

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

# Submitters Perspective

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## THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor, and Whereas both Houses of congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanks-giving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many single favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks, for His kind care and protection of the People of this country previous to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His Providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge and in general for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the People, by constantly being a government of wise, just and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord. To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and Us, and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

*George Washington, October 3, 1789*

Remember to give thanks to God each and every day for His many blessings, to pray to Him for forgiveness and mercy, and to be appreciative of all His provisions.

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

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

*[31:12] We have endowed Luqmān with wisdom: “You shall be appreciative of GOD.” Whoever is appreciative is appreciative for his own good. As for those who turn unappreciative, GOD is in no need, Praiseworthy.*

*[14:34] 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.*

## RESURRECTION

Since time immemorial, we humans have wondered whether death terminates our life or does it carry on subsequently. To arrive at the proper conclusion is of fundamental significance as it decides our conduct throughout this life. If living did come to an end with demise and there was nothing ahead, people would be justified in feeling that *“we only live once and so let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die”* (Luke 12:19, Ecclesiastes 8:15, 1 Corinthians 15:32).

These would be the ones who think that the here and now is the be-all and end-all and that it may be okay to believe that the end would justify the means. *[23:35-37] “Does he promise you that, after you die and turn into dust and bones, you will come out again? “Impossible, impossible indeed is what is promised to you” We only live this life—we live and die—and we will never be resurrected.*

But we know this is not so. *[45:24-26] They said, “We only live this life; we live and die and only time causes our death!” They have no sure knowledge about this; they only conjecture. When our revelations are recited to them, clearly, their only argument is to say, “Bring back our forefathers, if you are truthful.” Say, “GOD has granted you life, then He puts you to death, then He will summon you to the Day of Resurrection, which is inevitable. But most people do not know.”*

There has always been a strong concept of resurrection. Hindus have a conviction that they will be reborn in accordance with the way they lived their life. A belief of reincarnation of souls with a continuous sequence of

rebirths till they accomplish *moksha*. The Egyptian Pharaohs were entombed in colossal pyramids with all their jewellery and valuable possessions to be used by them after resurrection. The ancient Greeks believed in a netherworld called Hades, the dwelling of the dead as well as a sinister purgatory. The Zoroastrians of ancient Persia were of Aryan ancestry sharing philosophies akin of recompense and chastisement as the Semitic people had—the people of Abrahamic faiths. However, in the same Abrahamic faiths the Jews believed in Heaven and Hell with the provision that being **God’s chosen people, they would endure the anguish of Hell for only a restricted phase.** In the Christian New Testament—the Book of Revelations—there is an explicit portrayal in figurative words of a series of events including the four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. This is followed by six angels blowing their trumpets, one after the other which will obliterate the cosmos **and finally the seventh angel’s trumpet** (Rev. 11:18) will announce the achievement of **“God’s secret plan”, when the Ark of the Covenant is seen.**

**Today’s Muslims are no better. Most** believe that their saints and religious leaders will intercede on their behalf and escort them to Heaven. We all know that there is no defence from **God’s law.**

*Satan’s Most Effective Bait: The Myth of Intercession*  
*[9:80] Whether you ask forgiveness for them, or do not ask forgiveness for them—even if you ask forgiveness for them seventy times—GOD will not forgive them. This is because they disbelieve in GOD and His messenger. GOD does not guide the wicked people.*

The Quran is clear on the concept of the Hereafter. First, we are informed as to why we are here, what are our duties and responsibilities and why answerability is obligatory.

One of the primary attributes mentioned in the very first Sura of the Quran is that God is the Master of the Day of Judgment. If we truly recognise this, we should act in the most upright way during our life knowing that we are answerable about our deeds after death. *[83:10-12] Woe on that day to the rejectors. They do not believe in the Day of Judgment. None disbelieves therein except the transgressor, the sinful.*

We believe in the Hereafter because God says so. We reason it out because as humans we should be conscientious and therefore accountable to our Maker for all our actions—good, bad and neutral. We know that this life at hand is transient and that it is ordained to conclude on an Hour known only to God. We also know that our winning or losing in the next life is not derived from our capacity or incapacity to obtain riches, power and influence here. *[6:164] 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.”*

We know that this earth will be replaced with a new earth and that all humankind will be recreated afresh and gathered round for verdict. It will be done for each soul in the most accurate and just manner. *[82:9-14] Indeed, you disbelieve in the religion. Oblivious to the fact that there are (invisible) keepers around you. They are honest recorders. They record everything you do. Surely, the pious have deserved bliss. While the wicked have deserved Hell.*

*(Continued on page 3)*

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God has His angels register all our acts in a faultless document.

