

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Our Real Family

This article is about our real family. This topic came to me as we recently celebrated Family Day in Canada. The holiday was initially instituted so that people would take time to spend with their families. This got me thinking about the meaning of family, who is our real family and the importance of it.

We are not given a chance to choose our family. Maybe that's why knowing, understanding and learning the meaning of family becomes so essential for us. We are all, including the orphans, born with a family. Family is essentially made up of those people who look after us, who play a crucial role in our upbringing and who teach us many lessons in life, which can never be learned through any school or text book. We assimilate the basics of discipline and responsibilities from our family relationships. The various members in our family instill in us the true meaning of family.

Let's see who these people are and how they reveal to us the real meaning of family. God blesses us with mothers, fathers, siblings and relatives

on this journey of life. The Quran also talks about the importance of family and the role it plays in our lives:

Our genetic family and the placement of souls: We know that God chooses our genetic family. Every time a human being is born, a human person is assigned to the new baby from the depository of souls. God assigns the souls in accordance with His knowledge (28:68). Every soul deserves to be assigned to a certain body, and live under certain circumstances. God alone knows which souls are good and which souls are evil. Our children are assigned to our homes in accordance with God's plan. So, from this we know that God has specially chosen for us our parents, siblings and relatives according to his perfect plan and according to our soul. (From Appendix 7 - Why Were We Created?)

Not very common for all genetic family members to be submitters: I remember when I first came to Submission; I automatically assumed that all my siblings and family members would accept submission. I mean,

why would they not? The proof was so evident and simple to understand.

However, we know from Quran that it is very difficult for all family members to believe. We also have examples in the Quran where there are disbelieving family members, such as Noah's son and Lot's wife.

[11:45] Noah implored his Lord: "My Lord, my son is a member of my family, and Your promise is the truth. You are the wisest of the wise."

[11:46] He said, "O Noah, he is not of your family. It is unrighteous to ask Me for something you do not know.* I enlighten you, lest you be like the ignorant."

However God says not to be saddened if they do not believe as He is the only one that guides. All we can do is share the message and set the right example.

Our Real Family:

In the Quran, God talks about Submitters being our 'Real Family'. The moment a person accepts submission, he/she becomes a member of our family

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simply because we value and devote our lives to worshipping God alone.

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

God advocates loving each other and helping each other to grow strong in our submission by standing side by side like pillars to fight Satan and build a strong submitting family.

Rules of Conduct:

God knows the importance of both genetic and submitting family members and gives us rules and commandments for both, which I will share with you.

- Honor our Parents:

[2:83] *We made a covenant with the Children of Israel: "You shall not worship except GOD. You shall honor your parents and regard the relatives, the orphans, and the poor. You shall treat the people amicably. You shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat)."*

[17:23] *Your Lord has decreed that you shall not worship except Him, and your parents shall be honored. As long as one or both of them live, you shall never say to them, "Uff" (the slightest gesture of annoyance), nor shall you shout at them; you shall treat them amicably.*

God knows that our natural tendency is to take our loved ones for granted. Hence, He categorically mentions honoring our parents in the Quran so that we are constantly reminded that this is the divine code of conduct for us as submitters and that we have to constantly keep working at getting better at this aspect.

- Regard for relatives:

God advocates regarding the relatives as well, as they are also important in

our lives. There are many verses in the Quran that advocate this;

[16:90] *GOD advocates justice, charity, and regarding the relatives. And He forbids evil, vice, and transgression. He enlightens you, that you may take heed.*

[17:26] *You shall give the due alms to the relatives, the needy, the poor, and the traveling alien, but do not be excessive, extravagant.*

[2:215] *They ask you about giving: say, "The charity you give shall go to the parents, the relatives, the orphans, the poor, and the traveling alien." Any good you do, GOD is fully aware thereof.*

Special responsibility for submitting families:

God also mentions a special responsibility upon submitting families.

