

DAILY QUR'ANIC REFLECTIONS

From Juz' 12: Steadfast Communities

فَأَسْتَقِمُّ كَمَا أُمِرْتُ وَمَنْ تَابَ مَعَكَ وَلَا تَطْغَوْا إِنَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ

So remain steadfast as you have been commanded, [you] and those who have turned back with you [to Allah], and do not transgress. Indeed, He is Seeing of what you do. (Hud: 112)

Reflections:

Surah Hud recounts the struggles of past prophets, including Hud, Nuh, Ibrahim, Lut, and Musa (a). Among the many lessons it teaches, perseverance stands out as a key to their success. After narrating their stories, Allah (swt) instructs the Holy Prophet (s) to remain steadfast, along with the believers.

Perseverance is different from patience. Patience is the ability to endure difficulties without complaint, while perseverance is the steadfast commitment to a path without compromising one's beliefs or practices. The Prophet of Allah and the early Muslims faced immense pressure from their surroundings and were often urged to compromise on key aspects of their faith. Surat Hud points out that the strength of the Muslim community is primarily derived from the faith and the values of the believers, more than their numbers and resources. Allah (swt) states in Surat al-Jinn, "And [Allah revealed] that if they had remained steadfast on the [right] way, We would have given them abundant water to drink."¹ Hence the surah recounts the steadfastness and the perseverance of the previous monotheists to inspire confidence and strength into the hearts of the early Muslims.

Ibn 'Abbas narrates no verse was revealed to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) that was more severe or more difficult for him than this verse. That is why when his companions said to him, "O Messenger of Allah, gray hair has come upon you so quickly!" he replied, "Surah Hud and Al-Waqi'ah have made me grow old."²

The exegetes point out that the command to be steadfast also appears in another chapter of the Qur'an (Surat al-Shura: 15). The difference between the two verses is that this verse also instructs the Prophet (s) to cultivate steadfastness among his followers. This emphasizes the importance of building resilient communities and making *istiqaamah* (perseverance) a core value within Muslim societies. The Prophet (s) recognized both the difficulty and necessity of this task for the success of the ummah.

This is also an important quality of the movement of the 12th Imam. In Dua al-Iftitah, we recite, "Establish for him [the Imam (a)] his faith which You have approved for him."

To ponder: What does it mean to be steadfast the way Allah (swt) has commanded us?

References: Āyatullāh Nāsir Makārim Shirāzi, *Tafsīr Namouneh*.

¹ Qur'an, 72:16

² *Tafsīr Namouneh*, v. 9, p. 257