



سورة الشعراء

The Poets

1440 شوال 24
27.6.19

Allah blessed the Thamud, and enriched them, to the extent of giving them seedless fruit. There was no struggle in their lives. Everything was so smooth.

They reacted to the da'wah of the messenger by accusing and maligning him. They didn't pay attention to the message, they disregarded it. They attacked him personally, accused him of being bewitched, under the influence of magic. Someone has hypnotised you, brainwashed you, someone is making you talk in this way.

Then they contradicted themselves by saying that he was like them. Does that mean that they will also be bewitched or hypnotised? They were throwing random words. Then they challenged him. If they thought he was bewitched, why were they giving him a task? How would he find a sign if he was not in his right mind, according to them?

They specified which sign they wanted; a she camel who was 10 months pregnant. An animal in this condition is huge. They also wanted her to emerge from a particular rock face. This is so challenging, so specific. Other surahs it is mentioned exactly what they wanted. In this surah their disobedience is mentioned, but it is not elaborated upon. The negative are just mentioned. If you publicly announce all the negative points, it creates instability in society. Crime is always breaking news, and everyone wants to know all the gory details. But this can pull you down. If you want details, dwell on the positive ones. Negativity spreads fast.

قَالَ هَذِهِ نَاقَةٌ لَّهَا شِرْبٌ وَلَكُمْ
شِرْبٌ يَوْمَ مَعْلُومٍ

He said : This is a she-camel. For her is a [time of] drink, and for you is a [time of] drink, [each] on a known day
وَلَا تَمْسُوهَا بِسُوءٍ فَيَأْخُذُكُمْ
عَذَابٌ يَوْمَ عَظِيمٍ

And do not touch her with harm, lest you be seized by the punishment of a terrible day

26:155-156

The she camel emerged. Now the conditions of the contract had to be stated. They wanted this sign, so here it is. No it was their responsibility to take care of it. The conditions were made clear. They choose it, now they would have to protect her and take care of her. Don't touch her in harm. You got the sign which you yourself chose. If you harm her, you will be liable to face the penalty, a severe punishment. The warning was made very heavy. Salih عليه السلام tried to create a consciousness in the people. You asked for it, now you face the responsibility.

Not only did they harm her, they killed the she camel, very professionally. They hamstrung her, and then they regretted it. But it was too late. They broke the contract. So they had to face the consequences. The punishment came to them. They have been warned, and it was not an empty threat. They were hit by a blast that destroyed them. Most scholars interpret this as an earthquake.

Detach your feelings when it comes to sins. All these occurrences are one ayah. But still most people will not take it as a lesson, they will not apply it in the lives. But Allah is العزيز الرحيم. He nurtures you for the best, to show His mercy to the believers. He shows His might to the disbelievers.

قَالُوا إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مِنَ الْمُسَحَّرِينَ
They said : You are only of those affected by magic
مَا أَنْتَ إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُنَا فَأَتَ بِآيَةً
إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ

You are but a man like ourselves, so bring a sign, if you should be of the truthful
26:153-154

فَعَقَرُوهَا فَأَصْبَحُوا نَادِمِينَ
But they hamstrung her and so became regretful
فَأَخْذَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ إِنْ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْرَهُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ
And the punishment seized them. Indeed in that is a sign, but most of them were not to be believers

وَإِنْ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ
And indeed, your Lord - He is the Exalted in Might, the Merciful
26:157-159