

Names of Allah

(from the Stories of the Quran)

October 27, 2019

Ghafoor Ar Raheem

Everything begins with niyyah, and the niyyah for being part of a study circle is to gain closeness with Allah SWT, to earn His Pleasure, to stay on the straight path etc. This is a gathering surrounded by angels, covered with their wings until they reach the seventh heaven and Allah SWT will magnify the names of the people in the study circle to the angels, who are such magnificent beings and worshippers of Allah SWT.

This week's theme is modesty, and modesty is part of faith. Modesty is to control your tongue, to hold yourself accountable for the sake of Allah SWT. The arabic word for modesty is حياء , which is like حيات, which means life. Modesty should be deeply rooted in our hearts, and the more faith one has, the more modest he is.

Modesty, in a person, has two components

- Love of Allah SWT
- Magnifying of Allah SWT

Modesty is something that will always be trendy, fashionable. Everything is more beautiful when modest. When a person is unashamed, not modest, he has no boundaries. When we love Allah SWT, and we are modest, then we will abstain from anything improper.

Today's story starts with a village by the sea and ends with monkeys. There is no relationship between humans and monkeys, no matter what science says - because Allah SWT says so in the Quran. Allah SWT honored human beings and He says so in the Quran. This story is related in Surah Al A'raf, ayaat 163-166.

So what could have changed these human beings into monkeys? It is cheating, or in arabic, تحايل . Where it comes to rules, there are three groups of people - those who follow, those who don't follow and those who cheat. The third group is even worse than the second group, because they try to go around the rules.

When you have a society, and a command is revealed to them, differences will always arise and the reality of people will be seen. The way Allah SWT motivates us is to improve with time, the

next step will be better than where we are right now. Whenever anyone tries to reform or change himself, then Allah SWT will never let his work go to waste.

This story, the story of the people of Saturday, teaches us to obey Allah's Commands, to do it perfectly and hold to the covenant of Allah SWT. The Jews said that Allah SWT created the heavens and earth in 6 days and then rested on Saturday, astaghfirAllah. In the Quran Allah SWT said, that He made the heavens and the earth in 6 days and was not fatigued. SO the Jews, the best day of the week is Saturdays and for the Christians, it is Sunday. For us, the Muslims, Friday is the best of the days, because it is the day Adam AS was created, and when Yawn Al Qiyamah will take place. We should not challenge Allah SWT's rules and commands, we should take the truth as it is. The Jews are always trying to go around the laws in the books, or they make their own assumptions about it, and this is why they anger Allah SWT.

Allah SWT gave the Jews a day only for worship, and this day was Saturday and they were told to do on that day, they should do no work, only worship. For us, alhumdulillah, it is not like this, we worship only at the times of worship, but we are allowed to do other things, like going out with family, work, etc. And with the right intention, all our acts are acts of worship, this is how much our religion creates ease for us. We even are rewarded for sleeping, with the right intention.

But for the Jews, they weren't allowed to do anything but rest and worship, subhanAllah. And this is something that they asked for it. And when someone asks for it, then of course they will be tested on it, to show who are the truly pious and truthful and who are the one that will cheat.

The trade of these people was fishing, and Allah SWT tested them because no fish would appear on any other day of the week except on Saturday. Likewise, with muslims, Allah SWT might send business or trade for them at the time of prayers on Friday, to see who will prioritize what.

These people then decided to place their nets on Friday and then gather them on Sunday. And their nets will be full of fish! This is cheating because this means that they actually do fish on Saturday.

There were three groups of people in the villages as well, those who obeyed Allah SWT and advised the people to not cheat as well, and those who obeyed and did not try to stop the cheaters, and of course the cheaters themselves.

The punishment of these cheaters and disobedient is that they became monkeys, and this was just a punishment for them, not for generations. The Names that we can learn from this story are:

Ar-Rabb - He who can nurture us, and reform us. He brings us commands to improve us, to upgrade us. He is the Nurturer, Provider, Creator and Sustainer of all creation. He will never deprive us, and even if He takes away the fish, like in this story, His Nurturing is always better

for us. He will guide us, make us complete by taking us out from the darkness into the light. Those who accepted Allah's Nurturing, then these people were saved. The third group who didn't stop the cheaters are not mentioned in the Quran so we don't know whether they were punished or not. If we don't speak up against a negative act, then it is as if we are supporting them. If we are all on a boat, and one person is making a hole in it, and we don't advise them then we will all drown, subhanAllah.

Saree'ul Iqaab - The One who is Quick in Punishment, to those who violate, and cheat. This is in order to protect the rest of the people. Some acts need immediate action to contain it, and this is a mercy from Allah SWT, so that we don't all suffer, but only those who deserve it. Like a criminal who has been told that he will be executed, but don't know when, then this is suffering for him. This Name is also mentioned in Surah Al Anam.

Ghafoor Ar Raheem - Allah SWT, when we accept His Nurturing, will forgive us, and give us a good life - with good deeds, and opportunities and of course the best aakhirah as well. Paradise will be beautiful, with all things good and beautiful, with the pleasure of hearing and seeing Allah SWT Himself. Knowing Allah SWT is such a pleasure in dunya and when we are in Jannah, then Allah SWT will ask the dwellers if they are content and they will say yes, and He will lift the veil and they can see His Face and the pleasure will be such that they will forget all the pleasure of Jannah, subhanAllah. Those who don't accept it will not have a good life, nor a good aakhirah. If we are away from Allah SWT, then there is no pleasure in our lives, no good. Allah SWT wants us all to be in Jannah, to be near Him, to be close to Him.