

United Submitters International

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Happiness is Submission to God

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GIFT continued

More reminders. We come to understand the words "steadfast" and "patience" more specifically, as the days of fasting proceed and we refrain from suspicion, anger and bad thoughts. Sura 33:35 takes on new meaning, "for the fasting men and women, for the commemorating men and the commemorating women...forgiveness and a great recompense."

All of these activities and thoughts are opportunities to remember God alone, from whom all things come. As we reflect on God's creation, we might notice that even the animals, plants, and mountains, who did not accept the responsibility of "freedom of choice," are not exempt from fasting. There is no place on earth that does not experience drought at one time or another. The consequences of a severe lack of water include a reduction in all other provisions as well. And since these other creatures endure much longer than the human lifetime, they endure periodic fasting much longer than we. Yet, heaven is assured for each of these creatures. And

by God's design, where life seems to disappear with the lack of water and the sustenance which comes from it, life springs back repeatedly once water is received.

Our lifetime is so brief compared to eternity. We are deprived of nothing during this brief period, including repeated, individualized messages of God alone. Twenty-four hour God-consciousness is our goal. It is that toward which we strive, with steadfastness and patience. We know that "God never burdens any soul beyond its means..." (2:286) and that fasting is not an ordeal, but rather a great opportunity to run, not walk, along God's path. How awesome is God. He takes His creation with all its limits and uses it to remind individually and constantly that He alone is our Lord and Master. Given our previous behavior, God is merciful beyond our wildest dreams, and provides us with a gift of remembrance that can only lead us closer to Him for all eternity.

ALL PRAISE BE TO GOD!!

Knowledge Continued

In conclusion, we are the ones who should know better than anyone else on this earth. We have received God's knowledge first-hand. God blessed us with the Messenger of the Covenant and with one of the greatest miracles of all. Now we cannot afford to do what we did in the other dimension by remaining neutral and questioning God's absolute authority after being given this knowledge. God-willing we can read the Quran and study it carefully, and live our lives with it; use the knowledge of God in our lives and strive very hard in this cause to discern our inner relationship with God. Then, God-willing, our Lord will bless us by turning our knowledge into wisdom.

"God: there is no other god besides Him, the Living, the Eternal. Never a moment of unawareness or slumber overtakes Him. To Him belongs everything in the heavens and everything on the earth. ...No one attains any knowledge except as He wills. His dominion encompasses the heavens and the earth, and ruling them never burdens Him. He is the Most High, the Great" (2:255). "He bestows wisdom upon whomsoever He chooses, and whoever attains wisdom, has attained a great bounty. Only those who possess intelligence will take heed" (2:269).

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In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

SUBMITTERS PERSPECTIVE

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Editor: Sam Khalifa / Masjid Tucson

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

SUPPORT GOD AND THE QURAN

Sura 7:2 "This scripture has been revealed to you—you shall harbor no doubt about it

in your heart—that you may preach with it, and to serve as a reminder for the believers."

The Messenger of the Covenant dedicated all his life to the religion of Submission, and it was his mission, by God's will, to spread God's message to as many people as he could. While we know there is no compulsion in religion, and that God is the only one who teaches and guides, we all have responsibility to provide information for people if they come sincerely seeking knowledge. God says in Sura 87:9, "Therefore, you shall remind; perhaps the reminder will benefit." God tells us to read the Quran carefully to benefit us and also to be able to answer questions, explain, etc., if anyone is looking for information.

Maybe in some aspects I feel a greater responsibility to defend my father's work, but by no means do I think I am special or more deserving, or that this is a ticket to heaven. God says this very clearly in Sura 31:33, "O people you shall reverence your Lord, and fear a day when a father cannot help his child, nor a child can help his father...." We are all trying our best to support God and the Quran. We are all in this together.

For years Masjid Tucson has been the center or focal point, if you will, for consultation and distribution of Quranic materials. An example was given to us by God through His messenger, and there is absolutely no need to divide our religion

or feel a need for independence. It is very dangerous to try to take things into our own hands, publicly or secretly because of displeasure or disagreement. It is better to make your suggestions to "those in charge among you." This comes from verse 59 of Sura 4. God also says in the Quran in Sura 6:124, "... God knows exactly who is best qualified to deliver His messages...."

