

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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The Soul Seeketh HIM

My journey in seeking God goes back to when I was a child, at the age of 7! I was a Christian before, who truly went to church but at a tender age, I guess I was still blurry about the mystery of GOD. Jesus was my idol and all I knew was to pray to ASK for help and thank God for things in life.

When I look back at my past, I remember the first time I asked myself if GOD was truly present. I was just a 7 year old child. It was in school then, and as usual mom gave me 20 cents for pocket money for food during recess time at school. Every day, I was always careful with the 20 cents because I love food and that 20 cents gets my stomach filled with food during my recess period.

That particular day at school, during recess period, I was shaken when I checked my school-dress pocket and noticed the 20 cents was MISSING! I usually check it every time when it's almost recess period during the lessons in class. I was devastated. I never was careless at all. I was always careful with what I loved most and this 20

cents was my BIG MONEY at that time.

At this point I felt my world tumble and I was dizzy. Dizzy at the fact I won't get my favorite Milk Rice with Fried Anchovies! I looked everywhere. Believe me, I even turned over my school bag, emptying it totally, where obviously I did NOT put my pocket money, because it was just 20 cents, small enough to put in my school-dress pocket! I just checked as if I needed to check everything, even if it did not matter. It was no where! It was really missing. I checked in my pencil case, in my school bag, in my pocket, and even on the desk, beneath all the books, and still no where. I actually prayed in that moment of despair. I thought I was going to be hungry and needed help!

As a little girl, all I knew was to pray simply and it was "God, I know you love me. I lost 20 cents, God. Please, Lord, OPEN my eyes and show me the 20 cents. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE. I promise to be a good girl and be careful with my money next

time." This was my humble prayer of innocent supplication to the God that I always had the instinct He knew me although I did not know Him that well as a child.

Do you know what happened at that moment as I opened my eyes after my prayers? A 20-cent coin was right in my pocket! The very same school-dress pocket I had been searching and searching. It was an amazing miracle to me. Imagine—a 7 year old child sees magic for the first time in her life. To me, that was magic. And I knelt immediately in front of my desk, and said Thank you, GOD! Thank you for loving me! Thank you for GIVING me this money for food! It was beautiful. Truly, the heart rejoiced and I just knew that there is a GOD who hears us.

This was the first experience, and after that, I always prayed when I lost something and asked the Lord to open my eyes to see where I placed it, even if I had checked the place several times. It was always a miracle to me.

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This was my advice to my mom who had misplaced 10,000 dollars in her room which was meant to be paid to the bank for a deposit. I was at work at that time, as an adult woman. She was in despair when she called me, shaken, as it was a big sum she could not find. I told her "please Ma, just kneel in prayer, and ASK the LORD." She called me within 10 minutes after she hung up the phone after my advice to her to go in prayer to ask the LORD, and she was screaming that a miracle happened! The money was in the same place she had checked earlier which was not to be found then, and now it was there! Right below her pillow. She screamed at the faith I had. She screamed that I was right. There was a miracle. There was GOD.

To me, that was LOVE. I felt God truly loves us no matter who we are, what race we are, and even, what religion we are from. The fact is, we are human beings, made at His mercy and our main purpose is to serve Him only. The ONE AND ONLY GOD Almighty. Someday the whole world shall know this ONE ALMIGHTY GOD and I pray these lost souls shall soon find Him. You just need to SEEK, and you shall find.

I was a Christian before, brought up with beautiful, inspiring thoughts of LOVE. The Christian wants to serve the people around them with love, regardless of race and religion. That was the mind-set I had as I moved on in life. I became acquainted with friends of other races and religions. It was my biggest gift that God gave me the gift of kindness and friendliness. It was easy for anyone to love me and be loved in return as friends. I met my Muslim friends back in my work-place.

It was a splendid journey that I was introduced to Islam. I was very open to talking about any religion at all. I was even curious about Hinduism,

Buddhism and others just because my friends were all from so many different faiths and I loved them all very much.

My Muslim friends were close to me as well. When a Muslim friend of mine gave me the first Quran in a language I was not good in at all, I read it despite having trouble understanding it. But to me, the message was from the same GOD OF LOVE that I knew of. But in this doctrine, God seemed more particular and strict about OBEYING HIS commandments. God meant business here! You had to work righteousness, and you "worship ME ALONE," He said... I thought for a long time. I felt a bell ring in my ear.

