

# The Fortress

20 ربيع الآخر 1439  
7.1.18

سورة الحجر



And that it is My  
punishment which  
is the painful  
punishment.

وَأَنَّ عَذَابِي هُوَ الْعَذَابُ الْأَلِيمُ

Allaah protects the deen by telling us the story of Iblees and Adam عليه السلام. What is the protection? Ikhlas. Your sincerity is your protection from the shaitan; he cannot whisper to you because of your ikhlas. The shaitan has more power over the own who does shirk, even in the form of riyah, seeking the praise of people. You notice yourself being able to sometimes easily shake the shaitan off, and at other times, you struggle to, and slip; this depends on your ikhlas in that particular deed.

As soon as the ikhlas goes, the shaitan steps in. The ones with ikhlas are the most balanced people. They don't care whether the people are praising or maligning them. Ikhlas is not easy, it needs a lot of struggle. The one without ikhlas will see the one with ikhlas as unbalanced.

The minimum requirement from you is that you don't do shirk, this is the obligatory; after this is the hellfire. Even an atom of shirk will destroy everything. A sinner who doesn't commit shirk may be forgiven by Allah. The one with ikhlas will be guided by Allah; the one who does shirk will follow the shaitan.

وَأَنَّ عَذَابِي هُوَ الْعَذَابُ الْأَلِيمُ

توكيد

المتكلم انا

عذاب

عذب

سأنع

ترك الاكل من شدة العطش

كف عنه و تركه

عاقبه

ضيق عليهم و حرهم من ارزاقهم

Ayaat 49  
and 50  
should be  
taken  
together, or  
there will  
be  
imbalance.  
Allah is the  
Most  
Merciful,  
the Oft  
Forgiving, but His punishment is the most painful too.  
Keep yourself between these two Ayaat; this will keep you on the straight and narrow.

It is a great blessing that we have the Qura'an, the manual, which we can follow with certainty. The believer

will not be shocked by the situations on the Day of Judgement, because he already knows it all through the Qura'an. The shaitan will come on the Day of Judgement so regretful. What is the only wish of the dead? That they can come back to life, and do good deeds. The believer knows that he cannot do anything once he is dead, so he works hard in his lifespan, accumulating good deeds.

The word عذاب has several meanings. The root of the word is عَذَبَ. It means :

The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said :

قال الله تعالى: يا ابن آدم، إنك ما دعوتني ورجوتني غفرت لك على ما كان منك ولا أبالي، يا ابن آدم، لو بلغت ذنوبك عنان السماء، ثم استغفرتني غفرت لك، يا ابن آدم، إنك لو أتيتني بقراب الأرض خطايا، ثم لقيتني لا تشرك به شيئاً، لأتيتك بقرابها مغفرة

Allah, the Exalted, has said: O son of adam, I forgive you as long as you pray to Me and hope for My forgiveness, whatever sins you have committed. O son of 'Adam, I do not care if your sins reach the height of the heaven, then you ask for my forgiveness, I would forgive you. O son of 'Adam, if you come to Me with an earth load of sins, and meet Me associating nothing to Me, I would match it with an earth load of forgiveness.

رواه الترمذي، رياض الصالحين، كتاب #1، حديث #442

- ◆ Pure
- ◆ To be unable to eat because of intense thirst
- ◆ Stop and abandon
- ◆ Punishment
- ◆ Tighten and deprive of provision

Allah uses the word عذابي, not عذابنا, making this a very personal message. Allah is talking to you directly. The punishment of Allah is a restricted attribute. The punishment of Allah is a painful torture. You think the mushrikeen are happy and successful, but in actual fact they are in a painful punishment. They are punished by a mental torture, through the dunya : their children, their wealth, whatever they are attached to. Mental stress is a torture, obsessions, attachments, are a torture. The more they indulge, the more they are tortured.

It was salvation for Yusuf عليه السلام to go to prison, rather than have to interact with the ladies of the city of Egypt, who were bent upon seducing him; this was a stress for him. In the same way, it was salvation for Eisa عليه السلام to be raised to Allah.

Before the punishment, there are warning signs. The shirk is a killer; if you die in this state, all your deeds are zero. The real torture is shirk. It is like a free-fall from the sky, being pecked by birds, being swept away by winds, into an abyss.

وَإِذْ قَالَ لُقْمَانُ لِابْنِهِ وَهُوَ  
يُعِظُهُ يَا بَنِيَّ لَا تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ  
الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ

And [mention, O

Muhammad], when Luqman said to his son while he was instructing him, "O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah . Indeed, association [with him] is great injustice."

سورة لقمان

31:13