

سورة المؤمنون



The Believers

A Visionary Journey to

Al-Firdaus Al-A'la

28 ذو الحجة 1439
8.2.18

The word Allah uses for the mu'minoon is أفلح. This shows they are working hard to grow the tree of their faith, clearing the soil, planting the seed, watering it, caring for it, until it becomes a strong and tall tree.

The central part of the believers themselves, the state of their hearts, is very high, aspiring to Al-Firdaus. Allah has revealed the hidden secrets of their hearts for us, as this will inspire us.

It's not about running physically, it's about the heart running to Allah. When you run after dunya, with no faith, you are tiring yourself uselessly. Your motive is what is important. These hidden aspects of the hearts of the believers will surely take them to Al-Firdaus. This is evidence that the Qura'an is a revelation from Allah.

The disbelievers run for dunya, and claim that the blessings of dunya equate success. They feel secure in their worldly success, and rejoice in them. The believers are the opposite. They do good deeds, while their hearts are afraid that they won't be accepted from them.

The first group, the disbelievers, are doing evil deeds, and are feeling secure and happy. The second group, the believers, are doing good deeds, while being fearful.

Their fear is mentioned by Allah in noun form. The word مُشْفِقُونَ is derived from the word اشْفَقَ, to feel abject and apprehensive. The شَفَقَ is the rosy blush in the sky before dawn. The believers are apprehensive and piteous, they don't know what will happen to them. They pity themselves, because they know Allah, and fear His Majesty. The more knowledge you have of Allah, the more you will fear Him.

This is a praised and correct fear. They attribute all the situations they encounter to the nurturing of Allah. They are afraid that they will never be able to justice to the worship of Allah, that their faith will be removed, that their deeds will be rejected, and that they are sinners. These are the feelings which the believers have in their hearts all the time.

Their motivation is the ayaat of Allah, which recharge their faith. This is in the verb form, with the word يُؤْمِنُونَ, because faith has to be renewed all the time. They take all the آيات كونية وشرعية, the universal signs, such as the sun and moon, and the legislative signs, such as the Qura'an, accept them, and submit to them. They benefit from all the signs, increasing and renewing their faith. This is why they are الَّذِينَ يَرْتُونَ الْفُرْدُوسَ, those who will inherit Al-Firdaus. They knew that the ayaat are nurturing and uplifting them. If you use all the opportunities to be nurtured, you will be reformed to go to Al-Firdaus. Not everyone gets this direction.

The believers don't commit any kind of shirk, whether major or minor, hidden or apparent. They are continuously scrubbing and cleaning their hearts, all the time renewing their faith. All the deeds are from Allah, and are returned to Allah. He is the One who gives the means, and He accepts them from you. This needs a continuous struggle. This is Deen 101 - don't commit shirk. This is a basic tenet, essential at all levels of faith.

The productivity of the believers is mentioned next. After the faith is established, they produce actions, good deeds, in any form, whether it is sadaqah, talking, advising, smiling. This is not restricted to any specific action. Everyone can do whatever their strength is. Everyone can be a part of giving back. Only taking from society will give rise to greed. The more you give, the more you are purified.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ هُمْ مِنْ خَشْيَةِ رَبِّهِمْ
مُشْفِقُونَ

Indeed, they who are apprehensive from fear of their Lord

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ يُؤْمِنُونَ
And they who believe in the signs of their Lord

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ بِرَبِّهِمْ لَا يُشْرِكُونَ

And they who do not associate anything with their Lord

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْتُونَ مَا آتَوْا وَقُلُوبُهُمْ
وَجِلَةٌ أَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ رَاجِعُونَ

And they who give what they give while their hearts are fearful because they will be returning to their Lord

أُولَٰئِكَ يُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَهُمْ
لَهَا سَابِقُونَ

It is those who hasten to good deeds, and they outstrip [others] therein

وَلَا نَكْلِفُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا وَلِدِينَا
كِتَابٌ يَنْطِقُ بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ لَا
يُظْلَمُونَ

And We charge no soul except [with that within] its capacity, and with Us is a record which speaks with truth; and they will not be wronged

23:57-62

While they are performing good deeds, what is the state of their hearts? They are not rejoicing. Their hearts are terrified, humble to Allah. They fear the greatness of Allah. They don't ascribe purity to themselves. They are always giving in some way or the other, at the same time, feeling it is inadequate. They know without a doubt that they will return to Allah one day.

Allah doesn't need anything from us. This is a favour of Allah upon us, that He gives us a chance to give for His sake, and accepts our minuscule, imperfect efforts, and even multiplies the reward for us. Your praying and fasting doesn't add anything to the dominion of Allah. With Allah, your feelings, devotion and your heart are what are important.

The believers run with their hearts and limbs to do good deeds. All their goals are directed to one channel, towards Allah. When you concentrate in one direction, you can put all your efforts to this point. Before producing good deeds, you must go through the process of recharging the faith and purifying the heart. You must set up the system in your heart. These are the ones who will be ahead of everyone else.

Sometimes we spend without thinking when it is on something which we desire, so why do we have to give so much thought to spending in the way of Allah? Don't give a good deed any thought, just jump at the chance. Don't sit and wait, grasp the chance. These are the believers, charging forward, being foremost. They are immersed in the pool of good deeds, swimming in it. One good deed leads to another.

Their target is very clear, so they run to achieve it. This shows their persistence and determination. They don't compete with each other, they compete with themselves to do more and more. We must be so grateful to Allah that we have the Qura'an in our lives, we can learn and read it. It is the best, it is كلام الله. With time, Allah brings different worships to you. He will use the decree to extract some form of worship from you. But this is according to your ability and capability. It will be challenging, but not impossible. Allah wants everyone to go to Him, so He makes it easy.

Whatever happens is according to what is recorded, intricately and in great detail, in the Preserved Tablets. It is as if the Preserved Tablets are narrating what is happening. Everyone is welcome to participate in the marathon.