

Lecture Summary – 1 July 2014 – 2nd Shahr Ramadhan 1435

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Sura Luqman

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَشْتَرِي لَهْوَ الْحَدِيثِ لِيُضِلَّ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ وَيَتَّخِذَهَا

هُزُوءًا ؕ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ

And of the people is he who buys the amusement of speech to mislead [others] from the way of Allah without knowledge and who takes it in ridicule. Those will have a humiliating punishment. (31:6)

وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِ آيَاتُنَا وَلَّىٰ مُسْتَكْبِرًا كَأَن لَّمْ يَسْمَعْهَا كَأَنَّ فِي أُذُنَيْهِ وَقْرًا ۖ فَبَشِّرْهُ

بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ

And when our verses are recited to him, he turns away arrogantly as if he had not heard them, as if there was in his ears deafness. So give him tidings of a painful punishment. (31:7)

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ النَّعِيمِ

Indeed, those who believe and do righteous deeds - for them are the Gardens of Pleasure. (31:8)

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا ۖ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقًّا ۖ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

Wherein they abide eternally; [it is] the promise of Allah [which is] truth. And He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise. (31:9)

Allah (SWT) present stories in the Quran for people who reflect.

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا

Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an, or are there locks upon [their] hearts?

How do we reflect in the Quran in the way God wants us to?

Time and time again the ahlulbayt have told us to reflect on the verses which are clear, the stories and the lessons. Do not impose meaning but let the Quran explain itself.

Another way Allah helps us to understand is to use opposites to explain.

In verse 6 of Sura Luqman He also uses opposites.

The first 5 verses are stating who are the ones who can be guided by the Quran – the Muhsineen and who these are.

In verse 6 He speaks about the opposite of the Muhsineen.

In history there are many examples of people who knew the Quran but it did not guide them or change their souls.

There are a group of individuals who have sold the wisdom, the ayat of Allah (SWT).

Both Sunni and Shia state that this verse was revealed for Nazr bin Haris. He was a trader by profession.

When he came back from his travel he would gather the people of Quraysh and tell them that Muhammad came and brought stories, I also have stories from afar. Stories of the ancient gods of Greece and Rome and heroes of Persia.

This verse was to explain how some people de value the stories of the Quran.

Having said this – although the Asbaabul Nuzul is related to a specific person it is not bound to that person but only used as an example. It is still relevant for us.

Thus the verse is relating to any scholar who use teachings other than the Quran and Ahlulbayt to sway people.

Verse continued:

The purpose of spreading these other stories is to sway the minds of people.

They take religion as a mockery.

For them is a great and awful punishment.

V7

These people turn away arrogantly.

The biggest example of arrogance are those who turn away from God himself.

Then those who reject shariah (law) these are also arrogant people.

Then also those who acted arrogantly to the wilayah of Ali (a.s)

Warn these people about an intense punishment.

Q – Why does Allah (SWT) often speak about punishment? Is it real or metaphorical?

This verse is clear, it is a painful punishment.

Some people say that paradise and hell are metaphorical and it is more about how close we are to Allah (SWT). These people are rejecting the clear verses of the Quran.

Next verse (V8) looks at the opposite to the punishment - those who are righteous will enjoy paradise.

Story of person in the prison of Mamun – It was month of Ramadhan but he was eating. Prison guard asked why are you eating you should be fasting?

Person said – I am going to hell anyway so whats the point.

Prison Guard – But you can pray for forgiveness.

Person – Not this sin – I have killed 60 followers of Ali and Fatima.

Guard – How?

Person – Mamun asked me to do something to show your loyalty. Nothing was acceptable apart from killing followers.

I went and killed 20 scholars, 20 ladies and 20 children from among the followers of Ahlulbayt.

Then Mamun through me in prison anyway.

Prison Guard – Hmm maybe you won't be forgiven, let me go and ask 8th Imam.

8th Imam – The fact that he believes Allah (SWT) will not forgive him is a greater sin than killing those followers.

The human being has the potential to transcend its corporeal existence. We can live in this world yet be in paradise right now.