Sura 39:7-20, "If you disbelieve, God does not need you. But he dislikes to see His servants make the wrong decision. If you decide to be appreciative, He approves it for you. No soul bears the sins of any other soul. Ultimately, to your Lord is your return, then He will inform you of everything you had done. He is fully aware of the innermost thoughts. When the human being is afflicted he implores his Lord, sincerely devoted to Him. But as soon as He blesses him, he forgets his previous imploring, sets up idols to rank with God and diverts others from His path. Say, 'Enjoy your disbelief temporarily; you have incurred Hell. Is it not better to be one of those who meditate of the Hereafter, and seeking the mercy of their Lord? Say, 'Are those who know equal to those who do not know?' Only those who possess intelligence will take heed. Say, 'O My servants who believed, you shall observe 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 without limits. Say, 'I have been commanded to worship God, devoting the religion absolutely to Him alone. And I was commanded to be the utmost submitter.' Say, 'I fear, if I

disobeyed my Lord, the retribution of a great day.' Say, 'God is the only One I worship, devoting my religion absolutely to Him alone. Therefore, worship whatever you wish besides Him.' Say, 'The real losers are those who lose their souls, and their families, on the Day of Resurrection.' Most certainly, this is the worst loss. They will have masses of fire on top of them, and under them. God thus alerts His servants. O My servants you shall reverence Me. As for those who discarded the worship of all idols, and devoted themselves totally to God, they have the good news. Give good news to My servants. They are the ones who examine all the words, then follow the best. These are the ones whom God has guided; these are the ones who possess intelligence. For those who have incurred the retribution, can you save those who are already in Hell? As for those who reverence their Lord, they will have mansions upon mansions constructed for them, with flowing streams. This is God's promise, and God never breaks His promise."

The evil people that God used to grant my father his martyrdom will suffer tremendously in this life and twice as much in the Hereafter. God will pile them on top of each other. In Sura 40:28 it says, "How can you kill a man just for saying, 'My Lord is God....'" And in 39:45, "When God alone is mentioned, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter shrink with aversion. But when others are mentioned besides Him, they rejoice." May God forgive the good, repenting, and prostrating souls among us, and may He condemn the wicked idol worshippers in opposition.

The last day of fasting for Ramadan 1991 is April 14

KNOWLEDGE WITH WISDOM

"...God has sent down to you the scripture and wisdom, and He has taught you what you never knew. Indeed God's blessings upon you have been great" (4:113).

"...I have given you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brain, and you are responsible for using them" (17:36).

The human being was very much aware that there was no god but the one God- since the time before we came to this dimension. The knowledge was given from the beginning because of God's mercy and graciousness. God's greatness was limitless then and it is endless now. The truth, the information we experienced and witnessed occurred in the other dimension when we were gathered in front of God and asked by the Almighty, "Am I not your Lord?" We all answered, "yes."

God-willing, we understand clearly the fact that we had committed something terrible against our souls which caused us to come to this big prison called earth. We did not stand for the absoluteness of God, even though we had borne witness that God was our Lord and we were aware of this through knowledge given by God (7:172).

Knowledge is defined in Webster's dictionary in the following terms: 1)the range of one's information or understanding, 2)the fact or condition of apprehending truth or fact, 3)the fact or condition of having information or of being learned.

Even though this great knowledge was given by God to the human being, the question arises as to what could have prevented the human being from remaining pure and standing for the absoluteness of God as the angels did? "...They harbored thoughts about God that were not true- the same thoughts they harbored during the days of ignorance. Thus they said, 'Is anything up to us?' Say, 'Everything is up to God...' (3:154). Whenever the human being thinks he can do anything, or feels he has any kind of control or power, he falls into the same trap of worshipping the ego which was initiated by Satan.

Praise be to God, we still have the perfect knowledge which God blessed us with previously. In addition to this, God blessed us tremendously with the Quran. We also were witnessing the purification of God's religion which gives us even better, more complete knowledge. This we ex-

perienced through God's servant- the Messenger of the Covenant. After all these blessings, after all these experiences, and after witnessing something so overwhelming, are we going to use this knowledge to acquire wisdom which would enable us to return to our Creator? Knowing this incredible knowledge and having lived with the Messenger of the Covenant, and having witnessed one of the greatest miracles, will cause our damnation if we don't use the knowledge, and attain the wisdom, to be with God in heaven when we get out of this prison on Earth.

