

## Glimpses from Surah Adh-Dhariat Invitation to the Hereafter

### How to communicate with the Quran:

Allah SWT has created everything in perfect order, including the Qur'an. Quran is a message from Allah, we have to know how to read it in order to understand the messages. One of the ways to derive real pleasure from the Qur'an is to understand its order and organization. Allah SWT revealed Qur'an on our beloved Prophet SAW over a period of twenty three years. During this time the verses were revealed according to the situations that arose; these verses were later compiled into *surahs* (chapters) and these *surahs* were then organized in a certain order—all under the guidance of Jibreel AS according to the will of Allah SWT. About 2/3 of the Qur'an was revealed in Makkah and it mostly deals with two major issues, faith and sacrifice; 1/3 of the Qur'an that was revealed in Medina deals with laws and rules/regulations according to the needs of the developing Muslim society at the time. However, the compilation of Qur'an is vastly different from its revelation. Majority of the longer *surahs* at the beginning were revealed in Medina and deal with laws and rules of the *deen*; the middle of Qur'an contains stories of the Messengers and Prophets which deal with the development of faith; but as we get closer to the end of the Qur'an the verses become shorter and more precise, and *surahs* deal with the issues of hereafter, with the description of heaven and hellfire, and warnings against disobedience and rejection of the message of Allah SWT.

Qur'an has its own unique continuum with each chapter's ending introducing the beginning of the following chapter. Being the word of Allah SWT, Quran is an ocean of knowledge and wisdom—every believer can find answers to his questions and quench his thirst of knowledge in this ocean. The key of this is humbleness and humility as the pious scholars have mentioned that Qur'an reads you before you read it (meaning you will receive messages according to your intention, humbleness and state of your heart.)

#### Receiving Messages from the Qur'an:

When you read Qur'an and Allah SWT allows you to receive a message, communicate with Him. Stop and repeat the verses and make du'a for Allah SWT to allow you to live and spread this message. The message you receive could be a glad tidings or a warning against your actions or lifestyle. After that Allah SWT wants you to believe in Him, trust Him, and perform actions according to the message you received. These actions could both be internal and external. Internal actions are intention and sincere determination of continuous good deeds, and external actions are good deeds.

This requires complete emotional commitment, sincerity, humbleness, and honesty. Once these traits are intact, Allah will be the greatest in the heart and sacrifice will be easy.

If these traits are not inculcated deeply in the heart, meaning the person is not ready yet and has to continue fighting against Shaytaan and his nafs (desires, temptations and negative personality traits).

#### Surah Adh-Dhariyat:

In this article, we will look at surah Adh-Dhariyat and the general messages that we can derive from it, *bi-idhnillah*. Surah Adh-Dhariyat was revealed in

Makkah and is located towards the end of the Qur'an so its theme is hereafter. As I mentioned earlier, the ending of a *surah* is the introduction of the following one. Surah Qaf is located before Surah Adh-Dhariyat and introduces it to us with the following verses:

وَاسْتَمِعْ يَوْمَ يُنَادِ الْمُنَادِ مِنْ مَّكَانٍ قَرِيبٍ ﴿٤١﴾

يَوْمَ يَسْمَعُونَ الصَّيْحَةَ بِالْحَقِّ ذَٰلِكَ يَوْمُ الْخُرُوجِ ﴿٤٢﴾

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نُحْيِيهِمْ وَنُمِيتُهُمْ وَإِلَيْنَا الْمَصِيرُ ﴿٤٣﴾

يَوْمَ تَشَقَّقُ الْأَرْضُ عَنْهُمْ سِرَاعًا ذَٰلِكَ حَشْرٌ عَلَيْنَا يَسِيرٌ ﴿٤٤﴾

نَحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِجَبَّارٍ فَذَكَرْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مَنْ

يَخَافُ وَعِيدِ ﴿٤٥﴾

*And listen for the Day when the Caller will call out from a place quiet near,- The Day when they will hear a (mighty) Blast in (very) truth: that will be the Day of Resurrection. Verily it is We Who give Life and Death; and to Us is the Final Goal-The Day when the Earth will be rent asunder, from (men) hurrying out: that will be a gathering together,- quite easy for Us. We know best what they say; and thou art not one to overawe them by force. So admonish with the Qur'an such as fear My Warning! (50: 41-45)*

Allah SWT started Surah Adh-Dhariyat with the mention of His *qudra* (power) and He swore by it. In the Arabic language, swearing is done to bring

attention to an important matter as well as a final ultimatum towards it, and this is what Allah SWT has done here.

