

*Qhutbah, Insha Allah, Friday, January 23, 2004*

*Alhamdu lillah, wa ash hadu ala ila ha ill lallah*

*Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim*

Submission is both the first and the last religion of humanity. Every prophet and messenger reaffirmed the true Shahadah – there is no god but God and to worship Him alone. It is not a religion of only the clergy but for us all in our original nature to enable us make it Insha to Paradise in the Hereafter. It is rational, consistent and logical and is not such that simple folk would not be able to comprehend.

Submission makes us understand that we humans were whimsical and are the lowest forms of God's creation – just above the jinns. [33:72] We have offered the responsibility (freedom of choice) to the heavens and the earth, and the mountains, but they refused to bear it, and were afraid of it. But the human being accepted it; he was transgressing, ignorant.

However, God has given us limited power and has subdued the sun, the moon and the animals for us due to His immense Mercy. [14:33] He has committed the sun and the moon in your service, continuously. He has committed the night and the day to serve you. [43:13] As you rest on top of them, you shall appreciate such a blessing from your Lord, and say, "Glory be to the One who subdued this for us. We could not have controlled them by ourselves.

We are given reason; intuition and can innovate and so can conquer everything around us. This is why today we traverse mountains and valleys, huge expanses of oceans, explore the ocean deeps, have walked on the moon and are preparing for landing on Mars, if God so permits.

Our view of knowledge is not stationary and lifeless but is tolerant, vibrant and intensifying. However [17:36] You shall not accept any information, unless you verify it for yourself. I have given you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brain, and you are responsible for using them.

Submission is unique – it is a religion of strict monotheism and surrender to the Will of God and a peaceful and complete way of life. It is in the West where Christianity is dominant that nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction have been created – enough to destroy the human race several times over. Submission, on the other hand regards wars as the exception rather than the rule. You can fight back oppression but the situation should be set right by peace and not the annihilation of humankind. [4:75] Why should you not fight in the cause of GOD when weak men, women, and children are imploring: "Our Lord, deliver us from this community whose people are

oppressive, and be You our Lord and Master." [4:90] Exempted are those who join people with whom you have signed a peace treaty, and those who come to you wishing not to fight you, nor fight their relatives. Had GOD willed, He could have permitted them to fight against you. Therefore, if they leave you alone, refrain from fighting you, and offer you peace, then GOD gives you no excuse to fight them. [8:61] If they resort to peace, so shall you, and put your trust in GOD. He is the Hearer, the Omniscient.

All over the world we see wars, persecution and terror. The entire world has to accept the ideology of submission to learn peace and standards of morality with a firm conviction to realize them in practice. Aggression then could still be avoided and effectively suppressed whenever and wherever it raises its ugly head.

If we follow the principle of One God, One World and One Message then we have a religion which aims at the amalgamation of humankind on a universal scale and which cannot be a belief of hatred and disagreement. Submission, in fact, advocates law, moderation, stability, certainty, intellectual tendencies and most importantly teaches us to build our soul and not just our material possessions. We learn moral standards of sacrifice, patience, charity, love, reflection, meditation and to avoid lust, greed and exploitation.

Islam is highly misunderstood because of prejudice and a general understanding that it hates the West. It enjoins justice even towards the enemy [5:8] O you who believe, you shall be absolutely equitable, and observe GOD, when you serve as witnesses. Do not be provoked by your conflicts with some people into committing injustice. You shall be absolutely equitable, for it is more righteous. You shall observe GOD. GOD is fully Cognizant of everything you do. It accords kindness even towards non believers [60:8] GOD does not enjoin you from befriending those who do not fight you because of religion, and do not evict you from your homes. You may befriend them and be equitable towards them. GOD loves the equitable. [49:9] If two groups of believers fought with each other, you shall reconcile them. If one group aggresses against the other, you shall fight the aggressing group until they submit to GOD's command. Once they submit, you shall reconcile the two groups equitably. You shall maintain justice; GOD loves those who are just. [49:10] The believers are members of one family; you shall keep the peace within your family and reverence GOD, that you may attain mercy.

