

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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All Sovereignty and Ownership belongs to God alone

God Almighty, the Creator, informs us about His ownership and what belongs to Him. The word “belong” is defined as the property of a person or thing and is used with the word “to” in referring to the source of ownership. A synonym of the word “belong,” the word “ownership” means belonging to oneself or itself, to have power or mastery over something or someone. In the absolute sense, ownership and belonging are attributes of God alone, and all praise belongs to God.

Praise be to God—to whom belongs everything in the heavens and the earth; all praise is also due to Him in the Hereafter. He is the Most Wise, the Cognizant. (34:1)

There is nothing that we do not own infinite amounts thereof. But we send it down in precise measure. (15:21)

In verse 15:21, the word “we” is used to denote the participation of angels in carrying out God’s commands. Yet all ownership belongs to God. He does not share His Lordship and Sovereignty with anyone or anything.

He is the One God; there is no other god besides Him. The King, the Most Sacred, the Peace, the Most Faithful,

the Supreme, the Almighty, the Most Powerful, the Most Dignified. God be glorified; far above having partners. (59:23)

With the revelation of the Quran, God informs humans of what belongs to Him: *all praise (28:70, 34:1, 45:36, 64:1), everything in the heavens and the earth (2:116, 225, 284; 3:109, 129; 4:126, 131-132; 5:17-18; 6:12, 7:128, 10:55, 68; 16:52; 20:6, 22:64, 24:64, 31:26, 34:1; 42:4, 53; 53:31), everyone in the heavens and the earth (10:66, 21:19; 23:84, 30:26), the east and the west (2:115, 142), the past, present and future (2:255, 10:20, 11:123, 16:77, 19:64, 22:76), the Hereafter and this world (53:25), everything that dwells in the night and the day (6:13), all truth (28:75), all decisions (39:63, 82:19), all power (2:165, 10:65), all ruling (12:40), all kingship (2:107, 35:13, 57:2,5; 64:1, 67:1, 85:9), all dignity (4:139, 35:10, 63:8), all intercession (39:44), all forces (48:7), all sovereignty (3:189, 5:17-18, 120; 6:73, 7:158, 22:56, 24:42, 25:2, 26; 28:88; 39:6; 40:16, 42:49, 45:27), all supremacy (45:37), all judgements and the Day of Judgement (1:4, 11:43, 12:67, 26:82, 28:70), the ultimate scheming (3:54, 7:183, 8:30, 13:42, 68:45).*

Commensurate with His Sovereignty and Ownership, God has *full control of all things (4:126, 8:17), all matters (3:109, 11:123, 22:76, 42:53, 57:5), and life and death (7:158, 9:116, 57:2). He knows every condition you may be in (24:64), every thought in the heaven and the earth (21:4), the innermost thoughts (2:235), your secrets and declarations (16:19), and anything that happens on earth, or to you, has already been recorded, even before the creation (57:22)*

Notwithstanding the awesome reality that God alone is our Lord and Master to whom all of creation belongs, we humans, created with free will, first fell prey to Satan’s lies when we were in Paradise. We did not heed God’s warning that Satan is our ardent enemy.

Did I not covenant with you, O Children of Adam, that you shall not worship the devil? That he is your most ardent enemy? (36:60)

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.” (7:20)

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Satan deceived our first parents by suggesting that God Almighty was keeping something from them—eternity and kingship—attributes that belong to God. Now cast in this worldly life, we are attired in the clothing of our cultures and tribes, and taught customs, traditions, beliefs, and dogmas. We learn to communicate and mimic ‘acceptable’ behavior. All the while, Satan, the master Hypnotist, is unrelenting in keeping his promise to deceive and mislead us.

He said, “Since You have willed that I go astray, I will skulk for them on Your straight path.” (7:16)

He said, “My Lord, since You have willed that I go astray, I will surely entice them on earth; I will send them all astray.” (15:39)

Despite having received God’s divine scriptures and being immersed in His signs and proofs, legions of humans in each generation choose to remain under Satan’s hypnotic trance. Led astray, they fail to realize that all sovereignty and ownership belongs to God alone. Satan infuses thoughts in the mind to doubt God’s Sovereignty, Omnipotence and Power, and hypnotizes his human subjects to erect all manner of intercessors and idols, be they physical or in the imagination.

We have committed to Hell multitudes of jinns and humans. They have minds with which they do not understand, eyes with which they do not see, and ears with which they do not hear. They are like animals; no, they are far worse—they are totally unaware. (7:179)

There are many examples in the Quran of how Satan misleads people to be dismissive of God’s Omnipotence and Power.

