

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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There is no god beside God

Our god is one and the same god; we shall all submit to Him

[47:19] You shall know that: "There is no other god beside GOD," and ask forgiveness of your sins and the sins of all believing men and women. GOD is fully aware of your decisions and your ultimate destiny.

God Almighty decrees the same religion for all the human beings. He commands us not to divide the religion.

[42:13] He decreed for you the same religion decreed for Noah, and what we inspired to you, and what we decreed for Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: "You shall uphold this one religion, and do not divide it." The idol worshipers will greatly resent what you invite them to do. GOD redeems to Himself whomever He wills; He guides to Himself only those who totally submit.

And, God consistently decrees the same correct *shahadah* (statement of faith) in all scriptures for all of us.

"You shall have no other god besides Me." (Exodus 20:3)

"I am the First and I am the Last; Be-

sides Me there is no god." (Isaiah 44:6)

You shall know that "There is no other god besides God." (Quran 47:19)

Please note that the name of Moses, Jesus or Muhammad is not attached to any of the above shahadah, and no distinction is made among messengers.

[2:136] Say, "We believe in GOD, and in what was sent down to us, and in what was sent down to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Patriarchs; and in what was given to Moses and Jesus, and all the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among any of them. To Him alone we are submitters."

[2:285] The messenger has believed in what was sent down to him from his Lord, and so did the believers. They believe in GOD, His angels, His scripture, and His messengers: "We make no distinction among any of His messengers." They say, "We hear, and we obey. Forgive us, our Lord. To You is the ultimate destiny."

[3:84] Say, "We believe in GOD, and in what was sent down to us, and in what was sent down to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Patriarchs, and in what was given to Moses, Jesus, and the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among any of them. To Him alone we are submitters."

[4:152] As for those who believe in GOD and His messengers, and make no distinction among them, He will grant them their recompense. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

God teaches us in the Quran that all human beings learned the same correct shahadah long before coming to this world, and the purpose is stated clearly.

[7:172] Recall that your Lord summoned all the descendants of Adam, and had them bear witness for themselves: "Am I not your Lord?" They all said, "Yes. We bear witness." Thus, you cannot say on the Day of Resurrection, "We were not aware of this."

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God Himself, angels and the people with knowledge, uphold the same correct shahadah.

[3:18] GOD bears witness that there is no god except He, and so do the angels and those who possess knowledge. Truthfully and equitably, He is the absolute god; there is no god but He, the Almighty, Most Wise.

The following story confirms that God taught Moses the same correct shahadah.

[20:11] When he came to it, he was called, "O, Moses.

[20:12] "I am your Lord; remove your sandals. You are in the sacred valley, Tuwaa.

[20:13] "I have chosen you, so listen to what is being revealed.

[20:14] "I am GOD; **there is no other god beside Me.** You shall worship Me alone, and observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) to remember Me.

Even the tyrant Pharaoh pronounced the same correct shahadah when he realized the approaching death!

[10:90] We delivered the Children of Israel across the sea. **Pharaoh** and his troops pursued them, aggressively and sinfully. When drowning became a reality for him, he said, "I believe that **there is no god except the One** in whom the Children of Israel have believed; I am a submitter."

Also, the Prophet Muhammad taught his contemporaries the **same correct shahadah.**

[37:35] When they were told, "**Laa Elaaha Ella Allah [There is no other god beside GOD],**" they turned arrogant.

[37:36] They said, "**Shall we leave our gods for the sake of a crazy poet?**"

The important phrases "There is no god but God" and "No god except He" occur in the Quran at least thirty times without associating anyone beside God!

According to the Quran, we are required to believe in God, the last day, angels, scriptures, and messengers. However, God never commands us to testify to any of these except God.

[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.

God and His messenger explain to us why it is not necessary to testify that Muhammad is the messenger.