*[45:28-29] You will see every community kneeling. Every community will be called to view their record. Today, you get paid for everything you have done. This is our record; it utters the truth about you. We have been recording everything you did.*

*[58:6] The day will come when GOD will resurrect them all, then inform them of everything they had done. GOD has recorded everything, while they have forgotten it. GOD witnesses all things.*

If we place our hand in fire, we will get burned. This is what is so exclusive in the Quran—that we are answerable for our own actions. This is why we can say with conviction:

***[2:139] Say, “Do you argue with us about GOD, when He is our Lord and your Lord? We are responsible for our deeds, and you are responsible for your deeds. To Him alone we are devoted.” [34:25] Say, “You are not responsible for our crimes, nor are we responsible for what you do.***

Our entire life is being tracked on a hard drive which can never be contested. It cannot be viewed by us now but will be released on the Day of Judgment when we will be told:

*[17:13-14] We have recorded the fate of every human being; it is tied to his neck. On the Day of Resurrection we will hand him a record that is accessible. Read your own record. Today, you suffice as your own reckoner.*

In this world, we have civil laws without which the social order cannot operate suitably. By nature, we are insensitive, egocentric and quite competent in infringing on the rights of others for individual benefit. We know that the law of the land may punish

us for contravening the rules. Nevertheless, we see that even in a well administered state many criminals go Scot free and sometimes people who are not guilty are unfairly convicted and penalised. No laws we make can ever be perfect. Enactment of justice here, though well intentioned, will never be without some bias. But God has promised us very fair dealings.

*The Best Deal*

*[40:40] Whoever commits a sin is requited for just that, and whoever works righteousness—male or female—while believing, these will enter Paradise wherein they receive provisions without any limits.*

*[4:173] As for those who believe and lead a righteous life, He will fully recompense them, and shower them with His grace. As for those who disdain and turn arrogant, He will commit them to painful retribution. They will find no lord beside GOD, nor a savior.*

God’s law is such that all our activities regardless of how insignificant, and even our thinking, will have their positive or negative final results.

*[13:10] It is the same whether you conceal your thoughts, or declare them, or hide in the darkness of the night, or act in the daylight.*

We have to have faith that God is our Initiator, our Guide and the Absolute One. Merely vocally announcing this is not adequate; this certainty should be augmented with devotion and total commitment.

*[99:6-8] On that day, the people will issue from every direction, to be shown their works. Whoever does an atom’s weight of good will see it. And whoever does an atom’s weight of evil will see it.*

## The Earth, one of God’s Marvels

Tests are underway to produce the world’s fastest car, called Bloodhound, which is expected to reach speeds of 1,000mph (1,600kmh). While it will only sustain that speed for a few seconds, were it to keep going, it would take 25 hours to circle the earth. This gives us a sense how fast the earth is spinning every day. At the equator, the earth spins at over 1,000mph. Yet, by God’s perfect design we do not feel a thing. You get into a car, and if you’re at 100mph, you feel it. Perhaps it’s the vibrations from the road or the shiny blue and red lights flashing behind you. Amazingly, on earth at 1000mph we seem to be at a standstill, going nowhere. But us humans, the packrats in the ground, the bacteria in the air, and the trees and mountains around us are all zipping along by God’s design.

*[27:88] When you look at the mountains, you think that they are standing still. But they are moving, like the clouds. Such is the manufacture of GOD, who perfected everything. He is fully Cognizant of everything you do.*

Amazingly, spinning at 1000 mph is our slow heading. We are moving in an orbit around the sun at about 65,000 miles per hour! Can you think super-roller coaster? Praise be to God who designed spaceship earth so perfectly. Unlike vehicles we make, it does not need to stop in every 6,000 miles for a tune-up or oil change (at 65,000 mph, we’d be stopping every 6 minutes or so). Further, the earth’s design is not just for speed. It supports life. It has weather. Night and day. So many interconnected pieces.

