

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Are you 'Muslim'? Do you follow 'Islam'?

Let us understand the meaning of these words, words that have become some of the most hated in the world today. The dictionary meaning of "**Islam**" is "**submission**" (to the will of God), derived from the root word "**aslama**" meaning "**he resigned, he surrendered or he submitted**", and that of "**Muslim**" is "**one who submits or surrenders**." Hence anyone who submits to the will of God is **Muslim** and follows **Islam**.

Why do people hate these words so much when Islam is no more than a description of a practice advocated by God, the Almighty? Is it the fright of the unknown or the guilt of reading a scripture that will point out our fallacy, or is it our ego that is preventing us from accepting the truth, or are we so preoccupied with hate for each other that we are oblivious to the obvious? Or maybe, we simply hate it because it is not in accordance with our idea of religion?

Did you know that the original founder of Islam was Prophet Abraham? Contrary to popular belief that Islam (Submission) was founded by the prophet Muham-

mad, Islam is actually the religion of Abraham. God has clarified for us that Abraham was the real founder of Islam.

[4:125] *Who is better guided in his religion than one who submits totally to GOD, leads a righteous life, according to the creed of Abraham: monotheism? GOD has chosen Abraham as a beloved friend.*

[3:95] *Say, "GOD has proclaimed the truth: You shall follow Abraham's religion—monotheism. He never was an idolator."*

Abraham, like all other Prophets/Messengers before and after him, was ordered to worship God alone. [Bible Exodus 20] *The Ten Commandments*

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me..."

[Bible Deuteronomy 4:35] *"You it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him"*

[Bible Matthew 4:10] *"Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan!"*

For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him ONLY.'

So it would stand to reason that anyone who is Jewish, Christian, Muslim or any other religion can be "Muslim", i.e., a Submitter to God. There can be Jewish Muslims, Christian Muslims or Muslim Muslims. Anyone who worships GOD ALONE qualifies as Muslim (Submitter). The infinitely merciful God has given each and every human being, irrespective of the religion he/she is born into, the opportunity to submit to Him alone and make it back to paradise.

[2:62] *Surely, those who believe, those who are Jewish, the Christians, and the converts; anyone who (1) believes in GOD, and (2) believes in the Last Day, and (3) leads a righteous life, will receive their recompense from their Lord. They have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve."*

God's message has remained constant from the time of Adam and the message is language independent. While different prophets/messengers spoke different

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tongues at different periods of time, the essence of the message has always been the worship of **GOD ALONE**.

Nevertheless, our egos and our desire to have the **best religion, preached by a prophet or messenger we love** have served to close our hearts and minds to what subsequent prophets and messengers have conveyed. If you look at it logically you will see that God sent messengers only when the previous generations had totally corrupted His religion.

God sent Jesus after the Children of Israel (Jews) had corrupted the religion preached by the earlier messengers. In the same manner God sent Muhammad after the Christians corrupted the religion preached by Jesus—by worshiping him instead of GOD ALONE, as repeatedly preached by Jesus. [Bible Luke 6:46] "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

[Bible Matthew 7:21] "It is not anyone who calls me "Lord, Lord" who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of my Father in heaven."

God's unified message to Submitters from different scriptures:

[Bible Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Mark 12:29-30] "Hear, O Israel! The Lord your God is One God! Therefore you shall adore the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. "

[Quran 20:14] "I am GOD; there is no other god beside Me. You shall worship me alone, and observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) to remember Me. "

[21:25] We did not send any messenger before you except with the inspiration: "There is no god except Me; you shall worship Me alone."

[Gayatri Mantra Yajur Veda] "Let us meditate on God, His glorious attributes, who is the basis of everything in this universe as its Creator; who is fit to be worshiped as Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient, a self-existent conscious being, who removes all ignorance and impurities from the mind and purifies and sharpens the intellect."