[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.**

[4:166] But **GOD bears witness concerning what He has revealed to you;** He has revealed it with His knowledge. And **the angels bear witness as well, but GOD suffices as witness.**

[13:43] Those who disbelieved will say, "You are not a messenger!" Say, "**GOD suffices as a witness between me and you, and those who possess knowledge of the scripture.**"

[17:96] Say, "**GOD suffices as a witness between me and you.** He is fully Cognizant of His worshipers, Seer."

[46:8] When they say, "He fabricated this," say, "If I fabricated this, then you cannot protect me from GOD. He is fully aware of everything you scheme. **He suffices as a witness between me and you.** He is the Forgiver, Most Merciful."

Even in Sura Muhammad, God reminds us very clearly what should be our correct shahadah.

[47:19] You shall know that: "**There is no other god beside GOD,**" and ask forgiveness of your sins and the sins of all believing men and women. **GOD is fully aware of your decisions and your ultimate destiny.**

God and His messenger give us clear understanding that only hypocrites testify that Muhammad is the messenger of God.

[63:1] When the hypocrites come to you they say, "**We bear witness that you are the messenger of GOD.**" **GOD knows that you are His messenger, and GOD bears witness that the hypocrites are liars.**

The Corruption of Shahadah

The farewell sermon of the prophet was a significant historical event witnessed by thousands of people. Even though the *hadith* books reported at least three versions of the same sermon, all these versions tell us the same correct shahadah which is "La Elaha Ella Allah."

Sadly, after the death of the Prophet Muhammad, the hypocrite ulamah (religious scholars) ignored the teaching of God and His messenger and corrupted the correct shahadah by adding the name of the prophet next to God! They derived the corrupt shahadah from one of Abu Hurairah's bizarre hadith (Mishkat-ul-Masabih - translated by Moulana Fazlul Karim, Vol. 1, Chapter 1, no 27, published by the Book House, Lahore, Pakistan.)

According to this hadith, when the second caliph Omar heard the corrupt shahadah, he promptly punched Abu Hurairah in the chest and knocked him to the ground. Then Omar put his foot on Abu Hurairah's neck and asked him how could he dare to utter such blasphemy. Abu Hurairah cried out and named the messenger as his authority.

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When again challenged by Omar, Abu Hurairah pulled out a pair of leather slippers and showed them to Omar. The slippers, he said, were given to him by the prophet, as proof for what he was saying. Recognizing the prophet's slippers, Omar simmered down.

People who disobey God and His messenger and follow their ulamah are addressed by the following verses.

[9:31] They have set up their religious leaders and scholars as lords, instead of GOD. Others deified the Messiah, son of Mary. They were all commanded to worship only one god. There is no god except He. Be He glorified, high above having any partners.

[42:21] They follow idols who decree for them religious laws never authorized by GOD. If it were not for the predetermined decision, they would have been judged immediately. Indeed, the transgressors have incurred a painful retribution.

[2:170] When they are told, "Follow what GOD has revealed herein," they say, "We follow only what we found our parents doing." What if their parents did not understand, and were not guided?

[9:34] O you who believe, many religious leaders and preachers take the people's money illicitly, and rebel from the path of GOD. Those who hoard the gold and silver, and do not spend them in the cause of GOD, promise them a painful retribution.

[63:4] When you see them, you may be impressed by their looks. And when they speak, you may listen to their eloquence. They are like standing logs. They think that every call is intended against them. These are the real enemies; beware of them. GOD condemns them; they have deviated.

[14:21] When they all stand before GOD, the followers will say to the leaders, "We used to follow you. Can you

spare us even a little bit of GOD's retribution?" They will say, "Had GOD guided us, we would have guided you. Now it is too late, whether we grieve or resort to patience, there is no exit for us."

Quranic Prophecy

It is the Quranic prophecy that the majority of Muslims will ignore the sacred Quranic teaching and will reject the Quran.

[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 beside Him, they become satisfied.

