

Sūrat al-Mu'min Verses 38-39

وَقَالَ الَّذِي آمَنَ يَا قَوْمِ اتَّبِعُونِ أَهْدِكُمْ سَبِيلَ الرَّشَادِ

Q 40:38 And he who believed said: O my people! follow me, I will guide you to the right course.

يَا قَوْمِ إِنَّمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا مَتَاعٌ وَإِنَّ الْآخِرَةَ هِيَ دَارُ الْقَرَارِ

Q 40:39 O my people! this life of the world is only a (passing) enjoyment, and surely the hereafter is the home that will last.

Questions for Reflection

- 1) What is the guidance that Hizqīl wants to give in these verses?
- 2) Compare the life of the world to the life of the Hereafter. What are some differences?

Commentary

Hizqīl now moves onto another phase of his speech. This time he compares the transience of the world to the Hereafter, to emphasize his point of the need to listen to the message of the Prophet. Understanding and accepting that point changes the worldview of a human being. It colors all his actions as he now looks at the world as of no value except for the hereafter. The hereafter becomes a focus for his life.

Note how Hizqīl uses the word Rashad to show guidance. It is the same word used by Fir'awn in verse 29. He wants to belie the words of Fir'awn and warn people not to fall for it. The real way of guidance is that shown by the Prophet, which includes God consciousness and virtue. All human beings have an innate desire for the right course in life. They want to do what is best for themselves but sometimes they are unable to clearly discern the right course. Tyrants like Fir'awn and those who wish to have power use this desire to misguide people and fool them into thinking they can show them the right course. Many people get deluded by their rhetoric and false logic.

Hizqīl then asks them to consider the fact that the life of this world is so temporary. Even when someone has a lot of power and control, enjoys wealth, etc. how long is it going to last? It will soon come to an end. All the power that a tyrant may have cannot avert death from him. Eventually everyone has to return to the world they came from. The mortality of human beings is humbling. It makes him realize how insignificant everything in the world is. The world is only valuable in that it helps to gain the hereafter.

Connecting verses

- 1) Rushd – Guidance

Q 18:66, 21:51

2) The world and the Hereafter

Q 3:148, 3:185, 4:134, 6:32

3) An example of the life of this world

Q 10:24

Connecting topics

The Hereafter

<http://en.wikishia.net/view/Hereafter>

World and the Hereafter

<http://www.islamicinsights.com/religion/clergy-corner/working-for-this-world-and-the-hereafter.html>

<http://www.shiavault.com/books/theological-instructions/chapters/54-lesson-fifty-one-a-comparison-between-this-world-and-the-hereafter>