

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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Protection

[23:97-8] Say, "My Lord, I seek refuge in You from the whispers of the devils. And I seek refuge in You, my Lord, lest they come near me."

Rabbi aAAoothu bika min hamazati shshayateen. WaaAAoothu bika rabbi an yahduroon (Arabic transliteration)

The recitation of these verses, especially in Arabic, has two benefits. Number one, God protects us from Satan and number two we also get benefit of dhikr of God. These verses have a phenomenal effect whenever you feel down or disturbed by satanic thoughts. As soon as you start reciting these verses, the satanic thoughts get wiped away from your mind instantly.

We all need protection in some form or other. We get protection from different bodies. In the country we get protection from our Government through the Police force or through the Defence forces guarding our international borders. In society we get protection of the Judiciary body if we fall prey to any kind of injustice. At home we are protected by our parents and elders right from our childhood. In school we are protected by the security system of the school authorities. Thus protection becomes an inseparable part of our life until we die.

The other day I was having a banana, and suddenly a thought came to my mind. How God has protected this fruit and preserved its taste. Further, when we peel off the skin of the banana, just by observing it carefully, the first thing that strikes our mind is its freshness. It is hygienically preserved in such an amazing manner that none of the best packaging systems available in the world could match it.

[6:99] He is the One who sends down from the sky water, whereby we produce all kinds of plants. We produce from the green material multitudes of complex grains, palm trees with hanging clusters, and gardens of grapes, olives and pomegranate; fruits that are similar, yet dissimilar. Note their fruits as they grow and ripen. These are signs for people who believe.

In this verse God is asking us to reflect upon the creation of grains and fruits. If we look at the different fruits, all of them might have some similarities by way of their shape, size, colour or taste, yet they are dissimilar. As far as the preservation and protection of these fruits are concerned, there is a huge difference. Some have tender skin, some have very thin skin, some are preserved in

a hard shell, etc. But they are all protected. We just can't beat the excellent preservation system of God. These are signs for people who believe.

[17:68] Have you guaranteed that He will not cause the land, on shore, to swallow you? Or, that He will not send upon you a tempest, then you find no protector?

Nowadays we get to read often the news of earthquakes, cyclones, hurricanes, etc. hitting several parts of the earth. And by viewing the video clips of these incidents one can conclude that though we are well equipped with the most advanced technology we fail to evade these natural calamities. When God decides to punish us we cannot challenge His might and protect ourselves. Nor do we have any other protector than God. Though modern scientists boast a lot about inventing modern gadgets and fool-proof security systems, all their creations fail when faced with these calamities.

[21:42] Say, "Who can protect you from the Most Gracious during the night or during the day?" Indeed, they are totally oblivious to the message of their Lord.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Every day we take things for granted thinking that everything will run smoothly as per our wishes and whims. Rarely do we think of any untoward condition befalling us. We submitters seek refuge in God every time, but the majority of people are ignorant about the true message of God. They live heedlessly and do not know that if God decides to punish, He will not spare the offenders. It doesn't matter at all whether you live in a hut or in a high-tech secured mansion.

[13:11] Shifts (of angels) take turns, staying with each one of you—they are in front of you and behind you. They stay with you, and guard you in accordance with GOD's commands. Thus, GOD does not change the condition of any people unless they themselves make the decision to change. If GOD wills any hardship for any people, no force can stop it. For they have none beside Him as Lord and Master.

I often receive calls from insurance companies to buy insurance policies rendering coverage of monetary benefits in case of accidental death or severe illness. Whenever I receive such calls I feel like disconnecting it instantly, because for me the biggest insurer is only God. Just imagine how God protects our soul inside this outer covering called body. Can any man-made cover protect it? Further He has appointed a number of angels guarding us in shifts. How many insurance companies offer this service? God cites many examples in Qura'n to explain to us about His security cover. There is the story regarding two men, one of them was blessed by God with two gardens producing grapes, palms and other crops generously, due to which he became overconfident and boastful. He assumed that these blessings were because of his intelligence and not from God. He also took for granted that it would last forever and nothing could harm it. Hence due to this attitude he incurred a punishment of his crops being wiped out from the farm (18:32-44). God controls all things but the hardship on that man was because he himself created such conditions.

It is our duty to trust in God in all prevailing conditions. There will be many satanic traps scattered all around us. We need to avoid falling prey to such traps with the help of knowledge and wisdom given to us by God. Satan will not spare any opportunity to allure us and drag us into these traps because he has challenged God that he will attack us from our right, from our left, from under us and from above us, etc. to entice us into his fold. How can we avoid these satanic traps? What is the quality of a true believer in God that differentiates us from the others and makes us the elite of the elites, inshallah? This noble quality of a believer is mentioned in the following verse:

[3:173] When the people say to them, "People have mobilized against you; you should fear them," this only strengthens their faith and they say, "GOD suffices us; He is the best Protector."

