

Khutba

English

Friday 15.10.10

Surah Qaf

All thanks is to Allah, whom we seek His help and forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from whatever evil our hearts conceal and from the consequences of our evil deeds. Whoever Allah grants guidance will never be led astray. Whoever He leads astray will never find guidance. I testify that none is worthy of worship except Allah, who has no partners, and that Mohammad is His slave and Messenger.

"O ye who believe fear God as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam." Aal Imran 102.

"O mankind fear your Lord, Who created you from a single person, created, of like nature his mate, and from them twain scattered (like seeds) countless men and women; fear God throu Whom ye demand your mutual (rights) and the wombs (that bore you); for God ever watches over you. " Al-Nisaa 1.

"O ye who believe fear God, and (always) say a word directed to the right. That He may make you conduct whole and sound and forgive you your sins: he that obeys God and His apostle, has already attained the highest achievement. " Al-Ahzab 70-71.

Dear Muslims,

Quran is the greatest miracle that has been given to prophet Muhammed (PBUH). It was, and still remain guidance to the right path. It was sent for people to clarify who is their Lord, calling them to Allah, and showing them how to worship Him. Allah says:

"This is the Book; in it is guidance sure, without doubt, to those who fear God;" Al-Baqarah 2.

"God did confer a great favor on the believers when He sent among them an apostle from among themselves, rehearsing unto them the Signs of God, sanctifying them, and instructing them in Scripture and Wisdom, while, before that, they had been in manifest error." Aal Imran 164.

In this sermon, we will review *surah Qaf*. *Surat Qaf* contains many guidelines, wisdoms and reminders of the fact of death and the hereafter. Its subject is the beginning of creation, Resurrection, the Return, Standing (before Allah), the Reckoning, Paradise, the Fire, Allah's reward and punishment, lessons of encouragement, and lessons of discouragement. That is why prophet Muhammed used to use it in his Friday sermon and sometimes in the special occasions such as 'Id; Umm Hisham bint Harithah said,

"For around two years, or a year and a part of another year, our oven and the oven of the Prophet was one and the same. I memorized Surah (Qaf. By the Glorious Qur'an.) from the tongue of the Messenger of Allah who used to recite it every Friday while standing on the Minbar delivering the Friday sermon to the people." Narrated by Muslim

Muslim also recorded that `Umar bin Al-Khattab asked Abu Waqid Al-Laythi, ***"What did the Prophet recite during the `Id Prayer"*** Abu Waqid said, ***"Surah Qaf and Surat Iqtarabat [i.e. Surat Al-Qamar]"***

Allah says: ***"Qaf: By the Glorious Qur'an (Thou art God's Messenger). * But they wonder that there has come to them a Warner from among themselves. So the Unbelievers say: "This is a strange thing! * "What! When we die and become dust, (shall we live again?) That is a (sort of)***

Return far (from our understanding).” * We already know how much of them the earth takes away: With Us is a record guarding (the full account). * But they deny the Truth when it comes to them: so they are in a confused state.” Qaf 1-5.

With the best words and the most clear phrases, Allah ascertain the concept of the Resurrection and show the weakness the argument of those denying that and saying the opposite. He explains their confusion and how they are away from the correct path that leads to the faith in Allah the Exalted, the Beneficent. Alsa'di said: **“Allah makes oath by the glorious Quran (i.e. the book with the vast and great words, meaning, contexts, blessings and glory). The Quran deserve this great description because it contains knowledge about what happens before and what will happen in the future, and it describes everything with eloquent, nice and complete words and meanings. This makes the Quran convincing and easy to follow; in a way that leaves no choice to who understands its value to follow its guidance and thank Allah for providing His guidance in it”**.

However, many people did not understand the value of Quran or accept the guidance that was brought by prophet Muhammed. Allah says in the next verse: (they wonder) meaning the disbelievers, (there has come to them a Warner from among themselves) that God will send them a Messenger and Warner who is a man from among them whom they can talk to and understand from him. So the disbelievers say: (This is a strange thing!) They wondered about the wisdom behind an obvious thing, sending a Messenger who is a human being. In this case there are two possibilities to their wonder:

- They really think that it is strange to send a human being as a messenger to the other human beings; this means that they are ignorant and stupid because it is very obvious to do that otherwise, if God send an angel as prophet for instance, they might not understand or accept this messenger because they are not a like.
- They know that this is obvious, but they said it is strange just to deny the mission and create a reason not to accept what the Prophet says.

Then Allah mention the argument they used to support their wonder *(When we die and become dust, (shall we live again?) That is a (sort of) Return far (from our understanding)) they deny it because they judge it by their limited ability to think and compare the ability of the Lord (who created everything from the start) to their limited abilities. They deny the knowledge that sent to them from Allah, and delivered by His messenger, who knows everything; He knows even what will happen after they die, where and how the bodies disintegrated, what they will be turned into and how they have become, as he knows what happened, happens, and will happen during their lives with His unlimited knowledge.

