

39: Sura Az Zumar

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The Tafsīr of Sūrat Az-Zumar

(Chapter - 39)

Which was revealed in Makkah

The Virtues of Sūrat Az-Zumar

An-Nasā'ī recorded that 'Ā'ishah, may Allāh be pleased with her, said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ used to fast until we would say, 'He does not want to break fast,' and he would not fast until we would say, 'He does not want to fast.' And he ﷺ used to recite *Bani Isrā'īl* [*Al-Isrā'*] and *Az-Zumar* every night."^[1]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

﴿تَنْزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَكِيمِ﴾ ۝ إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ ۝ أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ ۝ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ مَا نَعْبُدُهُمْ إِلَّا لِيُقَرِّبُونَا إِلَى اللَّهِ زُلْفَىٰ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَهُمْ فِي مَا هُمْ فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي مَنْ هُوَ كَاذِبٌ كَفَّارٌ ۝ لَوْ أَرَادَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ وَلَدًا لَأَخْطَفَ بِمَا يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ ۚ سُبْحَنَهُ هُوَ اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ ۝﴾

﴿1. The revelation of this Book is from Allāh, the Almighty, the All-Wise.﴾

﴿2. Verily, We have sent down the Book to you in truth. So, worship Allāh by doing religious deeds sincerely for Him only.﴾

﴿3. Surely, the religion is for Allāh only. And those who take protectors besides Him (say): "We worship them only that they may bring us near to Allāh." Verily, Allāh will judge between them concerning that wherein they differ. Truly, Allāh guides not him who is a liar, and a disbeliever.﴾

﴿4. Had Allāh willed to take a son, He could have chosen

^[1] Ahmad no. 25664, An-Nasā'ī in *Al-Kubrā* 6:444.

whom He willed out of those whom He created. But glory be to Him! He is Allāh, the One, the Irresistible. ﴿

The Order for *Tawhīd* and the Refutation of *Shirk*

Allāh tells us that the revelation of this Book, which is the magnificent Qur'ān, is from Him, and is truth in which there is no doubt whatsoever. This is like the *Āyāt*:

﴿وَلَقَدْ لَنَزَّلَ رَبِّيَ الْوَحْيَ الْكَافِرِ ۖ نَزَّلَ بِهِ الرُّوحُ الْأَمِينُ ۖ عَلَى قَلْبِكَ لِتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُنذِرِينَ ۚ لَبَّاسًا عَرَفَى ثُمِين ۚ﴾

﴿And truly, this is a revelation from the Lord of the creatures, which the trustworthy Rūḥ (Jibrīl) has brought down upon your heart that you may be (one) of the warners, in the plain Arabic language.﴾ (26:192-195)

﴿وَلَقَدْ لَكُنْتُ عَزِيزٌ ۖ لَا يَأْتِيهِ الْبَطِلُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَلَا مِنْ خَلْفِهِ ۚ تَنْزِيلٌ مِنْ حَكِيمٍ حَمِيدٍ ۝﴾

﴿And verily, it is a mighty Book. Falsehood cannot come to it from before it or behind it, (it is) sent down by the All-Wise, Worthy of all praise.﴾ (40: 41,42)

And Allāh says here:

﴿تَنْزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ﴾

﴿The revelation of this Book is from Allāh, the Almighty,﴾ meaning, the Almighty, All-Powerful.

﴿الْحَكِيمِ﴾

﴿the All-Wise.﴾ meaning, in all that He says, does, legislates and decrees.

﴿إِنَّا أَنزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ بِالْحَقِّ فَاغْبِرْ لَهُ الْغَيْثَ ۖ﴾

﴿Verily, We have sent down the Book to you in truth. So, worship Allāh by doing religious deeds sincerely for Him only.﴾

means, so worship Allāh Alone with no partner or associate, and call mankind to that, and teach them that it is not right to worship anyone or anything except Him Alone, and He has no partner, equal or rival. Allāh says:

﴿أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ﴾

﴿Surely, the religion is for Allāh only.﴾ meaning, He will not accept any deed unless it is done purely and sincerely for Him Alone, with no partner or associate. Then Allāh tells us that the idolators say:

﴿مَا نَعْبُدُهُمْ إِلَّا لِيُقَرِّبُونَا إِلَى اللَّهِ زُلْفَى﴾

﴿We worship them only that they may bring us near to Allāh.﴾

meaning what motivates them to worship them is the fact that they made their idols in the image of the angels – or so they claim – and when they worship those images it is like worshipping the angels, so that they will intercede with Allāh for them to help and give them provision and other worldly needs. As far as the resurrection is concerned, they denied it and did not believe in it. Qatādah, As-Suddi and Mālik said, narrating from Zayd bin Aslam and Ibn Zayd:

﴿إِلَّا لِيُقَرِّبُونَا إِلَى اللَّهِ زُلْفَى﴾

﴿only that they may bring us near to Allāh.﴾

means, "So that they may intercede for us and bring us closer to Him."^[1] During *Jāhiliyyah*, they used to recite the following for their *Talbiyah* when they performed *Hajj*; "At Your service, You have no partner except the partner You have; he and all that he owns belong to You." This pretentious argument which the idolators of all times, ancient and modern, used as evidence is what the Messengers, may the blessings and peace of Allāh be upon them all, came to refute and forbid, and to call people to worship Allāh Alone with no partner or associate. This is something that the idolators themselves invented; Allāh did not give them permission for it, nor does He approve of it; indeed, He hates it and forbids it.

﴿وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الصَّلَاطِ﴾

﴿And verily, We have sent among every Ummah a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allāh, and avoid Ṭāghūt."﴾ (16:36)

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ﴾

﴿And We did not send any Messenger before you but We

^[1] At-Ṭabari 21:251, 252.

revealed to him (saying): "None has the right to be worshipped but I (Allāh), so worship Me." ﴿21:25﴾

And Allāh tells us that the angels in the heavens, those who are close to Him and others, are all servants who submit humbly to Allāh. They do not intercede with Him except by His leave for the one with whom He is pleased. They are not like the princes and ministers of their (the idolators') kings who intercede with them without their permission for both those whom the kings like and those whom they hate.

﴿فَلَا تَقْرُبُوا إِلَهَ الْإِنْسَانِ﴾

﴿So put not forward similitudes for Allāh﴾ (16:74). Exalted be Allāh far above that.

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَهُمْ﴾

﴿Verily, Allāh will judge between them﴾ means, on the Day of Resurrection,

﴿فِي مَا هُمْ فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ﴾

﴿concerning that wherein they differ.﴾

means, He will judge between His creation on the Day of Resurrection and will reward or punish each person according to his deeds.

﴿وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ يَقُولُ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ أَهَؤُلَاءِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ كَانُوا يَسْبُدُونَ ﴿٤٠﴾ قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ أَنتَ وَلَيْسَ مِن دُونِهِمْ ﴿٤١﴾ كَانُوا يَسْبُدُونَ الْجِنَّ أَكْثَرُهُمْ يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٤٢﴾﴾

﴿And (remember) the Day when He will gather them all together, then He will say to the angels: "Was it you that these people used to worship?" They (the angels) will say: "Glorified be You! You are our Walī (Lord) instead of them. Nay, but they used to worship the Jinn; most of them were believers in them."﴾ (34:40-41)

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي مَنْ هُوَ كَذِبٌ كَفَّارٌ﴾

﴿Truly, Allāh guides not him who is a liar, and a disbeliever.﴾

means, He will not show true guidance to one who deliberately tells lies about Allāh and whose heart rejects the signs and proof of Allāh. Then Allāh states that He does not have any offspring, as the ignorant idolators claim the angels to be, and

خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَأَنزَلَ لَكُمْ
مِنْ الْأَنْعَامِ ثَمَنِيَّةً أَزْوَاجًا يَخْلُقُكُمْ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ
خَلْقًا مِنْ بَعْدِ خَلْقٍ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ ثَلَاثٍ ذَٰلِكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ
الْمُلْكُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَأَنَّى تُصْرَفُونَ ﴿٦﴾ إِن تَكْفُرُوا فَإِنَّ
اللَّهَ غَفَى عَنْكُمْ وَلَا يَرْضَىٰ لِعِبَادِهِ الْكُفْرَ وَإِنْ تَشْكُرُوا يَرْضَهُ
لَكُمْ وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ مَرْجِعُكُمْ
فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ ﴿٧﴾
وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ ضُرٌّ دَعَا رَبَّهُ مُنِيبًا إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا خَوَّلَهُ
نِعْمَةً مِنْهُ نِسَىٰ مَا كَانَ يَدْعُو إِلَيْهِ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَجَعَلَ لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا
لِيُضِلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ قُلْ نَمَتَّ بِكُفْرِكَ قَلِيلًا إِنَّكَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ
النَّارِ ﴿٨﴾ أَمَّنْ هُوَ قَنِيتُ إِهْنًا أَلَيْلٍ سَاجِدًا وَفَإِنَّمَا يُحَذِّرُ
الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُو رَحْمَةً مِنْ رَبِّهِ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ
لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولَٰؤُلَاءِ أَلَيْسَ ﴿٩﴾ قُلْ يَعْبَادُ الَّذِينَ
ءَامَنُوا النَّفُوسَ رَبِّكُمْ لِلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةٌ
وَأَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَسِعَةٌ إِنَّمَا يُوَفَّى الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ ﴿١٠﴾

as the stubborn Jews and Christians claim 'Uzayr and 'Isā to be. Allāh, may He be blessed and exalted, says:

﴿لَوْ أَرَادَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ وَلَدًا
لَاسْتَخَفَّ مِمَّا يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ﴾

﴿Had Allāh willed to take a son (or offspring), He could have chosen whom He willed out of those whom He created.﴾

meaning, the matter would not have been as they claim. This is a conditional sentence which does not imply that this happened or that it is permitted; indeed, it is impossible. The aim is only to point out the

ignorance of their claims. It is like the *Āyāt*:

﴿لَوْ أَرَدْنَا أَنْ نَتَّخِذَ لَهْوًا لَآتَخَذْنَاهُ مِنْ لَدُنَّا إِنْ كُنَّا فَاعِلِينَ ﴿١٧﴾﴾

﴿Had We intended to take a pastime, We could surely have taken it from Us, if We were going to do (that).﴾ (21:17)

﴿قُلْ إِنْ كَانَ لِلرَّحْمَنِ وَلَدٌ فَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْعَابِدِينَ ﴿٨١﴾﴾

﴿Say: "If the Most Gracious had a son, then I am the first of worshippers."﴾ (43:81)^[1]

All of these *Āyāt* are conditional, and it is permissible to form a conditional sentence referring to something that is

^[1] It is necessary to see the explanation of this *Āyah* to understand its meaning.

impossible if it serves the purposes of the speaker.

﴿سُبْحَنَهُ هُوَ اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ﴾

﴿But glory be to Him! He is Allāh, the One, the Irresistible.﴾

means, exalted and sanctified be He above the idea that He could have any offspring, for He is the One, the Only, the Unique, the Self-Sufficient Master to Whom everything is enslaved and is in need of. He is the One Who is independent of all else, Who has subjugated all things and they submit humbly to Him. Blessed and exalted be He far above what the wrongdoers and deniers say.

﴿خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ يَكُونُ اللَّيْلُ عَلَى النَّهَارِ وَيَكُونُ النَّهَارُ عَلَى اللَّيْلِ وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي لِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى أَلَا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَنِيُّ خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَآوَزَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَنْثَمَةِ نَسِيئَةً أَزْوَاجَ يَخْلُقَكُمْ فِي بَطُونٍ أَمْهَنَتْكُمْ خَلْقًا مِنْ بَعْدِ خَلْقٍ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ ثَلَاثٍ ذَٰلِكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَأَنَّى تُصْرَفُونَ﴾

﴿5. He has created the heavens and the earth with truth. He makes the night to go in the day and makes the day to go in the night. And He has subjected the sun and the moon. Each running for an appointed term. Verily, He is the Almighty, the Oft-Forgiving.﴾

﴿6. He created you (all) from a single person; then made from him his wife. And He has sent down for you of An'am eight pairs. He creates you in the wombs of your mothers, creation after creation in three veils of darkness. Such is Allāh your Lord. His is the kingdom. Lā ilāha illā Huwa. How then are you turned away?﴾

Evidence of the Power and Oneness of Allāh

Allāh tells us that He is the Creator of what is in the heavens and on earth, and what is between them. He is the Sovereign and Controller alternating the night and day.

﴿يَكُونُ اللَّيْلُ عَلَى النَّهَارِ وَيَكُونُ النَّهَارُ عَلَى اللَّيْلِ﴾

﴿He makes the night to go in the day and makes the day to go in the night.﴾

means, He has subjugated them and He causes them to alternate without ceasing, each seeking the other rapidly, as He says:

﴿يَتَنَبَّهٖ أَيْلَ النَّهَارِ يَطْلُبُهُ حِينًا﴾

﴿He brings the night as a cover over the day, seeking it rapidly﴾ (7:54).

This is the meaning of that which was narrated from Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, Mujāhid, Qatādah, As-Suddi and others.^[1]

﴿وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي لِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى﴾

﴿And He has subjected the sun and the moon. Each running for an appointed term.﴾

means, for a period of time that is known to Allāh, then it will come to an end on the Day of Resurrection.

﴿أَلَا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَنِيُّ﴾

﴿Verily, He is the Almighty, the Oft-Forgiving.﴾

means, beside His might, greatness and pride, He is Oft-Forgiving to those who disobey Him but then turn to Him in repentance.

﴿خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ﴾

﴿He created you (all) from a single person ;﴾.

means, He created you, with all your varied races, types, languages and colors, from a single soul, who was Ādam, peace be upon him.

﴿ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا﴾

﴿then made from him his wife.﴾ who was Hawwā', peace be upon her. This is like the Āyah:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً﴾

﴿O mankind! Have Taqwā of your Lord, Who created you from a single person, and from him He created his wife, and from

[1] Al-Qurtūbi 15:235.

them both He created many men and women﴾ (4:1).

﴿وَأَنزَلَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ ثَمَنِيَةَ أَزْوَاجٍ﴾

﴿And He has sent down for you of cattle eight pairs.﴾

means, He has created for you from among the cattles,^[1] eight pairs. These are the ones that are mentioned in *Sūrat Al-An'am*, eight kinds – a pair of sheep, a pair of goats, a pair of camels and a pair of oxen.

﴿يَخْلُقُكُمْ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ﴾

﴿He creates you in the wombs of your mothers,﴾

means, He forms you in your mothers' wombs.

﴿خَلَقًا مِنْ بَدَنٍ خَلَقَ﴾

﴿creation after creation﴾. Everyone of you is originally a *Nutfah*, then he becomes an '*Alaqah*, then he becomes a *Mudghah*,^[2] then he is created and becomes flesh and bones and nerves and veins, and the *Rūḥ* (soul) is breathed into him, and he becomes another type of creation.

﴿فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ﴾

﴿So Blessed is Allāh, the Best of creators﴾ (23:14).

﴿فِي ثَلَاثٍ نَلَسَ﴾

﴿in three veils of darkness﴾ means, in the darkness of the womb, the darkness of the placenta which blankets and protects the child, and the darkness of the belly. This was the view of Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, Mujāhid, 'Ikrimah, Abu Mālik, Aḍ-Ḍaḥḥāk, Qatādah, As-Suddi and Ibn Zayd.^[3]

﴿ذَٰلِكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ﴾

﴿Such is Allāh your Lord.﴾ means, the One Who created the

[1] Although the word *An'ām* is usually translated as cattle the meaning is broader and includes all kinds of similar grazing livestock such as sheep, goats and camels. See volume three, the *Tafsīr* of *Sūrat Al-An'ām* [6:142].

[2] For an understanding of these terms, see volume seven, the *Tafsīr* of *Sūrat Al-Mu'minūn* [23:12-14].

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:258, 259. *Ad-Durr Al-Manthūr* 7:236.

heavens and the earth and everything in between, and created you and your forefathers, is the Lord. To Him belong sovereignty and control over all of that.

﴿لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ﴾

﴿Lā ilāha illā Huwa.﴾ means, no one else should be worshipped except Him alone with no partner or associate.

﴿فَأَنَّى تُصْرَفُونَ﴾

﴿How then are you turned away?﴾ means, how can you worship anything besides Him? What has happened to your minds?

﴿إِنْ تَكْفُرُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنْكُمْ وَلَا يَرْغَبُ لِبِئَادِهِ الْكَفَّارَ وَإِنْ تَتَّقُوا بِرِضَىٰ لَّكُمْ وَلَا تَرِدْ
وَارِدَةً وَزِدْ أُخْرَىٰ ثُمَّ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ مَرْجِعُكُمْ مَّبْتَلَاكُمْ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ إِنَّكُمْ عَلَيْهِمْ فِي ذَاتِ
الْأُصْدُورِ ۝ وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ ضُرٌّ دَعَا رَبَّهُ مُنِيبًا إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا خَوَّلَهُ نِعْمَةً مِّنْهُ نَسِيَ مَا كَانَ
يَدْعُوَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَحَمَلَ اللَّهُ أَندَادًا لِّعِصْيَٰهِ أَعْوَابًا ۚ فَمَنْ تَصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ سَبِيلِهِ ۚ قُلْ تَمَتَّعْ بِكُفْرِكَ قَلِيلًا إِنَّكَ مِنْ
أَصْحَابِ النَّارِ ۝﴾

﴿7. If you disbelieve, then verily, Allāh is not in need of you; He likes not disbelief for His servants. And if you are grateful, He is pleased therewith for you. No bearer of burdens shall bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return, and He will inform you what you used to do. Verily, He is the All-Knower of that which is in breasts.﴾

﴿8. And when some hurt touches man, he cries to his Lord, turning to Him in repentance. But when He bestows a favor upon him from Himself, he forgets that for which he cried for before, and he sets up rivals to Allāh, in order to mislead others from His path. Say: "Take pleasure in your disbelief for a while, surely, you are (one) of the dwellers of the Fire!"﴾

Allāh hates Disbelief and is pleased with Gratitude

Allāh tells us that He is Independent and has no need of anything in creation. This is like the Āyah in which Mūsā, peace be upon him, says:

﴿إِنْ تَكْفُرُوا أَنْتُمْ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَغَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ﴾

﴿"If you disbelieve, you and all on earth together, then verily, Allāh is Rich, Owner of all praise."﴾ (14:8).

In *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, it says:

«يَا عِبَادِي لَوْ أَنَّ أُولَئِكَمْ وَأَجْرُكُمْ وَإِنْسُكُمْ وَجِنَّكُمْ كَانُوا عَلَى أَفْجَرِ قَلْبِ رَجُلٍ مِنْكُمْ، مَا نَقَصَ ذَلِكَ مِنْ مُلْكِي شَيْئًا»

“O My servants, if the first and the last of you, men and jinn alike, were all to be as evil as the most evil man among you, that would not diminish from My sovereignty in the least.”^[1]

﴿وَلَا يَرْضَى لِعِبَادِهِ الْكُفْرَ﴾

«He likes not disbelief for His servants.» means, He does not like it and He does not enjoin it.

﴿وَأَن تَشْكُرُوا يَرْضَهُ لَكُمْ﴾

«And if you are grateful, He is pleased therewith for you.»

means: He likes this for you and He will increase His favor upon you.

﴿وَلَا يُزِدُّ وَارِدًا وَيَذَرُ الْآخَرِينَ﴾

«No bearer of burdens shall bear the burden of another.»

means, no person can bear anything for another; each person will be asked about his own affairs.

﴿ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ تُرْجَعُكُمْ فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ﴾

«Then to your Lord is your return, and He will inform you what you used to do. Verily, He is the All-Knower of that which is in breasts.»

means, nothing whatsoever is hidden from Him.

It is an aspect of Man's Disbelief that He remembers Allāh at times of difficulty then associates others with Him after He has been relieved of His Distress

﴿وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ ضُرٌّ دَعَا رَبَّهُ مُنِيبًا إِلَيْهِ﴾

«And when some hurt touches man, he cries to his Lord, turning to Him in repentance.»

means, at times of need, he prays to Allāh and seeks His help

[1] Muslim 4:1994.

alone, not associating anything with Him. This is like the *Āyah*:

﴿وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْفُتُورُ فِي الْبَحْرِ ضَلَّ مَنْ تَدْعُونَ إِلَّا إِلَهُهُ فَلَمَّا جَنَّكَزْ إِلَى الْبَرِّ أَعْرَضْتُمْ وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ كَفُورًا﴾

«And when harm touches you upon the sea, those that you call upon vanish from you except Him. But when He brings you safe to land, you turn away. And man is ever ungrateful.» (17:67).

Allāh says:

﴿ثُمَّ إِذَا حَوَّلَهُ نِعْمَةً مِنْهُ نَسِيَ مَا كَانَ يَدْعُو إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ قَبْلُ﴾

«But when He bestows a favor upon him from Himself, he forgets that for which he cried for before,»

means, at the time of ease, he forgets that supplication and prayer. This is like the *Āyah*:

﴿وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ الضُّرُّ دَعَانَا لِجَنْبِهِ أَوْ قَاعِدًا أَوْ قَائِمًا فَلَمَّا كَفَفْنَا عَنْهُ ضُرَّهُ مَرَّ كَأَن لَّمْ يَدْعُنَا إِلَى شَيْءٍ مِّنْهُ﴾

«And when harm touches man, he invokes Us, lying on his side, or sitting or standing. But when We have removed his harm from him, he passes on as if he had never invoked Us for a harm that touched him!» (10:12).

﴿وَيَجْعَلُ لِلَّهِ أُنَادًا يُعْتَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ﴾

«and he sets up rivals to Allāh, in order to mislead others from His path.»

means, at times of ease, he associates others in worship with Allāh and sets up rivals to Him.

