

## Sūrat al-Hud Verse 43

قَالَ سَأُوِي إِلَىٰ جَبَلٍ يَعْصِمُنِي مِنَ الْمَاءِ ۚ قَالَ لَا عَاصِمَ الْيَوْمَ مِن أَمْرِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا مَنْ رَحِمَ ۚ وَحَالَ  
بَيْنَهُمَا الْمَوْجُ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْمُغْرَقِينَ

11:43 - He said, 'I shall take refuge on a mountain; it will protect me from the flood.' He said, 'There is none today who can protect from Allah's edict, except someone upon whom He has mercy.' Then the waves came between them, and he was among those who were drowned

### Questions for Reflection

- 1) Why does Prophet Nuh's son believe the mountain can protect him? (a belief in material things only, not that of a higher power who controls all things).
- 2) What qualities of the son are revealed in the conversation between him and Prophet Nuh (a)?
- 3) Who would be those upon whom Allah has mercy?

### Commentary

The son of Prophet Nuh (a) rejects the offer of his father to board the ark with them. He stubbornly resists the efforts of his father to guide him and lead him to salvation. He replies saying that he will take refuge in the mountain as he believes it can protect him from drowning in the flood. This shows his limited thinking. He can only see material entities and seek help from them. He is not able to see beyond the boundaries of physical and material realities. His stubbornness also reveals his arrogance.

People in the world rely on things which they feel are strong sources of protection. Some think their wealth can keep them safe. Others rely on their status or power. Sometimes people think other people can support them and help them through difficulties. For a believer it is only Allah who is the sole source of support and protection. He protects through various means. But behind these means it is Allah who is the initiator and controller.

Imam Sajjad (a) says in Dua Makarimul Akhlaq;

*O Allah, let me get strength from You in times of distress, ask from You in needs, and plead to You in misery! Tempt me not to seek help from other than You when I am distressed, to humble myself in asking from someone else when I am poor, or to plead with someone less than You when I fear, For then, I would deserve Your abandonment, Your withholding, and Your turning away, O Most Merciful of the merciful! (#12).*

He also says in the same du'a;

*Demean not my dignity through neediness, lest I seek provision from those whom You have provided and ask for bestowal from the worst of Your creatures! Then I would be tried by praising him who gave to me and afflicted with blaming him who held back from me, while You - not they - are patron of giving and holding back (#26)*

Prophet Nuh (a) does not give up on his son. He still tries to persuade him, explaining that there will be no protection from the flood except for those whom Allah wishes to protect. The mountain, as well as the land, water, the sun, etc. are all creation of Allah that move according to His control. They are under His command. Created beings are manifestations of Allah. Through them God reveals His qualities. Thus, all existing things are in reality reflections of God and the only being that really exists is the Creator, Allah. There can be no power or strength except with Allah. It is absurd to rely on a manifestation of the original.

Then waves came between them and the son was drowned.

### Lessons

- 1) Rejecting God stems from stubborn and limited thinking.
- 2) All material things are under the control of Allah. They manifest His names and qualities.
- 3) Protection and support can only be sought from Allah.

### Cross reference verses

- 1) Help is only from Allah – 10:106-107, 46:5
- 2) Allah is sufficient for believers – 3:173-174

### Connecting topics

- 1) Essence of Tawhid – to believe not only in One Creator but also One controller and maintainer of all things.

See Oneness of Lordship in <http://www.imamreza.net/old/eng/imamreza.php?id=8706>

- 2) Stubbornness and arrogance

<https://academyofislam.com/quranic-reflection-no-528-ayat-2206-arrogance-and-stubbornness/>  
<https://themuslimvibe.com/faith-islam/10-verses-from-the-holy-quran-on-pride-and-arrogance>