

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Remaining Steadfast

[2:214] Do you expect to enter Paradise without being tested like those before you? They were tested with hardship and adversity, and were shaken up, until the messenger and those who believed with him said, "Where is GOD's victory?" GOD's victory is near.

It seems that every time I turn on news bad things are only getting worse. This is the biggest test I have faced in my lifetime. But we know that God is in full control. We know the Best Judge is God.

[40:20] GOD judges equitably, while the idols they implore beside Him cannot judge anything. GOD is the One who is the Hearer, the Seer.

Evil will be exposed. Whether it happens in this lifetime or on the Day of Judgement, the evil people will be exposed.

[68:42] The day will come when they will be exposed, and they will be required to fall prostrate, but they will be unable to.

[69:18] On that day, you will be exposed, nothing of you can be hidden.

We have to remind ourselves that God sees the big picture, so to speak. We have to remind ourselves that only God knows what is to come.

[49:18] GOD knows all the secrets in the heavens and the earth; GOD is Seer of everything you do.

[4:134] Anyone who seeks the materials of this world should know that GOD possesses both the materials of this world and the Hereafter. GOD is Hearer, Seer.

[8:39] You shall fight them to ward off oppression, and to practice your religion devoted to GOD alone. If they refrain from aggression, then GOD is fully Seer of everything they do.

And we have to remember that Satan will always try to pull us off God's path.

[3:175] It is the devil's system to instill fear into his subjects. Do not fear them and fear Me instead, if you are believers.

[7:27] 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.

[7:200] When the devil whispers to you any whisper, seek refuge in GOD; He is Hearer, Omniscient. [7:201] Those who are righteous, whenever the devil approaches them with an idea, they remember, whereupon they become seers.

[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.

[58:10] Secret conspiracy is the devil's idea, through which he seeks to hurt those who believed. However, he cannot hurt them against GOD's will. In GOD the believers shall trust.

No matter what is to come we must remain steadfast. Only through God

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will we find relief. God promises this to the believers.

[6:17] If GOD touches you with adversity, none can relieve it except He. And if He touches you with a blessing, He is Omnipotent.

[10:107] If GOD touches you with a hardship, none can relieve it except He. And when He blesses you, no force can prevent His grace. He bestows it upon whomever He chooses from among His servants. He is the For-giver, Most Merciful.

[4:122] As for those who believe and lead a righteous life, we will admit them into gardens with flowing streams, wherein they live forever. Such is the truthful promise of GOD. Whose utterances are more truthful than GOD's?

[40:77] You shall be patient, for GOD's promise is truth. Whether we show you some of (the retribution) we have promised for them, or terminate your life before that, they will be returned to us.

[2:155] We will surely test you through some fear, hunger, and loss of money, lives, and crops. Give good news to the steadfast.

[3:200] O you who believe, you shall be steadfast, you shall persevere, you shall be united, you shall observe GOD, that you may succeed.

[28:80] As for those who were blessed with knowledge, they said, "Woe to you, GOD's recompense is far better for those who believe and lead a righteous life." None attains this except the steadfast.

God willing, we continue to remain steadfast through all times, good and bad. God willing, if we fall into moments of doubt we take the time to repent and ask God to strengthen us. God willing, we ask God to grant us patience against anxiety, ask God to

fill us with love to battle against hate, and ask God to increase our faith when things seem hopeless. Through the unknown may we always remember to say "Praise be to God, Lord of the Universe".

Ayyub

* * * * *

Brotherhood and Love

For thousands of years, God has called humanity to a single message through His messengers. The message is that there is no god but God, and that only He is worthy of worship. We learn from the holy scriptures that the messengers always strived to unite people as they spread the message among the communities to which they were sent.

The Real Family

The believers are members of one family; you shall keep the peace within your family and reverence GOD, that you may attain mercy. [49:10]

Believers are United

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." [3:103]

As we can see, God commands us to unite with our brothers and sisters who believe in Him and not to be divided. If we do not become brothers and sisters, it is because of our own faults. If we have been blessed to become sisters and brothers, it is by God's grace. Of course, we say, "We are sisters and brothers," but are we truly? Do we fulfill the obligations of sisterhood and brotherhood, towards all our brothers and sisters? To understand this, let us look at a few vers-

es from the Bible:

(1. Peter 3:8-9) Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

(1 Thessalonians 4:9) Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.