[20:132] *You shall enjoin your family to observe the contact prayers (Salat), and steadfastly persevere in doing so. We do not ask you for any provisions; we are the ones who provide for you. The ultimate triumph belongs to the righteous.*

Our family can also be tests and excuses for us:

The Quran teaches us with numerous examples that our family can be tests and excuses for us not to accept submission or to stray from the right path:

[64:14] *O you who believe, your spouses and your children can be your enemies; beware. If you pardon, forget, and forgive, then GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

[64:15] *Your money and children are a test, and GOD possesses a great recompense.*

[2:170] *When they are told, "Follow what GOD has revealed herein," they say, "We follow only what we found our parents doing." What if their parents did not understand, and were not guided?*

However, God also tells us in the Quran that our spouses and children are joys

for us and we can enjoy this blessing as long as we keep God as our number one priority in our lives. Hence, God enjoins us to implore him with this prayer:

[25:74] *"Our Lord, let our spouses and children be a source of joy for us, and keep us in the forefront of the righteous."*

The eternal family:

God also talks about the differences between believing family members and disbelieving family members in the Hereafter. God willing, the Quran mentions that believers will be joined joyfully with their family members (*righteous genetic and submitter members*) in heaven.

Whereas, the disbelievers will be blaming each other for going astray and will also be willing to give up all their family members as ransom in exchange for a chance to make it to Heaven.

[70:11] *When they see them, the guilty will wish he could give his own children as ransom, to spare him the retribution of that day.*

God has blessed us all with so many submitting brothers and sisters, not just within our own community but all across the world. We should regularly implore God to help us all use every opportunity to get better at submission and closer to Him.

Derek / Canada

God willing

Ramadan 2012

July 20 – August 17

USA, N and S America, Europe, etc.

July 20 – August 18

Middle East, Asia, Australia and etc.

God willing for more details and checking the dates for your area, please see www.masjiduntucson.org [Ramadan](#) pages and Ramadan Calculator.

Story of a young Submitter from Down Under

Hello, I'm a sixteen year girl currently residing in Sydney, Australia and I would like to share my story.

It all started about four years ago when we moved to a new house. My Mum began taking Quran Tafseer (commentary) classes. She had never been very religious most of her life, just average. The women who held this class were extremely "Islamic." Most wore "niqaab" (a piece of cloth that covers the face except the eye) and practiced many other nonsensical traditions.

Nearly six months after taking the class, she wore an "abaya" (long cloak) and permanently began wearing the headscarf. She also began to worry about my siblings and I, telling us "what will other people say?" If we didn't pray and stuff, and for me, if I didn't wear the headscarf. Of course, at a tender age of twelve, I just replied saying when I'm older and thought it was in our religion and therefore I must wear it. No questions, no speculation, just listened and did as I was told.

Eventually, my Mum told me to look up some Islamic websites on the internet. Needless to say, I really didn't care and just to get it done and over with I quickly typed in Islam in Google. I was hoping to click on the first link, show my Mum and be done with it. I'm not sure how, but my attention was caught by yahoo answers. Someone had asked a question for Islamic websites. I clicked on it and whilst reading it, saw an answer from submission.org. I suppose I was one click away from changing the direction of my life forever!

Article after article and I was hooked. I was so drawn into it. I saw the titles for the mathematical miracle of Quran and the messenger of covenant, but never clicked on them. I suppose, in a way, I began to get my head around the fact that we should be only using the wonderful Quran as our only source of guidance. Still, no one knew of what I thought.

By age 13, I looked deeper into the mathematical miracle of Quran, as I had only ever skimmed it before, but I was amazed nonetheless. I also read about the messenger of covenant, and was at a loss at what to do...because there was no one to talk to, and looking at my Mum and her "religious" friends I thought I was just naive to believe something so revolutionary. But, I kept quiet and thought "I'll deal with it later" and enjoyed my trip to Pakistan at the end of the year.

At 14, I was still holding firm to the fact that we must only live our life by the Quran. And that's when little disputes arrived between my Mum and I. I would ask her why we should follow the hadith and sunna, and where does it mention in the Quran that we must do so, and also why I could not "understand" the Quran right now. She tried to answer my questions, but mostly kept saying that if we don't accept hadith then we're not Muslims. At this point, I still didn't know what to do, even though I held firm to the belief we must worship God alone, so I just avoided the subject all together and like any other 14 year old, went out with friends, laughed and did my schoolwork.

