

Surahtul Baqarah



Farzeen Arfa Audil

Prophet SAW said that, "Recite Suratul Baqarah, read Suratul Baqarah, for reciting it is a blessing and leaving it is a cause of grief. And the magicians cannot counter it."

This is a surah that chases shayateen away. The Prophet SAW said, "Do not turn your houses into graveyards. Shaytaan runs away from the house in which Suratul Baqarah is recited" So let us see what this surah says...

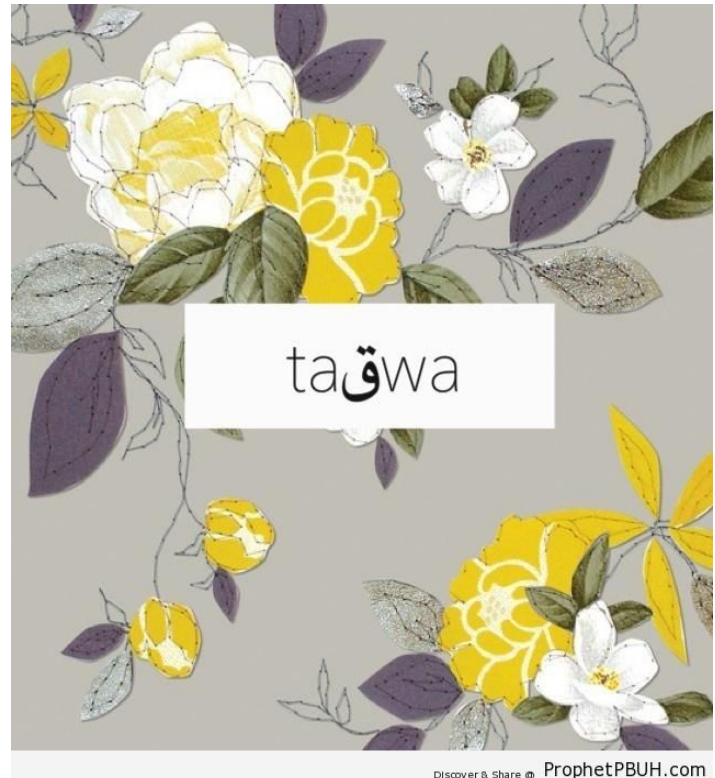
2:1

Alif, Lam, Meem.

2:2

This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allah –

Muttaqeen (one who is conscious of Allah) are those who refrain from sins, they are the ones who perform the obligations and protect themselves from being punished in the hereafter. The fact is that taqwaa is the foundation of every good deed.



A man came to Abu Sa'eed Al Khudri, and he said, "Advise me." And Abu Sa'eed Al Khudri said, "I asked the Prophet SAW the same question and he said to me, 'Observe taqwaa of Allah for it is the head of everything, the root of every good deed.'" Every good deed which if performed with Allah in mind, while the heart is directed to Allah,

then that deed will be counted as *amal saleh*, as a righteous deed because it is not possible that a person fears Allah and then he does wrong. And if he does end of making mistakes, then the fear of Allah will cause him to repent, it will make him go back on track.

Taqwa – it is to walk on this earth conscious of Allah. So the *muttaqeen*, those who want guidance, then Allah has revealed this book for them.



2:3

Who believe in the unseen, establish prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them,

Whatever they have been given, they do not consider it to be just for themselves. They are not stingy with the gifts that Allah has given them, rather they share those gifts whether it is money, food, a good thought, knowledge, whatever Allah has given them, they give to others and when they give, then what they have does not reduce, infact Allah gives them even more because of what they have given.

The Prophet SAW said, "A slave shall not believe, until he believes in four matters, the testimony of La ilaha illallah and that Muhammad *ur-rasool* Allah is whom Allah has sent the truth with. And a servant must believe in the certainly of death, resurrection after death and in *Al-Qadr*, the divine decree."

If you look at all these aspects, they are all part of *Al-Ghayb*, the Unseen world. The person who has *taqwaa* is the one who believes in the realities of the Unseen World, Allah, His Messenger, Day of Judgement, *Jannah*, *Naar*, *Al-Qadr*. And this is the person who will work in this life with the *Aakhirah* in mind.



2:4

And who believe in what has been revealed to you, [O Muhammad], and what was revealed before you, and of the Hereafter they are certain [in faith].

2:5

Those are upon [right] guidance from their Lord, and it is those who are the successful.

These people are rightly guided and successful.



2:6

Indeed, those who disbelieve - it is all the same for them whether you warn them or do not warn them - they will not believe.

They will not believe. Some people are soft-hearted. They fear Allah, Allah's guidance is for them. There are other people whose hearts are not absorbent, rather they are repellent, the hearts are impermeable. They hear the truth, they see it, they read it they recognise it, yet they do not believe in it. Such people, no matter how much they are warned about the Hereafter or Allah, their hearts remain unaffected. This is because they are seekers of guidance. When they reject guidance, they are also rejected.