I was interested, and sought more details about this GOD. Then, my colleague guided me to understand Allah (God Almighty). I felt a love from of old when I hear His Name. There must be something in me that connect to this god. He must be closer to me than my thoughts. Then I read about His attributes. It was so amazing. He has the most beautiful words to describe Him. And yes, this is in the Old Testament of the Bible that I came across many times before. I loved the Psalms of the Bible because in it, I saw the words of the Quran come alive.

It was so uplifting and inspiring to praise and magnify Our Creator. I started searching the internet for English Quran online and I was always reading the Quran online at work. I could have bought the English Quran but all they had was Abdullah Yusuf Ali's translation which was a 1934 edition. I couldn't understand that English. So I just enjoyed reading the English Quran at my office computer.

At the point of seeking to pray, I asked a lady how to pray. The minute she gave me a website, I checked others as well, and noticed all had the Prophet Muhammad's name inside to be recited in prayers. I was doubtful of the prayer.

I did not know the Prophet, and here people were asking me to bless him that

I didn't know of. Well, I did not want to hurt anyone nor offend my friends. I accepted it, but deep within my heart there was always a question of why. I also questioned if this was the way to worship, since they called it Abraham's faith. Then did Abraham pray and recite Muhammad's name to get blessings? Abraham is our father of old and came a long time before Prophet Muhammad existed. It did not make sense to me. I chose to leave out the name of Muhammad in my prayers because my deep instinct told me that I am meant to worship GOD ALONE.

When my colleague heard what I said about Muhammad's name being left out in my prayers, she said I won't be helped in the Hereafter, and that it is a MUST to praise (salawat) the Prophet. I laughed and asked her if all the prophets of old and those who prayed before Muhammad's time were going to hell? She kept silent and was dumbfounded at the logic. I then told her calmly, I agree to certain extent, but I also choose to disagree to certain extent. It's my grave and let it be between God and myself. She left and I was at a loss at their faith. How could they believe something without thinking?

The converts come from a total different point of view than a Muslim's point of view. We decide based on logic. For example, I can't accept what someone says just because I'm told by a certain scholar that this is compulsory. I have a mind that thinks. Obviously God has blessed us with brains to think for ourselves. Even when the Quran says something I don't understand, I am one who asks God. Praise God, I have always got my answers whenever I pray and ask God for the answers.

Believe me, there is no harm asking God because we are truly dumb creatures that need God's loving Hands

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to guide us all the way. And I ask in a humble way as a child asks the father, out of pure innocence. Seek not the Lord with arrogance and pride. And do not think we are perfect to judge the rest of the other faiths in the world.

It is our duty to create awareness to these hearts who never knew our loving God through simple discussions of the salvation. Sometimes people can be so defensive that they think they are “God” to judge and curse us even at the thought of simple questions. I am sad to see the Muslims in today’s world behave this way.

I am glad to be a Submitter! This is the greatest message that our brother, Dr. Rashad Khalifa has helped convey to us. I am blessed to be here today to serve my GOD ALONE. To Him belong all Glory, Honor and Praise.

The Submitters have a salvation plan. We live on earth and know who we are, our purpose in life, and where do we go from here. This question is an instinct that digs deeply into our soul and mind when we really look at the beauty of the earth and the heavens. We are here to seek and worship GOD Alone, obey HIS commandments and believe that God is waiting for our return because He loves us BEST at all times.

Our true place belongs in His Mighty Kingdom. Thus we must strive to obey this God that loves us best. The Almighty who truly blesses us with great understanding of His great plan and His beautiful paradise. Why not start the day with a blessing of prayers to the ones around us who do not know our Almighty God the real way. May those who are lost and never knew Our God, gain a deeper understanding by His Will. Truly, He seeks to love us and guide us towards His path.

As we seek Him, He guides us towards His path of truth. Brothers and Sisters, seek fervently for God’s Mighty bless-

ings to open your minds, clear your understanding, gain a deeper wisdom because the greatest gift on human being is WISDOM. If you hear the story of King Solomon, you know that He was bestowed with great wisdom. When God asked him what he wanted as a King, He asked a very smart gift—wisdom. And God granted this to him and that made him so well known and was admired all over the world. It is not we who get wisdom by ourselves, but it is a gift of GOD to us.

