

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful*

# Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International  
Community of Submitters

www.masjiduntucson.org



Published by Masjid Tucson

Safar 1427

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## ONE GOD / ONE SOURCE

Our Almighty Creator commands that QURAN, specifically QURAN, SHALL BE THE ONLY SOURCE of religious teachings.

Furthermore, we are told that THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY OTHER SOURCES for religious guidance equals the setting up of other gods beside GOD:

*Say (O Muhammad), "Whose testimony is greater?" Say, "God is the witness between me and you that THIS QURAN was given to me to preach it to you, and to whomever it reaches." However, you certainly bear witness that you set up other gods beside God (by upholding other sources beside Quran). Say, "I will never do what you are doing; I disown your idol-worship." (6:19)*

This profound verse, which happens to be verse [19] of Sura 6, enjoins the believers from upholding or following any other source beside Quran, and that doing this is equivalent to the setting up of other gods beside GOD.

### ONE GOD / ONE SOURCE

In the strictest possible language, we are commanded to uphold Quran, the whole Quran, and nothing but Quran.

Repeatedly, we are commanded to uphold Quran as the only source of religious guidance.

Again and again, we are reminded that the following of any other source beside Quran equals the setting up of other gods beside GOD.

Verses 22 through 38 of Sura 17 represent some of the most impor-

tant commandments in Quran. Immediately following these verses we find the verse shown below:

*"This is some of the wisdom revealed to you (in this Quran), and YOU SHALL NOT SET UP ANY OTHER GOD BESIDE GOD (by following any other source beside Quran). Otherwise, you will be thrown into hell, blamed and debased." (17:39)*

Despite all these clear commandments and extremely strict injunctions, why do the followers of Hadith & Sunna fail to uphold the Quran alone?

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## ONE GOD / ONE SOURCE

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### **QURAN: An Extraordinary Book**

Despite the clear commandments, why do the followers of Hadith & Sunna fail to uphold Quran alone?

The answer is provided in the same Sura following the commandment shown on Page 8. Verses 45 and 46 of Sura 17 inform us that those who refuse to believe God and heed His commandment to uphold Quran ALONE are deliberately isolated from Quran. These two crucial verses are shown below:

*“When you read the Quran, we place between you and those who do not believe in the Hereafter an invisible barrier. And we place shields on their hearts, to prevent them from understanding Quran, and deafness in their ears. Consequently, when you preach your Lord IN THE QURAN ALONE they run away in aversion.” (17:45-46)*

### **What More Can We Say??**

#### **Do You Believe God or Not?**

God says that Quran is complete, perfect, & fully detailed, and that you shall not seek any other source:

*“We did not leave anything out of this book, then all will be gathered before their Lord (for judgment). Those who do not believe our verses are deaf and dumb; in total darkness. God sends astray whom-ever He wills, and directs whom-ever He wills in the right path.” (6:38-39)*

*“Shall I seek other than God as a source of law, when He revealed THIS BOOK FULLY DETAILED? (6:114)*

*“The word of your Lord is COMPLETE in truth and justice.” (6:115)*

### **THE CONSEQUENCE OF NOT BELIEVING GOD**

... God says that Quran is complete, perfect, and fully detailed.

His commandments are clear and strict that **YOU SHALL NOT UPHOLD ANYTHING ELSE BESIDE QURAN** as a source of religious guidance [6:114].

Now, you have the total freedom to decide to believe God, or to reject His statements, and ignore His commandments, provided you are willing (or unwilling) to accept the consequences.

You agree, no doubt, that refusing to believe God is a very serious offense. Just how serious is expressed in verse 40 of Sura 7:

*“Surely, those who do not believe our revelations, and are too arrogant to heed them, the gates of the sky never open for them, nor will they ever enter Paradise until the camel passes through the needle’s eye. We thus requite the guilty.” (7:40)*

Thus, it is A PHYSICAL IMPOSSIBILITY for those who refuse to believe God to enter Paradise.

