

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

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## Example of Power vs. Power of Example

Abraham prayed: [26:83-85] “My Lord, grant me wisdom, and include me with the righteous. Let the example I set for the future generations be a good one. Make me one of the inheritors of the blissful Paradise”.

GOD willing, as Submitters, we lead by the power of our example, not by the example of power.

### EXAMPLES OF POWER

[28:4] Pharaoh turned into a tyrant on earth, and discriminated against some people. He persecuted a helpless group of them, slaughtering their sons, while sparing their daughters. He was indeed wicked.

[26:49] He said, “Did you believe with him before I give you permission? He must be your teacher, who taught you magic. You will surely find out. I will cut your hands and feet on alternate sides. I will crucify you all.”

That, my fellow submitters, is an example of power.

[12:28-29] When her husband saw that his garment was torn from the back, he said, “This is a woman’s scheme. Indeed, your scheming is formidable. “Joseph, disregard this incident. ...” [12:35] Later, they saw to it, despite

the clear proofs, that they should imprison him for awhile.

That, my fellow submitters, is an example of power.

Hitler and the Nazis thought that people could be divided into different races and that there was a struggle going on between these different races. According to the Nazis the ‘Aryan race’ was the best and strongest race. Jews were of another inferior race. In fact so inferior that they were not considered to be ‘people’ by the Nazis, hence their extermination at the gas chamber.

That, my fellow submitters, is an example of power.

We must remember not to feel despair when we see those who abuse their powers. To quote Gandhi, “all through history the way of truth and love has always won; there have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall.” The Quran clearly tells us tyrants will end up doomed (10:83-92, 14:15, 28:81, 40:35).

### POWER OF EXAMPLE

A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of star-

fish had been washed up during a storm. When she came to a starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. Then a man approached her and said, “Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can’t save all these starfish. You can’t begin to make a difference!” So she picked up another starfish, and threw it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, “By God’s leave, I made a difference to that one.” The man thought about what the little girl had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and thousands of starfish were saved.

That anecdote, my fellow submitters, shows the power of example.

Malala Yousafzai, as a young girl, was shot by the Taliban for advocating the rights of girls to obtain education. In her own words she said: “I had two options—one was to be silent and be killed. The second was to speak up and then be killed. I chose the second and decided to speak up”.

For speaking up she got shot in the head but God let her survive. Yet, instead of hate and revenge, her message

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to the people was: “I don’t want revenge on the Taliban, I want education for the sons and daughters of the Taliban”.

That, my fellow submitters is the power of example.

Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) was imprisoned for standing up against Apartheid. After twenty-seven years in prison: Instead of bitterness and hatred, he chose forgiveness. Instead of war, he chose peace. Instead of division, he chose unity. Instead of arrogance, he chose humility. That, my fellow submitters, is the power of example.

Now let’s take a look at the power of example from God and His Quran:

In the Quran, we learn that there shall be no compulsion in religion (2:256). The Quran does not demand belief. Instead, the Quran invites to belief. That is why throughout the Quran, we see verses to the effect:

O people, do you recall so and so?

O people, have you thought of such and such?

O people have you considered so and so?

It is always an invitation (12:108, 22:67) for people to look at the evidence; then decide what to do.

That, my fellow submitters, is the power of example.

#### A QURANIC POWER OF EXAMPLE

**ALMIGHTY GOD:** [2:117] *The Initiator of the heavens and the earth: to have anything done, He simply says to it, “Be,” and it is.* That is why HE is the ALMIGHTY. Yet, with all His might, let us learn from how He instructed Moses to act:

[20:43-44] *“Go to Pharaoh, for he transgressed. “Speak to him nicely; he may take heed, or become reverent.”*

That, my fellow submitters, is the power of example.

GOD willing, as Submitters, we lead by example.

Tom

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

## His Will of Love

God’s will of love is expressed in Quran; it is in perfect harmony with and consistent with His set laws, ethics and systems and with all of His attributes. God has precisely used the word “love” along with its many different Arabic derivatives in Quran to teach us that love is a logical and realistic feeling that conforms with our God-given gift of freedom (18:29, 2:148, 33:72). Because of our freedom of choice, we will prefer certain things, people, morals, ideologies, talents, etc. In other words, favoring, liking, loving, preferring and making certain choices, all of that demonstrate our God-given freedom.

Our Creator has also expressed for us that He has His preferences. He has cited for us the traits He wants for us to have and detailed for us who exactly is worthy of earning His love or His condemnation. Within Quran, God has stated who He loves or abhors, what He likes or dislikes.