(But they deny the Truth when it comes to them: so they are in a confused state) Allah explains that what they have said is just an indication of their disbelieving and stubbornness; they said it just to deny the truth and the guidance that prophet Mohamed called them to. That is why you find them very confused and unstable in their arguments; sometimes they say the prophet is magician, sometimes they say he is crazy, other times they say he is a poet, ...etc. This latter state of confusion is found in all the nonbeliever and the misguided people anywhere and everywhere.

In response to their denial Allah gave them evidence of His power and ability that they cannot deny; because it is a fact that they see in their everyday life. He said:

“Do they not look at the sky above them? - How We have made it and adorned it, and there are no flaws in it? * And the earth-- We have spread it out, and set thereon mountains standing firm, and produced therein every kind of beautiful growth (in pairs)- * To be observed and commemorated by every devotee turning (to God). * And We send down from the sky Rain charged with blessing, and We produce therewith gardens and Grain for harvests; * And tall (and stately) palm trees, with shoots of fruit stalks, piled one over another-- * As sustenance for (God's) Servants-- and We give (new) life therewith to land that is dead: thus will be the Resurrection” Qaf 6-11.

Ibn Al Othaimen (May Allah has Mercy on him) said: **Allah has reminded those who disbelieve in the Resurrection with His power and ability by mentioning some of what they can see of His great creatures; the sky with its stars, the earth with its different colors and plants and the mountains. These examples are enough to realize the ability of Allah if one really wants to be guided.**

Next, Allah warned the disbeliever from His punishment reminding them with what has happened to the previous disbelievers, indicating that He is able to replace them with others or even recreate everything from the start if He wants.

“Before them was denied (The Hereafter) by the People of Noah, the Companions of the Rass, the Thamud, * The 'Ad, Pharaoh, the Brethren of Lut, * The Companions of the Wood, and the People of Tubba'; each one (of them) rejected the messengers, and My warning was duly fulfilled (in them).” Qaf 12-14.

Ibn Kathir regarding this verse: **Allah the Exalted warns the disbelievers of Quraysh and reminds them of the punishment and painful torment that He sent in this life on their likes, who disbelieved before them. For instance, Allah the Exalted punished the people of Nuh by drowning them in the encompassing flood that touched all the people of earth. There is also the end that struck the people of Ar-Rass, (...and Thamud, and 'Ad, and Fir'awn, and the brethren of Lut,) the people of Sadum (Sodom) and the surrounding areas, to whom Lut was sent. Allah the Exalted shook the earth beneath them and turned their area into a reeking lake, as stinking as the disbelief, tyranny and defiance of the Truth that they had (And the Dwellers of Al-Aykah), they are the nation of Shu'ayb, peace be upon him. (and the people of Tubba`), King of Yemen; (Everyone of them denied (their) Messengers) means, all of these nations and their generations belied their respective Messenger, and whoever denies even one Messenger, is as if he has denied all Messengers. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said, (The people of Nuh denied the Messengers.)(26:105), even though only one Messenger was sent to them, and indeed, if all the Messengers were sent to them, they would have disbelieved in them as well. (so My threat took effect) meaning, the promise of torment and punishment that Allah delivered to them on account of their denial took effect. Therefore, all those who fear suffering the same end should be warned, especially since the latter have denied their Messenger, just as the former denied their Messenger. (Were We then tired with the first creation) meaning, `did starting the creation bring fatigue to Us, so as to cause doubt in them that repeating the creation was not possible'. (Nay, they are in confused doubt about a new creation.) meaning, `starting the creation did not tire Us, and repeating it is even easier.' Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said (And he puts forth for Us a parable, and forgets his own creation. He says: "Who will give life to these bones after they are rotten and have become dust" Say: "He will give life to them Who created them for the first time! And He is the All-Knower of every creation!") (36:78-79)**

Allah then reminds with the fact of life, Death, Resurrection and what follows after of Judgment. ***“It was We Who created man, and We know what dark suggestions his soul makes to him: for We are nearer to him than (his) jugular vein. * Behold, two (guardian angels) appointed to learn (his doings) learn (and note them), one sitting on the right and one on the left. * Not a word does he utter but there is a sentinel by him, ready (to note it). * And the stupor of death will bring Truth (before his eyes): "This was the thing which thou wast trying to escape!"” Qaf 16-19.***

Here Allah reminds us that He is watching us closely; He knows not only what we do and say, but even what we think about and what we feel and keep for ourselves without noticing anyone.

“Should He not know,- He that created? and He is the One that understands the finest mysteries (and) is well-acquainted (with them)” Al-Mulk 14.

He tells us that He is closer to everyone than his own jugular, indicating that every thing we say, do or feel is counted for or against us and we will be judged accordingly. This example is given for us to watch closely our behavior and clear our souls from any dirt if we really fear Allah and His punishment. It is for us to fear and be ashamed that Allah will see us doing sins, and hence avoid doing it, or not doing what he has ordered us.

