

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Taking it for granted

The phrase “taking something for granted” has a couple of meanings.

- to fail to appreciate the value of something
- to accept something as true without questioning or testing it

We will talk about the first meaning in this article as we more often do it in our lives. Unfortunately we take so much for granted. We do not appreciate sometimes the simplest things in our lives that bring us so much pleasure. We do not seem to realize that we have so much more than most people in the world. Are we reflecting on God’s blessings to us and being appreciative?

It is the devil that wants us to be unappreciative, and wants us to forget where our blessings and provisions are coming from. We see the devil’s contention in the following verse.

[7:17] *“I will come to them from before them, and from behind them, and from their right, and from their left, and You will find that most of them are unappreciative.”*

Therefore, we do not want to be influenced by the devil. God willing as believers, we make an effort to count our blessings, and not behave like most people. It is a trait of the believers to be 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.*

Better to realize before it is too late

How many times we have realized that we didn’t truly appreciate someone or something, or that we have come to expect it all the time? God willing, such realization does not happen after we lose what we have, and cannot bring it back. Therefore we should constantly be thinking about and thankful for the blessings that God bestowed on us. Guess what, if we appreciate what we have, God blesses us with even more. What a deal!

[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.

Therefore, being thankful and appreciative is for our own good. This fleeting life is going to pass sooner or later, and we will all face God, the Almighty as individuals. It is God’s promise to reward the appreciative people. If we choose to ignore the blessings God have given us, and do not recognize God’s hand in our lives, we are the ones who lose. God is in no need, Praiseworthy.

[30:34] *Let them be unappreciative of what we have given them. Enjoy temporarily; you will surely find out.*

[3:145] *No one dies except by GOD’s leave, at a predetermined time. Whoever seeks the vanities of this world, we give him therefrom, and whoever seeks the rewards of the Hereafter, we bless him therein. We reward those who are appreciative.*

[39:7] *If you disbelieve, GOD does not need anyone. But He dislikes to see His servants make the wrong decision.*

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

If you decide to be appreciative, He is pleased for you. No soul bears the sins of any other soul. Ultimately, to your Lord is your return, then He will inform you of everything you had done. He is fully aware of the innermost thoughts.

Here are some wise thoughts from Luqmaan and Solomon, respectively, regarding appreciation.

[31:12] We have endowed Luqmaan with wisdom: "You shall be appreciative of GOD." Whoever is appreciative is appreciative for his own good. As for those who turn unappreciative, GOD is in no need, Praiseworthy.

[27:40] The one who possessed knowledge from the book said, "I can bring it to you in the blink of your eye." When he saw it settled in front of him, he said, "This is a blessing from my Lord, whereby He tests me, to show whether I am appreciative or unappreciative. Whoever is appreciative is appreciative for his own good, and if one turns unappreciative, then my Lord is in no need for him, Most Honorable."

Being appreciative is a process and includes understanding that everything comes from God, and that God controls everything. We have to be thankful to God and remember Him all the time. This is a reflection of worshipping God alone.

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

[16:114] Therefore, you shall eat from GOD's provisions everything that is lawful and good, and be appreciative of GOD's blessings, if you do worship Him alone.

Now, take a minute and close your eyes. Think about some of the things or people that you have failed to appreciate and taken for granted. Then thank God for them and start counting

your blessings more often. There is soooooo much to be thankful for, it is impossible to encompass them all! So, let us do the best we can. God knows our intention. He is the Most Merciful.

Praise be to God, Lord of the universe.

Abdullah

* * * *

A Reader's Voice From Malaysia

Assalamualaikum,

Greetings of peace, Brothers and Sisters,

I am a considering Islam in a different way, based on the Qur'an, and have been seeking for lots of answers to my questions. It's been my sincere intention to seek Islamic websites to gain better understanding of the religion.

