

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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RAMADAN: A Perfect Time to Implore God

Supplication: A Form of Worship

[40:60] Your Lord says, "Implore Me, and I will respond to you. Surely, those who are too arrogant to worship Me will enter Gehenna, forcibly."

Footnote: Supplication, imploring God for anything, even material luxuries, is a form of worship. Hence the commandment to implore God whenever we have any need. An atheist will never implore God for anything.

Only people who are not arrogant implore God. [13:14] *Imploring Him is the only legitimate supplication, while the idols they implore beside Him, cannot ever respond.* [55:29] *Imploring Him is everyone in the heavens and the earth. Every day He is in full control.* [11:47] *He said, "My Lord, I seek refuge in You, lest I implore You again for something I do not know. Unless You forgive me, and have mercy on me, I will be with the losers."* [110:3] *You shall glorify and praise your Lord, and implore Him for forgiveness. He is the Redeemer.* [19:48] *"I will abandon you and the gods you worship besides GOD. I will worship only my Lord. By imploring my Lord alone, I cannot go wrong."*

Our bodies need water and food and

our minds obligate us to provide them. This need-deprivation imbalance can be perceived as adversity, albeit a self-imposed adversity, during the days of fasting in Ramadan. We who fast do so in obedience to God's commandments. [2:183] *O you who believe, fasting is decreed for you, as it was decreed for those before you, that you may attain salvation.* [2:187].... *You may eat and drink until the white thread of light becomes distinguishable from the dark thread of night at dawn. Then, you shall fast until sunset.*

We use this God-given opportunity to grow and develop our souls. [30:44] *Whoever disbelieves, disbelieves to the detriment of his own soul, while those who lead a righteous life, do so to strengthen and develop their own souls.*

Testing by God is a necessary step in the growth and development of our souls. [2:155-7] *We will surely test you through some fear, hunger, and loss of money, lives, and crops. Give good news to the steadfast. When an affliction befalls them, they say, "We belong to GOD, and to Him we are returning." These have deserved blessings from their Lord and mercy. These are the*

guided ones. [2:214] *Do you expect to enter Paradise without being tested like those before you? They were tested with hardship and adversity, and were shaken up, until the messenger and those who believed with him said, "Where is GOD's victory?" GOD's victory is near.* [6:42-3] *We have sent (messengers) to communities before you, and we put them to the test through adversity and hardship, that they may implore. If only they implored when our test afflicted them! Instead, their hearts were hardened, and the devil adorned their works in their eyes.*

Imploring God acknowledges His Omnipotence. [1:5] *You alone we worship; You alone we ask for help.* [23:88] *Say, "In whose hand is all sovereignty over all things, and He is the only one who can provide help, but needs no help, if you know?"*

We can use the tool of imploring God to help us pass His tests, especially during Ramadan. We can implore Him when we feel the pangs of hunger and thirst that cannot be quenched. My oft-repeated supplication during Ramadan is: "Please God, give me the strength, steadfastness and perseverance I need

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to complete this day of fasting.” And I also repeat Moses’ supplication: [20:26] *“And make this matter easy for me.”* I remember Moses’ mother’s test and how God blessed her (28:10).

When evening brings relief from hunger and thirst we thank God for allowing us to succeed. [2:152] *You shall remember Me, that I may remember you, and be thankful to Me; do not be unappreciative. [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. [7:69] “Is it too much of a wonder that a message should come to you from your Lord, through a man like you, to warn you? Recall that He made you inheritors after the people of Noah, and multiplied your number. Remember GOD’s blessings, that you may succeed.” [22:77] O you who believe, you shall bow, prostrate, worship your Lord, and work righteousness, that you may succeed.*

Finally, if we did not do as well as we had hoped we would on any given day, we implore God to guide us to do better next time (18:24).

May God bless all the fasters with a successful Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak!

Lory

[7:94] *Whenever we sent a prophet to any community, we afflicted its people with adversity and hardship, that they may implore. [7:95] Then we substituted peace and prosperity in place of that hardship. But alas, they turned heedless and said, “It was our parents who experienced that hardship before prosperity.” Consequently, we punished them suddenly when they least expected. [7:96] Had the people of those communities believed and turned righteous, we would have showered them with blessings from the heaven and the earth. Since they decided to disbelieve, we punished them for what they earned.*

Loan of Righteousness

In five verses God speaks of our lending Him a loan of righteousness:

[2:245] *Who would lend GOD a loan of righteousness, to have it repaid to them multiplied manifold? GOD is the One who provides and withholds, and to Him you will be returned.*

