

L A Special Bulletin

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“By the pen and by what (the angels) write (in the Records of men). You (O Muhammad (saw)) by the Grace of your Lord, are not mad.

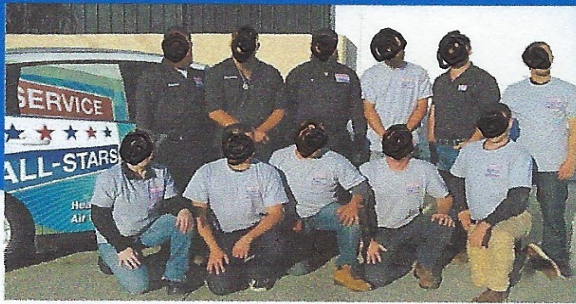
(Al Qur’aan 68: 1-2)

Surah Qalam p. 10

Allah (the Mighty and Majestic) created the Pen
50,000 years before He created the Heavens and the
Earth. P.12



Tafsir Surah Qalam by Ibn Kathir (ayah 1-4) p. 12 & 13



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From the Publisher

January 25, 2019

As-salaamu-alaikum. Indeed, all praise is for Allaah; we praise Him, and we seek His help and we seek His forgiveness.

And we seek refuge in Allaah(Azza wa Jal) from the wickedness of ourselves and from our evil deeds.

Whoever Allaah guides, none can misguide him and whoever He misguides (leaves to go astray) none can guide him.

And I testify that there is no deity who has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone, and there are no partners for Him.

And I testify that Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is His slave and Messenger.

O you who believe! Fear Allâh (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islâm [as Muslims (with complete submission to Allâh)]. (Aal 'Imraan 3:102)

O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him (Adam) He created his wife [Hawwa (Eve)], and from them both He created many men and women; and fear Allâh through Whom you demand (your mutual rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, Allâh is Ever an All-Watcher over you. (An-Nisaa' 4:1)

O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allâh and fear Him and speak (always) the truth. He will direct you to do righteous charitable deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allâh and His Messenger (SAW) he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise). (Al-Ahzaab 33:70-71)

To proceed: Indeed, the most truthful Speech is the Book of Allaah,

And the best guidance is the guidance of Muham-

mad (Peace be upon him).

And the worst affairs are the newly invented matters (in Deen).

Every newly invented matter is a religious innovation,

And every religious innovation is misguidance,

And every misguidance is in the Hellfire.

From Allah (the All Mighty) we came, and to Him we shall all return. For this reason it incumbent upon all of mankind to study and learn how to worship Allah (the Almighty Creator). Unfortunately, not everyone will do this precious studying and learning process, even though Allah (swt) created **the pen**, to write everything that will happen through eternity, and has sent the Books, the Messengers, the Angels, and all the means for us to learn and be successful.

This is what **Qadar** (predestination) is all about. In the end it is all about the Will of Allah. Whether we like it or not, Allah's Will is always supreme, whether it is the good or the bad.

Allah said, **"And I (Allah) created not the jinn and the men except they should worship Me (Alone)" (Surah Adh-Dharyyat: 51:56)**. If we follow Allah's commands and stay away from what Allah has forbidden then we can have a good life in this world and the next. Surely, Allah (the Exalted) has created the Jannah (Paradise) and the Jahannam (Hellfire) to be filled with all the people who obey or disobey His commands.

I pray that Allah (The Mighty and Majestic) uses my work to spread the word and blesses all of those who read and support the Los Angeles Special Bulletin magazine and websites to enter Paradise. Ameen.

Shafeeq Qaasim — Publisher/Editor

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Support the Da'wah

By Shafeeq A. Qaasim

In the name of Allah(ﷻ) the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. We should all try to increase our knowledge of the Almighty Creator—Allah(ﷻ). We get some knowledge/information about our deen from our parents and friends. We get most of our knowledge/information from the Imam and Muslim teachers at the Masjid we attend. However, unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation that we get from the educational system, media and social media. Da'wah is important because we have to disseminate the truth to “eliminate the falsehood”. **Da'wah is how we do it.**

According to many scholars in this field the term Da'wah applies to conveying the message of Islam to non-Muslims and Muslims, and inviting them to Allah. Non-practicing and lost Muslims need to be reeducated and motivated to become better Muslims; they believe they already know Allah (ﷻ) and have been given the concept of TAWHEED. Some objectives of Da'wah are as follows:

- (a) Conveying the message of Islam to non-Muslims and inviting them to Allah (ﷻ)
- (b) Making efforts to remove misinformation about Islam and Muslims from textbooks, reference material and media.
- (c) Making efforts for the integration of new Muslims into the Muslim community.
- (d) Developing material resources, recruiting manpower (volunteers) and providing training for Da'wah workers.