Remember God gives an example for us to comprehend how the angels submit by realizing God's complete control (2:32). The angels do not question God's absolute authority. They do this without any doubt or question, and without the slightest hesitation. This is the way to attain the wisdom God gives us. Many examples in Quran show how unconditionally the angels constantly worship God alone. The angels attain their wisdom from God because they never abuse the knowledge which is limited within their realization. They never thought twice about questioning God's greatness, God's absolute control and power, plus God as being the only source of their existence. Angels depend on God and have chosen God as their only Master. They were pure enough to realize they did not want to do anything but serve God, worship Him, and stand on His absoluteness.

On the other hand there was an angel who thought he could go on his own and be a god besides the one God. Why? Is it because the devil thought he could survive without needing God? This is against the common sense which God has placed inside of all of us. How could any creature survive or try to become a god besides God when he positively knows he was created by God. This shows us the devil is an absolute idiot because even though God gave him knowledge, he could never be as powerful as the one who created him. This is knowledge without wisdom. How does ignorance come into existence? What causes it? One way is to think, can we actually do things on our own without God? I don't know how many of us can fully comprehend the reality that we absolutely have no control, not even an atom's size of any kind of control, except the decision to believe or disbelieve. This is something very hard to remember

without falling into ignorance.

Can we say having doubts about God's absoluteness, and thinking the devil could be a god besides God, is proof itself that the human being went against God's given, perfect knowledge; against the perfect sense of God? The human being had knowledge without the wisdom to go with it. This was something terrible we did against our souls.

Before we go any further on this subject, let us look at how Webster's dictionary defines the word **Wisdom**: 1)ability to discern inner qualities and relationships: insight, 2)good sense: judgement, 3)a wise attitude or course of action.

The human being had neither good sense or judgement, nor did he have a wise attitude when he chose to take the responsibility God talks about in Sura 33:72. To be very straightforward, we chose not to use the knowledge given to us by God wisely. Therefore this great knowledge did not become wisdom. Without wisdom the human being turned ignorant.

God's system is not changable on this earth. Are we making the same mistake we made in the other dimension? Are we abusing the knowledge?

How do we get out of this predicament? What is the most effective way of struggling to go back to our Creator and turning our knowledge into wisdom?

Instead of questioning God's wisdom, we should kill our egos and totally submit to His will, to His control, to His absolute authority. How do we do this? We must believe totally that we depend on God and we cannot survive without Him. We must remind ourselves, as much as we can, that we have absolutely no control of anything except our decision to believe or disbelieve. God is the only source of all goodness, all blessings, and all benefits. We must struggle to remember His greatness and try to comprehend and realize the power of our Creator. How can we think that we do anything? How can we give any credit to ourselves after knowing God is the one who created billions of galaxies containing a billion, trillion stars, within a vast universe that spans billions of light years? God also teaches us in the Quran that this vast universe is within His right hand (39:67).

(CONTINUED LAST PAGE)

A GIFT OF REMEMBRANCE

"They remember God while standing, sitting, and on their sides, and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth" (3:191).

"Ramadan is the month during which the Quran was revealed, providing guidance for the people, and profound teachings, as well as the statute book. Those of you who witness this month shall fast" (2:185).

God created us and knows our every wish, desire, and need. Our most basic needs are food and water. In addition to the physical benefits of fueling our bodies, we derive a great deal of satisfaction from a full stomach and a well-quenched thirst, no matter what the climate. And food and drink are at the center of the human being's celebrations.

It is not new for God to use food or water to get our attention. "Eat from the good things we provided for you" (2:57). At the birth of Jesus, Mary was told, "Eat and drink and be happy..." (19:26). All provisions are signs from God of His absolute authority, and His unending mercy towards the human beings. Celebrate the wonder of God.

God knows how to get our attention. He knows that the distractions of our daily lives frequently keep us from remembering Him "while standing, sitting, or lying on our sides." We strive to do our best as we go through our days, but we know that all provisions are given by God alone, and that all creatures are provided for. What peace to know this, without doubt. And how easily we take it for granted!

