

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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Human Rights

Owing to their inadequate knowledge of the Quran and the horrifying and fanatical behaviour of some of the so-called “adherents of Islam”, the world at large believes that there are no “Muslim” values and cultures compatible with the principles of human rights. In fact, the Quran established, promoted and made obligatory human rights way before the United Nations incorporated them in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Dec 10, 1948, or the U.S. Constitution (1787) or the Magna Carta (1215).

People believe that it was in the 16th and 17th Century (and onwards) that the “West” was made aware that they had fundamental rights and civil liberties. When subjects demanded these stubbornly-withheld privileges, the rulers in charge harshly rejected and oppressed them. So we had the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, etc. With each Revolution, the people won new recognition but it was only through the ordeal of battle and bloodshed that compromises and rights developed.

On the other hand, Submission (true Islam) took a different route by laying out these rights from the onset.

[22:41] They are those who, if we appointed them as rulers on earth, they would establish the Contact Prayers (Salat) and the obligatory charity (Zakat), and would advocate righteousness and forbid evil. GOD is the ultimate ruler.

When God Himself decrees rights, they cannot be modified or revoked by any human or group. It is a prerequisite that every Submitter (Muslim) leader should apply these rights in agreement with the requirements of the Quran. They have to be accepted and followed as they are part and parcel of our Faith. The decree of the Quran is undeniable and clear.

[5:44] We have sent down the Torah, containing guidance and light. Ruling in accordance with it were the Jewish prophets, as well as the rabbis and the priests, as dictated to them in GOD's scripture, and as witnessed by them. Therefore, do not reverence human beings; you shall reverence Me instead. And do not trade away My revelations for a cheap price. Those who do not rule in accordance with GOD's revelations, are the disbelievers. [5:47] The people of the Gospel shall rule in accordance with GOD's revelations therein. Those who do not rule in ac-

cordance with GOD's revelations are the wicked.

Submission is an all-encompassing way of life that stresses both the spiritual and pragmatic sides of life. It encourages a lifestyle of religious devotion, justice, patience and unity which is for our benefit here and in the all-important Hereafter. The true worth of a human is his righteousness and not his might, influence or capacity.

Some of the rights of humans ordained by the Quran follow:

Right to life: No one has the right to violate another's right to live. *[5:32] Because of this, we decreed for the Children of Israel that anyone who murders any person who had not committed murder or horrendous crimes, it shall be as if he murdered all the people. And anyone who spares a life it shall be as if he spared the lives of all the people. Our messengers went to them with clear proofs and revelations, but most of them, after all this, are still transgressing.*

Right to equality: There is no discrimination on the basis of gender, colour, race, nationality, nobility of birth etc. Your piety, righteousness and moral

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excellence are what will count. [49:13] *O people, we created you from the same male and female, and rendered you distinct peoples and tribes, that you may recognize one another. The best among you in the sight of GOD is the most righteous. GOD is Omniscient, Cognizant.*

Right to freedom of religion: Each and every person can observe any religion they choose. [2:256] *There shall be no compulsion in religion: the right way is now distinct from the wrong way. Anyone who denounces the devil and believes in GOD has grasped the strongest bond; one that never breaks. GOD is Hearer, Omniscient.*

(subtitle: *Absolute Freedom of Religion*) [18:29] *Proclaim: "This is the truth from your Lord," then whoever wills let him believe, and whoever wills let him disbelieve ...*

Right to justice: The Quran stresses the right to seek justice and the duty to perform it. Justice is at the core of Submission (Islam) and we must act justly with all – relatives, orphans, the poor, believers and non-believers. [4:58] *GOD commands you to give back anything the people have entrusted to you. If you judge among the people, you shall judge equitably. The best enlightenment indeed is what GOD recommends for you. GOD is Hearer, Seer. [4:105] We have sent down to you the scripture, truthfully, in order to judge among the people in accordance with what GOD has shown you. You shall not side with the betrayers. [4:135] O you who believe, you shall be absolutely equitable, and observe GOD, when you serve as witnesses, even against yourselves, or your parents, or your relatives. Whether the accused is rich or poor, GOD takes care of both. Therefore, do not be biased by your personal wishes. If you deviate or disregard (this commandment), then GOD is fully Cognizant of everything you do.*

Right to protest against injustice and oppression: We can protest against all forms of tyranny. [2:191] *You may kill those who wage war against you, and you may evict them whence they evict-*

ed you. Oppression is worse than murder. Do not fight them at the Sacred Mosque (Masjid), unless they attack you therein. If they attack you, you may kill them. This is the just retribution for those disbelievers.

Right to places of worship: All people can seek security as a basic right. God teaches us to uphold the truth and regard others (4:36). [22:40] *They were evicted from their homes unjustly, for no reason other than saying, "Our Lord is GOD." If it were not for GOD's supporting of some people against others, monasteries, churches, synagogues, and masjids—where the name of GOD is commemorated frequently—would have been destroyed. Absolutely, GOD supports those who support Him. GOD is Powerful, Almighty.*

Right to marriage: The ability to choose a spouse (and not be forced) is a basic right. We understand from 4:24 that mutual attraction (and dowry) are required for marriage.

