

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Journeying Towards The Light

Stand on the top of a hill and watch the sunrise. Listen to the response of the world. What do you see? What do you hear? Birds start singing and your heart starts singing as well. Harmoniously, flowers open and lean towards the sun. You can almost see them smiling. The same thing is true when we bask in the light of God. The power of this light is captured and brought home to me in this elegantly phrased passage from the Quran:

“GOD is the light of the heavens and the earth. The allegory of His light is that of a concave mirror behind a lamp that is placed inside a glass container. The glass container is like a bright, pearl-like star. The fuel thereof is supplied from a blessed oil-producing tree, that is neither eastern, nor western. Its oil is almost self-radiating; needs no fire to ignite it. Light upon light. GOD guides to His light whomever He wills. GOD thus cites the parables for the people. GOD is fully aware of all things. (God’s guidance is found) in houses exalted by GOD, for His name is commemorated therein. Glorifying Him therein, day and night—” (24:35-36).

Not only is this a profound piece of writing, but the passage reinforces the importance of God as the Light by its many references to light:

The first sentence summarizes the glory and power of God. God is the Light of the heavens and the earth. Without light there is no life. Without God there is no life. The two are intrinsically linked. When a teacher explains a difficult concept to her students she often uses stories or allegories to shed light. Similarly, this passage includes a powerful allegory linking the Light of God to the light of a concave mirror behind a lamp placed inside a glass container. The next reference to that light is the description of the glass container. It is like a bright, pearl-like star. The light from the stars can help defeat the darkness of night. These same stars guided ancient mariners in the midst of a dark, violent ocean.

Just as the blessed (olive) tree produces fuel for the physical light to illuminate humans’ homes and paths, so God produces the spiritual fuel that we need to light our path. The tree is neither eastern nor western. Similarly, the light is neither eastern nor western. Light is everywhere just as God is everywhere.

The oil is almost self-radiating, needs no fire to ignite. God’s light and guidance does not need an external source to ignite it. Because the soul was cre-

ated by God, the Light of God brings it alive. The enlightened soul longs to be in the presence of God (66:8); and it is therefore ready to receive that Light (57:12,19). As a flower turns to face the sun, so does the soul of a believer turn towards the Light of God. Those who turn away from this Light lose their soul and their way in darkness.

It can be difficult for our souls to focus on staying in the Light of God because there are many distractions that call people to darkness. Satan comes from every direction, each time using a different trick to deceive people yet letting them think that they are doing what is asked of them (7:3). Such a deceived soul will end up *“... in total darkness from which he can never exit. The works of the disbelievers are thus adorned in their eyes” (6:122).*

Night will always come but so will the dawn. Temptation will always come but God is always with those who seek Him. *“Imploring Him is the only legitimate supplication, while the idols they implore beside Him, cannot ever respond. Thus, they are like those who stretch their hands to the water, but nothing reaches their mouths. The supplications of the disbelievers are in vain” (13:14).*

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We are born with an instinctive knowledge about God (30:30), but temptation is real. It is easy for people to be lured into the belief that only certain parts of the Quran are relevant to them (47:24-26; 54:43-45; 83: 8-9, 13) just as certain rules and regulations are not applicable to them because they are living in a different century (54:43-45; 13:36; 16:24; 83:13; 7:39). In this way, they take their first step out of the light into the shadows—not believing that what they are doing is distancing them from God (2:257; 39:36).

Many people blindly follow their idols. These idols may be their prophets and saints, religious innovations people uphold, or the misuse of God’s blessings such as money, earthly pleasures, or idolizing a human messenger whose mission was to purify the message. Chasing idols may bring short-term happiness, but will ultimately bring a darkness that pains and sickens the soul. The Quran enlightens us: **“GOD is Lord of those who believe; He leads them out of darkness into the light. As for those who disbelieve, their lords are their idols; they lead them out of the light into darkness—these will be the dwellers of Hell; they abide in it forever”** (2:257).

When the darkness threatens, God is our sole refuge. An enlightened soul will escape to God. Do we want to be creatures of the Light, or creatures of the Darkness? Let your soul stand on the top of that hill and rejoice. Let’s make God our focus.

“Our Lord, perfect our light for us, and forgive us; You are Omnipotent. (66:8)”

What is unique about verse 24:35 is that almost every word in it manifests or connects to light: **GOD is the light** (needs no explanation); **allegory** (is a story used to shed light on a subject and teach a lesson); **concave** (converges light) **mirror** (is a tool that reflects light); **lamp** (a device that generates light); **glass container** (is clear and pure allowing light to pass through); **a bright, pearl-like star** (it radiates the light that helps lessen the darkness of the night); **fuel** (is needed to generate light); **eastern** (the place

where the sun with its light comes up); **western** (the place where the sun with its light goes down but the moon and stars get a chance to shine); **self-radiating** (something that produces its own light); **fire** (brings light); **ignite** (how we start a fire that brings us light); **Light upon light** (needs no explanation). **Guides** (leading us to the light of understanding); **Parables** (stories that shed light by telling a story we can understand).

