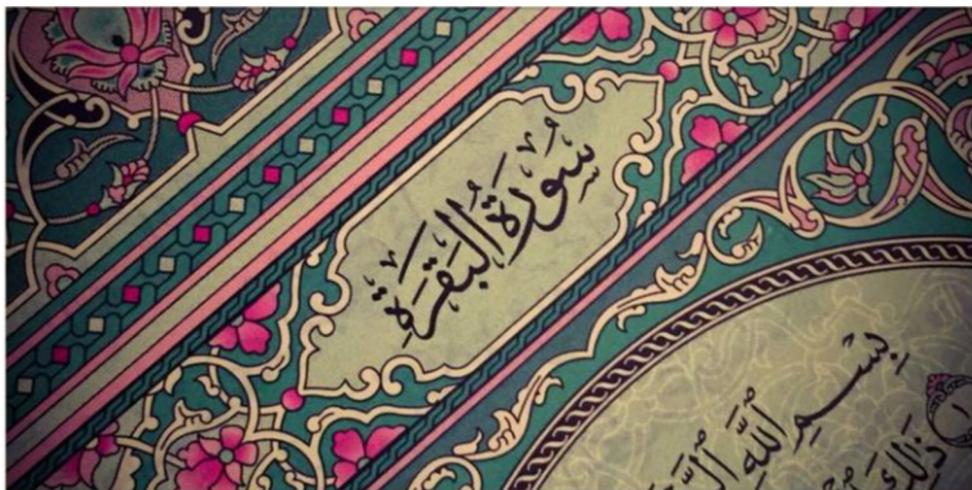


# Al-Baqarah

9 جمادي الأولى 1440

15.1.19



The word النفقة refers to anything you spend in the name of Allah. There are several parables given to emphasize the نفقة. Think of your good deeds as if you are planting seeds. One good deed can be equal to 700 or more. Some people can even grow gardens of their good deeds.

The focus is your heart when you are doing the good deeds. You must strive to achieve the pleasure of Allah, be self-motivated and determined, not needing any outer encouragement. This is like a garden atop a hill, which has an ample water supply, so it is self-sustainable.

All the warnings that Allah gives us are ihsan, for our own benefit, otherwise we would be out of control. Don't think badly about Allah, He loves you, and cares about you. The warnings keep you on the straight path.

The work of years can be destroyed with a single tornado. You must preserve your good deeds, don't be careless about them. To lose something which you had is more painful than not having it in the first place.

Whenever Allah presents a parable, the people divide into believers and disbelievers. The believers will not speak and object, they will accept everything that Allah says as the truth. The disbelievers will speak and question, saying ماذا أراد الله بهذا مثلا, what does Allah want by these parables. They go beyond their boundaries. So the parables distinguish between believers and disbelievers.

One of the things which can act like a tornado is the tongue. One word can spoil the relationships of decades. You must take things in life with acceptance, this will make it easier.

The parables aim to upgrade your thinking. They make intangible concepts easier to understand, by giving them tangible form. The parable has two parts, a tangible picture and an abstract concept.

الصورة الحسية

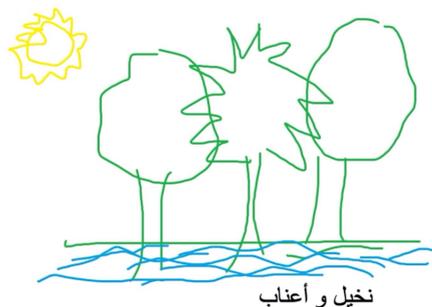
مشهد ثاني

مشهد اول

This parable is a story, a scenario. The first scene is very beautiful and positive. Allah uses a different approach, of questioning, to attract us to this scene. Allah puts forward a question to make people think. This is a high level of preaching. The ball is in your court, do any of you want this kind of garden? The decision is yours. Do you want it? Then work for it.

A garden requires hard work. You need to plant the seeds, water them, weed the field, trim the greenery, etc. A جنة is a dense garden, with abundant trees, the branches of which meet overhead, giving forth a cool shade.

Allah also mentions the trees in this special garden, date palms and grape vines. These two are the best kinds of green growth. The date palm can

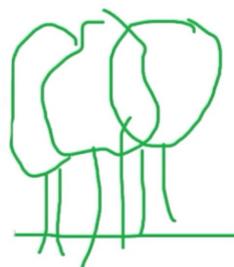


ود

أيود أحدكم

أن تكون له جنة  
من نخيل و أعناب

تجري من تحتها الانهار  
له فيها من كل الثمرات



survive in the most adverse of conditions, in the arid desert, with very little water. All its parts can be used beneficially. It is like a believer, so firm and upright, beneficial to everyone. Grape vines are so beautiful, and the bunches of grapes are so aesthetically formed, looking so good hanging from the vines and also when arranged in a platter. Both dates and grapes are deliciously sweet, and well as pleasing to the eyes. These fruits are mostly found in the Mediterranean region, the prime location.

There are more details of this garden given by Allah. It has rivers running beneath it, so it as a sustainable water supply. It also has all kinds of fruit.

The problem is that we take blessings for granted, and forget to be grateful. The feeling of gratitude must be constantly activated in your heart, not on pause or snooze. The blessings come with trials and struggles, which can make you ungrateful.

The second scene is very disturbing. While you have youth, health and strength, you can take care of your garden yourself, but as you grow older, you have less energy, and need support. You must plan ahead for when you are weaker. Think of someone who can take care of your garden.

The man mentioned in the parable grows old, and feeble, and his children cannot support him, either because they are small and weak, or because they don't have the skills. He can see his children suffering, but he can't help them, and this is an added burden for the man.

The situation worsens; a fire tornado approaches the garden; not just gale force winds, but also a fire, so that it burns everything it engulfs. The word **إعصار** comes from **عَصَرَ**, to squeeze. The tornado engulfs and squeezes and uproots; a fire tornado additionally burns everything it surrounds, completely destroying everything.

The owner himself is to blame for his ordeal.

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وأصابه الكبر

وله ذرية ضعفاء

فأصابها إعصار فيه نار فاحترقت