This is the message that God has been consistently giving us from the time of Adam, irrespective of the source. No messenger from God will ever give instructions to the contrary as demonstrated by the above statements from three different scriptures. Perhaps the time has now come for us to open our hearts and minds to the possibility of accepting God's unified message in accordance with his will and not in accordance with our will, desire or convenience. Then and only then, we may be able to read the last and final testament, the Quran, and enjoy it for its message and guidance.

R. D.

* * * * *

Deterioration of Religion

[57:16] *Is it not time for those who believed to open up their hearts for GOD's message, and the truth that is revealed herein? They should not be like the followers of previous scriptures whose hearts became hardened with time and, consequently, many of them turned wicked.*

[39:23] *GOD has revealed herein the best Hadith; a book that is consistent, and points out both ways (to Heaven and Hell). The skins of those who reverence their Lord cringe therefrom, then their skins and their hearts soften up for GOD's message. Such is GOD's guidance; He bestows it upon whomever He wills. As for those sent astray by GOD, nothing can guide them.*

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 more information. 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.*

Note: Your comments are welcome and appreciated.

Let us know how you found Submission. If you have thoughts or comments you'd like to share with other submitters, please write to: info@masjiduntucson.org

Perhaps the Reminder will Benefit

At times, we may have wondered why the Quran repeats Divine commands, cautions, information, warnings of punishments, and promises of rewards over and over again. Most of us think that we know it all.

Yet, we must study the reason. At times, even an ignorant person may find a single reading and study of the Quran to be enough to learn what he did not know. Another might see a rainbow and realise there is Supreme Intelligence behind this. But for those who claim to know and yet disregard, a recap is necessary as a reminder. It is also useful because most of us are guilty of lethargy rather than complete rejection. Reminders could assure and encourage us as a refresher to shed our apathy or lack of enthusiasm, and we would then hurry to seek the blessings and approval of God. [26:89] *Only those who come to GOD with their whole heart (will be saved).*

During our Salat and Quran study, we do get distracted with unnecessary thoughts and we do persist in sinning. But the answer is not to give up but to seek refuge in God from Satan the rejected, and we must continue to strive in His cause. If we give up, it would be accepting defeat and yielding to Satan. First of all, Salat is unconditional. It is the Decree of our Lord and Master and therefore it should be obeyed without doubt or protest. It also represents our recognition of His countless bounties received every moment of our life. Every breath we take, every move we make, we owe to our Creator.

God wants us to live and propagate His Message. We can remind one another of the chastisements and danger if we go astray as well as the benefits and protection that the right path offers us. [32:17] *You have no idea how much joy and happiness are waiting for you as a reward for your (righteous) works.*

Submission teaches us a blend of

thought and action. Repeatedly, the Quran reminds us to think, ponder and reflect on the varied features of natural phenomena. We believe that God possesses unlimited control. We are guided to introspect on the process of our creation and also the purpose behind it. And what is this purpose?

[51:56] *I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone. "Ya' budoon" also means to serve. And how do we serve God? We serve Him by unquestioningly obeying His Commands.*

Interestingly, the Old and New Testaments (as we have them) do not touch on the issue of our creation. Hinduism does, but Hindus understand that they were created out of the whim and fancy (*leela*) of Ishwar. The Quran says: [21:16-17] *We did not create the heavens and the earth, and everything between them just for amusement. If we needed amusement, we could have initiated it without any of this, if that is what we wanted to do.* For us, this is a very crucial matter and so the Quran shakes us out of our stupor. [23:115] *"Did you think that we created you in vain; that you were not to be returned to us?"* [3:191] *They remember GOD while standing, sitting, and on their sides, and they reflect upon the creation of the heavens and the earth: "Our Lord, You did not create all this in vain. Be You glorified. Save us from the retribution of Hell."*

If we have a situation where we cannot differentiate between the Truth and Falsehood, we should turn to the Quran. One of the main reasons of the revelation of the Quran is to provide us the Criterion. God has provided us with a flawless touchstone to enable us to know this difference, and it is valid for all time to come.

