



Submission



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Ramadan 2026



As of February 18, we have entered the month of Ramadan. Unlike the date of February 19 announced by the Turkish Directorate of Religious Affairs, we determine the beginning of Ramadan according to the flawless lunar phase system established by God. The New Moon phase occurred on February 17, 2026, at 15:01. Since sunset marks the beginning of the day in the lunar calendar, Ramadan began on the evening of February 17, and February 18 became the first day of fasting. It would be appropriate to place this on record for the future as a documented reference.

Ramadan is the month in which the Quran was revealed, and it is a guidance for humanity.

Ramadan is determined according to the lunar calendar. The Quran clearly states that the phases of the Moon are a means of measuring time (2:189; 6:96; 10:5). The Sun and the Moon move within the system established by God (21:33; 31:29). Through this system, the phases of the Moon can today be calculated with astronomical precision. Therefore, the beginning of the new moon can be determined down to the minute.

Astronomically, the beginning of the new month is based on:

- The occurrence of the New Moon phase (the moment the Moon moves between the Sun and the Earth),
- The principle that in the lunar calendar, the day begins at sunset.

In 2026, the New Moon phase corresponding to Ramadan occurred on February 17 at 15:01 for Istanbul. In the lunar calendar, the new month begins at sunset on that day. Accordingly, Ramadan begins at sunset on February 17; the first pre-dawn meal (suhoor) is that night, and the first day of fasting is February 18.

In traditional practice, however, the visible sighting of the crescent moon is taken as the basis, and therefore fasting begins one day later. This approach relies on narrations based on physically sighting the crescent. Yet the Quran does not require the sighting of the crescent to begin fasting; rather, it requires witnessing the month of Ramadan (2:185). The Moon is born before the crescent becomes visible, and today these phases can be determined scientifically with certainty.

According to the Quran, the only religion accepted by God is submission of oneself to Him (3:19, 85). To submit to God means to worship Him alone, to take only His word as the criterion, and to follow only His instructions (2:112; 3:20).

THIS WORLDLY LIFE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TEMPORARY ILLUSION

Özge

As stated in the heading above, our Lord declares in Sura Al-Hadid, verse 20: “This worldly life is nothing more than a temporary illusion.” I am sure that many of us have read this statement numerous times and reflected deeply on this reality. In this article, the concept of “illusion” is examined in order to understand more profoundly what the verse intends to convey.

When we look at the literal meaning, illusion is defined as “the misinterpretation of the impression of a real object on the senses.” In other words, in an illusion, objects are not nonexistent; they do exist and they are real. However, the meanings we attribute to them and the distortions in our evaluations give rise to the illusion. This can be imagined like a mirage. A person may mistake distant light waves for water. Yet as one approaches, one realizes what those waves truly are. From this perspective, the people we encounter in worldly life, the events we experience, and the situations we are in constitute realities. However, these realities are shaped by our perspective, and through our interpretations they gain meaning and shape our lives. Let us make this clearer with examples that can be experienced from an early age.

We are all born into a family, and within that family we grow up influenced by their customs, traditions, culture, and even their attitudes and behaviors. Our parents and siblings are among the most valuable beings in our lives. Our Lord commands us to show respect and gratitude to our parents (31:14). From this angle, our families exist and are real. Our responsibilities toward them and the joy we derive from being with them are also real. However, if we regard them as absolute truth, if we try to avoid responsibility by saying, “Whatever my parents do, I will do the same,” even at the risk of being led into idolatry, or if we behave as though the world consists only of our parents and siblings, then we have fallen into a worldly illusion. By showing respect to our parents while also recognizing that their existence comes from God—and understanding the importance of being grateful to the One who granted them to us—we can free ourselves from the illusion of worldly life.

Having material means to sustain a good life is another reality of worldly existence. From an early age, we begin working in order to support ourselves materially or to attain something better. If we desire academic success, we read hundreds of books, study for exams, and strive to succeed and attend good schools by following our teachers’ guidance. If we aim to earn money through trade or art, we become apprentices to a master and try our best to follow their instructions. Yes, these are realities—but at the same time, they are illusions. If we think, “The only thing that will shape my life is attending a good school” or “doing exactly what the master says—there is no other way,” then we become absorbed in the illusion of the world. However, if we can say, “I will do my best, but the final decision rests with my Lord. God is the One who does everything,” then we possess the awareness that life is but an illusion.

Let us say we grow up. We obtain a good job—or more accurately, our Lord grants us a good job. We decide to marry. Among the people we meet, we choose the one we believe is most suitable, toward whom we feel love and affection. When we marry, our spouse exists and is real. Our Lord states in Sura An-Nahl, verse 72: “And God has made for you spouses from among yourselves, and from your spouses He has granted you children and grandchildren,” thereby revealing this reality. However, a spouse exists so that you may share life, lighten your burdens, find tranquility and peace in them, and make better investments for the Hereafter—not so that life revolves entirely around them, nor so that you attempt to reform them, nor so that you live solely according to their desires. From this perspective, avoiding illusions regarding one’s spouse becomes another important matter.