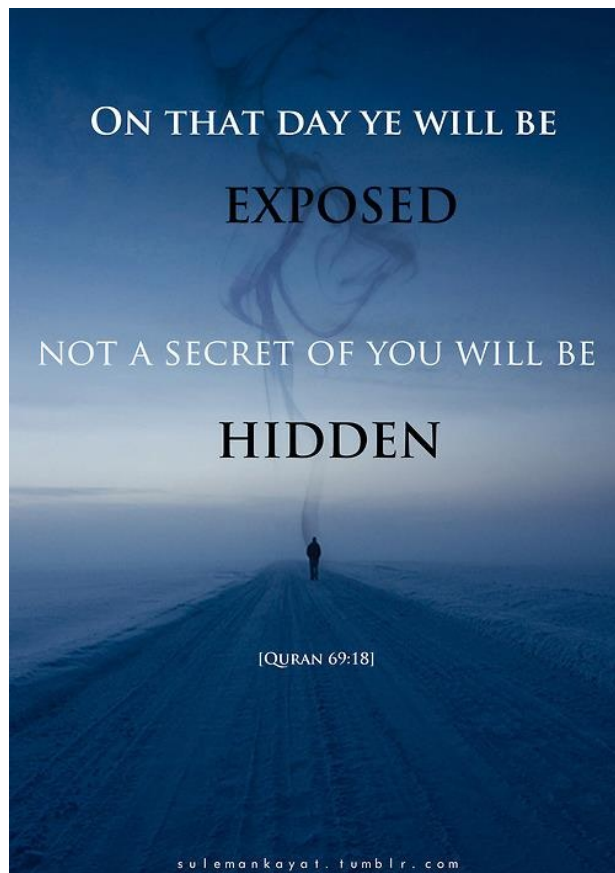
2:7

Allah has set a seal upon their hearts and upon their hearing, and over their vision is a veil. And for them is a great punishment.

They do not see or understand even if the truth is bare and obvious before them. There is another category of people; the hypocrites. Some people are believers inside and outside. In their heart, there is faith and outside there is *amal saleh*, they also show faith. Some people have kufr inside and kufr outside, the disbelievers. And then there are the hypocrites who are disbelievers inside but pretend to be believers on the outside. They show that they have *emaan*, but in their hearts, there isn't any portion of *emaan*. And due to this discrepancy, their words don't match their deeds.



2:8



And of the people are some who say, "We believe in Allah and the Last Day," but they are not believers.

They say "We believe!" but Allah does not accept their claim of faith.

2:9

They [think to] deceive Allah and those who believe, but they deceive not except themselves and perceive [it] not.

On their tongue, there is a lot of emaan, but in their hearts, there is zero emaan. And this is a lie. It is deception; they are trying to deceive Allah and the believers. In their hearts, they don't believe in Allah or the Last day, but they say that they do. Allah says, they do not deceive except themselves and they perceive it not. This is

where we need to reflect on ourselves, we need to take a look into our hearts.

Has the ultimate truth that Allah exists with His Attributes settled in my heart? That He is the one causing everything around us. And one day, I shall return to Him. On a day, when I have to be answerable on what I have done when no deed of mine, big or small shall remain hidden, do I really believe in this? And if I say that I do, then do I really act according to this belief? Does my life show that I believe in an All-Seeing, All-Knowing, All-Hearing God? Do my actions testify that I am a worker who will be called to account, who is striving to his master?

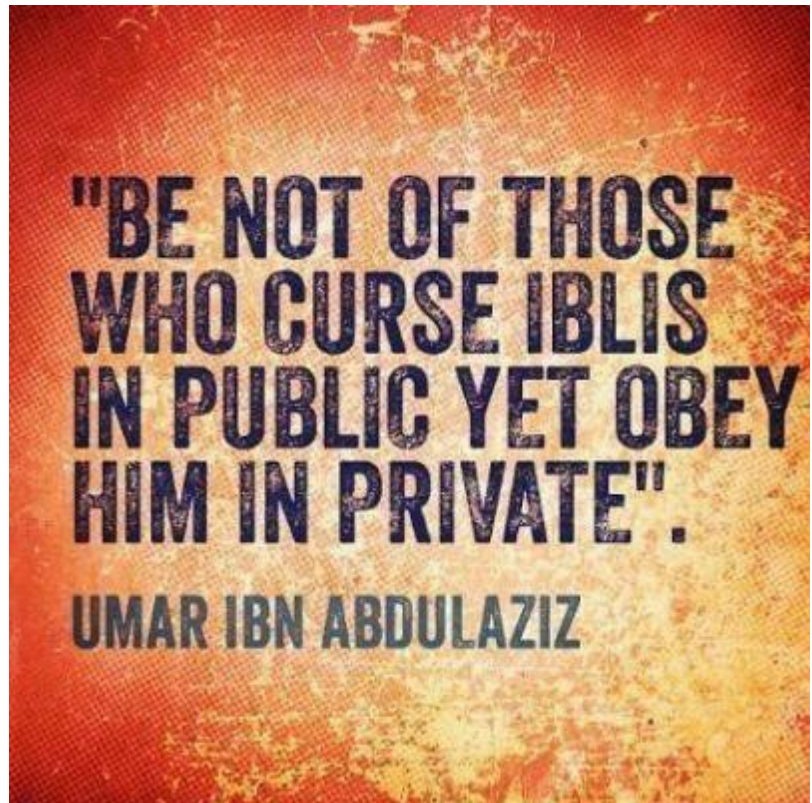
Or is it just that our tongue says big words, "I believe Allah!", "I love Allah!". Is it just lip service and emaan hasn't entered the heart? Hypocrisy cannot be removed from the heart until emaan settles in the heart. If our tongue says something but it contradicts to our hearts, then no matter what he says, it's merely words that lie. It is just to satisfy people. It is deception. This kind of lip service is not acceptable to Allah swt.