﴿قُلْ تَمَتَّعْ بِكُفْرِكَ قَلِيلًا إِنَّكَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّارِ﴾

«Say: "Take pleasure in your disbelief for a while, surely, you are (one) of the dwellers of the Fire!"»

means, say to those whose way this is, 'enjoy your disbelief for a while!' This is a stern threat and solemn warning, as in the *Āyāt*:

﴿قُلْ تَمَتَّعُوا فَإِنَّ مَصِيرَكُمْ إِلَى النَّارِ﴾

﴿Say: "Enjoy! But certainly, your destination is the Fire!"﴾
(14:30).

﴿نُتِمُّهُمْ فَلْيَا تُمْ نَضَطَّرُهُمْ إِنْ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٌ﴾

﴿We let them enjoy for a little while, then in the end We shall oblige them to (enter) a great torment.﴾ (31:24)

﴿أَتَنْ هُوَ قَتَيْتُ أَنَا أَلَيْلَ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُوا رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُوا الْأَلْبَابِ﴾

﴿9. Is one who is obedient to Allāh, Anā'a Al-Layl prostrating and standing fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord? Say: "Are those who know equal to those who know not?" It is only men of understanding who will remember.﴾

The Obedient and the Sinner are not equal

Allāh says, 'is the one who is like this equal to one who associates others in worship with Allāh and sets up rivals to Him?' They are not equal before Allāh, as He says:

﴿لَيْسُوا سَوَاءً بَيْنَ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ أُمَّةٌ قَائِمَةٌ يَتْلُونَ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ آنَاءَ اللَّيْلِ وَهُمْ يَسْجُدُونَ﴾

﴿Not all of them are alike; a party of the People of the Scripture stand for the right, they recite the Āyāt of Allāh Anā'a Al-Layl, prostrating themselves (in prayer).﴾ (3:113).

And Allāh says here:

﴿أَتَنْ هُوَ قَتَيْتُ أَنَا أَلَيْلَ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا﴾

﴿Is one who is obedient to Allāh, Anā'a Al-Layl prostrating and standing﴾

meaning, one who is humble and fears Allāh when he prostrates and stands (in prayer). It was reported that Ibn Mas'ūd, may Allāh be pleased with him, said: "The obedient one is one who obeys Allāh and His Messenger ﷺ." [1] Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, Al-Ḥasan, As-Suddi and Ibn Zayd said, Anā'a Al-Layl means in the depths of the night. [2]

[1] Al-Qurṭubī 15:239.

[2] Al-Qurṭubī 15:239.

﴿يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُوا رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ﴾

﴿fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord.﴾

means, in his worship he feels both fear and hope. Both are essential in worship, and fear should be stronger during one's lifetime. Allāh says:

﴿يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُوا رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ﴾

﴿fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord.﴾

At the time of death, hope is uppermost, as Imām 'Abd bin Ḥumayd recorded in his *Musnad* from Anas, may Allāh be pleased with him, who said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ entered upon a man who was dying, and said to him,

«كَيْفَ نَجِدُكَ؟»

«How do you feel?» He said, 'I am both afraid and hopeful.' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«لَا يَجْتَمِعَانِ فِي قَلْبٍ عَبْدٍ فِي مِثْلِ هَذَا الْمَوْطِنِ إِلَّا أَعْطَاهُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ الَّذِي يَرْجُو، وَأَمَنَهُ الَّذِي يَخَافُهُ»

«These do not co-exist in a person's heart at times such as this, but Allāh will give him what he hopes for and protect him from that which he fears.»^[1]

This was recorded by At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasā'ī in *Al-Yawm wal-Laylah*, and Ibn Mājah from the *Ḥadīth* of Yasār bin Ḥātim from Ja'far bin Sulaymān. At-Tirmidhi said, "*Gharīb*."^[2]

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Tamīm Ad-Dāri, may Allāh be pleased with him, said that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«مَنْ قَرَأَ بِحَاثَةِ آيَةٍ فِي لَيْلَةٍ حُجِبَ لَهُ قُتُوثُ لَيْلَةٍ»

«Whoever recites one hundred Āyāt in one night, it will be recorded as if he prayed all night.»

This was also recorded by An-Nasā'ī in *Al-Yawm wal-Laylah*.^[3]

[1] 'Abd bin Ḥumayd ; 404.

[2] *Tuḥfat Al-Aḥwadhī* 7:57, An-Nasā'ī in *Al-Kubrā* 6:262, Ibn Mājah 2:1423.

[3] Aḥmad 4:103.

سُورَةُ الْاَنْكَافِ

٤٦٠

الْاَنْكَافُ

قُلْ اِنِّي اُمِرْتُ اَنْ اَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ ﴿١﴾ وَاُمِرْتُ لِاَنْ اَكُونَ
 اَوَّلَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٢﴾ قُلْ اِنِّي اَخَافُ اِنْ عَصَيْتُ رَبِّي عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ
 ﴿٣﴾ قُلْ اَللّٰهُ اَعْبُدْ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ دِيْنِيْ ﴿٤﴾ فَاَعْبُدُوْا مَا شِئْتُمْ مِنْ دُوْنِهِ
 قُلْ اِنَّ الْخَاسِرِيْنَ الَّذِيْنَ خَسِرُوْا اَنْفُسَهُمْ وَاَهْلِيْهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ اَلَا
 ذٰلِكَ هُوَ الْخُسْرَانُ الْمُبِيْنُ ﴿٥﴾ لَهُمْ مِنْ فَوْقِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ مِنَ النَّارِ
 وَمِنْ تَحْتِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ ذٰلِكَ يُخَوِّفُ اِلَهٌ بِرِعَادِهِ يَتَعَبَادُ فَانْقُرُوْنَ ﴿٦﴾
 وَالَّذِيْنَ اجْتَنَبُوا الطَّاغُوْتِ اَنْ يَّعْبُدُوْهَا وَاَنْ يَّاتُوْا اِلَى اللّٰهِ لَهُمُ الْبُشْرٰى
 فَيَسِّرْ عِبَادَ ﴿٧﴾ الَّذِيْنَ يَسْمَعُوْنَ الْقَوْلَ فَيَتَّبِعُوْنَ اَحْسَنَهُ
 اُولٰٓئِكَ الَّذِيْنَ هَدٰىهُمُ اللّٰهُ وَاُولٰٓئِكَ هُمُ اُولُو الْاَلْبَابِ ﴿٨﴾
 اَفَمَنْ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ اَفَاَنْتَ تُفَقِّدُ فِيْ النَّارِ ﴿٩﴾
 لٰكِنَ الَّذِيْنَ اَنْقَرُوْا مِنْهُمْ لَهُمْ عَرْفٌ مِّنْ فَوْقِهَا عَرْفٌ مَّيْمَنَةٌ يَّجْرٰى
 مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْاَنْهٰرُ وَعَدَّ اللّٰهُ لَا يَخْلِفُ اللّٰهُ اَلْعِمَادَ ﴿١٠﴾ اَلَمْ تَرَ
 اَنْ اللّٰهَ اَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَآءً فَسَلَكَهُ يَنْبِيعٌ فَاَنْزَلَ مِنْهُ
 يَخْرٰىجُ مِنْهُ زُرْعًا مُّخْتَلِفًا اَلْوَنُ ثُمَّ يَهِيجُ فَتَرَاهُ مُصْفٰرًا ثُمَّ
 يَجْعَلُهُ حُطَامًا اِنِّ فِىْ ذٰلِكَ لَذِكْرٌ لِّاُولِ الْاَلْبَابِ ﴿١١﴾

﴿قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

﴿Say: "Are those who know equal to those who know not?"﴾

means, is this one equal with the one who sets up rivals to Allāh to mislead (men) from His path?

﴿إِنَّمَا يَذْكُرُ اُولُو الْاَلْبَابِ﴾

﴿It is only men of understanding who will remember.﴾

means, the only one who will understand the difference between them is the one who has understanding. And Allāh knows best.

﴿قُلْ يٰٓعِبَادَ الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا اتَّقُوْا رَبَّكُمْ لِلَّذِيْنَ اٰخَسَنُوْا فِىْ هٰذِهِ
 الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةٌ وَّاَرْضُ اللّٰهِ وَسِعَةٌ اِنَّمَا يُوَفِّى الصّٰبِرِيْنَ اَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ﴾

﴿قُلْ اِنِّي اُمِرْتُ اَنْ اَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ﴾ وَاُمِرْتُ لِاَنْ اَكُونَ اَوَّلَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿١١﴾

﴿10. Say: "O My servants who believe, have Taqwā of your Lord. Good is for those who do good in this world, and Allāh's earth is spacious! Only those who are patient shall receive their reward in full, without reckoning."﴾

﴿11. Say: "Verily, I am commanded to worship Allāh, making religion sincerely for Him."﴾

﴿12. "And I am commanded (this) in order that I may be the first of the Muslims."﴾

The Command for *Taqwā*, Emigration and to worship Him alone with all Sincerity

Allāh commands His believing servants to remain steadfast in their obedience and have *Taqwā* of Him.

﴿قُلْ يٰٓاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا اتَّقُوْا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِيْنَ اَخْسَرُوْا فِيْ هٰذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً﴾

﴿Say: "O My servants who believe, have *Taqwā* of your Lord. Good is for those who do good in this world..."﴾

means, the one who does good deeds in this world, will have a good (reward) in this world and in the Hereafter.

﴿وَالْاَرْضُ لِلّٰهِ وَبِعِزَّةِ﴾

﴿and Allah's earth is spacious!﴾ Mujāhid said, "So emigrate through it and strive hard and keep away from idols."^[1]

﴿اِنَّمَا يُوَفَّى الصَّٰبِرُوْنَ اَجْرُهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ﴾

﴿Only those who are patient shall receive their reward in full, without reckoning.﴾

Al-'Awzā'i said, "Their reward will not be weighed or measured; they will be given an immense reward." As-Suddi said:

﴿اِنَّمَا يُوَفَّى الصَّٰبِرُوْنَ اَجْرُهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ﴾

﴿Only those who are patient shall receive their reward in full, without reckoning.﴾

means, "In Paradise."^[2]

﴿قُلْ اِنِّىْ اُمِرْتُ اَنْ اَعْبُدَ اللّٰهَ مُخْلِصًا لِّهِ الدِّيْنَ ۝۱۱﴾

﴿Say: "Verily, I am commanded to worship Allāh, making religion sincerely for Him..."﴾

means, 'I am commanded to worship Allāh alone in all sincerity, with no partner or associate.'

﴿وَاُمِرْتُ لِاَنْ اَكُوْنَ اَوَّلَ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ ۝۱۲﴾

﴿And I am commanded (this) in order that I may be the first of the Muslims.﴾

[1] At-Ṭabari 21 :269.

[2] At-Ṭabari 21 :270.

﴿قُلْ إِنِّي لَكَافٍ إِنْ عَصَيْتُ رَبِّي عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ﴾ ﴿١٣﴾ قُلْ اللَّهُ أَغْبَدُ مَخْلُصًا لَّهُ رَبِّي ﴿١٤﴾ فَأَعْبُدُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ قُلْ إِنِّي لَتَقْصِرِينَ الَّذِينَ خَيْرُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَهْلِيهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ أَلَا ذَلِكَ هُوَ لَتَفْتَرُ الْغَائِبِينَ ﴿١٥﴾ لَمْ يَنْ يَنْ قَوْفِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ مِنَ النَّارِ وَمِنْ تَحْتِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ ذَلِكَ يُخَوِّفُ اللَّهُ بِهِ عِبَادَهُ وَيَعْبَادُوا فَأَتَقُوهُ ﴿١٦﴾

﴿13. Say: "Verily, if I disobey my Lord, I am afraid of the torment of a great Day."﴾

﴿14. Say: "Allāh Alone I worship by doing religious deeds sincerely for His sake only."﴾

﴿15. "So, worship what you like besides Him." Say: "The losers are those who will lose themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection. Verily, that will be a manifest loss!"﴾

﴿16. They shall have coverings of Fire, above them and covering (of Fire) beneath them. With this Allāh frightens His servants: "O My servants, therefore have Taqwā of Me!"﴾

Creating Fear of the Punishment of Allāh

Allāh 'says, say O Muḥammad, even though you are the Messenger of Allāh:'

﴿إِنِّي أَخَافُ إِنْ عَصَيْتُ رَبِّي عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ﴾

﴿Verily, if I disobey my Lord, I am afraid of the torment of a great Day.﴾

meaning the Day of Resurrection. This is a conditional sentence, and if what is referred to here applies to the Prophet ﷺ, it applies even more so to others,

﴿قُلْ اللَّهُ أَغْبَدُ مَخْلُصًا لَّهُ رَبِّي﴾ ﴿١٤﴾ فَأَعْبُدُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ﴾

﴿Say: "Allāh Alone I worship by doing religious deeds sincerely for His sake only. So, worship what you like besides Him."﴾

This is also a threat, and a disowning of them.

﴿قُلْ إِنِّي لَتَقْصِرِينَ﴾

﴿Say: "The losers..."﴾ means, the greatest losers of all,

﴿الَّذِينَ خَيْرُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَهْلِيهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ﴾

﴿are those who will lose themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection.﴾

means, they will be separated and will never meet again, whether their families have gone to Paradise and they have gone to Hell, or all of them have gone to Hell, they will never meet or feel happiness again.

﴿أَلَا ذَلِكَ مَرُ الْحَسْرَةِ الْيُسُيُ﴾

﴿Verily, that will be a manifest loss!﴾

means, this is the clearest and most obvious loss. Then He describes their state in the Fire:

﴿لَهُمْ مِنْ قَوْفِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ مِنَ النَّارِ وَمِنْ تَحْتِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ﴾

﴿They shall have coverings of Fire, above them and covering (of Fire) beneath them.﴾

This is like the Āyāt:

﴿لَهُمْ مِنْ جَهَنَّمَ مِهَادٌ وَمِنْ قَوْفِهِمْ غَوَاشٍ وَكَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الظَّالِمِينَ﴾

﴿Theirs will be a bed of Hell (Fire), and over them coverings (of Hell-fire). Thus do We recompense the wrongdoers﴾ (7:41)

﴿يَوْمَ يَنْشَهُمُ اللَّعْنَةُ مِنْ قَوْفِهِمْ وَمِنْ تَحْتِ أَرْجُلِهِمْ وَيَقُولُ ذُوقُوا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ﴾

﴿On the Day when the torment (Hell-fire) shall cover them from above them and from underneath their feet, and it will be said: "Taste what you used to do."﴾ (29:55)

﴿ذَلِكَ يُخَوِّفُ اللَّهَ بِهِ عِبَادَهُ﴾

﴿With this Allāh frightens His servants:﴾ means, Allāh tells us about this, which will undoubtedly come to pass, to frighten His servants, so that they will keep away from unlawful things and from sin.

﴿وَيَعِبَادُوا فَاتَّقُونِ﴾

﴿O My servants, therefore have Taqwā of Me!﴾ means, 'fear My wrath, My anger, My punishment and My vengeance.'

﴿وَالَّذِينَ اجْتَنَبُوا الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ يَعْبُدُوا مَا آتَا مِنْهُمُ اللَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَلَيْهِمْ عِقَابٌ ۖ أَلَّا يَتَّقُوا﴾

﴿الْقَوْلُ قَبُولُ ۚ أَحْسَنُ ۚ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ أَزْوَاجُ الْأَتَقِينَ﴾

﴿17. Those who avoid Aṭ-Ṭaghūt by not worshipping them and turn to Allāh, for them are glad tidings; so announce the good news to My servants.﴾

﴿18. Those who listen to the Word and follow the best thereof, those are (the ones) whom Allāh has¹guided and those are men of understanding.﴾

Good News for the Righteous

‘Abdur-Raḥmān bin Zayd bin Aslam said, narrating from his father:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ اجْتَنَبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ أَنْ يَبْدُوهَا﴾

﴿Those who avoid Aṭ-Ṭaghūt by not worshipping them﴾

was revealed concerning Zayd bin ‘Amr bin Nufayl and Abu Dharr and Salmān Al-Fārisi, may Allāh be pleased with them.^[1] The correct view is that it includes them and all others who avoided worshipping idols and turned to the worship of Ar-Raḥmān. These are the people for whom there is good news in this world and in the Hereafter. Then Allāh says:

﴿فَيُنْذِرُ عِبَادَ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَمِعُونَ الْقَوْلَ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ أَحْسَنَهُ﴾

﴿so announce the good news to My servants – those who listen to the Word and follow the best thereof,﴾

meaning, those who understand it and act in accordance with it. This is like the Words of Allāh, may He be exalted, to Mūsā, peace be upon him, when He gave him the Tawrah:

﴿فَخُذْهَا بِقُوَّةٍ وَأْمُرْ قَوْمَكَ يَأْخُذُوا بِأَحْسَنِهَا﴾

﴿Hold unto these with firmness, and enjoin your people to take the better therein﴾ (7:145).

﴿أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ﴾

﴿those are whom Allāh has guided﴾ means, those who are described in this manner are the ones whom Allāh has guided in this world and the Hereafter.

﴿وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْآلِيبُ﴾

^[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:274.

﴿and those are men of understanding.﴾ means, they possess sound reasoning and an upright nature.

﴿أَمَّنْ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ أَقَاتَتْ نَفْسُهُ مَنْ فِي النَّارِ ۚ لَكِنَّ الَّذِينَ أَنْفَرُوا رَهْمَ لَهْمَ عُرْفٍ
مِنْ فَوْقَهَا عُرْفٌ مَبْنِيَّةٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ وَعَدَ اللَّهُ لَا يَخْلِفُ اللَّهُ الْوَعْدَ ۚ﴾

﴿19. Is, then one against whom the Word of punishment is justified (equal to the one who avoids evil)? Will you rescue him who is in the Fire?﴾

﴿20. But those who have Taqwā of their Lord, for them are built lofty rooms, one above another under which rivers flow. (This is) the promise of Allāh, and Allāh does not fail in (His) promise.﴾

Allāh says, 'if He has decreed that someone is to be doomed, can you save him from his misguidance and doom?' Which means, no one can guide him apart from Allāh, because whomever Allāh leaves astray cannot be guided, and whomever He guides cannot be led astray. Then Allāh tells us that His blessed servants will have lofty rooms in Paradise.

﴿مِنْ فَوْقَهَا عُرْفٌ مَبْنِيَّةٌ﴾

﴿are built lofty rooms, one above another﴾, story upon story, solidly-constructed, adorned and high. 'Abdullāh bin Al-Imām Aḥmad recorded that 'Ali, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ فِي الْجَنَّةِ لَعُرْفًا يُرَى بُطُونُهَا مِنْ ظُهُورِهَا، وَظُهُورُهَا مِنْ بُطُونِهَا»

«In Paradise there are rooms whose inside can be seen from the outside, and the outside can be seen from the inside.»

A bedouin asked, 'Who are they for, O Messenger of Allāh?' He ﷺ said,

«لِمَنْ أَطَابَ الْكَلَامَ، وَأَطْعَمَ الطَّعَامَ، وَصَلَّى بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّاسُ نِيَامُ»

«For those who speak kindly, feed the hungry and stand in prayer at night whilst the people are sleeping.»^[1]

This was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi, who said, "Ḥasan Gharīb".^[2] Imām Aḥmad recorded from Sahl bin Sa'd, may

[1] Aḥmad 1:155.

[2] Tuhfat Al-Aḥwadhī 7:231.

Allāh be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ أَهْلَ الْجَنَّةِ لَيَتَرَاءَوْنَ فِي الْغُرَفَةِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ، كَمَا تَرَاءَوْنَ الْكَوْكَبَ فِي أَفْقِ السَّمَاءِ»

«The people of Paradise will look towards each other in raised places of Paradise as you look towards the stars on the horizons of the sky.»

He said, "I told An-Nu'mān bin Abi 'Ayyāsh about that, and he said, 'I heard Abu Sa'īd Al-Khudri, may Allāh be pleased with him, narrate it:

«كَمَا تَرَاءَوْنَ الْكَوْكَبَ الَّذِي فِي الْأَفْقِ الشَّرْقِيِّ أَوْ الْغَرْبِيِّ»

«As you see the stars on the horizon of the east or the west.»^[1] It was also recorded in the Two *Ṣaḥīḥs*.^[2]

Imām Aḥmad said, "Fazārah narrated to us; Fulayḥ narrated to us; from Hilāl bin 'Alī, from 'Aṭā' bin Yasār, from Abu Hurayrah, may Allāh be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ أَهْلَ الْجَنَّةِ لَيَتَرَاءَوْنَ فِي الْجَنَّةِ أَهْلَ الْغُرَفِ، كَمَا تَرَاءَوْنَ الْكَوْكَبَ الدُّرِّيَّ الْغَارِبَ فِي الْأَفْقِ الطَّالِعِ، فِي تَفَاضُلٍ أَهْلَ الدَّرَجَاتِ»

«The people of Paradise will look towards each other in the raised places of Paradise as you look at the high, bright stars which remain on the horizon. Such will be the difference in superiority which some of them have over others.»

They said, "O Messenger of Allāh, are those the abodes of the Prophets?" He ﷺ said:

«بَلَى، وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ، وَأَقْوَامٌ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَصَدَّقُوا الرَّسُولَ»

«No, by the One in Whose Hand is my soul, they are the abodes of people who believed in Allāh and in the Messengers.»^[3]

It was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi, who said, "*Ḥasan Ṣaḥīḥ*."^[4]

[1] Aḥmad 5:340.

[2] *Faṭḥ Al-Bāri* 11:424, Muslim 4:2177.

[3] Aḥmad 2:339.

[4] *Tuḥfat Al-Aḥwadhī* 7:272.

