

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Are you an Idol Worshiper?

Your god is whatever occupies your mind most of the time. Idol worship is something or someone that becomes more important to us than God. Some examples are man-made objects that are worshiped, like statues; a person who is loved, admired, or respected to the point of idolization; things in our lives that take up most of our time; anything that takes our focus off of God. Think about these things.

Identity: Our ego or sense of self is often one of the biggest idols we worship today. If we are focused on the self and what people think of us, we risk becoming our own idol. This subtle form of idolatry exists when we place more value on who we are than on who God is. And if we anchor our identity to social media, a job, a friends' circle, appearances or achievements, we will constantly feel like we don't measure up. But when we secure our identity to God, we experience true freedom.

[12:53] "I do not claim innocence for myself. The self is an advocate of vice, except for those who have attained mercy from my Lord. My Lord is Forgiver, Most Merciful."



Money/material things: Western culture has long bowed to money and possessions. The pursuit of wealth and buying more and more things can consume us. It can become an idol. Whether rich, poor, or somewhere in between, money can quickly entrap us. Once money is an idol, we can never have enough of it. And it will lead us to choices that compromise our soul and happiness. Money itself isn't bad—it's a tool. But when we place our trust in it instead of God, we've misplaced our faith. We must learn to trust God alone.

[3:186] You will certainly be tested, through your money and your lives, and you will hear from those who received the scripture, and from the idol worshipers, a lot of insult. If you steadfastly persevere and lead a

righteous life, this will prove the strength of your faith.

[10:58] Say, "With GOD's grace and with His mercy they shall rejoice." This is far better than any wealth they can accumulate.

Jobs/status: A job used to be just a means to support one's family. Now, it's often seen as an extension of who we are. While it's important to find a job that aligns with our skills and passions, we must avoid making it our idol. A job may last 50 years. Our soul lasts forever.

[28:76] Qāroon (the slave driver) was one of Moses' people who betrayed them and oppressed them. We gave him so many treasures that the keys thereof were almost too heavy for the strongest band. His people said to him, "Do not be so arrogant; GOD does not love those who are arrogant."

Physical appearance: Everywhere we look, advertisements promise to "fix" our appearance, making us look younger, or better. Many people worship their physical appearance, spending countless hours at the gym, money

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on beauty products, and constantly worrying about others' opinions. Caring for our body, hair, and skin is important, but we must guard against making these things our ultimate

focus. Our physical appearance is fleeting; only God is eternal. The health of our soul is what counts.

[24:31] And tell the believing women to subdue their eyes, and maintain their chastity. They shall not reveal any parts of their bodies, except that which is necessary. They shall cover their chests, and shall not relax this code in the presence of other than their husbands, their fathers, the fathers of their husbands, their sons, the sons of their husbands, their brothers, the sons of their brothers, the sons of their sisters, other women, the male servants or employees whose sexual drive has been nullified, or the children who have not reached puberty. They shall not strike their feet when they walk in order to shake and reveal certain details of their bodies. All of you shall repent to GOD, O you believers, that you may succeed.

Entertainment: We live in an age where entertainment is at our fingertips—whether through YouTube, podcasts, TV, or vacations. Entertainment itself is not bad; it can be fun and enriching. But when the search for entertainment becomes our primary focus, it can become an idol, distracting us from God. Entertainment



is a gift from God, but we must remember to worship the Giver, not the gift, and enjoy it in moderation.

[62:11] When some of them come across a business deal, or some entertainment, they rush to it and leave you standing! Say, "What GOD possesses is far better than the entertainment or the business. GOD is the best Provider."

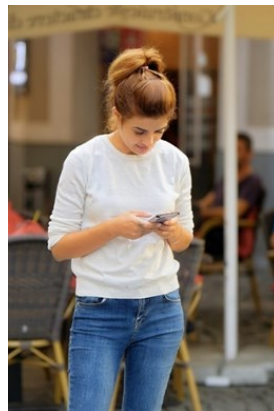
Sex: Sex is everywhere in our culture. We've taken a gift from God and turned it into a "god." For many, it controls their lives. Again, it's something God has given us to enjoy in a manner He designed and in moderation.

[23:6] Only with their spouses, or those who are rightfully theirs, do they have sexual relations; they are not to be blamed.