Right to privacy: God teaches us etiquette including household and personal privacy. [24:27] *O you who believe, do not enter homes other than yours without permission from their inhabitants, and without greeting them. This is better for you, that you may take heed.*

Right to freedom of expression: With freedom of religion comes the right to express one's beliefs (2:256, 10:99, 88:21-22) or discuss and debate freely. This does not mean we have license to mock, curse or preach hatred towards other faiths or use bad language (4:148, 6:108). Ridiculing, slandering and backbiting are condemned (49:11-12, 68:10-11, 104:1). [6:108] *Do not curse the idols they set up beside GOD, lest they blaspheme and curse GOD, out of ignorance. We have adorned the works of every group in their eyes. Ultimately, they return to their Lord, then He informs them of everything they had done.*

Rights of women: Women have rights just like men. They should be treated with respect. [16:97] *Anyone who works righteousness, male or female, while believing, we will surely grant them a happy life in this world, and*

we will surely pay them their full recompense (on the Day of Judgment) for their righteous works. (See also 4:7, 19; 3:195.)

Rights of parents: [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.*

Rights of orphans: [4:6] *You shall test the orphans when they reach puberty. As soon as you find them mature enough, give them their property. Do not consume it extravagantly in a hurry, before they grow up. The rich guardian shall not charge any wage, but the poor guardian may charge equitably. When you give them their properties, you shall have witnesses. GOD suffices as Reckoner. [17:34] You shall not touch the orphans' money except for their own good, until they reach maturity. You shall fulfill your covenants, for a covenant is a great responsibility.*

Right to education: We should pursue knowledge for the good of our souls (29:43, 30:22, 35:28). [39:9] *Is it not better to be one of those who meditate in the night, prostrating and staying up, being aware of the Hereafter, and seeking the mercy of their Lord? Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only those who possess intelligence will take heed. [20:114] Most Exalted is GOD, the only true King. Do not rush into uttering the Quran before it is revealed to you, and say, "My Lord, increase my knowledge."*

Right to inheritance: [4:33] *For each of you, we have designated shares from the inheritance left by the parents and the relatives. Also those related to you through marriage, you shall give them their due share. GOD witnesses all things.*

Rights of the poor: The destitute have their rights preserved through God's system of charity. [51:19] *A portion of their money was set aside for the beggar and the needy.*

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Rights of slaves: Slavery was one of the worst happenings in history. Slaves were treated inhumanely and without any respect. It was a fact of life at the time of Quranic revelation. Hence the Quranic response was just the reverse of other civilisations. The freeing of slaves by one's own will was the atonement of sins. [4:92] *No believer shall kill another believer, unless it is an accident. If one kills a believer by accident, he shall atone by freeing a believing slave....* [90:12] *Which one is the difficult path?* [90:13] *The freeing of slaves.*

Our potential can only be realised in a Divinely-ordained benevolent society. Ultimately, we are all responsible and answerable to God for our actions. We are directed to speak the truth and also to practice it. This way no one's rights are dishonored.

The concept of human rights in Submission is so unique that it surpasses all geographical and racial boundaries and condemns all discrimination on the grounds of colour, caste, creed, region etc. Quranic laws have no parallel in human history as God's grace and mercy clarifies our rights and obligations. These have been conveyed to humankind ever since the dawn of time.

Alim

Ramadan 2016

God willing the month of Ramadan (2:183-7) is coming. Congratulations, it is a great opportunity for souls to grow.

The new moon times for determining the dates of fasting in Ramadan are given below in UTC (Universal time) or GMT.

June 5, 2016: 03:00 AM (UTC/GMT)

July 4, 2016: 11:01 AM (UTC/GMT)

June 6 is the first day of fasting and July 4 the last day of fasting for most of USA (though some places in western states may begin on June 5).

More details in a later issue of the *Submitters Perspective*, God willing, and at: <http://masjituducson.org/Ramadan/>

Accountability

A few weeks ago, I realized my car needed new brakes and wiper blades. By God's will, it turned out that I had more money than I thought that month. This reminded me of the verse which says [42:27] *If GOD increased the provision for His servants, they would transgress on earth. This is why He sends it precisely measured to whomever He wills. He is fully Cognizant and Seer of His servants.*

Thank God, I didn't go on a large shopping spree; otherwise I would never be able to buy brand new brakes! I realized the money wasn't just there randomly; it had a purpose, and was perfectly measured for that purpose, a future payment.

It made me wonder, what are we paying for right now with the time, money, and energy that God gave us? How badly do we need every second, dollar, and energy to be invested in the Hereafter? Does this mean we are responsible right now? By God's Grace, of course, from the moment we wake up, we are "on the clock," and there's no getting it (all) back.

[56:86-87] *If it is true that you do not owe any accounting— why do you not restore (your soul), if you are truthful?*

We can ask ourselves:

Is my present buying my future (i.e., am I using every second wisely, remembering God)?

Is my energy invested in the right activities (i.e., are my priorities righteous)?

Am I using the money given to me by God's Grace to seek the Mercy of the Hereafter?