Please note that the chapter and the verses’ numbers (24:35-36) add up to 95 or 19x5 [24+35+36= 95=19x5].

Sister Laleh

* * * * *

Thoughts on Submission to God

What does it really mean?

In the English dictionary we see that Submission is defined as “to yield to the power or authority of another, for example to submit to a conqueror.” In the case of the religion of Islam (Submission), it is yielding to the authority of God, the one and only Creator.

People from all religions unequivocally claim that they have yielded to the authority of God, so does this mean people from all religions are Submitters (Muslims)?

The important aspect of Submission is to yield exclusively to the authority of God alone without associating others with Him in the strictest form of monotheism as taught by God Himself in His scriptures. Without doing so we have not submitted.

Thus the religion of Submission is also the religion of absolute and strict monotheism (the worship of the One and Only God without the association of others).

[2:131] When his Lord said to him, "Submit," he said, "I submit to the Lord of the universe."

[30:30] Therefore, you shall devote yourself to the religion of strict monotheism. Such is the natural instinct placed into the people by GOD. Such creation of GOD will

never change. This is the perfect religion, but most people do not know

[10:105] I was commanded: "Keep yourself devoted to the religion of monotheism; you shall not practice idol worship.

[13:16] Say, "Who is the Lord of the heavens and the earth?" Say, "GOD." Say, "Why then do you set up besides Him masters who do not possess any power to benefit or harm even themselves?" Say, "Is the blind the same as the seer? Is darkness the same as the light?" Have they found idols besides GOD who created creations similar to His creations, to the point of not distinguishing the two creations? Say, "GOD is the Creator of all things, and He is the One, the Supreme."

[55:3] Creator of the human beings.

[112:4] None equals Him.

[2:112] Indeed, those who submit themselves absolutely to GOD alone, while leading a righteous life, will receive their recompense from their Lord; they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve

[3:19] The only religion approved by GOD is "Submission." Ironically, those who have received the scripture are the ones who dispute this fact, despite the knowledge they have received, due to jealousy. For such rejectors of GOD's revelations, GOD is most strict in reckoning.

It has been the religion of all creation for all time; it the only acceptable religion in front of God; God has rejected and has never authorized the worship of others alongside Himself.

[3:85] Anyone who accepts other than Submission as his religion, it will not be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter, he will be with the losers.

[16:51] GOD has proclaimed: "Do not worship two gods; there is only one god. You shall reverence Me alone."

[17:42] Say, "If there were any other gods beside Him, as they claim, they would have tried to overthrow the Possessor of the throne."

Furthermore, it is not a religion in the traditional sense of the word. The tradi-

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tional definition of religion is: the practice of religious beliefs; a ritual observance of faith. For example, Christians attending mass on Sunday while generally remaining heedless about God the rest of the week.

Submission is a much deeper and more active concept than what we traditionally understand to be religion.

We are spiritual beings in bodily garments, thus our submission to God is the absolute devotion of our souls (ourselves) and bodies (garments) every moment of our lives on this earth and even beyond our earthly existence. It means willingly submitting, without ever tiring, without the least arrogance, without the least disobedience, without the least hesitation, just like every other creature in the universe.

*[16:48] Have they not seen all the things created by **GOD**? Their shadows surround them right and left, in total submission to **GOD**, and willingly.*

*[13:15]. To **GOD** prostrates everyone in the heavens and the earth, willingly or unwillingly, and so do their shadows in the mornings and the evenings*

*[16:49] To **GOD** prostrates everything in the heavens and everything on earth — every creature—and so do the angels; without the least arrogance.*

*[22:18] Do you not realize that to **GOD** prostrates everyone in the heavens and the earth, and the sun, and the moon, and the stars, and the mountains, and the trees, and the animals, and many people? Many others among the people are committed to doom. Whomever **GOD** shames, none will honor him. Everything is in accordance with **GOD**'s will.*

*[6:162] 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.*

[2:208] O you who believe, you shall embrace total submission; do not follow the steps of Satan, for he is your most ardent enemy.

Kamal, Kenya

MY WEIGHT

Wow! My weight is 281 pounds and at 5'4" tall, according to the weight and height chart in America, I'm considered grossly overweight. I should weigh somewhere between 135-140 pounds. So I'm over 140 overweight. Well, I wonder according to God's weight chart, is this good or bad. His chart doesn't focus on the body weight; His is the soul weight. Scientists say a dead body loses an ounce, so they're saying the soul is about an ounce. How much will your soul weigh on the Day of Judgment?

[18:105] Such are the ones who disbelieved in the revelations of their Lord and in meeting Him. Therefore, their works are in vain; on the Day of Resurrection, they have no weight.

[7:8-9] The scales will be set on that day, equitably. Those whose weights are heavy will be the winners. As for those whose weights are light, they will be the ones who lost their souls, as a consequence of disregarding our revelations, unjustly.

One must remember in this world our bodies are not the real thing. The real "body" is the soul, and we want that very, very, very heavy in weight, maybe a trillion pounds.

