

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Arrogance

Webster's College Dictionary defines arrogance as 1) An offensive display of superiority or self-importance, 2) Overbearing pride, 3) haughtiness.

These negative traits are inherent in human nature and the reason we were expelled from Paradise: [2:34-6] *When we said to the angels, "Fall prostrate before Adam," they fell prostrate, except Satan; he refused, was too arrogant, and a disbeliever. We said, "O Adam, live with your wife in Paradise, and eat therefrom generously, as you please, but do not approach this tree, lest you sin." But the devil duped them, and caused their eviction therefrom. We said, "Go down as enemies of one another. On Earth shall be your habitation and provision for a while."*

Our egos caused us to be arrogant. And our arrogance allowed us to be duped by the devil. Dupe is defined as to deceive, fool, trick, or gull (cheat). We were truly duped by Satan and continue to be duped by him, despite knowing he is our most ardent enemy.

[7:22 & 27] *He [Satan] 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?" ... O children of Adam, do not let the devil dupe you as he did 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."

We earthly human beings are tested. Pharaoh's people were tested and given a chance to believe.

[7:130-3] *We then afflicted Pharaoh's people with drought, and shortage of crops, that they may take heed. When good omens came their way, they said, "We have deserved this," but when a hardship afflicted them, they blamed Moses and those with him. In fact, their omens are decided only by GOD, but most of them do not know. They said, "No matter what kind of sign you show us, to dupe us with your magic, we will not believe." Consequently, we sent upon them the flood, the locusts, the lice, the frogs, and the blood—profound signs. But they maintained*

their arrogance. They were evil people."

They thought they were too smart to be duped by magic, but they were duped by their own arrogance. We humans are arrogant and gullible (easily duped). Satan is constantly whispering negative and unrighteous whispers to us. He wants to divert us from God's straight path.

Whisper is defined as 1) To speak with soft, hushed sounds using the breath but with no vibration of the vocal cords. 2) To talk softly and privately, often implying gossip.

Whispering is Satan's specialty. [7:200] *When the devil whispers to you any whisper, seek refuge in GOD; He is Hearer, Omniscient.*

[23:97-98] *Say, "My Lord, I seek refuge in You from the whispers of the devils. "And I seek refuge in You, my Lord, lest they come near me."*

[41:36] *When the devil whispers an idea to you, you shall seek refuge in GOD. He is the Hearer, the Omniscient."*

We cannot prevent Satan from whispering to us, but we can seek refuge in God every time he does whisper to us.

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Seeking refuge in God is an antidote to Satan's whispers. An antidote is a medicine or other remedy for counteracting the effects of poison or disease, or Satan's whispers. Thank God. We can invoke it over and over whenever we need God's protection from Satan's whispers.

Those who are arrogant do not think that they need God's protection or intervention. They believe they are capable of protecting themselves. Only God can protect us from our own arrogance.

The Majority Doomed

[7:48] *The dwellers of the Purgatory will call on people they recognize by their looks, saying, "Your great numbers did not avail you in any way, nor did your arrogance."*

[17:4] *We addressed the Children of Israel in the scripture: "You will commit gross evil on earth, twice. You are destined to fall into great heights of arrogance."*

[25:21] *Those who do not expect to meet us said, "If only the angels could come down to us, or we could see our Lord (we would then believe)!" Indeed, they have committed a gross arrogance, and have produced a gross blasphemy.*

[31:7] *And when our revelations are recited to the one of them, he turns away in arrogance as if he never heard them, as if his ears are deaf. Promise him a painful retribution.*

[31:18] *"You shall not treat the people with arrogance, nor shall you roam the earth proudly. GOD does not like the arrogant showoffs."*

[32:15] *The only people who truly believe in our revelations are those who fall prostrate upon hearing them. They glorify and praise their Lord, without any arrogance.*

[40:56] *Surely, those who argue against GOD's revelations without proof are exposing the arrogance that is hidden inside their chests, and they are not even aware of it. Therefore,*

seek refuge in GOD; He is the Hearer, the Seer.

Many arrogant people may end up in Hell. Only God knows the condition of our souls. We may not consider ourselves arrogant, but God may and He will judge us accordingly.

God condemns arrogance in all His scriptures.

Proverbs 11:2 "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 16:5 "The Lord detests all the proud of heart, Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished."

