

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

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Community of Submitters

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## History of the Human Race

There's a course, a series of lectures, you can order called *"The World Was Never the Same: Events That Changed History."* The lecture titles include: "Moses and Monotheism," "Columbus Finds a New World," "Marathon—Democracy Triumphant," "The Defeat of the Spanish Armada," "Two Brothers Take a Flight," "Hitler Becomes Chancellor," "The Atomic Bomb is Dropped," "Dr. King Leads a March," and many more.

If asked, probably no two people would include all the same things on their list of events that changed history, but there would be many similarities. Certain events are considered cataclysmic by almost everyone. It might be positive like Jesus's teachings, the discovery of America, the first manned space flight, or Pasteur's medical advances. Or it might be negative like Kennedy's assassination, Hitler's death camps, or the September 11 attacks. Most people would agree these were life-changing events on a global scale.

But actually few people really know "the most important event in the history of the human race." It precedes Hitler; it precedes Columbus; it pre-

cedes the discovery of fire and the invention of the wheel. It actually precedes life on this planet.

[38:67-85] 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 worshipers who are devoted ab-

solutely 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."

And the footnote states: \*38:69 The feud in the High Society was triggered by Satan's challenge to God's absolute authority. **This is definitely the most important event in the history of the human race.** We failed to make a firm stand regarding God's absolute authority. This life represents the third and final chance to redeem ourselves (See the Introduction and Appendix 7).

We have been blessed to have received a messenger who made all of this clear to us. It's always been right there in the Quran, but it was never fully understood. Now we know that our failure to stand firmly with God was a terrible blasphemy. It should have condemned us to exile right then. But God is so merciful that He granted us a second chance. He banished all the rebels to this earth—this beautiful planet of green trees, tall mountains, flowing rivers. But before He sent us down, He offered us a reprieve.

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[33:72] We have offered the responsibility (freedom of choice) to the heavens and the earth, and the mountains, but they refused to bear it, and were afraid of it. But the human being accepted it; he was transgressing, ignorant.\*

Footnote: \*33:72 The animals, trees, stars, etc. took advantage of this most gracious offer.

But our egos caused us to reject this generous offer and believe somehow that we could come back to God on our own. We didn't calculate the strength of Satan's power over us. We should have paid attention. He made his threat very clear.

[7:16-7] He said, "Since You have willed that I go astray, I will skulk for them on Your straight path. I will come to them from before them, and from behind them, and from their right, and from their left, and You will find that most of them are unappreciative."

History needs to be studied, so we can, hopefully, learn from mistakes and do better in the future. We humans don't do a very good job of that. The Quran is full of lessons, but we see again and again that communities make the same mistakes, even though they are aware of previous communities and their failures. We have before us "the most important event in the history of the human race." God has spelled it out for us. It's up to us to learn from that event, and stop committing the same offense. Every time we place anything or anyone beside God, we are behaving exactly as we did during the Great Feud. We must reverence God, worship God alone, keep Him foremost in our thoughts and deeds, and kill our ego, which is our worst enemy and Satan's best tool. Only this way can we realize God's mercy:

[15:39-49] He [Satan] said, "My Lord, since You have willed that I go astray, I will surely entice them on earth; I will send them all astray. Except those among Your worshipers

who are devoted absolutely to You alone." He said, "This is a law that is inviolable. You have no power over My servants. You only have power over the strayers who follow you. And Hell awaits them all. It will have seven gates. Each gate will get a specific share of them." As for the righteous, they will enjoy gardens and springs. Enter therein, peaceful and secure. We remove all jealousy from their hearts. Like one family, they will be on adjacent furnishings. Never will they suffer any fatigue therein; never will they be evicted therefrom. Inform My servants that I am the Forgiver, Most Merciful.

Lydia

\* \* \* \* \*

## A Reader's Comments

Praise God and Peace Be Upon You.

I am SO delighted to find a like-minded teaching of Islam. I converted from Christianity because Islam resonated with my heart and my mental sensibility. I was then confronted with "what-kind" of Muslim I am. I answered that I believe the Quran is the written Word of God and do not follow any other "off-the-record" references such as Hadith.

I am also pleased to hear you refer to God instead of insisting on saying Allah. I believe that most of the Muslim community's reluctance to say God instead of Allah impedes understanding of the religion in America. So many times I hear, "Muslims don't worship God, they worship Allah." For this reason, whenever I speak to someone of a different religion, I say God. After all, Allah is simply Arabic for God.

Yours Truly,

Chad B.