سُورَةُ الزُّمَرِ

٤٦١

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي

أَفَمَنْ شَرَحَ اللَّهُ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ فَهُوَ عَلَى نُورٍ مِنْ رَبِّهِ ۚ قَوْلٌ
لِلْقَلْبِ يَسْمَعُ فَلَوْهُمْ مِنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَوْ لِيَكُ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ ﴿٢١﴾
اللَّهُ نَزَّلَ أَحْسَنَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابًا مُتَشَابِهًا مَثَانٍ ۖ تَقْسِرُ مِنْهُ
جُلُودُ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ ثُمَّ تَلِينُ جُلُودُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ
إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ هُدَى اللَّهِ يَهْدِي بِهِ ۚ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَمَنْ
يَضِلِّ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ ﴿٢٢﴾ أَفَمَنْ يَتَّبِعِ بَوَجهَهُ سُوءَ
الْعَذَابِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَقِيلَ لِلظَّالِمِينَ ذُوقُوا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَكْسِبُونَ
﴿٢٣﴾ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَانْتَهُم ۚ الْعَذَابُ مِنْ حَيْثُ
لَا يَشْعُرُونَ ﴿٢٤﴾ فَأَذَاقَهُمُ اللَّهُ الْغُرَىٰ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَلِعَذَابُ
الْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ ۚ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٥﴾ وَلَقَدْ ضَرَبْنَا لِلنَّاسِ فِي
هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَثَلٍ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَنْذَرُونَ ﴿٢٦﴾ قُرْءَانًا غَرِيْبًا
غَيْرِ ذِي عِوَجٍ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢٧﴾ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا رَجُلًا فِيهِ
شُرَكَاءُ مُتَشَاكِسُونَ وَرَجُلًا سَلَمًا لِرَجُلٍ هَلْ يَسْتَوِيَانِ مَثَلًا
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٨﴾ إِنَّكَ مِيتٌ وَلِإِخْتِمَامِهِمْ مِيتُونَ
﴿٢٩﴾ ثُمَّ إِنَّا نَكْمُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

﴿تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ﴾

﴿under which rivers flow.﴾ means, the rivers flow wherever the people want them to flow.

﴿وَعَدَ اللَّهُ﴾

﴿(This is) the promise of Allāh,﴾ means, 'all that We have mentioned here is what Allāh has promised to His believing servants.'

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَاتِ﴾

﴿and Allāh does not fail in (His) promise.﴾

﴿أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ
مَاءً فَسَلَكَهُ يَنَبُوعٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ
يَخْرُجُ بِهِ زَرْعًا مُخْتَلِفًا أَلْوَنُهُ ثُمَّ

يَهْبِطُ فَتَذَرُوهَ مُصْفَرًّا ثُمَّ يَجْعَلُهُ حُطًّا إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَذِكْرًا لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿٢١﴾ أَفَمَنْ شَرَحَ اللَّهُ
صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ فَهُوَ عَلَى نُورٍ مِنْ رَبِّهِ ۚ قَوْلٌ لِقَلْبِي يَسْمَعُ فَلَوْهُمْ مِنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَوْ لِيَكُ فِي ضَلَالٍ
مُبِينٍ ﴿٢١﴾

﴿21. See you not that Allāh sends down water from the sky, and causes it to penetrate the earth, as water springs, and afterward thereby produces crops of different colors, and afterward they wither and you see them turn yellow; then He makes them dry and broken pieces. Verily, in this is a reminder for men of understanding.﴾

﴿22. Is he whose breast Allāh has opened to Islām, so that he is in light from his Lord? So, woe to those whose hearts are hardened against remembrance of Allāh! They are in plain

error!﴿

The Parable of the Life of this World

Allāh tells us that water originates in the sky. This is like the Āyah:

﴿وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً طَهُورًا﴾

﴿and We send down pure water from the sky﴾ (25:48).

So, Allāh sends down water from the sky, and it settles in the earth, then He causes it to flow wherever He wills, and He causes springs, great and small, to flow as needed. Allāh says:

﴿فَسَلَكَهُ يَنْبِيعَ فِي الْأَرْضِ﴾

﴿and causes it to penetrate the earth, as water springs,﴾

Saʿīd bin Jubayr and ʿĀmir Ash-Shaʿbi said that all the water on earth has its origins in the sky.^[1] Saʿīd bin Jubayr said, its origins lie in the snow, meaning that snow piles up in the mountains, then settles at the bottom (of the mountains) and springs flow from the bottom of them.

﴿ثُمَّ يُخْرِجُ بِهِ زَرْعًا مُخْتَلِفًا أَلْوَانُهُ﴾

﴿and afterward thereby produces crops of different colors﴾

means, then from the water which comes down from the sky or flows from springs in the earth, He brings forth crops of different colors, i.e., different kinds of forms, tastes, scents, benefits, etc.

﴿ثُمَّ يَوَسِّجُ﴾

﴿and afterward they wither﴾ means, after they have been ripe and fresh, they become old and you see them turn yellow when they have dried out.

﴿ثُمَّ يَجْعَلُهُ خُطَلًا﴾

﴿then He makes them dry and broken pieces.﴾

means, then they become brittle.

﴿إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَذِكْرٍ لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ﴾

^[1] Ad-Durr Al-Manthūr 7:219.

﴿Verily, in this is a reminder for men of understanding.﴾

means, those who are reminded by this and who learn the lesson from it, that this world is like this – it is green and fresh and beautiful, then it will become old and ugly. The young man will become a weak, senile old man, and after all of that comes death. The blessed one is the one whose state after death will be good. Allāh often likens the life of this world to the way He sends down water from the sky and crops and fruits grow thereby, then they become dry and brittle. This is like the Āyah:

﴿وَأَنْزَلْنَا لَهُمْ مِثْلَ الْحَيٰوةِ الدُّنْيَا كَمَا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ فَاخْتَلَطَ بِهِ نَبَاتُ الْأَرْضِ فَأَصْبَحَ
شَيْبًا يَذْرَؤُهُ الْأَرْبَعُ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مُّقْتَدِرًا ۝﴾

﴿And put forward to them the example of the life of this world: it is like the water (rain) which We send down from the sky, and the vegetation of the earth mingles with it, and becomes fresh and green. But (later) it becomes dry and broken pieces, which the winds scatter. And Allāh is able to do everything﴾ (18:45)

The People of Truth and the People of Misguidance are not Equal

﴿أَفَمَنْ شَرَحَ اللَّهُ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ فَهُوَ عَلَى نُورٍ مِنْ رَبِّهِ ۚ﴾

﴿Is he whose breast Allāh has opened to Islām, so that he is in light from his Lord?﴾

means, is this person equal to the one who is hard-hearted and far from the truth? This is like the Āyah:

﴿أَوْ مَنْ كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَأَحْيَيْنَاهُ وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُ نُورًا يَمْشِي بِهِ فِي النَّاسِ كَمَنْ مَثَلُهُ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ لَيْسَ بِخَارِجٍ مِنْهَا ۚ﴾

﴿Is he who was dead and We gave him life and set for him a light (i.e. Belief) whereby he can walk amongst men – like him who is in the darkness (i.e., disbelief) from which he can never come out?﴾ (6:122)

Allāh says:

﴿قَوْلٌ لَلْقَسَبَةِ قُلُوبُهُمْ مِّنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ ۚ﴾

﴿So, woe to those whose hearts are hardened against remembrance of Allāh!﴾

meaning, they do not become soft when Allāh is mentioned, and they do not feel humility or fear, and they do not understand.

﴿أُولَٰئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ﴾

﴿They are in plain error!﴾.

﴿اللَّهُ زَلَّ أَحْسَنَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابًا مُّتَشَبِهًا مَتَانًا يَنْفَعُ مِنْهُ جُلُودُ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ ثُمَّ تَلِينُ جُلُودُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ هُدَىٰ اللَّهِ يَهْدِي بِهٖ مَن يَشَاءُ وَمَن يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ ۝۲۳﴾

﴿23. Allāh has sent down the Best Statement, a Book, its parts resembling each other, (and) oft-repeated. The skins of those who fear their Lord shiver from it. Then their skin and their heart soften to the remembrance of Allāh. That is the guidance of Allāh. He guides therewith whom He wills; and whomever Allāh sends astray, for him there is no guide.﴾

The Description of the Qur'an

Here Allāh praises His Book, the Noble Qur'an, which was revealed to His noble Messenger ﷺ. Allāh says,

﴿اللَّهُ زَلَّ أَحْسَنَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابًا مُّتَشَبِهًا مَتَانًا﴾

﴿Allāh has sent down the Best Statement, a Book, its parts resembling each other (and) oft-repeated.﴾

Mujāhid said, "This means that the entire Qur'an's parts resemble each other and are oft-repeated."^[1] Qatādah said, "One Āyah resembles another and one letter resembles another."^[2] Aḍ-Ḍaḥḥāk said, "It is oft-repeated so that people will understand what their Lord tells them." Ikrimah and Al-Ḥasan said, "There may be an Āyah in one Sūrah, and another Āyah in another Sūrah that resembles it." Sa'īd bin Jubayr narrated from Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him: "Oft-repeated means that parts of the Qur'an resemble

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:279.

[2] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:279.

one another and repeat one another.”^[1] Some of the scholars said that it was narrated from Sufyān bin ‘Uyaynah that

﴿مُتَشَبِّهًا مِّثْلَانِ﴾

﴿its parts resembling each other (and) oft-repeated.﴾

means that some passages of the Qur’ān may sometimes refer to one thing, so they resemble one another, and sometimes they mention a thing and its opposite. Such as when the believers then the disbelievers are mentioned, or when Paradise then Hell are described, and so on, and this is the meaning of oft-repeated. Examples include the Āyāt:

﴿إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ لَفِي نَعِيمٍ ﴿١٣﴾ وَإِنَّ الْفُجَّارَ لَفِي جَحِيمٍ ﴿١٤﴾﴾

﴿Verily, the most righteous will be in delight; and verily, the most wicked will be in the blazing Fire (Hell).﴾ (82:13-14)

﴿كَذَٰلِكَ إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْفُجَّارِ لَفِي سِجِّينَ ﴿٧٠﴾﴾

﴿Nay! Truly, the Record of the most wicked is (preserved) in Sijjīn﴾^[2] until

﴿كَذَٰلِكَ إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْأَبْرَارِ لَفِي عِلِّيِّينَ ﴿٧١﴾﴾

﴿Nay! Verily, the Record of the most righteous is (preserved) in ‘Ilīyyīn﴾^[3] (83: 7-18)

﴿هَٰذَا ذِكْرٌ وَإِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ لَحُسْنَ مَآبٍ ﴿١٩﴾﴾

﴿This is a Reminder. And verily, for those who have Taqwā is a good final return (Paradise)﴾ until;

﴿هَٰذَا وَارَبُ اللَّظْفَيْنِ لَشَرَّ مَآبٍ ﴿٢٠﴾﴾

﴿This is so! And for those who transgress, there will be an evil final return (Fire).﴾ (38:49-55).

And there are other similar passages. All of this has to do with it being oft-repeated, i.e., when two meanings are referred to. But when a passage is about one thing, with some parts of it resembling others, this is “its parts resembling each other.”

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21 :279.

[2] See the following note.

[3] See the explanation of Sūrat Al-Muṭaffifīn [83 :7-18].

This is not the same as the *Mutashābihāt* mentioned in the *Āyah*:

﴿يُنذِرُ مَائِدَتِ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقِينَ يُنَافِقُونَ وَهُمْ يَرْجُونَ مَوْتًا يُذَكَّرُونَ﴾ (3:7).

﴿In it are Āyāt that are entirely clear, they are the foundations of the Book; and others not entirely clear﴾ (3:7).

that refers to something else altogether.

﴿تَنْفَعِرُ مِنْهُ جُلُودَ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ ثُمَّ تَلِينُ جُلُودُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ﴾

﴿The skins of those who fear their Lord shiver from it. Then their skin and their heart soften to the remembrance of Allāh.﴾

means, this is the description of the righteous, when they hear the Words of the Compeller, the Protector, the Almighty, the Oft-Forgiving, because they understand the promises and warnings contained therein. The frightening words and threats make their skin shiver from fear.

﴿ثُمَّ تَلِينُ جُلُودُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ﴾

﴿Then their skin and their heart soften to the remembrance of Allāh.﴾

because of their hope for His mercy and kindness. They are unlike others, the wicked, immoral sinners, in a number of ways:

First

They listen to the recitation of the *Āyāt* [of the Qur'ān], while those (sinners) listen to poetic verse recited by female singers.

Second

When the *Āyāt* of Ar-Rahmān are recited to them, they fall down in prostration weeping, with the proper attitude of fear, hope, love, understanding and knowledge, as Allāh says:

﴿إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُ رَبِّهِمْ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَى رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ ﴿١﴾ أَلَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ ﴿٢﴾ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ حَقًّا لَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ ﴿٣﴾﴾

﴿The believers are only those who, when Allāh is mentioned, feel a fear in their hearts and when His Āyāt are recited unto them, they increase their faith; and they put their trust in their

Lord; Who perform the Ṣalāh and spend out of that We have provided them. It is they who are the believers in it. For them are grades of dignity with their Lord, and forgiveness and a generous provision (i.e., Paradise). ﴿8:2-4﴾,

﴿وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِّرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ لَمْ يَخِرُّوا عَلَيْهَا صُمًّا وَعُمْيَانًا﴾

﴿And those who, when they are reminded of the Āyāt of their Lord, fall not on them (as if they were) deaf and blind﴾ (25:73).

When they hear the Āyāt of Allāh, they are not too busy to pay attention to them; they listen to them and understand their meanings. So they act upon them and prostrate when they hear them, out of understanding, not out of ignorance and blind following of others.

Third

They adhere to the correct etiquette when they listen to them. As the Companions, may Allāh be pleased with them, used to do when they listened to the words of Allāh recited by the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ. Their skin Would shiver, and their hearts would soften to the remembrance of Allāh. They did not shout or do other actions that are not natural; on the contrary, they would sit quietly with the proper attitude of fear, in an unparalleled fashion. they attained the victory of praise from their Lord in this world and the Hereafter. 'Abdur-Razzāq said, "Ma'mar told us that Qatādah, may Allāh have mercy on him, recited,

﴿تَتَشَوَّرُ مِنْهُ جُلُودُ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ ثُمَّ تَلِينُ جُلُودُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ﴾

﴿The skins of those who fear their Lord shiver from it. Then their skin and their heart soften to the remembrance of Allāh.﴾

and said, This is the characteristic of the friends of Allāh; Allāh has described them in this manner, saying that their skin shivers, their eyes weep and their hearts find rest to the remembrance of Allāh. He did not say that they lose their minds and swoon; that is the characteristic of the followers of innovation, and that comes from the *Shayṭān*." Allāh's saying:

﴿ذَٰلِكَ هُدَى اللَّهِ يَهْدِي بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنَ عِبَادِهِ﴾

﴿That is the guidance of Allāh. He guides therewith whom He wills;﴾

means, this is the characteristic of those whom Allāh has guided, and anyone who does anything different is one of those whom Allāh has sent astray.

﴿وَمَنْ يُضِلِلْ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ﴾

﴿and whomever Allāh sends astray, for him there is no guide.﴾

﴿أَفَمَنْ يَنْفَى بِرُوحِهِ سَوْءَ الْعَذَابِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَقِيلَ لِلظَّالِمِينَ ذُوقُوا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَكْسِبُونَ ﴿٢٤﴾ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَاَتَتْهُمْ الْعَذَابُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ ﴿٢٥﴾ فَاذَاقَهُمُ اللَّهُ لَظْفَرًا فِي الْمَوْتِ الدَّيْمِ وَالْعَذَابُ الْآخِرُ أَكْبَرُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٦﴾﴾

﴿24. Is he then, who will confront with his face the awful torment on the Day of Resurrection? And it will be said to the wrongdoers: "Taste what you used to earn!"﴾

﴿25. Those before them denied, and so the torment came on them from directions they perceived not.﴾

﴿26. So, Allāh made them to taste the disgrace in the present life, but greater is the torment of the Hereafter if they only knew!﴾

The Final Destination of the Disbelievers

﴿أَفَمَنْ يَنْفَى بِرُوحِهِ سَوْءَ الْعَذَابِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ﴾

﴿Is he then, who will confront with his face the awful torment on the Day of Resurrection?﴾

he will be rebuked and he and the evildoers like him will be told:

﴿ذُوقُوا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَكْسِبُونَ﴾

﴿Taste what you used to earn!﴾

'Is this like the one who comes secure on the Day of Resurrection?' as Allāh says:

﴿أَمْ مَنْ يَمْشِي مُكِبًّا عَلَى وَجْهِهِ أَهْدَىٰ أَمَّنْ يَمْشِي سَوِيًّا عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ﴿٦٧﴾﴾

﴿Is he who walks prone on his face, more rightly guided, or he who walks upright on the straight way?﴾ (67:22);

﴿يَوْمَ يُسْحَبُونَ فِي النَّارِ عَلَى وُجُوهِهِمْ ذُوقُوا مَسَّ سَقَرَ﴾

«The Day they will be dragged on their faces into the Fire (it will be said to them): "Taste you the touch of Hell!"» (54:48), and

﴿أَفَنَنْبَلِقَ فِي النَّارِ خَيْرٌ أَمْ مَن يَأْتِيَ بِلَايَا يَوْمِ الْيُسُوءِ﴾

«Is he who is cast into the Fire better or he who comes secure on the Day of Resurrection?» (41:40)

In each of these Āyāt, it was sufficient to refer to one of the two groups.

﴿كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَآتَنَّهُمُ الْمَذَابُ مِن حَيْثُ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ﴾

«Those before them denied, and so the torment came on them from directions they perceived not.»

means, the previous generations who denied the Messengers were destroyed by Allāh for their sins. And none had they to protect them from Allāh.

﴿فَإَذَاقَهُمُ اللَّهُ الْفِرَىٰ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا﴾

«So Allāh made them to taste the disgrace in the present life,»

means, by means of the punishment and revenge which He sent down upon them, and the rejoicing of the believers for what happened to them. So, let those who are addressed beware, for they have rejected the noblest of the Messengers and the Seal of the Prophets ﷺ. And what Allāh has promised them of severe punishment in the Hereafter is worse than whatever befell them in this world. Allāh says:

﴿وَالْعَذَابُ الْآخِرُ أَكْبَرُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

«but greater is the torment of the Hereafter if they only knew!»

﴿وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَا لِلنَّاسِ فِي هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ مِن كُلِّ مَثَلٍ لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ﴾ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا غَيْرَ ذِي عِجٍّ لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢٨﴾ صَرَفَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا رَّجُلًا فِيهِ شُرَكَاءُ مُتَشَاكِسُونَ وَرَجُلًا سَلَمًا رَّجُلًا هَلْ يَسْتَوِيَانِ مَثَلًا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٩﴾ إِنَّكَ مِثٌّ وَإِنَّهُمْ يَتَّبِعُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾ ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ ﴿٣١﴾

«27. And indeed We have put forth for men, in this Qur'ān every kind of parable in order that they may remember.»

﴿28. An Arabic Qur'ān, without any crookedness (therein) in order that they may have Taqwā of Him.﴾

﴿29. Allāh puts forth a parable: a man belonging to many partners disputing with one another, and a man belonging entirely to one master. Are those two equal in comparison? All the praises and thanks be to Allāh! But most of them know not.﴾

﴿30. Verily, you will die, and verily, they (too) will die.﴾

﴿31. Then, on the Day of Resurrection, you will be disputing before your Lord.﴾

The Parable of Shirk

﴿وَلَقَدْ صَرَّرْنَا لِلنَّاسِ فِي هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَثَلٍ﴾

﴿And indeed We have put forth for men, in this Qur'ān every kind of parable﴾

means, 'We have explained things to mankind in it [the Qur'ān] by setting forth examples and parables.'

﴿لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ﴾

﴿in order that they may remember.﴾ Because parables bring the meaning closer to people's minds. As Allāh says:

﴿ضَرَبَ لَكُمْ مَثَلًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ﴾

﴿He sets forth for you a parable from yourselves﴾ (30:28).

meaning, 'so that you may learn it from yourselves.' And Allāh says:

﴿وَذَلِكَ الْأَمَثَلُ نَضَرِيهَا لِلنَّاسِ وَمَا يَتَفَلَّهَا إِلَّا الْعَالِمُونَ﴾

﴿in Order that they may have Taqwā of Him.﴾ (29:43).

﴿قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا غَيْرَ ذِي عِوَجٍ﴾

﴿An Arabic Qur'ān, without any crookedness (therein)﴾

means, it is in a plain Arabic tongue, with no crookedness, deviation or confusion. It is plain, clear proof. Allāh has made it like this and has revealed it like this,

﴿لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ﴾

﴿in order that they may have Taqwā of Him﴾

means, in order that they may heed the warnings contained therein, and strive to attain the promises therein. Then Allāh says:

﴿ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا رَجُلًا فِيهِ شُرَكَاءُ مُتَشَكِّمُونَ﴾

﴿Allāh puts forth a parable: a man belonging to many partners disputing with one another,﴾

meaning, they were disputing concerning that slave in whom they all had a share.

﴿وَرَجُلًا سَلَمًا لِّرَبِّهِ﴾

﴿and a (slave) man belonging entirely to one master.﴾

means, no one owned him except that one man.

﴿هَلْ بَسْوَيَانِ مِثْلًا﴾

﴿Are those two equal in comparison?﴾ meaning, they are not the same. By the same token, the idolator who worships other gods besides Allāh and the sincere believer who worships none besides Allāh, with no partner or associate, are not equal. What comparison can there be between them? Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, Mujāhid and others said, "This Āyah is the parable of the idolator and the sincere believer."^[1]

Because this parable is so clear and obvious, Allāh then says:

﴿الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ﴾

﴿All the praises and thanks be to Allāh!﴾ i.e., for establishing proof against them.

﴿بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

﴿But most of them know not.﴾ means, and for this reason they associate others in worship with Allāh.

The fact that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ and Quraysh will die, and how They will dispute before Allāh

Allāh's saying;

[1] At-Ṭabari 21 :285.

