

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 I 1431

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The Believers' Shahadah

True Proclamation of Faith

Before we humans were banished to this earth, God Most Merciful gave us crucial information we would need to redeem ourselves. Thus we are born with instinctive knowledge about God:

[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."*

[7:173] *Nor can you say, "It was our parents who practiced idolatry, and we simply followed in their footsteps. Will You punish us because of what others have innovated?"*

[7:174] *We thus explain the revelations, to enable the people to redeem themselves.*

The major commandments are very clear in the Quran:

[4:36] *You shall worship GOD alone - do not associate anything with Him...*

[13:36] *...Say, "I am simply enjoined to worship GOD, and never associate any idols with Him. I invite to Him, and to Him is my ultimate destiny."*

We took a covenant with God to uphold these commandments. Otherwise, the devil is the other alternative.

[36:60] *Did I not covenant with you, O Children of Adam, that you shall not worship the devil? That he is your most ardent enemy?*

[36:61] *And that you shall worship Me alone? This is the right path.*

[36:62] *He has misled multitudes of you. Did you not possess any understanding?*

[5:7] *Remember GOD's blessing upon you, and His covenant that He covenanted with you: you said, "We hear and we obey." You shall observe GOD; GOD is fully aware of the innermost thoughts.*

How did we go wrong?

Satan, our most ardent enemy, has once again caused multitudes of humans to disregard our Creator's soul-

saving advice. He has whispered to us that there is no harm in associating others with God as "we are merely acknowledging and giving respect to God's messengers." Whom should we believe? God, Lord of the Universe, or Satan who duped us before and caused our eviction from Paradise?

[7:19] *"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 fall in sin."*

[7:20] *The devil whispered to them, in order to reveal their bodies, which were invisible to them. He said, "Your Lord did not forbid you from this tree, except to prevent you from becoming angels, and from attaining eternal existence."*

[7:21] *He swore to them, "I am giving you good advice."*

[7:22] *He thus duped them with lies. As soon as they tasted the tree, their bodies became visible to them, and they tried to cover themselves with the*

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leaves of Paradise. Their Lord called upon them: "Did I not enjoin you from that tree, and warn you that the devil is your most ardent enemy?"

The Quran, God's great gift to us, repeatedly gives us the correct information about the most important commandment and the greatest criterion:

[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.*

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

[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.*

[3:79] *Never would a human being whom GOD blessed with the scripture and prophethood say to the people, "Idolize me beside GOD." Instead, (he would say), "Devote yourselves absolutely to your Lord alone," according to the scripture you preach and the teachings you learn.*

[3:80] *Nor would he command you to idolize the angels and the prophets as lords. Would he exhort you to disbelieve after becoming submitters?*

The Most Gracious further informs us that He sent all of His messengers with the same message (shahadah).

[21:25] *We did not send any messenger before you except with the inspiration: "There is no god except Me; you shall worship Me alone."*

In addition, God gives us enough examples of His messengers to eradicate all doubt.

[7:59] *We sent Noah to his people, saying, "O my people, worship GOD; you have no other god beside Him. I fear for you the retribution of an awesome day."*

[21:56] *He said, "Your only Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, who created them. This is the testimony to which I bear witness. (Abraham)*

[7:158] *Say, "O people, I am GOD's messenger to all of you. To Him belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth. There is no god except He. He controls life and death." Therefore, you shall believe in GOD and His messenger, the gentile prophet, who believes in GOD and His words. Follow him, that you may be guided. (Moses)*

[3:51] *"GOD is my Lord and your Lord; you shall worship Him alone. This is the right path." (Jesus)*

Prophet Muhammad preached the Quran, the whole Quran, and nothing but the Quran:

[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." (Muhammad)*

God's Messenger of the Covenant also preached the same message:

[13:30] *We have sent you (O Rashad) to this community, just as we did for other communities in the past. You shall recite to them what we reveal to you, for they have disbelieved in the Most Gracious. Say, "He is my Lord. There is no god except He. I put my trust in Him alone; to Him is my ultimate destiny."*

In fact, every single messenger of God, without any exception, came with the same straightforward message:

[7:65] *To `Aad we sent their brother Hood. He said, "O my people, worship GOD; you have no other god beside*

Him. Would you then observe righteousness?"

