

Welcome to
ALI 420: Topical Tafsir of Quran; Relationship with Allah
Session two - Awe of Allah

Check the following verses in your copy of the Quran

Verses for today's session

- 1) Sura Zumar, no.39, verse 23
- 2) Sura Hadid, no.57, verse 16
- 3) Sura Qaf, no. 50, verses 31-33

خشية - Awe

Definition - Fear combined with respect, gratitude, love.

- Fear of punishment for one's actions is not **خشية**. That fear is from love of self not from love of God

- **خشية** comes from a realization of the Greatness of God.

From knowledge of His qualities and goal of creation. Allah says;

إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ

Only those of Allah's servants having knowledge fear Him

Sura Fatir, no.35, verse 28

Stages of Fear for believers

- 1) خوف - Fear; for the sinners
- 2) خشيت - Awe; for people with knowledge
- 3) وجل - Trembling; for those who have submitted, due to inadequacy of their deeds
- 4) رهبت - for the worshippers, fearing unworthy worship
- 5) هيبت - for the Arifan , overpowering awe due to witnessing the truth

Sura Zumar, no.39, verse 23

اللَّهُ نَزَّلَ أَحْسَنَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابًا مُتَشَابِهًا مَثَانِي تَقْشَعِرُّ مِنْهُ جُلُودُ
الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ ثُمَّ تَلِينُ جُلُودُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ

Allah has sent down the best of discourses, a scripture [composed] of similar motifs, whereat shiver the skins of those who fear their Lord, then their skins and hearts relax at Allah's remembrance.

Points from 39:23

Four descriptions of the Quran

- Best of speech; in truth, comprehensiveness, guidance, enlightenment . . . It is the speech of God.
- Similar; there is harmony between the verses of the Quran despite being revealed over period of 23 years
- Repeated; many stories, rulings etc. are repeated for emphasis and for providing different insights
- Has an effect on receptive hearts; fear and then hope.

Quran and خشية of the Muttaqin

During the night they are standing on their feet, reading portions of the Qur'an and reciting it in a well-measured way, creating through it grief for themselves and seeking by it the cure for their ailments.

If they come across a verse creating eagerness they pursue it avidly, and their spirits turn towards it, and they feel as if it is in front of them.

And when they come across a verse which contains fear they bend the ears of their hearts towards it, and feel as though the sound of Hell and its cries are reaching their ears.

Nahjul Blagha, Khutba al-Muttaqin, no.193

Sura Hadid, no.57, verse 16

أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَا نَزَلَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ

Has not the time yet come for those who believe
that their hearts should be humble for the
remembrance of Allah

Sura Qaf, no. 50, verses 31-33

وَأُزْلِفَتِ الْجَنَّةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ غَيْرَ بَعِيدٍ هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِكُلِّ أَوَّابٍ حَفِيظٍ

مَنْ خَشِيَ الرَّحْمَنَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَجَاءَ بِقَلْبٍ مُنِيبٍ

And paradise will be brought near for the Godwary, it will not be distant: 'This is what you were promised. For every penitent and dutiful [servant] who fears the All-beneficent in secret and comes with a penitent heart.

Hadith of the Holy Prophet (s)

There are four distinguishing marks of the humble ones;

- they pay constant attention to Allah in private and in public
- they carry out good works
- they contemplate about the Day of Judgment
- they engage in intimate supplication with Allah.

Scale of Wisdom, H#1851