

## Surat Yaasin verses 45 - 46

### *Learning Objectives*

To reflect on verses 45 and 46 of Surat Yaasin and understand:

- the attitude and mockery of disbelievers when invited to the truth
- our own response to the communication we receive from Allah
- arrogance as a spiritual disease totally disliked by Allah (swt)

### The attitude of the disbelievers

{45} وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّقُوا مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَمَا خَلْفَكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

*“And when it is said to them: Guard against what is before you and what is behind you, that mercy may be had on you.”*

{46} وَمَا تَأْتِيهِمْ مِنْ آيَةٍ مِنْ آيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَّا كَانُوا عَنْهَا مُعْرِضِينَ

*“And there comes not to them a communication of the communications of their Lord but they turn aside from it.” [Communications=signs of Allah]*

Following the verses 33-44, where Allah (swt) describes the various signs of Allah (ayat), Allah then describes the attitude of the disbelievers in verse 45-47 and we will look at the first two verses in this lesson.

Allah had always admonished man to reflect upon his past, know its consequences, and beware of the future so as not to commit the same mistakes which bring destruction. When this is done sincerely, Allah also turns merciful to him. Not only the past is forgiven, but the strength to amend his life in future is given.

Another reason of verse 45 is also given that “what is before you” indicates the present sins and “what is behind you” means the past sins. Another meaning of “what is before you” is the Day of Judgement and “what is behind you” is what happens to us in this world

In verse 46 Allah (swt) indicates the arrogance of the disbelievers when no message, be it glad tidings or warnings, have any impact on them. Despite having been shown some clear signs of Allah (swt) in previous verses of this surah (33-44) they stand firm in their stubbornness by rejecting everything. They accept neither the logic of intellect nor the command of sympathy and nature. They are like some blind persons who do not see the nearest things around them and do not differ between the light of the sun and the darkness of the night

Indeed, arrogance is one of the greatest spiritual diseases and in Sura Al A'araaf verse 36 Allah (swt) says:

وَالَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا عَنْهَا أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

*“And (as for) those who reject Our communications and turn away from them haughtily (arrogantly) - these are the inmates of the fire they shall abide in it.”*

In Sura Al-Jathiyaa verse 7 and 8 Allah (swt) says:

{7} وَيَلِكُلْ أَعْيُنُكُمْ وَأَلْهَىٰ قُلُوبَكُمْ وَإِنَّكُمْ لَفِي غَافِلَاتٍ  
{8} يَسْمَعُ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِ ثُمَّ يُصِرُّ مُسْتَكْبِرًا كَأَن لَّمْ يَسْمَعْهَا فَبَشِيرُهُ بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ

**Woe to every sinful liar (7), Who hears the communications of Allah recited to him, then persists proudly as though he had not heard them; so announce to him a painful punishment (8).**

In hadith we have:

**“The worst of morals is arrogance.”** Ghurar Al-Hikam (Hadith 8575)

**“Arrogance is the basis of ruin.”** Ghurar Al-Hikam (Hadith 8566)

#### **Discussion/Reflection points:**

- What would be the reasons for the stubbornness of the disbelievers in accepting the message of Islam? (e.g. social status, family legacy/'pressures', cultural/historical factors etc)
- Would we have responded any different with the same reasons as discussed above? For example, if we are advised of an Islamic ruling that was 'difficult' to follow – how would we respond?
- If we, as Muslims today, knowingly don't follow teachings of Islam as taught by Quran and Ahlul Bayt (AS) is that maybe not like the people in verse 46?
- In verse 45 Allah (swt) invites us to reflect on our past to better our future – discuss how we can use this “motto” in our day to day life to continuously grow as a person. *(Some of the best lessons we ever learn are learned from past mistakes. The error of the past is the wisdom and success of the future. Dale Turner)*
- Who did act with arrogance and pride and his long obedience to Allah (swt) was rejected? Include in your discussion how quantity is not the key but the quality of the worship.
- Why is arrogance a destructive spiritual disease? What are the possible manifestations in our behaviour when we act with arrogance? (sense of superiority, better than others, patronising, ego, seeking attention etc). What could be the impact towards fellow human being and in society in general?

#### **Activity ideas:**

- In groups of 3-4 students, discuss/debate the reflection points and list the possible answers.
- Alternatively, have each group take one of the points in the reflection points above and present a 2-3 minute response to the class.

#### **Reference:**

<https://www.al-islam.org/enlightening-commentary-light-holy-quran-vol-15/section-3-allahs-bounties-signs-guidance-mankind>

<https://www.al-islam.org/the-heart-of-the-quran-commentary-of-sura-yasin-ayatullah-dastaghaib>

<http://hadith.academyofislam.org>

Maulana Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IuXQIZodaU&t=1042s>