[21:87] *And Zan-Noon (Jonah, "the one with an `N' in his name"), abandoned his mission in protest, thinking that we could not control him. He ended up imploring from the darkness (of the big fish's belly): "There is no god other than You. Be You glorified. I have committed a gross sin."*

[12:38] *"And I followed instead the religion of my ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We never set up any idols beside GOD. Such is the blessing from GOD upon us and upon the people, but most people are unappreciative. (Joseph)*

[7:73] *To Thamoud we sent their brother Saaleh. He said, "O my people, worship GOD; you have no other god beside Him. Proof has been provided for you from your Lord: here is GOD's camel, to serve as a sign for you. Let her eat from GOD's land, and do not touch her with any harm, lest you incur a painful retribution.*

[7:85] *To Midyan we sent their brother Shu`aib. He said, "O my people, worship GOD; you have no other god beside Him. Proof has come to you from your Lord. You shall give full weight and full measure when you trade. Do not cheat the people out of their rights. Do not corrupt the earth after it has been set straight. This is better for you, if you are believers.*

[20:90] *And Aaron had told them, "O my people, this is a test for you. Your only Lord is the Most Gracious, so follow me, and obey my commands."*

[37:125-6] *"Do you worship a statue, instead of the Supreme Creator? GOD; your Lord, and the Lord of your forefathers!" (Elias)*

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[23:32] *We sent to them a messenger from among them, saying, "You shall worship GOD. You have no other god beside Him. Would you not be righteous?" (Unknown)*

The Quran which God calls the "Messenger of God," undoubtedly proclaims the same message:

[11:2] *Proclaiming: "You shall not worship except GOD. I come to you from Him as a warner, as well as a bearer of good news.*

What of those of us who are not messengers? God gives us our examples.

[46:13] *Surely, those who say, "Our Lord is GOD," then lead a righteous life, will have no fear, nor will they grieve.*

[31:13] *Recall that Luqmaan said to his son, as he enlightened him, "O my son, do not set up any idols beside GOD; idolatry is a gross injustice."*

[18:14] *We strengthened their hearts when they stood up and proclaimed: "Our only Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. We will never worship any other god beside Him. Otherwise, we would be far astray. (Dwellers of the Cave)*

[18:38] *"As for me, GOD is my Lord, and I will never set up any other god besides my Lord. (The man from the garden)*

[7:121] *They said, "We believe in the Lord of the universe. (The magicians)*

[2:133] *Had you witnessed Jacob on his death bed; he said to his children, "What will you worship after I die?" They said, "We will worship your god; the god of your fathers Abraham, Ismail, and Isaac; the one god. To Him we are submitters."*

[72:1] *Say, "I was inspired that a group of jinns listened, then said, 'We have heard a wonderful Quran.*

[72:2] *" `It guides to righteousness, and we have believed in it; we will never set up any idols beside our Lord.*

[72:3] *" `The Most High is our only Lord. He never had a mate, nor a son.*

In all the examples that God has given in the Quran of believers proclaiming their faith in Him (Shahadah), there is not one who has mentioned any other name with God. The only instance in the Quran where this occurs is in Sura 63 titled Hypocrites:

[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.*

[63:2] *Under the guise of their apparent faith, they repel the people from the path of GOD. Miserable indeed is what they do.*

[63:3] *This is because they believed, then disbelieved. Hence, their minds are blocked; they do not understand.*

God calls these people hypocrites and alerts us to their ultimate destiny.

[4:145] *The hypocrites will be committed to the lowest pit of Hell, and you will find no one to help them.*

If any person still harbors doubt after all these examples from his Creator, perhaps he/she should choose to be on the safe side and consider Abraham's conclusion:

[19:48] *"I will abandon you and the gods you worship beside GOD. I will worship only my Lord. By imploring my Lord alone, I cannot go wrong."*

Lory

[Ed.'s note: We appreciate your contributions to the Submitters Perspective in the form of articles, comments and suggestions. Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@masjidtucson.org. God bless you.]