It requires you to be just with everyone [[4:36] You shall worship GOD alone - do not associate anything with Him. You shall regard the parents, the relatives, the orphans, the poor, the related neighbor, the unrelated neighbor, the close associate, the traveling alien, and your servants. GOD does not like the arrogant show-offs. What can all this be except the righteous standards for humankind?

Submission springs from our innermost psychological instincts and does not require us to block our progress by penance and incessant lamentation. Rather we should channelise our energy in the way of God and prevent what is forbidden by Him. Submission is not mere adulation, rituals and dogmas. It is a discipline and a complete code of conduct. We do not have a clergy nor are we required to listen to them. We have the Quran – the third and final Testament which combines exceptionally well the past, present and future.

Submission accepts all other authorized religions, all Prophets and true Messengers and the Old and New Testaments amongst other Scriptures. This does not make it unoriginal or devoid of spiritual genius. It still remains unique due to its inimitable appeal and its unambiguous lines of right and wrong. Submission is a wonderful way to improvise and find solutions to all problems. [10:57] O people, enlightenment has come to you herein from your Lord, and healing for anything that troubles your hearts, and guidance, and mercy for the believers.

[4:59] O you who believe, you shall obey GOD, and you shall obey the messenger, and those in charge among you. If you dispute in any matter, you shall refer it to GOD and the messenger, if you do believe in GOD and the Last Day. This is better for you, and provides you with the best solution. [42:38] They respond to their Lord by observing the Contact Prayers (Salat). Their affairs are decided after due consultation among themselves, and from our provisions to them they give (to charity).

If you check out the history of Submission over the ages you will see how it overcame barriers of race, creed, language and ethnicity. It is an Abrahamic religion along with Judaism and Christianity. We know that all these three great religions have been corrupted beyond measure. Today's Judaism is based only on the fear of God and Christianity on His love only – Islam supercedes both and claims God's perfect knowledge as the core of its blossoming.

Submission does not allow truth to be tampered with falsehood. [2:42] Do not confound the truth with falsehood, nor shall you conceal the truth, knowingly. Obviously, we are allowed to depart from the truth provided such a departure is made in the service of God or of humanity and there are no ulterior motives behind it. Such occasions could be war tactics, restoration of cordial relations and amity between people etc. However, these deviations should be kept to the bare minimum.

Justice occupies a central role and pivotal position in Submission. Justice could be in respect of others as also one's self. We have to be impartial to ensure prevention of harm to others and to promote an ideal life. We have to reconstruct the purity of our conscience and perform sound moral behaviour by surrendering to the Will of God. The Quran enjoins this virtue with great emphasis. The Quran further stresses the significance of justice [4:135] O you who believe, you shall be absolutely equitable,

and observe GOD, when you serve as witnesses, even against yourselves, or your parents, or your relatives. Whether the accused is rich or poor, GOD takes care of both. Therefore, do not be biased by your personal wishes. If you deviate or disregard (this commandment), then GOD is fully Cognizant of everything you do.

Submission requires us to be determined and steadfast yet patient and to strive hard with complete integrity, selflessness and service to the people to establish the Law of God as enjoined in the Quran [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. [40:55] Therefore, be patient, for GOD's promise is true, and ask forgiveness for your sin, and glorify and praise your Lord night and day.

Submission, through the Quran teaches us to establish conscientiousness, responsibility and moral earnestness that lead to refinement and culture. We learn self control, to be resolute, unwavering, and to be virtuous. We get endowed with the truth, we become sincere and veracious, sympathetic, compassionate, kind, respectful and generous.

Submission has demolished all barriers of racial, colour and class distinctions, gender, economic status or cultural background. God wants us to build up our character and be moral and to inculcate in us brotherhood, fraternity, unity, bereft of ethnic, regional and linguistic sentiments and prejudices. [61:4] GOD loves those who fight in His cause united in one column, like the bricks in one wall.

God has done us a tremendous favour to allow us to be Submitters by placing in us a natural basic instinct. [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. God wants us to fulfill our purpose on earth and get back our original jobs.