

Sulaiman was grateful to Allah and Allah increase him. When blessings came to him- he understood it was a test of gratitude from Allah. When the throne came, he wanted to test the intellect of Bilqis- how can she worship the sun? Despite the disguise, would she be guided to recognize it or not? The key word is- اتهدى.

In ayah 24, Allah tells us that Shaithan their actions and turned them away from الله لا اله الا الله which is our fitrah.

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ - رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ - قَالَ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " كُلُّ مَوْلُودٍ يُوَلَّدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ، فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ يُنَصِّرَانِهِ أَوْ يمجِّسانِهِ،

Narrated Abu Huraira: The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Every child is born with a true faith of Islam (i.e. to worship none but Allah Alone) and his parents convert him to Judaism or Christianity or Magianism, [Sahih al-Bukhari 1385]

We all have our capital inside us, our fitrah which is to believe in Allah but it can be affected by our environment.

The test for Bilqis is whether she will be guided or will she deny. This test shows who is worthy of guidance- is her mind guiding her to the truth? Our fitrah is لا اله الا الله but despite the changes, will she be guided to the truth or not?

Allah gave us our fitrah, but despite Shaithan's beautifying and influence from our parents- our test is whether we can recognize the truth or not.

فَلَمَّا جَاءَتْ قِيلَ أَهَكَذَا عَرْشُكِ قَالَتْ كَأَنَّهُ هُوَ وَأُوتِينَا الْعِلْمَ مِنْ قَبْلِهَا وَكُنَّا مُسْلِمِينَ ۚ

So when she arrived, it was said [to her], "Is your throne like this?" She said, "[It is] as though it was it." [Solomon said], "And we were given knowledge before her, and we have been Muslims [in submission to Allah ].

فَلَمَّا جَاءَتْ

Bilqis came from Saba to Sulaiman because she didn't want to be driven our humiliated. It is better to respond willingly than to be driven out.

قِيلَ أَهَكَذَا عَرْشُكِ

This is the test- It was said to her- 'Is this like your throne?'. It is not important who asked her but what is important is what is being said. When she came, they showed her the disguised throne. Imagine, she left her throne behind but when she came to Sulaiman her

disguised throne was displayed to her. It was known that she had a great throne which was fixed and established.

The posed the question in such a way that they were not lying- 'Is this like your throne?'

She can see it is not her throne but she cannot say that it is not her throne. She cannot say yes nor can she say no- so what is the best way to answer?

قَالَتْ كَأَنَّهُ هُوَ

"It is like this"- her answer was smart. She is not hasty. She didn't say "Yes, it is" because the throne was disguised. Her reaction was very balanced, showing she is intelligent and under control. Most of us tend to overreact in situations, especially us women.

She didn't say "No, it is not" because she recognized it. It is teaching us that we should think before speaking and control our emotions before responding. It shows us she is not ruled by her emotions and her response is befitting a Queen.

These ayat teach us how men and women should be in a civilization. The women mentioned in this surah is Bilqis and the ant- both had balanced reactions and their speech was concise and to the point.

Bilqis passed this test from Sulaiman. She didn't say yes or no nor overreact- she was honest. Her response was also royal. She said it in a way- 'it is possible, it looks like it- maybe yes, maybe not.' She was diplomatic in her answer. When she answers this answer, who was amazed with her? Sulaiman. She had a sense of guidance. Sulaiman was amazed by her reaction, intellect and her guidance. Her reaction was balanced. Everybody else was also listening. What was the reaction of Sulaiman?

وَأُوْتِينَا الْعِلْمَ مِنْ قَبْلِهَا وَكُنَّا مُسْلِمِينَ

He appreciated what Allah gave him and didn't forget it. What is the blessing Allah gave him? Knowledge and Islam. Especially divine knowledge about Allah. Sometimes when you see are amazed with someone else, we tend to forget what Allah gave us and focus on the blessings on the other. But the reaction of Sulaiman was amazing. He appreciated what Allah gave him more than anyone else. When you look at someone else, you need to appreciate what Allah gave you. Similar to when he saw the ant speaking- he smiled and then straight away made dua Allah to make him grateful. Don't overreact with what others have- what you have in your home is better than what others have so we need to appreciate it. He was not amazed with her when she sent him gift nor with her intelligence. His reaction was not out of pride but out of gratitude.

“And we were Muslims”- this is the biggest guidance- to be guided to Allah; the Lord go the Great Throne. He said this in front of the chiefs because they can also be amazed and diverted to her. He wanted to have that control of the people under him and didn't want them to lose focus- don't be amazed with this because Allah gave us more than her.

**May Allah make us grateful to appreciate what Allah gave us and not look at what others have. Ameen**