

## “And Warn Them Of The Day Of Regret When The Matter Will Be Concluded...”

By Abu Khadeejah ‘Abdul-Wāhid Alam

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all creation; may Allah extol our noble Prophet Muhammad in the highest company of Angels and bless him, send him peace and security—and his family, his Companions and all those who truly follow him until the establishment of the Hour.

There is a tremendous āyah in the Book of Allah that every Muslim should pay attention to, and that is the saying of Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى):

وَأَنْذِرْهُمْ يَوْمَ الْحَسْرَةِ إِذْ قُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ وَهُمْ فِي غَفْلَةٍ وَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ

**“And warn them [O Muhammad] of the Day of Regret when the matter will be concluded, while they are [in this life] in a state of heedlessness, and they do not believe.”** (Maryam: 39)

Allah commanded His Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to warn the people of that Day of Regret and Grief, and that is the Day of Resurrection—the Day on which grief will be severe and regrets immense. And what grief could be worse than, at the end of everything, the life that you lived, that you lose the pleasure of Allah, His love and His Paradise? Instead, you earn His anger, displeasure and punishment. And as for the disbelievers and idolators, for them there is the Hellfire from which there is no return—they will wish to be returned so they can worship Allah and perform good deeds, but that will not happen!

Those who meet Allah with disobedience and sins are the true losers. Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) said:

قُلْ إِنَّ الْخٰسِرِيْنَ الَّذِيْنَ خَسِرُوْا اَنْفُسَهُمْ وَاٰهْلِيْهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيٰمَةِ اَلَا ذٰلِكَ هُوَ  
الْخٰسِرٰنُ الْمُبِيْنُ

**“Say to them: Indeed, the losers are the ones who will lose themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection. Surely, that is the manifest loss.” (Az-Zumar: 15)**

Ibn ‘Abbās (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) said: “Yawm Al-Hasrah (the Day of Regret) is one of the names of Yawm Al-Qiyāmah (the Day of Resurrection)—Allah mentioned its immensity and warned His servants from it.”

Abdur-Rahmān Ibn Zayd Ibn Aslam (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) said: “Allah’s saying: **‘And warn them of the Day of Regret and Grief...’** It is the Day of Resurrection. Allah (سُبْحٰنَهُ وَتَعَالٰى) stated:

اَنْ تَقُوْلَ نَفْسٌ يٰحَسْرَتِيْ عَلٰى مَا فَرَّطْتُ فِىْ جَنْبِ اللّٰهِ وَاِنْ كُنْتُ لَمِنَ  
السّٰخِرِيْنَ

**‘Lest a person should say: Alas, my grief that I was undutiful to Allah, and I was indeed among those who mocked [Islam and the believers].’ (Az-Zumar: 56)**

As for His (سُبْحٰنَهُ وَتَعَالٰى) saying, **‘when the matter will be concluded...’** meaning, it is concluded when the reckoning is finished, and the inhabitants of Paradise have entered Paradise and the inhabitants of the Fire have entered the Fire.

As for His (سُبْحٰنَهُ وَتَعَالٰى) saying, **‘and yet they are in a state of heedlessness...’** meaning, in this world they are engrossed with their desires and whims, and heedless of what will take place on the Day of Regret and Grief.

As for His (سُبْحٰنَهُ وَتَعَالٰى) saying, **‘and they do not believe.’** They do not believe in the resurrection after death, or in the bliss,

happiness and joy for those who obeyed Allah, and the severe torment and punishment for those who disobeyed Him.”

