

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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THANK YOU, GOD

As children, most of us

are taught to be polite and to say “please” and “thank you.” It’s usually a matter of us demanding something from our parents, and being asked, “what’s the magic word?” We say, “please,” and grab for the cookie. But before we can get away, it’s always, “and what do you say?” We mumble “thank you,” and take off. As we get older, we usually find that being polite, being grateful, gets us farther than simply demanding something and taking it without acknowledging our appreciation.

As submitters, we’re very aware of how important it is to be appreciative of God’s blessings. It’s clearly a trait of a believer.

GOD rewards those who are appreciative. [3:144]

Therefore, you shall eat from GOD's provisions everything that is lawful and good, and be appreciative of GOD's blessings, if you do worship Him alone. [16:114]

Therefore, you shall worship GOD alone, and be appreciative. [39:66]

We showed him the two paths, then he is either appreciative, or unappreciative. [76:3]

In verse 46:15, we are given clear instructions for declaring our intention to truly worship God alone:

"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." [46:15]

So, do we really have that much to be grateful for? Just the sun and the moon, the night and the day, the earth and the sky, plants, animals, mountains, rain.... Just everything!

We’ve talked a couple of times in our Quran studies about what we would do if we had to control all of the things God controls every minute. If we just had to regulate our bodies. Tell our heart to beat, our lungs to

breathe, our eyes to blink. You’d go crazy! There would be no time for anything, except, “Heart, beat! Wait, take a breath. Heart, beat! Chew. Blink. Heart, beat!” Yet, every second, all those things go on and we take them for granted. God doesn’t begrudge us that. He doesn’t demand that we remember all those things constantly. He’s taking care of it. But it would be good for us to occasionally stop and be appreciative of how well the system works.

Everybody is grateful for the same things—good health, food to eat, air to breathe, a roof over our heads. Big things that we take for granted. Again, we need to stop now and then, and thank God that we have those blessings. At the same time, everybody has different things to be thankful for. I’m appreciative of my dogs and the joy they bring me. I’m grateful for warm weather in the desert and the beautiful mountains that surround Tucson.

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Those are my personal blessings and every time I look at them, I need to remember to thank God for putting them in my life. What are your personal blessings, and do you remember to appreciate the One who created them?

The more we can remember and appreciate God, the stronger we'll become in our submission to Him. In verse 2:152 God tells us:

You shall remember Me, that I may remember you, and be thankful to Me; do not be unappreciative. [2:152]

We certainly don't want to be among those whom God will forget on the Day of Resurrection. He also tells us in 14:7 that there are benefits when we remember to be grateful:

Your Lord has decreed: "The more you thank Me, the more I give you." But if you turn unappreciative, then My retribution is severe. [14:7]

It's not for God that we need to be appreciative. He doesn't need our worship or our thanks or anything from us:

If you disbelieve, GOD does not need anyone. But He dislikes to see His servants make the wrong decision. If you decide to be appreciative, He is pleased for you. No soul bears the sins of any other soul. Ultimately, to your Lord is your return, then He will inform you of everything you had done. He is fully aware of the innermost thoughts. [39:7]

It's for our own growth and development. In 27:19, Solomon prays for God to make him appreciative. In 31:12, Luqmaan teaches his son to be appreciative. And Abraham is rewarded by God because he was appreciative.

Abraham was indeed an exemplary vanguard in his submission to GOD, a monotheist who never worshiped idols. Because he was appreciative of His

Lord's blessings, He chose him and guided him in a straight path. We granted him happiness in this life, and in the Hereafter he will be with the righteous. [16:120-2]

Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful holiday in the US. It's a time when most people take a moment (out of football and turkey) to thank God. But every day should be Thanksgiving Day. Every day there are so many things—big and small—that we should be appreciative of. And it's not just the things that happen, it's also the things that *don't* happen. You drove home without an accident; you don't have pneumonia; you're not starving. So, next time you stub your toe, say "Thank You, God. I have feet to walk on." Next time you take a breath of air, say "Thank You, God." Next time your car starts, say, "Thank You, God."

God tells us in 14:34 that we can never be appreciative enough of all the things He's given us, but we need to try. And the more we thank Him, the more He gives us. What a blessing!

And He gives you all kinds of things that you implore Him for. If you count GOD's blessings, you can never encompass them. Indeed, the human being is transgressing, unappreciative. [14:34]

Lydia

Comments From Submitters

Salaam fellow Muslims

I was very moved last night by the devout, level-headed and God-loving words that you use to describe your beliefs on your web site.