Just imagine they were fewer in number and were facing the strong Quraish clan who were in large numbers and well equipped with the weapons to fight. But believers had the strong quality of faith in God. They had only one objective while fighting in the cause of God: that is to please God. And at the battlefield they either got killed or returned triumphant. For us God has made it very easy by not putting us into hard tests like fighting wars in the cause of God. Hence we must thank God and appreciate His blessings upon us.

[6:70] You shall disregard those who take their religion in vain, as if it is a social function, and are totally absorbed in this worldly life. Remind with this (Quran), lest a soul may suffer the consequences of its evil earnings. It has none beside GOD as a Lord and Master, nor an intercessor. If it could offer any kind of ransom, it would not be accepted. They suffer the consequences of the evil works they earn; they have incurred hellish drinks, and a painful retribution because of their disbelief.

We must choose our priorities very carefully. Because this is the last chance we have to redeem ourselves

and make it to Paradise. We must not get preoccupied with this material world so much so that we forget the Day of Judgment, when there will be no intercession, no ransom will be accepted and no nepotism will be allowed. We must not take this religion in vain. Let us reverence God and seek His mercy with the prayer at the beginning of this article and the prayer from 2:286:

"Our Lord, do not condemn us if we forget or make mistakes. Our Lord, and protect us from blaspheming against You, like those before us have done. Our Lord, protect us from sinning until it becomes too late for us to repent. Pardon us and forgive us. You are our Lord and Master."

Abdul Ghani

* * * * *

Letter from a Prisoner

I am a submitter in prison here in Florida. I have owned a Quran for nearly 30 years, but never read the entire Quran even though I have always upheld it. I recently read the entire Quran, the Final Testament by Rashad Khalifa, and I have no doubts about its truth whatsoever.

I would like to ask if you can please forward a pamphlet to me that will teach me step by step the Contact Prayer (Salat). Mostly everything I have learned has been on my own from the Final Testament. Those in the community here mention Muhammad Rasool Allah, and they follow the Hadith and Sunna. I do not. Any material that you can forward that will enlighten me more will be appreciated.

I allowed another person to read my Final Testament. He automatically submitted. The mathematical code is Awesome! Thank you.

Anthony

[Ed note: We do have prayer pamphlets and other materials to help new submitters learn how to worship God in the best possible manner.]

HOW DO YOU SPELL SUCCESS?

Many people would perhaps say “m-o-n-e-y” or “p-o-s-s-e-s-i-o-n-s” believing that having the most things makes you the most successful. Some would say “p-o-w-e-r” or “i-n-f-l-u-e-n-c-e” believing that might and strength instills fear and respect and this equals success. This world is becoming more and more about instant gratification. Life is short, so many people feel compelled to say: “I need to grab as much as I can as quickly as I can. No need to worry about who I run over in the process or whether I save anything for the future.”

A dictionary definition of success might be “the accomplishment of an aim or purpose.” It’s not necessarily monetary; it’s not necessarily influential. It just means that you have achieved some goal. So, clearly it’s a word open to wide interpretation. And in this worldly life, someone with a lot of wealth and/or power is usually perceived as successful. The idea has become ingrained in our culture. The volume of news stories about celebrities is mind-boggling. Very rarely are they positive stories, but people can’t seem to get enough of them. They make heroes, even idols, out of these celebrities. They flock to see them and get their pictures taken with them, as if some of that “success” will rub off on them. They hang on every word. These celebrities seem to have everything, including an adoring public that wishes they could be like them.

But is this worldly life real? Is it where we want to measure our success? Listen to the story of Qāroon. [28:76-83] *Qāroon (the slave driver) was one of Moses’ people who betrayed them and oppressed them. We gave him so many treasures that the keys thereof were almost too heavy for the strongest band. His people said to him, “Do not be so arrogant; GOD does not love those who are arrogant. “Use the provisions bestowed upon you*

by GOD to seek the abode of the Hereafter, without neglecting your share in this world. Be charitable, as GOD has been charitable towards you. Do not keep on corrupting the earth. GOD does not love the corruptors.” He said, “I attained all this because of my own cleverness.” Did he not realize that GOD had annihilated before him generations that were much stronger than he, and greater in number? The (annihilated) transgressors were not asked about their crimes.

One day, he came out to his people in full splendor. Those who preferred this worldly life said, “Oh, we wish that we possess what Qāroon has attained. Indeed, he is very fortunate.” As for those who were blessed with knowledge, they said, “Woe to you, GOD’s recompense is far better for those who believe and lead a righteous life.” None attains this except the steadfast. We then caused the earth to swallow him and his mansion. No army could have helped him against GOD; he was not destined to be a winner. Those who were envious of him the day before said, “Now we realize that GOD is the One who provides for whomever He chooses from among His servants, and withholds. If it were not for GOD’s grace towards us, He could have caused the earth to swallow us too. We now realize that the disbelievers never succeed.”