One must realize that the goal of Da'wah to non-Muslims is not to convert them, in fact do not expect it, but the goal is to inform them and educate them. That is our only duty. Da'wah with the intention of conversion might make you too aggressive and might make you come on too strong, hence scaring them away.

Is Da'wah a duty on every Muslim?

Yes, it is a duty assigned by Allah.

In the Qur'an Allah(ﷻ) has placed the responsibility on the Muslim Ummah to convey the message of Islam to mankind. Allah (ﷻ) says in Surah Al-Baqarah: **"Thus We have appointed you a just nation (model community and Ummah), that you may be witnesses against mankind, and that the Messenger may be a witness over you". (Al-Qur'an 2:143)**

We find numerous verses in the Qur'an on the same topic. Here witnessing means to convey the message of Islam, i.e. to call people towards Allah (*da'aa ilallah* as in the Qur'an 41:33). **"And who is better in speech than he who says My Lord is Allah(ﷻ) and then stands firm and invites men to Allah's religion, and does righteous deeds, and says: "I am one of the Muslims".**

Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) completed his assignment in his lifetime by conveying the message to the entire Arabian Peninsula and sending letters to the heads of surrounding countries. In his Khutbah of his farewell hajj he passed on the responsibility to every Muslim when he said, **"Those who are present should convey (my message) to those who are not". (Bukhari).**

He did not allow us to wait until we are a perfect Islamic society before beginning to convey the message. Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) did not wait until a few converts grew up to develop an Islamic society nor did he want us to wait. He said as given in Bukhari, **"Convey for me (to the people) even it be single ayah (verse)".**

No one as an individual or as a community can delay until perfection is achieved; as soon as you have some knowledge of Islam you have a duty to convey it to those unfortunate people who know little or nothing about Islam and invite them to it.

The emphasis is on the transmission of the message of Islam to other human beings. We, the Muslims,

(Continued on page 11)

Al Qawaaid al-'Arbaa' (Part 2): The Four Foundations of Shirk

By Sheikh Abdul Wahhab who died in 1206 AH (after Hijrah)

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

As-salaamu-alaikum. Indeed all praise is due to Allaah, we praise Him and we seek His help and we seek His forgiveness. And, we seek refuge in Allaah from the wickedness and evil in ourselves and from our evil deeds. Amaab'ad;

Allah the Almighty said, ***“And I (Allah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (alone)”*** (Qur'an 51:56).

We continue with part 2 from the treatise called “The Four Foundations” by Shaikh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab. He said that if you have knowledge that Allah(swt) has created you for His worship and His alone, then you must know that worship is not called worship unless it is accompanied by Tawheed, just like Salaat cannot be called Salaat without purification (ghusl and wudu). The opposite of Tawheed is shirk, and if you recognize when shirk enters worship, you will know that your worship has been corrupted, and all your righteous actions are destroyed, and the doer is doomed to the eternal fire. So, what is vital is to learn the issues of Tawheed and Shirk so that Allah(swt) purifies you from this evil. Allah(swt) says in the Qur'an ***“Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him (in worship) , but He forgives everything else (except that) to whom He pleases...”*** (Qur'an 4:48).

In the previous issue we said to know Shirk, we must know that Shirk comprises of four principles that Allah(swt) has mentioned in His Qur'an. The first two principles were mentioned in the last issue. The second issue concerns intercession, so we start now with the explanation of intercession:

Shafa'ah (intercession) is of two kinds:

- (1) The Forbidden Shafa'ah and
- (2) The Affirmed Shafa'ah

The forbidden Shafa'ah is the one that is sought from other than Allah concerning a matter which only Allah is able to do and proof is the saying of Allah: ***“O you who believe , Spend of that which We have provided for you, before a Day comes when there will be no bargaining, nor friendship, nor intercession. And it is the disbelievers who are the Dhalimoon (wrongdoers, etc.)*** [Soorah al Baqaqarah: 254].