Finally, someone (hopefully more than one!) who have an enlightened sense of interpreting Allah's wishes and our duties as rational humans.

I am sorry to say that mainstream Muslims seem to be following a less spiritual/faithful but more "religious" path.

Forgetting that loving God is, above all, the best way to please God, not religiosity and silly customs of "hijab," false piety, etc.

Bless you guys, gives me some hope that there are some Muslims out there who are as tolerant as Islam itself is....

M. R. M.

Salamun alaikum

In 1986 as a young man of 26 I received 3 books with regards to Quran alone, mathematical code of the Quran and Quran, Hadith and Islam. I used to talk to Rashad Khalifa on the phone too.

Fast forward at the age of 47, mankind nearly a hundred percent have no knowledge and they can't be bothered by this miracle 19.

This miracle is so mind shattering that only the unfortunate will not 'see it.'

Allah's intelligence is beyond belief!!! To Him be glory alone. Full stop. He is HOLY ALONE...

Your latest article on Ramadan is informative and nice.

Read. Keep it up.

K.S.

Peace to you Masjid Tucson,

I just felt inspired to write and tell you the more I read your site the more I enjoy it.

You have made clear so many topic and the mathematics is amazing (I have a mathematics/physics degree from Memorial University).

Thank you for the information you personally wrote to me in the past.

Sincerely

P. S. — B.Sc., B.Eng.

"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You."
Psalm 86:5

Sects: Satan's Handiwork

There was an angel called Satan (Iblis) who was very strong and domineering. Satan decided that he could be a god beside God and run a dominion as a god. Most of God's creatures did not side with Satan. There were also some that could not make up their minds. A dispute erupted in the Heavenly Community.

Say, "Here is awesome news. "That you are totally oblivious to. "I had no knowledge previously, about the feud in the High Society. "I am inspired that my sole mission is to deliver the warnings to you." Your Lord said to the angels, "I am creating a human being from clay. "Once I design him, and blow into him from My spirit, you shall fall prostrate before him." The angels fell prostrate, all of them, except Satan; he refused, and was too arrogant, unappreciative. He said, "O Satan, what prevented you from prostrating before what I created with My hands? Are you too arrogant? Have you rebelled?" He said, "I am better than he; You created me from fire, and created him from clay." He said, "Therefore, you must be exiled, you will be banished. "You have incurred My condemnation until the Day of Judgment." He said, "My Lord, respite me till the Day of Resurrection." He said, "You are respited. "Until the appointed day." He said, "I swear by Your majesty, that I will send them all astray. "Except Your worshippers who are devoted absolutely to You alone." He said, "This is the truth, and the truth is all that I utter. "I will fill Hell with you and all those who follow you." Say, "I do not ask you for any wage, and I am not an imposter. "This is a reminder for the world. "And you will certainly find out in awhile." [38:67-88]

Religious Sects had now started.

Those who divide themselves into sects do not belong with you. Their judgment rests with GOD, then He will inform them of everything they had done. Whoever does a righteous work receives the reward for ten, and the one who commits a sin is requited for only one. No one suffers the slightest injustice. Say, "My Lord has guided me in a straight path - the perfect religion of Abraham, monotheism. He never was an idol

worshiper." Say, "My Contact Prayers (Salat), my worship practices, my life and my death, are all devoted absolutely to GOD alone, the Lord of the universe. "He has no partner. This is what I am commanded to believe, and I am the first to submit." Say, "Shall I seek other than GOD as a lord, when He is the Lord of all things? No soul benefits except from its own works, and none bears the burden of another. Ultimately, you return to your Lord, then He informs you regarding all your disputes." He is the One who made you inheritors of the earth, and He raised some of you above others in rank, in order to test you in accordance with what He has given you. Surely, your Lord is efficient in enforcing retribution, and He is Forgiver, Most Merciful. [6:159-165]

[10:19] The people used to be one congregation, then they disputed. If it were not for a predetermined word from your Lord, they would have been judged immediately regarding their disputes.

Those who decided to repent and agree with God's absolute authority, and become believers, submitters and do righteous works, they will be returned to God where they once came from.

