

## Sūrat al-Hud Verse 93

وَيَا قَوْمِ اَعْمَلُوا عَلٰى مَكَاتِبِكُمْ اِنِّىْ عَامِلٌ ۙ سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُوْنَ مَنْ يَّاتِيْهِ عَذَابٌ يُخْزِيْهِ وَمَنْ هُوَ  
كَاذِبٌ ۙ وَاَرْتَقِبُوْا اِنِّىْ مَعَكُمْ رَقِيْبٌ

11:93 - O my people! Act according to your ability; I too am acting. Soon you will know who will be overtaken by a punishment that will disgrace him and who is a liar. So be on the watch; I too will be watching along with you.

### Questions for Reflection

- 1) What does 'act according to your ability' mean? (do what you can, according to your level, your way of thinking and understanding . . .)
- 2) What is the Prophet watching out for?

### Commentary

The Prophet answers the threats of his people without getting angry at them. They have different understandings and perspectives and since they cannot come to a common agreement, they both will have to wait for the outcome. The Prophet tried all he could to explain the truth to them, but they rejected it. He is confident of the judgement of Allah that will come to pass. He challenges them to do whatever they want - he knows what the result will be. This confidence, and firm determination, is known as Istiqamah (steadfastness). It is what the Prophets taught us through how they handled their challenges. It was also the outstanding quality of the Imams, our esteemed scholars, and all those believers who have struggled in the way of Allah. Without Istiqamah it is easy to waver when faced with difficulties on the right path.

Istiqamah, as shown by the Prophet here, means to not be intimidated by the threats of others. Those who have strong faith in Allah will be firm on the right path. They will also be consistent, not changing according to the response of those around them. They trust in Allah and know that the ultimate outcome of their action will be according to the truth. This confidence gives them an inner calmness and steadiness.

The Prophet tells the people he is watching out for the outcome. He is waiting for Allah's response to the rejection of the people. Once you have carried out your duty, the result is not always instantaneous. Sometimes it takes time. Waiting requires faith and patience. Many people become impatient and want immediate results. The Prophet shows that he is ready to wait, a sign of his trust in Allah.

The word Raqib is derived from the root r-q-b which means; to look, watch, be vigilant, to expect, anticipate, await, to keep an eye on, detect, observe to be mindful of. Al-Raqib is a name of Allah, signifying His watch over His creatures. Allah is a vigilant witness, and nothing escapes His watch. He observes all thoughts, words and deeds.

Lessons

- 1) Istiqamah is to be firm on the truth and not waver in the face of challenges.
- 2) Once you do your duty in the way of Allah, you have to wait for the result.

Cross reference verses

- 1) Istiqamah – 41:30, 3:200
- 2) Allah is al-Raqib – 4:1, 5:117

Connecting topics

Istiqamah

- <https://academyofislam.com/quranic-reflection-no-473-ayat-4130-steadfastness-on-the-journey-to-allah-2/>

- <https://bahjat.ir/en/category/2620/steadfastness>