



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International
Community of Submitters

www.masjidtucson.org



Published by Masjid Tucson
Sha'ban 1446

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Watch Over Us

God tells us in 2:104 and 4:46 that we should say, *Unzurna* "God, watch over us." We need to implore Him for His protection and His care. The fact is that God is always watching over us, whether we know it or not, whether we thank Him or not.

God tells Moses how watchful He has been throughout Moses's life:

[20:37] "We have blessed you another time. [20:38] "When we revealed to your mother what we revealed.

[20:39] "Saying: 'Throw him into the box, then throw him into the river. The river will throw him onto the shore, to be picked up by an enemy of Mine and an enemy of his.' I showered you with love from Me, and I had you made before My watchful eye.

[20:40] "Your sister walked to them and said, 'I can tell you about a nursing mother who can take good care of him.' We thus returned you to your mother, that she may be happy and stop worrying. And when you killed a soul, we saved you from the grievous consequences; indeed we tested you thoroughly. You stayed years with the people of Midyan, and now you have come back in accordance with a

precise plan. [20:41] "I have made you just for Me.

Truly, God has made each one of us individually and has shaped us and guided us and watched over each of us. Our paths are very different, but the one constant is that God is always there.

When God told Moses to go to Pharaoh, Moses was afraid. He knew Pharaoh's might and he knew that he was a fugitive, subject to punishment, maybe even death. [20:45] They said, "Our Lord, we fear lest he may attack us, or transgress."

God's response was to reassure him that no harm would come to him because God was watching over him. [20:46] He said, "Do not be afraid, for I will be with you, listening and watching.

God commanded Noah to build a boat in the middle of the desert. This must have seemed like a strange request and it subjected Noah to a lot of ridicule from his people.

[11:37] "Build the ark under our watchful eyes, and with our inspiration, and do not implore Me on behalf

of those who have transgressed; they are destined to drown." [11:38] While he was building the ark, whenever some of his people passed by him they laughed at him. He said, "You may be laughing at us, but we are laughing at you, just as you are laughing.

Noah followed God's command, trusted in God, and God saved him and those few who believed with him.

[54:13] We carried him on a watercraft made of logs and ropes. [54:14] It ran under our watchful eyes; a reward for one who was rejected. [54:15] We have set it up as a lesson. Does any of you wish to learn?

Jesus also trusted in God and faithfully served as a messenger. In the end, he told God that he did exactly as God commanded him. He knew that ultimately everything was in God's control. [5:117] "I told them only what You commanded me to say, that: 'You shall worship GOD, my Lord and your Lord.' I was a witness among them for as long as I lived with them. When You terminated my life on earth, You became the Watcher over them. You witness all things.

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God is the Watcher. We can take comfort in the fact that He is in full control of everything, including each one of us and everything that happens to us. If we reverence God and worship Him alone, then we know that whatever happens to us will be the best thing for us. When we have difficulty, we can always see how God protected us from worse harm. He is the Provider and the Protector.

[4:1] O people, observe your Lord; the One who created you from one being, and created from it its mate, then spread from the two many men and women. You shall regard GOD, by whom you swear, and regard the parents. GOD is watching over you.

I found that Psalm 121 in the Old Testament gives us exactly the same knowledge and wisdom.

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Praise God. He watches over us. There's so much danger in this world, but God is always there for us. How can we ever thank Him enough?

[89:14] Your Lord is ever watchful.

Lydia

Patience

One important quality or skill that a submitter must work on is Patience. We have developed, worked hard and learnt from many experiences to show Patience in every situation. Every time we show patience, if you think about it, has been rewarding.

Patience shows a strength of faith and belief that God is in full control of all things at all times. God's timing for everything is perfect for each and every one of His creations. Everyone's life has been planned out in detail as per the Will of God so He exhorts us to be Patient and have Faith in Him as He is the All-knowing Creator.

God is with the ones who are Patient and God loves those who exhibit this quality. Think of the story of Joseph, and how Jacob shows exemplary patience in the face of losing his son (Sura 12). He says: *All I can do is resort to a quiet patience.*

Resorting to patience in everyday life, situations with family, friends, colleagues, workers, etc., shows a great sign of maturity and tolerance. It is a very rewarding trait in the long run. Impatience shows immaturity and a lack of compassion and empathy.