Comfort: We live in an age of unprecedented comfort. Technology has made life easier, and we have more convenience than ever before. While comfort is a blessing, we must not make it our idol. If we prioritize comfort above all else, we may struggle when life challenges us. Comfort should not be our goal in everything we do. Striving is good for our souls.

[9:87] They chose to be with the sedentary. Consequently, their hearts were sealed, and thus, they cannot comprehend.

Phones/technology: Smartphone addiction is a growing concern. Many people find it hard to go even a few minutes without checking their phones. Our phones and social media can easily become modern-day idols, distracting us from God. It's not the technology itself that's the problem, but the value we



place on it. How often do we check for notifications, likes, or updates? Anything that pulls our attention away from God can become an idol.

[39:3] Absolutely, the religion shall be devoted to GOD alone. Those who set up idols beside Him say, "We idolize them only to bring us closer to GOD; for they are in a better position!" GOD will judge them regarding their disputes. GOD does not guide such liars, disbelievers.

Family/children: While family is a blessing from God, it is easy to elevate our spouse or children above God. We must place our family in the proper context—important, but not more important than God. Our love for family should never overshadow our love for the Creator.

[9:24] Proclaim: "If your parents, your children, your siblings, your spouses, your family, the money you have earned, a business you worry about, and the homes you cherish are more beloved to you than GOD and His messenger, and the striving in His cause, then just wait until GOD brings His judgment." GOD does not guide the wicked people.

Influence/fame: With the rise of social media, almost anyone can achieve fame, even if just for "15 minutes". Influence is often measured by followers and likes. While sharing talents and passions is not inherently wrong, we must guard against letting the pursuit of fame consume us. Let us focus on using our influence to glorify God, not to seek recognition.

[46:19] They all attain the ranks they have deserved, in accordance with their works. He will pay them for their works, without the least injustice.

What does God say about idols?

[4:48] GOD does not forgive idolatry, but He forgives lesser offenses for whomever He wills. Anyone who sets up idols beside GOD, has forged a horrendous offense.

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[2:165] Yet, some people set up idols to rival GOD, and love them as if they are GOD. Those who believe love GOD the most. If only the transgressors could see themselves when they see the retribution! They will realize then that all power belongs to GOD alone, and that GOD's retribution is awesome.

[5:76] Say, "Would you worship beside GOD powerless idols who can neither harm you, nor benefit you? GOD is Hearer, Omniscient."

[25:55] Yet, they still set up beside GOD idols that cannot benefit them, nor harm them. Indeed, the disbeliever is an enemy of his Lord.

Most people never recognize that they have idols in their lives. *[18:104] "They are the ones whose works in this life are totally astray, but they think that they are doing good."*

Now and forever, the idol worshipers vehemently deny that they are idolaters.

So, let us ask ourselves the question each day, Am I an idol worshiper?

Vicky

Sources: Jefferypoor.medium.com/idol-worship-today-6-modern-idols-that-we-worship-7bee3cf9eebe
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 Photos from Pixabay

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Responsibility

Merriam Webster Dictionary defines responsible as: liable to be called on to answer; liable to be called to account as the primary cause, motive, or agent; responsible for the job. Synonyms: accountable, answerable, and liable.

As we read in the Quran our responsibility as humans started when we chose freedom of choice offered by God (33:72). If we want to make a choice, the right choice, we should be held responsible. We should live our life according to

Quran. The Quran provides all the guidance we require to live a responsible and fulfilling life.

Be charitable: *[2:195] You shall spend in the cause of GOD; do not throw yourselves with your own hands into destruction. You shall be charitable; GOD loves the charitable. What to Give*

[2:267] O you who believe, you shall give to charity from the good things you earn, and from what we have produced for you from the earth. Do not pick out the bad therein to give away, when you yourselves do not accept it unless your eyes are closed. You should know that GOD is Rich, Praiseworthy.

Spend in the way of God: *[2:177] and they give the money, cheerfully, to the relatives, the orphans, the needy, the traveling alien, the beggars, and to free the slaves; and they observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat); and they keep their word whenever they make a promise; and they steadfastly persevere in the face of persecution, hardship, and war. These are the truthful; these are the righteous.*

Speak the truth: *[2:42] Do not confound the truth with falsehood, nor shall you conceal the truth, knowingly.*

[5:119] GOD will proclaim, "This is a day when the truthful will be saved by their truthfulness." They have deserved gardens with flowing streams. They abide therein forever. GOD is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him. This is the greatest triumph.