According to the Quran: Had your Lord willed, all the people would have been one congregation (of believers). But they will always dispute (the truth). Only those blessed with mercy from your Lord (will not dispute the truth). This is why He created them. The judgment of your Lord has already been issued: "I will fill Hell with jinns and humans, all together." We narrate to you enough history of the messengers to strengthen your heart. The truth has come to you herein, as well as enlightenments and reminders for the believers. Say to those who disbelieve, "Do whatever you can, and so will we. "Then wait; we too will wait." To GOD belongs the future of the heavens and the earth, and all matters are controlled by Him. You shall worship Him and trust in Him. Your Lord is never unaware of anything you do. [11:118-123]

The others would be banished into Hell where they could never live or die.

Your congregation is but one congregation, and I alone am your Lord; you shall worship Me alone. However,

they divided themselves into disputing religions. All of them will come back to us (for judgment). [21:92-93]

You and the idols you worship besides GOD will be fuel for Hell; this is your inevitable destiny. [21:98]

As it is stated in the Quran, God's Final Testament, (Do not fall in idol worship,) like those who divide their religion into sects; each party rejoicing with what they have [30:32].

In conclusion, He decreed for you the same religion decreed for Noah, and what we inspired to you, and what we decreed for Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: "You shall uphold this one religion, and do not divide it." The idol worshippers will greatly resent what you invite them to do. GOD redeems to Himself whomever He wills; He guides to Himself only those who totally submit. [42:13]

Also in the Proven Testament, the Quran, Ironically, they broke up into sects only after the knowledge had come to them, due to jealousy and resentment among themselves. If it were not for a predetermined decision from your Lord to respite them for a definite interim, they would have been judged immediately. Indeed, the later generations who inherited the scripture are full of doubts. [42:14]

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Not a single leaf falls... (6:59)

Believers know that God alone is in absolute and complete control of everything in the heavens and earth. They demonstrate their acceptance of this Quranic fact by trusting in God, following His commandments in the Quran. There are many examples in the Quran of God's control. Believers should reflect on these examples and be appreciative.

God's awareness and power encompass everything. He alone holds the heavens and the earth in His hand. Verse 39:67 states, "...In fact, the universes are folded within His right hand."

He controls the alternation of night and day (2:164, 31:29), the expansion of the universe (51:47), and keeps the planets from colliding. He is cognizant of all the inhabitants on earth and provides for each of them in exact measure. Verse 6:59 states:

"With Him are the keys to all secrets; none knows them except He. He knows everything on land and in the sea. Not a leaf falls without His knowledge. Nor is there a grain in the depths of the soil. Nor is there anything wet or dry, that is not recorded in a profound record."

God knows everything!

Who you marry is destined by God. As He wills, He pairs the righteous man and woman together and assigns the unrighteous to each other. He places love in their hearts, (30:21), then He may grant them sons or daughters, or he may render the couple sterile (42:49-50). The exact time that the couple meet each other is pinpointed by God.

The time of death is determined by God. Verse 40:68 states, "*He is the only One who controls life and death. To have anything done, He simply says to it, 'Be,' and it is.*" No one's life is snapped short (35:11). What occurs at the time of death was designed by God to be different for believing souls who are peacefully invited by angels and go straight to heaven (89:27-30), and for disbelieving souls who are beaten by the angel in whose charge they are placed (8:50). Then God will hold everyone accountable on the Day of Judgment.

God protects believers during war and persecution. He parted the Red Sea in order to save Moses and his people from the persecution of Pharaoh (26:60-66). He prevented believers from inadvertently killing believers who were in an enemy camp (48:24-25), sent angels to support believers (3:124-125), and controlled circumstances during battle to fulfill a predetermined outcome (8:42).

God is the only supporter as stated in 4:45, "*God knows best who your enemies are. God is the only Lord and Master. God is the only Supporter.*"

God is in control of everything

After reflecting on their own life and examining the Quran, believers will accept the Quranic fact that God is in control. They will know it in their hearts. Consequently, they will want to strive in the cause of God because they love God and because God gives the believers a chance to earn a lot of credit (8:17). They will be certain of God's control and submit to Him. They will accept the divine authorship of the Quran as proved by its miraculous mathematical code.

Emily

[6:102] *Such is GOD your Lord, there is no god except He, the Creator of all things. You shall worship Him alone. He is in control of all things.*

[10:31] *Say, "Who provides for you from the heaven and the earth? Who controls all the hearing and the eyesight? Who produces the living from the dead, and the dead from the living? Who is in control of all things?" They would say, "GOD." Say, "Why then do you not observe the commandments?"*

[11:57] *"If you turn away, I have delivered to you what I was sent with. My Lord will substitute other people in your place; you cannot harm Him in the least. My Lord is in control of all things."*