

April 3, 2020

In times of trials, three things are important: hold your tongues, to stay home and make it vast and cry for yourselves and look at changing/reforming yourself. This is from a hadith, so the best advice, subhanAllah.

We should be grateful for this ability to stay home and stay safe with this advice.

Here we get to the peak of self-assessment. The first two trials are about belief - from outside, with dunya, from shaytan, and finally ourselves.

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِنْ ذُكْرَ بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِ فَأَعْرَضَ عَنْهَا وَنَسِيَ مَا قَدَّمْتُ يَدَاهُ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ أَكِنَّةً أَن يَفْقَهُوهُ وَفِي آذَانِهِمْ وَفِرْغٌ وَإِن تَدْعُهُمْ إِلَى الْهُدَىٰ فَلَن يَهْتَدُوا إِذَا أَبَدًا -

18:57

And who is more unjust than one who is reminded of the verses of his Lord but turns away from them and forgets what his hands have put forth? Indeed, We have placed over their hearts coverings, lest they understand it, and in their ears deafness. And if you invite them to guidance - they will never be guided, then - ever.

Despite this lockdown, the gates and windows of learning are still open to us, and again we should be grateful for this. We should always be grateful for the blessings of the deen than those of the dunya. We don't want to be locked out of guidance, that is the very worst thing.

The person who is reminded by the verses from his Lord, and these verses are clear, differentiating between falsehood and truth, and offering guidance, and this person is ungrateful for it. He turns away from Allah's reminders, His gifts. These reminders are to show you your deeds so when you turn away, you separate yourself from your sins, but we should not, we should look at our previous sins!

Such a person is much worse than a person who turns away without reminders. Allah SWT has honored us with so many reminders, so our responsibility is so much greater. When these reminders come, focus on yourself and be grateful for the reminders. It may look like a universal reminder but we should treat it as a personal one and focus on ourselves.

For people who turn away after knowledge, then Allah SWT puts a **lock on their hearts**, and also **their ears** and of course **from guidance**, subhanAllah.

وَرَبُّكَ الْغَفُورُ ذُو الرَّحْمَةِ لَوْ يُؤَاخِذُهُمْ بِمَا كَسَبُوا لَعَجَلَ لَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ بَلْ لَهُمْ مَوْعِدٌ لَّنْ
يَجِدُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ مَوْئِلًا - 18:58

And your Lord is the Forgiving, full of mercy. If He were to impose blame upon them for what they earned, He would have hastened for them the punishment. Rather, for them is an appointment from which they will never find an escape.

After this reminder, then Allah SWT gives us comfort in this next ayah, when He reminds us that He is always forgiving. It's not just fear with us but also hope. He reminds us that He is the Owner of all Mercy. The three believers who didn't go to battle, our situation is like that because it shows us our sins, and we can cry over them and ask for forgiveness. They spent 50 days all alone with nobody speaking to them, including their wives, SubhanAllah. Kaab ibn Malik described this situation as the earth getting tighter and tighter and then He opened for him so much more.

Allah SWT loves it when we repent, so we should rush to repent. If Allah decided to punish the people for their sins then the punishment would be rushing to them but don't forget that we all have this appointment (the Day of Judgment) that cannot be delayed. Allah SWT never disappoints anyone who returns to Him, he relieves all their distress.

وَتِلْكَ الْقُرَىٰ أَهْلَكَاهُمْ لَمَّا ظَلَمُوا وَجَعَلْنَا لِمَهْلِكِهِمْ مَوْعِدًا - 18:59

And those cities - We destroyed them when they wronged, and We made for their destruction an appointed time.

In this ayah, Allah SWT reminds us that of the people who came before, and who were destroyed. If we seek forgiveness, then we are protected from even feeling a pinch and we'll move through with speed and light through it all inshaAllah.