In fact, we are all responsible for what we earn, and will be called to account at a predetermined time.

[55:31] *We will call you to account, O humans and jinns.*

Every second we are given has its purpose, like the money I had to buy my car brakes. It is meant to buy something in the future. For example, the time is meant to work righteousness to earn credits for the future, or be worthy of

God's Mercy through Zakat, God willing. We will need all these deposits and investments in the Hereafter.

[48:1-2] *We have bestowed upon you (O Messenger) a great victory. Whereby GOD forgives your past sins, as well as future sins, and perfects His blessings upon you, and guides you in a straight path.*

[36:45] *... "Learn from your past, to work righteousness for your future, that you may attain mercy,"*

[35:29] *Surely, those who recite the book of GOD, observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), and from our provisions to them they spend—secretly and publicly—are engaged in an investment that never loses.*

It starts the moment we wake up, we are on the clock, and it's a countdown till the end of the day. How many seconds have gone into remembering God, and how many were wasted? How much energy did I spend worrying about worldly affairs, and how much did I spend on the real self? How much money did I invest for my soul, and how much was wasted?

Knowing that every second, dollar, and ounce of energy is counted makes us realize that we need to invest EVERYTHING we are given in righteous works because time, money, and energy are limited.

[14:31] *Exhort My servants who believed to observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), and to give (to charity) from our provisions to them, secretly and publicly, before a day comes where there is neither trade, nor nepotism.*

[2:254] *O you who believe, you shall give to charity from the provisions we have given to you, before a day comes where there is no trade, no nepotism, and no intercession.....*

[42:47] *You shall respond to your Lord before a day comes which is decreed inevitable by GOD. There will be no refuge for you on that day, nor an advocate.*

May God keep us all cognizant of Him and constantly accountable to Him.

Abeer

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Jonah

Jonah was a messenger sent from God. He was distinguished by God over all the people and was inspired to remind them, worship God alone. He abandoned his mission in protest, thinking that God could not control him. He was rebellious against God's plan for him, and escaped to a loaded ship. During his journey on the ship, he ended up being swallowed by a fish. While Jonah was inside the fish he resorted to meditation on God. He implored God from the darkness, calling out, *"There is no god other than You. Be You glorified. I have committed a gross sin."* God responded to him and saved him from the crisis. Jonah was ejected from the belly of the fish and thrown up into the desert, exhausted. God had an edible fruit tree grown for him. Jonah was blessed by God and made righteous. Jonah was then sent to more than a hundred thousand people proclaiming the message: worship God alone. The community believed and was relieved from humiliating retribution and was made a prosperous community. (4:163, 6:86, 10:98, 21:87-88, 37:139-148).

Jonah committed a gross sin. He committed a form of idol worship, thinking that God does not control everything. God chooses His messengers, inspires them, distinguishes them, and makes them do as He chooses. God is in control of everything. All of us must recognize and submit to this fact. This can be a scary concept because the human is forgetful.

Therefore, every time you think God isn't in control of everything, you are committing the gross sin of idol worship.

Jonah meditated and prayed. This is the turning point of the story. Jonah was in darkness. He was in the darkness of the fish's stomach, potentially more intense than the darkness of the ocean and night time. He was definitely in a spiritual darkness, having committed a gross sin. Now in this darkness, he realized that no creature on Earth could help him and only God could save him. As Jonah witnessed this reality, he turned to the Creator and prayed, *"There is no god other than You. Be You glorified. I have committed a gross sin."* All of a sudden, this seemingly hostile environment was now used for Jonah's service. The fish became a vehicle for his transportation and carried him to the desert. God bestowed His mercy on Jonah.

Jonah undoes his misinterpretation that God is not controlling everything by proclaiming, *"There is no god other than You."* This affirms belief in the oneness of God and acknowledges that God is doing everything. *"Be You glorified."* This statement declares God is free from any fault or injustice. All of His creations are purposeful and appropriate. *"I have committed a gross sin."* He is admitting by viewing his life experiences in absence of the first two statements, he has done wrong and harmed himself. After Jonah called out this prayer, God responded, saved him, blessed him and made him

righteous.

We can compare our lives with that of Jonah and seek to redeem ourselves, when we forget that God is controlling everything. Jonah could not see God's wisdom, so he rebelled against what God planned for him. We also cannot always see God's wisdom and may forget God is in complete control. We might allow our emotions of anger, stress, sadness, etc. to control our lives during situations. During those instances we are rebelling against God, not remembering that these experiences are His plan for us. Jonah was swallowed by a fish. We are "swallowed" by our egos and jinn for the duration of our rebellion. Jonah ended up in darkness. We end up in darkness for the period of time that we are not remembering God. Jonah prayed to God to get him out of this crisis. We can use this same prayer to help us out of our crisis. Jonah was blessed and made righteous. God willing, God may bless us and make us righteous too.

Robert

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[11:120] *We narrate to you enough history of the messengers to strengthen your heart. The truth has come to you herein, as well as enlightenments and reminders for the believers.*

[40:54] *(Their history) is a lesson and a reminder for those who possess intelligence.*