Another sign of hypocrisy is that he does not recognise or see his own mistakes. He doesn't admit them or acknowledge them. When he doesn't acknowledge them, then he does not rectify them.

2:10

In their hearts is disease

They cannot think properly because their hearts are diseased with the love of this world. Their priorities are different. They don't fear Allah, they don't worry for the Akhirah. Their hearts are hollow and sick. And if the heart is sick, then how can one ever be healthy?



, so Allah has increased their disease;

Why has Allah done this? Because when a disease left uncured, then it gets worse over time.

and for them is a painful punishment because they [habitually] used to lie.

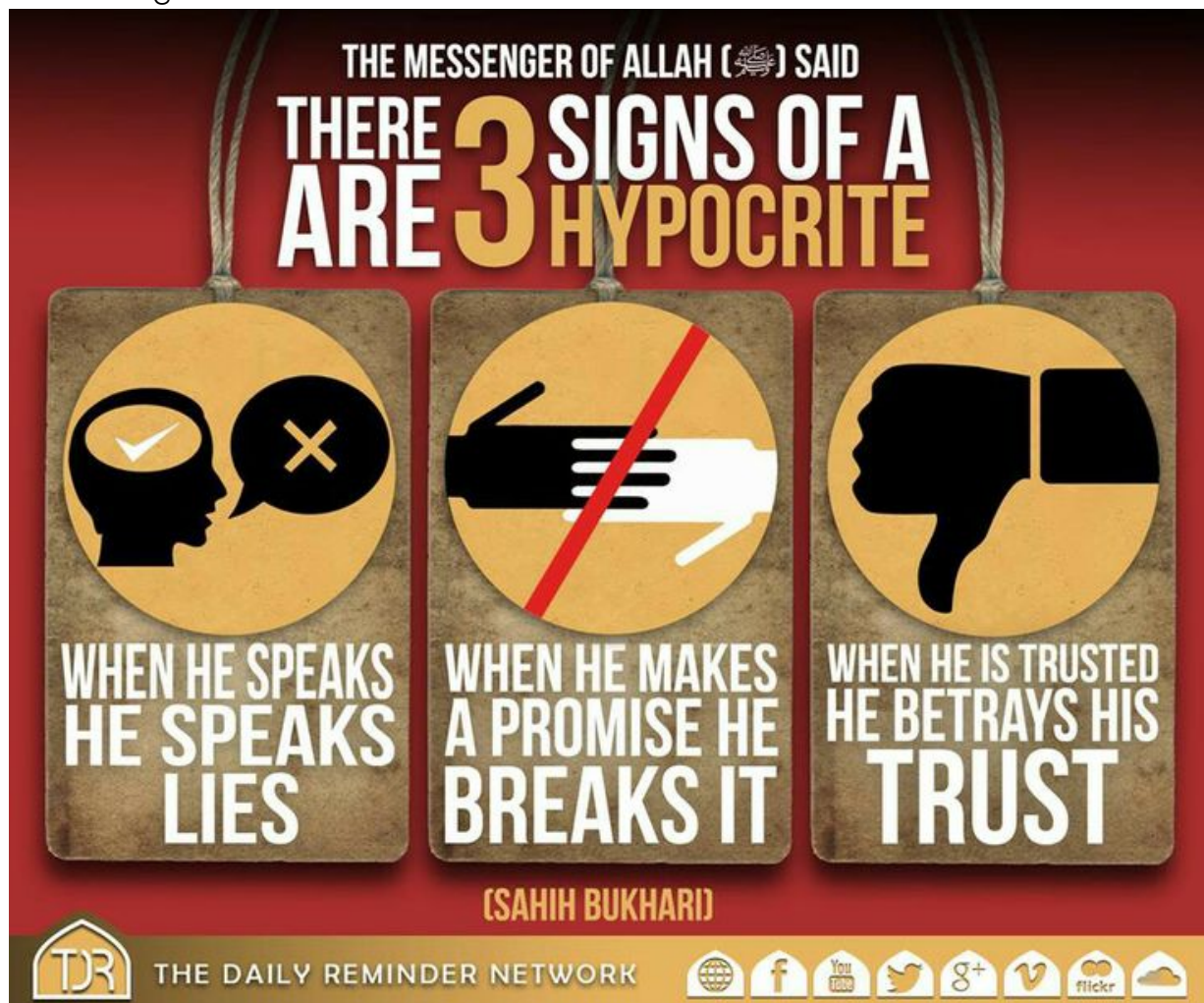
They used to lie about their heart's religion. On their heart is one faith and on their tongue is one faith. The reality is something else and what they say contradicts their heart. Remember, lying is one of the biggest signs of hypocrisy.

