Most people know but do not comprehend what the word “Islam” really means. It is high time that it should be re-discovered. This is because what is going around under the “brand” of Islam is not just a fake but a totally shameful, disfigured and mutilated copy of the immaculate original. God’s true religion is under an enormous assault from various quarters almost entirely and most regrettably from people who claim to be “Muslims”. We can, God willing, argue our case rationally, persuasively and convincingly and rebut the charges.

Submission (true Islam, as seen in the Quran) is not named after a person as in the case of Zoroastrianism after Zoroaster, Buddhism after Gautama Buddha, Confucianism after Confucius and Christianity after Jesus Christ. Nor was it named after a tribe, as Judaism after the tribe of Judah or a geographical area, as Hinduism after the inhabitants of the land of the River Indus.

Submission is not a religion brought by Prophet Muhammad in 7th Century Arabia. It is the true religion of God re-expressed in its final form.

[5:3] ... Today, I have completed your religion, perfected My blessing upon you, and I have decreed Submission as the religion for you. It is the religion given to Adam, the first man, first submitter and first messenger, and it was the religion of all the prophets and messengers sent by God to humankind.

[3:85] Anyone who accepts other than Submission as his religion, it will not be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter, he will be with the losers.

The essence of worship is a complete submission to the will of God, and thus the core understanding of Submission (Islam) is that we must worship God alone and directly, and reject the worship of any person, place, animal, event or thing. Since everything in the universes is God’s own creation we can say that Islam in its spirit calls us away from the worship of creation and invites to worship only the Creator. A Creator will always be greater than a creation. When we are aware that God is One and is distinct from His creation we can become a true Submitter (Muslim) both in body and soul. However, merely recognising will not do, we have to submit and choose between right and wrong and such a choice involves accountability. Only then can we start the process of eligibility to Paradise.

The opening verses of the Quran should inspire our thinking.

[1:2] Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe. The third attribute (after Most Gracious, Most Merciful) which God introduces Himself as is “Rabb.” It is so comprehensive—Cherisher, Sustainer, Maintainer and includes the role of creation, security and the complete procedure of evolution from conception to birth and from the cradle to the grave.

This awareness should principally instill a feeling of reassurance in us that it is God alone who feeds us, cares for us, protects us from dangers, and heals us from illness. [26:78-80] “The One who created me, and guided me. The One who feeds me and waters me. And when I get sick, He heals me.” It should promote love and kindness for all His creatures and negate the concept of aggression.

Throughout our lives from childhood till we die, God shows us signs till it becomes clear that there is only one True God. If we are honest with ourselves, reject all false gods and seek to please God alone, the route will be made easy for us. However, if we con-

(Continued on page 2)
(Continued from page 1)

tinuously reject God’s signs and idol-ize and/or worship our egos or any-thing else, it will be more difficult to return.

Take for example a person who prays to the “Sun” and his prayers are an-swered. It is not the Sun that an-swered his prayers but God who al-lowed the prayer to be answered. God created the circumstances for it to take place and it is in accordance with the Godly plan. One would think this is quite obvious but it may not be to the dedicated Sun worshipper. Simi-larly, we know prayers are not an-swered by Muhammad, Ali, Jesus or the saints, but by God.

Jesus never asked his followers to worship him. Instead the Quran says: [5:116] GOD will say, “O Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to the people, ‘Make me and my mother idols beside GOD?’ “He will say, “Be You glorified. I could not utter what was not right. Had I said it, You already would have known it. You know my thoughts, and I do not know Your thoughts. You know all the secrets. When he per-formed acts of worship was he wor-shipping himself? No, he worshipped God alone. This is the basic standard preserved in the Quran. [1:5] You alone we worship; You alone we ask for help.

If you ask idol worshippers why they bow down before a created idol, they consistently reply that they are not worshipping the stone but the god that is represented within it. They need the stone for a focal point just like new age meditations which say you have to concentrate on a dot. If this explana-tion is accepted, then the logic of idola-try is justified. However, we should know better. God Himself tells us that no visions can encompass Him. Be He glorified, He is much too High. We have been blessed with brains that can reason about concepts (including God’s existence) without seeing them. We can see proofs and signs about God’s existence and greatness all around us (41:53, 74:30-35) without seeing God Himself. We can and must worship God Alone without idols.

God says in the Quran: [12:40] “You do not worship beside Him except innovations that you have made up, you and your parents. GOD has never au-thorized such idols. All ruling belongs to GOD, and He has ruled that you shall not worship except Him. This is the perfect religion, but most people do not know.

The worship of anything other than God is the root of idol worship and this is the only unforgivable sin if maintained until death. God forbid, if we die in a state of idolatry (and over 40) we have sealed our fate in the Hereafter. [4:48] GOD does not forgive idolatry, but He forgives lesser offenses for whomever He wills. Anyone who sets up idols beside GOD, has forged a horrendous offense.

[4:116] GOD does not forgive idol wor-ship (if maintained until death), and He forgives lesser offenses for whom-ev-er He wills. Anyone who idolizes any idol beside GOD has strayed far astray.

Since the outcome of any false religion is grave, the true religion of God must be collectively understandable and attainable and not restricted to any people, place and time. There cannot be conditions like baptism, acceptance of any person as a Savior, etc. for a believer to enter Paradise. Within the fundamental code of Submission (Islam) and its description (complete surrender to the Will of God) lies the source of Islam’s universality.

Unity of All Submitters [2:62] Surely, those who believe, those who are Jewish, the Christians, and the converts; anyone who (1) believes in GOD, and (2) believes in the Last Day, and (3) leads a righteous life, will receive their recompense from their Lord. They have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.