How this acts is counted is described by His saying (Behold, two (guardian angels) appointed to learn (his doings) learn (and note them), one sitting on the right and one on the left.). He, Almighty tells us that there are two angels watching everybody. One angel on his right, writing the good he does, and the other in the left, writing his sins. He also tells us that both of these two angels are created to do their job perfectly without missing details of our acts. Allah says:

“But verily over you (are appointed angels) to protect you,- * Kind and honorable,- Writing down (your deeds): * They know (and understand) all that ye do” Al-Infitar 10-12.

Dear Muslims,

For everyone, the time to leave this life will come at a certain moment, only known by Allah. At that time, no good will it do to a soul to believe in Allah, if it believed not before nor earned righteousness through its Faith. Allah says:

“(In Falsehood will they be) Until, when death comes to one of them, he says: "O my Lord! send me back (to life),- * "In order that I may work righteousness in the things I neglected." - "By no means! It is but a word he says."- Before them is a Partition till the Day they are raised up” Al-Muminun 99-100.

But is the death is the end? No of course but there comes a day when everyone will be rewarded according to his deeds

“God is never unjust in the least degree: If there is any good (done), He doubleth it, and giveth from His own presence a great reward” Al-Nisa’ 40.

In that day anyone that was oppressed will get his due right from his oppressor; Muslims will meet their beloved prophet and his companion; the honest and patient people will be given their rewards; and the people who feared Allah and acted accordingly, doing acts of obedience and avoiding sins, will be rewarded the greatest reward by being given the honor to see their Lord. Definitely, there will come a day when the people with bad deeds will see what they gain by following their desires and lusts. At that day, they feel the remorse and wish if they haven't done these sins, while they are taken to be punished in the hellfire. Allah says:

“And the Trumpet shall be blown: that will be the Day whereof Warning (had been given). * And there will come forth every soul: with each will be an (angel) to drive, and an (angel) to bear witness. * (It will be said:) "Thou wast heedless of this; now have We removed thy veil, and sharp is thy sight this Day!" * And his Companion will say: "Here is (his Record) ready with me!" * (The sentence will be:) "Throw, throw into Hell every contumacious Rejecter (of God)!- * "Who forbade what was good, transgressed all bounds, cast doubts and suspicions; * "Who set up another god beside God: Throw him into a severe enalty." * His Companion will say: "Our Lord! I did not make him transgress, but he was himself) far astray." * He will say: "Dispute not with each other in My Presence: I had already in advance sent you Warning. * "The Word changes not before Me, and I do not the least injustice to My Servants." * One Day We will ask Hell, "Art thou filled to the full?" It will say, "Are there any more (to come)?"” Qaf 20-30.

(Trumpet shall be blown) the Trumpet of the Resurrection. (that will be the Day whereof Warning (had been given)) That is the day in which Allah has promised the disbelievers to be punished.

(there will come forth every soul) in that day. (with each will be an (angel) to drive) driving it to the Resurrection place. (an (angel) to bear witness) to witness what they have gained in this life. ("Thou wast heedless of this) in this worldly life. (now have We removed thy veil) that was covering your heart, ear and eyes. (and sharp is thy sight this Day) making you able to see clearly what you have denied in the worldly life.

All this was mentioned as a reminder for those who have been driven by their desires and lusts to do sins, or those who disbelieve in Allah, in order that they repent before they face that undesired painful fate. In the last part, Allah continues to show the state of the disbelievers in the hereafter. The purpose, again, is to warn us from being one of them. There is also an order for those who know and follow the truth of faith. This order is to keep going on the way of *Da'wa* and calling others to Allah using good words and wisdom, even if they harm or do bad things to them, as they will be asked about this in the Judgment Day. Allah says:

“But how many generations before them did We destroy (for their sins)-- stronger in power than they? Then did they wander through the land: Was there any place of escape (for them)? * Verily in this is a Message for any that has a heart and understanding or who gives ear and earnestly witnesses (the truth). * We created the heavens and the earth and all between them in Six Days, nor did any sense of weariness touch Us. * Bear, then, with patience, all that they say, and celebrate the praises of thy Lord, before the rising of the sun and before (its) setting. * And during part of the night, (also,) celebrate His praises, and (so likewise) after the postures of adoration. * And listen for the Day when the Caller will call out from a place quite near-- * The Day when they will hear a (mighty) Blast in (very) truth: that will be the Day of Resurrection. * Verily it is We Who give Life and Death; and to Us is the Final Goal-- * The Day when the Earth will be rent asunder, from (men) hurrying out: that will be a gathering together-- quite easy for Us. * We know best what they say; and thou art not one to overawe them by force. So admonish with the Qur'an such as fear My Warning!” Qaf 36-45.

O Allah, teach us what benefits us in this life and the hereafter, make us use what we have learned and give us more knowledge. Our Lord, We ask You Paradise and the words and deeds that will bring us closer to it; and we seek refuge from Hell and the words and deeds that may bring us closer to it.

Amen