

SUMMER IMMERSION PARABLES IN THE QURAN



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Parable #11: In Search of the Truth - Surah Ar-Ra'd

أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَسَالَتْ أَوْدِيَةٌ بِقَدَرِهَا فَأَخْتَمَلَ الْسَّيْلُ زَبَدًا رَّابِيًّا وَمَمَا يُوَقِّدُونَ عَلَيْهِ فِي الْأَنَارِ أُبْتَغَاءً حَلْيَةً أَوْ مَتَّعْ زَبَدٌ مِّثْلُهُ كَذِلِكَ يَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْحَقَّ وَالْبَطِلَ فَأَمَّا الْزَبَدُ فَيَذْهَبُ جُفَاءً وَأَمَّا مَا يَنْفَعُ النَّاسَ فَيَمْكُثُ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَذِلِكَ يَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأُمَّالَ (١٧)

He sent down water from the heavens, so the canals flowed according to their capacity, and the flood carried bulging scum. And a similar scum comes up from what they melt in the fire to obtain ornaments or other objects. This is how Allah depicts the truth and the untruth. As for the scum, it goes to be thrown away, while that which benefits people remains on the earth. This is how Allah brings out the parables. (13:17)

- In this ayah, we get multiple examples from a single comparison
- He sends water from the heavens: أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً
 - Overflowing according to time and capacity: فَسَالَتْ أَوْدِيَةٌ بِقَدَرِهَا
 - Allah sends down wahi (revelation) from the skies and according to our capacity our hearts are being filled
 - Any unwanted particles is زبد - when the water comes, it separates the scum to the top and carries it away: فَأَخْتَمَلَ الْسَّيْلُ زَبَدًا رَّابِيًّا
 - When wahi comes into someone's life, it separates and starts cleaning away the filth from the heart and washing away bad habits
 - In this, Allah (SWT) is telling us two ways to clear the filth from the heart:
 - Taking in the knowledge of deen continuously changes us from within

- When knowledge comes into our life we start seeing good for good and bad for bad - the truth is differentiated from falsehood for us
- Never feel like the knowledge you're learning isn't changing you, it is. The pace of haqq (truth) is slow, but the pace of baatil (falsehood) is fast.
- If the pace of haqq was meant to be fast, alcohol would've been made haraam in a single occurrence instead of gradually
 - Experience in life; sometimes we will have to go through hardship to purify ourselves
- "And a similar scum comes up from what they melt in the fire" **وَمِمَّا يُوقِدُونَ عَلَيْهِ فِي أَنَارٍ**
- All of us are going to be attached/seeking something - make sure we're seeking Allah (SWT)
 - A beautiful dua to make is for Allah (SWT) to protect us from being dependent on any dependent
 - Another: Oh Allah, make me rich by making me in need of only you (faqeer in front of you)
- The first part of this example is about knowledge; this part is about experience
- "To obtain ornaments or other objects" **أُبْتَغَاءِ حِلْيَةٍ أَوْ مَتَّعٍ زَبْدٌ مُّثْلُهُ**
 - The rough process of the fire and heat is to make something beautiful
 - Life experiences and hardships are only here to beautify our life and character
 - Islam gives purpose to our lives while simultaneously beautifying it
 - Beautiful: **حِلْيَةٌ**
 - Purposeful: **مَتَّعٌ**
- This is the example of truth and falsehood: **كَذِلِكَ يَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْحَقُّ وَالْبَطْلَنَ**
- As for the scum, it goes to be thrown away **فَأَمَّا الزَّبْدُ فَيَذْهَبُ جُفَاءً**
 - We don't always have to keep fighting falsehood in its face; our actions will be enough
- While that which benefits people remains on the earth **وَأَمَّا مَا يَنْفَعُ النَّاسَ فَيَمْكُثُ فِي الْأَرْضِ**
 - As long as it is benefiting mankind, it will stay (so will the reward)

- We need to be upright with our intentions and our efforts will reflect intentions -- when we're doing it for Allah (SWT), He will facilitate
- This is being told to Rasulullah (S) because early on he was told that most people will not believe; here he is being told his job is just to keep working and Allah (SWT) will take care of the rest - the water will separate the truth from falsehood
 - Similarly, our job is to spread the water so it can purify
- Haqq is always in motion; just like flowing water
 - The people of haqq need to be people of action; this is how we purify
- This is how Allah brings out the parables **كَذِيلَكَ يَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ أَلْمَثَانَ**