

Quran Appreciation - Fall Term (Sep - Dec 2017) The Story of Lady Hannah and Lady Maryam (a)

Conversation of Lady Hannah with Allah

Verse for the session

إِذْ قَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ عِمْرَانَ رَبِّ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي
إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

When the wife of Imran said, 'My Lord I dedicate to you what is in my womb for your special service, so accept it from me, surely You are the all-Hearing, the all-Knowing.

(Sura Aale Imran, verse 35)

Reflections

- what is dedicating a child to God?
- Lady Hannah longed for a child. Why then did she vow to give up the child to God?
- When a person does a good deed, is it always accepted by God? What are some conditions? (sincerity, appropriateness - not stealing to give charity for example, humbleness . . .)

Cross reference verses

- 1) Conversations with God - Nabi Ibrahim and Nabi Ismail ask Allah for acceptance of their efforts to build the Ka'bah. Sura Baqarah, 2:127
- 2) The Family of Imran - Sura Aale Imran, 3:33-34

Meanings of words

Muharraran - free, liberated. From the word *hurr*. Here it means free of worldly attachments and dedicated to serving Allah. It also means a complete dedication that is free of any conditions. These children dedicated to the temples were free to serve the temple and worship God. They did not have any other duties.

Nadhr - a vow is what a person makes obligatory upon themselves.

Taqabbal - Accept it so it earns me Your Pleasure.

Tafsir

The wife of Imrān was Lady Hannah. She had no children. One day when she sitting outside she saw a mother bird feed her babies. This evoked motherly emotions in her and she beseeched Allah to grant her a child. Her prayer was answered and soon she was expecting a child.

This verse talks about the vow she makes. She talks to Allah and wants to dedicate her child to Him. This conversation with Allah probably took place after the death of her husband. Otherwise it would have been a joint decision. At that time she thought it was a male child, in fulfillment of what had been revealed to her husband (see notes on Historical details). She asks Allah to accept her pledge.

The vow of Lady Hannah shows her high level of spirituality and closeness to God. After years of waiting for a child, she is ready to give up the child to the service of God. This shows her love for God and desire to serve Him. It could also be out of gratitude for His blessings. The correct way to show gratitude is to use the blessing in the right way. Here Lady Hannah wants her child to be a worshipper of God, a perfect fulfillment of parental responsibility. The child should serve the parent but Lady Hannah frees her child of that obligation.

To serve God is a privilege and an honor. Those who love Allah think of ways to serve Him best. they also think how their families can serve Him. It is fulfilling and rewarding and makes life meaningful.

Her vow also shows her foresight and planning. She thinks about what is to happen and the best thing to do when it happens. Planning and preparing are conditions for success in life.

Lady Hannah gives Allah her most cherished possession. Even then she requests that Allah accept it. Sometimes our deeds are not accepted because of certain other actions we have committed. When we sin and disobey God openly, and do not care for His rules, then our good deeds do not please Allah. This is because the spirit of submission is missing from it.

Important Lessons

- 1) Plan well before an event that will happen.
- 2) Be grateful to Allah in the best way possible - use His blessing in His way.
- 3) Pray always that your deeds may be accepted.
- 4) Talk to Allah and tell him of your plans and hopes, your wishes, etc.

Ideas

- 1) Discuss the concept of *Nadhr* (simply, not too many details). Another *nadhr* mentioned in the Quran is the vow of the holy family (Ahlul Bayt) to fast for three days (Sura Dahr, 76:7). For information on this topic see: <http://www.shiavault.com/books/elements-of-islamic-studies/chapters/58-lesson-56-nadhr>.
- 2) Brainstorm the emotions of Lady Hannah at this time. Make a chart for it, play an adjective game. Check some games at:
<https://www.englishclub.com/efl/tefl-articles/emotions/>
- 3) Make a profile for lady Hannah. Check:
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson185.shtml
<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/biographies/?lp=true>