

The Lit Cave

Surah Kahf

March 9, 2020

To recap, take the means, and then make dua to Allah SWT. Anybody who does this can be sure of a quick response. When there is fitna, what matters is not just during it, but also what came before and comes after.

فَضَرَبْنَا عَلَىٰ آذَانِهِمْ فِي الْكَهْفِ سِنِينَ عَدَدًا - 18:11

So We cast [a cover of sleep] over their ears within the cave for a number of years.

One thing we need to do in times of fitna, is to watch what we consume about what is happening, for eg, all the social media news about the current pandemic situation. Allah SWT facilitated many things for these young boys - the cave for their protection etc, but He SWT responded to their dua in an unthinkable way. Dharaba means to strike, hit or cover and He covered their ears. Even when we are asleep, we can hear what is around us. Allah SWT covered their ears in their sleep, so they didn't hear anything and their hearts were at peace.

We shouldn't listen to any rumors during these times of trials because our hearts get shaken, disturbed, subhanAllah. And so these young boys slept in this cave, for several years - 309 years - protecting them from the people, protecting their hearts. This is the dua we should make during fitna and we can see in this story how quick Allah's response was to their dua, subhanAllah. Allah WILL protect us, our hearts through our ears and He will find for us a refuge to pass the trial in and all we need to do is believe and trust in Him.

ثُمَّ بَعَثْنَاهُمْ لِنَعْلَمَ أَيُّ الْحِزْبَيْنِ أَحْصَىٰ لِمَا لَبِثُوا أَمَدًا - 18:12

Then We awakened them that We might show which of the two factions was most precise in calculating what [extent] they had remained in time.

After 309 years, when Allah SWT woke them up again - like the Day of Judgement because sleep is like a minor death. When we sleep and wake up, we experience death and resurrection on a daily basis.

After the trial, what should our focus be? When these boys woke up, people were concerned with how long they'd been asleep. There were two groups - those who had the correct answer through divine inspiration and others who made up a number. At the end of a trial, there will always be people who talk and assume and others who follow divine knowledge and do the right thing.

And in this story is the reminder that no trial goes on forever, everything ends. This is a time of waiting, like the time in the barzakh. When we are resurrected then we can see the ability of Allah SWT. This current situation is a big blessing because it has shown us so many things - those who go to the Quran for comfort and we find so many openings in it for us, subhanAllah.