

Sūrat al-Qalam
Verses 17-20

فَتَنَادَوْا مُصْبِحِينَ

Q68:21 - At dawn they called out to one another

أَنْ اِغْدُوا عَلَيَّ حَرْثَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَارِمِينَ

Q68:22 - Get off early to your field if you want to harvest

فَانْطَلَقُوا وَهُمْ يَتَخَفَتُونَ

Q68:23 - So off they went, murmuring to one another:

أَنْ لَا يَدْخُلَنَّهَا الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكُمْ مَسْكِينٌ

Q68:24 - Today no needy man shall come to you in it

وَعَدُوا عَلَيَّ حَرْدٍ قَادِرِينَ

Q68:25 - And they set out at early morning, considering themselves able to deprive others

Questions for Reflection

- 1) What do these verses tell you about the character of the brothers?
- 2) Do you think all the brothers must have agreed to this?
- 3) What could have made them forget their father's ways?

Commentary

The brothers were unaware that anything had happened to their garden. They believed it was full of fruit waiting to be picked. They called out to each other early in the morning, telling each other to hurry and go to the garden. They decided to go and harvest at a time when they were less likely to meet any needy people. The word 'harsikum' refers to crop that is produced, and fruits such as grapes.

They made their way to the garden, going as quietly as they could. They whispered to one another as they walked, telling each other to be careful that no poor person would see them or hear them. They knew that the needy of their community were expecting to get some fruit from the harvest, as they had received each year from their father. The poor knew it was harvest time and would probably come to the garden sometime during the day. To escape them the brothers

planned to go early in the morning. By the time the poor people would realize and come, it would be too late.

The brothers were miserly and hard hearted. They had no compassion for people who depended on the fruit from this garden to satisfy their hunger. They could have taken for themselves and then given from the extra to the needy. But they were not prepared even to do that much. The word 'hardin' in verse 25 tells us that the brothers were not only mean, they were also angry and hard. There was no softness or gentleness in them.

Verse 25 tells us that the brothers thought they were in power – to deprive the people, to take all they wanted for themselves, to fool the people by going early. All this was part of their plotting which they thought they could control. But Allah is the ultimate controller.

Connecting verses

- 1) Charity – 2:261-265, 2:274,
- 2) Miserliness – 3:180, 4:37, 9:75-76

Hadith about Generosity

The generous and the well-mannered are always under the protection of Allah. Allah does not abandon them but leads them to Paradise. Allah, Glory be to Him, did not send a prophet or a successor save a generous one; nor was there a righteous man who was not generous. Up to the day that he died, my Father commanded me to be generous.

Imam al-Kadhim (a), Furu al-Kafi v.4, p. 38

Hadith on Miserliness

1) I am amazed at the miserable misers, for they cause the poverty from which they run to come faster and miss the wealth which they sought. In this life they live the life of the poor and will be judged in the hereafter the judgment of the rich.

Imam Ali (a), Ghurar al-Hikam p. 497

2) Greed and stinginess are built on doubt and lack of confidence.

Imam Ali (a), Ghurar al-Hikam p. 488

Some Resources

<https://en.shafaqna.com/61734/the-generosity-of-imam-hussain-as/>
[http://en.wikishia.net/view/Sadaqa_\(alms\)](http://en.wikishia.net/view/Sadaqa_(alms))