Abu Bakr RA said, "O people, beware of lying for indeed lying is not from emaan."

It is separate from emaan. Where there is emaan, that person doesn't lie. When a person's heart is filled with emaan, then their tongue cannot lie.

The Prophet SAW said, "Whoever has these three traits is a hypocrite, even if he fasts, even if he prays, even if he does hajj and he does umrah, and he says that he is a Muslim. But if he has these three traits, then he is a hypocrite. These three traits are that when he speaks, he lies, when he makes a promise, he breaks it, and when he is interested in an *amanah*, he betrays." All of these things are different shades of lying; false claims of love, false promises, exaggerations, false claims of friendship, false

praises. All of these are lies and they must be removed from our lives. Honesty and truthfulness is what we need to adopt. Before we speak, we must check if it is true, otherwise good deeds will be wasted.



Because the one who lies habitually is a hypocrite. As the Prophet SAW said, even if he is fasting, even if he performs hajj and umrah, just because he lied, his good deeds are nullified and wasted. Aisha RA said, "There was no trait more hated to the Messenger of Allah SAW than lying." This is something that the Prophet SAW despised so much so that if a person lied to him, his conduct with that person would remain changed until it would have become known that the person had repented. Then yes, his conduct would improve with him.

Here, we need to check ourselves again, what are those places and times, what are those situations in which we end up lying? Why do we lie? Out of fear of people? To please them? To satisfy them? To look good in front of their eyes? In order to pretend to be someone we are not? But what is the outcome of this? *Adhaabul Aleem*, Painful Punishment.

The Prophet SAW said, "There will come years of treachery when the honest man will be regarded as a liar and a liar will be regarded as an honest man." A time will come where honestly will be considered as lying. But no matter how common lying becomes, a believer does not lie, because for the liars will be a painful punishment as he

**"A liar's biggest punishment in this world is that even his truth is rejected."
-Imam Ali (AS)**

remembers. The Prophet SAW said, "That indeed, hameem, boiling hot water will be poured over their heads. It will penetrate until it find its way to the insides of a person. Then whatever is inside will fall out until it pours over his feet while it melts away. Then, he will be reformed to how he was and the punishment shall be repeated." The Prophet SAW said, "In hell, there will be snakes with long rising necks whose one bite would cause one to feel the poison for forty years. In hell, there are scorpions like mules, huge scorpions whose one sting would cause one to feel the poison for forty years." This is why it is no

simple matter; this is why lies *must* be eliminated from our lives.

What will happen if we are embarrassed because of the truth? So what if someone will get upset? No matter what it is, it cannot be worse than *Adhaabun Aleem*.

2:11

And when it is said to them,

The munafiqoon

"Do not cause corruption on the earth," they say, "We are but reformers."

In reality they are causing harm, but they think they are bringing benefits.

**A rich person is he who can sleep at night
knowing that he has not wronged
a soul**

Mufti Ismail Menk

2:12

Unquestionably, it is they who are the corrupters, but they perceive [it] not.

Why don't they perceive that their actions are destructive and not causing reform? Because the heart is sick and blind.

2:13

And when it is said to them, "Believe as the people have believed," they say, "Should we believe as the foolish have believed?"

The sahabah were foolish to them, because the sahabah did not lie, they spoke the truth. Just like today, when a person adheres to the truth and speaks it, he is considered foolish.

