



Surat Qalam (#68): Tafseer & Tadabbur

ALI 150: Session 3

Academy for Learning Islam

April 2009/ Rabi`uth Thani 1430

Story of the People of the Garden

- The story of the three sons of a philanthropist father in Saira near Yemen. From the produce of the garden which used to yield abundantly, the father would provide the poor, needy, and wayfarer. At his death his 3 sons inherited the garden, 2 of which were mean and one was generous. However, he followed the other two. At the time of harvest they had intended not to share the produce with the need. They talked slowly so as not to draw the attention of poor neighbors. Additionally they neglected to say, “If Allah wills.” This attracted the wrath of the Almighty and they saw the garden reduced to dust. This gave the 3rd brother opportunity to remind them of their father’s good practice

إِنَّا بَلَوْنَاهُمْ كَمَا بَلَوْنَا أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ إِذْ أَقْسَمُوا لَيَصْرِمُنَّهَا مُصْبِحِينَ

- 68: 17 *Indeed we have tested them just as We tested the People of the Garden when they vowed they would gather its fruit at dawn,*
- Questions for tadabbur: (1) who are 'them' in this verse? (2) how can we link the story to previous passage? (3) why would Allah take the responsibility of what happened to People of the Garden?

وَلَا يَسْتَشُونَ * فَطَافَ عَلَيْهَا طَائِفٌ مِّن رَّبِّكَ وَهُمْ نَائِمُونَ *
فَأَصْبَحَتْ كَالصَّرِيمِ

- *68: 18 and they did not make any exception. 68: 19 Then a visitation from your Lord visited it while they were asleep. 68: 20 So by the dawn it was like a harvested field.*
- What's meant by making exception?
- Why a visitation from the Lord?
- Meaning of *sareem*
- Why did the affliction come soon?

فَتَنَادُوا مُصْبِحِينَ * أَنْ اغْدُوا عَلَيَّ حَرَثِكُمْ إِنَّ كُنْتُمْ صَارِمِينَ *
فَانطَلَقُوا وَهُمْ يَتَخَفَتُونَ

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- *68:21 At dawn they called out to one another, 68:22 'Get off early to your field if you have to gather [the fruits].' 68:23 So off they went, murmuring to one another:*
 - Why leave so early?; And why murmur?
 - Imam Ali: Greed is the key to trouble & carries man to hardship. It causes him to commit sin. 5th Imam: greedy=silkworm
 - Imam Sadiq (a): greatest wealth is not to be imprisoned by greed
 - Nabi Isa (a) and a greedy person

أَنْ لَا يَدْخُلَنَّهَا الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِسْكِينٌ* وَغَدَوْا عَلَى حَرْدٍ قَادِرِينَ* فَلَمَّا
رَأَوْهَا قَالُوا إِنَّا لَضَالُّونَ* بَلْ نَحْنُ مَحْرُومُونَ

- 68:24 'Today no needy man shall come to you in it.' 68:25 They set out early morning, [considering themselves] able to grudge.
- 68:26 But when they saw it, they said, 'We have indeed lost our way!'
- 68:27 'No, we are deprived!'
- Discuss direct quotes of the people
- Discuss *dhalloon* vs *mahrूमون*

قَالَ أَوْسَطُهُمْ أَلَمْ أَقُلْ لَكُمْ لَوْلَا تُسَبِّحُونَ * قَالُوا
سُبْحَانَ رَبِّنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ

- *68:28 The most moderate among them said, 'Did I not tell you, "Why do you not glorify [God]?"'*
- *68:29 They said, 'Immaculate is our Lord! We have indeed been wrongdoers!'*
- Moderation is solution to many problems
- Meaning of *tasbeeh*. Cf. 21:87

فَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ يَتَلَوْمُونَ* قَالُوا يَا وَيْلَنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا طَاغِينَ

- 68:30 Then they turned to one another, blaming each other.
- 68:31 They said, 'Woe to us! Indeed we have been rebellious.'
- Human nature of blaming others
- Realization that problem is with us
- Refer to 14:22; 5:54 & 75:2
- Self reproaching soul: begins to be conscious of evil, good gets the upperhand; beginning of spirituality

عَسَى رَبُّنَا أَنْ يُبَدِّلَنَا خَيْرًا مِنْهَا إِنَّا إِلَى رَبِّنَا رَاغِبُونَ*
كَذَلِكَ الْعَذَابُ وَالْعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةُ أَكْبَرُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ

- *68:32 Maybe our Lord will give us a better one in its place. Indeed we turn earnestly to our Lord.'*
- *68:33 Such was the punishment; and the punishment of the Hereafter is surely greater, had they known.*
- Why would the Lord replace better?
- Discuss 'such was the punishment.'

إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٍ النَّعِيمِ

○ 68:34 Indeed for the Muttaqqeen
there will be gardens of bliss near
their Lord.

- Meaning of taqwaa
- Get other verses on taqwaa
- Sermon on Muttaqqeen in *Nahaj*
- Definition of taqwaa in Du`a
Makarimul Akhlaq (#20 in *Sahifa*)
- How to achieve taqwaa?

أَفَنَجْعَلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ كَالْمُجْرِمِينَ * مَا لَكُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ

- 68:35 Shall We, then, treat those who submit [to Us] as [We treat] the guilty? 68:36 What is the matter with you? How do you judge!
- *Muslimeen vs. Mujrimeen*
- Why do people equate them?
- Two questions within an ayat?
- Use of questions to emphasize