\* \* \* \* \*

[17:110] Say, "Call Him GOD, or call Him Most Gracious; whichever name you use, to Him belongs the best names." ...

## Letter from a Reader

Dear Masjid Tucson,

Am so happy Allah allowed you to send me the Submitters Perspective Feb 2013. I thought after you sent me the "Quran", that was it. Thank you. As you know am in Prison and I understand that us prison Muslims have bad reps. I don't want to be a prison Muslim. I just want to be a striving Muslim. I wrote so many Masjids. Barely any have written back and none wrote twice. I would like to know more about your Masjid. I need help changing my behavior and Islam is the help I want. I pray Allah allows me to parole and remain a Muslim. Islam means so much to me.

I have a question when I make Salat (Contact) is it proper to praise "Our Holy Prophet" (SAW) and if I am not supposed to, what do I say in its place. Dr. Rashad Khalifa's teachings are very clear and deep. But the part referring to praising "Our Holy Prophet" SAW being invalid, I don't understand and I really want to. Am 31 years old. I'll be 40 soon 9 years is not long. So I look at it like I got 9 yrs to get my deen correct and uncorrupt. Inshallah you can help.

Peace and Thank you.

D P

*Editorial Reply:* We must remember that our prayers must be devoted to God Alone. We should never mention anything or anyone other than God in our Contact Prayers (72:18, 20:14, 6:162). Muhammad would not have mentioned himself when praying to God, nor would he have asked his followers to mention him. We are making contact with our Creator, and we have no other god besides God.

[72:18] *The places of worship belong to GOD; do not call on anyone else beside GOD.*

[20:14] *"I am GOD; there is no other god beside Me. You shall worship Me alone, and observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) to remember Me.*

## Experiencing Nature

*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 [27:88]*

There are many great artists like Michelangelo whom we can never meet. We can glimpse their greatness by experiencing their artistic creations. Similarly, we cannot meet God in this world, but we can glimpse His greatness by experiencing His work (27:88).

While many events have shaped my life, one of the most important occurred during a 15-day field trip to some of the last great remaining concentrations of wildlife in the Western Hemisphere. Our explorations included several biologically diverse wildlife refuges— Ruby Lake of Nevada, Bear Valley of Utah, Red Rock lakes of Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Nature treated me to some of her most spectacular light shows, a night sky crowded with stars, a double rainbow and a fabulous green sunset. I saw huge flocks of birds, herds of buffalo, moose, and pronghorn antelope. I heard an owl hoot for the first time. Experiencing these wonders helped put my life in perspective. It made me realize that social justice is not only justice between people but also justice and kindness toward other creatures on this planet we call home (6:38; 15:19-20; 55:10).

Being out in nature, sleeping under the stars, and listening to the silence awakened in me a love of nature and a desire to take care of it. I also became a more creative person, as well as a better critical thinker, problem solver, and writer. I learned how to live in the present from the river; it is always changing, always in balance, always present. The appearance of a double rainbow taught me a lesson both in science and philosophy; I learned it was caused by the refraction of light through the raindrops. I connected its appearance with the joyous feeling we

experience after the rainstorms in our lives. Looking at the landscape at Red Rock with the sun setting into the lake behind the bushes, facing a majestic mountain awakened in me a child-like sense of wonder and imagination. I saw a green sunset – my version of Alice in Wonderland. It was an image I will remember all my life.

At night, the sky was so immense and full of stars that I lost my sense of distance. I felt connected with that sky; oh yes, I could reach the stars! But that was not all. I realized that winds have character. They can be harsh and violent, soft and lovely, strong or weak, or simply do their jobs as pollinators. Dealing with winds is like dealing with people – the relationship is not perfect; it's part of a whole. You must first understand these other entities, and then learn how to live at peace with them.

As I reflected on what I had seen, I began to understand the interconnectedness of all life. On my first night of camping, I set my tent next to a killdeer nest. The mother bird was walking on the ground and flapping her wings as if she were injured and could not fly. Watching the bird, I thought she was hurt. My professor explained that she was protecting her eggs by drawing attention to herself and away from her nest. This bird showed me how important it is to respect the feeling of others, and treat animals humanely – not just endangered species in the wild but also those we raise to provide us food. Seeing the impact my presence had on this bird, let me better understand how all species connect and share the planet.

My professor emphasized that what we do with inanimate objects can have as great an impact as what we do with living things. When you pick up a rock, to you it is just a rock, but to the creatures who live beneath it, it was a roof that you tore off. And if you throw it back down, you could crush their neighbors. So, “don't move a stone thinking it's just a stone,” my professor said.