Humans implore God during adversity, but many remain ungrateful, and cling to their idols, possessions, and false beliefs. *And when we bless him after suffering some adversity, he says, “This belongs to me. I do not believe that the Hour will ever come to pass. Even if I am returned to my Lord, I*

will find at Him better things.” Most certainly, we will inform the disbelievers of all their works, and will commit them to severe retribution. (41:50)

During Prophet Muhammad’s lifetime, he and a group of believers were engaged in battle with the enemy. Some people among the believers arrogantly insisted that they should have control over matters (i.e., should be able to avoid battle and thus evade death): *After the setback, He sent down upon you peaceful slumber that pacified some of you. Others among you were selfishly concerned about themselves. They harbored thoughts about God that were not right—the same thoughts they had harbored during the days of ignorance. Thus, they said, “Is anything up to us?” Say, “Everything is up to God.” They concealed inside themselves what they did not reveal to you. They said, “If it was up to us, none of us would have been killed in this battle.” ... (3:154)*

Pharaoh thought he was a god, believed that he had absolute power, and “owned” rivers: *Pharaoh announced to his people, “O my people, do I not possess the kingship over Egypt, and these flowing rivers belong to me? Do you not see? (43:51)*

Qāroon was obsessed with his wealth, he felt invincible, and oppressed others: *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. (28:76)*

Some people engage in idolatry by associating partners with God. They even give “offerings” to God and their idols. Others give credit to agents and forces they think can help them (Quran 6:136).

Each person’s ego is a major culprit and emissary of Satan who leads individuals to engage in selfishness, self-worship and arrogance, revere their opinions, dismiss God’s guidance, and commit evil. *Recall that Moses said to*

his people, “O my people, you have wronged your souls by worshiping the calf. You must repent to your Creator. You shall kill your egos. This is better for you in the sight of your Creator.” He did redeem you. He is the Redeemer, Most Merciful. (2:54)

Have you seen the one whose god is his own ego? Will you be his advocate? (25:43)

Unshackled from the satanic trance, Prophet Abraham is the example of unsullied human submission to God. Using his God-given intelligence, common sense, and inborn awareness of God, Abraham contemplated the source of the heavens and earth and concluded that only God is his Creator, Lord, and Master. Abraham disowned all forms of idolatry.

“I am against them [statues and idols of his people], for I am devoted only to the Lord of the universe. “The One who created me and guided me. “The One who feeds me and waters me. “And when I get sick, He heals me. “The One who puts me to death, then brings me back to life. “The One who hopefully will forgive my sins on the Day of Judgment. (26:77-82)

Submission to God alone necessitates that one seeks God’s guidance to be aware that only God owns, knows, and controls all things. We should beseech God to make us mindful daily of His Sovereignty, Lordship and Ownership. *When an affliction befalls them, they say, “We belong to God, and to Him we are returning.” (2:156)*

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. (3:191)

To Him belongs everything in the heavens and the earth and therefore, the religion shall be devoted absolutely to Him alone. Would you worship other than God? (16:52)

Douglass

Hold fast to God

[4:146] *Only those who repent, reform, hold fast to GOD, and devote their religion absolutely to GOD alone, will be counted with the believers. GOD will bless the believers with a great recompense.*

[4:147] *What will GOD gain from punishing you, if you became appreciative and believed? GOD is Appreciative, Omniscient.*

[4:175] *Those who believe in GOD, and hold fast to Him, He will admit them into mercy from Him, and grace, and will guide them to Him in a straight path.*

Through all our tests, our hardships, the chaos of the world, we must hold fast to God and devote our worship absolutely to God alone.

We failed this commandment before we came here as humans. We did not hold fast to God and acknowledge His absolute authority. In school, if we fail mathematics or history, then before we can graduate, we have to pass the remedial math or history class. God has given us this chance to make a passing grade.

[38:69] *"I had no knowledge previously, about the feud in the High Society.*"*

**38:69 The feud in the High Society was triggered by Satan's challenge to God's absolute authority. This is definitely the most important event in the history of the human race. We failed to make a firm stand regarding God's absolute authority. This life represents the third and final chance to redeem ourselves (See the Introduction and Appendix 7).*

In context, idol worship is the only unforgivable sin. It comes in many different forms. This includes openly worshipping idols or setting up partners with God, like adding other names to the shahadah or even rejecting God all together. Or believing anything besides God can help us, that some entity possesses power independent of God, or using religious sources outside Quran.

[4:116] *GOD does not forgive idol worship (if maintained until death),* and He forgives lesser offenses for whomever He wills. Anyone who idolizes any idol beside GOD has strayed far astray.*

**4:116 A simple definition of idolatry: Believing that anything beside God can help you.*

Quran, the Whole Quran, and Nothing But the Quran

[6:19] *Say, "Whose testimony is the greatest?" Say, "GOD's. He is the witness between me and you that this Quran* has been inspired to me, to preach it to you and whomever it reaches. Indeed, you bear witness that there are other gods* beside GOD." Say, "I do not testify as you do; there is only one god, and I disown your idolatry."*

**6:19 This verse proclaims the Quran as the only source of religious guidance. Those who uphold additional sources, such as Hadith & Sunna (lies attributed to the Prophet), are defined as idolators.*

Part of our human weakness is that instead of holding fast to God we get swayed by what other people suggest. During the great feud, we got swept with the crowd that said, "Someone has some power besides God." The creatures around us were saying this and even though (God willing) in our hearts we may not have thought that, perhaps we felt these creatures know something we don't. We were indecisive.