1 Samuel 2:3 *Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth.*

Isaiah:13:11 *I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.*

These verses God has blessed us with should leave no doubt in our hearts what our ultimate goal should be. In order to be reunited with our Creator and not isolated from Him for eternity, we must refrain from arrogant behavior and thought. We must commit ourselves totally to the goal of being worthy of being in the presence of God eternally.

[46:20] *The day will come when those who disbelieved will be introduced to the hellfire: "You have wasted the good chances given to you during your worldly life, and you rejoiced in them. Consequently, today you incur a shameful retribution as a requital for the arrogance you committed on earth without any basis, and for your evil works."*

[35:43] *They resorted to arrogance on earth, and evil scheming, and the evil schemes only backfire on those who scheme them. Should they then expect anything but the fate of those who did the same things in the past? You will find that GOD's system is never changeable; you will find that GOD's system is immutable."*

The Straight Path

Seventeen times a day, we turn to God in our contact prayers, our hearts echoing with a familiar plea: *Guide us in the right path—the path of those whom You have blessed; not of those who have incurred wrath, nor of the strayers. (Quran 1:6-7)* These repeated words urge us to consider: what exactly is this right or straight path we seek? How can we, as believers, recognize it, consciously choose it, and remain steadfast upon it? The Quran, our blessed scripture, a guiding beacon and a mercy from our Lord, illuminates this essential concept.

The Quran offers clear and consistent answers. The straight path is synonymous with worshipping God alone – absolute monotheism, the perfect religion of Abraham:

"God is my Lord and your Lord; you shall worship Him alone. This is the right path." (3:51, 19:36, 43:64)

Say, "My Lord has guided me in a straight path—the perfect religion of Abraham, monotheism. He never was an idol worshiper." (6:161)

The principle of Monotheism and the right path is rooted in the original covenant established with Children of Adam (all of us). It calls us to reject all forms of idolatry and worship God alone: *Did I not covenant with you, O Children of Adam, that you shall not worship the devil... and that you shall worship Me alone? This is the right path. (36:60-61)*

Ultimately, the straight path is called "the path of God". Imagine a path, illuminated by divine light, leading us towards peace, forgiveness, and closeness to our Creator: *Surely, you guide in a straight path—the path of God, to whom belongs everything in the heavens and everything on earth. (42:52-53)*

Lory

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This is the “straight path” the Quran speaks of, offering clear direction for those seeking its embrace.

Choosing the path

God does not leave us lost in abstraction; God, in His infinite mercy, provides practical guidance for aligning our lives with this path. However, receiving this guidance requires active engagement from our side. We need to choose to be guided. We need to choose the right path. We need to choose to be appreciative. This active choice manifests in:

- **Sincere belief and a genuine desire to walk this path:** ... *God guides those who believe to the truth... God guides whoever wills in a straight path. (2:213)*
- **Unwavering trust in God and holding fast to Him:** *Whoever holds fast to God will be guided in the right path. (3:101)*
- **Seeking His approval:** *With it, GOD guides those who seek His approval. He guides them to the paths of peace, leads them out of darkness into the light by His leave, and guides them in a straight path. (5:16)*
- **Recognizing and appreciating God’s blessings:** *Because he was appreciative of His Lord’s blessings, He chose him and guided him in a straight path. (16:121)*

While our choices pave the way, the Quran emphasizes that true guidance to the straight path comes solely from God:

....*Say “To God belongs the east and the west. He guides whoever wills in a straight path.” (2:142)*

God invites to the abode of peace and guides whomever He wills in a straight path. (10:25)

Yet, remaining on this path requires continuous effort and unwavering devotion to God alone. We are reminded of Satan’s constant attempts to lure us

astray: He said, “Since You have willed that I go astray, I will skulk for them on Your straight path. I will come to them from before them, and from behind them, and from their right, and from their left, and You will find that most of them are unappreciative.” (7:16-17)

God’s guidance through revelations and messengers

God, in His infinite wisdom, has provided us with clear channels of guidance to navigate our life and remain on the straight path. For us, His primary means of guidance is through the Quran, which serves as a beacon and a mercy for those seeking His guidance:

With it (the Quran), God guides those who seek His approval. He leads them out of darkness into light and guides them in a straight path. (5:16)

We have sent down to you clarifying revelations, then God guides whoever wills in a straight path. (24:46)

God also guides us through His chosen prophets and messengers in this path:

Most assuredly, you (Rashad) are one of the messengers. On a straight path. (36:3-4)

Surely, you guide in a straight path—the path of God. (42:52-53)

Not only does God lay out the principles of the straight path, but He also provides us with tangible examples of individuals like Abraham, known for his exemplary devotion and submission to God alone. By reflecting on their lives, we gain a deeper understanding of what it means to walk the straight path and strive to embody these principles in our own lives.

