

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Nothing is Permanent

Charlie Chaplin said: “Nothing is permanent in this world – not even your troubles.”

We need to appreciate the fact that nothing in this world is permanent. Life is a constant change. Nothing is truly under our control, though humans are trying to control everything. And we try to hold onto things like fame, money, and happiness, and avoid any changes in our circumstances. But Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, wisely said: “There is nothing permanent except change.” Seasons change, technology changes, we change as we age.

Some get so stressed by change, especially when problems arise, that they may even attempt suicide. They forget that nothing is permanent. When faced with problems, a submitter understands they are gifts from God to help make us stronger and more appreciative. Sometimes we need to break the pace of our headlong run for success to find whether we are heading in the correct direction or not. Therefore, God gives a little tug to break our pace by way of creating obstructions. That way, if we have

drifted away from the right path, we get a chance to mend our ways, an opportunity to appreciate and thank God.

God’s system is phenomenal. We consistently experience change in nature. There is nothing constant, everything keeps on changing—weather, climate, time, health, life etc. These changes take place for a specific reason. Whether we like it or not, it is necessary for living in this world. Therefore, willingly or unwillingly, we need to accept it. If we plant a small sapling today it becomes a huge tree over time. We might not be there to taste its fruits at that time, but it will be beneficial to somebody. Water changes into different forms according to the effects of external factors, solid to liquid to gas. Is this not amazing to observe and praise God? We need oxygen to breathe which is provided to us by the trees. We need water which is provided to us by rainy season. But, for rainy season God created hot summer season without which we would not get water. We must appreciate this change and praise God for it.

Sometimes change hurts us a lot due

to our emotional attachment to a certain person or thing. Our immense attachment makes us vulnerable to pain with its absence. We forget the natural phenomenon of change and thus refuse to accept it. We should not get too attached to a person, object or any pleasure in our life. A friend of mine shared a motivational thought with me, “The life in front of you is way more important than the life behind you”. We need to understand the fact of life and accept the change. One more saying says, “If it costs you your peace, it’s too expensive”. Emotional attachment should not become the cause of our grief.

The ever-changing situations give us both a reason to rejoice and a reason to lament. In times of joy and success when we’re surrounded with good things, we need to be appreciative. In times of distress, we need to remember the good times and know that things will soon change for the better, as long as we hold fast to God.

A famous proverb says that a person can never enter the same river twice. The idea behind the proverb is that

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since the river keeps moving, where and how you stepped before will always be different when new water flows past you. Every moment is unique. This awareness of impermanence can help us to develop two vital mental qualities, to remain calm and composed and to become empathetic.

This prepares us to handle life's highs and lows, with patience and calmness, and cope with the strife, frustration and despair that may arise out of impermanence. It fosters a quality of tolerance, so that we may help others in distress.

The Quran gives us the best sayings on the impermanence of this world.

*[55:26] Everyone on earth perishes.
[55:27] Only the presence of your Lord lasts. Possessor of Majesty and Honor.*

[2:115] To GOD belongs the east and the west; wherever you go there will be the presence of GOD. GOD is Omnipresent, Omniscient.

God offered us the freedom of choice and we immediately grabbed it. It is a human tendency to grab anything that comes easily into our hands. We have accepted a huge responsibility which was refused by the heavens, earth and the mountains. Foolishly we accepted this opportunity without realizing the risk factor involved in it. Very truly God calls us transgressing and ignorant.

[33:72] We have offered the responsibility (freedom of choice) to the heavens and the earth, and the mountains, but they refused to bear it, and were afraid of it. But the human being accepted it; he was transgressing, ignorant.

After accepting the responsibility what have we done? Are we playing our role properly? Are we proving to be worthy of accepting that responsibility? Very sadly, we get negative replies to these questions. We are expected to be honest, avoid boasting, avoid slandering, avoid foul language,

and show mercy towards our parents and siblings. As submitters we cannot afford to violate God's laws. We must not take our Lord's teachings for granted.

[68:10-14] Do not obey every lowly swearer. A slanderer, a backbiter. Forbidden of charity, a transgressor, a sinner. Unappreciative, and greedy. Even though he possessed enough money and children.

[17:38] All bad behavior is condemned by your Lord

Our Lord's revelations are heavy. We need to take guidance from it for every aspect of our life. It is our foremost duty to adhere to the laws of God. We must put in real efforts to live our lives doing everything that would please our Lord. We must also try to set an example that would invite others to the path of God. We must closely observe our actions, our deeds as well as our words. We must not miss any opportunity to glorify God. Our one wrong action might mislead others from the right path of God. So, we must strive hard to uphold the scripture of God. It is our duty to proclaim that we are submitters to God Alone.