Patience is your ability to wait without becoming annoyed, upset, or angry. It's when you exercise self-control rather than lashing out and complaining. You're being patient when you take deep breaths and seek inner peace after things don't go the way you hoped. Practicing patience is all about how you act.

[16:127] You shall resort to patience—and your patience is attainable only with GOD's help. Do not grieve over them, and do not be annoyed by their schemes. [16:128] GOD is with those who lead a righteous life, and those who are charitable.

[42:43] Resorting to patience and forgiveness reflects a true strength of character.

[70:5] Therefore, you shall resort to a gracious patience.

[46:35] Therefore, be patient like the messengers before you who possessed strength and resorted to patience. Do not be in a hurry to see the retribution that will inevitably come to them. The day they see it, it will seem as if they lasted one hour of the day. This is a proclamation: Is it not the wicked who are consistently annihilated?

Ayaz

* * * * *

Winners and Losers

Every year there's a Super Bowl, a World Series, and a Stanley Cup. The winning team and their fans are extremely happy. That happiness may last for weeks, even months, with celebrations, parades, visits to the White House.

And it's not just the big game; there's all the work that it takes to get there. To get to the NFL, they estimate that a child will probably have logged in about 10,000 hours of practice starting from their school years. The time and money spent to reach the top echelon of a sport and then to remain there is staggering. Practice, team meetings, treatment of injuries, weight training—the list goes on and on.

It's huge, but in a short while, it will fade from our memory and from the public consciousness. Who won Super Bowl XX? Does anyone remember? And it's not just football, you take any sport or any event from decades ago, people don't care. One could say, it's just a game. But even things that

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were matters of life and death in their time, even entire countries and civilizations, if you go back enough—no one really remembers or cares too much about why the ancient Greeks and Romans were fighting. Or why France and England were battling. Or what was going on in the ancient Indian or Persian or Chinese civilization centuries ago. And that's symbolic, in some sense, of this life. It is finite and it vanishes.

And thank God we understand that and with God's help, we can put things in perspective. God willing, we don't get too attached to this life because we know we do have to leave it behind.

Rearranging Our Priorities

[6:32] The life of this world is no more than illusion and vanity, while the abode of the Hereafter is far better for the righteous. Do you not understand?!

[28:60] Everything that is given to you is only the material of this life, and its vanity. What is with GOD is far better, and everlasting. Do you not understand?

But let's ask ourselves how much effort do we put in for the Hereafter? If you ask players or staff if they will put in 8-10 hours of work a day, every week, every year, to get a Super Bowl ring? Most would answer, "Yes!" without hesitation. From the coach to the groundskeeper, they are more than willing to work hard for that prize.

Do we put in that kind of work for the Hereafter? To please God and grow our souls? The victory of the Hereafter lasts forever. It's not last year's news. It's eternal news. While winning or losing in this world doesn't matter in the long run, we don't want to be a loser in the Hereafter. *[8:37] GOD will sift away the bad from the good, then pile the bad on top of each other, all in one pile, then throw it in Hell. Such are the losers*

We learn from the Quran that all of the following can lead to becoming "losers" in God's eyes:

idol-worship: *[39:65] It has been revealed to you, and to those before you that if you ever commit idol worship, all your works will be nullified, and you will be with the losers.*

Following some religion other than Submission: *[3:85] Anyone who accepts other than Submission as his religion, it will not be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter, he will be with the losers.*

Being unaware of the Hereafter or disbelieving in it: *[6:31] Losers indeed are those who disbelieve in meeting GOD, until the Hour comes to them suddenly then say, "We deeply regret wasting our lives in this world." They will carry loads of their sins on their backs; what a miserable load!* *[6:32] The life of this world is no more than illusion and vanity, while the abode of the Hereafter is far better for the righteous. Do you not understand?!*

Siding with disbelievers: *[11:113] Do not lean towards those who have transgressed, lest you incur Hell, and find no allies to help you against GOD, then end up losers.*

Killing one's children: *[6:140] Losers indeed are those who killed their children foolishly, due to their lack of knowledge, and prohibited what GOD has provided for them, and followed innovations attributed to GOD. They have gone astray; they are not guided.*

Giving priority to this life: *[16:107-109] This is because they have given priority to this life over the Hereafter, and GOD does not guide such disbelieving people. Those are the ones whom GOD has sealed their hearts, and their hearing, and their eyesight. Consequently, they remain unaware. Without a doubt, they will be the losers in the Hereafter.*

Taking God's blessings for granted: *[7:99] Have they taken GOD's*

plans for granted? None takes GOD's plans for granted except the losers.