The affirmed Shafa'ah is that which is sought from Allah, and the intercessor is honored with the intercession and the one on behalf of whom the intercession is sought is someone whose deeds and speech are pleasing to Allah, (all of these conditions should be fulfilled) after Allaah has given the Permission for intercession as Allaah says: ***“Who is he that can intercede with HIM except with His Permission?...”*** [Soorah al-Baqarah (2):255]

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Los Angeles Special Bulletin Magazine

815 N La Brea Ave #262

Inglewood, CA 90302

(310) 946-2269

www.lasb.org

Email: shafeeq@lasb.org

Writers

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Sheikh Dr. 'Abdullah Bukhari:

Unity & Coming Together Upon the Truth (Part 2)

Transcribed by Abdul-Majeed Qaasim
From the principles of Ahlus-Sunnah,
Abu Maryam Tariq, Salafi Publications
Telelink at Birmingham Annual Conference 2004
***Graduate of the Islaamic University of Madeenah**

He began this talk on one of the fundamental principles of the *AhluS-Sunnah wal Jamaa'ah*. That fundamental principle being *Al - Ijtima'*, their coming together and being together in harmony.

He began by saying, "In the Name of Allaah. All Praise is for Allaah and that we seek Allaah's forgiveness, and we ask Allaah's refuge from the evils of ourselves and our evil deeds. I mention that whomever Allaah guides, then none can misguide that person, and whoever Allaah misguides, then none can guide that person. And mentioning that none has a right to be worshiped except Allaah (alone). And that Muhammad (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) is the Messenger of Allaah bearing witness to that. And he said indeed the truest of speech is the speech of Allaah, and that the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) and that the worst of all affairs, are the affairs that are newly introduced into the religion, and that every affair newly introduced into the religion is an innovation, and that every innovation is misguidance.

And he said, "Oh brothers, I praise Allaah, the one other than whom there is no lord. And other than whom none has the right to be worshipped. That he has granted us this gathering and this lecture. And I ask Allaah that he causes us to be from those people who are guided and those who are guides for others, and that we are not people who are misguided (Ameen).

This issue we begin part 2 from where we left off in the previous "Back to school" issue. "Allah is pleased for you with three things, and he hates for you three things. He is pleased for you that you worship him alone and that you do not associate anything along with him in worship and that you cling together all of you and you do not separate. And he hates for you just carrying sayings which are not verified and asking too many questions and wasting wealth." And there is an addition to this Hadith reported by Imaam

Ahmad which contains the addition, "And that you are sincere and give sincere advice towards those who are in authority alone." All of these and other text are proofs for coming together upon the truth, and there is a further Hadith reported in the Sunan. A Hadith which is at the very least is Hasan (a good and acceptable Hadith), reported by Abu Dawood and others, that the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) said, "the Jews split into 71 sects, and the Christian split into 72 sects, and my Ummah will split into 73 sects. All of them will be in the Hellfire except one. That would be the Jamaa'ah (Those united upon the truth)."

So this text and the biggest text that include a forbiddance of opposing the way of those first believers (the companions). It is mentioned that the saved sect is one sect that which the companions were upon. So it contains a prohibition of being contrary to the way of the companions. This along with the Hadith of Abu Huraira (radhiyallaahu 'anh) where it mentions that Allah is pleased for you with three (things). This means that Allah loves for you these three things. These three things are Ibaadah (Worship), because worship covers everything which Allah loves and is pleased with, with regards to actions and sayings. Those which are outer and those which are inward, all of that is Ibaadah so whatever Allah is pleased with becomes Ibaadah. This hadith clearly showed the Ibaadah (worship), clinging together upon the truth, and that you all cling together to the rope of Allah."