Seek and you shall find... This comes from one of the gospels in Matthew 7: 7-8: ***Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. (NIV)***

The most wonderful thing in life to me is—God’s love. And till today, my principle is GOD loves the righteous. And due to the fear of Him, I LOVE ALMIGHTY GOD, MY CREATOR, MY ALL. Thus this makes me want to follow His instructions in life with much care and determination.

Marcia / New Submitter in Malaysia

The Book of Tobit

There’s a book in the Bible entitled “Tobit.” It’s not in every Bible, but it’s in most Catholic Bibles, so it’s in the New American Bible, which is an excellent translation. Within the book, there’s a section where the man Tobit is instructing his son, Tobiah. It reminds me very much of Luqman (Chapter 31) in the Quran. His advice is very sound.

Tobit 4:3-19:

My son, when I die...honor your mother and do not abandon her as long as she lives. Do whatever pleases her, and do not grieve her in any way. Remember, my son, that she went through many trials for your sake while you were in her womb....

Through all your days, my son, keep the Lord in mind, and suppress every desire to sin or to break his commandments. Perform good works all the days of your life, and do not tread the paths of wrongdoing. For if you are steadfast in your service, your good works will bring success....

Give alms from your possessions. Do not turn your face away from any of the poor, and God’s face will not be turned away from you. Son, give alms in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, distribute even some of that. But do not hesitate to give alms; you will be storing up a goodly treasure for yourself against the day of adversity.... Alms are a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who give them.

If you thus behave as God’s servant, you will receive your reward. Keep a close watch on yourself, my son, in everything you do, and discipline yourself in all your conduct. Do to no one what you yourself dislike....

At all times bless the Lord God, and ask him to make all your paths straight and to grant success to all your endeavors and plans. For no pagan nation possesses good counsel, but the Lord himself gives all good things. If the Lord chooses, He raises a man up; but if He should decide otherwise, He casts him down to the deepest recesses of the nether world. So now, my son, keep in mind my commandments, and never let them be erased from your heart.

Lydia

[Ed.’s note: We appreciate your comments and contributions to the Submitters Perspective. God bless you.]

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Traits of the Believers —A summary

The following verses list some traits of the believers mentioned in the Quran:

[23:1] *Successful indeed are the believers;*

[23:2] *who are reverent during their Contact Prayers (Salat).*

[23:3] *And they avoid vain talk.*

[23:4] *And they give their obligatory charity (Zakat).*

[23:5] *And they maintain their chastity.*

[23:6] *Only with their spouses, or those who are rightfully theirs, do they have sexual relations; they are not to be blamed.*

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

[42:38] *They respond to their Lord by observing the Contact Prayers (Salat). Their affairs are decided after due consultation among themselves, and from our provisions to them they give (to charity).*

[42:39] *When gross injustice befalls them, they stand up for their rights.*

[25:72] *They do not bear false witness. When they encounter vain talk, they ignore it.*

[25:73] *When reminded of their Lord's revelations, they never react to them as if they were deaf and blind.*

[70:32] *And the believers keep their word; they are trustworthy.*

[13:20] *They are the ones who fulfill their pledge to GOD, and do not violate the covenant.*

[13:21] *They join what GOD has commanded to be joined, reverence their Lord, and fear the dreadful reckoning.*

[13:22] *They steadfastly persevere in seeking their Lord, observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), spend from our provisions to them secretly and publicly, and counter evil with good. These have deserved the best abode.*

[9:112] *They are the repenters, the worshipers, the praisers, the meditators, the bowing and prostrating, the advocates of righteousness and forbidders of evil, and the keepers of GOD's laws. Give good news to such believers.*

[8:2] *The true believers are those whose hearts tremble when GOD is mentioned, and when His revelations are recited to them, their faith is strengthened, and they trust in their Lord.*

[8:3] *They observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), and from our provisions to them, they give to charity.*

[8:4] *Such are the true believers. They attain high ranks at their Lord, as well as forgiveness and a generous provision.*

[13:28] *They are the ones whose hearts rejoice in remembering GOD. Absolutely, by remembering GOD, the hearts rejoice.*

[21:49] *The ones who reverence their Lord, even when alone in their privacy, and they worry about the Hour.*

[29:59] *They are the ones who steadfastly persevere, and trust in their Lord.*

[39:18] *They are the ones who examine all words, then follow the best. These are the ones whom GOD has guided; these are the ones who possess intelligence.*

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