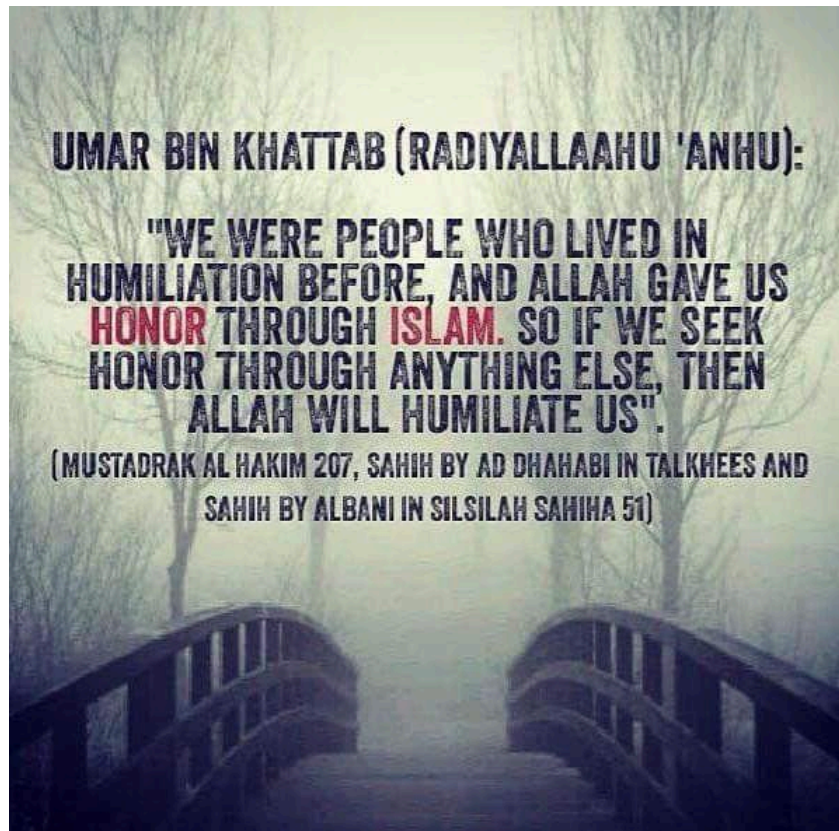
Unquestionably, it is they who are the foolish, but they know [it] not.

2:14

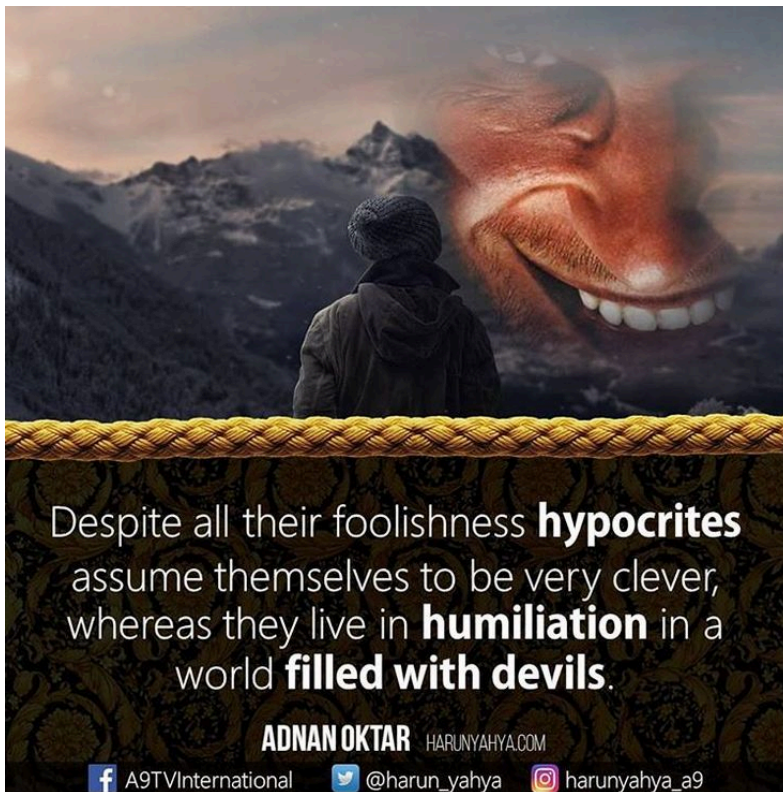
And when they meet those who believe, they say, "We believe"; but when they are alone with their evil ones, they say, "Indeed, we are with you; we were only mockers."

Wherever they go, they become like the people around them but they show loyalty to those who are like them, the hypocrites and the leaders.

2:15



[But] Allah mocks them and prolongs them in their transgression [while] they wander blindly.



The munafiqoon (the hypocrites) they are happy with the immediate results of their treachery, of their deceit, of their lying, of their cheating. And they think they are very intelligent when they have lied. But in reality, they are only preparing more fuel for themselves in the fire of hell. They don't realise their foolishness and wrongs, and they keep running and rushing in wrong ways.

2:16

Those are the ones who have purchased error [in exchange] for guidance,

They have given up their guidance for mere lies.

so their transaction has brought no profit, nor were they guided.

2:17

Their example is that of one who kindled a fire, but when it illuminated what was around him, Allah took away their light and left them in darkness [so] they could not see.

2:18

Deaf, dumb and blind - so they will not return [to the right path].