Listening to Satan's whispers: *[58:19] The devil has possessed them, and has caused them to disregard GOD's message. These are the party of the devil. Absolutely, the party of the devil are the losers.*

Our ego: *[5:30] His ego provoked him into killing his brother. He killed him, and ended up with the losers.*

An inflated opinion of ourselves: *[18:103] Say, "Shall I tell you who the worst losers are? [18:104] "They are the ones whose works in this life are totally astray, but they think that they are doing good." [18:105] Such are the ones who disbelieved in the revelations of their Lord and in meeting Him. Therefore, their works are in vain; on the Day of Resurrection, they have no weight. [18:106] Their just requital is Hell, in return for their disbelief, and for mocking My revelations and My messengers.*

So, what does it take to win? Early in the Quran, God talks about Winners.

[2:2] This scripture is infallible; a beacon for the righteous; [2:3] who believe in the unseen, observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), and from our provisions to them, they give to charity. [2:4] And they believe in what was revealed to you, and in what was revealed before you, and with regard to the Hereafter, they are absolutely certain. [2:5] These are guided by their Lord; these are the winners.

We can be winners, if we follow God's guidance, worship Him alone, strive against our jinn and Satan and all the disbelievers, if we're steadfast, humble, and righteous, if we continue to do our prayers with reverence and give to charity cheerfully.

[3:104] Let there be a community of you who invite to what is good, advocate righteousness, and forbid evil. These are the winners.

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MASJID TUCSON United Submitters International

PO Box 43476 Tucson AZ 85733-3476 USA

Tel: (520) 323 7636

internet web site: www.masjiduntucson.org

e-mail: info@masjiduntucson.org (or: masjiduntucson@gmail.com)

Non-profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson AZ

ISSN 1089-053X

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[7:8] *The scales will be set on that day, equitably. Those whose weights are heavy will be the winners.*

[30:38] *Therefore, you shall give the relatives their rightful share (of charity), as well as the poor, and the traveling alien. This is better for those who sincerely seek GOD's pleasure; they are the winners.*

[23:111] *"I have rewarded them today, in return for their steadfastness, by making them the winners."*

[28:67] *As for those who repent, believe, and lead a righteous life, they will end up with the winners.*

[59:20] *Not equal are the dwellers of the Hellfire and the dwellers of Paradise; the dwellers of Paradise are the winners.*

Winning athletes often have innate physical abilities that enhance their chance for success. We also have a God-given head start to becoming a winner. We are born with instinctive knowledge about God. That's like the "athletic ability" or the "God-given gifts" people talk about for athletes. We're born with this. All of us. Praise be to God.

We Are Born With Instinctive Knowledge About God

[7:172] *Recall that your Lord summoned all the descendants of Adam,*

and had them bear witness for themselves: "Am I not your Lord?" They all said, "Yes. We bear witness." Thus, you cannot say on the Day of Resurrection, "We were not aware of this."

That's just the beginning. The rules of the game are spelled out, and we have all the "moves" or "answers" we need in the Quran. That's our "playbook", the perfect one too. Full of wisdom. And we have the best "Coach" for this playbook, GOD (55:1-2)!

May God help us to do the work, and avoid the pitfalls, so we can all become winners.

Happiness: Now and Forever

[10:62] *Absolutely, GOD's allies have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.*

[10:63] *They are those who believe and lead a righteous life.*

[10:64] *For them, joy and happiness in this world, as well as in the Hereafter. This is GOD's unchangeable law. Such is the greatest triumph. [10:65] Do not be saddened by their utterances.*

Faiz

* * * * *

2 Timothy 2:5 ...an athlete cannot receive the winner's crown except by competing according to the rules.

Be included in our email list for weekly reminders

God has blessed us with the opportunity to send weekly reminders to submitters on our list. The email is not long. It usually consists of a topic and the corresponding Quranic verses and links to get more information. The reminder is sent every Thursday/Friday, 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, write "weekly reminder" in the subject line and send it. Or join from: <https://masjiduntucson.org/current/weekly.html>

If you also include in the email your city and state, God willing we can compile this information and use it for the submitters who are asking to communicate with other submitters in their area.