However I am one person, who do not find myself agreeing to all Hadiths and Sunnah as the Word of God. I prefer to seek only the Quran. I believe such a Word of God should not be interpreted wrongly, thus abusing its core message to the world. I was formerly a Christian and now, after being a revert, I am growing to learn better about my understandings in Islam only thru the Internet at the Cybercafe. I do not agree with most of the teachings of Islam at the common place I obtained understanding about Islam.

Thus I came across your website by coincidence. It was good that I did, because when I seeked, I found that no one else agrees with me in my country, or I would say rarely believe in what I think. We believe in 1 God Almighty and why should we idolize any Prophet at all? The Hadiths and Sunnahs has cause dramatically huge problems in Islam, splitting them into hundreds of sect. Why so many different ideas from ONE SOLE SOURCE - Qur'an?? This concludes that their brains are getting destroyed with those human made Hadiths and Sunnahs.

It is so clear what I thought about the Hadiths and Sunnah as being man-made is clearly stated in the Qur'an. Read below:

[2:79] Therefore, woe to those who distort the scripture with their own hands, then say, "This is what GOD has revealed," seeking a cheap material gain. Woe to them for such distortion, and woe to them for their illicit gains.

...Please consider sending me Dr Rashad Khalifa's Qur'an in English Translation. I do not need the Arabic parallel at all. I just need the English translated Qur'an by Dr. Rashad Khalifa that I saw in your website. Help me in this, please. I sincerely cannot afford to purchase and my husband is not in good earning position to assist me. I came specifically to the Internet Cafe to write to you because I do not have a Connection at home. I am humbly asking your kind help in this.

[3:77] As for those who trade away GOD's covenant, and their obligations, for a cheap price, they receive no share in the Hereafter. GOD will not speak to them, nor look at them, on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He purify them. They have incurred a painful retribution.

I have approached you having faith that I am one of a Submitter. But without any help from you in providing me this beautiful WORD of GOD, I am unable to read and drink deeply into the WORD of GOD....

I sincerely hope you will reply me soon. I am grateful to voice out my deepest feelings.

God Bless You... and May His peace be with you always...

Regards

Marcia

Salaam Brother,

... I am so in love with the Quran you sent. I read the other book as well about how we idolize the Prophet Muhammad and the truth about the Hadiths that caused so much division today, and the Newsletters were so amazing...

All God's blessings, peace and love be upon you always...

Regards,

Marcia

AMONG HIS PROOFS

The heavens and the earth are full of proofs for the believers. (45:3)

What does God mean when He tells us that there are proofs all around us? I think it's something we need to reflect on. I think it's a great gift that He has given us. When He gave us this final chance at redemption, He might have simply left us here with only our instinctive knowledge that He is our Lord and we need to worship Him (7:172, 30:30). Very, very few would ever make it back to Him with no guidelines at all. In His incredible mercy, He provided much more than that. He sent messengers, He sent scripture, and He continuously shows us proof everywhere, in everything we see and do and touch.

The Quran is one of the most miraculous proofs God has provided for us. Not only is it a scripture containing guidance and light, but we have solid proof that it is from God and that it is protected.

O people, a proof has come to you from your Lord; we have sent down to you a profound beacon. (4:174)

Those who have rejected the Quran's proof when it came to them, have also rejected an Honorable book. No falsehood could enter it, in the past or in the future; a revelation from a Most Wise, Praiseworthy. (41:41-2)

S. (Saad), and the Quran that contains the proof. (38:1)

Suras 10, 12, 13, 15, 26, 27, 28, and 31 all say essentially the same thing: *These (letters) are the proofs of this book of wisdom.* They are proofs but still most people do not believe.

He is the One who continuously shows you His proofs....(40:13)

And what about all the people all over the world who do not have access to the Quran? God doesn't shut them out. He tells us in 2:62 and 5:69 that Christians, Jews, and anyone who believes in God alone can reach Heaven. To make this possible, God has provided proof everywhere.