When there is light, we can see where things really are. When the light of Qur'an, the noor of Hidayah, the light of guidance shines forth, we begin to see our faults and errors. However, hypocrites, those who do not wish to mould themselves according to truth, those who do not wish to follow the truth, rather they want the truth to be moulded according to their desires, then even if they are surrounded by guidance, even if they are surrounded by sound knowledge, they do not benefit from that guidance even in the least. Because *dhahabAllahu bi noorihim*, Allah has taken their light away. So they do not benefit from this guidance. When they cannot recognise their mistakes, they will not repent or reform. They will not leave their sins. Rather, they become blind and deaf to guidance.

So here let us make a du'ah the O Allah, when we journey through this Qur'an, we can recognise our mistakes, admit them, acknowledge them and beg your forgiveness. And show us out of those ways into light, into ways that are better and that You like.



2:19



Or [it is] like a rainstorm from the sky within which is darkness, thunder and lightning. They put their fingers in their ears against the thunderclaps in dread of death. But Allah is encompassing of the disbelievers.

This means that even if they close their ears, the truth will not be hidden. They cannot run away from the truth.

2:20

The lightning almost snatches away their sight. Every time it lights [the way] for them, they walk therein; but when darkness comes over them, they stand [still]. And if Allah had willed, He could have taken away their hearing and their sight. Indeed, Allah is over all things competent.



Some other people are there who do not change themselves, despite seeing the light of guidance. Why don't these people change their mistakes? Why can't they recognise their mistakes properly? Because they are afraid of accepting this deen, they are afraid to follow this religion, they are afraid of people, they are afraid of worldly benefits. They only do what is easy. When there is light, they walk, when there is darkness they stand still, when there is difficulty they stop. When some parts of the deen are easy, they do it but when something becomes challenging, they stop right away. If Allah wants, he can take guidance away from them completely, but he has given them time.

He gives time because maybe one day, they might change their track and come back to Allah. This Qur'an is for the whole of mankind, for all people.

2:21

O mankind, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous –

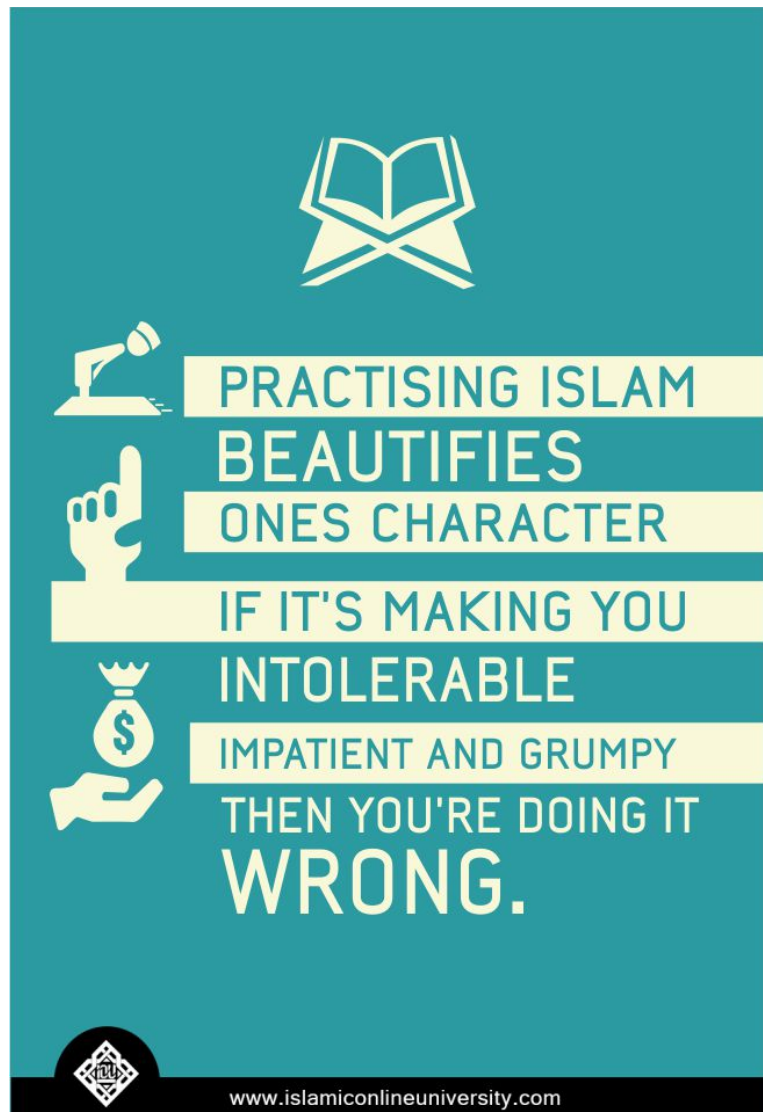
The lord who created you, the Lord who knows you inside out, the Lord who has given you all of these blessings that you enjoy, the Lord whom you have to return to ultimately and the One who will see what you have been doing all your life needs to be worshipped. You are answerable to Him, He made us and we are going back to Him. And if we have not lived according to His directions, then what will happen when we face our Lord? After our death, on the Day of Judgement, we would be in great trouble. He who wishes to be safe for eternity, must surrender to his Lord now. The freedom in this life is temporary. Do we willingly choose to worship our Lord? Or do we choose to worship something else? Or desires? Something else from the creation?