That our Lord enables us to multiply through our spouses is among His proofs (35:11), and our children are among the most evident realities of life. Yet these children exist as gifts so that we may witness God’s miracles in them and be grateful for this blessing—not so that we behave as though life consists solely of them, live entirely according to them, or see ourselves as dependent only on them or them solely dependent on us. For this reason, knowing that spouse and children are part of the illusion, and with this awareness continually praying, “Our Lord! Make our spouses and our children a source of joy for us and keep us at the forefront of the righteous” (25:74), is essential. Indeed, the One who will make the spouse and child a source of joy, and who will keep us at the forefront of the righteous, is God—the One who controls, does, and governs everything.

The examples mentioned above, and many others, remind us of a very important criterion. Let us see this important criterion from the words of our Lord and evaluate ourselves accordingly:

[9:24] Proclaim:

“If your parents,
your children,
your siblings,
your spouses,
your family,
the money you have earned,
a business you worry about,
and the homes you cherish are more beloved to you than GOD and His messenger, and the striving in His cause, then just wait until GOD brings His judgment.” GOD does not guide the wicked people.

Taken from November 1989 Submission Perspective

Rashad Khalifa: Hypocrites deceive themselves

Deceiving Themselves:

HYPOCRITES PROCLAIM: "We Do Not Need A Messenger"

By definition, the hypocrites say with their lips that they are believers. However, their actions reflect their disbelief. To utter what is not in one's heart is a most despised matter in the sight of God (61:3). One of their most common utterances is: "We do not need a messenger. We can worship God alone, and follow the Quran alone, without any need for a messenger from God." They thus rebel against God's system. Sending messengers is God's system for a good number of reasons.

God sends His messengers to rescue those who believe and work righteousness, as we see in 65:11: "a messenger who recites God's revelations, in order to lead those who believe and lead a righteous life from the darkness to the light." Note that this verse talks about "those who believe and lead a righteous life." They are in darkness, until God's

messenger comes and "leads them out of darkness." Note also the word "recites." The book itself, the Quran, cannot "recite" God's revelations. While the messenger is alive, the book comes to life and leads the believers out of darkness.

The Quran, without the Messenger, Misleads the Wicked

See 2:26, 14:27, 17:41, 17:82. In 3:7, we see that "those well founded in knowledge are needed to explain certain aspects of the Quran. The messenger who receives new information and revelations from God is certainly "well founded in knowledge." Otherwise, why didn't God just send a physical book down from the sky, without any messengers? Obviously, those who say that they do not need God's messenger, that they can make it to Heaven on their own, blaspheme against God. For they defy God's system.

God's system is very clearly stated in 18:17: "Whomever God wills to send astray, you will not find for him a guiding teacher." What makes this system particularly relevant to our generation is that the root word for the "guiding teacher" is "Rashada."

God is telling us that His system calls for guiding the believers through a "guiding teacher." So what do the hypocrites say? They rebel against God's system, and reject God's appointed teacher. "We can make it on our own," they think.

Once again, here is God's system as stated in 18:17:

Whomever God wills to send astray, you will not find for him a guiding teacher.

Only the believers can enjoy and uphold God's system (see 9:24).

Divine Proclamation Through Gabriel:

Like the time of Noah: Only those who stand with God's messenger will be saved.

If you look at Sura 7, Verse 64 says: "They rejected him (Noah). Consequently, we saved him and those who stood by him in the ark, and we drowned those who rejected our revelations, for they were blinded people." Verse 72 says: "We then saved him (Hood) and those who stood by him, by mercy from us. And we annihilated those who rejected our revelations, and refused to believe." Verses 78-79 say: "Consequently, the quake annihilated them, leaving them dead in their homes. He (Saaleh) turned away

from them, saying, 'O my people, I have delivered my Lord's message to you, and advised you, but you do not like those who advise you.'" Verse 83 says, "Consequently, we saved him (Lot) and his people, except his wife; she was with the doomed." Verses 91-92 say, "The quake annihilated them, leaving them dead in their homes. Those who rejected Shu'aib vanished, as if they never existed. Those who rejected Shu'aib were the losers." Verse 101 says, "We narrate to you the history of the doomed communities:

their messengers went to them with clear proofs, but they were not to believe in what they had already rejected. God thus seals the hearts of the disbelievers."