Submission: The Only Religion [2:112] Indeed, those who submit themselves absolutely to GOD alone, while leading a righteous life, will re-ceive their recompense from their Lord; they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.

Alim

(Continued on page 3)
lieved with him and said, “I am emi-
grating to my Lord. He is the Almighty,
the Most Wise.” We granted him Isaac
and Jacob, we assigned to his descend-
ants prophethood and the scriptures,
we endowed him with his due recom-
pense in this life, and in the Hereafter
he will surely be with the righteous.
[2:56-7] We then revived you, after you
had died, that you may be appreciative.
We shaded you with clouds (in Sinai),
and sent down to you manna and
quails: “Eat from the good things we
provided for you.” They did not hurt us
(by rebelling); they only hurt their own
souls.

[4:79] Anything good that happens to
you is from GOD, and anything bad
that happens to you is from you. We
have sent you as a messenger to the
people, and GOD suffices as witness.

2. The disbelievers who did not agree
with Abraham wished him a meta-
phorical ‘hell-fire’, and painful
death. That by God’s infinite Grace
is as bad as it gets. However, we are
told numerous times that the right-
eous do not really die; only tasting
the first death!

[2:25] Give good news to those who be-
lieve and lead a righteous life that they
will have gardens with flowing
streams. When provided with a provi-
sion of fruits therein, they will say,
“This is what was provided for us pre-
viously.” Thus, they are given allegori-
cal descriptions. They will have pure
spouses therein, and they abide therein
forever.

[3:169] Do not think that those who are
killed in the cause of God are dead;
they are alive at their Lord, being pro-
vided for.

The wages of sin is death. [Romans
6:23]

[2:154] Do not say of those who are
killed in the cause of GOD, “They are
dead.” They are alive at their Lord, but
you do not perceive.

Footnote **2.154 The righteous do not
really die; they simply leave their bod-
ies here and go to the same Paradise
where Adam and Eve once lived. See
Appendix 17 for the proof and the de-
tails.

“But if a righteous man turns from his
righteousness and commits sin and
does the same detestable things the
wicked man does, will he live? None of
the righteous things he has done will be
remembered. Because of the unfaithful-
ness he is guilty of and because of the
sins he has committed, he will die.
[Ezekiel 18:24, New International
Version (1984)]

3. God INTERVENES on behalf of the
believers to save them.

“You have believed the dream.” We thus
rewarded the righteous. That was an ex-
acting test indeed.

GOD does not love any betrayer, unap-
preciable.

God is always defending us, whether to
the angels or in front of man. Is this
not grounds to worship God ALONE?
Isn’t this why He is the Lord and no
one else? Isn’t this enough to make
Him our Lord? Be He glorified far be-
Yond these utterances.

If it were up to the kind creatures,
even angels, we’d be in hell as listed
previously, and if it were up to the
criminal element, we’d burn in fire,
even though earth is already a mild
form of hell. So who’s stopping all this
from happening? And what has kept us
going all this time? Thankfully, it’s
the Almighty God whose will super-
cedes everything. He is the ONLY
ONE who holds ANY good for us.

Glory be to God.

* * * *

Abeer

[4:81] ... You shall disregard them, and
put your trust in GOD. GOD suffices as
an advocate.

[33:3] And put your trust in GOD. GOD
suffices as an advocate.

[33:48] Do not obey the disbelievers and
the hypocrites, disregard their insults,
and put your trust in GOD; GOD suf-
fices as an advocate.

[73:9] Lord of the east and the west;
there is no other god besides Him. You
should choose Him as your advocate.

(Continued on page 4)
tices that we should follow that help us to keep remembering God. Things like charity, meditation, fasting, patience, steadfastness, and appreciation for all of God’s signs all around us.

And perhaps most important of all is our five daily Contact Prayers. It’s not only the actual doing of the prayer that helps us remember God; it’s all that leads up to it. We look at the time and wonder whether it’s time to pray. We plan our schedule around prayer times and places. As we wash for prayer, we remember God. Contact Prayers pull us away from the distractions of this world and put our focus back on God, our Creator. And God tells us that that is the most important aspect of the Contact Prayer.

(29:45) You shall recite what is revealed to you of the scripture, and observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), for the Contact Prayers prohibit evil and vice. But the remembrance of GOD (through Salat) is the most important objective. GOD knows everything you do.

So what does this have to do with Sura 93? Well, it came up in some discussions that the forenoon (the morning) and the night are two times without a Contact Prayer. After we pray the dawn prayer, we have many hours before noon prayer is due. It might not come in until 1:30pm, after praying dawn at perhaps 4:30am, in the summer. In the winter, we might pray night as early as 6:00pm and not have to pray dawn until 7:00am. Those are long stretches of time without any specific ritual calling on us to remember God. So He’s telling us in those verses that even if we don’t choose to remember Him, He has not abandoned nor forgotten us.

We should, of course, use those times for other ways to commemorate God—meditation, zikr, reading Quran, singing His praises, anything we can think of to keep God foremost in our lives. But even if we find ourselves totally oblivious, He is still always with us. We do not need to fear.

Sura 93: The Forenoon (Al-Duhaa)

In the name of God,
Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

1. By the forenoon.
2. By the night as it falls.
3. Your Lord never abandoned you, nor did He forget.
4. The Hereafter is far better for you than this first (life).
5. And your Lord will give you enough; you will be pleased.
6. Did He not find you orphaned and He gave you a home?
7. He found you astray, and guided you.
8. He found you poor, and made you rich.
9. Therefore, you shall not forsake the orphan.
10. Nor shall you reprimand the beggar.
11. You shall proclaim the blessing your Lord has bestowed upon you.

Lydia