It's opposite is Al-Furqa is splitting and being in separate sects. This is a sign of being amongst the people of innovation. Then I say may Allah bless you. There are many texts of the Ahadith that command this harmony upon the truth, and amongst them is the Hadith of Irbaad Ibn Saariyah (radiyallaahu 'anh) reported by Abu Dawood (rahimahullah) and Imaam Ahmad, Tirmithi, and Ibn Maaja .and others from the people of knowledge. It is a Hadith which is Sahih or authentic. In this Hadith the messenger (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) said, "I enjoin you to have the taqwa of Allah, and with hearing and obeying even if the one in authority over you is an Abyssinian slave. For indeed one who lives long after you, he will see great Divergence and disagreement so therefore adhere to my Sunnah and to the Sunnah of the rightly guided Khulafaa after me. Cling to that with your molar teeth and beware of newly-introduced matters because eve-

(Continued on page 16)

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By Shafeeq A. Qaasim

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem. As-salaamu-alaikum to all the Muslim businesses, organizations, and readers. The Los Angeles Islamic Chamber of Commerce (LAICOC) is new to Los Angeles and is engaging in organizing and bringing together Muslim Businesses and Muslim Organizations in the Los Angeles and Southern California area during 2019, insha Allah. What better time of the year to launch a new professional Muslim organization than now? Allah(swt) and His Messenger(Peace be upon him) wants us to engage in halal and successful businesses. There are many narrations describing Prophet Muhammad(Peace be upon him) and his Companions doing business all around the world, even over 1400 years ago.

The Qur'an speaks about trade in Surah Fatir Ayahs 19-30. Allah says *"Not alike are the blind (disbelievers in Islâmic Monotheism) and the seeing (believers in Islâmic Monotheism). (19) Nor are (alike) the darkness (disbelief) and the light (Belief in Islâmic Monotheism). (20) Nor are (alike) the shade and the sun's heat. (21) Nor are (alike) the living (i.e. the believers) and the dead (i.e. the disbelievers). Verily, Allâh makes whom He wills to hear, but you cannot make hear those who are in the graves. (22) You (O Muhammad Peace be upon him) are only a warner (i.e. your duty is to convey Allâh's Message to mankind, but the guidance is in Allâh's hands). (23) Verily! We have sent you with the truth, a bearer of glad tidings, and a warner. And there never was a nation but a warner had passed among them. (24) And if they belie you, those before them also belied. Their Messengers came to them with clear signs, and with the Scriptures, and the book giving light. (25) Then I took hold of those who disbelieved, and how terrible was My denial (punishment)! (26) See you not that Allâh sends down water (rain) from the sky, and We produce therewith fruits of*

varying colours, and among the mountains are streaks white and red, of varying colours and (others) very black (27) And likewise of men and Ad-Dawâbb (moving (living) creatures, beasts), and cattle, of various colours. It is only those who have knowledge among His slaves that fear Allâh. Verily, Allâh is All-Mighty, Oft-Forgiving. (28) Verily, those who recite the Book of Allâh (this Qur'ân), and perform As-Salât (Iqâmat-as-Salât), and spend (in charity) out of what We have provided for them, secretly and openly, they hope for a (sure) trade-gain that will never perish. (29) That He may pay them their wages in full, and give them (even) more, out of His Grace. Verily! He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Ready to appreciate (good deeds and to recompense)."(30)

All wealth belongs to Allah. The word *Tijaarah* mentioned in ayah 29 is referring to trade, transactions, and commerce, and appears about 9 times in the Qur'an. Allah(swt) wants us to be successful and gives us guidance and commandments to follow. We are trading what we desire in this world for the gains of the Jannah(hereafter), a place that will never perish. He also says, *"Allâh wishes to make clear (what is lawful and what is unlawful) to you, and to show you the ways of those before you, and accept your repentance, and Allâh is All-Knower, All-Wise. (26) Allâh wishes to accept your repentance, but those who follow their lusts, wish that you (believers) should deviate tremendously away (from the Right Path). (27) Allâh wishes to lighten (the burden) for you; and man was created weak (cannot be patient to leave sexual intercourse with woman). (28) O you who believe! Eat not up your property among yourselves unjustly except it be a trade amongst you, by mutual consent. And do not kill yourselves (nor kill one another). Surely, Allâh is Most Merciful to you. (29) And whoever commits that through aggression and injustice, We shall cast him into the*

(Continued on page 16)

Surah Qalam (from the Noble Qur'an)

1. Nun.

[These letters (*Nun*, etc.) are one of the miracles of the Qur'an, and none but Allah (Alone) knows their meanings].

