

Surat Yaasin verse 59-62

Learning Objectives

To reflect on verse 59-62 of Surat Yaasin and understand:

- Separation of the 'guilty ones' from the righteous ones on the Day of Judgement
- Shaitan – the open enemy of mankind whose only aim is to misguide mankind
- Allah (swt) will remind us that He did warn us not to serve Shaitan
- Only Allah (swt) is worthy of being served

Shaitan – the enemy of mankind!

{59} *وَأَمَّا تَزُوا الْيَوْمَ أَيُّهَا الْمُجْرِمُونَ*

And get aside today, O guilty ones!

{60} *أَلَمْ أَعْهَدْ لَكُمْ يَا بَنِي آدَمَ أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا الشَّيْطَانَ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ*

Did I not charge you, O children of Adam ! that you should not serve the Shaitan? Surely he is your open enemy,

{61} *وَأَنْ اعْبُدُونِي هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ*

And that you should serve Me; this is the right way.

{62} *وَلَقَدْ أَضَلَّ مِنْكُمْ جِبِلًّا كَثِيرًا أَفَلَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْقِلُونَ*

And certainly, he led astray numerous people from among you. What! could you not then understand?

The separation of the guilty ones from the righteous ones is according to the law of Divine Justice Who said that the faithful and the pagan are not equal. The Qur'an says:

"Is he then who is a believer like him who is a transgressor? They are not equal." (Surah As-Sajdah, v 18)

In the verses under discussion, a short part of the fate of the hellish people and the followers of Satan is referred to. The first is that the Qur'an implies that, on that Day, with a contemptuous tone, it will be said to the guilty ones to get aloof from the believers. The Qur'an says:

"And (they will be told) get you aside this day O' you the guilty ones!"

This is, in fact, the actualization of the promise of Allah that in Surah Sad, No. 38, verse 28 He says:

"Shall We treat those who believe and do good like the mischief-makers in the earth? Or shall We make the pious ones like the wicked?"

However, the apparent of the verse under discussion refers to the separation of the rows of the guilty from those of the believers, though the commentators have delivered some other probabilities, among them is the separation of the rows of the guilty from each other, and every group of them will be in a definite line.

The next verse refers to the expressive rebukes and blames of Allah unto the sinners on the Day of Hereafter and says:

“Did I not make covenant with you, O’ children of Adam, that you should not serve the Satan, verily he is a manifest foe to you;”

This Divine covenant has been taken from man in different ways, and He has repeatedly mentioned this matter to him. For example, Allah (swt) says in Surah Al-’A’raf, verse 27:

“O’ children of Adam! Let not Satan seduce you as he expelled your parents from the Garden, stripping them both of their clothing that he might expose unto them their shameful parts. Surely he sees you, he and his tribe, from where you do not see them. We have made the Satans the friends of those who do not believe.”

In a narration from Imam Sadiq (as) we have:

“Whoever obeys a person in committing a sin, he has worshipped him.” (Wasa’il, Vol. 18, P. 91)

In another tradition Imam Baqir (as) said:

“Whoever listens to a speaker (and accepts his statement) he has worshipped him. If the speaker reiterates the ordinance of Allah, he has worshipped Him, but if the speaker speaks from the side of Satan, he has worshipped Satan.” (Wasa’il, Vol. 18, P. 91)

In the third verse, for more emphasis and stating the duty of the children of Adam, it says:

“And that you should serve Me? This is the straight path.”

From one side, He has taken covenant from men that they should not obey Satan, because he has proved his enmity and hatred from the first day. Which wise person follows the command of his ancient and manifest foe? And in the opposite side, He has taken covenant that he obeys Him and He has defined its reason by saying:

“This is the straight path.”

When it happens that a person finds himself in the middle of a dry and hot desert and sees his soul, his wife and children, as well as his wealth, in the danger of the thieves and wolves, the most important thing he may think of, as finding the straight way toward the destination, a way which can lead him easier and sooner to the point of safety.

Again, for being more acquainted with this clear dangerous enemy, in the fourth verse, it says:

“And yet he has led astray a great number of you. Did you not then understand?”

Do you not see that how many miseries Satan has provided for his followers? Have you not studied the history of the ancient nations to see how painful and evil fates his followers had? The ruins of their afflicted cities are in front of your eyes; and their sorrowful end is clear for anyone who has the least understanding and thought.

Then, why do not you take earnest the enmity of the one who has repeatedly shown the examination of his enmity? You make friends with him again, and, even, you choose him as your own leader and as your own friend.

As Amir-ul-Mu’mineen Ali (as), in one of his sermons (no 192), addressing people, attracts their attention to this fact by saying:

“Therefore, O’ the servants of Allah! You should fear lest Satan infects you with his disease (pride), or leads you astray through his call, or marches on you with his horsemen and foot-men, because, by my life, he has put the (dangerous) arrow in the bow for you, has stretched the bow very strongly, and has aimed at you from a nearby position, and he (Satan) said:

'O' Lord! Because you have left me to stray, certainly I will adorn (evil) to them on the earth, and certainly I will cause them all to go astray'." (Qur'an, 15:39)

Important Lessons:

- On the Day of Judgement, the guilty ones will be separated from the righteous – indeed both cannot be the same!
- Shaitan is our open enemy whose only aim is to misguide mankind from the right path
- Allah (swt) in Quran has warned us repeatedly that we should not follow in the footsteps of Shaitan – no wise person would follow someone that is a sworn enemy of mankind
- We must only serve Allah (swt)! That is the only path to ultimate success

Discussion/Reflection points:

- How did Shaitan become the sworn enemy of mankind? (discuss e.g. the creation of Adam and Shaitan's refusal to prostrate and the underlying reasons)
- In our lives, how does 'following the footsteps of Shaitan' manifest itself? (discuss e.g. our adherence to the obligations of our faith or sometimes lack of)

Activity ideas:

- Draw a straight path on a piece of paper and write 4-5 elements in your personal life today that help you stay on that straight path. Outside of that path, write challenges that you face that are, in some ways, Shaytan trying to drive you astray and deviate you from your goal. What tools do you have to remain steadfast?

Reference:

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

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Maulana Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epOJPEwTk_k&list=PL86DY_kRm-OfGPhQ1vKJ6sfFmSJmDbcDK&index=2