One of the places we visited was Sand Dunes in Idaho. Before this trip, I thought nothing could be more dead or less inviting than a barren desert. How wrong

I was! Wildlife was everywhere, but you had to look for it. Because most animals are active at night, they leave behind only their tracks, and those tracks vanish quickly without doing damage during the day. What kind of tracks do we leave on this earth? This was the question I asked when it was time for my sunset prayer. Life in this delicate world is so fragile. Everything in nature lives in the present and so did I. Here in barren nature, away from all material things, with no appearance of luxury, except the luxury of the living desert, I prayed with my whole being. A pure, cool breeze refreshed the area. I felt connected to the Lord of the universe. I had always wondered why God named one of the chapters in the Quran “the Dunes”! Now I think I know why. Yes, I used to think that nothing could be less inviting than a desert, but now I understand a day there brings with it a deep sense of peace and pleasure that is hard to replicate.

God also uses nature to teach us important lessons on life. Although the Dunes form a desert, none of its sand blows away. Why? If only one wind were blowing, the sand would be scattered and lost just as evil tries to blow away what is good and just. But here, there also blows an opposing wind which keeps the sand safely in place. In a similar way, the power of God fights against the evil and unjust, preventing us from being scattered and lost.

Quran repeatedly reminds us that everything and everyone belongs to God (10:66; 20:6). We are just His trustees (10:14; 15:23; 17:70), commanded to treat the earth gently (25:63; 31:18-19). From His love and greatness, God has honored us by providing us with the land and the sea. He provides for us good provisions, and gives us greater advantages than many of His creatures (17:70). With every gift comes a responsibility. The greater the gift, the greater the responsibility. If we deny that responsibility, God has told us the result: *Disasters have spread throughout the land and sea, because of what the people have committed. He thus lets them taste the consequences of some of their works, that they may return (to the right works).* [30:41]

The future is ours; the choice is ours.

Laleh

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## Preparing for Ramzan

### One submitter's lessons from the last year

As Ramzan approached last year, I was excited about the coming month. I was looking forward to "tanking up" for the year. But I did not prepare my body for fasting. Having left my job and with loads on time on my hand, I rediscovered my love for food, and the months before Ramzan gave me the opportunity to indulge in that love... over enthusiastically if I may add.

As a result, on the first day of fasting, I developed a headache by midday, that kept getting worse. I managed to keep fasting, but as soon as it was time for Magrib I prayed and had dinner, took a pain killer and went to bed. The next few days were similar. The headaches due to hunger would come like clockwork by midday.

The headaches were keeping me from meditating, doing zikr & reading Quran as I wanted to. **I had not prepared my body for Ramzan.** Overindulging in anything is bad and God specifically told us about food.

*[7:31] O children of Adam, you shall be clean and dress nicely when you go to the masjid. And eat and drink moderately; Surely, He does not love the gluttons."*

Violations of God's commandment led me to miss three days of meditation and zikr. By God's mercy, the rest of the month was full of commemoration and appreciation and was headache-free.

Like we prepare for everything in life, preparing for Ramzan is very important. It may help to start eating moderately before Ramzan and keep the body fit to face the initial challenges of fasting in order to make the best of the holy month.

Ramzan is such a special time for us; we don't want to miss a single opportunity to grow our souls and "tank up" through meditation and glorification of God.

*God willing, this year  
Ramadan begins on*

July 9<sup>th</sup>

The last day of fasting is:

August 6<sup>th</sup>

*(for most of USA & Americas)*  
For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.masjiduntucson.org/>

May all of us prepare our bodies and our minds to embrace this blessed month and use every day as a chance to glorify and commemorate God.

\* \* \* \* \*

*[2:185] Ramadan is the month during which the Quran was revealed, providing guidance for the people, clear teachings, and the statute book. Those of you who witness this month shall fast therein. Those who are ill or traveling may substitute the same number of other days. **GOD** wishes for you convenience, not hardship, that you may fulfill your obligations, and to glorify **GOD** for guiding you, and to express your appreciation.*

*God Willing*

*28<sup>th</sup>*

## Annual Conference United Submitters

August 16-18, 2013

Tucson, Arizona



God willing, the 28<sup>th</sup> annual conference of United Submitters International will be in Tucson AZ, on August 16, 17 and 18.

We will include more details in subsequent issues of the *Submitters Perspective*, God willing. You can visit the web site for details as well: [www.masjiduntucson.org/conference/](http://www.masjiduntucson.org/conference/)

Please save the dates and start planning for another special gathering of submitters, God willing.

*God willing, see you in Tucson on Friday August 16th.*