

FINE TUNING TOWARDS SUBMISSION

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"OUR LORD, MAKE US SUBMITTERS TO YOU, AND FROM OUR DESCENDANTS LET THERE BE A COMMUNITY OF SUBMITTERS TO YOU. TEACH US THE RITES OF OUR RELIGION, AND REDEEM US. YOU ARE THE REDEEMER, MOST MERCIFUL" (2:128).

God emphasizes our purpose in this life in Sura 11:118-119, *"Had your Lord willed, all the people would have **been one** believing congregation. But they will always dispute the truth. Except for those redeemed by your Lord. This is why He created them. The decision of your Lord has already **been** issued: "I will fill Hell with jinn and humans, all together."*

If God had willed, he could have guided all the people. He could have made all the people believe. The idea, however, is to let the people disbelieve and dispute. We know from the Quran that the whole reason for our existence occurred when Satan claimed he could be a god besides God. Our Lord called Satan's bluff. He said, "OK, I'm going to make you a god and all the creatures will see how you handle it. It will be clear that you can never be a god."

God made Satan a temporary god. God created the planet earth as Satan's dominion and created human beings as Satan's constituents. In order to be a ruler or god, there has to be a dominion and constituents. God gave human beings free will and they could, therefore, choose Satan as their master, if this was their will. We can either join in Satan's point of view which is that God alone is not enough or choose the only true point of view which is that God alone is enough.

If all the people sided with God's point of view, there would be no further reason for our existence. We learn from the above mentioned verses in Sura 11 that God knew we would dispute and disbelieve, and that many of us would choose Satan over God alone. Anytime that we side with Satan, we enter into his kingdom. We can see that Satan is incompetent. He cannot keep the world from having accidents, misery or pain. He cannot maintain a perfect world. We must use caution not to do anything that remotely resembles Satan's point of view or we will become his constituents. Thus, he will claim us.

One idea greatly promoted by Satan is racism. Satan is the number one racist. God quotes Satan as saying in Sura 7:12, *"He said, 'What prevented you from prostrating when I ordered you?' He (Satan) said, 'I am better than he; You created me from fire, and created him from mud.'" This verse is repeated several places in the Quran. Satan was obviously looking down on the human being. This is racism and one of Satan's principles. God teaches us that we are supposed to stand against oppression. However, we have to be able to distinguish racism from oppression in all its forms. Oppression comes in many forms and racism is one of them. For the forty-seven years I've been on this planet, I've had to face racism. If I continue to complain, I am not submitting. God created me and He knows my innermost thoughts. I have to address the character defect in my own self in order to submit. God says in Sura 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."** God created us all for this test.*

Every nationality, every color, every size, and every shape will face the test of racism. Whatever I say or do which resembles racism will cause my entry into Satan's kingdom. For example, the celebration of Martin Luther King Day in Arizona has been subjected to debate. If I go ahead and march in protest, I have to ask myself if I am doing this because of his color, or if I'm doing this because of God.

Would I do the same thing if they cancelled Columbus Day? Washington's Birthday? Lincoln's Birthday? They are not black. They are European-Americans. Would I do the same thing? If I'm doing this for color, that makes me a racist. If I'm doing this for God, then I'm submitting. I can be a racist from any angle- as the oppressor or the oppressed. In either case Satan can claim me and I would deserve to be with him.

We don't have to wait until we die to experience heaven. The prize is attainable now. God tells us in the Quran that we can be kings and queens on earth. This can belong to us now as well as in the Hereafter. We have made a decision to worship God alone. Now we must work on time tuning ourselves to rid ourselves of imperfections. This is comparable to polishing a stone to a fine jewel. How long does this take? It depends on the roughness of the stone, what tools you're using, and how often the polishing takes place. Fine tuning eliminates our character defects little by little.

As for myself, even though the process seems slow, things do come into focus and the light comes on. What makes the Quran so great is that you can read it over and over and still find something that is new, at a time when you are to understand it in a new way, or paying attention to it for the first time concurrent with your life experience. This, again, is called fine tuning, or taking care of shortcomings within ourselves.

Thank God for allowing us to reach this point of worshiping Him alone and letting us look at our imperfections and shortcomings. Let us move forward with the fine tuning and polishing of the stones of our shortcomings into jewels of perfection, total submission to God alone.

ALL GLORY BE TO GOD!