The matter will indeed be concluded and finalised. Abu Sa’id Al-Khudri (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that Allah’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

يُؤْتَى بِالْمَوْتِ كَهَيْئَةِ كَبِشٍ أَمْلَحَ فَيُنَادِي مُنَادٍ يَا أَهْلَ الْجَنَّةِ فَيَشْرِبُونَ وَيَنْظُرُونَ فَيَقُولُ هَلْ تَعْرِفُونَ هَذَا فَيَقُولُونَ نَعَمْ هَذَا الْمَوْتُ وَكُلُّهُمْ قَدْ رَأَهُ ثُمَّ يُنَادِي يَا أَهْلَ النَّارِ فَيَشْرِبُونَ وَيَنْظُرُونَ فَيَقُولُ هَلْ تَعْرِفُونَ هَذَا فَيَقُولُونَ نَعَمْ هَذَا الْمَوْتُ وَكُلُّهُمْ قَدْ رَأَهُ فَيَذْبَحُ ثُمَّ يَقُولُ يَا أَهْلَ الْجَنَّةِ خُلُودٌ فَلَا مَوْتَ وَيَا أَهْلَ النَّارِ خُلُودٌ فَلَا مَوْتَ ثُمَّ قَرَأَ "وَأَنْذِرْهُمْ يَوْمَ الْحَسْرَةِ إِذْ قُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ وَهُمْ فِي غَفْلَةٍ" وَهَؤُلَاءِ فِي غَفْلَةٍ أَهْلَ الدُّنْيَا "وَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ"

**“Death will be brought forth on the Day of Resurrection in the form of a black and white ram, [Abu Kurayb added: And it is made to stand between Paradise and the Fire]. Then it will be said: ‘O people of Paradise!’ Thereupon they will stretch their necks and look carefully. The caller will say, ‘Do you know what this is?’ They will respond, ‘Yes, it is death.’ And all of them will have seen it. Then it will be said, ‘O people of the Fire!’ They will stretch their necks and look carefully. The caller will say, ‘Do you know what this is?’ They will say, ‘Yes, it is death.’ And all of them will have seen it. Then the ram will be slaughtered, and the caller will say, ‘O people of Paradise! Eternal life and no more death. O people of the Fire! Eternal life and no more death.”** Then the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), recited the verse: **“And warn them of the Day of Regret, when the matter will be concluded, and yet they are [in this life] in a state of heedlessness, and they do not believe.”** And he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) pointed with his hand to the world.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bukhāri no. 4730, Muslim no. 2849.

In the wording of Ibn ‘Umar (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا), the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **“So the people of Paradise will increase in joy on top of their joy and the and the people of the Fire will increase in their misery on top of their misery.”**<sup>2</sup>

In another narration he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **“If it were possible for anyone to die of joy, the people of Paradise would’ve died of joy. And if it were possible for anyone to die of grief, the people of the Fire would’ve died of grief.”**<sup>3</sup>

## Some Of The Lessons We Can Learn From This Āyah

**One:** The Day of Regret and Grief will be a Day on which the unbeliever will severely regret his disbelief in Allah, and the oppressor will regret his injustices, the sinner will regret his sins, the disobedient will regret his disobedience and the innovator in Islam will regret that he practised innovations and opposed Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamā’ah. But regret on that Day will be of no avail because no one will be sent back to the world to rectify his transgressions. A group from the believers will be punished in the Fire, and then released from it and given entry to Paradise.<sup>4</sup> As for the unbelievers, the idolators and hypocrites, then they will enter the Fire and will never leave it. Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَعَالَى) said:

يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ الظَّالِمِينَ مَعذِرَتُهُمْ<sup>ط</sup> وَلَهُمُ اللَّعْنَةُ وَلَهُمْ سُوءُ الدَّارِ

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<sup>2</sup> Muslim no. 2849.

<sup>3</sup> At-Tirmidhī 4/293.

<sup>4</sup> And some of the sinful Muslim will be saved from the punishment of the Fire due to the intercession of those permitted to intercede, and by the Mercy and Forgiveness of Allah, the Mighty and Majestic.

