

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

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## Steadfastly Persevere

[2:153] *O you who believe, seek help through steadfastness and the Contact Prayers (Salat). GOD is with those who steadfastly persevere.*

[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.*

According to the dictionary, to persevere is to persist or remain constant to a purpose, idea or task, in the face of obstacles or discouragement. This definition is related to being steadfast and they're mentioned together in many verses; God willing, we steadfastly persevere.

Our purpose in life is to worship God alone (51:56). To make it back to Him by growing our souls bigger and closer to God. So, persevering for this "purpose" means consistently worshiping God alone, doing *Salat*, *Zakat*, fasting, and observing commandments. These commands include the well-known laws like "honor your parents" (31:14), "don't kill" (6:151), "don't steal" (5:38), "don't commit adultery" (17:32), "be honest" (4:58), "avoid intoxicants and gambling" (2:219). There are also other commands like regard people kindly (4:36), don't despair (12:87), don't be proud of anything God bestowed upon us (57:23) don't grieve over anything we miss (57:23), suppress one's anger

(3:134), eat and drink moderately (7:31), don't backbite / suspect / ridicule (49:11-12), be reverent during *Salat* and avoid vain talk (23:2-3), be appreciative of God (14:7, 31:12, 76:2-3), and of course remember God most of our day, every day: [30:17-8] *Therefore, you shall glorify GOD when you retire at night, and when you rise in the morning. All praise is due to Him in the heavens and the earth, throughout the evening, as well as in the middle of your day.*

It takes hard work to consistently observe all the commandments. We must persevere. If we fail, we seek forgiveness, repent to God and try again, God willing.

Even during tests (47:31) or adversity (22:35, 31:17), we must steadfastly persevere. Happiness is Submission to God; it's an active state. To help us in the process, God has given us the gift of *Salat* (2:45-46), the opportunity to remember and reverence Him throughout our day, and to be aware of the Hereafter (i.e., keep the "goal" in mind). It's not easy, so God gives us a lifetime. The more we do it, the easier God makes it.

[47:31] *We will certainly put you to the test, in order to distinguish those among you who strive, and steadfastly persevere. We must expose your true qualities.*

[22:35] *They are the ones whose hearts*

*tremble upon mentioning GOD, they steadfastly persevere during adversity, they observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), and from our provisions to them, they give to charity.*

[31:17-8] *"O my son, you shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat). You shall advocate righteousness and forbid evil, and remain steadfast in the face of adversity. These are the most honorable traits. "You shall not treat the people with arrogance, nor shall you roam the earth proudly. GOD does not like the arrogant showoffs.*

[2:45-6] *You shall seek help through steadfastness and the Contact Prayers (Salat). This is difficult indeed, but not so for the reverent, who believe that they will meet their Lord; that to Him they ultimately return.*

Don't worry if you are faced with what appears to be a "big army" or insurmountable problem. God will support you.

[2:249] ... *"Many a small army defeated a large army by GOD's leave. GOD is with those who steadfastly persevere."*

[3:125] *Indeed, if you steadfastly persevere and maintain righteousness, then they attack you suddenly, your Lord will support you with five thousand angels, well trained.*

We can't let mocking by others get to us either. We want to accept constructive criticism. But if someone is being unfair or in-

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sulting or rude (or even trying to be intimidating), we need to hold fast to God.

*[3:186] You will certainly be tested, through your money and your lives, and you will hear from those who received the scripture, and from the idol worshipers, a lot of insult. If you steadfastly persevere and lead a righteous life, this will prove the strength of your faith.*

*[30:60] Therefore, you shall steadfastly persevere—for GOD's promise is the truth—and do not be intimidated by those who have not attained certainty.*

Another area the Quran tells us we'll need to be steadfast is when giving God's message (and faced with continued rejection).

*[6:34] Messengers before you have been rejected, and they steadfastly persevered in the face of rejection. They were persecuted until our victory came to them. Such is GOD's system that will never change. The history of My messengers thus sets the precedents for you.*

*[14:12] "Why should we not trust in GOD, when He has guided us in our paths? We will steadfastly persevere in the face of your persecution. In GOD all the trusters shall trust."*

If you need to emigrate for God, do it. Always stick with God. Don't give up God when you have a choice, even if that choice requires a lot of hard work.

*[16:110] As for those who emigrate because of persecution, then continue to strive and steadfastly persevere, your Lord, because of all this, is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

God willing, most of us are blessed to live in free countries where we're not persecuted because of religion. But certainly, all of us do need to steadfastly persevere in observing His commandments.

*[52:48-9] You shall steadfastly persevere in carrying out your Lord's command—you are in our eyes—and glorify and praise your Lord when you get up. Also during the night glorify Him, and at dawn as the stars fade away.*

*[28:51-5] We have delivered the message to them, that they may take heed. Those whom we blessed with the previous scriptures will believe in this. When it is recited to them, they will say, "We believe in it. This is the truth from our Lord. Even before we heard of it, we were submitters." To these we grant twice the reward, because they steadfastly persevere. They counter evil works with good works, and from our provisions to them, they give. When they come across vain talk, they disregard it and say, "We are responsible for our deeds, and you are responsible for your deeds. Peace be upon you. We do not wish to behave like the ignorant ones."*

It's not easy, but if we steadfastly persevere in all circumstances, then God promises us a generous reward!

