

# **ALI 386: Barzakh - Tunnel to the World of Wonders – Session 2**

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# Gardens of Barzakh

Vast expanse

Bespoken landscapes

Palaces and mansions

Luxurious furniture in rooms and lounges

Innumerable number of servants with inner and outer beauty with no purpose but to serve their masters

Strengthening God's love

# Gardens of Barzakh

Abundance, accessibility, ease of commuting and communication

Marriage and love but no reproduction

Q: what is the difference between these gardens and the gardens of Paradise?

The hadith talks about visits as well

يَأْكُلُونَ مِنْ طَعَامِهَا وَ يَشْرَبُونَ مِنْ شَرَابِهَا وَ يَتَزَاوَرُونَ فِيهَا. (كليني، كافي، ج3، ص 244، به نقل از امام صادق ع)

# Topography of Barzakh

The outline of the geography of Barzakh is difficult to explain but in the simplest way it can be divided into three main territories

Territory of the righteous

Territory of the sleepwalkers

Territory of the evil ones

These three territories are like three different continents or three totally separate worlds

# Topography of Barzakh

The boundaries of these territories are inner rather than outer, and dimensional rather than geographical

These depend on the direction to which the soul turns

The territory of the righteous is in turn divided to

1- The territory the close ones (*al-muqarrabun*)

2- the territory of the pious ones (*al-abraar*)

What makes the two different is the nature of their worship

# The close ones

The close ones are characterized by love for God and humiliation for themselves

These two qualities open the way for the grace of God and removes all its obstacles

By this they are taught the secrets that cannot be unveiled for others

Therefore, their Barzakh is interiorly oriented

All beauty gushes out from their interior and it can only be experienced by others after it has become exterior

## The close ones

إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ يَشْرَبُونَ مِنْ كَأْسٍ كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا كَافُورًا عَيْنًا يَشْرَبُ بِهَا عِبَادُ اللَّهِ يُفَجِّرُونَهَا تَفْجِيرًا

*Indeed the pious will drink from a cup seasoned with Kafour, a spring where the servants of Allah drink, which they make to gush forth as they please (76/5-6)*

These are the wealthiest in terms of wisdom, intelligence, and comprehension of the secrets in addition to their exterior supremacy

Their territory is therefore the upper Barzakh of the righteous

They can move to all territories and wherever they go they take with them the splendor and majesty which is attached to them.

Q: where does their majesty come from?

# The pious ones

The pious ones are people of faith and obedience

However, continuous remembrance of God did not become their habit

Therefore, their worship was out of faith rather than love

This impairs their inner ability for full reception of grace

They therefore live in the lower Barzakh of the righteous

The close ones can go to this lower Barzakh whenever they wish

But the pious cannot go to the upper Barzakh except by invitation



# The diversity in each territory

The visit of the lower Barzakh of the righteous by the inhabitants of the upper Barzakh of the righteous is an unforgettable event

Each of these territories are divided into regions, cities and neighborhoods

The inhabitants of each territory can visit each other and learn from each other's experiences

This would add to their wisdom

The territories of the close ones and of the pious ones together are called **Wadi al-Salam**, the Valley of Peace

# The diversity in each territory

اما انه لا يبقى مؤمن فى شرق الارض و غربها الا حشرالله روحه الى وادى السلام ... اما انى كانى بهم  
حلق حلق قعود يتحدثون. (كلينى، كافي، ج 2، ص 243، به نقل از امام صادق ع)

Imam al-Sadiq said, “No believer would remain in the east or the west of the earth unless Allah gathers their souls in Wadi al-Salam ... it is as if I am watching them sitting group after group talking to each other.

و انها ( وادى السلام ) لبقعة من جنة عدن. (كلينى، كافي، ج 3، ص 243، به نقل از اميرالمؤمنين)

Imam Ali Said, “Wadi al-salam is indeed a piece of the eternal paradise

# The Sleepwalkers

I call them sleepwalkers because the strength of their life compared to the righteous ones is like sleep compared to active life

These were:

Not very evil, not very good

Mixed good and evil together

Could not distinguish between right and wrong

Children

Mentally handicapped

# The Sleepwalkers

## A window to paradise

ضريس الكناسي قال سألت أبا جعفر (عليه السلام) ... قلت: أصلحك الله فما حال الموحدين  
المقرين بنبوّة محمد (صلى الله عليه وآله) من المسلمين المذنبين الذين يموتون وليس لهم إمام  
ولا يعرفون ولا يتكلم؟ (كليني، كافي، ج 3، ص 246)

Zurays al-Kinani says, “I said to Imam al-Baqir (a), may Allah bless you, what is the situation of the Muslims who are sinners but believe in *Tawhid* and confess to the prophethood of Muhammad (s) and they die while they have no Imam and do not know about your *wilayah*?

# The Sleepwalkers

فقال: أما هؤلاء فإنهم في حفرتهم لا يخرجون منها فمن كان منهم له عمل صالح ولم يظهر منه عداوة فإنه يخذ له خد إلى الجنة التي خلقها الله في المغرب فيدخل عليه منها الروح في حفرته إلى يوم القيامة فيلقى الله فيحاسبه بحسناته وسيئاته فإما إلى الجنة وإما إلى النار فهؤلاء موقوفون لأمر الله،

He replied, “These people would remain in their graves and would not come out of it. Whoever of them who has good acts and did not manifest enmity, for him an opening will be made to the garden that Allah has created in the West from which comfort would pour into his grave until the day of judgment.

