

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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The Key (Al-Fatehah)

The Opening Prayer for establishing contact with our Creator

The first chapter (sura) of the Quran is called “The Key” or “Al-Fatehah” in Arabic. The Submitters (Muslims) recite this sura in Arabic during the Contact Prayers (Salat). Because of its frequent recitation, and the beautiful meaning and rhyme of its verses, all Submitters know this sura by heart and can recite it in Arabic very easily.

Numerical Combination

We learn from the verse (2:37) that God has given Adam words whereby He redeemed him. Similarly, God gave us the opening sura of the Quran, “The Key.” The Arabic sounds of “The Key” represent a numerical combination that helps us to establish contact with our Creator. It is similar to opening a

treasure box. Not only is “The Key” numerically structured like the rest of the Quran, but it is also composed in a way that our lips touch each other exactly 19 times when we recite this sura.

Other References

The literal, esoteric and mathematical composition of “The Key” does not seem to be unique to the Quran. The original or intact portions of the previous scriptures or prayers also had God’s signature on them.

For example, the following quotation is taken from STUDIES IN JEWISH MYSTICISM, (Association for Jewish Studies, Cambridge, Mass., Joseph Dan & Frank

Talmage, eds., Page 88, 1982). The quotation refers to the work of Rabbi Judah the Pious (12th Century AD):

The people [Jews] in France made it a custom to add [in the morning prayer] the words: “Ashrei temimei derekh [blessed are those who walk the righteous way],” and our Rabbi, the Pious, of blessed memory, wrote that they were completely and utterly wrong. It is all gross falsehood, because there are only nineteen times that the Holy Name is mentioned [in that portion of the morning prayer]... and similarly you find the word 'Elohim nineteen times in the pericope of Ve-elleh shemot....

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The Key

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Similarly, you find that Israel were called "sons" nineteen times, and there are many other examples. All these sets of nineteen are intricately intertwined, and they contain many secrets and esoteric meanings, which are contained in more than eight large volumes.... Furthermore, in this section there are 152 (19x8) words....

This phenomenon was hinted in the Quran.

Proclaim: "What if it is from God, and you disbelieved in it? A witness from the Children of Israel has borne witness to a similar phenomenon, and he has believed, while you have turned too arrogant to believe. God does not guide the wicked." [46:10]

Therefore, we must utter the specific sounds dictated in the first chapter of the Quran "Sura 1" or "The Key" as they are. Adding phrases before, or adding words at the end, such as "Amen," as some Muslims do, is not correct, and may nullify our Contact with the Creator. The question to ask of those who add words or phrases to the original verses should be "Are God's words not sufficient or good enough?"

Sura (Chapter) 1 is practically all the Arabic one needs to know. Reciting "The Key" in Arabic during the Contact Prayers (Salat) unifies all Submitters of the world, regardless of their languages. Whether we are in Japan, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, or in any other place in the world, when the Contact Prayers are performed, we hear the familiar recitation of "The Key." Even at those occasions the person leading the prayer (imam) may have an accent, it still sounds beautiful and harmonizes the Submitters.

Our God is One and the Same

We know that the Christian's Lord's prayer is very similar in content to "The Key." As a model of prayer, every Christian learns it by heart. During a trip to Jakarta, Indonesia, brother Gatut has come across an opening prayer practiced by the Diaspora Christian denomination. The prayer is called Ha Patchah. He found it very interesting that these Christians seem to have adopted many of the ancient Jewish practices in their rituals along with the Lord's Prayer. These observations confirm the Quranic accounts that all these prayers came from Abraham's ancient practice taught by God.

We provide you all these prayers for comparison. They are a reminder for us of the fact that our Creator is One and the Same, and no matter what we call ourselves, submitting to God's will is the true salvation, as highlighted in the following verse (see also 29:46). Praise God.

For each congregation we have decreed rites whereby they commemorate the name of GOD for providing them with the livestock. Your god is ONE AND THE SAME god; you shall all submit to Him. Give good news to the obedient. [22:34]

Abdullah

The Key (Al-Fatehah)

- [1:1] In the name of GOD, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.
- [1:2] Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe.
- [1:3] Most Gracious, Most Merciful.
- [1:4] Master of the Day of Judgment.
- [1:5] You alone we worship; You alone we ask for help.
- [1:6] Guide us in the right path;
- [1:7] the path of those whom You blessed; not of those who have deserved wrath, nor of the strayers.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HA PATCHAH **(THE OPENING PRAYER)**

BE SHEM ELAH HA RAHAMIM

In the name of God, the Most Gracious (Ezr.5:1; Dan.9:9)

T'HILAH L'ELOHEINU RIBOHN HA-OLAMIM

All praise be to God, Lord of the universe (Jewish liturgy)

HA RAHAMIM

The Most Gracious (Dan.9:9)

MELEK YOM HA DIN

Master of the Day of Judgment (Jewish terminology)

ELEKHA ADONAY EQARA WE EL ADONAY ET HANAN

To you, O Lord, I implore – and to my Lord I seek help (Psalm 30:9)

HEHENI BE ORACH MISHOR

Guide us in the straight path (Psalm 27:11)

ALEKHET BE DEREHU WE LEYAREH ITTO

The way of life according to His path by reverencing Him (Deut 8:6)

LE HALAK BE ETSAH RISHAH WE LA SAGHAH

Not by the advice of the cursed, nor of the strayers (Psalm 119:21)

Reference Verses from Torah and Hebrew transliteration:

B'shem elah yisrael aleihohn (Ezr.5:1).

In the name of the God of Israel

L'Adonai Eloheinu harachamim (Dan.9:9)

Unto Adonai our God the merciful

Eilechah Adonai ekra v'el-Adonai et-chanan (Psalm 30:9)

Unto You Adonai I called and unto Adonai I implored

Horeini Adonai darchechah u-n'cheini b'orach mishor. (Psalm 27:11)

Teach me, Adonai, your way and guide me (lit. make me right) on your straight path.

(Shamartah et-mitzvot Adonai elohechah) lalech bi'darchav u-l'yirah otoh (Deut 8:6)

(Keep/Guard God's commandments so that) you will walk (lit. to walk) in His paths and so that you will fear (lit. to fear; to be in awe of) Him

Ga-artah zeidim arurim hashogim mi-mitzvotachah (Psalm 119:21)

You have rebuked the insolent, accursed sinners who have strayed from Your commandments

[Ed's note: Many thanks to brother Gatut of Indonesia for providing the information on Ha Patchah, and sister Betsy of Jewish Congregation Or Chadash for checking the prayer for accuracy in Hebrew and for providing the Hebrew transliteration of the referenced verses from Torah.

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