In Sura 30 there is a series of verses, beginning with verse 20, that begin with the phrase *"Among His proofs..."* Such things as the creation of the heavens and the earth, the various languages and colors of the human race, lightning, wind and rain. In many other places throughout the Quran proofs are spelled out. The night and the day, the sun and the moon, mountains and rivers, crops, plants, livestock, birds, ships that roam the sea—all of these things are proofs. But, they are only proofs for people who hear, people who reflect, people who understand, people who think, people who possess intelligence and people who are appreciative.

So many proofs in the heavens and the earth are given to them, but they pass by them, heedlessly! (12:105)

We can go through life with blinders on, unaware of all the signs and gifts around us, or we can open our eyes and use the signs as opportunities to praise and thank God.

In several places God tells us He made the night for our rest (27:86, 10:67) and He tells us that He is the one who sends down peaceful slumber (3:154). So when we wake up from a good night's sleep, it's a chance to remember God and thank Him for that gift. The night and the day also provide so many other signs. A beautiful sunrise or sunset, the stars on a clear dark night, the moon as it passes through its phases, a storm moving in. The lightning is a source of fear as well as hope. The clouds bring welcome rain to revive a dead land or they bring disastrous retribution. These are signs of God's awesome power and we need to be appreciative.

Among His proofs are the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the variations in your languages and your colors. In these, there are signs for the knowledgeable. (30:22)

And (He created) for you on earth things of various colors. This is a (sufficient) proof for people who take heed. (16:13)

God tells us that the colors are among His proofs. This pertains to all the colorful things on earth—the flowers, the trees,

the birds—and it also applies to people. When we meet someone of a different race or color we need to appreciate the differences and learn from one another. We make language a barrier that separates us; instead, it should be a *"sign for the knowledgeable."*

He committed in your service everything in the heavens and the earth; all from Him. These are proofs for people who reflect. (45:13)

All of the natural things on this earth are part of God's proofs. The variety of plants and animals—that some creatures are wild and some are domesticated for our enjoyment and our service.

Eat and raise your livestock. These are sufficient proofs for those who possess intelligence (20:54)

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. (16:79)

Plants grow into delicious food for our use:

On earth, there are adjacent lots that produce orchards of grapes, crops, palm trees - dioecious and non-dioecious. Although they are irrigated with the same water, we prefer some of them over others in eating. These are solid proofs for people who understand. (13:4)

With it, He grows for you crops, olives, date palms, grapes, and all kinds of fruits. This is (sufficient) proof for people who think. (16:11)

This is why it's so important to recognize and appreciate these blessings. When we peel an orange and enjoy the sweet juicy fruit, we need to see this as a proof of God's blessings. When we pet a dog, listen to a cat purring or ride a horse, we must understand that these animals are submitting to God and we can learn a lot from their willing submission. When a flower opens and we see the bee gathering its nectar and we consume the honey the bee produces—all these things are proofs for people who reflect (16:69).

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

No matter what kind of proof comes to them from their Lord, they turn away from it, in aversion. (6:4)

With all these proofs all around us, it's amazing that everyone doesn't fall prostrate. But most people simply ignore the signs. God warns us not to be like that; that those who are heedless are disbelievers.

Do not be like those who became divided and disputed, despite the clear proofs that were given to them. For these have incurred a terrible retribution. (3:105)

Those who reject our proofs are deaf and dumb, in total darkness. Whomever God wills, He sends astray, and whomever He wills, He leads in a straight path. (6:39)

God continues to offer proofs even though the majority of people ignore them. In fact He says in 41:53: *We will show them our proofs in the horizons, and within themselves, until they realize that this is the truth. Is your Lord not sufficient as a witness of all things?* The footnote for this verse gives an indication of its importance. "The letters that compose this verse are 19, and their gematrical values add up to 1387, 19x73."

When God offers us proof, it's for our benefit. Every opportunity we take to recognize that proof and be appreciative of His mercy brings us closer to Him.

Lydia

Weekly Reminders by Email

Praise God, we are continuing to send reminders each week to submitters in our email list. 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 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.

You can also join the list on line at <http://www.masjiduntucson.org/current/weekly.html>

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.

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