[5:12] *GOD had taken a covenant from the Children of Israel, and we raised among them twelve patriarchs. And GOD said, “I am with you, so long as you observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and believe in My messengers and respect them, and continue to lend GOD a loan of righteousness.”*

[57:11] *Who would like to loan GOD a loan of righteousness, to have it multiplied for him manifold, and end up with a generous recompense?*

[64:17] *If you lend GOD a loan of righteousness, He will multiply the reward for you manifold, and forgive you. GOD is Appreciative, Clement.*

[73:20] *Your Lord knows that you meditate during two-thirds of the night, He knows that you cannot always do this. He has pardoned you. Instead, you shall read what you can of the Quran. ...You shall read what you can of it, and observe the contact prayers (Salat), give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and lend GOD a loan of righteousness.*

As you can see, verses 5:12 and 73:20 specifically mention Zakat while verses 2:245, 57:11 and 64:17 all speak of the reward being multiplied, bringing to mind verse 2:261: *The example of those who spend their monies in the cause of GOD is that of a grain that produces seven spikes, with a hundred grains in each spike. GOD multiplies this manifold for whomever He wills. GOD is Bounteous, Knower.*

Perhaps that is why in the past I have

always associated the loan of righteousness with charity. And indeed we know that charity is repaid manifold, sometimes here and of course in the hereafter.

However, there is another way we might look at this. What is it that we are loaning in these verses? It is righteousness itself. When we look more closely, especially at 2:245 and 57:11, we can see that the repayment may actually be an increase of our righteousness!

This is in perfect accord with 74:56, which tells us that God is the source of righteousness. Thus we loan to God what He, in His awesome mercy, has given us in the first place. As 8:17 tells us, God is the One who does everything, “But He thus gives the believers a chance to earn a lot of credit.”

Whether or not God rewards us materially in this world, if we are blessed to become more righteous, that is far better than any material reward could ever be. Material is only useful in this life, but greater righteousness increases our reward for eternity. Praise be to God, Lord of the universe.

Lisa

[74:56] *They cannot take heed against GOD’s will. He is the source of righteousness; He is the source of forgiveness.*

God Is Doing Everything

[8:17] *It was not you who killed them; GOD is the One who killed them. It was not you who threw when you threw; GOD is the One who threw. But He thus gives the believers a chance to earn a lot of credit. GOD is Hearer, Omniscient.*

Ramadan 2017

God willing

Ramadan starts May 26th for USA (and the rest of North & South America).

The **Night of Destiny** (Night of Power) will start at the sunset of June 20th for places that begin fasting on May 26th.

For more details, please visit:
<http://masjidtucson.org/Ramadan/>

Brand Ambassadors

People have become very brand conscious, everything from what you wear, eat, drive, the sports gear that you use, your perfumes, etc. You name the product that is thrown in a conversation and it's about a brand. People have even started relating others by the brands they use. It seems that people who use certain brands enjoy a higher social status or command more respect, mostly in terms of wealth or privilege, because they associate themselves with a particular brand. It's just their ego that wants to tell the world that they are somebody because they can afford an expensive brand.

Now, we know that by using any of the brands it will not make us special or talented or guarantee physical strength or a longer or a happier life. But people relate to these brands because they feel a sense of fulfillment or satisfaction and they want to relate to the Brand Ambassador who projects a larger than life picture. The feeling may be that by emulating the brand used by his hero, he is in some way showing attributes or qualities of that Brand Ambassador.

The process involved in creating a unique name and image for a product in the consumers' mind is mainly through advertising campaigns with a consistent theme. Branding aims to establish a significant and differentiated presence in the market—name, symbol and/or design—that attracts and retains loyal customers.

Famous athletes are recognized all over the world for their incredible skills. Most of these athletes have been playing their sport since they were children and have been putting in countless hours every day for their entire lives to reach their dream of becoming a professional athlete. Becoming a professional athlete comes with several perks. Athletes are some of the highest paid individuals in the world. Not only are they paid for their

athletic skills, but many athletes are paid even more for endorsement deals.

Companies want to be associated with the best, so they choose top athletes, with the right image, to represent their product. Also, God in all His mercy has endorsed us as Submitters. We all belong to the brand Submission: we are all Brand Ambassadors for Submission. It's like honoring us and telling us we have the chance, we are worthy to live up to that standard, that image of what He sees His obedient servants as. This is the brand that maintains the highest standards of morals and ethics.

The Best Community

[3:110] You are the best community ever raised among the people: you advocate righteousness and forbid evil, and you believe in GOD. If the followers of the scripture believed, it would be better for them. Some of them do believe, but the majority of them are wicked.

