

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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No Compulsion in Religion

***Had your Lord willed, all the people on earth would have believed.
Do you want to force the people to become believers? (10:99)***

God created our physical Universe and everything therein is governed by His laws. No entity in nature can swerve away from its path or give up its function or task which was allocated to it by the Almighty. In other words, everything submits itself to the Will of God readily or reluctantly.

[3:83] Are they seeking other than GOD's religion, when everything in the heavens and the earth has submitted to Him, willingly and unwillingly, and to Him they will be returned?

Everything is submissive to God whether by choice or constraint. The stars and planets, the plants and trees all precisely obey and are faithful to the laws of nature fashioned by God. Insects, birds and animals live by instinct and intuition and lack reason and higher intellect. They may or may not be docile and obedient. They have not asked for freedom of choice and free will for which they would have to be answerable to their Initiator. There is also an unfathomable amount of Angels who are invisible and strictly follow God's commands.

In God's entire creation, the human is the only creature who demanded freedom of choice and free will. God endowed us with faculty of reasoning and intellect. We are capable of doing both good and evil. We can obey and disobey God or do both. We can choose to submit or even object.

[91:6-9-10] The earth and Him who sustains it. The soul and Him who created it. Then showed it what is evil and what is good. Successful is one who redeems it. Failing is one who neglects it.

The Most Merciful gave the human a gift of a conscience and a moral sense to help us make a distinction between right and wrong. Our conscience "pricks" us when we even contemplate to do something wrong.

We have all been given a fixed interim of life on Earth and during our stopover here we are tested and judged by God Almighty. We are on probation and trial. We are all accountable to God for our good and bad deeds for which we will be rewarded or punished.

God instituted religion for the humans. The word "religion" comes from the Latin word "religio" which means "to bind together." What does it bind? Three ingredients – theology, philosophy and spirituality. Islam has, by the Grace of God, accommodated them all in their correct and rightful proportions. Religion was introduced to uplift moral and social values, and the Monotheism is the natural instinct placed into the people by God:

[30:30] Therefore, you shall devote yourself to the religion of strict monotheism. Such is the natural instinct placed into the people by GOD. Such creation of GOD will never change. This is the perfect religion, but most people do not know.

Philosophy came about to improve the human's mental attitude. The knowledge of philosophy is based on doubts and reasoning but when it reaches the boundaries of the future life, it fails in its objectives because there is no place for doubt in that world.

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Spirituality made the concept of spirit and soul emerge as external and internal powers respectively. Theology was applied in the form of “fear” of the unseen in earlier societies. The propagators of this concept were the rulers and/or “priests” who used rituals and human sacrifices to terrorize the people. They projected god as impersonal, harsh, angry and punishing and projected themselves as the link between the people and their gods.

The three ingredients of religion improve the morality of humankind and elevate society in three different ways – theology through fear, philosophy through logic and spirituality through love. Theology deals with the world of the unseen, philosophy through the world of the seen and spirituality with both. The last entity plays a vital role of bridging the gap between the two worlds.

The Quran was the evolution and understanding to the soul that highlighted love, humbleness, tolerance and obedience as its desired acts amongst other noble deeds. It also clarified that good deeds are prerequisites for the follower of this path towards the world of the Hereafter. The concept also expresses God as love, kindness and justice who can be reached through good deeds and not necessarily panic or terror.

God sent Prophets and Messengers from time to time to direct humankind.

[16:36] *We have sent a messenger to every community, saying, “You shall worship GOD, and avoid idolatry.” Subsequently, some were guided by GOD, while others were committed to straying. Roam the earth and note the consequences for the rejectors.*

He sent His Warners to every community on earth.

[35:24] *We have sent you with the truth, a bearer of good news, as well*

as a warner. Every community must receive a warner.

These Prophets and Messengers conveyed the same Celestial Message to their respective communities, tribes and people. They did it with relentless struggle and persistent efforts. For example Noah lived a very long time with his people (950 years). On deputing him God says:

[29:14] *We sent Noah to his people, and he stayed with them one thousand years, less fifty. Subsequently, they incurred the flood because of their transgressions.*

God does not say “We sent Noah to the non believers.” Similarly, when Noah addressed his people he said:

[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.”*

He was not commanded to say “O non-believers.”

