

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

# Submitters Perspective

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## Goal in Life

A life without a goal or purpose can lead to a loss of productivity, progress and peace. We don't want to go through life like a rudderless ship. One of the blessings of the Quran is it provides us a purpose (51:56). In general, whether in worldly or spiritual terms, achieving goals gives us a sense of accomplishment. It also helps us stay motivated and focused on what we want to achieve.

In this world, people have career goals. You may want to become a doctor, a pilot, an engineer, or a business owner. But notwithstanding these desires, you also need to be a good person. A multi-millionaire who is corrupt and treats people poorly is not truly successful. You want to be just and fair to others. If you live up to this idea, it will have a healthy influence on everybody. You cannot bring change in others unless you change yourself. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

Before learning about submission to God, my goals were related to success in the material world. As my

understanding of Quran progressed, it changed the whole perspective of my life. These worldly achievements, which were once very much desirable and dear to me, became less important. God tells us in His scriptures what this life is all about. He also informs us what our goal in this life should be. This is especially clear in the *Quran, the Final Testament* for humanity. All we need is to follow the prescribed instructions in the scripture to achieve that goal.

I am extremely thankful to God for He has finally made me realize what my real goal in life should be. God asks us to prioritize success and focus on the hereafter.

*[17:19] As for those who choose the Hereafter as their priority, and work righteousness, while believing, their efforts will be appreciated.*

Now that I have found the real goal in life, what do I need to do to achieve it? To begin with I must understand and feel the purpose of my life while taking the first steps in the direction of achieving the goal. Next,

I need to make a commitment to myself, because ultimately my soul is the beneficiary, to instill a sense of perseverance, of continued striving and to overcome self-imposed limitations.

We humans, in part due to a combination of peer pressure, laziness and distractions, get bound by self-created barriers that restrict us from doing the right things. "What will people say?" is one of the questions we deal with that may cause us to deviate from the right path. We need to remind ourselves that the One we need to please is God, and the work we put in is for our own good.

Let us try to ask ourselves this question before retiring to bed: "What would I want God to say about me if I were to die tomorrow?" This million-dollar question can set your path towards achieving your real goal. We need to magnify God and His attributes. We must not let this material world cause us to forget our mission. We do have a real purpose on planet earth, and it is not becoming "rich and famous". By God's immense mercy and grace, He defines and clarifies our

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mission and the purpose of our existence in this worldly life.

*[67:2] The One who created death and life for the purpose of distinguishing those among you who would do better. He is the Almighty, the Forgiving.*

*[51:56] I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone.*

*[45:22] GOD created the heavens and the earth for a specific purpose, in order to pay each soul for whatever it earned, without the least injustice.*

*[76:2] We created the human from a liquid mixture, from two parents, in order to test him. Thus, we made him a hearer and a seer. [76:3] We showed him the two paths, then, he is either appreciative, or unappreciative.*

*[21:35] Every soul will taste death, after we put you to the test through adversity and prosperity, then to us you ultimately return.*

*[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.*

*[2:48] Beware of the day when no soul can avail another soul, no intercession will be accepted, no ransom can be paid, nor can anyone be helped.*

All these verses explain the real purpose of our life. These verses also tell us to take due care not to leave loose ends which could spoil our final destiny. These verses equip us and set the line of conduct expected to be followed by us to become successful in the Hereafter.

If we reflect upon the struggle and perseverance of successful people in the world, we see they followed a certain set of self-committed statements seriously. They lived with it all the

time. They weren't distracted from it. It wasn't something they abandoned when the going got tough.

As submitters, we realize that our goal in this life is to be a righteous person so that God will be pleased with us. In all our actions and decisions, our priority should be the eternal life, not the temporary one in this world. God says this worldly life is nothing more than an illusion (40:39, 6:32). Therefore, let us not run after the illusion which we would never catch anyway. Let us try to become practical and realistic, striving towards the real goal. Review your progress from time to time. Renew your commitment by reminding yourself why you are on this path. This practice if maintained properly will yield tremendous rewards. It will make us successful in this world as well as in the hereafter.

