

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International
Community of Submitters

www.masjiduntucson.org



Published by Masjid Tucson
Rabi II 1424

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The Purpose of the Human Being

There is only one purpose, one mission for the human being: to be a righteous worshipper of God alone. This is clarified in verse 51:56 of the Quran where God says "I did not create the Jinns and the Humans except to worship me alone".

There are also the following verses:

[90:4] We created the Human being to work hard to redeem himself.

[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.

The reason we need to work hard is that redeeming ourselves and entering God's Kingdom is conditional upon passing God's admission tests.

[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.

[2:155] We will surely test you through some fear, hunger, and loss of money, lives, and crops. Give good news to the steadfast.

[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.

We need to work hard to overcome our human fickleness.

[39:49] If the human is touched by adversity he implores us, but as soon as we bestow a blessing upon him, he says, 'I attained this because of my cleverness!' Indeed, this is only a test, but most of them do not know.

So, we need to work hard to pass the admission tests. These are tests from God designed to demonstrate that we solidly believe that God alone has the power to benefit or harm. We need to demonstrate that we worship God alone, under all circumstances.

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admission tests to enter God's Kingdom, we need to choose our priorities carefully. Throughout the Quran, God reminds us that our top priority should be righteousness. That we should race towards righteousness.

[5:48] You shall compete in righteousness.

[3:133] You should eagerly race towards forgiveness from your Lord and a Paradise whose width encompasses the heavens and the earth; it awaits the righteous.

[2:148] Each of you chooses the direction to follow; you shall race towards righteousness. Wherever you may be, GOD will summon you all. GOD is Omnipotent.

So, the formula for success is righteousness. To do righteous works is to worship God alone. If we can fulfill these requirements, then God promises us that He will forgive us, and admit us into His Kingdom under His protection. God will let us know He is with us. We will have no doubt about it.

[5:9] GOD promises those who believe and lead a righteous life forgiveness and a great recompense.

In choosing our priorities, we must be careful not to become preoccupied with this worldly life. Preoccupation with this life leads to exile from God. Exile from God means that we are no longer under God's protection, so we become victims of Satan's incompetence, chaos, and misery.

[7:51] Those who do not take their religion seriously, and are totally preoccupied with this worldly life, we forget them on that day, because they spurned our revelations.

[17:18] Anyone who chooses this fleeting life as his priority, we will rush to him what we decide to give him, then we commit him to

Gehenna, where he suffers forever, despised and defeated.

[3:14-15] 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. Say 'let me inform you of a much better deal: for those who lead a righteous life, reserved at their Lord are gardens with flowing streams, and pure spouses, and joy in GOD's blessings.' GOD is Seer of His worshippers.

We are reminded in the Quran that the materials of this world are nil, and that we attain value at God only through righteousness. The materials of this world are all that the disbelievers get. We should not be impressed by their apparent success.

[57:20] Know that this worldly life is no more than play and games, and boasting among you, and hoarding of money and children. It is like abundant rain that produces plants and pleases the disbelievers. But then the plants turn into useless hay, and are blown away by the wind. In the hereafter there is either severe retribution, or forgiveness from GOD and approval. This worldly life is no more than a temporary illusion.

[3:91] Those who disbelieve and die as disbelievers, an earthful of gold will not be accepted from any of them, even if such a ransom were possible. They have incurred painful retribution; they will have no helpers.

[9:85] Do not be impressed by their money or their children; GOD causes these to be sources of misery for them in this world, and their souls depart as disbelievers.

We must never forget that Satan is our worst enemy.

[35:5-6] O people, GOD's promise is the truth; therefore, do not be distracted by this lowly life. Do not be diverted from GOD by mere illusions. The devil is your enemy, so treat him as an enemy. He only invites his party to be the dwellers of Hell.

So for our own good, let us make the best choice. For our own good let us make righteous works our priority. For our own good let us compete in righteousness.

[41:46] Whoever works righteousness, does so for his own good, and whoever works evil does so to his own detriment. Your Lord is never unjust towards the people.

Righteousness is God's only criterion for distinguishing among the people; and God defines righteousness in 2:177.

[49:13] O people, we created you from the same male and female, and rendered you distinct peoples and tribes, that you may recognize one another. The best among you in the sight of GOD is the most righteous. God is Omniscient, Cognizant.