﴿إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ مَيِّتُونَ﴾

﴿Verily, you will die, and verily, they (too) will die.﴾

This is one of the *Āyāt* which Abu Bakr Aṣ-Ṣiddiq, may Allāh be pleased with him, quoted when the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ died, so that the people would realize that he had really died. Another *Āyah* which he quoted was:

﴿وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ أَفَإِنْ مَاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ انْقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَى أَعْقَابِكُمْ وَمَنْ يَنْقَلِبْ عَلَى عَقْبِهِ فَلَنْ يَصُرَ اللَّهُ شَيْئًا وَسَيَجْزِي اللَّهُ الشَّاكِرِينَ﴾

﴿Muḥammad is no more than a Messenger, and indeed (many) Messengers have passed away before him. If he dies or is killed, will you then turn back on your heels? And he who turns back on his heels, not the least harm will do to Allāh; and Allāh will give reward to those who are grateful.﴾ (3:144).

The meaning of this *Āyah* is that you will certainly depart this world and be gathered before Allāh in the Hereafter. You will dispute the issues of *Tawḥīd* and *Shirk* before Allāh, things over which you disputed in this world, and He will judge between you with truth, and He is the Judge, the All-Knowing. So, He will save the sincere believers who worship Him alone, and He will punish the disbelievers who deny His Oneness and associate others in worship with Him. Although this *Āyah* speaks about the believers and disbelievers, and how they will dispute in the Hereafter, it also includes all disputants in this world, for their disputes will come back to them in the Hereafter.

Ibn Abi Ḥātim, may Allāh have mercy on him, recorded that Ibn Az-Zubayr, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "When the *Āyah*

﴿ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ﴾

﴿Then, on the Day of Resurrection, you will be disputing before your Lord.﴾

was revealed, Az-Zubayr, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, 'O Messenger of Allāh, will we repeat our disputes?' He ﷺ said,

«نَعَمْ»

«Yes.» He (Az-Zubayr) said, 'This is a very serious

matter.”^[1]

Aḥmad recorded from Az-Zubayr bin Al-‘Awwām, may Allāh be pleased with him, that when this Sūrah was revealed to the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ:

﴿إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ مَيِّتُونَ ۚ ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ﴾

﴿Verily, you will die, and verily, they (too) will die. Then, on the Day of Resurrection, you will be disputing before your Lord.﴾

Az-Zubayr, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, “O Messenger of Allāh, will the sins that we committed against others in this world be repeated for us?” He ﷺ said,

«نَعَمْ، لِيَكْرَرَنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ حَتَّى يُؤَدَّى إِلَى كُلِّ ذِي حَقٍّ حَقُّهُ»

«Yes, they will be repeated until everyone who is entitled will have his rights restored to him.»

Az-Zubayr, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, “By Allāh, it is a very serious matter.”^[2] It was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi, who said “*Ḥasan Ṣaḥīḥ*.”^[3]

‘Ali bin Abi Ṭalḥah reported that Ibn ‘Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, said:

﴿ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ﴾

﴿Then, on the Day of Resurrection, you will be disputing before your Lord.﴾

means, the truthful one will dispute with the liar, the oppressed will dispute with the oppressor, the one who is guided will dispute with the one who is misguided and the weak will dispute with the arrogant.

Ibn Mandah recorded in *Kitāb Ar-Rūḥ* that Ibn ‘Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, “The people will dispute on the Day of Resurrection, to the extent that the soul will dispute with the body. The soul will say to the body, ‘You did such and such,’ and the body will say to the soul, ‘You told

[1] *Ad-Durr Al-Manthūr* 5:614, Aḥmad with similar wording along with the following version.

[2] Aḥmad 1:164.

[3] *Tuḥfat Al-Aḥwadhī* 9:289.

فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ كَذَبَ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَذَبَ بِالْصِّدْقِ ﴿٣٢﴾
 إِذْ جَاءَهُ الْيَسُّ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَتَوًى لِلْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٣٣﴾ وَالَّذِي
 جَاءَ بِالْصِّدْقِ وَصَدَّقَ بِهِ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ ﴿٣٤﴾
 لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ ذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٣٥﴾
 لِيَكْفُرَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ أَسْوَأَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا وَيَجْزِيَهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ
 بِأَحْسَنِ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٣٦﴾ أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِكَافٍ
 عَبْدَهُ وَيُخَوِّفُونَكَ بِالَّذِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِ وَمَنْ يُضْلِلِ
 اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ ﴿٣٧﴾ وَمَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ مُضِلٍّ
 أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِعَزِيزٍ ذِي انْقِصَارٍ ﴿٣٨﴾ وَلَئِنْ سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ خَلَقَ
 السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ قُلْ أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَدْعُونَ
 مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ أَرَادَنِيَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ هَلْ هُنَّ كَاشِفَاتُ ضُرِّيهِ
 أَوْ أَرَادَنِي بِرَحْمَةٍ هَلْ هِيَ مُمْسِكَةٌ بِرَحْمَتِهِ قُلْ حَسْبِيَ
 اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ يَتَوَكَّلُ الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ ﴿٣٩﴾ قُلْ يَقَوْمِ اعْمَلُوا
 عَلَى مَكَانَتِكُمْ إِنْ عَمِلْتُمْ سُوءَ عَمَلٍ لَكُمْ ﴿٤٠﴾
 مِنْ يَأْتِيهِ عَذَابٌ يُخْزِيهِ وَيَحِلُّ عَلَيْهِ عَذَابٌ مُقِيمٌ ﴿٤١﴾

me to do it and you tempted me.' Then Allāh will send an angel to judge between them, and he will say, 'You two are like a man who cannot walk but can see, and a man who cannot see but can walk.' They went into a garden and the one who could not walk said to the one who was blind, 'I see fruit there, but I cannot reach it.' The blind man said, 'Climb on me and get it.' So he climbed on him and got it. So which of them is the wrongdoer? They will say, 'Both of them.' The angel will say to them, 'You have

passed judgement against yourselves.' The body was a means of transportation for the soul."

Ibn Abi Hātim recorded that Sa'īd bin Jubayr said that Ibn 'Umar, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "This *Āyah* was revealed and we did not know what it was revealed about:

﴿ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ﴾

﴿Then, on the Day of Resurrection, you will be disputing before your Lord.﴾"

He said, "We said, what will we dispute about? There is no dispute between us and the People of the Book, so what will we dispute about? Until the *Fitnah* occurred." Then Ibn 'Umar, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "This is what our Lord promised us we would dispute about." This was recorded by

An-Nasā'ī.^[1]

﴿فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ كَذَبَ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحَقِّ إِذْ جَاءَهُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَثْوًى
 لِلْكَافِرِينَ ۝ وَالَّذِي جَاءَهُ بِالْحَقِّ وَصَدَّقَ بِهِ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ ۝ لَّهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ
 عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ ذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ۝ يُكَفِّرُ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ أَسْوَأَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا وَيَجْزِيهِمْ أَجْرَهُمْ
 بِأَحْسَنِ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ۝﴾

﴿32. Then, who does more wrong than one who utters a lie against Allāh, and denies the truth when it comes to him! Is there not in Hell an abode for the disbelievers?﴾

﴿33. And he who has brought the truth and (those who) believed therein, they are those who have Taqwā.﴾

﴿34. They shall have all that they will desire with their Lord. That is the reward of the doers of good.﴾

﴿35. So that Allāh may expiate from them the evil of what they did and give them the reward, according to the best of what they used to do.﴾

The Punishment of the Disbelievers and Liars, and the Reward of the Sincere Believers

The idolators uttered lies against Allāh and said that there were other gods besides Him and claimed that the angels were the daughters of Allāh and that Allāh had a son – glorified be He far above all that they say. Moreover, they rejected the truth when it came to them on the lips of the Messengers (peace and blessings be upon them all). Allāh says:

﴿فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ كَذَبَ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحَقِّ إِذْ جَاءَهُ﴾

﴿Then, who does more wrong than one who utters a lie against Allāh, and denies the truth when it comes to him!﴾

meaning, there is no one who does more wrong than such a person, because he combines the two aspects of falsehood, disbelief in Allāh and disbelief in the Messenger of Allāh. They made false claims and rejected the truth, Allāh threatened them:

^[1] An-Nasā'ī in *Al-Kubrā* no. 11447. This refers to the civil turmoil that began with the assassination of 'Uthmān, may Allāh be pleased with him.

﴿الْبَئْسَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَثْوًى لِّلْكَافِرِينَ﴾

﴿Is there not in Hell an abode for the disbelievers?﴾

who are the deniers and rejecters. Then Allāh says:

﴿وَالَّذِي جَاءَ بِالصِّدْقِ وَصَدَّقَ بِهِ﴾

﴿And he who has brought the truth and (those who) believed therein,﴾

Mujāhid, Qatādah, Ar-Rabī' bin Anas and Ibn Zayd said, "The one who brought the truth was the Messenger ﷺ."^[1]

'Abdur-Raḥmān bin Zayd bin Aslam said:

﴿وَالَّذِي جَاءَ بِالصِّدْقِ﴾

﴿"And he who has brought the truth﴾ means the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ.

﴿وَصَدَّقَ بِهِ﴾

﴿and (those who) believed therein﴾ means the Muslims."^[2]

﴿أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ﴾

﴿they are those who have Taqwā﴾. Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "They fear and shun Shirk."^[3]

﴿لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ﴾

﴿They shall have all that they will desire with their Lord.﴾ means, in Paradise; whatever they ask for they will have.

﴿ذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٢٠﴾ لِيُكَفِّرَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ أَسْوَأَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا وَيَجْزِيَهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٢١﴾﴾

﴿That is the reward of doers of good. So that Allāh may expiate from them the evil of what they did and give them the reward, according to the best of what they used to do.﴾

This is like the Āyah:

﴿أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ نَقَبَلُ عَنْهُمْ أَحْسَنَ مَا عَمِلُوا وَنَتَجَاوَزُ عَنْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ فِي أَحْسَنِ الْمَقَاصِدِ وَعَدَ الصِّدْقِ﴾

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:289, Al-Qurṭubi 15:256.

[2] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:290.

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:292.

الَّذِي كَانُوا يُوعَدُونَ ﴿١٦﴾

﴿They are those from whom We shall accept the best of their deeds and overlook their evil deeds. (They shall be) among the dwellers of Paradise, a promise of truth, which they have been promised.﴾ (46:16).

﴿أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِكَافٍ عَبْدَهُ وَيُخَوِّتُكَ بِالَّذِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِ وَمَنْ يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ ۖ وَمَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ مُضِلٍّ أَلَيْسَ إِلَهِكُمْ بِعَزِيزٍ ذِي انْقِصَارٍ ۖ ﴿١٧﴾ وَلَئِنْ سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ قُلْ أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ أَرَادَنِيَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ هَلْ هُنَّ كَافِفَتُ ضُرِّي أَوْ أَرَادَنِي بِرَحْمَةٍ هَلْ هِيَ مُنْكِتٌ رَحْمَتِي قُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ يَتَوَكَّلُ الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ ۖ ﴿١٨﴾ قُلْ يَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَتَعْمَلُونَ عَلَىٰ مَكَانِكُمْ إِنْ عَمِلْتُمْ فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ ۖ ﴿١٩﴾ مَنْ يَأْتِهِ عَذَابٌ يُخْزِيهِ وَيَحِلُّ عَلَيْهِ عَذَابٌ مُثْمِنٌ ۖ ﴿٢٠﴾﴾

﴿36. Is not Allāh Sufficient for His servant? Yet they try to frighten you with those besides Him! And whom Allāh sends astray, for him there will be no guide.﴾

﴿37. And whomsoever Allāh guides, for him there will be no misleader. Is not Allāh Almighty, Possessor of Retribution?﴾

﴿38. And verily, if you ask them: "Who created the heavens and the earth?" Surely, they will say: "Allāh." Say: "Tell me then, the things that you invoke besides Allāh – if Allāh intended some harm for me, could they remove His harm? Or if He intended some mercy for me, could they withhold His mercy?" Say: "Sufficient for me is Allāh; in Him those who trust must put their trust."﴾

﴿39. Say: "O My people! Work according to your way, I am working. Then you will come to know"﴾

﴿40. "To whom comes a disgracing torment, and on whom descends an everlasting torment."﴾

Allāh is Sufficient for His Servant

Allāh says:

﴿أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِكَافٍ عَبْدَهُ﴾

﴿Is not Allāh Sufficient for His servant?﴾ Some of them read it "His servants." It means that Allāh is Sufficient for the one who

worships Him and relies upon Him.

﴿وَيَحْذَرُونَكَ بِالَّذِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِ﴾

﴿Yet they try to frighten you with those besides Him!﴾

means, the idolators tried to scare the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ with their idols and gods which they called upon besides Allāh out of ignorance and misguidance. Allāh says:

﴿وَمَنْ يُضِلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ. وَمَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ مُضِلٍّ أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِعَزِيزٍ

ذِي أَنْتِقَامٍ ﴿٢٧﴾﴾

﴿And whom Allāh sends astray, for him there will be no guide. And whomsoever Allāh guides, for him there will be no misleader. Is not Allāh Almighty, Possessor of Retribution?﴾

meaning, whoever relies on Him and turns to Him, will never be forsaken, for He is the Almighty Who cannot be overwhelmed by another, and there is none more severe than Him in exacting retribution on those who disbelieve in Him, associate others in worship with Him and resist His Messenger ﷺ.

The Idolators admit that Allāh is the Sole Creator because Their gods are incapable

﴿وَلَيْن سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ﴾

﴿And verily, if you ask them: "Who created the heavens and the earth?" Surely, they will say: "Allāh."﴾

means, the idolators used to recognize that Allāh was the Creator of all things, but despite that they still worshipped others besides Him, others who had no power to bring benefit or cause harm. Allāh said:

﴿قُلْ أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ أَرَادَنِيَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ هَلْ هُنَّ كَاشِفَاتُ ضُرِّيهِ أَوْ

أَرَادَنِيَ بِرَحْمَةٍ هَلْ هُنَّ مُمْسِكَتُ رَحْمَتِهِ﴾

﴿Say: "Tell me then, the things that you invoke besides Allāh – if Allāh intended some harm for me, could they remove His harm? Or if He (Allāh) intended some mercy for me, could they withhold His mercy?"﴾

meaning, they cannot do any of that at all. Here Ibn Abi

Hātim recorded a narration from Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, attributing it to the Prophet ﷺ:

«احْفَظِ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظَكَ، احْفَظِ اللَّهَ تَجِدْهُ تُجَاهَكَ، تَعَرَّفْ إِلَى اللَّهِ فِي الرَّخَاءِ يَعْرِفَكَ فِي الشَّدَةِ، إِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلِ اللَّهَ، وَإِذَا اسْتَعَنْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ، وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ الْأُمَّةَ لَوِ اجْتَمَعُوا عَلَى أَنْ يَضُرُّوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَكُتْبُهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ لَمْ يَضُرُّوكَ، وَلَوْ اجْتَمَعُوا عَلَى أَنْ يَنْفَعُوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَكُتْبُهُ اللَّهُ لَكَ لَمْ يَنْفَعُوكَ، جَمَعَتِ الصُّحُفُ وَرُفِعَتِ الْأَقْلَامُ، وَاعْمَلْ لِلَّهِ بِالشُّكْرِ فِي الْيَقِينِ. وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ فِي الصَّبْرِ عَلَى مَا نَكَرَهُ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا، وَأَنَّ النَّصْرَ مَعَ الصَّبْرِ، وَأَنَّ الْفَرَجَ مَعَ الْكُرْبِ، وَأَنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا»

«Be mindful of Allāh and He will protect you; be mindful of Allāh and you will find Him ever with you. Turn to Allāh in times of ease and He will turn to you in times of difficulty. If you ask anyone for anything, then ask Allāh; if you seek help from anyone, then seek help from Allāh. Know that even if the entire nation were to come together to do you some harm that Allāh has not decreed for you, they will never be able to harm you, and if they were to come together to do you some good that Allāh has not decreed for you, they will never be able to do that. The pages have dried and the pens have been lifted. Strive for the sake of Allāh with thankfulness and firm conviction, and know that in patiently persevering with regard to something that you dislike there is much goodness. Victory comes with patience, a way out comes from difficulty and with hardship comes ease.»^[1]

﴿قُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ﴾

«Say: "Sufficient for me is Allāh..."» means, 'Allāh is enough for me.'

﴿عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَعَلَيْهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ﴾

«In Him I put my trust, and let all those that trust, put their trust in Him.» [12: 67]

This is like what Hūd, peace be upon him, said to his people:

^[1] Aḥmad 1:307.

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ لِلنَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ فَمَنِ اهْتَدَىٰ
فَلَِنَفْسِهِ ۖ وَمَنْ ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهِمَا وَمَا أَنتَ عَلَيْهِمْ
بِوَكِيلٍ ﴿١١﴾ اللَّهُ يَتَوَفَّى الْأَنفُسَ حِينَ مَوْتِهَا وَالَّتِي
لَمْ تَمُتْ فِي مَنَامِهَا فَيُمْسِكُ الَّتِي قَضَىٰ عَلَيْهَا الْمَوْتَ
وَيُرْسِلُ الْأُخْرَىٰ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ۚ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ
لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿١٢﴾ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ أَخَذَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ شُفْعَاءَ
قُلْ أُولَٰئِكَ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَعْقِلُونَ ﴿١٣﴾
قُلْ لِلَّهِ الشَّفَعَةُ جَمِيعًا ۚ لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ
إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ ﴿١٤﴾ وَإِذَا ذَكَرَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ اشْمَأَزَّتْ
قُلُوبُ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ وَإِذَا ذَكَرَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ
دُونِهِ إِذَا هُمْ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ ﴿١٥﴾ قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ فَاطِرَ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضِ عَلِيمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ أَنْتَ تَحْكُمُ بَيْنَ عِبَادِكَ
فِي مَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ ﴿١٦﴾ وَلَوْ أَنَّ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا
مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا وَمِثْلَهُ مَعَهُ لَا فِدَاءَ لَهُ مِنْ سُوءِ الْعِقَابِ
يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَبَدَا لَهُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يَكُونُوا يَحْتَسِبُونَ ﴿١٧﴾

﴿إِنْ تَقُولُ إِلَّا أَعَنَيْتَكَ بَعْضُ
الْإِنْسَانِ بِمُؤْمَرٍ قَالَ إِنْ أَشْهَدُ اللَّهَ
وَأَشْهَدُوا أَنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِمَّا
تُشْرِكُونَ﴾ مِنْ دُونِهِ فَيَكْدُونِي
جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ لَا تُنْظِرُونِ﴾ إِنْ
تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ رَقِي وَرَبُّكَ مَا مِنْ
دَابَّةٍ إِلَّا هُوَ آخِذٌ بِنَاصِيَتِهَا إِنَّ
رَبِّي عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ﴿١٧﴾

“All that we say is that some of our gods have seized you with evil.” He said: “I call Allāh to witness and bear you witness that I am free from that which you ascribe as partners in worship, with Him. So plot against me, all of you, and give me no respite. I put my trust in Allāh, my Lord and your Lord!

There is not a moving creature but He has the grasp of its forelock. Verily, my Lord is on the straight path.” (11:54-56).

﴿قُلْ يَقَوْمِ اعْمَلُوا عَلَىٰ مَكَائِكُمْ﴾

﴿Say: “O My people! Work according to your way...”﴾

This is a threat and a warning.

﴿إِنِّي عَمَلٌ﴾

﴿I am working﴾ means, ‘according to my way.’

﴿فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾

﴿Then you will come to know﴾ means, you will learn the consequences.

﴿مَنْ يَأْتِيهِ عَذَابٌ يُخْزِيهِ﴾

﴿To whom comes a disgracing torment,﴾ means, in this world,

﴿وَمِنْهُمْ عَلَيْهِ عَذَابٌ مُّهِمٌّ﴾

﴿and on whom descends an everlasting torment.﴾

means, ongoing and eternal, with no escape, which will come on the Day of Resurrection. We seek refuge with Allāh from that.

﴿إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ لِلنَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ فَمَنِ اهْتَكَىٰ فَلِنَفْسِهِ. وَمَنْ سَلَ قَانًا يَعِذْ عَلَيْهِمَا وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِرَكِيبٍ ۝ اللَّهُ يَتَوَكَّلُ الْإِنْسَانُ حِينَ مَوْتِهَا وَالَّذِي لَمْ يَكُنْ فِي مَنَاسِكَاتِ فَيْسِكَ الَّتِي فَضَىٰ عَلَيْهَا الْمَوْتُ وَيُرْسِلُ الْآخِرَىٰ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ۝﴾

﴿41. Verily, We have sent down to you the Book for mankind in truth. So, whosoever accepts the guidance, it is only for himself; and whosoever goes astray, he goes astray only to his (own) loss. And you are not a trustee over them.﴾

﴿42. It is Allāh Who takes away the souls at the time of their death, and those that die not during their sleep. He keeps those (souls) for which He has ordained death and sends the rest for a term appointed. Verily, in this are signs for a people who think deeply.﴾

Allāh says, addressing His Messenger Muḥammad ﷺ:

﴿إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ﴾

﴿Verily, We have sent down to you the Book﴾ meaning, the Qur'ān.

﴿لِلنَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ﴾

﴿for mankind in truth.﴾ means, for all of creation, mankind and Jinn, so that he may warn them therewith.

﴿فَمَنِ اهْتَكَىٰ فَلِنَفْسِهِ﴾

﴿So, whosoever accepts the guidance, it is only for himself;﴾ means, the benefit of that will return to him.

﴿وَمَنْ سَلَ قَانًا يَعِذْ عَلَيْهِ﴾

﴿and whosoever goes astray, he goes astray only for his (own) loss.﴾

means, the consequences of that will return to him.

﴿وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِكَافِلٍ﴾

«And you are not a trustee over them.» means, 'you are not responsible for guiding them.'

﴿إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ نَذِيرٌ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ﴾

«But you are only a warner. And Allāh is a Trustee over all things» (11:12).

﴿إِنَّمَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَلَاغُ وَعَلَيْنَا الْحِسَابُ﴾

«your duty is only to convey and on Us is the reckoning» (13:40).