God loves the strivers and the appreciative. We should never forget to thank God for every blessing He has bestowed upon us. In return, God showers us with His mercy and grants us eternal happiness.

*[14:7] Your Lord has decreed: "The more you thank Me, the more I give you." But if you turn unappreciative, then My retribution is severe.*

Believing in God is not enough. We must be appreciative. The more we thank God, the more He will help us realize the real goal of our life. God loves the charitable people, and to encourage us, God urges us to become charitable and lend a loan of righteousness to Him. Further God guarantees to repay you manifold in the hereafter without neglecting your share in this world.

*[28:77] "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."*

*[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.*

Don't let the past drag you down. Ask God's forgiveness for any mistakes and ask His help to do better. This way each day can be your new beginning. A new hope. We clean our office desk in the morning by removing unwanted things. In the same way wipe the unimportant events of yesterday from your mind. Try to write up your course of action at the beginning of the day. Make a commitment to do better than yesterday. In the busy schedule of life, you don't want to lose sight of the big picture and veer off track. You want to prioritize your goals and fine-tune your activities.

Everything competes for your time, energy and money. When it's hard to choose how to spend your time, money and energy, your sense of understanding will cut through conflicts in your mind. But this needs a strong commitment to be consistently on the path of your mission. You want to focus your energies on what's truly important. We must not get carried away by some immediate pleasure around us that seems more appealing. Your commitment will help you put in dedicated and genuine effort.

In this world, you may not always get what you want. Your boss may not pay you enough. Your friends may leave you out of an activity. Your family may berate you. But these kinds of issues are less important if you stay focused on your purpose in life. If you encounter a roadblock, your first thought should be, "Trust in God, He is Great".

Indeed, if we stay focused and re-

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main steadfast in worshipping God alone by following His commandments, God will help us to pass through our tests with ease. All the barriers and hurdles will disappear as if they never existed. He will properly distribute our energy and effort in more effective ways. Our lives will be moving in the right direction, ensuring we get closer to the greatest triumph by the grace of God. God knows that Satan will try constantly to divert us from our real mission. But God will always present a better plan to counter Satanic attacks. To seek God's help we must hold tightly to the rope of God. We must not loosen our grip even slightly to give any opportunity to Satan. Our real goal will be realized only when we do not move away from the path of righteousness. That will then be the fulfillment of our real goal in this life.

*[10:62] Absolutely, GOD's allies have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.*

*[10:63] They are those who believe and lead a righteous life.*

*[10:64] For them, joy and happiness in this world, as well as in the Hereafter. This is GOD's unchangeable law. Such is the greatest triumph.*

Abdul G

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## Reflections since last Ramadan

Nearly a year has passed since the last Ramadan. We fasted in obedience to God. We performed our meditations and prayers; we continued our journey of redemption to return to God. Did we or did we not uphold our intentions to improve ourselves, grow our soul, and uphold our commitments to obey God's commandments and directives in Quran

and therefore better ourselves so that we may honorably return to God?

Ramadan is a joyous time to commemorate, celebrate, worship; a time to reflect, grow our souls and work on killing our egos, with the goal of attaining everlasting salvation. It's a time to be as righteous as we possibly can be. Being so is the real joy on our journey to return to God.

And it's a time to work hard, reflect often in making those righteous thoughts and deeds a habit so that they can carry us on our journey in the next moments and throughout the year.

Quran is our guide to salvation. Believers hear, trust, obey and continue to live their lives in the manner that Quran advises us to do.

*[21:50] This too is a blessed reminder that we sent down. Are you denying it?*

*[41:42] No falsehood could enter it, in the past or in the future; a revelation from a Most Wise, Praiseworthy.*

*[2:183] O you who believe, fasting is decreed for you, as it was decreed for those before you, that you may attain salvation.*

*[3:114] They believe in GOD and the Last Day, they advocate righteousness and forbid evil, and they hasten to do righteous works. These are the righteous.*

We need to continually look at ourselves to see and understand how we are doing; staying ever vigilant to not stray off the right path God has shown us in our life journey.

*[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.*

The prayers are to strengthen and purify our soul, to protect us from the unseen that may influence us to deviate from

the right path and God's guidance.