### **IMPORTANT CRITERION OF DIVINE REVELATION**

Some people claim that the “Hadith & Sunna” are divine revelations. Obviously, they are not aware that the criterion of divine revelation is PERFECT PRESERVATION. Since the so-called hadith & sunna of the Prophet have been vastly corrupted, they can never meet the criterion of divine revelation. It is an acknowledged fact that the vast majority of Hadiths are false fabrications.

*“We have sent down the revelation, and we will surely preserve it.” (15:9)*

*“Indeed, this is an honorable scripture. Falsehood could never*

*enter it in the past, present, or future; a revelation from the Most Wise, the Most Praised.” (41:41-42)*

The blasphemy is evident when they claim that Hadith and Sunna are divine revelations. Do they not realize that God Almighty is capable of preserving His revelations?

### **HADITH & SUNNA = 100% CONJECTURE**

Although God declares that Quran is FULLY DETAILED, and shall be the only source, the majority of Muslims have been duped into following the conjecture known as Hadith & Sunna.

While Quran is proven by PHYSICAL EVIDENCE to be the authentic and unaltered word of God (see the book, QURAN: Visual Presentation of the Miracle), Hadith and Sunna are unanimously recognized as conjecture.

*“Shall I seek OTHER THAN GOD as a source of law, when He has revealed THIS BOOK FULLY DETAILED? ....The word of your Lord is COMPLETE, in truth and justice. Nothing shall abrogate His words; He is the hearer, the omniscient. Yet, if you obey the majority of people, they will take you away from the path of God. That is because they follow CONJECTURE, and they fail to think.” (6:114-116)*

*“They insist upon following conjecture, when the guidance is given to them herein from their Lord.” (53:23)*

Ed.s note: The above are taken from the book Quran, Hadith and Islam by Rashad Khalifa, Ph.D. However, the Arabic texts for the verses are not included, which are in the book. To obtain a copy of this book to see his original work, please refer to our catalog page at <http://www.masjiduntucson.org/publications/catalog/index.html>

## THE LOSS OF A FRIEND

Islam is a way of life that encourages kindness, tolerance and acceptance. It is not always practiced that way but that is clearly the emphasis of the Quran. Tradition has changed the focus somewhat over the centuries but if you go to the source—the Quran—and look there for answers, it's quite clear.

Many of us share our homes and our hearts with dogs or cats. They become an important part of our lives. Too soon, it seems, they age and die. We feel the loss as we would for any friend. The blessing is that we can be assured that our pets are guaranteed Heaven.

Animals—all animals—are submitters to the will of God, which makes them "Muslims." God doesn't prohibit us from keeping pets. In fact, in 5:4, He talks about training them according to His teachings. And in the story of the cave in Sura 18, the young men flee persecution and hide in the cave for over 300 years with their faithful dog by their side. So having dogs and cats in our homes and enjoying them and loving them is clearly approved of by God. The dogs and cats (and all the other creatures of God) come to this earth for a period of time, determined by God, and then they return to Him for eternity (6:38, 42:29). The Quran makes it clear that all the animals will go to Heaven.

That's not necessarily true for all humans, but all the animals, because they submit, will go back to God. So, if as a human, you lead a righteous life and worship God ALONE and submit to the will of God, you will be reunited with your pets in Heaven. It's generally thought of the other way around.

In traditional Islam, it is not considered clean to have a dog; they prohibit something that God has made lawful. American society encourages the keeping of pets, but there are some Christian sects that say that dogs won't go to heaven, and this is very upsetting to people who love their pets. But they're all worrying about the wrong thing. They need to take care of their own souls, forsake the practice of idol worship, and turn to God wholeheartedly. Then they will find their pets waiting for them at God.



