

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Goals and Priorities

We have many things in our lives we would like to achieve at any given time. Some are short term goals, such as passing a test in a class, or giving a good presentation at work that will assure us a promotion. Some are long term goals, such as getting a good education.

Our goals and desires in life never end. Many are attainable and within our reach, some are wishes which may or may not come true. There are other goals which may seem to take forever to achieve. For example, when we were in high school, we looked forward to the day of graduation. At the time, it seemed so far away. During college days, we contemplated the day we would get our diploma, then find a good job. It also seemed so far away then. Yet, one day we find ourselves having achieved many of the things that we thought of being difficult or almost impossible to achieve.

One Life to Live?

After God blesses us with a job and we have our own money to spend, we set up new goals. We usually want a new car, to get married, have children, get a house, have a successful career, move to a bigger house, and so on. If

God gives us children, we worry about our children's well-being, education, and their future. We want them to be the best, and to have the best. We sometimes work ourselves to death trying to achieve all that. Nevertheless, our desire to have better social and material things is endless. As the Quran states in Verse 41:49: "The human being never tires of imploring for good things ..."

The next generation will want to achieve similar, if not better things in their lives. The cycle will continue until the end of the world. If we believe in the creation, this brings us to the following questions: Did God create us all in vain, for play? What is the purpose of this life? Furthermore, we should question ourselves: What do we want to really get out of this world by the time we die? Is it our aim that we want to accumulate wealth, have a big family, a successful career in life? How about preparing ourselves for the real, eternal life? The Quran gives us the answers:

God did not create the heavens and the earth, and everything between them, except for a specific purpose, and for a specific life span ... [30:8]

We did not create the heavens and the earth, and everything between them for amusement. If we needed amusement, we could have initiated it without any of this, if that is what we wanted to do. [21:16-17]

God created the heavens and the earth for a specific purpose, in order to pay each soul for whatever it earned, without the least injustice. [30:8]

I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone. [51:56]

This worldly life is no more than vanity and play, while the abode of the Hereafter is the real life, if they only knew. [29:64]

What is Our Priority?

There is nothing wrong in wanting to be the best we can be, and to have the best we can have, as long as we do realize the purpose of our lives, are appreciative of God's blessings and use our resources to strive more in the cause of God:

Use the provisions bestowed upon you by God to seek the abode of the Hereafter, without neglecting your share in

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this world. Be charitable, as God has been charitable towards you ... [28:77]

Our ultimate goal in this life should be to be a righteous person so that God will be pleased with us. In all our actions and decisions, our priority should be the eternal life of the Hereafter, not the temporary one on this earth. If we can maintain this throughout our lives, then we can be a winner both in this life and in the Hereafter. It will be the biggest triumph of our lives if we make it to Heaven, even barely, by God's leave.

[17:18] Anyone who chooses this fleeting life as his priority, we will rush to him what we decide to give him, then we commit him to Gehenna, where he suffers forever, despised and defeated. [17:19] As for those who choose the Hereafter as their priority, and work righteousness, while believing, their efforts will be appreciated.

[3:185] Every person tastes death, then you receive your recompense on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever misses Hell, barely, and makes it to Paradise, has attained a great triumph. The life of this world is no more than an illusion.

Road to Happiness

Our happiness in this life and in the Hereafter depends on whether or not we become submitters to God alone. As submitters we should make pleasing God our highest priority. We should make it our ultimate goal to fulfill God's expectation of us. We must not set up any idols besides God, whether the idol is a saint, prophet, our ego, business, children, spouse, money or what have you.

We should aim to live a righteous life, and treat each other amicably. We should not lie, cheat, or back-bite people. We should do our best to live a life in accordance with God's commandments in the Quran. Simply put, we should do the things that God wants us to do, and avoid the things that God does not want us to do. Our ultimate aim in doing all this is to get ourselves worthy of God's blessings and mercy.

When pleasing God becomes the most important aspect of our lives, God makes everything wonderful for us:

God promises those among you who believe and lead a righteous life, that He will make them sovereigns on earth, as He did for those before them, and will establish for them the religion He has chosen for them, and will substitute peace and security for them in place of fear. All this because they worship Me alone; they never set up any idols beside Me ... [24:55]

We have to strive to be righteous and to be in the right path in order to attain God's promise. Therefore, we should examine ourselves sincerely at every opportunity. Any time we have a problem in any aspect of our lives; we should search for the lesson, and learn from our lessons. We should submit to God's will, and remember that God will test us through different means to see if we are steadfast.