*[11:115] You shall steadfastly persevere, for GOD never fails to recompense the righteous.*

*[29:58-59] Those who believe and lead a righteous life, we will surely settle them in Paradise, with mansions and flowing streams. Eternally they abide therein. What a beautiful reward for the workers. They are the ones who steadfastly persevere, and trust in their Lord.*

*[39:10] Say, "O My servants who believed, you shall reverence your Lord." For those who worked righteousness in this world, a good reward. GOD's earth is spacious, and those who steadfastly persevere will receive their recompense generously, without limits.*

Faiz

#### Righteousness Defined

*[2:177] Righteousness is not turning your faces towards the east or the west. Righteous are those who believe in GOD, the Last Day, the angels, the scripture, and the prophets; and they give the money, cheerfully, to the relatives, the orphans, the needy, the traveling alien, the beggars, and to free the slaves; and they observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat); and they keep their word whenever they make a promise; and they steadfastly persevere in the face of persecution, hardship, and war. These are the truthful; these are the righteous.*

## Lessons from the Currency Invalidation in India

The Indian government declared that all 500 and 1000 rupee notes currently in circulation would have to be exchanged for new currency. The people were given about fifty days in which to get rid of the demonetized currency by depositing only in the banking system, after which time those notes would be worthless. It happened suddenly and unexpectedly. It was announced on television at 8 PM on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Nov 2016, going into effect at midnight. Nobody saw it coming; no one was prepared for it. It's been a chaotic, difficult time, but there are some lessons to be learned from the situation.

1) Death is sudden. There is something else that we know will surely come, but we don't know when, where or how—and that is death (31:34). We had 4 hours notice on the currency exchange, but in death, there may not be 4 seconds warning. Are we ready?

*[3:185] Every person tastes death, then you receive your recompense on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever misses Hell, barely, and makes it to Paradise, has attained a great triumph. The life of this world is no more than an illusion.*

*[4:78] Wherever you are, death will catch up with you, even if you live in formidable castles. When something good happens to them, they say, "This is from GOD," and when something bad afflicts them, they blame you. Say, "Everything comes from GOD." Why do these people misunderstand almost everything?*

*[6:60] He is the One who puts you to death during the night, and knows even the smallest of your actions during the day. He resurrects you every morning, until your life span is fulfilled, then to Him is your ultimate return. He will then inform you of everything you had done.*

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We all know what we have to do before death is suddenly staring us in the face, and we know the cost of disbelief or neglecting our religion is just too high to take it lightly. We have to prepare for it thoroughly, through our actions today. At the moment of death, everyone knows his or her destiny—heaven or hell. For the disbelievers, death is a horrible event, much worse than the unexpected currency exchange, for the angels will beat them on their faces and rear ends as they snatch away their souls (8:50, 47:27, 79:1).

2) Value can be lost in a second. We had millions of rupees in 500 and 1000 denominations yesterday. Today they are just pieces of paper. Similarly, all worldly gains, such as money, wealth, fame, power, will be worthless the second after death.

#### *Different Priorities*

*[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.*

*[35:33] They will enter the gardens of Eden, where they will be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and their garments in it will be made of silk.*

So, God is blessing us with wealth, comfort and luxuries in this life as well, but the abode of the Hereafter is far better because we have attained God's forgiveness and mercy. God has cleaned our souls of all jealousy and hatred and has accepted us and welcomed us to the ultimate Paradise.

3) Don't bank on banks. Like the banks will stop exchanging notes on a certain date, options to do good deeds will close with death. No further exchanges will be possible. Only what we have deposited as good deeds in our account with God will be able to benefit us in the Hereafter. No further good deeds can then be done, just as no notes could be exchanged by us after the stipulated 50 days.

*[3:116] Those who disbelieved can never be helped by their money or their children against GOD. They have in-*

*curred Hell, wherein they abide forever*

*[9:102] There are others who have confessed their sins; they have mixed good deeds with bad deeds. GOD will redeem them, for GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

*[19:76] GOD augments the guidance of those who choose to be guided. For the good deeds are eternally rewarded by your Lord, and bring far better returns.*

So, do not rely on banks but deposit whatever good you can with God and that will never go to waste!

4) Fakes will not last. One of the purposes of demonetization is to deal with fake currency. After this, the fake notes will be out of the system. Let's test ourselves—do we have fake notes or real ones? When we look at our lives, our relationships, our good deeds—are they genuine or false?