God has tested the human being with food and drink frequently, and He relates these tests that we might learn to be more appreciative, more aware of the true nature of our temporary world. For example, the majority of Saul's troops failed to pass the test at the stream, but for those that were steadfast, patient, and obedient, the reward was victory (2:249).

"We must test you with some fear, hunger, and loss of money, lives and crops. Give good news to the steadfast who say when an affliction befalls them, 'We belong to God, and to Him we ultimately return'" (2:155-156).

"Recall that you said, 'O Moses, we can no longer tolerate one kind of food. Call upon your Lord to produce such earthly crops as beans, cucumbers, garlic, lentils, and onions.' He said, 'Do you wish to substitute that which is inferior

for that which is good?'" (2:61).

"Remind them of the community by the sea, who desecrated the Sabbath. When they observed the Sabbath, the fish came to them abundantly. And when they violated the Sabbath, the fish did not come. We thus afflicted them as a consequence of their transgression" (7:163).

And of Adam and Eve, we read, "As for you Adam, dwell with your wife in Paradise, and eat therefrom as you please, but do not approach this one tree, lest you transgress. The devil whispered to them...Your Lord did not forbid you from this tree, except to prevent you from becoming angels, and from attaining eternal existence" (7:19-20).

Of all God's provisions of foods, only four are prohibited and if forced to eat these, we will not bear the consequences (2:173; 6:145; 16:115). God is so merciful as to provide for every possible circumstance of the human being's life. All things are lawful to eat. And He speaks frequently of water. He uses "pure drink" and "flowing streams" to describe the heaven we all strive for. He knows us and knows water is a source of life and internal peace for us. We are carried in water through nine months of pregnancy. It provides great comfort to us, psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually. God describes water and its source in many ways.

"Recall that Moses sought water for his people and we said, 'Strike the rock with your staff,' whereupon twelve springs gushed out therefrom" (2:60).

"Yet our hearts hardened and became like rocks, or even harder, for there are rocks from which rivers gush out. Other rocks crack and gently release water" (2:74).

"In the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, the ships that roam the ocean for the benefit of mankind, the water that God sends down from the sky to revive dead land and to sustain all kinds of creatures therein...these are signs for the people" (2:164).

And when implored by Job, He said, "Strike the ground with your foot. A spring will give you healing and a drink" (38:42).

Such a precious commodity and so freely given by God in His infinite mercy.

What are the conditions of fasting? "O you who believe, fasting is decreed for you, as it was decreed for those before you, that you may be

saved. 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 to feed more poor people, it is better. But fasting is the best for you, if you only knew. 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. Eat and drink until the white thread of light becomes distinguishable from the dark thread of night at dawn. Then fast until the night..." (2:183-187).

God decrees fasting at other times as well. As atonement for violating our oaths (5:89), for killing game during Hajj (5:95), and for estranging our spouse (58:4). God knows that fasting can be very difficult, but God also knows how quickly He can get our attention when decreeing it for us. These very basic needs are constant reminders of God's absolute mercy.

Preparation for the month of Ramadan extends beyond the 30 days of fasting. We are aware of the calendar, the months passing. As the days approach, we begin to plan for them, and pray that we will have a better Ramadan this year, and thus, commemorate God more frequently. We are grateful for shorter days, and we pay more attention to weather forecasts, hoping for cooler days. During the days of fasting, we look forward to a "family celebration" with our brothers and sisters each Friday evening. We spend time planning for that meal with joy. Some may experience headaches, lightheadedness, stomach rumbling, etc. We count minutes and hours more closely. Our attention is more focused on our bodily needs. Or is it?

The effects of fasting are many. What is perceived as a loss by some, is a real gain for our soul, and its growth. We have the chance to focus on our "real self," our soul and its nourishment. Our body's needs turn into reminders of God and the growth of our soul. We grow more alert to our provisions and their source. And through God's mercy, He weaves reminders of zakat for the poor. And we know hunger and thirst as the poor often do, to better understand why zakat is so important. And each salat prayer brings us closer to the days end and provisions (continued next page).

QURAN: THE FINAL TESTAMENT

(Authorized English Version)

With the Arabic Text

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