*[29:7] Those who believe and lead a righteous life, we will certainly remit their sins, and will certainly reward them generously for their righteous works.*

We keep seeking God's guidance and striving to complete His directives in the very best manner to please God.

### *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.*

In the above verse, God gives us more understanding what righteousness is. We need to strive to follow all of these traits of a believer.

*[51:20] The earth is full of signs for those who are certain.*

*[15:99] And worship your Lord, in order to attain certainty.*

*[25:77] Say, "You attain value at my Lord only through your worship. But if you disbelieve, you incur the inevitable consequences."*

All of these verses and more in Quran help to keep our balance and strengthen our foothold in a world where the majority of human beings are in chaos.

"When a complex system is far from equilibrium, small islands of coherence in a sea of chaos have the capacity to shift the entire system to a higher order." Ilya Prigogine, Nobel Laureate

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What can we do in the face of overwhelming incompetence, lies, stupidity, greed, fear-based mass psychosis, the abandonment of simple logic, egos refusing to listen to facts, continued devaluation of human life with endless unnecessary wars, etc.? It is all around us—politics, mainstream media, etc. The answer that comes over and over is to stay coherent, stay centered, be an island of sanity, hold onto the truth.

Surely, this is attained only by obeying God.

Roger & Naima

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*Fasting Emphasized and Modified\**

[2:183] *O you who believe, fasting is decreed for you, as it was decreed for those before you, that you may attain salvation.*

\*2:183-187 *Like all duties in Submission, fasting was decreed through Abraham (22:78, Appendices 9 & 15). Prior to revelation of the Quran, sexual intercourse was prohibited throughout the fasting period. This rule is modified in 2:187 to allow intercourse during the nights of Ramadan.*

[2:184] *Specific days (are designated for fasting); if one is ill or traveling, an equal number of other days may be substituted. Those who can fast, but with great difficulty, may substitute feeding one poor person for each day of breaking the fast. If one volunteers (more righteous works), it*

*is better. But fasting is the best for you, if you only knew.*

[2:185] *Ramadan is the month during which the Quran was revealed, providing guidance for the people, clear teachings, and the statute book. Those of you who witness this month shall fast therein. Those who are ill or traveling may substitute the same number of other days. GOD wishes for you convenience, not hardship, that you may fulfill your obligations, and to glorify GOD for guiding you, and to express your appreciation.*

*God Answers the Prayers of "His Servants"*  
[2:186] *When My servants ask you about Me, I am always near. I answer their prayers when they pray to Me. The people shall respond to Me and believe in Me, in order to be guided.*

[2:187] *Permitted for you is sexual intercourse with your wives during the nights of fasting. They are the keepers of your secrets, and you are the keepers of their secrets. GOD knew that you used to betray your souls, and He has redeemed you, and has pardoned you. Henceforth, you may have intercourse with them, seeking what GOD has permitted for you. 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. Sexual intercourse is prohibited if you decide to retreat to the masjid (during the last ten days of Ramadan). These are GOD's laws; you shall not transgress them. GOD thus clarifies His revelations for the people, that they may attain salvation. #*

## Ramadan 2024

Ramadan begins **11 March** and the last fast is **8 April** for USA / Canada (Night of Destiny begins at sunset on 5 April), God willing.

Full details of fasting are given in 2:183-187. [2:183] *O you who believe, fasting is decreed for you, as it was decreed for those before you, that you may attain salvation.*

To calculate the Ramadan start date for your location, compare the local New Moon time with the local Sunset. If the new moon is before sunset, we fast the next day. To determine the last day of fasting, compare the time of the next new moon with the local sunset. If the new moon is before sunset, the Ramadan month is complete on that day. Otherwise one fasts the next day. New moon times for determining the begin and end dates of Ramadan are:  
10 March: 9:00 AM (UTC/GMT)  
08 April: 06:21 PM (UTC/GMT)  
The local new moon time can be calculated by adjusting for your time-zone relative to UTC.

For more details on how dates are calculated, please see the [September 2009 Submitters Perspective](#) issue.

For more on Ramadan or for a tool to assist you in verifying Ramadan details for your location, please visit: <https://masjiduntucson.org/Ramadan/>