The divine plan behind this is to set for us the basic guidelines for an ideal and righteous community and to help us realize what constitutes evil and what leads to corruption. Also, by stating what He loves and what He doesn’t, who is worthy of His love and who is deserving His wrath, God has made it explicit that His will of love is based on logical conditions, and has its rules. By our own volition, we end up either close to God (in the bliss of Paradise), or far from Him (in Gehenna). We either follow His criteria of love or face the consequences of our own man-made criteria of love. This system is clearly spelled out in the following verses:

[3:30-32] *The day will come when each soul will find all the good works it had done brought forth. As for the evil works, it will wish that they were far, far removed. God alerts you that you shall reverence Him alone. God is Compassionate*

*towards the people. Proclaim: “If you love God, you should follow me.” God will then love you, and forgive your sins. God is Forgiver, Most Merciful. Proclaim: “You shall obey God and the messenger.” If they turn away, God does not love the disbelievers.*

It is a myth and utterly illogical to believe that God has ever sent messages through any of His messengers—humans, scriptures or angels—to promote unconditional love. That flawed ideology would imply loving everything, including whatever and whoever God has decreed He abhors. God doesn’t love evil or those that embody it (His enemies) and He sets for us the highest example of all traits (16:60). True believers love what God loves and disown what He disowns and abhors. We have been issued straightforward rules to deal with enemies of God. There is no rule in Quran to love everyone or turn the other cheek for our enemies (9:123, 9:73, 5:54). Unconditional love is a man-made standard that goes against common sense and ironically, against human nature. More importantly, it opposes certain ethics and commands in Quran and it doesn’t follow the best example of love set by the Almighty.

Hypothetically, if God’s love was unconditional, this would defeat the whole purpose of our existence on earth—the final chance to choose Him over Satan. His love would serve as a permission to violate His established laws. There would be no straight or crooked path, no point behind any ethics or commands, because God’s “unconditional love” would be waiting at the end of the road to save us all. **This is a myth about God that is based on conjecture, wishful thinking and/or lack of knowledge.**

We are obligated as believers and submitters to carefully study the boundaries set for us in Quran in order to pursue love in a safe and constructive manner—the manner that would please God alone

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## CERTAINTY

The Quran tells us that the universes almost shatter out of reverence for God. The heavens are completely certain about God. The heavens, the earth and the mountains know how great God is, and how blasphemous it is to set up idols and equate them to God or to say that God has begotten a son.

*[42:5] The heavens above them almost shatter, out of reverence for Him, and the angels praise and glorify their Lord, and they ask forgiveness for those on earth. Absolutely, GOD is the Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

God willing we should strive for that level of reverence and certainty. We must have certainty about God and unconditional Submission to Him alone. Having certainty about the existence of God is a great blessing from God. We are given examples in the Quran of receiving this blessing:

*[6:75] We showed Abraham the marvels of the heavens and the earth, and blessed him with certainty.*

Certainty doesn't come right away and it takes work. God willing, as new Submitters we start with receiving guidance from our Creator. We may have questions or some doubts when we start, but we keep working on our belief until we attain certainty, with God's help. God gives us many gifts to help us attain certainty. The practices of worship are a means to attain certainty.

*[15:98-99] You shall sing the praises of your Lord, and be with the prostrators. And worship your Lord, in order to attain certainty.*

God tells us how to work on certainty, but He also gave us freedom. That means certainty is not forced upon us. Each soul is in charge of its own "weights and measures" through the gift of freedom of choice. And the most intelligent and greatest choice is to choose willingly to be redeemed by the Most Gracious, Most Merciful Lord through Submission to Him alone. The responsibilities of freedom of choice are presented to us simply. A soul that chooses the devil will keep getting weaker. And as the soul gets weaker, it will be harder for that soul to see God and God's path. On the other hand, a

soul that chooses God is fortified by good deeds, and it gets stronger. And as it gets stronger it is easier to believe and worship God. God's promise is that He will reward the believing souls with sovereignty, and will substitute peace and security for them in place of fear.

*[24:55-56] GOD promises those among you who believe and lead a righteous life, that He will make them sovereigns on earth, as He did for those before them, and will establish for them the religion He has chosen for them, and will substitute peace and security for them in place of fear. All this because they worship Me alone; they never set up any idols beside Me. Those who disbelieve after this are the truly wicked. You shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and obey the messenger, that you may attain mercy.*

To attain sovereignty and happiness we must worship God alone. And be absolutely devoted to Him alone. This is the only way to make it back to God. (37:40, 26:89)

The actual and conscious choice to be willing to choose the worship of God alone must come from within. This must be followed by a desire to overcome our doubts and seek God's guidance and His blessing of certainty. If we sincerely seek God and do our best (and God knows our hearts better than we do), He will bless us to deepen our Submission and allow us to grow closer and closer to Him. Each doubt, each bit of confusion will slowly be overcome with His help. This process may take a lifetime or we may be blessed with certainty sooner. But we must keep striving to grow our souls. We must never give up, nor let the doubts conquer us. The hypocrites fall into this trap and let the doubts overcome them. They let the whispers from Satan fester inside them and the doubts about God grow until the doubts win.