[23:102-3] As for those whose weights are heavy, they will be the winners. Those whose weights are light are the ones who lost their souls; they abide in Hell forever.

In this world they say a woman never tells her weight. Well, as you can see I did. But as heavy as I am in this worldly body, I'm striving real hard to be bigger in the eternal life with my soul. How does one get that heavy, large soul?

- Never worship anything besides God
- Read, study, follow the Quran, the whole Quran, and nothing but the Quran
- Follow all five pillars and all commandments in the Quran
- Meditate for extra credit

- Be very kind to people, especially the real family, our brothers and sisters
- Believe, lead a righteous life; your works make the soul heavy
- Remember, failing to heed our Creator leads to spiritual starvation and eventual loss of the soul

[39:15] "Therefore, worship whatever you wish besides Him." Say, "The real losers are those who lose their souls, and their families, on the Day of Resurrection." Most certainly, this is the real loss.

[101:6-11] As for him whose weights are heavy. He will lead a happy (eternal) life. As for him whose weights are light. His destiny is lowly. Do you know what it is? The blazing Hellfire.

I'm not telling you to eat wrong and not eat good nutritious food and keep within a good weight. Just don't idolize the outer body. Be more concerned with the inner "body," the real one. You want it to be heavy on the Day of Judgment. Meanwhile, I'm working on the outer body also, but my priority is the Real Body's weight. We need to eat the right "Soul Food"—using the Quran and righteous works.

Carolyn

Recipe for Happy Submitter

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Take one | God alone |
| Add 5 | Contact Prayers |
| Include 2.5% | Zakat charity |
| Maintain 100% | Righteousness |
| Stir in 1 | Month of Ramadan |
| If possible, add | Hajj |
- Mix well Contact Prayers, Zakat, Righteousness and Ramadan. Add Hajj, if possible. Take large God Alone and spread it on your whole life. It's delicious.

Kathy Robinson (1953-2014)

MASJID TUCSON United Submitters International

PO Box 43476 Tucson AZ 85733-3476 USA

Tel: (520) 323 7636

internet web site www.masjiduntucson.org

e-mail: info@masjiduntucson.org masjiduntucson@gmail.com

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VERSES ON GOD'S WONDROUS SIGNS: LIGHT

[6:1] Praise be to GOD, who created the heavens and the earth, and made the darkness and the light. Yet, those who disbelieve in their Lord continue to deviate.

[14:1] A. L. R. A scripture that we revealed to you, in order to lead the people out of darkness into the light—in accordance with the will of their Lord—to the path of the Almighty, the Praiseworthy.

[24:40] Another allegory is that of being in total darkness in the midst of a violent ocean, with waves upon waves, in addition to thick fog. Darkness upon darkness—if he looked at his own hand, he could barely see it. Whomever GOD deprives of light, will have no light.

[28:71] Say, "What if GOD made the night perpetual, until the Day of Resurrection? Which god, other than GOD, can provide you with light? Do you not hear?" [28:72] Say, "What if GOD made the daylight perpetual, until the Day of Resurrection? Which god, other than GOD, can provide you with a night for your rest? Do you not see?"

[33:43] He is the One who helps you, together with His angels, to lead you out of darkness into the light. He is Most Merciful towards the believers.

[39:22] If GOD renders one's heart content with Submission, he will be following a light from his Lord. Therefore, woe to those whose hearts are hardened against GOD's message; they have gone far astray.

[39:69] Then the earth will shine with the light of its Lord. The record will be proclaimed, and the prophets and the witnesses will be brought forth. Everyone will then be judged equitably, without the least injustice.

[57:13] On that day, the hypocrite men and women will say to those who believed, "Please allow us to absorb some of your light." It will be said, "Go back behind you, and seek light." A barrier will be set up between them, whose gate separates mercy on the inner side, from retribution on the outer side.

[61:8] They wish to put out GOD's light with their mouths. But GOD insists upon perfecting His light, in spite of the disbelievers.

[64:8] Therefore, you shall believe in GOD and His messenger, and the light that we have revealed herein. GOD is fully Cognizant of everything you do.

[66:8] O you who believe, you shall repent to GOD a firm repentance. Your Lord will then remit your sins and admit you into gardens with flowing streams. On that day, GOD will not disappoint the prophet and those who believed with him. Their light will radiate in front of them and to their right. They will say, "Our Lord, perfect our light for us, and forgive us; You are Omnipotent."

Ramadan 2014

God willing *Night of Destiny* begins at sunset of 23rd July for most places. More information including last day of fasting: <http://masjiduntucson.org/Ramadan/>

God Willing
29th Annual Conference
United Submitters
August 8-10, 2014
Washington DC



The annual conference of United Submitters International will be in the Washington DC area, on August 8-10, God willing. It is an opportunity to remember God, increase our knowledge and meet our brethren in faith (3:191-194, 18:28, 58:11, 49:10).

Details are available online at: <http://masjiduntucson.org/conference/>

As usual, attendance will be by invitation only. To help us organize a successful conference—and God has always been generous and gracious towards us—please let us know of your plans as soon as you know. For questions or information please email: info@masjiduntucson.org