[16:116] You shall not utter lies with your own tongues stating: "This is lawful, and this is unlawful," to fabricate lies and attribute them to GOD. Surely, those who fabricate lies and attribute them to GOD will never succeed.

Weigh with an even scale: *[83:1-3] Woe to the cheaters. Who demand full measure when receiving from the people. But when giving them the measures or weights, they cheat.*

[17:35] You shall give full measure when you trade, and weigh equitably. This is better and more righteous.

Be humble: *[17:37] You shall not walk proudly on earth; you cannot bore through the earth, nor can you be as tall as the mountains.*

[17:24] And lower for them the wings of humility, and kindness, and say, "My Lord, have mercy on them, for they have raised me from infancy."

[31:18-9] "You shall not treat the people with arrogance, nor shall you roam the earth proudly. GOD does not like the arrogant showoffs. Walk humbly and lower your voice—the ugliest voice is the donkey's voice."

Hold to forgiveness: *[7:199] You shall resort to pardon, advocate tolerance, and disregard the ignorant.*

[42:37] They avoid gross sins and vice, and when angered they forgive.

Be trustworthy: *[23:8] When it comes to deposits entrusted to them, as well as any agreements they make, they are trustworthy.*

[17:34] You shall not touch the orphans' money except for their own good, until they reach maturity. You shall fulfill your covenants, for a covenant is a great responsibility.

[8:27] O you who believe, do not betray GOD and the messenger, and do not betray those who trust you, now that you know.

Do justice to everyone without discrimination: *[4:135] O you who believe, you shall be absolutely equitable, and observe GOD, when you serve as witnesses, even against yourselves, or your parents, or your relatives. Whether the accused is rich or poor, GOD takes care of both. Therefore, do not be biased by your personal wishes. If you deviate or disregard (this commandment), then GOD is fully Cognizant of everything you do.*

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Treat parents with respect: [17:23] *Your Lord has decreed that you shall not worship except Him, and your parents shall be honored. As long as one or both of them live, you shall never say to them, "Uff" (the slightest gesture of annoyance), nor shall you shout at them; you shall treat them amicably.*

Treat each other amicably: [17:53] *Tell My servants to treat each other in the best possible manner, for the devil will always try to drive a wedge among them. Surely, the devil is man's most ardent enemy.*

Uphold the law: [55:7-9] *He constructed the sky and established the law. You shall not transgress the law. You shall establish justice; do not violate the law.*

[5:62] *You see many of them readily committing evil and transgression, and eating from illicit earnings. Miserable indeed is what they do.*

Observe etiquette: [24:27] *O you who believe, do not enter homes other than yours without permission from their inhabitants, and without greeting them. This is better for you, that you may take heed. [24:28] If you find no one in them, do not enter them until you obtain permission. If you are told, "Go back," you must go back. This is purer for you. GOD is fully aware of everything you do. You*

Shall Be Courteous

[4:86] *When greeted with a greeting, you shall respond with a better greeting or at least an equal one. GOD reckons all things.*

Do not participate in usury: [3:130] *O you who believe, you shall not take usury, compounded over and over. Observe GOD, that you may succeed.*

Do not participate in intoxicants and gambling: [5:90] *O you who believe, intoxicants, and gambling, and the altars of idols, and the games of chance are abominations of the devil; you shall avoid them, that you may succeed.*

Do as you say: [61:2] *O you who believe, why do you say what you do not do? [61:3] Most abominable in the sight of GOD is that you say what you do not do.*

Who is guiding all things? God. May we all continue to please God as we enjoy our freedom and understand our responsibility.

Roger & Naima

Happy New Year

Happy new year dear readers. May God bless us with a soul-nourishing year.

To read the Quran online or download an app or learn more on Submission, please visit:

<https://www.masjiduntucson.org/>

Ramadan 2025

Ramadan begins **February 28** in the western USA (e.g., Los Angeles, Tucson) and **March 1** in eastern USA (e.g., Chicago, New York). The last day of fasting is **29 March** for USA, God willing.

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 28, 2025: 12:45 AM (UTC/GMT)
March 29, 2025: 10:58 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/>