God does not declare anyone unbelievers or disbelievers without giving them many opportunities even in this third and final chance. We also understand that Prophet Muhammad took 23 years to deliver the Quran. He worked in the cause of God with patience and perseverance. He had a huge responsibility and was required to accomplish his task. People were given ample time and opportunity to think and decide for themselves the itinerary for the future.

Proselytizing work (try to convert somebody) is a challenging and delicate task. It demands wisdom, deep sincerity, patience, steadfastness and extraordinary care. Our communication, behavior and style while transmitting the Message should not reflect any kind of compulsion. However, one has to warn:

[50:45] *We are fully aware of everything they utter, while you have no power over them. Therefore, remind with this Quran, those who reverence My warnings.*

If there is force applied it would be counter productive to the very spirit of the Divine Plan to allow a human the power of choice and freedom. Any duress applied would snatch away the freedom of choice and free will. It also renders the concept of accountability meaningless and the demands of justice will not be met while awarding reward and punishment.

People think that the Prophet launched his campaign with “sword in one hand and Quran in the other.” But this is simply not true. Would he be the first to break God’s commandment? Early in the Quran God says:

[2:256] *There shall be no compulsion in religion: the right way is now distinct from the wrong way. Anyone who denounces the devil and believes in GOD has grasped the strongest bond; one that never breaks. GOD is Hearer, Omniscient.*

How about Sura 109 - The Disbelievers (*Al Kaferoon*)? This Sura ends beautifully with the following peaceful statement:

[109:6] *“To you is your religion, and to me is my religion.”*

A quote from M.K. Gandhi regarding his views on Islam’s expansion in early days is worth noting:

“...I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement (withdrawing into the background; making yourself inconspicuous) of the Prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity (courage), his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These, and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every trouble.”
YOUNG INDIA, 1924.

How to spread God’s Message is spelled out in the Quran:

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[16:125] You shall invite to the path of your Lord with wisdom and kind enlightenment, and debate with them in the best possible manner. Your Lord knows best who has strayed from His path, and He knows best who are the guided ones.

[29:46] Do not argue with the people of the scripture (Jews, Christians, and Muslims) except in the nicest possible manner - unless they transgress - and say, "We believe in what was revealed to us and in what was revealed to you, and our god and your god is one and the same; to Him we are submitters."

In this way, the Quran not only emphasized the use of the best available fundamentals but also the best possible method. Thus, there is no obligation of Islam on non believers. Coercion in any form or denomination does not exist at all in Quranic teachings.

It is the Divine Scheme that a human should be given absolute freedom to think and act freely. God does not snatch this freedom from us at any moment of our life span. All Prophets and Messengers were assigned the task to gently coax people into accepting and believing what was revealed to them. They just convey the message to humankind.

However, even the Prophet or the Messenger cannot guide us. Only God guides:

[28:56] You cannot guide the ones you love. GOD is the only One who guides in accordance with His will, and in accordance with His knowledge of those who deserve the guidance.

[24:46] We have sent down to you clarifying revelations, then GOD guides whoever wills (to be guided) in a straight path.

[6:149] Say, "GOD possesses the most powerful argument; if He wills He can guide all of you."

Alim C.

Comments From Submitters

Salamun alaykum

It's like a candle lit glow through the darkness, shadows appear and disappear. ... whether you choose to believe or whether you don't know who to follow, you need to trust in the light of the Book (the Quran) and you need to put the Book as your light and your way home will be lit. But if you take illusions as real, then the light may leave you behind, or there maybe obstacles in your way that you would need the light to know how to get beyond them. May God guide us to the straight path, may God enlighten us, and may we find our way home in the Garden of Eden. I submit to the Lord of the heavens and the earth, the one God, Exalted is He.

I don't know sometimes I seek God's protection from the uncertainty and of hypocrisy. I hope no grey zone appears in my writing or in my experience, if I follow the light of the Quran and submit then there will be light and an answer.

Islam is an Abrahamic faith, not Muhammadan. It was Abraham who named us Muslims, Submitters if you follow or read the Quran, but the followers broke away into sects and different groups. ... There is only one God, I submit to Him. To God belong the most beautiful names.

Submission to the will of God—when Abraham was asked, do you submit? His response was, I submit to the Lord of the heavens and the earth. This is the perfect religion, Submission the religion of Abraham, whose belief was that there is no other god besides God, and there is none worthy of worship except God.

Return, think twice, remove the burden and enter the religion of Peace.

