

SUMMER IMMERSION PARABLES IN THE QURAN



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SESSION 5

Parable #2: The Light of Guidance - Surah Al-An'aam

أَوْ مَن كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَأُحْيَيْنَاهُ وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُ نُورًا يَمْشِي بِهِ فِي النَّاسِ كَمَن مَّثَلُهُ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ لَيْسَ بِخَارِجٍ مِّنْهَا كَذَلِكَ زُيِّنَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٢٢﴾

Is it (conceivable) that the one who was dead and to whom We gave life, and set for him a light with which he walks among men, (is held to) be like the one whose condition is such that he is in total darkness, never coming out of it? This is how their deeds appear beautified to the disbelievers. (6:122)

- We all have the potential to be awakened/brought back to life (spiritually and literally) **فَأُحْيَيْنَاهُ وَجَعَلْنَا**
- Seeing from the light of imaan means we see things differently in this world, with the lens of the aakhirah
 - Story of Afraa' who had two sons shaheed in Uhud and asked the third what he did wrong that he wasn't accepted as shaheed in Badr or Uhud
- Yamshee bihi fin naas: **يَمْشِي بِهِ فِي النَّاسِ**
 - Our presence should bring joy to people because of our akhlaaq
 - We are attractive to people because we stand out/are different
 - We are not hiding our Islam, we are confident in it
 - We all have a responsibility to convey Islam and our knowledge
 - The more we convey it, the more firm we are in it
- The example is that both start in darkness: **كَمَن مَّثَلُهُ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ**
 - We didn't know who Allah (SWT) was at first and then we came to know
 - In this ayah, noor نور is singular because guidance is from a singular source

- Anyone who is looking for guidance and is taking initiative towards guidance, Allah (SWT) will guide them
- In this ayah, darkness **الظُّلُمَاتِ** is plural because darkness and doubts comes from many sources
- Components of darkness
 - They don't know Allah (SWT)
 - They don't make an effort to get know Allah (SWT) or their purpose on Earth
 - Our purpose:
 - To worship Allah (SWT)
 - As khalifahs, representatives of Allah (SWT) and Rasulullah (S), on this Earth
 - As people see us, they get closer to Allah (SWT) when they see us embody good qualities
 - Our goal is to be people who when people see us, they remember Allah (SWT)
 - To give back and have others benefit - with our time, resources, money, etc
 - The inability to differentiate between right or wrong
- And people don't make an effort to get out of their darkness: **لَيْسَ بِخَارِجٍ مِّنْهَا**
- They see what they're doing as beautiful, so why would they change **كَذَلِكَ زُيِّنَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ**
- Light is what makes things beautiful, without light even the most beautiful things are scary
 - We don't chase (superficial) beauty, beauty is in whatever Allah (SWT) has placed noor and light into - we chase after Allah (SWT), the Giver of all beauty
 - Beauty isn't in what we deem beautiful, it's in what Allah (SWT) has said is beautiful

Parable #3: Guidance from Allah - Surah Al-An'aam

فَمَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَهْدِيَهُ يَشْرَحْ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ وَمَنْ يُرِدْ أَنْ يُضِلَّهُ يَجْعَلْ صَدْرَهُ ضَيِّقًا حَرَجًا
كَأَنَّمَا يَصْعَدُ فِي السَّمَاءِ كَذَلِكَ يَجْعَلُ اللَّهُ الرِّجْسَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١٢٥﴾

When God wishes to guide someone, He opens their breast to islam; when He wishes to lead them astray, He closes and constricts their breast as if they were climbing up to the skies. That is how God makes the foulness of those who do not believe rebound against them.
(6:125)

- Surah Al-An'aam is one of the last surahs to be revealed in Makkah
- The second parable refers to people looking for guidance, this parable is about remaining on guidance
 - Our only job is to remain on guidance:
 - Jaahadu: struggle
 - Inaaba: keep turning back to Allah (SWT)
 - The principle of Allah (SWT) is that He will help people on the path they choose to take and work on
 - The effort of imaan stays until we die
- When we strive on the path, Allah (SWT) makes the path to **Islam** (actions) easy - Allah (SWT) makes Islam (not Ihsaan, belief) easy يَشْرَحْ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ
 - #1 - Allah (SWT) will make remaining on the path easy
 - (similar to how lifting weight becomes easier with consistent routine)
 - What's important is to keep making the efforts consistently
 - #2 - Allah (SWT) gives the tawfeeq to continue
 - #3 - Allah (SWT) will allow the person to start enjoying the submission to Allah (SWT)
- The example of those who are misguided: يَجْعَلْ صَدْرَهُ ضَيِّقًا حَرَجًا
 - The lack an enjoyment/feel out of place in spaces of imaan
 - No good words can penetrate their hearts
- This refers to their chest: حَرَجًا
 - constricted and hard to breathe (no room for light)
 - in contrast to the example of a believer whose chest is expanding

- They see no freedom **كَأَنَّمَا يَصَّعَّدُ فِي السَّمَاءِ**
 - They run towards what they think is freedom and constrict themselves - similar to how it becomes harder to breathe the higher you climb up a mountain
 - People's standards = constriction
 - The pleasure of people is a destination that can never be reached
 - In contrast, those rushing towards submission are freeing themselves from darkness
 - Allah's standards = liberation
- And this is how Allah (SWT) puts filth in them **كَذَلِكَ يَجْعَلُ اللَّهُ الرِّجْسَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ**
- Filth, shaytaan, or punishment: **الرِّجْسَ**
 - Water is like wahi (two things that descend from the heavens)
 - Filth can be cleaned by water and revelation (these are used interchangeably)