وَالذَّرِّيَّتِ ذَرُورًا ﴿١﴾

*By the (Winds) that scatter broadcast;*

فَالْحَمِيْلَتِ وَقُرًّا ﴿٢﴾

*And those that lift and bear away heavy weights;*

فَالْجَرِيَّتِ يُسْرًا ﴿٣﴾

*And those that flow with ease and gentleness;*

فَالْمُقْسِمَتِ أَمْرًا ﴿٤﴾

*And those that distribute and apportion by Command;-*

إِنَّمَا تُوعَدُونَ لَصَادِقٌ ﴿٥﴾

*Verily that which ye are promised is true;*

وَإِنَّ الدِّينَ لَوَاقِعٌ ﴿٦﴾

*And verily Judgment and Justice must indeed come to pass.*

Allah SWT swore by His *qudra* to emphasize the reality and importance of the hereafter, and He SWT continues to do that for the next few verses until all of

a sudden the message changes and the story of Ibraheem AS is mentioned. Allah SWT mentions the miraculous birth of Ishaq AS who was born to Sarah and Ibraheem AS at a very old age—another display of the power of Allah showing that nothing is impossible for Him SWT. The message that we can derive from this story is that Allah fulfills His promise to His slaves who sacrifice all that they have for the love of their Lord SWT. Ibraheem AS was given the gift of Ishaq—referred to as the knowledgeable boy in the Qur’an—after he showed willingness to sacrifice Ismaeel, his first born son for the pleasure of Allah SWT. Allah SWT first granted him and his son the honor of rebuilding the Ka’bah and then went on to grant Ibraheem AS another son from whom many more Prophets came.

فَأَوْجَسَ مِنْهُمْ خِيفَةً قَالُوا لَا تَخَفْ وَبَشَّرُوهُ بِغُلَامٍ  
عَلِيمٍ ﴿٢٨﴾

فَأَقْبَلَتِ أَمْرًا أَنَّهُ فِي صِرَّةٍ فَصَكَتْ وَجَهَّهَا وَقَالَتْ عَجُوزٌ عَقِيمٌ ﴿٢٩﴾

قَالُوا كَذَلِكَ قَالَ رَبُّكَ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْعَلِيمُ ﴿٣٠﴾

*(When they did not eat), He conceived a fear of them. They said, "Fear not," and they gave him glad tidings of a son endowed with knowledge. But his wife came forward (laughing) aloud: she smote her forehead and said: "A barren old woman!" They said, "Even so has thy Lord spoken: and He is full of Wisdom and Knowledge." (51: 28—30)*

Allah SWT continues this message of His power and strength by mentioning the destroyed nations of the past who didn't heed the call of the Prophets sent to them and were arrogant over the signs of Allah SWT. Nations like those of Lut, Pharaoh, 'Ad, Nuh and Thamud who mocked the signs of Allah SWT were ruined and turned into signs for the future generations.

﴿ قَالَ فَمَا خَطْبُكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْمُرْسَلُونَ ﴾ ٣١

﴿ قَالُوا إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَىٰ قَوْمٍ مُّجْرِمِينَ ﴾ ٣٢

﴿ لِنُرْسِلَ عَلَيْهِمْ حِجَارَةً مِّن طِينٍ ﴾ ٣٣

﴿ مَسْوَمَةً عِندَ رَبِّكَ لِلْمُسْرِفِينَ ﴾ ٣٤

﴿ فَأَخْرَجْنَا مَن كَانَ فِيهَا مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴾ ٣٥

﴿ فَمَا وَجَدْنَا فِيهَا غَيْرَ بَيْتٍ مِّنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴾ ٣٦

﴿ وَتَرَكْنَا فِيهَا آيَةً لِلَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَ الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ ﴾ ٣٧

﴿ وَفِي مُوسَىٰ إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ بِسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ ﴾ ٣٨