(1 John 4:20-21) Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

If we love God, we will also love our brother. Brotherhood is the name of a bond of the heart that goes beyond blood ties. It is not about sharing the same house, but about shouldering the weight of the same feelings.

Of course, brotherhood is not just a matter of feeling, but also a matter of action. If we truly see the people we call "brother" as our brothers, we must be there for them. We must support them in every way, make sure they are not in need, and stand behind them materially and spiritually when they are in difficulty.

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. [17:53]

(Proverbs 17:17) A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

We know that our Lord God is Compassionate. According to the dictionary definition, compassion means "to love with pity and protection." We humans, of

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course, cannot be as full of love, mercy, and compassion as our Lord, but we can choose love over hatred, mercy over cruelty, and compassion over malice. God commands humanity in the Quran, the Bible, and the Torah:

Traits of the Believers

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

Although the just requital for an injustice is an equivalent retribution, those who pardon and maintain righteousness are rewarded by GOD. He does not love the unjust. [42:40]

(Romans 12:9-21) Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

(Psalm 136) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.

In this Psalm, which consists of 26 verses, the phrase "His love endures forever" is used 26 times to describe our Lord, who wisely created the skies, *the sun to rule the day, and the moon and stars to rule the night* (Psalm 136:7-8). All 26 verses express that God's love is enduring. Glory be to God! Our Lord is the Most Merciful, the Compassionate.

Whatever a person says, if there is no tone of love coming from their heart, all their words about the Lord will sound like an echo in empty space. It will be meaningless to the listener. Because every word spoken without love is just an echo, with no depth. If the heart is far from love, it will be felt in the words spoken. What one should do is to express the truth with love and joy.

We read in the Holy Scriptures how we should love believers and what it means to be "brothers." We saw that the Almighty God loves us, blesses us, forgives us, and graces us, and we constantly witness this in our lives. But do we truly love God and hold Him in deep respect?

(Psalm 97:10) Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

If we truly love our Lord, we will hate evil, that is, all sins. Would a person ever go near something he hates and is disgusted by? No, he would not, right?

Therefore, if we love the Lord, let us hate all evil, all sins, and stay away from them. Let us obey the commands of the Almighty God who created us. Let's love our Lord sincerely. Let our hearts be filled with love, and let our minds always be with God.

Aras

Racism

God created all humans as descendants of Adam and Eve. *[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.*

We are all from the same race biologically. So, when you look around, everyone on the planet is a distant relative. Whether it's the king of England or the garbage collector. Color or ethnicity does not make one human better than another.

Dr. Douglass Brown wrote in an article in the *Submitters Perspective* of August 2000: "The word, **race**, literally denotes a species or sub classification of a species. Human beings are one single species - homo sapiens. Contrary to common belief, humans are not composed of different races. The false notion of 'human races' is a pseudo-scientific concept.... The notion of any group of people constituting a 'pure race' is ludicrous. It is a confirmed scientific fact that all human beings proceeded from the same earthly mother and father."

[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.

Wikipedia defines racism: "Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another. It may also mean prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity."

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If people really saw everyone else as a very distant cousin, they might be able to let go of some misconceptions and biases. But our ego works to convince us we are better than others.

Racism has had a long history—colonization, slavery, apartheid, Nazism, genocide, and many other examples.

Satan was the first racist. He refused to obey an order from God to prostrate before Adam:

[38:76] He said, "I am better than he; You created me from fire, and created him from clay." And Satan continues to inspire his followers to be arrogant and to treat people badly. Satan loves injustice, arrogance and fear. He does not want peace and harmony. He does not want people to be united. He does not want people to be happy or prosperous.

But Satan can only whisper/invite. It's up to us to turn back to God. The ego (arrogance augmented by ignorance) is compounded by greed and selfishness, a disregard of truth and God's principles.

If people stopped to think about simple principles like "treat others like you want to be treated", they'd be able to do better. But the ego, mental conditioning, selfishness, and other human traits get in the way. What's the

solution? Worship God alone, prepare for the Day of Judgment, lead a righteous life—being fair, truthful, kind and compassionate, and give everyone maximum freedom and social justice.

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

And always remember that we are all the same: *[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.*

Faiz

GIVING THANKS

Thanksgiving (November 27, 2025) is set aside as a day to remember God and be thankful for all His blessings. We know that every day should be Thanksgiving. Every day is a chance to improve our steadfastness and our brotherly love. Every day we can strive to be more appreciative of all God has given us and to help those less fortunate. May God continue to bless and strengthen all those who worship Him alone.

[Editor]

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.