Why are we branded as the best community? It's because we follow all instructions and uphold all laws and rules that God has given us in our scripture, the Quran. We are consistent with our contact prayers, have perseverance and faith and believe in the unseen and the Hereafter.

We strive to maintain and uphold righteousness (3:104, 3:114, 16:97, 17:19); we condemn cheating and dishonesty (11:85, 83:1-3); we keep our word (70:32); we avoid sins, such as adultery, gambling, intoxication, backbiting, bearing false witness, vain talk, corruption (17:32, 5:90-91, 68:8-13, 25:72, 28:83, 2:188); we avoid bad language and losing our temper (4:148, 14:26, 31:18-19); and we show patience and forgiveness (7:199, 42:40, 42:43).

So, as every Brand Ambassador is paid heavily for endorsing that brand and is made to sign a contract that if he breaks the rules of that contract his endorsement will be cancelled immediately, so has God promised us great rewards for upholding the values and teachings of brand Submission. And though we make many mis-

takes, God is still merciful enough not to invalidate our contract or cancel our Submission endorsement, as long as we worship Him alone, repent and reform when we know we've done something wrong, and keep striving.

So, what are our rewards for being Brand Ambassadors for Submission? We get a share not only here in this world but also a share in the hereafter. *[3:148] Consequently, GOD granted them the rewards of this world, and the better rewards of the Hereafter. GOD loves the good doers.*

God forgives our sins and transforms our debits 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.*

We are given security and sovereignty. *[6:82] Those who believe, and do not pollute their belief with idol worship, have deserved the perfect security, and they are truly guided.*

God's Promise Kings and Queens on Earth

[24:55] 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 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.

God also promises us victory. *[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. [40:51] Most assuredly, we will give victory to our messengers and to those who believe, both in this world and on the day the witnesses are summoned.*

And the ultimate reward—Paradise.

[2:82] As for those who believe, and lead a righteous life, they will be the dwellers of Paradise; they abide in it forever.

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[4:124] As for those who lead a righteous life, male or female, while believing, they enter Paradise; without the slightest injustice.

[9:111] GOD has bought from the believers their lives and their money in exchange for Paradise. Thus, they fight in the cause of GOD, willing to kill and get killed. Such is His truthful pledge in the Torah, the Gospel, and the Quran and who fulfills His pledge better than GOD? You shall rejoice in making such an exchange. This is the greatest triumph.

[32:19] As for those who believe and lead a righteous life, they have deserved the eternal Paradise. Such is their abode, in return for their works

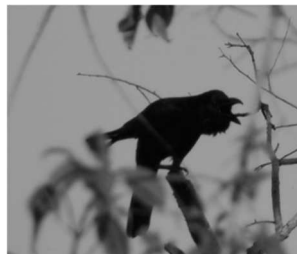
As Brand Ambassadors for Submission, we don't need catchy slogans, flashy logos, or fancy ads. We just need to lead a righteous life and be a good example for those around us. We simply show people that Submitters have no fear! That God's Victory is near! And we keep up the Faith!

[18:107] As for those who believe and lead a righteous life they have deserved a blissful Paradise as their abode.

[25:75] These are the ones who attain Paradise in return for their steadfastness; they are received therein with joyous greetings and peace.

Ayaz

The Peacock and the Crow



A happy crow lived in the forest and never complained about his life until one day,

when he saw a swan. "That swan is so white," he thought, "and I am so black. This swan must be the happiest bird in the world." He told the swan how he felt, and the swan replied, "Actually, I was very content with myself until I saw a parrot with his pretty colors. I'm convinced that that parrot is the happiest bird in creation." The crow then approached the parrot, who said, "I lived a very happy life until I saw a peacock. I have only two colors, but the peacock has multiple colors."

The crow then visited a peacock in the zoo and saw a crowd of people gathered to see him. After the crowd left, the crow said to the peacock, "You are so beautiful. Every day thousands of people come to see you. But when people see me, they immediately shoo me away. You must be the happiest bird on the planet."

The peacock sadly replied, "Because of my beauty, I am entrapped in this zoo.

However, if I was a crow like you, I could happily roam everywhere."

Here's the way I see it: Mark Twain once said it best, "Comparison is the death of joy." And remember, the happiest people don't have the best of everything. They make the best of everything they have.



[74:3-7] Extol your Lord. Purify your garment. Forsake what is wrong. Be content with your lot. Steadfastly commemorate your Lord.

The only comparison we need to make is between righteous and unrighteous, appreciative and unappreciative, and between this fleeting life and the glorious Paradise.

[13:26] GOD is the One who increases the provision for whomever He wills, or withholds it. They have become preoccupied with this life, and this life, compared to the Hereafter, is nil.

Contributed by Lydia