

SUMMER IMMERSION PARABLES IN THE QURAN



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Parable #11: Submission to Allah - Surah Az-Zumar

أَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا لَعْبٌ وَلَهُوَ وَزِينَةٌ وَتَفَاخُرٌ بَيْنَكُمْ وَتَكَاثُرٌ فِي الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأُولَادِ كَمَثَلِ
غَيْثٍ أَعْجَبَ الْكُفَّارَ نَبَاتُهُ ثُمَّ يَهِيجُ فَتَرَهُ مُضْفَرًا ثُمَّ يَكُونُ حُطَمًا وَفِي الْأُخْرَةِ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ
وَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَنَ وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتْعٌ الْغُرُورِ ﴿٢٠﴾

Bear in mind that the present life is just a game, a diversion, an attraction, a cause of boasting among you, of rivalry in wealth and children. It is like plants that spring up after the rain: their growth at first delights the sowers, but then you see them wither away, turn yellow, and become stubble. There is terrible punishment in the next life as well as forgiveness and approval from God; the life of this world is only an illusory pleasure. (57:20)

- Phases of our life
 - La'ib: playing لَعْبٌ
 - Lahu: distractions لَهُوٌ
 - Zeena: worrying about the way you look/beauty زِينَةٌ
 - We can be out of this phase but still have it in us (nice car, appearances, nice things, etc)
 - Tafaakhur: boasting تَفَاخُرٌ
 - We're not the only ones that go through these phases; our parents do as well in their journey of parenthood
 - Takaathur: thinking of increasing in wealth and children تَكَاثُرٌ
 - Increasing in children = thinking of marriage
 - These are the natural phases of life for everyone
 - In each of these 5 phases, we think if we get what we're looking for we will be happy

- But in reality we're always chasing the next thing/phase
- We can't make things our end goals, our end goal is always Allah (SWT)
 - Things of this dunya are just means along the way
- This is like a beautiful rain that pleases the farmer after they plant seeds and see the first signs of fruits of their labor (the initial green shoots) **كَمَثُلِ**
غَيْثٍ أَعْجَبَ الْكُفَّارَ نَبَاتُهُ
- The next feels like steps have been skipped because Allah (SWT) knows our realities and how we skip ahead: then it withers away **ثُمَّ يَهِيجُ**
 - If we don't harvest in time, crops die out
 - Similarly, the excitement wears off **فَتَرَنَّهُ مُضْفَرٌ** like how the plant turns yellow
 - And then the thing/our excitement of it dies off **ثُمَّ يَكُونُ حُطَلًا**
 - This is to show us that anything we focus on and make our goal other than Allah (SWT) will have a very short-lived life; the excitement is short-lived and our excitement for it will wither away very quickly
- The only thing that is constant and only increases with time is the punishment of Allah (SWT) **وَفِي أُلَّا أَخِرَةً عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ**
 - The enjoyment of sins is very short-lived but the punishment is ever present
 - The contentment of being forgiven is also permanent **وَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَنُ**
 - Allah (SWT) will give us contentment as long as He is our end goal
- The worldly life is nothing but an illusion **وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَّعُ الْغُرُورِ**