*[8:37] GOD will sift away the bad from the good, then pile the bad on top of each other, all in one pile, then throw it in Hell. Such are the losers.*

*[4:142] The hypocrites think that they are deceiving GOD, but He is the One who leads them on. When they get up for the Contact Prayer (Salat), they get up lazily. That is because they only show off in front of the people, and rarely do they think of GOD.*

We may fool someone with a fake 500 rupee note, but we can't fool God in anything. He knows our innermost thoughts and intentions. We need to strive to remove all the falsehood from our lives.

5) Small is big. Big deeds run the risk of breeding pride and arrogance. The real gems are the small, quiet, hidden good deeds that are done with sincerity on a regular basis, when no one is looking. When this exchange was announced, the person with a couple of 100 rupee notes was richer than a person with a 1000 note. So, our small acts of kindness and charity will go a long way for us. Even helping to mediate a good deed brings us credit.

*[2:110] You shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat). Any good you send*

*forth on behalf of your souls, you will find it at GOD. GOD is seer of everything you do.*

*[3:30] 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.*

*[4:85] Whoever mediates a good deed receives a share of the credit thereof, and whoever mediates an evil work, incurs a share thereof. GOD controls all things.*

6) Intention matters. When you go to the bank to exchange 500 and 1000 rupee notes, you are asked to verify your identity. Similarly, when you bring your deeds to the Creator, He will question you about your intentions. Did you do it to be called a generous person, or to compete with someone, or to gain fame in this worldly life? Or was it truly to seek forgiveness and happiness from God alone, to atone for your sins? God already knows our innermost intention, but we have to examine ourselves carefully. Only the righteous acts will be accepted currency with God.

*[2:225] GOD does not hold you responsible for the mere utterance of oaths; He holds you responsible for your innermost intentions. GOD is Forgiver, Clement.*

7) Plan ahead. Many people are now busy running around worrying about what to do with the invalidated currency, but it may be too late. Likewise, planning for the Hereafter needs to be looked into right now, with sincere devotion and regular action. Otherwise, it may be too late. We have to refrain from sin and bad behavior, backbiting, and any kind of wrong doing. We need to put concerted effort into staying steadfast on the right path, so that we may be forgiven and admitted into Paradise. Don't think that there will be time to be righteous later. When our death comes, it comes suddenly, just as the announcement of the demonetization was shockingly sudden. If we haven't prepared for it,

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it will be too late. May God forgive us and keep us among the righteous.

#### *The Ultimate Winners*

[28:83] *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.*

*Ayaz*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Reflections on the Demonetization Of The Indian Rupee

We know that it's not money in itself that's bad. It's the idolization, the greed and the consequent violation of God's laws that get people into trouble. In the example in 18:32-46, wealth caused the individual to grow arrogant, to think he was somehow special and immune to trouble, to forget about God and growing his soul, to fail to see that money was just like anything else in this fleeting world. This is the pattern of human failing.

[74:11-15] *Let Me deal with one I created as an individual. I provided him with lots of money. And children to behold. I made everything easy for him. Yet, he is greedy for more.*

The 500 and 1000 rupee notes became

idols to many. We learn from Quran that idols cannot judge (40:20), cannot create anything and are powerless (13:16, 46:4), and idols do not bring us closer to God (39:3). God grants perfect security and happiness for believers who are devoted to Him alone without committing idol worship. [6:82] *Those who believe, and do not pollute their belief with idol worship, have deserved the perfect security, and they are truly guided.*

People were hoarding the money, evading taxes and not sharing. In God's system, charity is multiplied manifold and returned. We know we must give full weight and measure when we trade (83:1-3). We know that God doesn't burden a soul beyond its means (6:52, 7:42, 23:62).

In this financial upheaval, it turns out that small is big. A grand gesture of charity done with arrogance and showing off will gain less with God than a small charity done with kindness and pure heart. [92:5-7] *As for him who gives to charity and maintains righteousness. And upholds the scripture. We will direct him towards happiness.*

Trying to get change in this economy is frequently difficult. All the banks have to give out are 2000 rupee notes, so we're always out looking for change. Well, let's look for change within ourselves, within our submission. How can we do better, be more righteous, more appreciative.

God will grant us the change if we sincerely seek it.

Another outcome of the demonetization is standing in line at the bank, trying to deposit old notes, trying to get new money. But we have to do what we have to do. And that's true in our submission as well. The practices that God has given us are for our own good. We need to do them cheerfully and reverently.

This whole situation came out of the blue, so the lesson is to always prepare for the future because we never know what's around the corner. How can I do better in my submission today to prepare for meeting God tomorrow?

One of the reasons for this whole thing was to turn "black money" into "white money." Black money is money illicitly earned and never taxed, and we know that God warns us against all illicit earnings (2:79, 4:29, 5:62). Whether this exchange will accomplish that purpose or simply create new corruption is unknown. But in God's system, we can repent for our transgressions and God will turn our sins into credits.

[25:70] *Exempted are those who repent, believe, and lead a righteous life. GOD transforms their sins into credits. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

Praise God.

*Uzair*