Allāh is the One Who causes Death and gives Life

Then Allāh tells us that He is in control of all things and does as He wills. He causes men to die (the "greater death") when He sends the angels to take men's souls from their bodies, and He causes them to "die a lesser death" when they sleep. Allāh says:

﴿وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَنْزِلُكُمْ بِاللَّيْلِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا جَرَحْتُمْ بِالنَّهَارِ ثُمَّ يَبْعَثُكُمْ فِيهِ لِيُقْضَىٰ أَجَلٌ مُّسَمًّى ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٦٠﴾ وَهُوَ الْغَافِرُ الْوَدِيدُ ﴿٦١﴾ يُرْسِلُ عَلَيْكُمْ حَفَظَةً ۚ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَكُمْ الْمَوْتُ تَوَفَّتْهُ رُسُلُنَا وَهُمْ لَا يُفَرِّطُونَ ﴿٦٢﴾﴾

«It is He, Who takes your souls by night (when you are asleep), and has knowledge of all that you have done by day, then He raises (wakes) you up again that a term appointed be fulfilled, then (in the end) unto Him will be your return. Then He will inform you of that which you used to do. He is the Irresistible, over His servants, and He sends guardians (angels guarding and writing all of one's good and bad deeds) over you, until when death approaches one of you, Our messengers (angels) take his soul, and they never neglect their duty.» (6:60-61).

Here Allāh mentions the two deaths, the lesser death then the greater death after it; in the Āyah above (39: 42), He mentions the greater then the lesser. Allāh says:

﴿اللَّهُ يَتَوَفَّى الْأَنفُسَ حِينَ مَوْتِهَا وَالَّتِي لَمْ تَمُتْ فِي مَنَازِلِهَا فِيمَلِكُ الَّتِي قَضَىٰ عَلَيْهَا الْمَوْتَ وَيُرْسِلُ الْأَخْرَىٰ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى﴾

﴿It is Allāh Who takes away the souls at the time of their death, and those that die not during their sleep. He keeps those (souls) for which He has ordained death and sends the rest for a term appointed.﴾

This indicates that they [the souls] meet in the higher realm, as was stated in the Ḥadīth attributed to the Prophet ﷺ which was narrated by Ibn Mandah and others. In the Two Ṣaḥīḥs of Al-Bukhārī and Muslim, it is reported that Abu Hurayrah, may Allāh be pleased with him, said that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«إِذَا أَوَى أَحَدُكُمْ إِلَى فِرَاشِهِ فَلْيَنْقُضْهُ بِدَاخِلِهِ إِزَارِهِ، فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَدْرِي مَا خَلَفَهُ عَلَيْهِ، ثُمَّ لِيَقُلْ: بِاسْمِكَ رَبِّي وَضَعْتُ جَنْبِي، وَبِكَ أَرْفَعُهُ، إِنْ أَمْسَكْتَ نَفْسِي فَارْحَمْهَا، وَإِنْ أَرْسَلْتَهَا فَاحْفَظْهَا بِمَا تَحْفَظُ بِهِ عِبَادَكَ الصَّالِحِينَ»

«When anyone of you goes to bed, let him brush down the bed with his garment, for he does not know what has come on his bed since he left it. Then let him say, "In Your Name, O Lord, I lay down my side and in Your Name I raise it up; if You take my soul, have mercy on it, and if You send it back, protect it with that which You protect Your righteous servants."»^[1]

﴿فِيَمِيتُكَ إِلَهِي فَتَنِي عَلَيْهَا الْمَوْتُ﴾

﴿He keeps those (souls) for which He has ordained death﴾

means, those which have died, and He returns the others back for an appointed term. As-Suddi said, "For the rest of their lives."^[2]

Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "He keeps the souls of the dead and sends back the souls of the living, and He does not make any mistakes.

﴿إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ﴾

﴿Verily, in this are signs for a people who think deeply.﴾

﴿أَمِ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ شُفَعَاءَ قُلْ أُولَئِكَ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَقُولُونَ ﴿١٣﴾ قُلْ لِلَّهِ الشَّفَعَةُ جَمِيعًا لَّهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ ﴿١٤﴾ وَإِذَا ذَكَرَ اللَّهُ

[1] *Fath Al-Bāri* 11 :130, Muslim 4 :2084.

[2] *At-Ṭabari* 21 :298.

وَحَدَّهُ أَشْمَازَتْ قُلُوبُ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ وَإِذَا ذُكِرَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِ إِذَا هُمْ
بَسْتَبِشِرُونَ ﴿٤٤﴾

﴿43. Have they taken as intercessors besides Allāh? Say: "Even if they have power over nothing whatever and have no intelligence?"﴾

﴿44. Say: "To Allāh belongs all intercession. His is the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth. Then to Him you shall be brought back."﴾

﴿45. And when Allāh Alone is mentioned, the hearts of those who believe not in the Hereafter are filled with disgust and when those besides Him are mentioned, behold, they rejoice!﴾

There is no Intercession except with Allāh, and how the Idolators are filled with Disgust when Allāh is mentioned alone

Allāh condemns the idolators for taking intercessors besides Allāh, namely the idols and false gods whom they have taken on the basis of their own whims, with no evidence or proof. These idols are not able to do anything; they have no minds with which to think, and they cannot hear or see. They are inanimate and are much worse off than animals. Then Allāh says: 'Say - O Muḥammad - to these people who claim that those whom they have taken as intercessors with Allāh, that intercession is of no avail except for the one with whom Allāh is pleased and to whom He has granted permission to intercede. The whole matter rests with Him.'

﴿مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ﴾

﴿Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His permission?﴾ (2:255).

﴿لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ﴾

﴿His is the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth.﴾

means, He is the One Who is in control of all that.

﴿ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ﴾

﴿Then to Him you shall be brought back.﴾

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

٤٦٤

الْزُحُرُ

وَبَدَأَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا وَحَاقَ بِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَدَّعُونَ.
يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ ﴿٤٨﴾ فَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ ضُرٌّ دَعَانَا ثُمَّ إِذَا خَوَّلْتَهُ
نِعْمَةً مِنَّا قَالَ إِنَّمَا أُوتِيتُهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ بَلِ هِيَ فِتْنَةٌ وَلَكِنَّ
أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤٩﴾ قَدْ قَالُوا الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَمَا أَغْنَىٰ
عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿٥٠﴾ فَأَصَابَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا
وَالَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِن هَٰؤُلَاءِ سَيُصِيبُهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا
وَمَا هُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ ﴿٥١﴾ أَوَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ
لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَا يَتَذَكَّرُ لِقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٥٢﴾
﴿قُلْ يَتُوبُ إِلَى اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْضُوا مِن
رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ
﴿٥٣﴾ وَأَنبِئُوا إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ وَأَسْلِمُوا لِلَّهِ مِن قَبْلِ أَن يُبَٰيِعَكُمُ
الْعَذَابَ ثُمَّ لَا تُصْرَفُونَ ﴿٥٤﴾ وَأَتَّبِعُوا أَحْسَنَ مَا أُنزِلَ
إِلَيْكُمْ مِن رَّبِّكُمْ مِن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْعَذَابُ
بَغْتَةً وَتَأْتُوا لَا تَشْعُرُونَ ﴿٥٥﴾ أَن تَقُولَ نَفْسٌ بِحَسْرَتٍ
عَلَىٰ مَا قَرَّرْتُ فِي جَنبِ اللَّهِ وَإِن كُنْتُ لَمِنَ السَّخِرِينَ ﴿٥٦﴾

means, 'on the Day of Resurrection, then He will judge between you with His justice, and He will reward or punish each person according to his deeds.' Then Allāh condemns the idolators further:

﴿وَإِذَا ذَكَرَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ﴾

﴿And when Allāh Alone is mentioned﴾ means, when it is said there is no (true) God except Allāh Alone,

﴿أَشْمَزَتْ قُلُوبُ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ﴾

﴿the hearts of those who believe not in the Hereafter are filled with disgust﴾

Mujāhid said, "Their

hearts are filled with disgust means they recoil in horror."^[1] This is like the Āyah:

﴿إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ﴾

﴿Truly, when it was said to them: "Lā ilāha illā Allāh," they puffed themselves up with pride.﴾ (37:35)

which means, they were too proud to follow it. Their hearts could not accept anything good, and whoever cannot accept good will accept evil. Allāh says:

﴿وَإِذَا ذَكَرَ الَّذِينَ مِن دُونِهِ﴾

﴿and when those besides Him are mentioned,﴾

[1] At-Ṭabari 21 :301.

meaning, the idols and false gods – this was the view of Mujāhid –

﴿إِذَا هُمْ بِسَعِيرُونَ﴾

﴿behold, they rejoice!﴾ means, they feel happy.

﴿قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ فَاطِرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ عَلِيمَ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ أَنْتَ تَحْكُمُ بَيْنَ عِبَادِكَ فِي مَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ﴾ ١٨ وَلَوْ أَنَّ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا وَمِثْلَهُ مَعَهُ لَافْتَدَوْا بِهِ مِنْ سُوءِ الْعَذَابِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَبَدَا لَهُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يَكُونُوا يَحْتَسِبُونَ﴾ ١٩ وَبَدَا لَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا وَحَاقَ بِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ﴾ ٢٠

﴿46. Say: "O Allāh! Creator of the heavens and the earth! All-Knower of the unseen and the seen! You will judge between your servants about that wherein they used to differ."﴾

﴿47. And those who did wrong, if they had all that is on the earth and therewith as much again, they verily, would offer it to ransom themselves therewith on the Day of Resurrection from the evil torment; and there will become apparent to them from Allāh what they had not been reckoning.﴾

﴿48. And the evils of that which they earned will become apparent to them, and that which they used to mock at will encircle them.﴾

How to supplicate

After condemning the idolators for their love of *Shirk* and their hatred of *Tawhīd*, Allāh then says:

﴿قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ فَاطِرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ عَلِيمَ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ﴾

﴿Say: "O Allāh! Creator of the heavens and the earth! All-Knower of the unseen and the seen!..."﴾

meaning, 'call you upon Allāh Alone with no partner or associate, Who has created the heavens and the earth and originated them,' i.e., made them like nothing that ever before existed.

﴿عَلِيمَ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ﴾

﴿All-Knower of the unseen and the seen!﴾

means, what is secret and what is open.

﴿أَنْتَ تَحْكُمُ بَيْنَ عِبَادِكَ فِي مَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ﴾

﴿You will judge between your servants about that wherein they used to differ.﴾

means, in this world; 'You will judge between them on the Day when they are resurrected and brought forth from their graves.' In his *Ṣaḥīḥ*, Muslim recorded that Abu Salamah bin 'Abdur-Raḥmān said, "I asked 'Ā'ishah, may Allāh be pleased with her, how the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ started his prayer when he stood up to pray at night. She said, may Allāh be pleased with her: 'When the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ stood up to pray at night, he would start his prayer with the words:

«اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّ جِبْرِيلَ وَمِيكَائِيلَ وَإِسْرَافِيلَ، فَاطِرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ، غَالِمَ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ، أَنْتَ تَحْكُمُ بَيْنَ عِبَادِكَ فِيَمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ، اهْدِنِي لِمَا اخْتَلَفَ فِيهِ مِنَ الْحَقِّ بِإِذْنِكَ، إِنَّكَ تَهْدِي مَنْ تَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ»

«O Allāh, Lord of Jibril, Mikā'il and Isrāfil, Creator of the heavens and the earth, Knower of the unseen and the seen, You will judge between Your servants concerning that wherein they differ. Guide me with regard to that wherein there is dispute concerning the truth by Your leave, for You guide whomsoever You will to the straight path.»^[1]

No Ransom will be accepted on the Day of Resurrection

﴿وَلَوْ أَنَّ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا﴾

﴿And those who did wrong,﴾ means, the idolators.

﴿مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا وَبِشَاءِ مَعَهُ﴾

﴿if they had all that is in earth and therewith as much again,﴾

﴿لَافْتَدَوْا بِهِ مِنْ سُوءِ الْعَذَابِ﴾

﴿they verily, would offer it to ransom themselves therewith from the evil torment;﴾

means, that which Allāh has decreed for them on the Day of Resurrection. But the ransom will not be accepted from them,

[1] Muslim 2:534.

even if it were to be an earth-full of gold as He mentioned elsewhere (3:91). Then Allāh says:

﴿وَبَدَا لَهُمْ مِنْ اللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يَكُونُوا يَحْتَسِبُونَ﴾

﴿and there will become apparent to them from Allāh what they had not been reckoning.﴾

which means, when they come to realize what Allāh's punishment for them will be, which they had never before imagined.

﴿وَبَدَا لَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا﴾

﴿And the evils of that which they earned will become apparent to them,﴾

means, they will see the punishment for the forbidden actions and sins which they committed in this world.

﴿وَمَا كَانُوا بِشَيْءٍ مِنْهُ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ﴾

﴿and that which they used to mock at will encircle them.﴾

means, the punishment which they used to make fun of in this world will encompass them.

﴿فَإِذَا سَأَلَ الْإِنْسَانُ شَرًّا دَعَانَا ثُمَّ إِذَا حَوَّلْنَاهُ نِعْمَةً مِنَّا قَالَ إِنَّمَا أُوتِيتُهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ بَلْ هِيَ فِتْنَةٌ وَلَٰكِنِّي أَكْذَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤٩﴾ قَدْ قَالُوا الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَمَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿٥٠﴾ فَأَصَابَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا وَالَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِن هَٰؤُلَاءِ سَيَّئَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا وَمَا هُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ ﴿٥١﴾ أَوَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٥٢﴾﴾

449. When harm touches man, he calls to Us (for help); then when We have changed it into a favor from Us, he says: "Only because of knowledge I obtained it." Nay, it is only a trial, but most of them know not!

450. Verily, those before them said it, yet (all) that they had earned availed them not.

451. So, the evil results of that which they earned overtook them. And those who did wrong of these will also be overtaken by the evil results for that which they earned; and they will never be able to escape.

452. Do they not know that Allāh expands the provision for

whom He wills, and straitens it. Verily, in this are signs for the folk who believe!﴾

How Man changes when He is blessed after suffering Harm

Allāh tells us how man, when he is suffering from harm, prays to Allāh, turning to Him in repentance and calling upon Him, but when He makes things easy for him, he transgresses and commits sins.

﴿إِنَّمَا أُوتِيتُهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ﴾

﴿Only because of knowledge I obtained it.﴾

means, 'because Allāh knows that I deserve it; if it were not for the fact that Allāh regards me as special, He would not have given me this.' Qatādah said, "Because I know that I deserve it."^[1] Allāh says:

﴿بَلْ هِيَ فِتْنَةٌ﴾

﴿Nay, it is only a trial,﴾ meaning, 'the matter is not as he claims; on the contrary, We have blessed him with this as a test to see whether he will be obedient or disobedient – although We have prior knowledge of that.' In fact, it is a trial.

﴿وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

﴿but most of them know not!﴾ So they say what they say and claim what they claim.

﴿فَقَدْ قَالُوا الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ﴾

﴿Verily, those before them said it,﴾ means, the previous nations who came before said the same things and made the same claims,

﴿فَمَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ﴾

﴿yet (all) that they had earned availed them not.﴾

means, what they said was not right and all that they had gathered did not save them.

﴿فَأَمَّا لَهُمْ سِنِينَ مَا كَسَبُوا وَالَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِن هَٰؤُلَاءِ﴾

^[1] At-Ṭabari 21:301.

﴿So, the evil results of that which they earned overtook them.
And those who did wrong of these...﴾

means, the people who are addressed here,

﴿سَبِّحِينَ سَبَّاحَاتٍ مَا كَسَبُوا﴾

﴿will also be overtaken by the evil results (torment) for that
which they earned;﴾

just as happened to those earlier peoples.

﴿وَمَا هُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ﴾

﴿and they will never be able to escape.﴾

This is like the Āyah in which Allāh tells us how Qārūn reacted when his people told him:

﴿لَا تَفْرَحْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفَرِحِينَ ﴿٧٦﴾ وَابْتَغِ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَأَحْزِنَ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفَسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُنْفِرِينَ ﴿٧٧﴾﴾ قَالَ إِنَّمَا أُوتِيتُهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ عِنْدِي أَوَلَمْ يَعْلَم أَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ أَهْلَكَ مِن قَبْلِهِ مِنَ الْقُرُونِ مَنْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُ قُوَّةً وَأَكْثَرُ جَمًّا ﴿٧٨﴾﴾ وَلَا يُنْتَلَىٰ عَنْ دُونِهِمْ الْمُجْرِمُونَ ﴿٧٩﴾﴾

“Do not exult, verily, Allāh likes not those who exult. But seek, with that (wealth) which Allāh has bestowed on you, the home of the Hereafter, and forget not your portion of lawful enjoyment in this world; and do good as Allāh has been good to you, and seek not mischief in the land. Verily, Allāh likes not the corrupters.” He said: “This has been given to me only because of the knowledge I possess.” Did he not know that Allāh had destroyed before him generations, men who were stronger than him in might and greater in the amount (of riches) they had collected? But the criminals will not be questioned of their sins.” (28:76-78).

And Allāh says:

﴿وَقَالُوا نَحْنُ أَكْثَرُ أَمْوَالًا وَأَوْلَادًا وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُعَذَّبِينَ ﴿٣٥﴾﴾

﴿And they say: “We are more in wealth and in children, and we are not going to be punished.”﴾ (34:35).

﴿أَوَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ﴾

﴿Do they not know that Allāh expands the provision for whom

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي

٤٦٥

الَّذِي يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ

أَوْ تَقُولَ لَوْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ هَدَانِي لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٥٧﴾
 أَوْ تَقُولَ حِينَ تَرَى الْعَذَابَ لَوْ أَنَّ لِي كَرَّةً فَأَكُونَ
 مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٥٨﴾ بَلَى قَدْ جَاءَكَ ءَايَاتِي فَكَذَّبْتَ بِهَا
 وَاسْتَكْبَرْتَ وَكُنْتَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٥٩﴾ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ
 تَرَى الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ وُجُوهُهُم مُّسْوَدَّةٌ أَلَيْسَ فِي
 جَهَنَّمَ مَثْوًى لِّلْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ ﴿٦٠﴾ وَيَسْجَى اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا
 بِمِقَارِ تَهَمِهِمْ لَا يَمَسُّهُمْ فِي السُّوءِ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿٦١﴾ اللَّهُ
 خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ ﴿٦٢﴾ لَهُ مَقَالِيدُ
 السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ
 هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ ﴿٦٣﴾ قُلْ أَفَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ تَتَّبِعُونَ إِنِّي
 أَهْدَىٰ لَكُمْ سُبُلِيَ وَلَقَدْ أَوْحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ لَنْ
 أَشْرَكَتَ لِیَحْبِطَ عَمَلُكَ وَلَنْ تَكُونَ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٦٤﴾ بَلَى اللَّهُ
 فَاعْبُدْهُ وَكُنْ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ ﴿٦٥﴾ وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَتَّىٰ قَدَرِهِ
 وَالْأَرْضُ جَمِيعًا قَبْضَتُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَالسَّمَوَاتُ
 مَطْوِيَّاتٌ بِيَمِينِهِ سُبْحَنَهُ وَعَنَىٰ عَنَاءُ بَشَرِكُورٍ ﴿٦٦﴾

He wills, and
straitens it.﴾

means, He gives
plenty to some and
restricts the provision
for others.

﴿إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ
يُؤْمِنُونَ﴾

﴿Verily, in this are
signs for the folk who
believe!﴾

means, there is a
lesson and proof.

﴿قُلْ يَبْنَؤُا الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوا عَلَىٰ
أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ
إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ
هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾ وَأَنِيبُوا إِلَىٰ
رَبِّكُمْ وَأَسْلِمُوا لَهُ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ
يَأْخُذَ بِكُمْ الْعَذَابَ ثُمَّ لَا
تُصْرَفُونَ ﴿٦٧﴾ وَأَنِيبُوا أَعْنَ مَا

أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْخُذَ بِكُمْ الْعَذَابَ بِقَتْلِهِ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تُشْعُرُونَ ﴿٦٨﴾ أَنْ تَقُولَ نَحْنُ
بِهِتَرْنَا عَلَىٰ مَا قَرَأْتُ فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ وَإِنْ كُنْتُ لَمِنَ السَّاخِرِينَ ﴿٦٩﴾ أَوْ تَقُولَ لَوْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ هَدَانِي
لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٥٧﴾ أَوْ تَقُولَ حِينَ تَرَى الْعَذَابَ لَوْ أَنَّ لِي كَرَّةً فَأَكُونَ مِنَ
الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٥٨﴾ بَلَى قَدْ جَاءَكَ ءَايَاتِي فَكَذَّبْتَ بِهَا وَاسْتَكْبَرْتَ وَكُنْتَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٥٩﴾

﴿53. Say: "O My servants who have transgressed against
themselves! Despair not of the mercy of Allāh, verily, Allāh
forgives all sins. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."﴾

﴿54. "And turn in repentance (and in obedience with true
faith) to your Lord and submit to Him before the torment comes
upon you, (and) then you will not be helped."﴾

﴿55. "And follow the best of that which is sent down to you
from your Lord, before the torment comes on you suddenly

while you perceive not!"»

﴿56. Lest a person should say: "Alas, my grief that I was undutiful to Allāh, and I was indeed among those who mocked."»

﴿57. Or (lest) he should say: "If only Allāh had guided me, I should indeed have been among those who have Taqwā."»

﴿58. Or (lest) he should say when he sees the torment: "If only I had another chance, then I should indeed be among the doers of good."»