فَتَوَلَّى بِرُكُنَيْهِ وَقَالَ سِحْرٌ أَوْ مَجْنُونٌ ﴿٣٩﴾

فَأَخَذْنَاهُ وَجُنُودَهُ فَنَبَذْنَاهُمْ فِي الْيَمِّ وَهُوَ مُلِيمٌ ﴿٤٠﴾

وَفِي عَادٍ إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّيحَ الْعَقِيمَ ﴿٤١﴾

مَا تَذَرُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ أَتَتْ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا جَعَلْتَهُ كَالرِّمِيمِ ﴿٤٢﴾

وَفِي ثَمُودَ إِذْ قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَمَتَّعُوا حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ ﴿٤٣﴾

فَعَتَوْا عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِمْ فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّيْغَةُ وَهُمْ يَنْظُرُونَ ﴿٤٤﴾

فَمَا اسْتَطَعُوا مِنْ قِيَامٍ وَمَا كَانُوا مُنْتَصِرِينَ ﴿٤٥﴾

وَقَوْمَ نُوحٍ مِّن قَبْلُ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَاسِقِينَ ﴿٤٦﴾

*(Abraham) said: "And what, O ye Messengers, is your errand (now)?" They said, "We have been sent to a people (deep) in sin;- "To bring on, on them, (a shower of) stones of clay (brimstone), "Marked as from thy Lord for those who trespass beyond bounds." Then We evacuated those of the Believers who were there, But We found not there any just (Muslim) persons except in one house: And We left there a Sign for such as fear the Grievous Penalty. And in Moses (was another Sign): Behold, We sent him to Pharaoh, with authority manifest. But (Pharaoh) turned back with his Chiefs, and said, "A sorcerer, or one possessed!" So We took him and his forces, and threw them into the sea; and his was the blame. And in*

*the 'Ad (people) (was another Sign): Behold, We sent against them the devastating Wind: It left nothing whatever that it came up against, but reduced it to ruin and rottenness. And in the Thamud (was another Sign): Behold, they were told, "Enjoy (your brief day) for a little while!" But they insolently defied the Command of their Lord: So the stunning noise (of an earthquake) seized them, even while they were looking on. Then they could not even stand (on their feet), nor could they help themselves. So were the People of Noah before them for they wickedly transgressed. (51: 31—46)*

Notice the precise message of the verses: act of disobedience by the people and Allah's punishment on them. There are no excuses or details involved anymore. At the time this surah was revealed, the believers were severely tortured in Makkah and no door seemed to be open for them to escape from these atrocities. At a time like this, Allah SWT is strengthening their faith by reminding them of what happened to arrogant nations before them and also emphasizing His power and the truth of His promises so as to reaffirm their faith and encourage their patience. Allah SWT is telling us that we need Him and that He SWT doesn't need us.

Allah SWT reminds us of His existence in everything around us, including our own selves and then gives us the following advise/command:

فَافِرُّوْا إِلَى اللَّهِ

*Hasten ye then (at once) to Allah.(51:50)*

He SWT is the one who created us and He knows our weaknesses; one of which is anxiety about provision. He SWT doesn't want us to be distracted from His message so He assures us that He is the provider and He will provide for us. If you work for Allah, Allah promises to provide for you; at this point, worry for future, disability, lack of education or strength all become

meaningless and only the Qudra of Allah SWT remains. Allah SWT relieves the worry of provision from His slaves in the following words:

﴿٥٦﴾ وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

﴿٥٧﴾ مَا أُرِيدُ مِنْهُمْ مِنْ رِزْقٍ وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ يُطْعِمُونِ

﴿٥٨﴾ إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الرَّزَّاقُ ذُو الْقُوَّةِ الْمَتِينُ

*I have only created Jinns and men, that they may serve Me. No Sustenance do I require of them, nor do I require that they should feed Me. For Allah is He Who gives (all) Sustenance,- Lord of Power,- Steadfast (for ever). (51: 56—58)*

This takes us back to the beginning of the surah where Allah SWT proclaimed that He is the All-Powerful and His promises will come to pass. In Surah Adh-Dharyat Allah SWT invites humanity to His oneness, declares His unlimited and unimaginable abilities, reassures of His sustenance to His slaves and leaves the door of *akhirah* open to whoever wants to walk through it. And it is among the choicest blessings of Allah on a person to be able to reject duniya (world, this transitory life) with all its temptations and choose *akhirah*. May Allah allow us to be among these chosen ones and open our hearts and souls to receive the message of Qur'an. Ameen.