

Surah Al-Bayyinah

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

When false ideas and wrong practices become common in a society then a time comes when the majority of people stop thinking it to be wrong. Now if you want to return these people to the right track, they will neither believe in it nor accept it... except for some strong proof...

لَمْ يَكُنِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ مُنْفَكِينَ حَتَّىٰ تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَةُ {1}

Those who are unbelievers from among the people of the Book and from the Mushrikīn were not going to desist *from their unbelief* until the clear proof came to them

The last two surahs were about the importance of Quran and now Allah wants us to understand the true status of our Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) without whom the destiny of people could not have changed. Whether it was the idol-worshippers of Makkah or the “people of the book”... none could have believed in Allah’s message unless it was presented to them by a man about whose honesty and truth they were in no doubt...

رَسُولٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ يَتْلُو صُحُفًا مُّطَهَّرَةً {2}

That is, a Rasool of Allah reciting to them holy scriptures from purified pages

Just as the message of Quran is eternal, similarly the life of the Prophet (s.a.w) is a most perfect example for us till the end of time. He was the most successful person in the entire history of mankind; so anyone who wants to walk on the surest path of success can just follow his footsteps!! But then why are Muslims so far from progress and success? It is because we deviated from the teachings of our Prophet and instead of taking him as our role-model; we began to follow the footsteps of the “people of the book”. Just like them we have also disintegrated into various sects even though we have the clear guidance...

وَمَا تَفَرَّقَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَةُ {4}

Those who were given the Book before this (*Qur’an*) did not divide into sects until after there came to them a clear proof

Why does religion seem like a burden to us? Simply because people have fabricated so many additions to it that it has lost its original simplicity. So even if someone wants to turn to

the true way of life, people are confused to see so many versions of Islam and their various philosophies and practises... But Allah has preserved the truth for us in the Quran and Hadith, and if we spend some time to understand it, we will find that our creator has not put any burden on us... rather the teachings of Islam are most clear and practical...

وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ
وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ {5}

Yet they were commanded nothing but to worship Allah, with their sincere devotion to Him, being True in their faith; to establish Salah (prayers); and to pay Zakah (*poor due*); and that is the infallible true Religion.

Allah has given us all that we need for sustenance as well as guidance, but if we don't eat food we cannot survive, similarly if we do not follow guidance we cannot succeed. It is so sad that such intelligent and wonderfully talented people fall into the trap of shaitan and think that they don't need Allah's religion; and they think that they are very successful because of some apparent signs of material growth and prosperity. Who will tell them that Allah calls such ungrateful people as the worst of creatures...?

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا ۗ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمْ
شَرُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ {6}

Surely those who disbelieve from among the people of the Book and the Mushrikīn shall be in fire of hell, to dwell therein forever. They are the worst of all creatures.

On the other hand those who give up their false ego and submit their will to Allah's obedience become the best of people... even if the whole world scorns at them:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ {7}

Surely those who believe and do good deeds, are the best of all creatures.

We judge success by material standards because we have become so attached to this world and its petty little things... but if we study the Quran and Hadith on a regular basis and understand what Allah wants us to think... then gradually the veils of darkness are lifted and our hearts begin to see things in their real perspective. Thus our goal becomes the extraordinary beauty of the paradise... the pure pleasures and the perfect success which will never fade:

جَزَاؤُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا رَضِيَ
اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ رَبَّهُ {8}

Their reward with their Rabb shall be the gardens of Eden, beneath which rivers flow, to dwell therein forever. Allah shall be well pleased with them and they shall be well pleased with Him. That is for him who fears his Rabb

The last words of this beautiful ayat are worth pondering on... we want Allah to appreciate our small little efforts of goodness; But how can we make someone happy if we are not happy with him? All the time we are complaining about our disappointments with destiny... are we content in whatever Allah has given us?

Are we satisfied with the religion that he has chosen for us?

Are we grateful for the Great Quran and the Greatest Prophet (s.a.w)?

Do we love Allah and His Prophet more than all other things?

And the last question is:

Do we fear Allah more than any other thing?

Because Allah has said that these rewards are for those who fear him... this fear should not just be a claim... but a real and strong feeling which should be reflected in all our actions; not just in worship but also in our dealings with people. And this, I think, is the real test of our faith and obedience...