[20:115] *We tested Adam in the past, but he forgot, and we found him indecisive.*

**20:115 When Satan challenged God's absolute authority (38:69), you and I did not make a firm stand against Satan. God is giving us a chance, on this earth, to redeem ourselves by denouncing Satan and upholding God's absolute authority (Appendix 7).*

You may have heard about the Asch conformity experiments that started in the 1950s. It involved matching lines. You are shown a sample line. And then you must match from 3 others which one is the same length. One is clearly shorter, one is clearly longer and only one is the same

length. You are then put in a group of people, and all the others have been instructed to pick the wrong line. So, when it comes to you, do you choose the correct answer, going against the majority, or do you go along, even though you see it's wrong? Overall, 75% of participants gave at least one incorrect answer. They were swayed by the crowd. Sometimes they fixed themselves, sometimes they started right and then got swayed.

Researchers say that as humans, we tend to want to accept what others say: <https://getpocket.com/explore/item/how-scammers-like-anna-delvey-and-the-tinder-swindler-exploit-a-core-feature-of-human-nature>

Despite the belief that people are skeptics by nature, primed to shout "gotcha!" at any mistake or faux pas, this simply isn't the case. Research shows that people tend to default to trusting others over distrusting them, believing them over doubting them and going along with someone's self-presentation rather than embarrassing them by calling them out.

This is why con-artists and swindlers win. This is why politicians are believed. As long as they sound confident, it doesn't matter if they are spinning lies. And this is partly why God says to verify information, especially what affects our soul, before believing it.

Crucial Advice

[17:36] *You shall not accept any information, unless you verify it for yourself. I have given you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brain, and you are responsible for using them. [17:37] You shall not walk proudly on earth—you cannot bore through the earth, nor can you be as tall as the mountains. [17:38] All bad behavior is condemned by your Lord.*

So, think about it. We must hold fast to God, and Satan and his constituents will keep whispering or trying to sway us with lies. What do we do? Whenever we're

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

confused, just take it back to God and to the Quran. God has given us this book full of wisdom. And it has the answers and healing from God that we all need.

[10:57] O people, enlightenment has come to you herein from your Lord, and healing for anything that troubles your hearts, and guidance, and mercy for the believers.

[3:100] O you who believe, if you obey some of those who received the scripture, they will revert you, after having believed, into disbelievers. [3:101] How can you disbelieve, when these revelations of GOD are being recited to you, and His messenger is in your midst? Whoever holds fast to GOD will be guided in the right path. [3:102] O you who believe, you shall observe GOD as He should be observed, and do not die except as Submitters. [3:103] You shall hold fast to the rope of GOD, all of you, and do not be divided. Recall GOD's blessings upon you—you used to be enemies and He reconciled your hearts. By His grace, you became brethren. You were at the brink of a pit of fire, and He saved you therefrom. GOD thus explains His revelations for you, that you may be guided.

Holding fast to God is important. And God gives us His revelations so that we may do so. The answers are in the Quran. If we don't see them, we can pray to God

for help and guidance. Someone may come to us and say it's 4 *Salats* or some other number. And thank God we can go back to Quran and see that God says 5 *Salats* (2:238, 11:114, 17:78, & 24:58). And that God says give *Zakat* on the day of harvest (6:141). And that anonymous charity is better (2:271). We can hold fast to God's words and know the truth.

Holding fast to God is also connected with the command in 3:103 "do not be divided". God strengthens us with one another and the support of our family helps us remain steadfast. We can also practice kindness and humility to help strengthen the bonds of spiritual kinship. In His infinite wisdom, God also reminds us to treat each other amicably (17:53), with humility and kindness.

[49:13] O people, we created you from the same male and female, and rendered you distinct peoples and tribes, that you may recognize one another. The best among you in the sight of GOD is the most righteous. GOD is Omniscient, Cognizant.

[52:26] They will say, "We used to be kind and humble among our people.

Almighty God gives us hope and strength by reminding us that He is in full control (10:61) and that if we follow His system, we have nothing to fear nor will we grieve (10:62-64). He tells not to be saddened by people's utterances (10:65,

73:10). Instead, we can commemorate Him to be happy (20:130, 50:39-40).

[73:9] Lord of the east and the west; there is no other god besides Him. You should choose Him as your advocate. [73:10] And remain steadfast in the face of their utterances, and disregard them in a nice manner.

[20:130] Therefore, be patient in the face of their utterances, and praise and glorify your Lord before sunrise and before sunset. And during the night glorify Him, as well as at both ends of the day, that you may be happy.

In conclusion, let us strive to be among those who: "repent, reform, hold fast to GOD, and devote their religion absolutely to GOD alone" (4:146, 4:175, etc.). Because God assures those who do so that He will bless them with a great recompense (4:146)!

Faiz

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