[10:37] *This Quran could not possibly be authored by other than GOD. It confirms all previous messages, and provides a fully detailed scripture. It is infallible; for it comes from the Lord of the universe.*

Islam is a principled religion. Apart from humbleness and surrender to

the Majesty of God, all its laws and rulings are based on the most moral and firm foundations. It places before us a perfect ideal that is appealing and stresses from its adherents a behaviour which not only graces individual life but contributes to the united progress of society. A society where rights and obligations are the foundation of justice and equality; where no one has a greater or lesser share. In the eyes of the law, all should have complete equality. [61:4] **GOD** *loves those who fight in His cause united in one column, like the bricks in one wall.*

God does not need our worship.

[35:15] *O people, you are the ones who need GOD, while GOD is in no need for anyone, the Most Praiseworthy.* He is independent of all necessities. Instead of randomly imposing duties, He allows us the "freedom of choice." We have to choose between His kingdom and Satan's kingdom. There are many practices of our worship like Salat, Zakat, Fasting, Hajj, Zikr, striving in the cause of God, etc. that are the basic recognized demonstrations of our submission and gratitude. [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."*

The honesty and impartiality to which the Quran invites us is not limited to a certain group of people or for that matter even to the Muslim community as a whole. It is intended for all human beings irrespective of their belief. And reminders in the Quran reassure and encourage us.

[7:2] *This scripture has been revealed to you—you shall not harbor doubt about it in your heart—that you may warn with it, and to provide a reminder for the believers.*

[50:45] *We are fully aware of everything they utter, while you have no power over them. Therefore, remind with this Quran, those who reverence My warnings.*

[87:9] *Therefore, you shall remind; perhaps the reminder will benefit.*

Alim

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GOD's Gift: Water

[17:66] *Your Lord is the One who causes the ships to float on the ocean,* that you may seek His bounties. He is Most Merciful towards you.*

*17:66 *We now learn from physics and physical chemistry that water possesses unique qualities that render it perfectly suitable for serving our various needs.*

Water is a tremendous gift from God. We can drink it, bathe in it, we can swim in it. A piece of metal will sink to the bottom, yet a metal ship weighing thousands of pounds can skim along the surface. You can soak a pan with greasy stuck-on food in water for a few hours which allows you to easily remove all the debris. But the pan itself doesn't dissolve. Which is a good thing, since our bodies consist in large part of water, and it doesn't dissolve our skin!

Suppose you found an alien—a true alien from a planet where water was unheard of. Maybe you took him to the Grand Canyon. As you stood on the rim and looked at the magnificent sight, you would tell him that the Colorado River, the tiny band of green way down at the bottom, had carved all this. "Water," you tell him, "has created this deep and rugged landscape Here, would you like a glass?!"

It is a gift that only God could make possible. And we need to be appreciative.



VERSES ON GOD'S WONDROUS SIGNS WATER

[56:68-70] *Have you noted the water you drink? Did you send it down from the clouds, or did we? If we will, we can make it salty. You should be thankful.*

[41:39] *Among His proofs is that you see the land still, then, as soon as we shower it with water, it vibrates with life. Surely, the One who revived it can revive the dead. He is Omnipotent.*

[11:7] *He is the One who created the heavens and the earth in six days—and His (earthly) domain was completely covered with water—in order to test you, to distinguish those among you who work righteousness. Yet, when you say, "You will be resurrected after death," those who disbelieve would say, "This is clearly witchcraft."*

[13:4] *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.*

[16:10] *He sends down from the sky water for your drink, and to grow trees for your benefit.*

[18:45] *Cite for them the example of this life as water that we send down from the sky to produce plants of the earth, then they turn into hay that is blown away by the wind. GOD is able to do all things.*

[21:30] *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?*

[23:18] *We send down from the sky water, in exact measure, then we store it in the ground. Certainly, we can let it escape.*

[24:45] *And GOD created every living creature from water. Some of them walk on their bellies, some walk on two legs, and some walk on four. GOD creates whatever He wills. GOD is Omnipotent.*

[67:30] *Say, "What if your water sinks away, who will provide you with pure water?"*