By the pen and what the (angels) write (in the Records of men).

2. You (O Muhammad ﷺ) are not, by the Grace of your Lord, a madman.

3. And verily, for you (O Muhammad ﷺ) will be an endless reward.

4. And verily, you (O Muhammad ﷺ) are on an exalted standard of character.

5. You will see, and they will see,

6. Which of you is afflicted with madness.

7. Verily, your Lord knows better, who (among men) has gone astray from His Path, and He knows better those who are guided.

8. So (O Muhammad ﷺ) obey not the deniers [(of Islamic Monotheism those who belie the Verses of Allah), the Oneness of Allah, and the Messenger

of Allah (Muhammad ﷺ), etc.]

9. They wish that you should compromise (in religion out of courtesy) with them, so they (too) would compromise with you.

10. And obey not everyone who swears much, and is considered worthless,

11. A slanderer, going about with calumnies,

12. Hinderer of the good, transgressor, sinful,

13. Cruel, after all that base-born (of illegitimate birth),

14. (He was so) because he had wealth and children.

15. When Our Verses (of the Qur'an) are recited to him, he says: "Tales of the men of old!"

16. We shall brand him over the nose!

17. Verily, We have tried them as We tried the people of the garden, when they swore to pluck the fruits of the (garden) in the morning,

18. Without saying: *Insha' Allah* (If Allah will).

19. Then there passed by on the (garden) something (fire) from your Lord at night and burnt it while they were asleep.

20. So the (garden) became black by the morning, like a pitch dark night (in complete ruins).

21. Then they called out one to another as soon as the morning broke,

22. Saying: "Go to your tilth in the morning, if you would pluck the fruits."

23. So they departed, conversing in secret low tones (saying),

24. No *Miskin* (poor man) shall enter upon you into

it today.

25. And they went in the morning with strong intention, thinking that they have power (to prevent the poor taking anything of the fruits therefrom).

26. But when they saw the (garden), they said: "Verily, we have gone astray,"

27. (Then they said): "Nay! Indeed we are deprived of (the fruits)!"

28. The best among them said: "Did I not tell you: why do you not say: *Insha' Allah* (If Allah will)."

29. They said: "Glory to Our Lord! Verily, we have been *Zalimun* (wrong-doers, etc.)."

30. Then they turned, one against another, in blaming.

31. They said: "Woe to us! Verily, we were *Taghun* (transgressors and disobedient, etc.)"

32. We hope that our Lord will give us in exchange a better (garden) than this. Truly, we turn to our Lord (wishing for good that He may forgive our sins, and reward us in the Hereafter)."

33. Such is the punishment (in this life), but truly, the punishment of the Hereafter is greater, if they but knew.

34. Verily, for the *Muttaqun* (pious and righteous persons - see V.2:2) are Gardens of delight (Paradise) with their Lord.

35. Shall We then treat the (submitting) Muslims like the *Mujrimun* (criminals, polytheists and disbelievers, etc.)?

36. What is the matter with you? How judge you?

37. Or have you a Book through which you learn.

38. That you shall have all that you choose?

39. Or you have oaths from Us, reaching to the Day of Resurrection that yours will be what you judge.

40. Ask them, which of them will stand surety for that!

41. Or have they "partners"? Then let them bring their "partners" if they are truthful!

42. (Remember) the Day when the Shin shall be laid bare (i.e. the Day of Resurrection) and they shall be called to prostrate (to Allah), but they (hypocrites) shall not be able to do so,

43. Their eyes will be cast down, ignominy will cover them; they used to be called to prostrate (offer prayers), while they were healthy and good (in the life of the world, but they did not).

44. Then leave Me Alone with such as belie this Qur'an. We shall punish them gradually from directions they perceive not.

45. And I will grant them a respite. Verily, My Plan is strong.

46. Or is it that you (O Muhammad ﷺ) ask them a wage, so that they are heavily burdened with debt?

(Continued from page 5) **Support the Da'wah**

are not responsible to convert people by force or coercion, as Allah (ﷻ) has clearly forbidden such tactics (**The Qur'an 2:256**). All human beings on earth have an Allah(ﷻ) given freedom to submit to Him (Allah alone) or submit to *taghut* (the worship of idols).