[40:12] This is because when GOD ALONE was advocated, you disbelieved, but when others were mentioned beside Him, you believed. Therefore, GOD's judgment has been issued; He is the Most High, the Great.

[6:116] If you obey the majority of people on earth, they will divert you from the path of GOD. They follow only conjecture; they only guess.

[25:30] The messenger said, "My Lord, my people have deserted this Quran."

Last but not least, another reminder by God and His messenger to those who idolize the Prophet Muhammad and/or Ali beside God in their Shaha-dah.

[6:19] Say, "Whose testimony is the greatest?" Say, "GOD's. He is the witness between me and you that this Quran has been inspired to me, to preach it to you and whomever it reaches. Indeed, you bear witness that there are other gods beside GOD." Say, "I do not testify as you do; there is only one god, and I disown your idolatry."

May God guide us all.

M. Irtaza

ANECDOTE—Crackpot

A whole new meaning to "Crackpot" fromA water-bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it. The other pot was "Perfect" and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the crackpot arrived only half-full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the "perfect" pot was proud of its accomplishments... perfect for which it was made. However, the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and was miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half of my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all of the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work. Yet, you do not get full value from your efforts," the pot said. The bearer said to the pot, "did you notice that there are only flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That is because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Everyday, while we walk back, you have watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to enjoy in my home. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

MORAL: EACH OF US HAS OUR OWN UNIQUE FLAWS. We are all "crack pots". But it is the crack and the flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You have just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the GOOD IN THEM. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape. Remember to appreciate all of the different people in YOUR LIFE!!!. THANK YOU MY "CRACKPOT" FRIENDS!

Unknown author; Submitted by Morteza

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Masjid Tucson in the News

Arizona Daily Star, the daily newspaper of the city of Tucson, Arizona published an article about the city's Muslim women on 01.21.2007. The article was titled "City's Muslim women move up - Move into main room reflects a changing Islam." The article was based mainly on the news that women attending the Friday sermon in the Islamic Center of Tucson, a "sunni" mosque, are for the first time able to see the person giving the sermon: *"For the first time since Tucson's largest mosque was completed in 1990, women there may pray in view of the imam and other leaders on a consistent basis."*

The separation of women in a mosque to enclosed quarters is an innovation and cultural imposition rather than a religious requirement. Some of the women in the Islamic Center realized this fact and are quoted saying that *"in the days of the Prophet Muhammad there were no barriers. Rather, the women prayed a few feet behind the men."*

In Masjid Tucson (Mosque of Tucson) there have never been barriers for women since its establishment in the mid 1970's by Dr. Rashad Khalifa. Women do not have to cover their hair as a religious requirement either, since the covering of hair is not in the Quran.

The newspaper allocated almost a full page for this article with all pictures taken at Masjid Tucson showing our sisters hugging each other in congratulations after the Friday (Jum'a) prayer. The article quoted the following:

"At the International Community of Submitters/Masjid Tucson in Midtown, women pray in the same room as men, typically at the back. The "submitters," as they call themselves, have about 100 members in Tucson. The key difference between submitters and mainstream Islam, its followers say, is that they follow only the Quran, not customs outside of the Quran."

[Quran 22:16] We have thus revealed clear revelations herein, then GOD guides whoever wills (to be guided).

Masjid Tucson Forms Interfaith Bridges

A group of 13 women from Church Women United (CWU), an interfaith organization, came to the Friday (Jum'a) prayer service on 01.26.2007 as part of an effort to increase the communications and understanding among the people of different religions.

The women enjoyed the khutbah (sermon) and observed the prayer. They were appreciative of the opportunity to visit a mosque and see a sermon, and they continued with questions and discussion after the sermon. They have been presented with Qurans, the pamphlets on Understanding Islam (Submission) and some copies of the Submitters Perspective newsletters.

God willing there will be another group of CWU women visiting Masjid Tucson soon to continue the dialog started with the initial meeting.