

Surat Yaasin verse 55-58

Learning Objectives

To reflect on verse 55-58 of Surat Yaasin and understand:

- Some of the bounties for the dwellers of Paradise
- Peace (Salaam) being the main address from your Lord

The dwellers of Paradise!

نَّ أَصْحَابِ الْجَنَّةِ الْيَوْمَ فِي شُغْلٍ فَاكِهُونَ {55}

Surely the dwellers of the garden shall on that day be in an occupation quite happy.

هُمُ وَأَزْوَاجُهُمْ فِي ظِلَالٍ عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ مُتَكِنُونَ {56}

They and their spouses shall be in shades, reclining on raised couches.

لَهُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَلَهُمْ مَا يَدَّعُونَ {57}

They shall have fruits therein, and they shall have whatever they desire.

سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِنْ رَبِّ رَحِيمٍ {58}

Peace: a word from a Merciful Lord.

In Paradise, there will be life without death, health with no sickness, youth with no senility, honour with no disgrace, favour with no indebtedness, permanence with no distraction, joy with no wrath, and intimate ease with no fear. Moreover, in Paradise there will be received a consent and a significant greeting from the side of Allah.

In verse 55 Allah (swt) refers to the part of the rewards of the believers and, before anything else, emphasizes on the peace of mind when it says the dwellers of paradise will be quite happy.

They are busy with the bounties of Allah and are aloof from any annoying thought, so they will be in the utmost joy and happiness.

However, next to the peace of mind which is the source of all bounties, and it is the condition of using all merits, it refers to the explanation of other bounties.

So in verse 56 It says: "They and their spouses shall be in the shades, reclining on raised coaches;"

The Arabic term /'azwaj/ here means 'the heavenly spouses', or it means the faithful spouse whom they had in this world.

Shades refers to the shades of the trees in Paradise amidst which the thrones of the people of Heaven have been erected. Or it refers to the shades of the castles in Paradise. All of these show that there is sunshine there, too; but there is not a tormenting sunshine. Yes, they have some other kind of pleasure and happiness under the pleasant shades of the Heavenly trees. In addition to that, the verse says:

"They shall have fruits therein, and they shall have whatever they desire."

It is clearly understood from other verses of the Qur'an that the food of the people of Paradise is not only fruits, but the abovementioned verse shows that the best food of the people of Heaven is fruit, the special fruits which are completely different from the fruits of this world. And, even in this world, according to the confession of the specialists of nutriment, fruits are the best and the most suitable nutriment for man. Whatever they demand and desire it will be available for them, and they will not have any wish which will not be done for them.

And thus, whatever today man may think of and whatever does not come into his mind from among the kinds of merits and the bounties, they will be available and prepared there, and the entertainment of Allah from His guests will be done in the highest possible level.

But, the most important of all are the spiritual merits which are referred to in the last verse of the verses under discussion. It says:

“‘Peace’: is the word from a Merciful Lord (for them).”

This enlivening and pleasant call, which is full of His love and affection, attracts the man's attention to itself so deeply, and gives him joy, happiness and spirituality, that does not match any other bounty. Yes hearing the call of the beloved one, is a call filled with love and mixed with grace which causes the people of Paradise to be thoroughly rejoicing, a moment of which is superior to the whole world and whatever exists in it.

A tradition narrated from the Prophet of Islam (S) indicates that he said:

“While the people of Paradise are busy enjoying the bounties of Heaven there will appear a light above them. This is the light of Allah which is cast upon them and at the same time a call will be heard saying: ‘Peace and greeting on you, O’ the people of Paradise!’

And this is the same thing which has been mentioned in the Qur'an. It is here that the view of Allah attracts them so strongly that they neglect His all other things and, in that state, they forget the whole bounties of Paradise. It is here that the angels come out from every door and say: ‘Peace upon you’.

Briefly speaking, there will be heard there neither a vain word nor a sinful thing. There will be only ‘peace’ and ‘peace’. Of course, it is not a greeting in mere pronunciation, but it is a greeting the effect of which penetrates in the depth of man's soul and makes it thoroughly full of tranquillity, peace, and health.

Important Lessons:

- In paradise the main state of a person is that of ‘happiness’ and ‘peace of mind’
- There will be a ‘family’ structure in paradise as indicated by the verse that says a believer will rejoice the bounties with their spouse
- There will be heavenly food – the best will be fruits (which even in this world is considered very beneficial for human beings)
- Whatever a person will desire will be granted
- But the greatest bounty will be when the Lord will address the believer with ‘Salaam’ (peace)

Discussion/Reflection points:

- Why is ‘peace of mind’ an important state for us to be in?
- The heavenly food – will it be same as in this world you think?
- What does it mean whatever a person will desire will be granted? What if we desire ‘evil’ in paradise (evil desire is of course not possible in paradise as people of paradise will be cleansed of all evil)?

Activity ideas:

- Discuss in groups how peace of mind can be achieved in this world. Can it be achieved? Are there limitations?
- Come up with one action point each that will help you develop peace of mind in this world and also contribute to you working towards paradise and achieving an eternal peace of mind.

Reference:

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

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