*[25:2] The One to whom belongs all sovereignty of the heavens and the earth. He never had a son, nor does He have any partners in sovereignty. He created everything in exact measure; He precisely designed everything.\**

*\*25:2 When we launch astronauts into space, we measure precisely the amount of food, water, oxygen, and other needs throughout the journey. Similarly, God has launched us into space—on board spaceship Earth—and He has designed all kinds of renewable provisions for us and other creatures, a perfect design. Think, for example, of the symbiotic relationship between us and the plants; we use the oxygen they produce in photosynthesis, while they use the carbon dioxide we produce in respiration.*

Alim

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It's also a pretty tough design, praise be to God. A dropped tool put the space shuttle Discovery out of commission for days while they checked to see if this small piece of metal damaged a fuel tank. Can you imagine a falling rock or a landslide somewhere knocking the earth out of commission for a few weeks or months? Or one of those many little meteorites floating around?

A study done in 1996 (looking at the number of meteorites found in deserts over time) calculated that for objects in the 10 gram to 1 kilogram size range, 2900-7300 kilograms per year hit Earth. They also estimate between 36 and 166 meteorites larger than 10 grams fall to Earth per million square kilometers per year. Over the whole surface area of Earth, that translates to 18,000 to 84,000 meteorites bigger than 10 grams per year.

Source: <http://curious.astro.cornell.edu/question.php?number=470>

And you know what those little flying pebbles do to our car windshields, when traveling relatively slowly compared to the thousands of miles an hour the earth is flying at. God tells us in Quran:

*[21:31-3] And we placed on earth stabilizers, lest it tumbles with them, and we placed straight roads therein, that they may be guided. And we rendered the sky a guarded ceiling. Yet, they are totally oblivious to all the portents therein. And He is the One who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon; each floating in its own orbit.*

Unlike how humans design "protective coverings" (e.g., canopy on an airplane, or shuttle tiles for heat protection), God's design is highly multi-functional. The air around us

not only protects from meteorites, but also from UV rays and cosmic radiation. The atmosphere also allows us a beautiful view out into space. And allows us and the animals to walk or fly through it, breathe it, get water from clouds floating in it, have radio waves broadcast through it, and innumerable other aspects of perfection.

*[55:10-3] He created the earth for all creatures. In it there are fruits, and date palms with their hanging fruit. \* Also grains and the spices. (O humans and jinns,) which of your Lord's marvels can you deny?*

*\*55:11 Compare the spaceship Earth's renewable systems and reproducing astronauts, with the most sophisticated spaceships that we launch into space. God be glorified.*

*[16:79] Do they not see the birds committed to fly in the atmosphere of the sky? None holds them up in the air except GOD. This should be (sufficient) proof for people who believe.*

*[2:22] The One who made the earth habitable for you, and the sky a structure. He sends down from the sky water, to produce all kinds of fruits for your sustenance. You shall not set up idols to rival GOD, now that you know.*

*[15:19-21] As for the earth, we constructed it, and placed on it stabilizers (mountains), and we grew on it a perfect balance of everything. We made it habitable for you, and for creatures you do not provide for. There is nothing that we do not own infinite amounts thereof. But we send it down in precise measure.*

## VERSES ON GOD'S WONDROUS SIGNS THE MOON

*[2:189] They ask you about the phases of the moon! Say, "They provide a timing device for the people, and determine the time of Hajj." It is not righteous to beat around the bush; righteousness is attained by upholding the commandments and by being straightforward. You shall observe GOD, that you may succeed.*

*[10:5] He is the One who rendered the sun radiant, and the moon a light, and He designed its phases that you may learn to count the years and to calculate. GOD did not create all this, except for a specific purpose. He explains the revelations for people who know.*

*[36:39-40] The moon we designed to appear in stages, until it becomes like an old curved sheath. The sun is never to catch up with the moon—the night and the day never deviate—each of them is floating in its own orbit.*

*[54:1] The Hour has come closer, and the moon has split. \**

*\*54:1 This important sign of the approaching end of the world came to pass in 1969 when humans landed on the moon and brought pieces of the moon to earth. At the same time, God's mathematical Miracle of the Quran was being gradually unveiled. Traditional Muslims opposed it, since it exposed the fallacy of their practices (Appendix 25).*

*[71:16] He designed the moon therein to be a light, and placed the sun to be a lamp.*

Faiz