Readings from Islamic Primary Sources

**I. Excerpts from the Qur’an:**

**a. on equality among people and abolishing slavery:**

"O Mankind: We created you from a male and a female; and made you into tribes and nations that you may get to know each other. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.” (49:13)

And verily this Brotherhood of yours is a single Brotherhood, and I am your Lord and Cherisher: therefore fear Me (and no other). But people have cut off their affair (of unity), between them, into sects: each party rejoices in that which is with itself. But leave them in their confused ignorance for a time.  (23:52-54)

"It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness to believe in God and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the God-fearing."  (2:177)

“As for such [of the unbelievers] as do not fight against you on account of [your] faith, and neither drive you forth from your homelands, God does not forbid you to show them kindness and to behave towards them with full equity: for, verily, God loves those who act equitably.” (60:8)

“God only forbids you to turn in friendship towards such as fight against you because of [your] faith, and drive you forth from your homelands, or aid [others] in driving you forth: and as for those [from among you] who turn towards them in friendship; it is they, they who are truly wrongdoers!” (60:9)

 **b. on Judaism and Christianity**

“Of the people of Moses there is a section who guide and do justice in the light of truth.” (7:159)

“And We caused Jesus, the son of Mary, to follow in the footsteps of those (earlier prophets), confirming the truth of whatever there still remained of the Torah; and We sent him the Gospel, wherein there was guidance and light, confirming the truth of whatever there still remained of the Torah, and as a guidance and admonition unto the God-conscious.” (5:46)

“Verily, those who have attained to faith [in this divine writ], as well as those who follow the Jewish faith, and the Christians, and the [Sabians](http://www.islamicity.com/IslamicGlossary/action.lasso.asp?-Search=fsearch&-database=Services&-Table=islamicglossary&-noresultserror=searchglossary.asp&-Response=searchglossary.asp&-MaxRecords=10&-SortField=Term&-SortOrder=Ascending&-op=cn&fsearch=Sabians&-search.x=9&-search.y=6" \t "_blank) - all who believe in God and the Last Day and do righteous deeds-shall have their reward with their Sustainer; and no fear need they have, and neither shall they grieve.” (2:62)

“Not all of them are alike: Of the People of the Book are a portion that stand (For the right): They rehearse the Signs of God all night long, and they prostrate themselves in adoration. They believe in God and the Last Day; they enjoin what is right, and forbid what is wrong; and they hasten (in emulation) in (all) good works: They are in the ranks of the righteous.” (3:113-114)

“And there are, certainly, among the People of the Book, those who believe in God, in the revelation to you, and in the revelation to them, bowing in humility to God. They will not sell the Signs of God for a miserable gain! For them is a reward with their Lord, and God is swift in account.” (3:199)

**c. on equality between men and women**

“They are clothing for you and you are clothing for them” [[2:187](http://quran.com/2/187)]

“Their Lord responded to them: "I never fail to reward any worker among you for any work you do, be you male or female - you are equal to one another. Thus, those who immigrate, and get evicted from their homes, and are persecuted because of Me, and fight and get killed, I will surely remit their sins and admit them into gardens with flowing streams." Such is the reward from GOD. GOD possesses the ultimate reward.” [3:195]

“As for those who lead a righteous life, male or female, while believing, they enter Paradise; without the slightest injustice.” [4:124]

“Anyone who works righteousness, male or female, while believing, we will surely grant them a happy life in this world, and we will surely pay them their full recompense (on the Day of Judgment) for their righteous works.” [16:97]

“The submitting men, the submitting women, the believing men, the believing women, the obedient men, the obedient women, the truthful men, the truthful women, the steadfast men, the steadfast women, the reverent men, the reverent women, the charitable men, the charitable women, the fasting men, the fasting women, the chaste men, the chaste women, and the men who commemorate GOD frequently, and the commemorating women; GOD has prepared for them forgiveness and a great recompense.” [33:35]

“Whoever commits a sin is requited for just that, and whoever works righteousness - male or female - while believing, these will enter Paradise wherein they receive provisions without any limits.” [40:40]

**d. on criteria for distinguishing among people**

“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.” (49:13)

“GOD has heard the woman who debated with you about her husband, and complained to GOD. GOD heard everything the two of you discussed. GOD is Hearer, Seer.” (58:1)

