

ALI 354: Sura Shu'ara, verses 30- 51

Session Two

Please have a copy of the Quran with English translation

Read and reflect on verses 38-42

What is the criteria for the value of a deed?

Think of;

- The motive
- The attitude
- The expected reward

Agenda

- Preparations for the encounter
- The invitation to the people
- The reward for the magicians
 - A comparison
 - The Muqarrabin
- Related Passage – 20:58-64

Preparations for the encounter

- Fixing a date – the day of Eid or a festival so maximum number of people could attend.
- All expert magicians were gathered.
- People were encouraged to come and support the magicians and the victory of Firaun.
- The plan was to put on a huge show of strength and power to intimidate Nabi Musa and Nabi Harun.

Points from Sura Nur

- Time and place of a meeting is important in determining its success.
- Firaun who had claimed to be God now relies on the magicians and their skills along with the crowd of people to encourage them on.
- The need for a reward shows lack of a strong motive for the action. Belief in the lordship of Firaun is absent.
- Asking for a reward also shows a lack of trust in Firaun that he would definitely reward them.

The Reward for the Magicians (1)

A comparison

The Magicians - asking for a worldly reward

So when the magicians came they said to Pharaoh, ‘shall we indeed have a reward if we were to be the victors?’ (26:41)

The Prophets – asking for no reward

I do not ask you any reward for it, my reward lies only with the Lord of the worlds. (26:109, 127, 145 . . .)

The Holy Prophet (s) – asking for a reward that goes back the people.

Say: I do not ask of you any reward for it but love for my near relatives. (42:23)

The Reward for the Magicians (2)

The Muqarrabin

The magicians are told they will receive the reward of being close to Firaun. Closeness to a being who is respected and adored is a fulfilling achievement that gives pleasure.

The Quran talks about nearness to God as the ultimate reward:

- Sura Waqi'ah, 56: 11, 88
- Sura Aale Imran, 3: 45,169
- Sura Ana'm, 6:127
- Sura Anfal, 8:4

Related Passage

Sura Taha, Sura no.20

Verses 58-64