk to man like you. You see,” he said, “I am blind.”
“Oh God forgive me when I whine; I have two eyes, the world is mine.”

Then, as I passed along the way, I saw a child with eyes of blue.
He stood and watched the others play; It seemed he knew not what to do.
I stopped for a moment; and then I said, “Why don’t you join the others, dear?”
He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear.
“Oh, God forgive me when I whine; I have two ears, the world is mine.”

With feet to take me where I’d go,
With eyes to see the sunsets glow,
With ears to hear what I would know,
I am blessed indeed.
The world is mine. Oh, God forgive me if I whine.

Author unknown—Submitted by sister Maryam

Count your blessings and be appreciative

[16:18] *If you count GOD's blessings, you cannot possibly encompass them. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

[2:152] *You shall remember Me, that I may remember you, and be thankful to Me; do not be unappreciative.*

[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.*

God Willing

23rd

Annual Conference United Submitters

August 1-3, 2008

Tucson, Arizona



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

The registration forms and hotel information are being mailed out to the subscribers of Submitters Perspective.

The web page on the internet to circulate the conference information is

www.masjiduntucson.org/conference

God willing, the registration forms and hotel information will be posted there also with password access. The password can be obtained by emailing us at info@masjiduntucson.org

Act now, and register right away, God willing.