[2:177] Righteousness is not turning your faces towards the east or 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 and give the obligatory charity; 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."

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Attitude

Contributor's note: Received this parable from a colleague at work - author or original source unknown.

It is probably an allegory, but there are some good parallels to what we believe in this.

I took the liberty of editing it just slightly and put my comments in [brackets].

The 92-year-old lady moved to a nursing home today. Her husband of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready.

As she maneuvered her walker to the elevator, her escort provided a visual description of her tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on her window. "I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"Mrs. Jones, you haven't seen the room just wait." "That doesn't have anything to do with it," she replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged ... it's how I arrange my mind. [Happiness is submission to God Alone—it is a priority we choose to make, or how we choose to arrange our minds.]

I have already decided to love it ... "It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away ... just for this time in my life.

Old age is like a bank account ... you withdraw from it what you've put in... So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories. [See ending]

No one can go back and make a brand new start. Anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending. [God never changes the condition of anyone unless they choose to change.]

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way. [God promises us victory.]

Disappointments are like road bumps, they slow you down a bit but you enjoy the smooth road afterwards. Don't stay on the bumps too long. Move on!

When you feel down because you didn't get what you want, just sit tight and be happy, because God has something better to give you. [Don't grieve over what you didn't get, because you weren't meant to have it.]

When something happens to you, good or bad, consider what it means. There's a purpose to life's events, to teach you how to laugh more or not to cry too hard. [Or to give thanks for the good, and ask for patience and understanding for the bad.]

You can't make someone love you, [or follow you]; all you can do is be someone who can be loved. The rest is up to the person to realize your worth.

We spend too much time looking for the right person to love or finding fault with those we already love, when instead we should be perfecting the love we give. [Do we idolize our ideal of the perfect person, whether it is a spouse, our child, a parent, or someone else? Or maybe make those same people in our lives miserable for the same reason - we idolize our fantasies of what we want others to be?]

Note: This story is very touching, and filled with good advice, but we should consider it in a broader context. Our lives should be a "bank account" for the Hereafter. Are we depositing for this life, as this story advises us to do, or are we depositing for the next life, which is what God advises us to do? Will we be able to withdraw from our "bank account" only in this life, or we will be able to withdraw from our "bank account" in the Hereafter?

We should all be concerned with our "portfolios" and our "net worth".

Do we each have a "certificate of deposit" or CD waiting to "rollover" in the Hereafter? The Quran is the ultimate "financial planner" for our future.

Happy savings to all!

Anna

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ISSN 1089-053X

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So, the formula for success is righteousness. To do righteous works is to worship God. If we can fulfill these requirements, then God will forgive us, and admit us into His Kingdom under His protection. God will let us know He is with us. We will have no doubt about it

[5:9] GOD promises those who believe and lead a righteous life forgiveness and a great recompense.

God rewards the righteous with perfect happiness, now and forever.

[20:75-76] As for those who come to Him as believers, who had lead a righteous life, they attain the high ranks. The gardens of Eden beneath which rivers flow, will be their abode forever. Such is the reward for those who purify themselves.

[28:89] Those who bring good works in their records will receive far better rewards, and they will be perfectly secure from the horrors of that day.

[39:61] And God will save those who have maintained righteousness; He will reward them. No harm will touch them, nor will they have any grief.

[41:30-32] Those who proclaim: 'Our Lord is GOD,' then lead a

righteous life, the angels descend upon them: "You shall have no fear, nor shall you grieve. Rejoice in the good news that Paradise has been reserved for you. We are your allies in this life, and in the Hereafter. You will have in it anything you wish for; you will have anything you want. Such is your ultimate abode from a For-giver, Most Merciful.

[83:22-26] The righteous have deserved bliss. On luxurious furnishings they watch. You recognize in their faces the joy of bliss. Their drinks will be spiced with nectar. Its spice is like musk. This is what the competitors should compete for.

Therefore let us race towards righteousness! And implore God to guide us on His straight path.

James H. / New Zealand (now lives in Bangkok)

[Ed.'s note: Send your comments or articles for the newsletter to Masjid Tucson address above, or by e-mail to info@masjiduntucson.org. God bless.]