On that day he will meet Allah and He will hold him accountable for his good and bad deeds; then his way is either towards Hell or towards Paradise. Thus these people are held waiting for the command of God.

# The Sleepwalkers

قال: وكذلك يفعل الله بالمستضعفين والبله والاطفال وأولاد المسلمين الذين لم يبلغوا الحلم

And he said, “and Allah will treat the mustaz’afin, the mentally retarded, the children and the descendents of the Muslims who have not reached mature age.”

## A window to hell

فأما النصاب من أهل القبلة فإنهم يخذ لهم خد إلى النار التي خلقها الله في المشرق فيدخل عليهم منها اللهب والشرر والدخان وفورة الحميم إلى يوم القيامة (كليني، كافي، ج 3، ص 246)

“However, for those Muslims who show animosity, an opening will be made for them to the fire that Allah has created in the East from which blaze and sparks and smoke and flow of hot water pours in until the day of judgment.”

# The sleepwalkers

The meaning of

فإنهم في حفرتهم لا يخرجون منها

Features of this territory:

- ▶ Time passes as fast as sleep
- ▶ More occupied with sensual life
- ▶ Limited wisdom and limited spiritual understanding
- ▶ Not possible for them to experience a life of higher ranks

# The sleepwalkers

Window of paradise:

Swedenborg's observations:

- ▶ Frequent dreamlike trances in which they see the paradise
- ▶ Gives them excitement after it is finished
- ▶ They understand the type of pleasure
- ▶ Even a fraction of those pleasures cannot be described by the concepts they already know
- ▶ These trances gradually changes their state of life
- ▶ They learn the meaning of purity, *ismah*
- ▶ In this way they get prepared to enter paradise



# Territory of the evil ones

Definition: their love has been only for themselves

They are devoid of any love for God and for good

Their psychology:

- ▶ They are jealous of any good in others
- ▶ So they want to destroy the good
- ▶ Since God does not permit that they are always full of rage and hatred
- ▶ This creates in them a sense of enmity towards God
- ▶ And since all power is from God they are the weakest in that world
- ▶ They talk of justice on their tongues but their inner self thrives on injustice
- ▶ As soon as the light of God penetrates their soul they pollute it by evil thoughts

# Territory of the evil ones

## Different tribes

- ▶ Their territory is divided into different areas according to the type of their evil
- ▶ They look like different tribes
- ▶ They are filled with hatred of other tribes and of each other
- ▶ They transgress against each other
- ▶ The punishment here has short term preventive effect since transgression and oppressing the weak has become their instinct

# Territory of the evil ones

## Barahut

عن أبي بصير، عن أبي عبدالله (عليه السلام) قال: سألته عن أرواح المشركين فقال: في النار يعذبون يقولون: ربنا لا تقم لنا الساعة ولا تنجز لنا ما وعدتنا ولا تلحق آخرنا بأولنا. (كليني، كافي، ج 3، ص 245)

Abu Basir asked Imam al-Sadiq (a) about the souls of the mushrikun. He said, “They are punished in fire while they say, O Lord do not make the Hour set in for us, and do not realize what you have promised us, and do not let our posterities join our early ones.

قال أمير المؤمنين (عليه السلام): شر بئر في النار برهوت الذي فيه أرواح الكفار (كليني، كافي، ج 3، ص 246)

- ▶ Imam Ali (a) said, “What an evil pit in fire is Barahut in which abode the souls of the kuffar.”

# Territory of the evil ones

و أن لله نارا في المشرق خلقها ليسكنها أرواح الكفار ويأكلون من زقومها ويشربون من حميمها ليلهم فإذا طلع الفجر هاجت ألى واد باليمن يقال له: برهوت أشد حرا من نيران الدنيا كانوا فيها يتلاقون ويتعارفون فإذا كان المساء عادوا إلى النار (كليني، كافي، ج 3، ص 247، به نقل از امام باقر ع)

Imam al-Baqir (a) said, “Allah has created a fire in the East to accommodate there the souls of the mushrikun. They eat from its Zaqqum and drink from its hot water all night. Then when the fajr sets in they rush towards a valley in Yemen called Barahut. Its climate is hotter than the fires of this world. They meet and socialize there and when night comes again they return to the fire.”

# Territory of the evil ones

Swedenborg's observations:

- ▶ Their faces lack freshness of life which gives them a scary appearance
- ▶ Some faces are scorching black and some are fiery red
- ▶ Some faces are deformed by pimples and rashes
- ▶ Some have only bones and some look like being made of hair
- ▶ Some faces are only made of teeth
- ▶ Their voice and tone invokes hatred and rage
- ▶ In sum each is the manifestation of their inner hell.

# Territory of the evil ones

According to him they cannot come out of this territory for

- ▶ In the darkness of this territory they see each other as ordinary humans
- ▶ It is lit by a charcoal like light
- ▶ Other territories are lit by the light of God of which they are blind
- ▶ So they prefer to remain there

# Territory of the evil ones

Barahut is divided into two territories:

The land of gloom

and

The land of fire

The land of gloom is home to those who are influenced by evil

The land of fire is home to those who are turned into evil

According to Swedenborg's observations some neighborhoods here  
are filled with brothels rubbished with blood and excreta

Copulating with the prostitutes there is hateful and agonizing