**“The Day when their excuses will be of no profit to wrongdoers. Theirs will be the curse, and theirs will be the evil abode.”** (Ghāfir: 52)

**Two:** The believer should never be heedless, rather he is constantly preparing himself to meet His Lord and be prepared for the reckoning. Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) stated:

مَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا لِقَاءَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ أَجَلَ اللَّهِ لَآتٍ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

**“Whoever hopes for the meeting with Allah, then Allah’s term is surely coming, and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower.”** (Al-‘Ankabūt: 5)

**Three:** On the Day of Regret, the unbeliever will think that he hardly spent any time in the world. He will think in his mind that it was like an hour of the day, or a part of a morning or a portion of a night. Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) stated:

وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ كَأَن لَّمْ يَلْبَثُوا إِلَّا سَاعَةً مِّنَ النَّهَارِ

**“And on the Day when He shall gather them together, it will be as if they had not stayed in the life of this world but for an hour of a day.”** (Yūnus: 45) And He (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) said:

كَأَنَّهُمْ يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَهَا لَمْ يَلْبَثُوا إِلَّا عَشِيَّةً أَوْ ضُحَاهَا

**“The Day they see the Resurrection, it will be as if they had not tarried in this world except an afternoon or a morning.”** (An-Nāzi‘āt: 46)

**Four:** From the greatest grief of that Day upon the unbeliever and wrong-doer is that he will be willing to be killed rather than face the punishment of Allah, or sacrifice his son, his wife, his brother and all of humanity—and ransom himself with all of the treasures of the world if he could. Allah (تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى) said:

يُبْصِرُونَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْمُجْرِمِ لَوْ يَفْتَدِي مِنْ عَذَابِ يَوْمِئِذٍ بِبَنِيهِ  
 وَصَحْبَتِهِ وَأَخِيهِ  
 وَفَصِيلَتِهِ الَّتِي تُسْوِيهِ  
 وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ يُنْجِيهِ  
 كَلَّا إِنَّهَا لَأَطْنَىٰ

**“They will be made to see each other on the Day of Resurrection. The criminal, sinner and disbeliever would desire to ransom himself from the punishment of that Day by his children, his wife, his brother and his nearest kindred who sheltered him. And all that are in the earth, so that it might save him. By no means! Verily, it will be [for him] the Fire of Hell.” (Al-Ma’ārij: 11-15)**

Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ) also said:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَمَاتُوا وَهُمْ كُفَّارًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْ أَحَدِهِمْ مِثْلُ الْأَرْضِ ذَهَبًا  
 وَلَوْ أُفْتَدِيَ بِهِ ۗ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ وَمَا لَهُمْ مِنْ نَاصِرِينَ

**“Verily, those who disbelieved, and died while they were disbelievers, the whole earth full of gold will not be accepted from anyone of them even if they offered it as a ransom. For them is a painful torment and they will have no helpers.” (Āli ‘Imrān: 91)**

Anas Ibn Mālik (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that Allah’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: “Allah will say to the person who receives the least punishment from the inhabitants of the Hellfire: **‘If you had the equivalent of the whole world and whatever is in it, would you ransom yourself from the punishment with it?’** He will respond: **‘Yes.’** Allah will say: **‘But I asked you for much less**

than that while you were still in the loins of Adam—that you are not to worship others besides Me, but you refused and insisted on worshipping others besides me.”<sup>5</sup>

**Five:** It is a must that the believer guards his Religion and maintains his worship and obedience to Allah until he dies. Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) said:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ ؕ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

**“O you who have believed, fear Allah as He should be feared and do not die except as Muslims [in submission to Him].”** (Āli ‘Imrān: 102)

A believer protects himself from heedlessness and destruction through the worship of Allah and remembrance (*dhikr*) of Him throughout the days and nights of his life, showing Him obedience—and by keeping away from ingratitude, disobedience, sin and sinful companionship. The Messenger of Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) used to say often:

يَا مُتَّبِئِ الْقُلُوبِ تَبَّتْ قُلُوبَنَا عَلَى دِينِكَ

**“O You who makes hearts steadfast, make our hearts steadfast upon your Religion.”**<sup>6</sup> So say this repeat this often, and in your prostrations.

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all creation; may Allah extol the mention of our noble Prophet Muhammad in the highest company of Angels and give him peace and security—and his family, his Companions and all those who follow him correctly until the establishment of the Hour.

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<sup>5</sup> Bukhārī no. 6557, Muslim no. 2805.

<sup>6</sup> Ibn Mājah, no. 199, *sahih*.