2:22

[He] who made for you the earth a bed [spread out] and the sky a ceiling and sent down from the sky, rain and brought forth thereby fruits as provision for you. So do not attribute to Allah equals while you know [that there is nothing similar to Him].

You know that He alone has created you and everything else. He alone governs the affairs of the entire creation, and if this is the reality then why would you associate any partner with him?

So O people, do not do shirk. Do not give anyone else importance that Allah alone is deserving of. Do not love anybody the way Allah should be loved. Do not rely on anyone like how Allah should be relied upon. Hope, trust, tawakkul, repentance for Allah alone. My prayer, my sacrifice, my life, my death, my time, is everything for Allah. And this is Ibadah, this is worship.

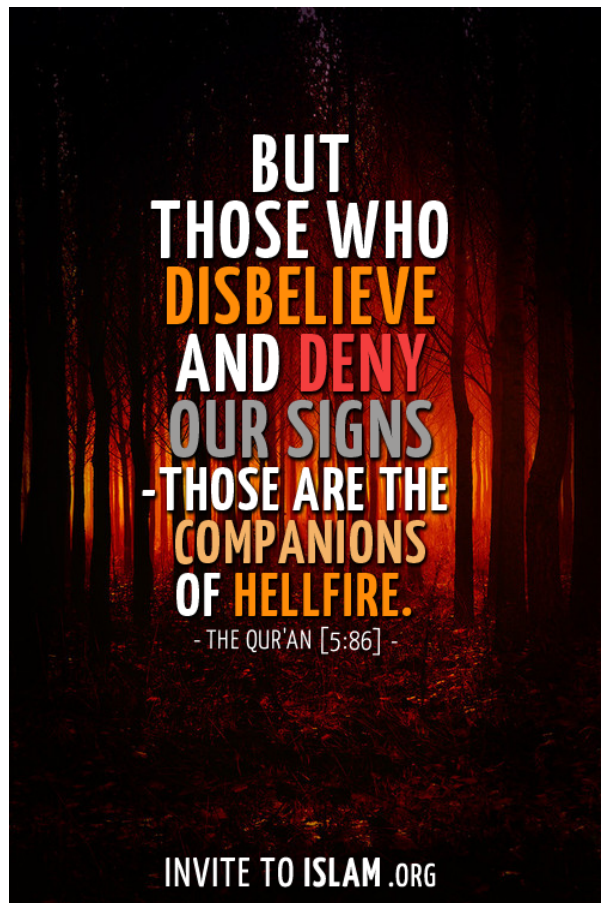


2:23

And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down upon Our Servant [Muhammad],

To do Ibadah, to worship Allah, we need to look at this Qur'an. What does this Qur'an tell us? What is it that Allah has told us to do? And if you have a doubt if this is really from Allah, then Allah says...

then produce a surah the like thereof



This is an eternal challenge. This is the book of Allah. The reality is that no one has ever been able to produce anything like the Qur'an. Nothing can match the level of Qur'an.

and call upon your witnesses other than Allah, if you should be truthful.

Call them all, call the best orators, the best philosophers, the best writers, the best researchers, the jinn and the men, call upon them!

2:24

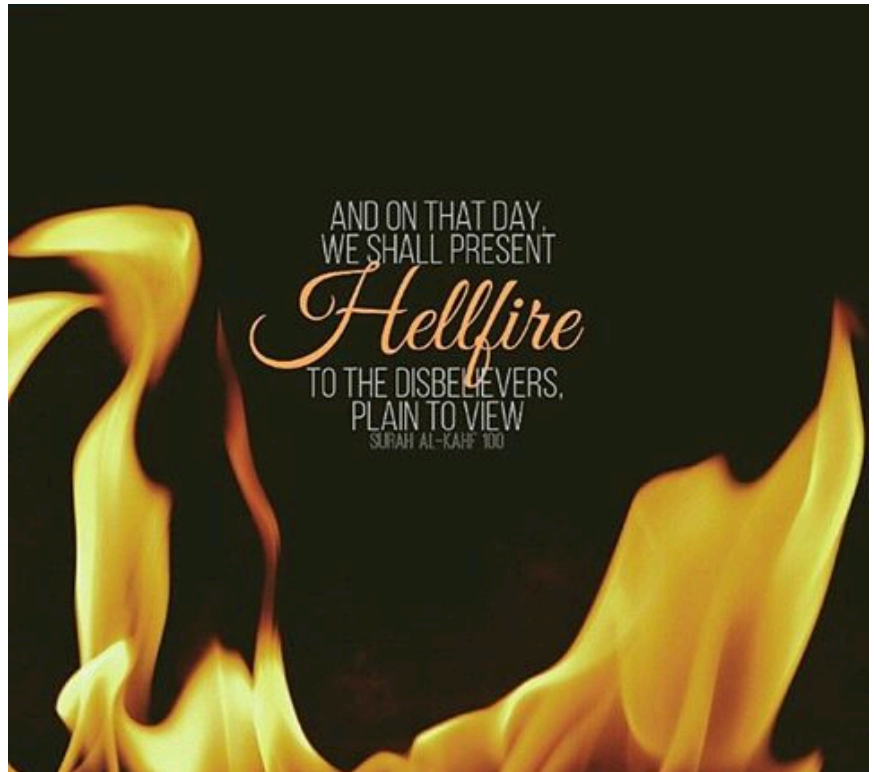
But if you do not - and you will never be able to –