No person and nothing else should take priority over God. Once we make this the most important aspect in our lives, we will possess the most valuable thing one can ask for—God's support. But, if we make anything more important than pleasing God, we will be tested over and over. If we do not realize that fact after all the tests and we keep confusing our priorities, then we may lose both in this life as well as in the Hereafter.

Abdullah

[from August 1994 SP]

[14:2] (The path of) GOD; the One who possesses everything in the heavens and everything on earth. Woe to the disbelievers; they have incurred a terrible retribution.

What is Your Priority?

[14:3] They are the ones who give priority to this life over the Hereafter, repel from the way of GOD, and seek to make it crooked; they have gone far astray.

Preoccupation With This Life Leads to Exile From God

[16:107] This is because they have given priority to this life over the Hereafter, and GOD does not guide such disbelieving people.

Charity Water

By God's grace 2017 was our fourth charity water fundraising campaign. The Submitter community started its first charity water fundraising in 2011, then every 2 years after that. GOD willing, we will continue to do it every 2 years under GOD's protection and guidance.

I think clean water is one of the most important elements of our existence. It is a gift from GOD; without it we cannot survive. To appreciate such a gift, what better way than to share it with those who are less fortunate and are in need of it. In other words, we need to be charitable as God has been charitable towards us. God loves the charitable.

We chose to do this charitable water project, because clean water changes everything. We have clean water at every table, every faucet, every bath, yet 663 million people around the world still live without it.

Did you know that the amount of water on earth now is the same as when earth was formed? And yet water is constantly changing in so many ways. Praise GOD.

It seems this is one of those opportunities for charitable people to make it possible to bring water out of the ground for needy people, and to earn lots of credit. The wonderful thing about these water wells is that, by God's grace, they will last even after we pass away.

Let's see how clean water changes lives.

HEALTH: Diseases from dirty water kill more people every year than all forms of violence, including war. 43% of those deaths are children under five years old. Access to clean water and basic sanitation can save around 16,000 lives every week, God willing.

TIME: In Africa alone, women spend 40 billion hours a year walking for water.

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Access to clean water gives communities more time to grow food, earn income, and go to school—all of which fight poverty by God's grace.

EDUCATION: Clean water helps keep kids in school, especially girls. Less time collecting water means more time in class. Clean water and proper toilets at school are healthier for everyone. God willing people will have fewer sick days, and it means teenage girls don't have to stay home for a week out of every month.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: Women are responsible for 72% of the water collected in Sub-Saharan Africa. When a community gets water from a well close by, women and girls get their lives back. They can start businesses, improve their homes, and God willing, they have better futures. We pray for God's guidance, may God bless them with the message.

The Charity Water organization presents this important fact: every \$1 invested in improved water access and sanitation yields an average of \$12 in economic returns—that's huge. For every \$37 donation, one person gets a supply of clean water for a very long time. The non-profit organization also assures us that 100% of your donation is used to bring water to people who are in need, and not used in administrative overheads.

[57:7] Believe in GOD and His messenger, and give from what He has been bestowed upon you. Those among you who believe and give (to charity) have deserved a great recompense. [57:18] Surely, the charitable men and women have loaned GOD a loan of goodness. They will receive their reward multiplied manifold; they have deserved a generous recompense.

God tells us in Quran that giving to charity will lead us towards happiness.

[92:5-7] As for him who gives to charity and maintains righteousness—and upholds the scripture—We will direct him

towards happiness.

So, here is a great remedy for when we are not happy—do some charity. It doesn't have to be a lot; it just has to be from the heart to please God. The reason we are happy is because God rewards us.

[16:128] GOD is with those who lead a righteous life, and those who are charitable.

[3:92] You cannot attain righteousness until you give to charity from the possessions you love. Whatever you give to charity, GOD is fully aware thereof.

Praise God for His signs of reassurance for our charity. May God accept from us.

Our first campaign was in 2011 and here is the summary of the totals for that campaign:

A: the number of donations was 121 (this means money was donated 121 times)

B: total number of people served with clean drinking water was 1910

C: the total amount raised was \$38,205

If we line up the total number from A, B and C we will get: $121\ 1910\ 38205 = 19 \times 6,378,475,695$. Praise be to GOD!