We reserve the abode of the Hereafter for those who do not seek exaltation on earth, nor corruption. The ultimate victory belongs to the righteous.

This story has many important points. Arrogance is never allowed in God’s kingdom, so someone thinking that they achieved success on their own is clearly wrong. It’s okay to seek things of this world— *without neglecting your share in this world*—it’s just very important to recognize that all wealth and dignity comes from God. Our focus should be on the Hereafter. And God is the Provider of all things and He can take them away in an instant.

God knows that as humans we have weaknesses and desiring things is one

common weakness. It’s easy to be envious of someone who seems so well off, has everything so luxurious. But God reminds us that things aren’t always as they appear, and we don’t have to be jealous of others. We don’t know what’s happening for that person. They may be a strong believer and have earned their achievements—they may be attributing all their success to God. Or they may be a total disbeliever, arrogantly tooting their own horn. Either way, it doesn’t matter to me. I only need to take care of myself. God tells us not to worry about what’s happening for another.

[3:196] *Do not be impressed by the apparent success of disbelievers.*

[40:4] *None argues against GOD’s revelations except those who disbelieve. Do not be impressed by their apparent success.*

As submitters, we know that real success is not measured in material terms.

[28:60] *Everything that is given to you is only the material of this life, and its vanity. What is with GOD is far better, and everlasting. Do you not understand?*

[3:14] *Adorned for the people are the worldly pleasures, such as the women, having children, piles upon piles of gold and silver, trained horses, livestock, and crops. These are the materials of this world. A far better abode is reserved at GOD.*

[9:38] *O you who believe, when you are told, “Mobilize in the cause of GOD,” why do you become heavily attached to the ground? Have you chosen this worldly life in place of the Hereafter? The materials of this world, compared to the Hereafter, are nil.*

God tells us how to find success.

[23:1-5, 10] *Successful indeed are the believers; who are reverent during their Contact Prayers (Salat). And they avoid vain talk. And they give their obligatory charity (Zakat). And they maintain their chastity. ... Such are the inheritors.*

[87:14-15] *Successful indeed is the one who redeems his soul. By remembering*

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

the name of his Lord, and observing the contact prayers (Salat).

Success for believers is measured by the growth of our souls, and God tells us how to accomplish this:

By following the messengers (7:157), by helping others and overcoming our natural stinginess (59:9, 64:16), by avoiding evils such as gambling and drinking (5:90), by being fair in our business dealings (3:130), by reverencing and commemorating God at every opportunity (3:200, 5:100, 8:45).

[5:35] O you who believe, you shall reverence GOD and seek the ways and means to Him, and strive in His cause, that you may succeed.

[22:77] O you who believe, you shall bow, prostrate, worship your Lord, and work righteousness, that you may succeed.

And by following all His commandments, such as the Friday prayer. *[62:9] O you who believe, when the Congregational Prayer (Salat Al-Jumu'ah) is announced on Friday, you shall hasten to the commemoration of GOD, and drop all business. This is better for you, if you only knew. [62:10] Once the prayer is completed, you may spread through the land to seek GOD's bounties, and continue to remember GOD frequently, that you may succeed.*

An author by name of Larry Baden gives a

nice definition of a successful life. First, he wants to be sure that our work in this world should be such that it will be a good day when we stand before God to give an account. Second, that the sort of legacy we leave to our children is one we are happy with. So how is it that we want to be remembered?

This is what Abraham prayed for:
[26:83] "My Lord, grant me wisdom, and include me with the righteous. [26:84] "Let the example I set for the future generations be a good one. [26:85] "Make me one of the inheritors of the blissful Paradise." And it's a good way to look at success. Can we receive our record in our right hand and stand before God joyfully? And will the example we leave behind be one that benefits others?

To spell success we have to know God, worship God alone, and steadfastly persevere with God. Then, God willing, we can spell success H-E-A-V-E-N.

Lydia

[3:200] O you who believe, you shall be steadfast, you shall persevere, you shall be united, you shall observe GOD, that you may succeed.

Formula for Success

[24:56] You shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and obey the messenger, that you may attain mercy.

God Willing

31st Annual Conference United Submitters

July 29-31, 2016

Vancouver, Canada



God willing, the annual conference of United Submitters International will be in Vancouver, Canada (on July 29, 30 and 31). 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).

The registration form and hotel details can be downloaded from:
www.masjiduntucson.org/conference/

If you have trouble downloading forms or for questions or information please email: info@masjiduntucson.org (or call 520.323.7636). 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.