

Surat Yaasin verse 63-65

Learning Objectives

To reflect on verse 63-65 of Surat Yaasin and understand:

- The Hell is a Promise from Allah (swt) for the guilty ones
- On that Day, a person will witness against himself as there will be nothing but truth

Oh mankind – you will witness over yourself and what you have earned!

هَذِهِ جَهَنَّمُ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ {63}

This is the hell with which you were promised.

اصْلَوْهَا الْيَوْمَ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَكْفُرُونَ {64}

Enter into it this day because you disbelieved.

الْيَوْمَ نَخْتِمُ عَلَىٰ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَتُكَلِّمُنَا أَيْدِيهِمْ وَتَشْهَدُ أَرْجُلُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ {65}

On that day We will set a seal upon their mouths, and their hands shall speak to Us, and their feet shall bear witness of what they earned.

Allah has completed the argument to the hellish people and has constantly conveyed the danger of Hell to them. Yes, on that day, while the blazing and flaming Fire of Hell is in front of the eyes of the wrong-doers, pointing to it, He addresses the guilty and says:

“This is the Hell which you were promised.”

One after another the Divine prophets came and made you avoid such a Fire on such a Day, but you mocked them all. So, in the next verse, it implicitly says: you should enter it and burn by its blazing Fire, because this is the fruit of the rejection you used to have. It says:

“Enter you into it today for what you were disbelieving.”

The mention of the head and of the feet in verse 65, are as an example, because in other verses of the Qur’an we recite that, the ear, the eye, and the heart will be questioned of, too, and even the skin will bear witness. In this verse, the Qur’an hints to the witnesses on the Day of Hereafter. These are some witnesses that are as parts of the man’s body and there is no room for denying their words. It says:

“Today we set a seal on their mouths, and their hands speak to Us, and their feet bear witness as to what they have been earning.”

Yes, on that Day the man’s limbs are not submitted to his wishes any more. They will separate their account from the entire entity of man and will submit to Allah and obey Him only, the Sacred Essence and by their witness they make the facts manifest. What a wonderful court it is, where its witnesses are the limbs of the man’s body. They are the means by which they have committed the sins.

Surah An-Nur, No. 24, verse 24 says:

“On the day when their tongues and their hands and their feet testify against them as to what they used to do.”

This point is also noteworthy that in one place the Qur'an says 'their tongues testify' (like Surah An-Nur), and in the verse under discussion He says:

"...We set a seal on their mouths."

This meaning may be for the sake that at first on the man's tongue will be set a seal and his limbs will begin to bear witness. When he sees the witness of the limbs, his tongue will start speaking, and since there is no room for denials the tongue will confess the truth, too. There is also this probability that the objective meaning of the witness of the tongue is not the ordinary speaking, but it is a speech like the speech of other limbs which comes from its inside not from its outside.

The final word is that the witness of the limbs is about the pagans and sinners; otherwise, the account of the believers is clear.

Imam Baqir (as) in a tradition says:

"The limbs of a believer do not testify against him, but they testify against the one on whom the command of punishment has been decreed. As for the believer, his record (of deeds) will be given to his right hand, (and he will recite it himself), as Allah has said: '... then whoever is given his book in his right hand, then these will read their book (joyfully) and they will not be treated unjustly in the least.'" (Tafsir-us-Safi, under the verse; verse 7 from Surah Isra', No. 17)

Important Lessons:

- Hell is a promise from Allah (swt) to the guilty ones – those that rejected arrogantly the invitation to the right path
- On that Day, our own body parts may witness against ourselves if we are amongst the guilty ones
- There will be NO room for excuses or blaming others – we will only be able to speak the truth
- Therefore, there is no injustice on that Day – we will be our own judge!

Discussion/Reflection points:

- How should we understand that we will witness against our oneself? (e.g. we could relate to in this world how our own conscious 'bites' us when we do something wrong – expand on this topic)

Activity ideas:

- In pairs, take note of 4-5 different parts of your body. Write examples of how each part of your body can testify against you on the Day of Judgment. Share these examples with the class. As a class, discuss a 'daily checklist' that you can mentally keep to ensure that your body parts do not turn against you on the Day of Judgment

Reference:

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

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<http://hadith.academyofislam.org>

Maulana Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epOJPEwTk_k&list=PL86DY_kRm-OfGPhQ1vKJ6sfFmSJMdbcDK&index=2