“The prophet had trusted some of his wives with a certain statement, then one of them spread it, and GOD let him know about it. He then informed his wife of part of the issue, and disregarded part. She asked him, "Who informed you of this?" He said, "I was informed by the Omniscient, Most Cognizant." (66:3)

“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." He swore to them, "I am giving you good advice." 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 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?" (7:20-22)

**e. on life**

“Know that the life of this world is only play and amusement, pomp and mutual boasting among you, and rivalry in respect of wealth and children, as the likeness of vegetation after rain, thereof the growth is pleasing to the tiller; afterwards it dries up and you see it turning yellow; then it becomes straw. But in the Hereafter (there is) a severe torment (for the disbelievers, evil-doers), and (there is) Forgiveness from Allah and (His) Good Pleasure (for the believers, good-doers), whereas the life of this world is only a deceiving enjoyment“. [57:20]

 **f. on social justice**

**“**Give unto orphans their wealth. Exchange not the good for the bad (in your management thereof) nor absorb their wealth into your own wealth. Lo ! that would be a great sin.” (4 : 2)

“…Give full measure and full weight, in justice…” (6 : 152)

“And know that whatever ye take as spoils of war, Lo! A fifth thereof is for Allah, and for the messenger and for the kinsman (who hath need) and orphans and the needy and the wayfarer. If ye believe in Allah and that which We revealed unto Our slave on the Day of Discrimination, the day when the two armies met. And Allah is Able to do all things.” (8:41)

“The alms are only for the poor and the needy, and those who collect them, and those whose hearts are to be reconciled and to free the captives and the debtors, and for the cause of Allah, and (for) the wayfarers; a duty imposed by Allah. Allah is Knower, Wise.” (9:60)

“And Allah hath favoured some of you above others in provision. Now those who are more favoured will by no means hand over their provision to those (slaves) whom their right hands possess, so that they may be equal with them in respect thereof. It is then the grace of Allah that they deny?” (16 : 71)

“He placed therein firm hills rising above it, and blessed it and measured therein its sustenance in four Days, alike for (all) who ask.” (41 : 10)

“And the sky He hath uplifted; and He hath set the measure, that ye exceed not the measure, but observe the measure strictly, nor fall short thereof. “ (55 : 7-9)

“Believe in Allah and His messenger, and spend of that whereof He hath made you trustees…” (57 : 7)

“We verily sent our messengers with clear proofs, and revealed with them the scripture and the Balance, that mankind may observe right measure…” (57 : 25)

“That which Allah giveth as spoil unto His messenger from the people of the townships, it is for Allah and His messenger and for the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer, that it become not a commodity between the rich among you.” (59 : 7)

“And in whose wealth there is a right acknowledged. For the beggar and the destitute” (70 : 24-25)

**II. Poems on loving God, by the Muslim poet and Sufi mystic Rumi (1207-73 CE)**

**‘Intoxicated by Love’**

Because of your love
I have lost my sobriety
I am intoxicated
by the madness of love
In this fog
I have become stranger to myself
I'm so drunk
I've lost the way to my house
In the garden
I see only your face
From trees and blossoms
I inhale only your fragrance
Drunk with the ecstasy of love
I can no longer tell the difference
between drunkard and drink
Between lover and beloved

**‘Bittersweet’**

In my Hallucination

I saw my Beloved's flower garden

In my vertigo

In my dizziness

In my drunken haze

whirling and dancing

like a spinning wheel

I saw myself as the source of existence

I was there in the beginning

and I was the spirit of love

Now I am sober

There is only the hangover

and the memory of love

And only the sorrow

**‘Intoxicated by Love’**

Because of your love

I have lost my sobriety

I am intoxicated by the madness of love

In this fog

I have become a stranger to myself

I'm so drunk

I've lost the way to my house

In the garden

I see only your face

From trees and blossoms

I inhale only your fragrance

Drunk with the ecstasy of love

I can no longer tell the difference

between drunkard and drink

Between lover and Beloved

“I looked for God. I went to a temple and I didn't find him there. Then I went to a church and I didn't find him there. Then I went to a mosque and I didn't find him there. Then finally I looked in my heart and there he was.“

“What a relief to be empty! Then God can live your life.”