Weekly Reminders by Email

God willing we are in the process of sending weekly reminders to submitters who are in our email list. The weekly reminder email will not be long. It will only consist of the topic of the week, and the corresponding link or links to get the information from. The reminders will be sent every Thursday, God willing.

[51:55] *And remind, for the reminder benefits the believers.*

We would like every submitter, whether receiving our newsletters or not, to be included in the list. God willing you can join the list by sending an email to info@masjidtucson.org and saying that you want to be in the weekly reminder list. If you want to make it a really short email, just write "weekly reminder" in the subject line and send it.

On the other hand, if you optionally include the city and state where you live in the email you send us, God willing we can compile this information and use it for the submitters without a community who are asking to communicate with other submitters in their area.

Please, God willing, help us to help you and other submitters by joining the list and by being proactive.

[3:200] *O you who believe, you shall be steadfast, you shall persevere, you shall be united, you shall observe GOD, that you may succeed.*

[13:11] *Shifts (of angels) take turns, staying with each one of you—they are in front of you and behind you. They stay with you, and guard you in accordance with GOD's commands. Thus, **GOD does not change the condition of any people unless they themselves make the decision to change.** If GOD wills any hardship for any people, no force can stop it. For they have none beside Him as Lord and Master.*

[87:9] *Therefore, you shall remind; perhaps the reminder will benefit.*

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ISSN 1089-053X

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Comments From An Iranian Submitter

In the name of Allah,

Salaam,

... I was born in [x] in Iran. You know that 80 percent of Iranian people are Shia, believing 12 Imams after Muhammad. These Imams are considered to be a complementary to the Quran!

Iranian people have many gods: 12 Imams, Muhammad's daughter Fatima, and Muhammad himself. But this is not enough to satisfy them, therefore additional gods are required (heroes of Karbala battle): Abbas ibn Ali (Abol-fadh), Zainab (Ali's daughter) and even Hussain's infant: Ali Asqar!

There are over 100,000 tombs of so-called Fatima's offspring; they are in each city and village! People think that these tombs have the power of intercession!

I hesitated in believing religious ideas since childhood. I entered the university to study medicine in 1988. I educated as a general practitioner in 1995. I was a disbeliever till 5 years ago. Thereafter I became an ignorant Muslim, but with many doubts and suspicions about Shia.

Last year I visited a Bahai man. I asked him to bring me their books. They believe that Aqdas and Iqan are revelations to their prophet. After I studied these books, I found that belief in hidden imam (12th imam) terminated to making Bahai religion.

Then I concluded that true and real Islam is Sunnism, but which sect should be my choice: Hanafi, Shafe'i, Hanbali or Maleki? I studied about these sects and their books.

These sects claim that they have the real Sunna, but there is much controversy among them. I was confused till two months ago. Accidentally (now I know that it was not an accident but guidance from my God) I entered your website, and now I am trying to be a submitter.

But there are many problems, you know. Nobody can believe true Islam. My colleagues laugh at me and say he is crazy. I told the truth to my parents and my brothers, praise be to God, they are thinking about it. My mother said to me: be careful! Otherwise you will be sentenced to death by the government as an apostate.

My wife is a nice woman and she is [x] years old. She accepted that the majority of people are idolaters but she cannot still believe that a woman can pray while menstruating.

Obviously in Iran there are a few submitters, I know just two of them by their websites... I cannot meet them because they cannot introduce themselves. Iranian supreme leader thinks that he is the representative of Mahdi (hidden imam), then you can suppose what will be the punishment for those who deny Mahdi.

I am very depressed for ignorance of people. I am so alone, for example how can I observe my Friday prayer?

I have a plenty of questions to ask. Would I ask your help to assist your just awaked drowsy brother, God willing?

Sincerely yours.

[Name withheld]

Ed.'s note: Thank you for sharing your experiences with us. They are important to all submitters to reflect on. Please send your comments to info@masjiduntucson.org. God bless you.]

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