There are no references in the Quran to grieving for your pet. I think that's because, since we know they are going to Heaven, there's no need to grieve. How we cope with the loss in our own lives is a personal matter. Counseling and spiritual guidance can come from friends within the community, helping friends to cope. We would remind each other of the comforting fact that while we will miss the companionship of our dog, the dog itself is in total happiness forever. We make our own mental image—I've always had the soothing picture of my dog chasing rabbits and eating steak. This was especially helpful with a dog that I'd had for over 18 years. At the end she was quite frail and slow. When she died, my friends in the community were able to make me smile with this image of the younger, healthier, happier dog. Knowing that she, and all the other dogs I have lost, are romping joyously in Paradise

gives me peace. My goal is to be worthy to join them in the end.

Finally, I would like to quote some verses from the Quran. Traditional Islam relies heavily on books called Hadith, written centuries after the Prophet Muhammad's death, but true Islam takes all its guidance and knowledge from the Quran itself, the proven word of God.

*They consult you concerning what is lawful for them; say, "Lawful for you are all good things, including what trained dogs and falcons catch for you." You train them according to God's teachings. You may eat what they catch for you, and mention God's name thereupon. You shall observe God. God is most efficient in reckoning. [5:4]*

*All the creatures on earth, and all the birds that fly with wings, are communities like you. We did not leave anything out of this book. To their Lord, all these creatures will be summoned. [6:38]*

*Among His proofs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the creatures He spreads in them. He is able to summon them, when He wills. [42:29]*

*The heavens and the earth are full of proofs for the believers. Also in your creation, and the creation of all the animals, there are proofs for people who are certain. [45:3-4]*

*Do you not realize that to God prostrates everyone in the heavens and the earth, and the sun, and the moon, and the stars, and the mountains, and the trees, and the animals, and many people? [22:18]*

Lydia

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ISSN 1089-053X

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## Lessons from Qaroon

[28:76] *Qaroon (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.*

[28:79] *One day, he came out to his people in full splendor. Those who preferred this worldly life said, "Oh, we wish that we possessed what Qaroon has attained. Indeed, he is very fortunate."*

The above verse pits one disbeliever against others, and all speak and act to reveal their ignorance. Qaroon, in his arrogance, shows off to those around him—although everyone already knows how rich he is, he has to bolster his ego and pamper his pride by evoking their envious reactions. And they are no better—rather than seeing Qaroon for the arrogant disbeliever he was, they instead coveted what he had and wished to be like him. They will get their wish—they will share Hell with him.

[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 says that one who is blessed with knowledge is not equal to one who remains ignorant. We can see the difference here. The believers—those who preferred the Hereafter to this world—immediately recognize that Qaroon's evil ways are not something to be envied, and that all of his wealth will be a burden for him to bear on the Day of Judgment. The steadfast give priority to truth and eternity, rather than the fleeting pleasures of the illusion of this life.

[28:81] *We then caused the earth to swallow him and his mansion. No army could have helped him against GOD; he was not destined to be a winner.*

God warns the disbelievers, then proves that His words are true by giving them the fate they deserve. God knows already who among us will believe and who will remain ignorant, and we are each destined for Heaven or Hell. This destiny is inescapable and absolute, and we must treat it as such and respect God, or else we will be with the losers.

[28:82] *Those who were envious of him the day before said, "Now we realize that GOD is the One who provides for whomever He chooses*

*from among His servants, and withholds. If it were not for GOD's grace towards us, He could have caused the earth to swallow us too. We now realize that the disbelievers never succeed."*

*Mashallah*, God knows what we do not know. He knew that not all of the disbelievers in the community were wretched like Qaroon, thus He turned Qaroon into a lesson for the people. They are forced to acknowledge that it is only by the grace of their Lord that they did not suffer the same fate as Qaroon, and to realize that appearances in this world are deceiving. They are forced to place priority on the Hereafter, and they thus become believers. God be praised for His mercy towards the people.

One thing to note—Qaroon, because he was blessed with so much more than the others, had a greater burden to appreciate his Lord than they did, in my opinion. Because he refused to give credit to his Lord for the provisions his Lord had given to him, he was punished and made into an example for those less fortunate.

*Reshma*