

Surat al-Qasas Verses 14

وَلَمَّا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ وَاسْتَوَىٰ آتَيْنَاهُ حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا ۗ وَكَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Q 28:14 When he came of age and became fully mature, We gave him judgement and knowledge, and thus do We reward the virtuous.

Questions for Reflection

- 1) What is the process of attaining wisdom and knowledge, as per this verse? (being good and virtuous, reaching maturity, being worthy of getting wisdom and knowledge from God)
- 2) What does judgment here mean? How is it different from knowledge?
- 3) Who are the Muhsinīn?

Prophet Mūsā reaches maturity

Prophet Mūsā grew up in the house of Fir‘awn. He saw what went on in the household but he retained his virtuous qualities. He was God conscious and had Taqwa. He could distinguish good from evil and did not let the evil round him affect what he thought was right. He stood up for fairness and justice. He was an example of how you don't have to be what your environment is. You can stand up for your own values.

Becoming of age and reaching maturity signify the attainment of physical and emotional maturity. It includes reaching a certain age (18 years according to some hadith) as well as getting the signs of bulugh. It also includes a certain level of thinking that shows maturity of thought. Of course, thought matures throughout life but there is a certain understanding that is reached at that age which is not the same childish mentality of previous years.

Maturity is not just about the physique. Real maturity is maturity of the mind. This means the ability to think clearly, control emotions, remove biases and prejudices, and be fair to others. Many young people confuse the two forms of maturity and feel that if they are physically mature they are also mentally mature enough to make their own decisions. But emotional and mental maturity comes later than physical maturity.

Almighty Allah then granted him two gifts;

- 1) Judgement – the ability to see things clearly and judge fairly. It allows a person to understand things and decide wisely.
- 2) Knowledge – awareness of things. Knowledge does not only come from learning. It comes from an insight that God perfects in them. Imam Sādiq (a) says; *Knowledge is a light that Allah creates in the one He wishes.*

This verse is not referring to the granting of Prophet-hood. That came much later. These two gifts were given to him in the world as a reward for being virtuous. Allah loves those who do good and are virtuous. Many verses of the Quran talk about Ihsān and Muhsinīn. In Q3:134 Allah describes some of the qualities of the virtuous ones - *those who spend in ease and adversity, and suppress their anger, and excuse the faults of people, and Allah loves the virtuous.*

Connecting verses

- 1) Judgment and knowledge in other verses – 12:22, 21:74, 21:79.
- 2) The Muhsinīn – 2:195, 2:112, 2:58.
- 3) Ihsān – 16:90

Connecting topics

- 1) Concept of Ihsān

http://en.wikishia.net/view/Al-Ihsan_Verse