By God's grace, the previous campaigns have shown the kindness and generosity of the submitter community by raising the following amounts:

2011: \$38,205; 2013: \$52,214.43; 2015: \$39,479.77 (if you add up the amounts and divide by 19, one finds another sign, praise be to God).

The money collected went directly to opening wells in 17 communities in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Malawi in Africa. The lives of nearly 6000 people were improved with access to clean water. Praise be to God. Here's just one write-up from one such community.

Thanks to you, this village now has access to clean and safe drinking water. Each family using the new water source contributed toward their project's construction—a small fee, but one that helps instill a sense of person-

al ownership for the project. Each family will continue to pay a small amount to use the water; the community will save this money for any necessary maintenance and repairs. Our partner has helped the community form a Water Committee, who will oversee the usage and repair of the water point. They even know how to do some basic repairs themselves!

The community has also been educated on safe hygiene practices. Since work began, 50% more households have latrines at home, which they constructed with their own time and materials. This shows how committed they are to improving health at home and in the whole community. Families are also using soap and clean water to wash their hands, clothes and water containers. These changes are already making a big impact -- within the first few months after the project was completed, sickness from waterborne disease dropped by 11%.

The people here, especially women and children, used to walk up to two hours to collect water for their families. Even then, each family member had to make do with about five liters of water per day for drinking, bathing, cooking and everything else. The water wasn't safe to drink and often made people sick. Thanks to your help, people here are walking significantly less and waiting less time at the water point every day when collecting water. This means each family can now use up to 15 liters per person per day! Most importantly, the water they bring home each day is safe enough to drink.



The 2017 campaign just finished up at the end of September. It brought in \$45,097 (if you concatenate the year and the amount, you get 2017 45097 a multiple of 19, praise God). God willing, this

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will provide at least four new wells completed over the next few years. Praise God.

God willing, we will have our next Charity Water campaign in the summer of 2019. Since 19 is such a wonderful reminder of God, we pray that the next campaign will be the most successful one yet, opening many new wells to help even more people into the future. God is in full control of all things. And God loves the charitable.

Rahim

[3:133-4] You should eagerly race towards forgiveness from your Lord and a Paradise whose width encompasses the heavens and the earth; it awaits the righteous, who give to charity during the good times, as well as the bad times. They are suppressors of anger, and pardoners of the people. GOD loves the charitable.

* * * * *

Letters

Salaam,

I received my copy of the Quran the other day and am so excited to finally have it. I love your website and all the information on it. I was raised Catholic but spent most of my life trying to find the truth. For the first time in my life, I feel close to God because I am now worshipping Him Alone.

Everything makes sense now. I'm sharing the Quran with my 19-yr. old daughter and helping her to understand what Islam means. I had previously read the entire 114 suras by Rashad Khalifa online and was in the process of reading them over again when I got my Quran. Again, thank you and may God bless you all.

Judith

* * * * *

God makes sure that His message reaches everywhere. The following letter is from a prisoner in Virginia.

Dear Submitters,

Greetings and peace, again! I would like to thank you for the Submitter Perspectives each month. I am learning a lot from the light and knowledge of the Quran that you sent, and other information! May Allah bless you abundantly and grant you peace!! I am enjoying and do appreciate all the knowledge you send!!! God is Great. Thank you.

In faith, hope and charity,

Christopher

* * * * *

[96:1-5] Read, in the name of your Lord, who created. He created man from an embryo. Read, and your Lord, Most Exalted. Teaches by means of the pen. He teaches man what he never knew.

A Cause to Pause

When your debts are high and you want to cry, pause for your Lord and say a prayer. Your Lord is always there, and He'll take care.

When it seems that there is nowhere to turn and your back is against the wall, pause and talk to God. He is your refuge and Protector.

When there is no one to borrow from and you know not to ask, pause and kneel and ask God. He is Most Rich.

When the feast you hunger for is made of wishes, pause and believe and watch how God provides.

When you have done all that you can do, pause and ask God which way to go and He'll show you what to do.

When you're hurting but you can't afford to see a doctor, pause and ask God to relieve the pain. He heals you.

When they tell you that you are a prayer from being homeless, pause and believe. God will shelter you.

When you pause for God, God will always see you through. Implore Him, He is always near.

You must believe that God knows your cause, and when we pause for God it is so we recognize that pausing matters.

Eula