Kashif

Salam Alikom

I am so glad to find your website—right after my prayer to Allah, seeking for truth about what is the true Islamic faith. I am a new convert. What attracted me to Islam is its ability to answer my questions about Christianity. The Quran shows me a God that is all loving, all-powerful, and all-merciful. Quran shows me a God that is complete in His teaching (as it should be).

Then my boyfriend who was raised in Morocco, recently started giving me issues

about the way I dress ("non-Islamic" according to the Mosque leaders here as well as the hadiths). I am modest, and by no means try to flaunt myself and get attention.

We've been practically arguing every day about following the Quran vs. following the Hadiths. He thinks Hadiths should be followed because that's what the Prophet (peace be upon him) said or did. I think the Hadiths are the Muslim equivalent of the Christian Gospel—not a direct word of God and has been altered and created by men. My constant argument- because God is all-knowing and goes into details about so many things in the Quran, why wouldn't he put a specific dress code there? To follow the hadith is to say the Quran is incomplete.

Anyway- I am so glad (alhamdulillah) that I found your site. I was getting very upset and doubting my ability to follow Islam anymore if the "institutionalized teaching" requires Muslims, or the submitters (to Allah), to follow Mohammed's words and actions that aren't documented in the Quran. Unfortunately, the mosques I have been trying to go to all enforce "Islamic" dress codes. I actually got kicked out of two of them because my hair wasn't covered—both times when I was trying to learn more about the faith.

Are there "submitters" here in NYC area and where do they meet? I plan on going to your July conference, and hopefully (if God wills) that my boyfriend will open his heart and seek complete truth in the Quran—and only Quran. Meanwhile, I'd love to still practice my duties as a Muslim (and not be kicked out of a mosque) because my hair isn't covered. I'd much appreciate it if you can recommend a mosque to go to in NY that will allow me to practice my faith, prescribed by God alone—rather than a faith that has been institutionalized through centuries.

Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely,

Sister LK

Peace be upon you and all my submitting brothers and sisters around the world,

Just wanna let you know that I really enjoy reading all the information you provide on your website, and wanna gives thanks for all the submitters perspectives, they totally rock. Keep up the good work.

K. from London

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Submitter at last

Thank you for the wonderful information on your web site. I reverted almost 7 years ago and I stopped praying and fasting because I was disillusioned with many aspects of "traditional" Islam.

From the Muslims that I spoke to and from the Fatwas (religious decrees) I read, I felt that there was too much required to be a good Muslim, especially in today's modern, American society. It seemed to me that the "laws" that were being espoused were made for a society that existed 1700 years ago.

I felt that if the Islam is truly the straight path, then it must apply to all societies throughout all times. I couldn't understand how to reconcile the supposed teachings of Islam with modern life.

I always felt inside that the Quran must be the ONLY source of guidance, but I was told that this was not true. Now, after reading the information on your website and after 5 years of being a non-practicing Muslim, I intend to begin praying, fasting during Ramadan, and giving *Zakat*, as the Quran teaches, Insha Allah (God willing).

Jay W

[6:79] *"I have devoted myself absolutely to the One who initiated the heavens and the earth; I will never be an idol worshiper."*

[6:82] *Those who believe, and do not pollute their belief with idol worship, have deserved the perfect security, and they are truly guided.*

A Submitter's view on idolatry

Salaam,

I am writing just to express my thoughts about idolatry.

The main reason why we are brought into this earth is to make a decision to either be with God or with Satan. After making such a decision, we are required to work hard and redeem ourselves.

Basically the primary reason we are here is to worship God. All the other things we do, for example, working, family, all other worldly activities are only for this world, for our survival in this world. The real reason is to prepare for our next life. When we forget this and concentrate on our worldly survival, we lose both this world and the next.

And if we fail our test of worshipping God by falling into idol worship, we will not be forgiven; we will end up losers (4:116).

Idol worship being our test, we need to have a good look at it. There are various forms of idol worship which are mentioned in the Quran; for example, prophets, saints, religious leaders, our opinion (ego), other people's opinion, jinns, children, spouse, business, worldly life and so on.

Any kind of idol worship is invariably worshipping Satan, following what he wants us to do. Satan is the one who entices people into idol worship.

We should continually seek refuge in God from Satan the rejected (Sura 114).

Kind regards,

Kamal S

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