

The Lit Cave

Surah Al Kahf

March 11, 2020

In times of trials, many things become apparent which might not have been so before, and this lights our hearts with faith.

وَلَا قَوْمًا اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ إِلَهًا لَوْلَا يَأْتُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِسُلْطَانٍ بَيْصَلِهِ فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ أَفْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا - 18:15

These, our people, have taken besides Him deities. Why do they not bring for [worship of] them a clear authority? And who is more unjust than one who invents about Allah a lie?

We should speak positively in times of fitna, all the favors and good things we have - to appreciate Allah SWT and His Lordship. This is what the young boys did, and then they said, the people near to them, their tribe, their people took besides Allah SWT rivals or partners. Ilah means someone we attach to out of love and devotion and have hope in them, then this is shirk. This is shirk ulohiyyah, and these boys were scared they would catch this disease.

Those people who took gods other than Allah SWT didn't have any clear authority of benefit or protection for them. They are on the falsehood, and yet they belie the Lordship of Allah SWT. Nobody does a bigger injustice than those who lie about Allah SWT, even bigger than worshipping idols!

وَإِذْ أَعْتَرَ لِنَمُو هُمْ وَمَا يَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ فَأُوْلَئِكُمْ يَنْشُرُونَ لَكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ مَنْ رَحْمَتِهِ وَيُهَيِّئُ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَمْرِكُمْ مَرْفَقًا - 18:16

[The youths said to one another], "And when you have withdrawn from them and that which they worship other than Allah, retreat to the cave. Your Lord will spread out for you of His mercy and will prepare for you from your affair facility.

Next, the boys saw that they are different from their people, they decided to separate from their people, not just verbally and in what they worship but also in physical action. And this is how they saved themselves from falling into the trap of the shirk. This separation is called hijrah, spiritually and tangibly. This is what we should do too, no need to fight those who worship differently from us, but we just keep our distance from them.

Allah SWT guided these boys to this cave, which was the best of the accommodation for them for this time, with safety and security. In times of fitna, we will feel secure in our own caves. In

their dua, they asked from Allah SWT to be guided, and for mercy, and He gave them more than they asked for. He guided them to this cave and spread for them mercy from His Special Mercy, there was no fear or grief for them, only comfort and good feelings. In times of trials, we need compassion and mercy - there is no point in a solution but with bad feelings? These boys were made to find comfort in each other, and love for each other and so their cave was full of mercy and good feelings - this was the best facility for them. In it was mirfaqa, from Ar Rafiq, with gentleness. There was no gap, in fact Allah SWT gave them so much more than they asked for.

Allah SWT protected their religion, heart and body, no fear or grief. He also gave them a good reputation - they're in the Quran, subhanAllah.