﴿59. Yes! Verily, there came to you My Āyāt and you denied them, and were proud and were among the disbelievers.﴾

The Call to repent before the Punishment comes

This Āyah is a call to all sinners, be they disbelievers or others, to repent and turn to Allāh. This Āyah tells us that Allāh, may He be blessed and exalted, will forgive all the sins of those who repent to Him and turn back to Him, no matter what or how many his sins are, even if they are like the foam of the sea. This cannot be interpreted as meaning that sins will be forgiven without repentance, because *Shirk* can only be forgiven for the one who repents from it. Al-Bukhārī recorded that Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, said that some of the people of *Shirk* killed many people and committed *Zinā* (illegal sexual acts) to a great extent; they came to Muḥammad ﷺ and said, "What you are saying and calling us to is good; if only you could tell us that there is an expiation for what we have done." Then the following Āyāt were revealed:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ وَلَا يَقْتُلُونَ النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا يَزْنُونَ﴾

﴿And those who invoke not any other god along with Allāh, nor kill such person as Allāh has forbidden, except for just cause, nor commit illegal sexual intercourse﴾ (25:68).

﴿قُلْ يَبْنَادَى الَّذِينَ أَشْرَفُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِنْ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ﴾

﴿Say: "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves! Despair not of the mercy of Allāh.﴾

This was also recorded by Muslim, Abu Dāwud and An-Nasā'ī.^[1] What is meant by the first Āyah (25:68) is:

﴿إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا﴾

﴿Except those who repent and believe, and do righteous deeds﴾
(25:70).

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Asmā' bint Yazīd, said, "I heard the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ reciting,

﴿إِنَّهُ عَمَلٌ غَيْرُ صَالِحٍ﴾

﴿verily, his work is unrighteous﴾ (11:46). And I heard him ﷺ say:

﴿قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ
الدُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا وَلَا يُبَالِي إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾

(Say: "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves! Despair not of the mercy of Allāh, verily, Allāh forgives all sins He does not reckon him Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful)."^[2]

This was also recorded by Abu Dāwud and At-Tirmidhi.^[3]

All of these Ḥadīths indicate that what is meant is that Allāh forgives all sins provided that a person repents. Additionally, one must not despair of the mercy of Allāh even if his sins are many and great, for the door of repentance and mercy is expansive. Allāh says:

﴿أَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ﴾

﴿Know they not that Allāh accepts repentance from His servants﴾ (9:104).

﴿وَمَن يَعْمَلْ سُوءًا أَوْ يَظْلِمْ نَفْسَهُ ثُمَّ يَسْتَغْفِرِ اللَّهَ يَجِدِ اللَّهَ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا﴾

﴿And whoever does evil or wrongs himself but afterwards seeks Allāh's forgiveness, he will find Allāh Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.﴾ (4:110).

Concerning the hypocrites, Allāh says:

[1] *Faṭḥ Al-Bārī* 8:411, Muslim 1:113, Abu Dāwud 4:166, An-Nasā'ī in *Al-Kubrā* 446.

[2] Aḥmad 6:454.

[3] Abu Dāwud 4:285, *Tuḥfat Al-Aḥwadhī* 9:111.

﴿إِنَّ الْكَاذِبِينَ فِي الذَّرَى الْأَسْفَلِ مِنَ النَّارِ وَلَنْ يَجِدَ لَهُمْ نَصِيرًا ۖ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَأَصْلَحُوا﴾

﴿Verily, the hypocrites will be in the lowest depth (grade) of the Fire; no helper will you find for them. Except those who repent, and do righteous good deeds﴾ (4:145-146).

And Allāh says:

﴿لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ ثَلَاثُ تَلَفُوتٍ وَمَا مِنْ إِلَهٍ إِلَّا إِلَهُ وَحْدٌ وَإِنْ لَمْ يَنْتَهُوا عَمَّا يَقُولُونَ لِبَسْءٍ أَلَيْسَ الْكَافِرُونَ بِمُجْرِمِينَ﴾

﴿Surely, disbelievers are those who said: "Allāh is the third of the three (in a Trinity)." But there is no god but One. And if they cease not from what they say, verily, a painful torment will befall on the disbelievers among them.﴾ (5:73).

Then He says:

﴿أَفَلَا يَتُوبُونَ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ ۚ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ﴾

﴿Will they not turn in repentance to Allāh and ask His forgiveness? For Allāh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.﴾ (5:74)

And Allāh says:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَتَلُوا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَتُوبُوا﴾

﴿Verily, those who put into trial the believing men and believing women (by torturing them), and then do not turn in repentance (to Allāh)﴾ (85:10).

Al-Hasan Al-Baṣri, may Allāh have mercy on him, said, "Look at this generosity and kindness! They killed His close friends but He still called them to repentance and forgiveness." There are many *Āyāt* on this topic.

The Two *Ṣaḥīḥs* record the *Ḥadīth* of Abu Saʿīd, may Allāh be pleased with him, from Messenger of Allāh ﷺ about the man who killed ninety-nine people. Later on, he regretted it and asked a worshipper among the Children of Israel whether he could repent. He told him no, so he killed him, thus completing one hundred. Then he asked one of their scholars whether he could repent. He said, "What is stopping you from repenting?" Then he told him to go to a town where Allāh was

worshipped. He set out for that town, but death came to him while he was on the road. The angels of mercy and the angels of punishment disputed over him, so Allāh commanded them to measure the distance between the two towns; whichever he was closer to was the one to which he belonged. They found that he was closer to the town he was heading for, so the angels of mercy took him. It was said that when he was dying, he moved himself (towards that town), and Allāh commanded the good town to move closer to him and the other town to move away.^[1] This is basic meaning of the Ḥadīth; we have quoted it in full elsewhere.

‘Ali bin Abi Ṭalḥah reported that Ibn ‘Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, commented on the Āyah:

﴿قُلْ يٰٓعِبَادِىَ الَّذِيْنَ اَسْرَفُوْا عَلٰٓى اَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوْا مِنْ رَّحْمَةِ اللّٰهِ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ يَغْفِرُ الذَّنُوْبَ جَمِيْعًا﴾

﴿Say: "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves! Despair not of the mercy of Allāh, verily, Allāh forgives all sins..."﴾

Allāh invites all to His forgiveness; those who claim that the Messiah is God, those who claim that the Messiah is the son of God, those who claim that ‘Uzayr is the son of God, those who claim that Allāh is poor, those who claim that the Hand of Allāh is tied up, and those who say that Allāh is the third of three [Trinity]. Allāh says to all of these:

﴿اَفَلَا يَتُوْبُوْنَ اِلَى اللّٰهِ يَسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ وَاَللّٰهُ غَفُوْرٌ رَّحِيْمٌ﴾

﴿Will they not turn in repentance to Allāh and ask His forgiveness? For Allāh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.﴾ (5:74).

And He calls to repentance the one who says something even worse than that, the one who says, ‘I am your Lord most high,’ and says,

﴿مَا عَلِمْتُ لَكُمْ مِنْ اِلٰهٍ غَيْرِىْ﴾

﴿“I know not that you have a god other than me.”﴾ (28:38).

Ibn ‘Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, “Anyone who

^[1] Fath Al-Bāri 6:591.

makes the servants of Allāh despair of His mercy after this, has rejected the Book of Allāh, but a person cannot repent until Allāh decrees that he should repent."^[1]

Aṭ-Ṭabarānī recorded that Shutayr bin Shakal said, "I heard Ibn Mas'ūd say, 'The greatest Āyah in the Book of Allāh is:

﴿اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ﴾

﴿Allāh! None has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists﴾(2:255).

The most comprehensive Āyah in the Qur'ān concerning good and evil is:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ﴾

﴿Verily, Allāh enjoins justice and Al-Ihsān﴾ (16:90).

The Āyah in the Qur'ān which brings the most relief is in Sūrat Az-Zumar.

﴿قُلْ يَبَيِّدُوا الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْطَعُوا مِنْ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ﴾

﴿Say: "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves! Despair not of the mercy of Allāh."﴾

And the clearest Āyah in the Qur'ān about reliance on Allāh is:

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا ۖ وَرِزْقَهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ﴾

﴿And whosoever has Taqwā of Allāh, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty). And He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine﴾ (65:2-3).'

Masrūq said to him; 'You have spoken the truth.'^[2]

Ḥadīths which tell us not to despair

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Anas bin Mālik, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "I heard the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, say:

﴿وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ! لَوْ أَخْطَأْتُمْ حَتَّى تَمَلَّأَ خَطَايَاكُمْ مَا بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ، ثُمَّ

^[1] Recorded by Ibn Jarīr and Ibn Al-Mundhir, see *Ad-Durr Al-Manthūr* 5:621.

^[2] Aṭ-Ṭabarānī 9:142.

اسْتَغْفِرُكُمْ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى لَعَفَرَ لَكُمْ، وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ بِيَدِهِ! لَوْ لَمْ تُخْطِئُوا لَجَاءَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ بِقَوْمٍ يُخْطِئُونَ، ثُمَّ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ اللَّهَ فَيَغْفِرُ لَهُمْ

«By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, if you were to commit sin until your sins filled the space between heaven and earth, then you were to ask Allāh for forgiveness, He would forgive you. By the One in Whose Hand is the soul of Muḥammad, if you did not commit sin, Allāh would bring other people who would commit sins and then ask Allāh for forgiveness so that He could forgive them.»^[1]

This was recorded only by Aḥmad.

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Abu Ayyūb Al-Ansāri, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, as he was on his deathbed, "I have concealed something from you that I heard from the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ; he said:

«لَوْ لَا أَنَّكُمْ تُذْئِبُونَ لَخَلَقَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ قَوْمًا يُذْئِبُونَ، فَيَغْفِرُ لَهُمْ»

«If you did not commit sins, Allāh would create people who would sin so that He could forgive them.»

This was recorded by Imām Aḥmad; it was also recorded by Muslim in his Ṣaḥīḥ, and by At-Tirmidhi.^[2]

Allāh encourages His servants to hasten to repent, as He says:

﴿وَأَنِيبُوا إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ وَأَسْلِمُوا لَهُ﴾

«And turn in repentance (and in obedience with true faith) to your Lord and submit to Him»

meaning, turn back to Allāh and submit yourselves to Him.

﴿مِن قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْعَذَابُ ثُمَّ لَا تُنصَرُونَ﴾

«before the torment comes upon you, (and) then you will not be helped.»

means, hasten to repent and do righteous deeds before His wrath comes upon you.

﴿وَأَتَّبِعُوا أَمْرًا خَيْرًا مَّا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ﴾

[1] Aḥmad 3:238.

[2] Aḥmad 5:414, Muslim 4:2105, Tuḥfat Al-Aḥwadhī 9:223.

﴿And follow the best of that which is sent down to you from your Lord.﴾

means, the Qur'ān.

﴿مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْعَذَابُ بَغْتَةً وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ﴾

﴿before the torment comes on you suddenly while you perceive not!﴾

means, without you realizing it.

﴿أَنْ تَقُولَ نَفْسٌ بِحَسْرَتٍ عَلَى مَا فَرَّطْتُ فِي جَنْبِ اللَّهِ﴾

﴿Lest a person should say: "Alas, my grief that I was undutiful to Allāh..."﴾

means, on the Day of Resurrection, the sinner who neglected to repent and turn back to Allāh will regret it, and will wish that he had been one of the righteous who obeyed Allāh.

﴿وَإِنْ كُنْتَ لَيْنَ السَّخِرِينَ﴾

﴿and I was indeed among those who mocked.﴾

means, 'my actions in this world were those of one who ridicules and makes fun, not of one who has firm faith and is sincere.'

﴿أَوْ تَقُولَ لَوْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ هَدَانِي لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٥٧﴾ أَوْ تَقُولَ لَئِنْ رَأَى الْعَذَابَ لَوْ

أَنَا فِي كَرَّةٍ فَاكُرْتُ مِنَ الْمُنْجِبِينَ ﴿٥٨﴾﴾

﴿Or (lest) he should say: "If only Allāh had guided me, I should indeed have been among those who have Taqwā ". Or he should say when he sees the torment: "If only I had another chance, then I should indeed be among the doers of good."﴾

means, he will wish that he could go back to this world, so that he could do righteous deeds. 'Alī bin Abi Ṭalḥah reported that Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "Allāh tells us what His servants will say before they say it and what they will do before they do it. He says:

﴿وَلَا يَبْلُغُكَ مِنْ لَدُنْ خَيْرٍ﴾

﴿And none can inform you like Him Who is the All-Knower﴾ (35:14).

﴿أَنْ تَقُولَ نَفْسٌ بِحَسْرَتٍ عَلَى مَا فَرَّطْتُ فِي جَنْبِ اللَّهِ وَإِنْ كُنْتُ لِنَ السَّخِرِينَ ﴿٥٩﴾ أَوْ تَقُولَ

لَوْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ هَدَانِي لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٥٧﴾ أَوْ تَقُولُ لِيِنَ تَرَى الْعَذَابَ لَوْ أَنَّ لِي كَرَّةً فَأَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٥٨﴾

«Lest a person should say: "Alas, my grief that I was undutiful to Allāh, and I was indeed among those who mocked." Or he should say: "If only Allāh had guided me, I should indeed have been among those who have Taqwā." Or he should say when he sees the torment: "If only I had another chance, then I should indeed be among the doers of good."»^[1]

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«كُلُّ أَهْلِ النَّارِ يَرَى مَقْعَدَهُ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ يَقُولُ: لَوْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ هَدَانِي! فَتَكُونُ عَلَيْهِ حَسْرَةً، قَالَ: وَكُلُّ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ يَرَى مَقْعَدَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ يَقُولُ: لَوْلَا أَنَّ اللَّهَ هَدَانِي، قَالَ: فَتَكُونُ لَهُ شُكْرًا»

«Each of the people of Hell will be shown his place in Paradise and he will say, "If only Allāh had guided me!" so it will be a source of regret for him. And each of the people of Paradise will be shown his place in Hell and he will say, "If it were not for the fact that Allāh guided me," so it will be a cause of thanks.»^[2]

It was also narrated by An-Nasa'ī.^[3]

When the sinners wish that they could return to this world so that they could believe the Āyāt of Allāh and follow His Messengers, Allāh will say:

﴿بَلَىٰ قَدْ جَاءَكَ ءَايَاتِي فَكَذَّبْتَ بِهَا وَاسْتَكْبَرْتَ وَكُنْتَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٥٩﴾﴾

«Yes! Verily, there came to you My Āyāt and you denied them, and were proud and were among the disbelievers.»

meaning, 'O you who regret what you did, My Āyāt did come to you in the world, and My proof was established against you, but you rejected it and were too arrogant to follow it, and you were among those who disbelieved in it.'

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:316.

[2] Aḥmad 1:512.

[3] Aḥmad no. 10660, An-Nasā'ī in *Al-Kubrā* 6:447.

﴿وَيَوْمَ الْيَنَّمَةُ تَرَى الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ وُجُوهُهُمْ مُسْوَدَّةٌ أَلَيْسَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَثْوًى
لِّلْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ﴾ وَيُنَجِّي اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا بِمِثَابَتِهِمْ لَا يَمَسُّهُمُ السُّوءُ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿٦٠﴾

﴿60. And on the Day of Resurrection you will see those who lied against Allāh - their faces will be black. Is there not in Hell an abode for the arrogant?﴾

﴿61. And Allāh will deliver those who have Taqwā to their places of success. Evil shall touch them not, nor shall they grieve.﴾

The Consequences for Those Who tell Lies against Allāh and for Those Who have Taqwā

Allāh tells us that on the Day of Resurrection, some faces will be blackened and some will be whitened. The faces of those who followed splits and divisions will be blackened, and the faces of *Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamā'ah* will be whitened. Allāh says here:

﴿وَيَوْمَ الْيَنَّمَةُ تَرَى الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ﴾

﴿And on the Day of Resurrection you will see those who lied against Allāh﴾

meaning, by their claims that He had partners or offspring.

﴿وُجُوهُهُمْ مُسْوَدَّةٌ﴾

﴿their faces will be black.﴾ means, because of their lies and fabrications.

﴿أَلَيْسَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَثْوًى لِّلْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ﴾

﴿Is there not in Hell an abode for the arrogant?﴾

means, is not Hell sufficient for them as a prison and humiliating final destination, because of their stubborn pride, arrogance and refusal to follow the truth?

﴿وَيُنَجِّي اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا بِمِثَابَتِهِمْ﴾

﴿And Allāh will deliver those who are those who have Taqwā to their places of success.﴾

means, because of what Allāh has decreed for them of happiness and victory.

﴿لَا يَسُُّهُمْ السُّوءُ﴾

﴿Evil shall touch them not,﴾ means, on the Day of Resurrection.

﴿وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ﴾

﴿nor shall they grieve.﴾ means, the greater terror (of that Day) will not cause them grief, for they will be safe from all grief and removed from all evil, and they will attain all that is good.

﴿اللَّهُ خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ ۝ لَّهُ مَقَالِيدُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۝ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ ۝ قُلْ أَفَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ تَأْمُرُونَ أَفَعِدُّوا إِلَيَّ الْجَاهِلُونَ ۝ وَلَقَدْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكَ لَئِنْ أَشْرَكَكَ لَيَحْتَبِلَنَّ عَلَيْكَ وَلَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ۝ بَلِ اللَّهُ فَاعْبُدْ وَكُنْ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ ۝﴾

﴿62. Allāh is the Creator of all things, and He is the Trustee over all things.﴾

﴿63. To Him belong the Maqālīd of the heavens and the earth. And those who disbelieve in the Āyāt of Allāh, such are they who will be the losers.﴾

﴿64. Say: "Do you order me to worship other than Allāh? O you fools!"﴾

﴿65. And indeed it has been revealed to you, as it was to those before you: "If you join others in worship with Allāh, surely your deeds will be in vain, and you will certainly be among the losers."﴾

﴿66. Nay! But worship Allāh, and be among the grateful.﴾

Allāh is the Creator and Controller, and associating others in worship with Him cancels out Good Deeds

Allāh tells us that He is the Creator, Lord, Sovereign and Controller of all things; everything is subject to His dominion, power and guardianship.

﴿لَّهُ مَقَالِيدُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ﴾

﴿To Him belong the Maqālīd of the heavens and the earth.﴾

Mujāhid said, "Maqālīd means 'keys' in Persian." This was also the view of Qatādah, Ibn Zayd and Sufyān bin 'Uyaynah.^[1]

[1] Ad-Durr Al-Manthūr 7 :243, Aṭ-Ṭabari 21 :321.

As-Suddi said:

﴿لَهُ مَقَالِيدُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ﴾

﴿To Him belong the Maqālīd of the heavens and the earth.﴾

"The treasures of the heavens and the earth."^[1] Both opinions mean that the control of all things is in the Hand of Allāh, may He be blessed and exalted, for His is the dominion and to Him is the praise, and He is able to do all things. He says:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يَتَابَتِ إِلَهُهُ﴾

﴿And those who disbelieve in the Āyāt of Allāh,﴾

meaning, His proof and evidence,

﴿أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ﴾

﴿such are they who will be the losers.﴾

﴿قُلْ أَفَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ تَأْمُرُونِي أَعْبُدُ أَيُّهَا الْجَاهِلُونَ﴾

﴿Say: "Do you order me to worship other than Allāh? O you fools!"﴾

The reason for the revelation of this Āyah was narrated by Ibn Abi Hātim and others from Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, that the idolators in their ignorance called the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ to worship their gods, then they would worship his God with him. Then these words were revealed:

﴿قُلْ أَفَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ تَأْمُرُونِي أَعْبُدُ أَيُّهَا الْجَاهِلُونَ﴾ وَلَقَدْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ لَئِنْ

أَشْرَكْتَ لَيَحْبَطَنَّ عَمَلُكَ وَلَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ﴾

﴿Say: "Do you order me to worship other than Allāh? O you fools!" And indeed it has been revealed to you, as it was to those before you: "If you join others in worship with Allāh, surely your deeds will be in vain, and you will certainly be among the losers."﴾^[2]

This is like the Āyah:

﴿وَلَوْ أَشْرَكُوا لَحَبِطَ عَنْهُمْ نَاسًا كَانُوا يَمْتَلُونَ﴾

﴿But if they had joined in worship others with Allāh, all that

^[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:321.

^[2] See Aṭ-Ṭabari, the Tafsīr of Sūrat Al-Kāfirūn.

they used to do would have been of no benefit to them.﴾ (6:88).

﴿بَلِ اللَّهِ فَاتَعْبُدْ وَكُنْ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ﴾

﴿Nay! But worship Allāh, and be among the grateful.﴾

means, 'you and those who follow you and believe in you should make your worship sincerely for Allāh Alone, with no partner or associate.'

﴿وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ وَالْأَرْضُ جَمِيعًا بِيَمِينِهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَالسَّمَوَاتُ مَطْوِيَّاتٌ
بِيَمِينِهِ سُبْحَنَهُ وَعَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ﴾

﴿67. They made not a just estimate of Allāh such as is due to Him. And on the Day of Resurrection the whole of the earth will be grasped by His Hand and the heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand. Glorified be He, and High be He above all that they associate as partners with Him!﴾

The Idolators did not make a just Estimate of Allāh such as is due to Him

﴿وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ﴾

﴿They made not a just estimate of Allāh such as is due to Him.﴾

means, the idolators did not give Allāh His due when they worshipped others alongside Him. He is the Almighty, and there is none mightier than Him; He is the One Who is able to do all things; He is the Owner of all things and everything is under His control and power. Mujāhid said, "This was revealed concerning Quraysh." As-Suddi said, "They did not venerate Him as He deserves to be venerated."^[1] Muḥammad bin Ka'b said, "If they had made a just estimate of Allāh such as is due to Him, they would not have lied." 'Alī bin Abi Ṭalḥah reported that Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, said:

﴿وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ﴾

﴿They made not a just estimate of Allāh such as is due to Him.﴾

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21 :321.

