

ALI 096: Themes from Sura al-Jumuah Session Six

Verses 6-8 - Questions for Tadabbur

1. What different attitudes towards death do these verses mention?
2. What is the link between the life a human being leads and the attitude he/she has towards death?
3. What are some reasons behind the desire to flee death?
4. From these verses and the verses below, what can you summarize about the attitude of the Jews towards death?

Cross references from other verses

(1) وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ وَالنَّصَارَى نَحْنُ أَبْنَاءُ اللَّهِ وَأَحِبَّاؤُهُ

And the Jews and the Christians say: We are the sons of Allah and His beloved ones (5:18)

(2) قُلْ إِنْ كَانَتْ لَكُمْ الدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَالِصَةً مِّنْ دُونِ النَّاسِ فَتَمَنَّوْا الْمَوْتَ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ وَلَنْ يَتَمَنَّوَهُ أَبَدًا بِمَا قَدَّمْتُمْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ وَلَتَجِدَنَّهُمْ أَحْرَصَ النَّاسِ عَلَى حَيَاةٍ وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا يَوَدُّ أَحَدُهُمْ لَوْ يُعَمَّرَ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ وَمَا هُوَ بِمُرْزَقٍ مِّنَ الْعَذَابِ أَنْ يُعَمَّرَ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ

Say: If the future abode with Allah is specially for you to the exclusion of the people, then invoke death if you are truthful. And they will never invoke it on account of what their hands have sent before, and Allah knows the unjust. And you will most certainly find them the greediest of men for life (greedier) than even those who are polytheists; every one of them loves that he should be granted a life of a thousand years, and his being granted a long life will in no way remove him further off from the chastisement, and Allah sees what they do. (2:94-96)

(3) وَقَالُوا لَنْ يَدْخُلَ الْجَنَّةَ إِلَّا مَن كَانَ هُودًا أَوْ نَصَارَى تِلْكَ أَمَانِيُّهُمْ قُلْ هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ

And they say: None shall enter the garden (or paradise) except he who is a Jew or a Christian. These are their vain desires. Say: Bring your proof if you are truthful. (2:111)

Hadith on Death

1) Imam Muhammad at-Taqi (a) was asked: What is the matter with the Muslims, who do they dislike death?

He replied: Because they are ignorant about it, and if they really knew what it was and they were from the friends of Allah, they would have loved it and would have known that the Hereafter is better for them than the world.

2) Imam Ali an-Naqi (a) came to a companion of his who was on his death bed and was greatly disturbed. He said to him:

O Abdallah, you are afraid of death because you have not known it. Tell me if you were dirty and covered with filth, and were in great discomfort because of all the dirt on you, and you knew that a hot bath in a *Hammam* would remove all that, would you not want to enter the *Hammam* and remove the filth or would you dislike to enter it and remain with all the dirt on you?

I would like to enter the *Hammam*, the companion replied.

The Imam continued:

Such is death. It is the last chance remaining for you to cleanse you of your sins and purify you of your faults. So when you enter it, and pass through it, you are saved from all grief and sorrow and pain, and you are able to achieve happiness and comfort.

3.