Ultimately, the ability to recognize and embrace God’s guidance, whether through His revelations or His messengers, is a blessing bestowed by God upon those whose hearts and minds are open to receiving it: *Those who are blessed with knowledge will recognize the truth from your Lord and believe in it. Most*

assuredly, God guides the believers in the right path. (22:54)

A lifelong journey of seeking and striving

The straight path is not a destination we reach but rather a lifelong journey of seeking, submitting, striving, and constant purification. It demands strong belief and unwavering faith, leading a righteous life, and steadfastly persevering, placing our complete trust in God. This path requires us to continuously reflect on our actions, aligning them with the Quran’s teachings, and seeking God’s guidance every step of the way:

(90:10) Did we not show him the two paths? (90:11) He should choose the difficult path. (90:12) Which one is the difficult path?(90:13) The freeing of slaves. (90:14) Feeding, during the time of hardship. (90:15) Orphans who are related. (90:16) Or the poor who is in need. (90:17) And being one of those who believe, and exhorting one another to be steadfast, and exhorting one another to be kind. (90:18) These have deserved happiness.

May God guide us and grant us strength and wisdom to remain steadfast on His path and never go astray.

Mona

* * * * *

A sin is timeless

Recently, I committed a sin. I thought to myself, “it wasn’t okay then, but now it’s ok!” Boy was I wrong!

Take for example gossiping. I learned a few years ago how wrong it is. However, I decided to do “a little gossiping” lately, thinking “nah, it’s ok.” But guess what? It is still wrong.

This may seem obvious, however fooling myself into thinking it’s okay is an easy and dangerous trap.

Having committed another sin recently, I learned this profound lesson, that

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a sin is timeless. Meaning, it was wrong when GOD created Adam, it was wrong when the dinosaurs were around, it was wrong when the Kabah was built, and it is still wrong today.

This is our common spiritual law that has existed since GOD created the heavens and the earth. [48:23] *Such is GOD's system throughout history, and you will find that GOD's system is unchangeable.*

It is demonstrated by my feelings of guilt. I violated the spiritual law that GOD has written.

I also realized, that these sins will remain on our record unless we go to GOD for an amendment to our record. Meaning, we must ask GOD for forgiveness. Only GOD Almighty can step in and transform our sins into credits, [25:70] *Exempted are those who repent, believe, and lead a righteous life. GOD transforms their sins into credits. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

It's not the angels, our family, friends, or money that will change our sins, rather it is GOD alone. GOD is singular in His description as Forgiver. Only He has authority to free us from our wrongdoings.

In fact, GOD has given us a sura titled Forgiver, Sura 40, to emphasize this much-needed characteristic. As human beings, we desperately need

GOD's forgiveness, constantly.

[103:2] *The human being is utterly lost.*

We must go to GOD and ask Him to help us. This is an admission of His Godhood alone, [40:3] *Forgiver of sins, acceptor of repentance, strict in enforcing retribution, and possessor of all power. There is no other god beside Him. To Him is the ultimate destiny.*

It is interesting that Sura Forgiver is #40, and GOD has given us 40 years grace period till the age of decision.

*40: The Age of Decision**

[46:15] *We enjoined the human being to honor his parents. His mother bore him arduously, gave birth to him arduously, and took intimate care of him for thirty months. When he reaches maturity, and reaches the age of forty, he should say, "My Lord, direct me to appreciate the blessings You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and to do the righteous works that please You. Let my children be righteous as well. I have repented to You; I am a submitter."*

Forgiver (GV: 1281) + 40 (sura number) + GOD (GV: 66) = 19x73.
GV = gematrical value.

May GOD continue to guide us and never allow us to fool ourselves [2:130] *Who would forsake the religion of Abraham, except one who fools his own soul?*

Abeer

God Willing

40th Annual Conference
United Submitters
August 1-3
Dallas TX



God willing, the annual conference of United Submitters International will be in Dallas TX, on August 1-3. It is an opportunity to remember God, increase our knowledge and meet our brethren in faith (3:191-194, 18:28, 58:11, 49:10).

Registration and hotel details are available online at:
www.masjiduntucson.org/conference/

As usual, attendance will be by invitation only. To help us organize a successful conference—and God has always been generous and gracious towards us—please let us know of your plans as soon as you know.

For questions or information please email: info@masjiduntucson.org.