"These are the disbeliever who did not believe that Allāh had power over them. Whoever believes that Allāh is able to do all things, has made a just estimate of Allāh such as is due to Him, and whoever does not believe that, has not made a just estimate of Allāh such as is due to Him."^[1]

Many *Ḥadīths* have been narrated concerning this *Āyah* and how it and other *Āyāt* like it are to be interpreted and accepted without any attempts to twist or change the meaning. Concerning the *Āyah*,

﴿وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ﴾

﴿They made not a just estimate of Allāh such as is due to Him.﴾

Al-Bukhārī recorded that 'Abdullāh bin Mas'ūd, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "One of the rabbis came to the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ and said, 'O Muḥammad! We learn that Allāh will put the heavens on one finger, the earths on one finger, the trees on one finger, the water and dust on one finger, and the rest of creation on one finger, then He will say: I am the King.' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ smiled so broadly that his molars could be seen, in confirmation of what the rabbi had said. Then the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ recited:

﴿وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ. وَالْأَرْضُ جَمِيعًا بِيَمِينِهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ﴾

﴿They made not a just estimate of Allāh such as is due to Him. And on the Day of Resurrection the whole of the earth will be grasped by His Hand.﴾"^[2]

Al-Bukhārī also recorded this in other places of his *Ṣaḥīḥ*. It was also recorded by Imām Aḥmad and Muslim, and by At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasā'ī in the (books of) *Tafsir* in their *Sunans*.^[3]

Abu Hurayrah, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "I heard the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ say:

«يَقْبِضُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى الْأَرْضَ، وَيَطْوِي السَّمَاءَ بِيَمِينِهِ، ثُمَّ يَقُولُ: أَنَا الْمَلِكُ، أَيْنَ

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:321.

[2] *Faṭḥ Al-Bārī* 8:412.

[3] *Faṭḥ Al-Bārī* 13:404, Aḥmad 1:429, Muslim 2147, *Tuḥfat Al-Aḥwadhi* 9:112 - 113, An-Nasā'ī in *Al-Kubrā* 6:446.

مَلُوكُ الْأَرْضِ؟»

«Allāh will grasp the earth and roll up the heavens in His Right Hand, then He will say: "I am the King, where are the kings of the earth?"»^[1]

This version was recorded only by Al-Bukhāri; Muslim recorded another version.^[2]

Al-Bukhāri also recorded from Ibn 'Umar, may Allāh be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى يَقْبِضُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ الْأَرْضِينَ عَلَى أَصْبِعٍ، وَتَكُونُ السَّمَوَاتُ بِيَمِينِهِ، ثُمَّ يَقُولُ: أَنَا الْمَلِكُ»

«On the Day of Resurrection, Allāh, may He be blessed and exalted, will grasp the earth with one finger, and the heavens will be in His Right Hand, then He will say, "I am the King."»^[3]

This version was also recorded by Al-Bukhāri It is recorded that Ibn 'Umar, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ recited this Āyah on the Minbar one day:

﴿وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ. وَالْأَرْضُ جَمِيعًا قَبْضَتُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَالسَّمَوَاتُ مَطْوِيَّاتٌ بِيَمِينِهِ. سُبْحَنَهُ وَعَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ﴾

«They made not a just estimate of Allāh such as is due to Him. On the Day of Resurrection the whole earth will be grasped by His Hand and the heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand. Glorified be He, and High be He above all that they associate as partners with Him!»

The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said while moving his hand forward and backward:

«يُمَجِّدُ الرَّبُّ نَفْسَهُ: أَنَا الْجَبَّارُ، أَنَا الْمُتَكَبِّرُ، أَنَا الْمَلِكُ، أَنَا الْعَزِيزُ، أَنَا الْكَرِيمُ»

«And the Lord will glorify Himself, saying "I am Compeller, I am the Proud, I am the King, I am the Mighty, I am the Most

^[1] Fath Al-Bāri 8:413.

^[2] Muslim 4:2148.

^[3] Fath Al-Bāri 13:404.

سورة الزمر

٤٦٦

الزمر

وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَصَعِقَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ ثُمَّ نُفِخَ فِيهِ أُخْرَىٰ فَإِذَا هُمْ قِيَامٌ يَنْظُرُونَ ﴿٦٨﴾ وَأَشْرَقَتِ الْأَرْضُ بِنُورِ رَبِّهَا وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ وَجَاءَتْ بِالنَّبِيِّينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءَ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ ﴿٦٩﴾ وَوُفِّيَتْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا عَمِلَتْ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ ﴿٧٠﴾ وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ زُمَرًا ۖ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا فَتَبَتِ أُنُوبُهُمْ ۖ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَتْلُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ رَبِّكُمْ وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا قَالُوا لَا بَلَىٰ وَلَكِنْ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٧١﴾ قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا فَبِئْسَ مَثْوًى لِّلْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ ﴿٧٢﴾ وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ زُمَرًا ۖ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلِّمُوا عَلَيْكُمْ ۖ طِبْتُ لَكُمْ فَاَدْخُلُوا خَالِدِينَ ﴿٧٣﴾ وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَنَا وَعْدَهُ وَأَوْرَثَنَا الْأَرْضَ ۖ نَتَّبِعُ أَمْرًا مِّنَ الْجَنَّةِ ۖ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ ۖ فَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ ﴿٧٤﴾

Generous." ۞

And the Minbar shook so much that we feared that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ would fall.^[1] This was also recorded by Muslim, An-Nasā'ī and Ibn Mājah.^[2]

﴿وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَصَعِقَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ ثُمَّ نُفِخَ فِيهِ أُخْرَىٰ فَإِذَا هُمْ قِيَامٌ يَنْظُرُونَ﴾ وَأَشْرَقَتِ الْأَرْضُ بِنُورِ رَبِّهَا وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ وَجَاءَتْ بِالنَّبِيِّينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءَ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ ﴿٦٩﴾ وَوُفِّيَتْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا عَمِلَتْ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ ﴿٧٠﴾

﴿68. And the Trumpet will be blown, and all

who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth will swoon away, except him whom Allāh wills. Then it will be blown another time, and behold they will be standing, looking on.﴾

﴿69. And the earth will shine with the light of its Lord, and the Book will be presented, and the Prophets and the witnesses will be brought forward, and it will be judged between them with truth, and they will not be wronged.﴾

﴿70. And each person will be paid in full of what he did; and He is Best Aware of what they do.﴾

[1] Ahmad 2:72.

[2] Muslim 4:2148, An-Nasā'ī in Al-Kubrā 4:400, Ibn Mājah 2:1429.

The Blast of the Trumpet, the Judgement and the Recompense

Allāh tells us about the terrors of the Day of Judgement, with its mighty signs and terrifying upheaval.

﴿وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَصَبَقَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ﴾

﴿And the Trumpet will be blown and all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth will swoon away, except him whom Allāh wills.﴾

This will be the second trumpet-blast, which will cause people to die. By this trumpet-blast, everyone who is alive in the heavens and on earth will be caused to die, except for him whom Allāh wills. Then the souls of the remaining creatures will be taken, until the last one to die will be the Angel of Death, and there will be left only the Ever Living, Eternal One, Who was there in the beginning and will be at the end, forever. He will say three times,

﴿لَيْسَ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ﴾

﴿"Whose is the kingdom this day?"﴾, then He will answer Himself:

﴿لِلَّهِ الْوَحْدُ الْقَهَّارِ﴾

﴿"It is Allāh's, the One, the Irresistible!"﴾ (40:16).

'I am the One existing Alone, I subjugated all things and I decreed that all things must come to an end.' Then the first one to be brought back to life will be Isrāfil, and Allāh will command him to sound the Trumpet again. This will be the third trumpet-blast, the trumpet-blast of Resurrection.^[1] Allāh says:

﴿ثُمَّ نُفِخَ فِيهِ أُخْرَىٰ فَإِذَا هُمْ مَعْمُرُونَ﴾

﴿Then it will be blown another time, and behold they will be standing, looking on﴾

^[1] As explained earlier, the author has based his understanding of this point upon an unauthentic *Ḥadīth*. The majority understand these *Āyāt* and the authentic *Ḥadīth* to imply two blasts of the *Sūr*. Some of these narrations follow.

means, after they have been bones and dust, they will come alive, looking at the terrors of the Day of Resurrection. This is like the *Āyāt*:

﴿إِنَّمَا هِيَ زَجْرَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ ﴿١٣﴾ فَإِذَا هُمْ بِالسَّاهِرَةِ ﴿١٤﴾﴾

﴿But it will be only a single Zajrah,^[1] when behold, they find themselves alive.﴾ (79:13-14)

﴿يَوْمَ يَدْعُوكُمْ فَتَسْتَجِيبُونَ بِحَمْدِهِ وَتَقُولُونَ إِن لَّبِثْنَا إِلَّا قَلِيلًا ﴿٥١﴾﴾

﴿On the Day when He will call you, and you will respond with His praise, and you will think that you have stayed (in this world) but a little while!﴾ (17:52), and

﴿وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ تَقُومَ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ بِأَمْرِهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ دَعْوَةً مِنْ الْأَرْضِ إِذَا أَنْتُمْ غُرُجُونَ ﴿٦٥﴾﴾

﴿And among His signs is that the heaven and the earth stand by His command. Then afterwards when He will call you by a single call, behold, you will come out from the earth.﴾ (30:25)

Imām Aḥmad recorded that a man said to ‘Abdullāh bin ‘Amr, may Allāh be pleased with him, “You say that the Hour will come at such and such time.” He said, “I thought that I would not narrate to you anymore. All that I said was that after a little while you would see something of great importance.” ‘Abdullāh bin ‘Amr, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, “The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«يَخْرُجُ الدَّجَالُ فِي أُمَّتِي فَيَمُكُّ فِيهِمْ أَرْبَعِينَ

«The Dajjāl will emerge in my Ummah and he will stay among them for forty.»

I do not know whether he said forty days or forty months or forty years or forty nights.

«يَنْبَغُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ، كَأَنَّهُ غُرُورُهُ بِنُ مَسْمُودٍ التَّقِي، فَيُظْهِرُ فِيهِلِكُهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى، ثُمَّ يَلْبِثُ النَّاسُ بَعْدَهُ سَبْعِينَ سَبْعًا، لَيْسَ بَيْنَ اثْنَيْنِ عَدَاوَةٌ، ثُمَّ يُرْسِلُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى رِيحًا بَارِدَةً مِنْ قِبَلِ الشَّامِ، فَلَا يَبْقَى أَحَدٌ فِي قَلْبِهِ مِثْقَالُ ذَرَّةٍ مِنْ إِيمَانٍ إِلَّا قَبَضَتْهُ، حَتَّى لَوْ أَنَّ أَحَدَهُمْ كَانَ فِي كَيْدِ جَبَلٍ لَدَخَلَتْ عَلَيْهِ»

[1] See the *Tafsir* of *Sūrat Aṣ-Ṣāffāt* [37:19].

«Then Allāh will send 'Īsā bin Maryam, peace be upon him, who resembles 'Urwah bin Mas'ūd Ath-Thaqafi, and he will prevail. Allāh will destroy him (the Dajjāl), then after that mankind will live for seven years with no enmity between any two people. Then Allāh will send a cool wind from the direction of Ash-Shām, which will take the soul of every person who has even a speck of faith in his heart; even if one of them were to be inside the heart of a mountain, it would enter upon him.»

He said, "I heard it from the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ:

«وَيَقْبَلُ شِرَارُ النَّاسِ فِي خَيْفَةِ الطَّيْرِ وَأَخْلَامِ السَّبَاعِ، لَا يَغْرِفُونَ مَعْرُوفًا، وَلَا يُنْكِرُونَ مُنْكَرًا، قَالَ: فَيَمْتَلِكُ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ قِيْلُ: أَلَا تَسْتَجِيبُونَ؟ فَيَأْمُرُهُمْ بِعِبَادَةِ الْأَوْثَانِ فَيَعْبُدُونَهَا، وَهُمْ فِي ذَلِكَ دَارَةَ أَرْزَاقِهِمْ، حَسَنَ عَيْشُهُمْ، ثُمَّ يُنْفَخُ فِي الصُّورِ، فَلَا يَسْمَعُهُ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا أَصْعَى لَهُ، وَأَوَّلُ مَنْ يَسْمَعُهُ، رَجُلٌ يَلُوطُ حَوْضَهُ فَيَضَعُ، ثُمَّ لَا يَبْقَى أَحَدٌ إِلَّا صَوَقٌ، ثُمَّ يُرْسِلُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى - أَوْ يُثْرِلُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ - مَطَرًا كَأَنَّهُ الطَّلُّ - أَوْ الطَّلُّ شَكْ نَعْمَان - فَتَثْبُتُ مِنْهُ أَجْسَادُ النَّاسِ، ثُمَّ يُنْفَخُ فِيهِ أُخْرَى فَإِذَا هُمْ يَنْظُرُونَ، ثُمَّ يُقَالُ: أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ هَلُمُّوا إِلَى رَبِّكُمْ ﴿وَقَفُّوا لَهُمْ مَسْئُولُونَ﴾»

«There will be left the most evil of people, as light as birds and with the hard hearts of wild predators. They will not recognize any good or denounce any evil. Then Shayṭān will appear to them and say, "Will you not obey me?" Then he will command them to worship idols and they will worship them. At that time they will have ample provision and a good standard of living. Then the Trumpet will be blown, and no one will hear it but he will tilt his head to listen. The first one to hear it will be a man who is filling his water trough, and he will die when he hears it. Then there will be no one left who has not died. Then Allāh will send» - or - send down «rain like drizzle» - or - shade - An-Nu'mān [one of the narrators] was not sure of its wording «from which the bodies of the people will grow. Then the Trumpet will be blown once more, and they will be standing, looking on. Then it will be said, "O mankind, come to your Lord, «But stop them, verily, they are to be questioned» (37:24).

Then it will be said,

«أَخْرِجُوا بَنَتَ النَّارِ، قَالَ: فَيَقَالُ: كَمْ؟ فَيَقَالُ: مِنْ كُلِّ أَلْفٍ تِسْعِمِائَةٌ وَتِسْعَةٌ وَتِسْعِينَ، فَيَوْمَنِيذٍ يَبْعَثُ الْوَلَدَانُ شَيْبًا، وَيَوْمَنِيذٍ يُكْشَفُ عَنْ سَاقِي»

“Send forth the people of Hell.” It will be said, “How many?” It will said, “From every thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine.” On that Day, children will be resurrected gray-haired, and on that Day the Shin will be laid bare.”^[1]

This was recorded by Muslim in his *Ṣaḥīḥ*.^[2]

Al-Bukhārī recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allāh be pleased with him, said that the Prophet ﷺ said:

«مَا بَيْنَ التَّفَخَّتَيْنِ أَرْبَعُونَ»

“Between the two blasts, there will be only forty.”

They said, “O Abu Hurayrah, forty days?” He, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, “I do not know.” They said, “Forty years?” He said, “I do not know.” They said, “Forty months?” He said, “I do not know.”

«وَيَبْلَى كُلُّ شَيْءٍ مِنَ الْإِنْسَانِ إِلَّا عَجَبَ ذَنْبِهِ فِيهِ يُرَكَّبُ الْخَلْقُ»

“Every part of a man will disintegrate apart from the root of his backbone, and out of that he will be created anew.”^[3]

﴿وَأَشْرَقَتِ الْأَرْضُ بِنُورِ رَبِّهَا﴾

﴿And the earth will shine with the light of its Lord,﴾

means, it will shine brightly on the Day of Resurrection when the Truth (Allāh), may He be glorified and exalted, manifests Himself to His creation, to pass judgement.

﴿وَرُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ﴾

﴿and the Book will be presented﴾. Qatādah said, “The Book of deeds.”^[4]

﴿وَجَاءَ بِالنَّبِيِّينَ﴾

﴿and the Prophets will be brought forward,﴾

[1] Aḥmad 2:166.

[2] Muslim 4:2257.

[3] *Faṭḥ Al-Bārī* 8:414.

[4] Aṭ-Ṭabari 21:335.

Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "They will bear witness against the nations, testifying that they conveyed the Message of Allāh to them."^[1]

﴿وَالشَّاهِدَ﴾

﴿and the witnesses﴾ means, witnesses from among the angels who record the deeds of all, good and evil alike.

﴿وَقِفْظَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ﴾

﴿and it will be judged between them with truth,﴾ means, with justice.

﴿وَهُمْ لَا يَظْلَمُونَ﴾

﴿and they will not be wronged.﴾ Allāh says:

﴿وَنَضَعُ الْمَوَازِينَ الْقِسْطَ لِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ فَلَا تُظْلَمُ نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا وَإِنْ كَانَ مِثْقَالُ حَبَّةٍ مِنْ خَرْدَلٍ أَتَيْنَا بِهَا وَكَفَى بِنَا حَاسِبِينَ﴾ (21:47)

﴿And We shall setup Balances of justice on the Day of Resurrection, then none will be dealt with unjustly in anything. And if there be the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it. And Sufficient are We to take account.﴾ (21:47)

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَظْلِمُ شَيْئًا وَلَئِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُوا أَمْرَهُ وَبَرُّوا اللَّهَ أَكْبَرُ عِندَهُ﴾ (3:31)

﴿Surely, Allāh wrongs not even of the weight of a speck of dust, but if there is any good (done), He doubles it, and gives from Him a great reward.﴾ (4:40)

Allāh says:

﴿وَوُفِّيَتْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا عَمِلَتْ﴾

﴿And each person will be paid in full of what he did;﴾ meaning, of good and evil.

﴿وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ﴾

﴿and He is Best Aware of what they do﴾.

﴿وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ زُرَّارًا ۚ هَٰؤُلَاءِ جَاءُواهَا فَتِيحًا أَبْرَأِيهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا

^[1] At-Ṭabari 21 :336.

أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِنْكُمْ يَتْلُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ رَبِّكُمْ وَيُنذِرُوكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا قَالُوا بِئْسَ وَلَكِنْ حَقَّتْ لَكُمُ الْعَذَابُ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٧١﴾ قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا فَبِئْسَ مَوَاقِلَ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٧٢﴾

﴿71. And those who disbelieved will be driven to Hell in groups till when they reach it, the gates thereof will be opened. And its keepers will say: "Did not the Messengers come to you from yourselves, reciting to you the Āyāt of your Lord, and warning you of the meeting of this Day of yours?" They will say: "Yes," but the Word of torment has been justified against the disbelievers!﴾

﴿72. It will be said: "Enter you the gates of Hell, to abide therein. And what an evil abode of the arrogant!"﴾

How the Disbelievers will be driven to Hell

Allāh tells us how the doomed disbeliever will be driven to Hell by force, with threats and warnings. This is like the Āyah:

﴿يَوْمَ يَدْعُوتُ إِلَى نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ دَعَاً﴾ ﴿١٣﴾

﴿The Day when they will be pushed down by force to the fire of Hell, with a horrible, forceful pushing.﴾ (52:13)

which means, they will be pushed and forced towards it, and they will be extremely thirsty, as Allāh says:

﴿يَوْمَ نَحْشُرُ الْمُتَّقِينَ إِلَى الرَّحْمَنِ وَفْدًا ﴿٨٥﴾ وَنَسُوقُ الْمُبْرِينَ إِلَى جَهَنَّمَ وَفْدًا ﴿٨٦﴾﴾

﴿The Day We shall gather those who have Taqwā unto the Most Gracious, like a delegation. And We shall drive the criminals to Hell, in a thirsty state.﴾ (19:85-86)

When they are in that state, they will be blind, dumb and deaf, and some of them will be walking on their faces:

﴿وَنَحْشُرُهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عَلَى وُجُوهِهِمْ عُمًى وَبُكْمًا وَصُمًّا نَأْوِيهِمْ جَهَنَّمَ كُلَّمَا خَبَتْ زِدْنَاهُمْ سَعِيرًا ﴿٩٧﴾﴾

﴿and We shall gather them together on the Day of Resurrection on their faces, blind, dumb and deaf; their abode will be Hell; whenever it abates, We shall increase for them the fierceness of the Fire﴾ (17:97).

﴿حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا فَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا﴾

﴿till when they reach it, the gates thereof will be opened.﴾

means, as soon as they arrive, the gates will be opened quickly, in order to hasten on their punishment. Then the keepers of Hell, who are stern angels, severe and strong, will say to them by way of rebuking and reprimanding:

﴿أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ﴾

﴿Did not the Messengers come to you from yourselves,﴾

meaning, 'of your own kind, so that you could have spoken to them and learned from them,'

﴿يَتْلُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ رَبِّكُم﴾

﴿reciting to you the Āyāt of your Lord,﴾

means, 'establishing proof against you that what they brought to you was true,'

﴿رُسُلُكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا﴾

﴿and warning you of the meeting of this Day of yours?﴾

means, 'warning you of the evil of this Day.' The disbeliever will say to them:

﴿بَلَىٰ﴾

﴿Yes,﴾ meaning, 'they did come to us and warn us and establish proof and evidence against us,'

﴿وَلَكِن حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ﴾

﴿but the Word of torment has been justified against the disbelievers!﴾

means, 'but we rejected them and went against them, because we were already doomed, as it was decreed that we would be, because we had turned away from the truth towards falsehood.' This is like the Āyāt:

﴿كَلَّمَآ أَنَّىٰ فِيهَا نَجَّيْنَاكَ مِمَّا كَفَرْتُمْ أَنزِلْنَا إِلَيْكَ فَإِذَا تَوَلَّىٰ سَآءَ مَا يَفْعَلُ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

﴿وَقَالُوا لَوْ كُنَّا نَسْمَعُ أَوْ نَعْقِلُ مَا كُنَّا فِي أَصْحَابِ

السَّعِيرِ ﴿١٥﴾﴾

﴿Every time a group is cast therein, its keeper will ask: "Did

no warner come to you?" They will say: "Yes, indeed a warner came to us, but we denied him and said: 'Allāh never revealed anything; you are only in great error.'" And they will say: "Had we but listened or used our intelligence, we would not have been among the dwellers of the blazing Fire!" (67:9-10)

which means, they will feel regret and will blame themselves.

﴿فَاعْتَرَفُوا بِذَنبِهِمْ فَسُحْقًا لِأَصْحَابِ النَّارِ﴾

﴿Then they will confess their sin. So, away with the dwellers of the blazing Fire!﴾ (67:11)

means, they are lost and doomed.