We see the same lessons in 26:105-190. The angel Gabriel has conveyed to me God's plan: those who refuse to stand by His Messenger of the Covenant will be utterly destroyed. I was told specifically that it will be like the time of Noah: Only those who stand by God's messenger will be saved. *Allahu Akbar.*

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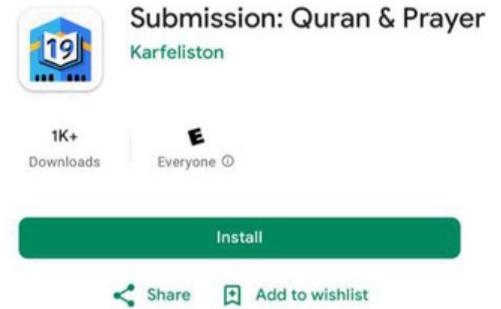
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INTEREST
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New Application Released



Submission: Quran & Prayer is an app that brings worship and Quran studies into the digital realm. The app offers verse-based note-taking, grouping verses under headings, and quick access features alongside AEV translations. Users can personalize their reading experience with settings such as font selection, text size, and dark theme. ✨

Another notable feature of the app is Mobile Companion, which aims to help users keep God in mind most of the time by sending notifications with words that remind them of God throughout the day. Other features include GPS-supported prayer times that work offline in many provinces and districts, a live counter for the next prayer time, a precise qibla compass, and a zakat calculator based on net income. All these features are designed to facilitate worship with a modern interface.

★ Feature Highlights

📖 **In-Depth Quran Study:** Take verse-based notes using AEV translations and create a personal contemplation archive by collecting verses under your own headings.

🔔 **Mobile Companion:** Keep your mind occupied with God throughout the day with meaningful notifications, helping you keep God foremost in your thoughts.

🕌 **Offline Prayer Times:** Track prayer times with GPS-supported, internet-free, accurate time calculations.

🧭 **Accurate Qibla Finder:** Thanks to the digital compass with advanced calibration, you can accurately determine the direction of the Qibla from anywhere you are.

💰 **Easy Zakat Calculation:** With the calculation module based on net income, you can determine your zakat amounts accurately and practically, free from confusion.

👤 **Customizable Reading Mode:** Optimize your reading experience to suit your preferences with an easy-on-the-eyes dark theme, font selection, and adjustable font size.

⚡ **Fast and Dynamic Interface:** Get the information you need in the shortest time possible with advanced search, quick access via scrolling, and live counter features.

🔍 **Quick Surah and Verse Access:** Jump to the surah or verse you want with just a few taps, without getting lost in complex menus.

Righteousness Association YouTube Channel is Now Online

Our brothers at the Istanbul Righteousness Association have launched a YouTube channel where they will hold discussions called "Righteousness Conversations." The first topic was a discussion titled "Why Were We Created?" Alper and Koçer explored this subject in depth, referencing verses from the Quran.

The name of the YouTube channel is: Righteousness Association.



Submission Radio is Now On Air

With the encouragement of our brother Levent, Submission Radio has begun broadcasting and will host regular Sahur programs on TikTok throughout the month of Ramadan. The Sahur programs usually start around 3:00 AM. Full recordings of these programs are available on the "Kuran Akademisi" YouTube channel.



evrenselbirlik.com website has launched

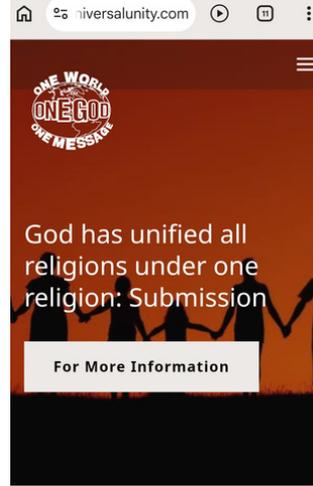
This project, which I have long dreamed of—aiming to convey the main message to people in a simple and concise manner—has been brought to life during the blessed atmosphere of Ramadan, bringing me a special joy and happiness.

The main theme of this website is “God’s Kingdom”, which is also our primary goal. The content structure will revolve around the three fundamental means to enter the Kingdom: “Submission, The Final Testament: Quran, and Miracle”—representing the messages of the three messengers of Submission.

theuniversality.com website has launched

Similarly, with the aim of conveying the ultimate purpose—God’s Kingdom—to the English-speaking world, I established this English website as a blessing from God. Its purpose is to deliver this message within the framework of Submission, the Final Testament, and Miracle—representing the messages of the three messengers of Submission.

InshaAllah, it aims to reach over five million collected email addresses to share this truth.



My Visit to the Righteousness Association and My Impressions

On February 15, 2026, I attended the Sunday Quran class at the Istanbul Righteousness Association. The atmosphere was extremely warm and welcoming. I was particularly impressed by how the lessons were conducted in a planned and organized manner. It was very encouraging and positive to see that the number of women participating was close to that of men. We recorded a video for the YouTube channel with Alper Yıldız, and afterwards I spent time in the kitchen with the brothers, chatting until late at night. It was a very special, blessed, and meaningful day for me. I am grateful to God.



I believe that this masjid environment is a blessing from God for the brothers in Istanbul. Blessings, in turn, bring greater responsibilities. Therefore, it will be to the benefit of the brothers in Istanbul to recognize the value of this favor, be grateful, seek God’s Kingdom, and take greater initiative in striving on the path of God. May God protect, watch over, support, and make them among the pioneers. I wholeheartedly congratulate them for this blessing from God.