We can see that God's system and laws remain unaltered. It is permanent in an impermanent world.

[17:77] This has been consistently the case with all the messengers that we sent before you, and you will find that our system never changes.

[48:23] Such is GOD's system throughout history, and you will find that GOD's system is unchangeable.

God's guidance is clear for those who truly wish to get the true guidance of God. I urge all of you to take stock of your deeds from time to time. What would be the score of my good deeds and bad deeds? God is immensely merciful. But we need to do our part. We accept change around us, knowing that only God is permanent.

May God guide us in the right path until we leave this world and may He

have mercy upon all of us to forgive us and make us the winners in the hereafter.

Abdul Ghani

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Crouching Down

According to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), when a hurricane hits and you have no shelter or vehicle to protect you, you should "crouch in low unflooded place on balls of feet, with hands on knees, and head lowered. Make yourself the smallest possible target and minimize your contact with the ground."

This got me thinking about the Salat, and how we are in a hurricane of Satan's (and our own) doing. Satan is the king of chaos, and this world is his playground. We see his disasters all around: wars, famine, disease, etc.; a true demonstration of his incompetence.

It got me thinking how we are souls caught in a hurricane, outside of heaven, and we don't have shelter except in GOD *[41:36] When the devil whispers an idea to you, you shall seek refuge in GOD. He is the Hearer, the Omniscient.*

Our most powerful protection against Satan is the contact prayers, whereby we assume the crouching position at its lowest point.

When we prostrate before GOD, we take the same position of safety as those in a hurricane: "crouch in low unflooded place on balls of feet, with hands on knees, and head lowered." GOD is giving us an opportunity to save ourselves from the storms of this world, from Satan's disasters, and from the ill-winds coming our way.

In terms of our souls, we are in a state of emergency. This is our 3rd and final chance to make it back to GOD, and GOD

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has given us the emergency procedure to take refuge: crouch down, i.e., PRAY!

May God continue to guide us to seek refuge in Him, observe the Contact Prayers and the rites of our religion, because they are our *means of salvation* in the face of Satan's storm of disbelief on humanity.

[108:2] Therefore, you shall pray to your Lord (Salat), and give to charity.

[2:186] When My servants ask you about Me, I am always near. I answer their prayers when they pray to Me. The people shall respond to Me and believe in Me, in order to be guided.

Abeer

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The Leaves of Paradise

[7:22] He thus duped them with lies. As soon as they tasted the tree, their bodies became visible to them, and they tried to cover themselves with the leaves of Paradise. Their Lord called upon them: "Did I not enjoin you from that tree, and warn you that the devil is your most ardent enemy?"

In the Great Feud, we failed to uphold God's absolute authority. All creatures became classified into angels, jinns, and humans. The Most Merciful knew some creatures deserved a chance to be redeemed into His Kingdom. He said to the angels, "I know what you do not know." [2:30]

The first time I read 7:22, I thought the leaves of Paradise were physical. Then, I questioned myself: Could they take the physical leaves of Paradise and bring them from Heaven to Earth? Something about it didn't make sense.

Years later, the word "tried" caught my attention, and it changed my

understanding. The verse does not say that they took the leaves of Paradise from Heaven to Earth. The verse says they *tried to cover* themselves with the leaves of Paradise. My current understanding is that this event took place in Paradise. I just want to make it clear that it is just my current understanding of this verse. God is Teacher of the Quran; we ask him to increase our knowledge. We know that the descriptions of Heaven and Hell are allegorical. This helped with my current understanding.

[7:19] "As for you, Adam, dwell with your wife in Paradise, and eat therefrom as you please, but do not approach this one tree, lest you fall in sin."

Our Most Merciful God after the great feud in the High Heaven, gave us another chance. God sent Adam and Eve to Paradise **with the temporary garment of righteousness** to be able to stay in Paradise. Without the garment of righteousness, they could not remain in Paradise. Which explains in 7:27 where it says the devil removed their garment.

As long as they did not lose that garment by committing sin, they would have been able to return to God.

[7:20] The devil whispered to them, in order to reveal their bodies, which were invisible to them. He said, "Your Lord did not forbid you from this tree, except to prevent you from becoming angels, and from attaining eternal existence."

Satan thus duped Adam and Eve with falsehood, causing the removal of their garments to expose their real selves, their souls.