﴿قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا﴾

﴿It will be said (to them): "Enter you the gates of Hell, to abide therein..."﴾

means everyone who sees them and the situation they are in, will testify that they deserve the punishment. These words are not attributed to any specific person, but they are said as an indication that the entire universe will bear witness that they deserve what they are suffering, in accordance with the judgement of the Most Just, the All-Knowing. Allāh says:

﴿قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا﴾

﴿It will be said (to them): "Enter you the gates of Hell, to abide therein..."﴾

meaning, 'to stay there forever; you will never leave or depart.'

﴿فَيَسْأَلُ مَنَئِي الْمَكِينِ﴾

﴿And (indeed) what an evil abode of the arrogant!﴾

means, 'what an evil destiny and what an evil place to stay, because of your arrogance in this world and your refusal to follow the truth; this is what has led you to this, what an evil state and what an evil final destination!'

﴿وَيَسْأَلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَفُوا رِجْسَهُ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ مُرًّا حَقًّا إِذَا جَاءُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلِّمُوا عَلَيْكُمْ يُنَادُوا فَادْخُلُوا خَالِدِينَ ﴿٧٣﴾ وَقَالُوا الْحَسْبُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَنَا وَعْدَهُ وَأَوْرَثَنَا الْأَرْضَ نَتَبَوَّأُ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ فَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ ﴿٧٤﴾﴾

﴿73. And those who had Taqwā will be led to Paradise in

groups till when they reach it, and its gates will be opened and its keepers will say: "Salām 'Alaykum (peace be upon you)! You have done well, so enter here to abide therein forever."﴿

﴿74. And they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allāh Who has fulfilled His promise to us and has made us inherit the land. We can dwell in Paradise where we will; how excellent a reward for the workers!"﴾

The Believers will be taken to Paradise

Here Allāh tells us about the blessed believers, who will be taken to Paradise in groups, one group after another, starting with the best of them: those who are closest to Allāh, then the most righteous, then the next best and the next best. Each group will be with others like them, Prophets with Prophets, the true believers with their peers, the martyrs with their counterparts, the scholars with their colleagues, every group composed of people of the same kind.

﴿حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا﴾

﴿till when they reach it,﴾ means, when they arrive at the gates of Paradise, after passing over the *Ṣirāt*, where they will be detained on a bridge between Paradise and Hell, and any injustices that existed between them in this world will be settled until they have all been purified from sin through this trial. Then permission will be granted for them to enter Paradise.

It was recorded in the *Ḥadīth* about the Trumpet that when the believers reach the gates of Paradise, they will consult one another as to who should ask permission for them to enter. They will ask Ādam, then Nūh, then Ibrāhīm, then Mūsā, then ʿĪsā, then Muḥammad ﷺ (may blessings and peace be upon them all). This is akin to what will happen in the arena of judgement, when they will ask for someone to intercede for them with Allāh when He comes to pass judgement. This is to show the noble position of Muḥammad ﷺ above the rest of mankind in all situations.

In *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, it is reported that Anas, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«أَنَا أَوَّلُ شَفِيعٍ فِي الْجَنَّةِ»

«I will be the first intercessor in Paradise.»^[1]

According to the wording of Muslim:

«وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ مَنْ يَفْرُغُ بَابَ الْجَنَّةِ»

«I will be the first one to knock at the gates of Paradise.»^[2]

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Anas bin Mālik, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«أَتِي بَابَ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَأَسْتَفْتِيحُ فَيَقُولُ الْخَازِنُ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ فَأَقُولُ: مُحَمَّدٌ - قَالَ: - فَيَقُولُ: بِكَ أَمْرٌ أَنْ لَا أَفْتَحَ لِأَحَدٍ قَبْلَكَ»

«I will come to the gate of Paradise on the Day of Resurrection and will ask for it to be opened. The gatekeeper will say, "Who are you?" I will say "Muḥammad." He will say, "I was told about you and that I was not to open the gate for anyone before you."»^[3]

It was also recorded by Muslim.^[4]

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«أَوَّلُ زُمْرَةٍ تَلِجُ الْجَنَّةَ، صُورُهُمْ عَلَى صُورَةِ الْقَمَرِ لَيْلَةَ الْبَدْرِ، لَا يَنْصُقُونَ فِيهَا، وَلَا يَمْتَخِطُونَ فِيهَا، وَلَا يَتَغَوَّطُونَ فِيهَا، آتَتْهُمْ وَأَمْسَاطُهُمُ الذَّهَبُ وَالْفِضَّةُ، وَمَجَامِرُهُمُ الْأَلْوَةُ وَرَشْحُهُمُ الْمِسْكُ، وَلِكُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مِنْهُمْ زَوْجَتَانِ، يُرَى مَخُ سَاقِيَمَا مِنْ وَرَاءِ اللَّحْمِ مِنَ الْحُسْنِ، لَا اخْتِلَافَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَلَا تَبَاغُضَ، قُلُوبُهُمْ عَلَى قَلْبٍ وَاحِدٍ، يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى بِكُرَّةٍ وَعَشِيئًا»

«The first group to enter Paradise will enter looking like the moon on the night when it is full. They will not spit there, or blow their noses, or defecate. Their vessels and combs will be of gold and silver, their censers will be of aloeswood and their sweat will be musk. Each of them will have two wives, the marrow of whose shin bones will be visible from beneath the skin because of their beauty. There will be no disputes between them and there will be no hatred; their hearts will be as if one

[1] Muslim 1:188.

[2] Muslim 1:188.

[3] Aḥmad 2:163.

[4] Muslim 1:188.

heart. They will glorify Allāh morning and evening.»^[1]

This was also recorded by Al-Bukhāri and Muslim.^[2]

Al-Hāfiẓ Abu Ya'lā recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«أَوَّلُ زُمْرَةٍ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ عَلَى صُورَةِ الْقَمَرِ لَيْلَةَ الْبَدْرِ، وَالَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ عَلَى صَوْرَةِ
أَشَدِّ كَوْكَبٍ دُرِّيٍّ فِي السَّمَاءِ إِضَاءَةً، لَا يُبُولُونَ، وَلَا يَتَغَوَّطُونَ، وَلَا يَنْفِلُونَ، وَلَا
يَمْتَحِطُونَ، أَمْشَاطُهُمُ الذَّهَبُ، وَرَشْحُهُمُ الْمِسْكُ، وَحَبَائِرُهُمُ الْأَلْوَةُ، وَأَزْوَاجُهُمُ
الْحُورُ الْعِينُ، أَخْلَاقُهُمْ عَلَى خُلُقِ رَجُلٍ وَاحِدٍ، عَلَى صُورَةِ أَبِيهِمْ آدَمَ، سِتُونَ
ذِرَاعًا فِي السَّمَاءِ»

«The first group to enter Paradise will look like the moon on the night when it is full. They will be followed by a group which looks like the brightest star shining in the sky. They will not urinate or defecate or spit or blow their noses. Their combs will be of gold, their sweat will be musk and their censers will be of aloeswood. Their wives will be Al-Hūr Al-'Īyn, and they will all look the same, as if they are one person in the image of their father Ādam, sixty cubits tall.»^[3]

They [Al-Bukhāri and Muslim] also produced this from the Hadīth of Jābir.^[4]

It was reported that Abu Hurayrah, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي زُمْرَةٌ، هُمْ سَبْعُونَ أَلْفًا، تُضِيُّ وُجُوهُهُمْ إِضَاءَةُ الْقَمَرِ لَيْلَةَ
الْبَدْرِ»

«A group of my Ummah, seventy thousand, will enter Paradise with their faces shining like the moon on the night when it is full.»

'Ukkāshah bin Miḥṣan stood up and said, 'O Messenger of Allāh, pray to Allāh to make me one of them.' He said,

«اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ مِنْهُمْ»

[1] Aḥmad 2:316.

[2] Faṭḥ Al-Bāri 6:367, Muslim 4:2180.

[3] Abu Ya'lā 10:470.

[4] Faṭḥ Al-Bāri 4:417, Muslim 4:2179.

«O Allāh, make him one of them.»

Then one of the Anṣār stood up and said, 'O Messenger of Allāh, pray to Allāh to make me one of them.' He said,

«سَبَقَكَ بِهَا عُكَّاشُ»

«Ukkāshah has beaten you to it.»

This was recorded by (Al-Bukhārī and Muslim).^[1]

This *Ḥadīth* – about the seventy thousand who will enter Paradise without being brought to account – was also recorded by Al-Bukhārī and Muslim from Ibn 'Abbās, may Allāh be pleased with him, Jābir bin 'Abdullāh, 'Imrān bin Huṣayn, Ibn Mas'ūd, Rifā'ah bin 'Arābah Al-Juhani and Umm Qays bint Miḥṣan – may Allāh be pleased with them all – and also from Abu Ḥāzim from Sahl bin Sa'd, may Allāh be pleased with them, who said that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«يَدْخُلَنَّ الْجَنَّةَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي سَبْعُونَ أَلْفًا - أَوْ سَبْعِمِائَةُ أَلْفٍ - آخِذٌ بَعْضُهُمْ يَبْغِضُ،
حَتَّى يَدْخُلَ أَوَّلُهُمْ وَآخِرُهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ، وَجُوهُهُمْ عَلَى صُورَةِ الْقَمَرِ لَيْلَةَ الْبَدْرِ»

«Seventy thousand or seven hundred thousand of my Ummah will surely enter Paradise, holding on to one another, such that the first and last of them will enter Paradise together, with their faces looking like the moon on the night when it is full.»^[2]

﴿حَقَّقَ إِذَا جَاءَهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لِمَنْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوهَا
خَالِدِينَ﴾

«till when they reach it, and its gates will be opened and its keepers will say: "Salām 'Alaykum (peace be upon you)! You have done well, so enter here to abide therein forever."»

This is a conditional sentence that is not complete. What it implies is that when they come to the gates of Paradise the gates will be opened for them as a sign of honor, and the angelic gatekeepers will meet them with glad tidings, greetings of peace and praise. Unlike the gatekeepers of Hell who will meet the disbelievers with rebuke and reprimand, the believers will be filled with happiness and joy, each according to his

[1] *Faṭḥ Al-Bārī* 11:413, Muslim 1:197.

[2] *Faṭḥ Al-Bārī* 11:414, Muslim 1:197.

degree of luxury and delights. What happens after this is not mentioned; it is left for the imagination to think of its dearest wishes and be filled with hope. It is known from the *Ṣaḥīḥ Ḥadīths* that Paradise has eight gates.

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allāh be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«مَنْ أَتَقَّ زَوْجَيْنِ مِنْ مَالِهِ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى دُعِيَ مِنْ أَبْوَابِ الْجَنَّةِ، وَلِلْجَنَّةِ أَبْوَابٌ، فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الصَّلَاةِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الصَّلَاةِ، وَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الصَّدَقَةِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الصَّدَقَةِ، وَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْجِهَادِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الْجِهَادِ، وَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الصَّيَامِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الرَّيَّانِ»

«Whoever spends a pair of something from his wealth for the sake of Allah, will be called from the gates of Paradise. Paradise has (several) gates. Whoever is among the people of prayer, will be called from the gate of Prayer; whoever is among the people of charity, will be called from the gate of Charity; whoever is among the people of Jihād, will be called from the gate of Jihād; whoever is among the people of fasting, will be called from the Gate of Ar-Rayyān.»

Abu Bakr said, 'O Messenger of Allāh, it does not matter from which gate one is called, but will anyone be called from all of them?' He ﷺ said,

«نَعَمْ، وَأَرْجُو أَنْ تَكُونَ مِنْهُمْ»

«Yes, and I hope that you will be one of them.»^[1]

Something similar was also recorded by Al-Bukhāri and Muslim.^[2]

It was reported from Sahl bin Sa'd, may Allāh be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ فِي الْجَنَّةِ ثَمَانِيَةَ أَبْوَابٍ، بَابٌ مِنْهَا يُسَمَّى الرَّيَّانَ، لَا يَدْخُلُهُ إِلَّا الصَّائِمُونَ»

«In Paradise there are eight gates; one of them is called Ar-Rayyān, and no one will enter it except those who fast.»^[3]

In *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, it is recorded that 'Umar bin Al-Khattāb, may

^[1] Aḥmad 2:268.

^[2] *Faṭḥ Al-Bāri* 4:133, Muslim 2:711.

^[3] *Faṭḥ Al-Bāri* 6:378, Muslim 2:808.

Allāh be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«مَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَتَوَضَّأُ فَيُبَلِّغُ - أَوْ يَسْبِغُ - الوُضُوءَ، ثُمَّ يَقُولُ: أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، إِلَّا فُتِحَتْ لَهُ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ الثَّمَانِيَةِ، يَدْخُلُ مِنْ أَيِّهَا شَاءَ»

«There is no one among you who performs Wudū' and does it well, or - amply -, then he says: "I testify that there is none worthy of worship except Allāh and that Muḥammad is His servant and Messenger," but the eight gates of Paradise will be opened for him and he will enter through whichever one he wishes.»^[1]

The Width of the Gates of Paradise

We ask Allāh to make us among its people. In the Two Ṣaḥīḥs, it is reported from Abu Hurayrah, may Allāh be pleased with him, in the lengthy Ḥadīth about intercession (that the Prophet ﷺ said):

«فَيَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: يَا مُحَمَّدُ، أَدْخِلْ مَنْ لَا حِسَابَ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أُمَّتِكَ مِنَ الْبَابِ الْأَيْمَنِ، وَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ النَّاسِ فِي الْأَبْوَابِ الْآخَرِ، وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ بِيَدِهِ! إِنَّ مَا بَيْنَ الْمِصْرَاعَيْنِ مِنْ مَصَارِيعِ الْجَنَّةِ - مَا بَيْنَ عِضَادَتَيْ الْبَابِ - لَكَمَا بَيْنَ مَكَّةَ وَهَجَرَ - أَوْ هَجَرَ وَمَكَّةَ - فِي رَوَايَةٍ - مَكَّةَ وَبُضْرَى»

«Allāh will say: "O Muḥammad, admit those of your Ummah who are not to be brought to account, through the right-hand gate, and they will be counted among those who will enter from other gates as well." By the One in Whose Hand is the soul of Muḥammad, the distance between the two gateposts of the gates of Paradise is like the distance between Makkah and Hajar - or Hajar and Makkah.»

According to another report:

«between Makkah and Buṣrah.»^[2]

It was recorded in Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim from 'Utbah bin Ghazwān that (the Prophet ﷺ) gave them a speech in which he told

^[1] Muslim 1:209.

^[2] Faṭḥ Al-Bāri 8:247, Muslim 1:184.

them that the distance between the two gateposts of Paradise was the distance of a forty-year journey, but there would come a day when they would be packed with crowds of people.^[1]
Allāh says,

﴿وَقَالَ لَهُ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِإِذْنِ﴾

﴿and its keepers will say: "Salām 'Alaykum (peace be upon you)! You have done well,"﴾

meaning, 'your deeds and words were good, and your efforts were good, and your reward is good.' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ issued commands during some of his military campaigns that it should be shouted out to the Muslims:

﴿إِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ لَا يَدْخُلُهَا إِلَّا نَفْسٌ مُسْلِمَةٌ - وفي رواية - مُؤْمِنَةٌ﴾

«No one enters Paradise except a Muslim soul» or, according to one report, «A believing soul.»^[2]

Allāh says,

﴿فَادْخُلُوا خَالِدِينَ﴾

﴿so enter here to abide therein forever.﴾ means, to dwell therein, never seeking any change.

﴿وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَنَا وَعْدَهُ﴾

﴿And they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allāh Who has fulfilled His promise to us..."﴾

means, when the believers see the great reward and splendors, blessing and grand generosity, they will say,

﴿الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَنَا وَعْدَهُ﴾

﴿All the praises and thanks be to Allāh Who has fulfilled His promise to us﴾

meaning, 'the promise which He made to us through His Messengers who called us to this in the world.'

﴿رَبَّنَا وَمَا وَعَدْنَا عَلَى رُسُلِكَ وَلَا نَجْزِيكَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ إِنَّكَ لَا تُغْلِبُ الْيَمَادَ﴾

﴿Our Lord! Grant us what You promised unto us through

[1] Muslim 4:2278.

[2] Fath Al-Bāri 11:385.

Your Messengers and disgrace us not on the Day of Resurrection, for You never break (Your) promise»(3:194),

﴿وَقَالُوا لَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا أَنَّ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ لَقَدْ جَاءَتْ رَسُولَنَا بِالْحَقِّ﴾

«and they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allāh, Who has guided us to this, and never could we have found guidance, were it not that Allāh had guided us! Indeed, the Messengers of our Lord came with the truth."» (7:43), and

﴿وَقَالُوا لَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَذْهَبَ عَنَّا الْحَزْنَ إِنَّ رَبَّنَا لَغَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ ﴿٢٦﴾ الَّذِي أَلْهَنَّا دَارَ الْمُقَامَةِ مِن فَضْلِهِ لَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا نُصَبٌ وَلَا نَمَسٌّ فِيهَا غُفٌوَةٌ ﴿٢٧﴾﴾

«And they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allāh Who has removed from us (all) grief. Verily, our Lord is indeed Oft-Forgiving, Most Ready to appreciate (good deeds). Who, out of His grace, has lodged us in a home that will last forever, where toil will touch us not nor weariness will touch us."» (35:34-35)

﴿وَأَرْزُقْنَا الْأَرْضَ نَتَبَوَّأُ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ فَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ﴾

«and has made us inherit (this) land. We can dwell in Paradise where we will; how excellent a reward for the (pious) workers!»

Abu Al-Āliyah, Abu Šāliḥ, Qatādah, As-Suddi and Ibn Zayd said, "This means the land of Paradise."^[1] This is like the Āyah:

﴿وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي الزَّبُورِ مِن بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ ﴿١٥٩﴾﴾

«And indeed We have written in Az-Zabūr after Adh-Dhikr that My righteous servants shall inherit the land.»^[2] (21:105)

they will say:

﴿نَتَبَوَّأُ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ﴾

«We can dwell in Paradise where we will»

meaning, 'wherever we want, we can settle; how excellent a reward for our efforts.'

^[1] Al-Qurṭubī 15:287.

^[2] See volume six, the Tafsīr of Sūrat Al-Anbiyā' (21:105).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَرَأَى الْمَلَائِكَةَ حَافِينَ مِنْ حَوْلِ الْعَرْشِ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَقِيلَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٧٥﴾

سُورَةُ الزُّمَرِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

حَمْدٌ ﴿١﴾ تَنْزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ ﴿٢﴾ غَافِرِ الذَّنْبِ وَقَابِلِ التَّوْبِ شَدِيدِ الْعِقَابِ ذِي الطَّوْلِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ إِلَهُ الْمَصِيرِ ﴿٣﴾ مَا يُجَدَّلُ فِي عِندِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَلَا يَغْرُرُكَ تَقْلُبُهُمْ فِي الْيَلْدِ ﴿٤﴾ كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ وَالْأَحْزَابُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ وَهَمَّتْ كُلُّ أُمَّةٍ بِرَسُولِهِمْ لِيَأْخُذُوهُ وَجَدُوا بِآلِ بَطِلٍ لِيُضِلُّوهُم بِأَفْهَامِهِمْ فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عِقَابِ ﴿٥﴾ وَكَذَلِكَ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّهُمْ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ ﴿٦﴾ الَّذِينَ يَمْجُلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ رَحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا فَاغْفِرْ لِلَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَاتَّبَعُوا سَبِيلَكَ وَقِهِمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿٧﴾

In the Two *Ṣaḥīḥs*, it was reported in the story of the *Mi'raj* which was narrated by Anas bin Mālik, may Allāh be pleased with him, that the Prophet ﷺ said:

«أَدْخِلْتُ الْجَنَّةَ، فَإِذَا فِيهَا جَنَابُ الدُّلُوكِ، وَإِذَا تُرَابُهَا الْمِسْكُ»

«I was admitted into Paradise where I saw that its domes were pearls and its soil was musk.»^[1]

﴿وَرَأَى الْمَلَائِكَةَ حَافِينَ مِنْ حَوْلِ الْعَرْشِ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَقِيلَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾ ﴿٧٥﴾

475. And you

will see the angels surrounding the Throne from all round, glorifying the praises of their Lord. And they will be judged with truth. And it will be said, "All the praises and thanks be to Allāh, the Lord of all that exists." ﴿

Allāh tells us how He will pass judgement on the people of Paradise and Hell, and put each of them in the place fitting for him and for which he is suited; this is justice from Him and He is never unjust. Then He tells us of His angels who surround His majestic Throne, glorifying the praises of their Lord, extolling and magnifying Him, and declaring Him to be above any shortcomings or injustice whatsoever, for He has passed judgement in the fairest and most just manner. He says:

[1] *Fath Al-Bāri* 11 :547, Muslim 1 :148.

﴿وَقُضِيَ يَنَّهُمْ﴾

﴿And they will be judged﴾ meaning, all of creation.

﴿بِالْحَقِّ﴾

﴿with truth.﴾ Then He says:

﴿وَقِيلَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾

﴿And it will be said, "All the praises and thanks be to Allāh, the Lord of all that exists."﴾

meaning, all of creation, whether animate or inanimate, will speak words of praise to Allāh, the Lord of all that exists, for His wisdom and justice. These words are not attributed to any specific speaker, which indicates that the whole of creation will testify to His praise. Qatādah said, "Allāh began His creation with praise, as He said,

﴿الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ﴾

﴿All praises and thanks be to Allāh, Who created the heavens and the earth﴾ (6:1).

and He ended it with praise, as He says:

﴿وَقُضِيَ يَنَّهُمْ بِالْحَقِّ وَقِيلَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾

﴿And they will be judged with truth. And it will be said, "All the praises and thanks be to Allāh, the Lord of all that exists."﴾.^[1]

^[1] At-Ṭabari 21 :344.