

سورة الفرقان

The Criterion

Class 33

10 رجب 1440

17.3.19

Allah sent His Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم, the best human being, with the best of the criterion, to be the warner for the whole universe. The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم had to be nurtured, so that he could deal with all kinds of people, and all of the creations.

Allah is Able to give this criterion without the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم going through any experience, but he went through the opposition of the disbelievers, their denials,

objections and mockery, and this gave him a more firm criterion. Allah addresses the Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم throughout the surah, teaching him, so that he could be للعالمين نذيرا, a warner for all the creation.

When you go through training, you have to make sacrifices to reach your goal. Looking at the Face of Allah is worth all the struggles, so strive for this end. The disbelievers are on falsehood, and sacrifice their time and money for it, but it is all in vain. The idols for which they struggle are وَلَا يَمْلِكُونَ لِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ضَرًّا وَلَا نَفْعًا, they can't harm or benefit them. Life and time is the most precious commodity we have, and it's such a waste to sacrifice them for falsehood. When you have the criterion, the sacrifices are valuable and worthy. You won't regret your struggle if it is for Allah. The furqan or criterion is achieved through sacrifices.

The mention of shadows nurtures you with comfort, nurturing you emotionally. The night, sleep and day, are an organized schedule, which is physical nurturing. The wind and rain give spiritual nurturing. All these universal signs reform and nurture, they are visual signs, teaching you, and nurturing you in three dimensions, emotionally, physically and spiritually. These three ayaat lay the foundation for the struggle. You cannot go forward without this balance.

وهو الذي

أرسل الرياح بشرا بين يدي رحمته

وأنزلنا من السماء ماء طهورا

The word أرسل indicates that the harbingers for the rain, the winds, were on the earth, and sent them where needed. In the same way, the messengers were on earth, and when the time was right, they were given their mission, and were sent to a particular nation.

When the plural tense of the word wind, الرياح, is given in the Qura'an, it indicates a wind which brings goodness. When it is in singular tense, الريح, it is as if it is a

single soldier, assigned to destroy the erring nation.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ الرِّيحَ بُشْرًا بَيْنَ
يَدَيْ رَحْمَتِهِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ
مَاءً طَهُورًا

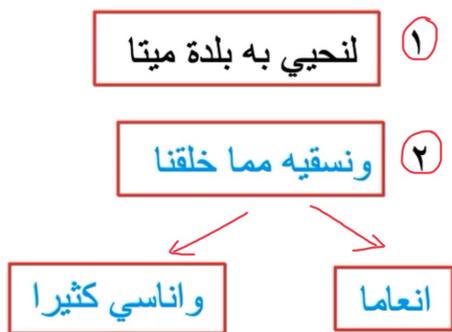
And it is He who sends the winds as good tidings before His mercy, and We send down from the sky pure water
25:48

This ayah tells us of many winds, all doing their job. This is the same as many messengers sent by Allah, all fulfilling their missions. The beneficial winds bring a good feeling when they blow. It makes people happy when there is a breeze. Allah sends the glad tidings to whomever He wills, in different forms. It brings the glad tidings before the benefits. It is your impact before your job is done. Some people are like tornadoes, focused only on their job, uncaring of the people around them. These are the task oriented people. There are others who are people conscious. The ones who are like the beneficial winds are a combination of both, they do their job, and also care about the feelings of those around them. This is a unique combination.

The glad tidings of the wind are from the special mercy of Allah, so gentle. The mercy of Allah is so vast. Before the rain, the wind comes as a forerunner; before the mercy descends, a glad tidings is sent. This opens your chest, so that it is absorbed into your heart. The one who carries the mercy in his heart cannot be harsh, so the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم was so gentle and kind. Not everyone can be a messenger, nor everyone can be a da'ee.

Then comes the rain, and this is also an action of Allah. It is أرسل, sent in drops, from above. The quality of the rain water is exclusively described here as طهورا, and this description for the rain water is not found anywhere else in the Qura'an. The water is pure in itself, and it also purifies. The عباد الرحمن, the special slaves of Allah,

are pure in themselves, and their impact is such, that they purify those they come in contact with. They penetrate the hearts of the people, with their words and demeanor, purifying them from the sicknesses of their hearts, such as jealousy, arrogance, disbelief and polytheism. In the same way, the Qura'an purifies the hearts of the people. The Qura'an is pure in itself, and it's effect is purifying.



It has a massive influence, something dead and sick is revived, the dead land is made alive again.

Allah doesn't say أرض, He says بلدة, a city, dead, with people, but no productivity, due to war, or a calamity, so that the economy is in shambles, and there is no hope. So the rain is not only targeting the land, but cities as well.

لنحيي به بلدة ميتا ونسقيه مما
خلقنا انعاما واناسي كثيرا
That We may bring to life
thereby a dead land and give
it as drink to those We
created of numerous
livestock and men
25:49

Transgression, lack of faith and divine knowledge, can also make a city die. We need the messenger as the forerunner of glad tidings, and the Qura'an, to make the surroundings alive again. A city with all the resources, but no deen, is also dead. The dead hearts need to be opened with glad tidings, not warnings, so that the message will penetrate them and revive them.

Another impact that the Qura'an has is that even if the hearts aren't revived, they will still enjoy listening to the recitation, even if they don't absorb it. So the person looks at the believers, and likes them, as attracted to their good character, and associates with them. They will admire the believers, and love to listen to the Qura'an. So there is always a benefit for ماء طهورا, pure and purifying water, whether it a deep impact of giving life, or making them happy on the surface.

The animals will also benefit, together with the people, albeit at a surface level. The mercy of Allah will have an impact, whether it is deep or on the surface.