And you don't believe in it. And you don't follow it. And you don't act upon it, then...

then fear the Fire, whose fuel is men and stones, prepared for the disbelievers.

This is a message for everyone, all those who find the Qur'an problematic. All those who reject the very existence of God. This ayah is challenge to them. Look at this Qur'an, and compare it any other book. Does anything come close to the brevity and the eloquence, the power, the effect, the content and the style of the book of Allah? No. There is nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Therefore, read this book and study this book. If you want guidance, then read this book. And if you are in doubt, then remove that doubt.



2:25

And give good tidings to those who believe and do righteous deeds that they will have gardens [in Paradise] beneath which rivers flow. Whenever they are provided with a provision of fruit therefrom, they will say, "This is what we were provided with before."

It means that in Jannah, people will be given familiar food.

And it is given to them in likeness. And they will have therein purified spouses, and they will abide therein eternally.

Forever and for always. They shall never die. These is no old age in Jannah, there is no hunger, there is no thirst, there is no illness, there is no disease, no discomfort, no pain, no affliction, no distress. That is the life. The real home for which we have to strive now. And those who



do not believe, those who find fault in the Qur'an, those who criticise the Qur'an, the content of the Qur'an, then Allah responds to them.

2:26

Indeed, Allah is not timid to present an example - that of a mosquito or what is smaller than it.

A mosquito or something smaller than that looks insignificant to us because of our ignorance whereas the fact is, that every creature, is indeed an intricate creature. It just comes in the dark and draws blood out without us even noticing. Allah is not shy to present an example that is as small as a mosquito.

And those who have believed know that it is the truth from their Lord. But as for those who disbelieve, they say, "What did Allah intend by this as an example?" He misleads many thereby and guides many thereby. And He misleads not except the defiantly disobedient,

Who are the defiantly disobedient? Those people who don't follow the Qur'an, who are they? They are those who break the covenant of Allah, the promise of Allah.

2:27

Who break the covenant of Allah after contracting it and sever that which Allah has ordered to be joined and cause corruption on earth. It is those who are the losers.

Fasiq is the one who breaks his promise with Allah. What is that promise that every single one of us has made with Allah? It is La Ilaha illallah. There is no God worthy of worship except Allah. If we say the kalimah and don't live it, if we say the kalimah and don't act according to it, then this is breaking our promise with Allah. This is fisq, this is disobedience. And fasiq is the one who doesn't maintain good relation with the people. Allah has ordered us to keep our relations joined, and fasiq is the one who cuts off relations.

Remember, our deen is about giving the rights of Allah and giving the rights of the creation.

2:28

How can you disbelieve in Allah when you were lifeless and He brought you to life;

In the womb of your mother, you were lifeless. And if he didn't not put life in you, none would be able to do so. So if you are alive, it is Allah's favour on you. When you reject his favours then,

then He will cause you to die,

You cannot live in this world forever. You have to die one day.

then He will bring you [back] to life, and then to Him you will be returned.

Death doesn't actually mean terminal existence. It means that eternal life shall begin.

2:29

It is He who created for you all of that which is on the earth.

Why would you deny your Lord? He is the one who has created everything in the earth just for you. He made you, he made us and everything else that we need. Wherever you look, whether you look at the trees, the birds, the sand, the skies, the bees, everything in this earth is tied together in a system that makes this planet liveable for us. Everything that has been created by Allah, directly or indirectly, it is serving us.

And we have been created for the service of Allah. He made all of this for us and he made us for Him.

Then He directed Himself to the heaven, [His being above all creation], and made them seven heavens, and He is Knowing of all things.

The name Of Allah Aleem is being mentioned here. All of this has been made by Allah for us, so use it but don't forget the favour of your Lord.