In contrast, the believers are those who overcome their doubts in this world. In 49:15 God tells us that believers are those who believe in God and then attain a status of having no doubt whatsoever, and they strive to please God.

*[49:14-15] The Arabs said, "We are Mu'mens (believers)." Say, "You have not believed; what you should say is, 'We are Muslims (submitters),' until*

*belief is established in your hearts." If you obey GOD and His messenger, He will not put any of your works to waste. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

*Mu'mens (believers) are those who believe in GOD and His messenger, then attain the status of having no doubt whatsoever, and strive with their money and their lives in the cause of GOD. These are the truthful ones.*

Having no doubt about God and His words is not the end. Submission never ends; it will be a state that goes on forever. God willing, we want to join the ranks of God's creatures who submit totally and absolutely to God alone, those who never question God's absolute authority. We may slip up. But God allows us to repent and reform and hold fast to the rope of God. If we denounce the devil and believe in God, He allows us to grasp the strongest bond.

*[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.*

God never fails to reward the believers for their righteous works. A growing soul is rewarded with more and more opportunities to continue growing. The weights of our souls must get heavier, God willing. Those whose weights are heavy are promised heaven.

*[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.*

To grow the souls, we must keep making the right choices. Those blessed with certainty about God's laws won't have doubts whether to break God's law or not. The sins are clear, the good deeds are clear. Certainty helps us maintain our absolute devotion to God alone and take advantage of the gift of guidance. Certainty about God's absolute authority and about worshipping God alone helps us avoid all kinds of idols and make intelligent choices with God's help. When we attain certainty, we know we must devote our worship absolutely to God alone.

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within His guidelines to earn His love and compassion. Some verses follow.

- God loves those who repent and reform after they make a wrong choice (2:222). He rewards them by transforming their sins into credits (25:70).
- God loves those who purify themselves (9:108, 20:76).
- God abhors the trait of arguing about Him without basis, or knowledge or divine teachings (40:35, 22:8-10).
- He loves the good doers (3:148) and He dislikes the evil doers (5:64). He loves the righteous (3:76), and righteousness is defined only by God through His teachings and commands in the scripture (2:177, 2:189).
- God advocates justice and loves those who are just (49:9) & equitable (5:42). He doesn't love the unjust (3:57).
- He loves the steadfast (3:146) and He loves those who put their trust in Him (3:159).
- He doesn't love those who are arrogant (16:23, 4:36, 31:18) nor does He love those who are boastful, proud (57:23).
- God loves the charitable (2:195) and doesn't love the transgressors (7:55, 5:51), the aggressors (5:87), the corrupt (28:77), the betrayers or the unappreciative (4:107, 22:38).
- He has assigned Hell for His enemies (41:19, 41:28) and called them the

worst creatures (8:55, 98:6). He doesn't love those who extend love to them or take them as allies while they are actively fighting God and His Truth (60:1, 58:22, 9:16).

- He does not love the wasters (6:141) and doesn't love the gluttons (7:31) or the extravagant (17:26-27).
- God loves those who strive in His cause (61:4), with no fear of any blame (5:54), united on His word (3:103).

In the light of Quran, we learn that God's love for us is always a consequence of our choice of loving Him the most and upholding His commands. He is in no need of our love. We are the desperate ones who need to earn His approval. This, in return, leads to earning our redemption and His support:

*[39:7] If you disbelieve, God does not need anyone. But He dislikes to see His servants make the wrong decision. If you decide to be appreciative, He is pleased for you. No soul bears the sins of any other soul. Ultimately, to your Lord is your return, then He will inform you of everything you had done. He is fully aware of the innermost thoughts.*

*[61:11-13] Believe in God and His messenger and strive in the cause of God with your money and your lives. This is the best deal for you, if you only knew. In return, He forgives your sins, and admits you into gardens with flowing*

*streams, with beautiful mansions in the gardens of Eden. This is the greatest triumph. Additionally, you get something you truly love: support from God and guaranteed victory. Give good news to the believers.*

This temporary phase on earth is so short. May God help us to always remember that the end of our lives is like a blink of an eye away and our only chance of redemption could end unexpectedly at any moment. Then, those who have not wasted their chance of earning God's love will surely be His favored ones. Those are the ultimate winners:

*[56:88-91] If he is one of those close to Me—then joy, flowers, and gardens of bliss. And if he is one of the right—peace is the lot of those on the right.*

*[56:10-14] Then there is the elite of the elite. They are those who will be closest (to God). In the gardens of bliss. Many from the first generations. Few from the later generations.*

*[83:23-28] On luxurious furnishings they watch. You recognize in their faces the joy of bliss. Their drinks will be spiced with nectar. Its spice is like musk. This is what the competitors should compete for. Mixed into it will be special flavors. From a spring that is reserved for those close to Me.*

Frank