At 15 years of age, I think I became a lot more perspective and analytical, and I was beginning to be drawn into the true Islam a lot more. 2011 was a learning year for me in the sense that I was taking into account of everything I had learnt so far from the authorized English Quran on your website. After all, I will not and could not accept anything that has no authentication from the Quran. And it's how I know I'm worshipping God alone and not just listening to someone because it sounds right, it has to be from God's point of view. This is also why I read the articles and Submitters Perspective on your website because it is always linked back to the Quran, there are always several verses from the Quran relating to the topic.

Another breakthrough for me that year was that I began to pray. For reasons unknown I did not pray before, although I knew I wanted to because it

was good for me. But there was just something telling me that God would know when I will start praying. So I prayed, and didn't mention Prophet Mohammad's name in prayer. I can read Arabic fluently (but have NO idea WHAT I'm saying—strange isn't it?) and knew Al-Fatiha by heart, and had no problem with reciting that in my prayer. Right now, I try my best to pray 5 times a day, and still trying to wake up earlier for fajr (dawn) prayer, I had no trouble in summer but in winter it's too cold, but I'm trying. All in all, I learnt a lot that year (and still am) and really began to take it seriously.

Here I am, turning 17 in less than a year, with too many thoughts going through my head. I make contact with God everyday, and I feel better and know God knows best. But I'm so unbelievably lonely because I don't know who I can talk to or what's going to happen next, I also noticed that I'm crying a lot too lately.

My parents know I don't agree with hadith, and tell me to read that in English instead of the Quran! My Mum, at this age, worries why my siblings and I don't pray...except I do pray every day, in my room, with no piece of cloth on my head. But I'm not praying because of her, I only pray because of God, and if God knows I pray, then it doesn't matter what any human says, their point is invalid in front of God, Most Gracious.

My Mum has become ever so religious, and asks when I will wear scarf. But I can never wear that because of her, she may be my Mum, but God is first, and it's as simple as that. What God has not asked from us, should not be practiced for the sake of pleasing others in community or anyone.

There's another thing too. Marriage. And I have been thinking a lot about this lately. I know about marriage from verses in Quran, and I feel so rejoiced to know that your soulmate is the one who you are in company with in heaven, and it sounds just so beautiful, it really signifies the importance and

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sacredness of the bond. I can't wait to be united with my soulmate, and only God knows when. God ensures us that you will no longer be lonely, that it does not matter what happens if there's the two of you who worship God alone and follow the Quran. I don't know what's going to happen, because I know you need parental approval for marriage. But I don't know what I'm going to do...

Coming from a Pakistani background, marriages are usually arranged, and we are going to Pakistan next year, and I would have also finished school by the end of the year when we go. I know my Mum will most likely start looking for good families for marriage, of course, it's not forced or anything, I do have choice in agreeing to it or not...I want to get married. It's a beautiful bond between a man and woman, but I seriously have no idea what's going to happen. I don't have any expectations for that man, my only rule, according to what God has prescribed to us, is that he must worship God alone, I cannot marry an idol worshipper.

But I trust God, I have faith in God, and most importantly, I know God is in control of everything, and I pray and know that God knows best when that time will come, but I just hope it does not take long. I trust God, He knows who's perfect for me, as impossible as it may seem to me right now. God already knows who my soulmate is, it's just a

matter of time before I'm united with him...

Wow...I really cannot thank God enough for guiding me to the right path, for clearing up so many issues in this world, for letting me believe in the amazing mathematical miracle and accepting the messenger of covenant. When you study the Quran, everything in this world makes sense, has a purpose, a beginning and an end. In school some of the subjects I study are modern history, ancient history, art and biology...I feel so happy studying them, especially history and biology because I somehow relate it back to what God has mentioned in the Quran, it's so refreshing.

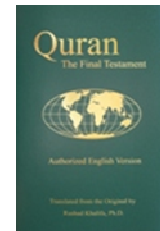
I could say so much more but I think I've written enough already...It felt great to get all that off my chest. May God bless you for your efforts, and Inshallah (God willing), in the future I shall be taking part in the annual conferences, where my real family will be...

[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.

S. R.

[Ed.'s note: We encourage the young and young at heart Submitters out there, to please share with our readers how you come to Submission. We all learn from each other's experience. God bless you.]

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