Adam and Eve saw their sinful selves. They were no longer **clothed in the garment of righteousness**. They realized that their souls were no longer in a state of righteousness.

[7:22] He thus duped them with lies. As soon as they tasted the tree, their bodies became visible to them, and

they tried to cover themselves with the leaves of Paradise. Their Lord called upon them: "Did I not enjoin you from that tree, and warn you that the devil is your most ardent enemy?"

Adam and Eve felt guilt and shame after disobeying God. To restore what was lost, and to cover their guilt and shame, **they tried to cover** themselves using the nearest available materials, the **leaves of Paradise**, which symbolize righteousness.

A natural human response to sin is to try to hide their wrongdoing.

When Adam and Eve were in Paradise, before touching the forbidden tree, they had the garment of righteousness. After falling in sin by disobeying God, they thought they could stay in Paradise if they could cover themselves with materials of Paradise, and take back their garment of righteousness. But they realized that they could not.

[7:23] They said, "Our Lord, we have wronged our souls, and unless You forgive us and have mercy on us, we will be losers."

Here, when Adam and Eve confessed their sins and asked for forgiveness, they still were in Paradise. In the next verse, God said, "go down." Because they tried to get back the state of righteousness and go back to worshipping God alone, then God gave them another chance.

[7:24] He said, "Go down as enemies of one another. On earth shall be your habitation and provision for awhile"

[7:25] He said, "On it you will live, on it you will die, and from it you will be brought out."

*[7:26] O children of Adam, we have provided you with garments to cover your bodies, as well as for luxury. **But the best garment is the garment of righteousness.** These are some of GOD's signs, that they may take heed.*

[7:27] O children of Adam, do not let the devil dupe you as he did

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when he caused the eviction of your parents from Paradise, and the removal of their garments to expose their bodies. He and his tribe see you, while you do not see them. We appoint the devils as companions of those who do not believe.

On earth, God provided the clothing for Adam and Eve, but God emphasizes that the true garment (the one that brings us back to Him) is the **garment of righteousness**.

We must develop our real self, the soul, here on earth through righteous works; a soul capable of withstanding the presence of God. Otherwise, the disbelievers will have garments of fire:

*[22:19] Here are two parties feuding with regard to their Lord. As for those who disbelieve, they will have **clothes of fire** tailored for them. Hellish liquid will be poured on top of their heads.*

Another verse concerning garments I would like to point out is: *[11:5] Indeed, they hide their innermost thoughts, as if to keep Him from knowing them. In fact, as they **cover themselves with their clothes**, He knows all their secrets and declarations. He knows the innermost thoughts.*

Who are these people God is referring to? I think verse 11:5 refers to two groups:

The first group includes some religious Scholars, Priests, and Rabbis who wear official religious clothes to present themselves as righteous. The second group includes those who may not wear official religious clothes but pretend to be righteous using a metaphorical garment of righteousness.

God promises us that if we lead a righteous life, He will make us kings and queens on earth. In other words, if we wear the garment of righteousness on earth, which we lost in Paradise, He will make us sovereigns on earth. (24:55)

And even more for those who lead a righteous life! The Merciful God welcomes them into His presence!

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

Our Lord, grant us a garment of peace, kindness, justice, compassion, and contentment. Our Lord, grant us the garment of righteousness.

Parivash

*Prayers and wishes for
God's blessings
in the New Year*

Ramadan 2026

Ramadan begins **February 18** for USA and Canada, God willing (the Night of Destiny will start, God willing, at sunset on March 15).

Full details of fasting are given in 2:183-187. *[2:183] O you who believe, fasting is decreed for you, as it was decreed for those before you, that you may attain salvation.*

New moon times for determining the beginning and ending of Ramadan are below for GMT/UTC (Universal time).

Feb 17, 2026: 12:01 PM (UTC/GMT)

Mar 19, 2026: 01:23 AM (UTC/GMT)

The local new moon time can be calculated by adjusting for your time-zone relative to UTC. To calculate the Ramadan start date, compare the local New Moon time with the local Sunset. If the new moon is before sunset, we fast the next day, God willing. Similarly, to determine the last day of fasting, compare the time of the next new moon with the local sunset. If the new moon is before sunset, the Ramadan month is complete on that day. Otherwise one fasts the next day. For more details on how dates are calculated, please see the September 2009 issue of the Submitters Perspective

For more details or to use a tool to assist you in verifying Ramadan details for your location, please visit: <https://masjiduntucson.org/Ramadan/>