Remember, da'wah has great rewards. Whoever guides someone towards good, will receive the reward of the one who acts upon it. (**Muslim**). This means, if a person is converted through the da'wah you give him/her, you get rewards for all the prayers he/she does or all the fasts that he/she does, etc.

Allah(ﷻ) says **“And those who disbelieve are allies of one another, and if you (Muslims of the whole world collectively) do not do so [i.e become allies, as one united block] to make victorious Allah’s religion, there will be fitnah and oppression on the earth, and a great mischief and corruption (appearance of polytheism)”**. (Surah Anfal 8:73)

This is serious business. Allah(ﷻ) then says, **“And a declaration from Allah and His Messenger to Mankind on the Greatest Day (the 10th of Dhul Hijjah—the 12th month of the Islamic calendar) that Allah is free from all obligations to the disbelievers and so is His Messenger. So, if you (disbelievers) repent, it is better for you, but if you turn away, then know that you cannot escape (from the punishment of Allah(ﷻ)). And give tidings (O Muhammad) of a painful torment to those who disbelieve”**. (Surat at-Taubah 9:3)

Allah(ﷻ) warns us not to take our parents as supporters and helpers if they disbelieve. He says, **“O you who believe! Take not as Auliya (supporters and helpers) your fathers and brothers if they prefer disbelief to Belief. And, whoever of you who does so, then he is one of the Zalimun (wrong doers)”** (Surah At-Taubah v. 23)

Allah(ﷻ) goes on to say **“Fight against those who (1) believe not in Allah, (2) nor in the Last Day, (3) nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger (Peace be upon him), (4) and those who acknowledge not the religion of Truth (Islam) among the people of the Scriptures (Jews**

and Christians), until they pay the Jizyah (Islamic tax) with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued”. (Surah at-Taubah 9:29).

In conclusion, it is incumbent on each of you to support the Da'wah. A good place to start is right here with the Los Angeles Special Bulletin and the subsidiaries (i.e. www.lasb.org, abubakrstore.com, www.laicoc.org) insha Allah.

As-salaamu-alaikum.

(Continued from page 10) **Surah Qalam**

47. Or that the *Ghaib* (unseen here in this Verse it means *Al-Lauh Al-Mahfuz*) is in their hands, so that they can write it down?

48. So wait with patience for the Decision of your Lord, and be not like the Companion of the Fish, when he cried out (to Us) while he was in deep sorrow. (See the Qur'an, Verse 21:87).

49. Had not a Grace from his Lord reached him, he would indeed have been (left in the stomach of the fish, but We forgave him), so he was cast off on the naked shore, while he was to be blamed.

50. But his Lord chose him and made him of the righteous.

51. And verily, those who disbelieve would almost make you slip with their eyes through hatredness when they hear the Reminder (the Qur'an), and they

say: "Verily, he (Muhammad ﷺ) is a madman!"

52. But it is nothing else than a Reminder to all the 'Alamin (mankind, jinns and all that exists).

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Tafsir Surah Al Qalam by Ibn Kathir (ayahs 1-4)

Nun, is like Allah's saying, (ن Sad), and Allah's saying, (ق Qaf), and similar to them from the individual letters that appear at the beginning of [other] Qur'anic chapters.

Allah's statement,

By the pen,

The apparent meaning is that this refers to the actual pen that is used to write. This is like Allah's saying: **"Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who has taught by the pen. He has taught man that which he knew not." (96:3-5)**

Therefore, this statement is Allah's swearing and alerting His creatures to what He has favored them with by teaching them the skill of writing, through which knowledge is attained.

Thus, Allah continues by saying,

"and by what they Yastur." (68:1)

Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid and Qatadah all said that this means:

"what they write."

As-Suddi said,

"The angels and the deeds of the servants they record."

Others said,

"Rather, what is meant here is the pen which Allah caused to write the decree when He wrote the decrees of all creation, and this took place fifty-thousand years before He created the heavens and the earth."

For this, they present Hadiths that have been reported about the Pen.

Ibn Abi Hatim recorded from Al-Walid bin `Ubadah bin As-Samit that he said:

"My father called for me when he was dying and he said to me: **'Verily, I heard the Messenger of Allah say:**

"Verily, the first of what Allah created was the Pen, and He said to it: "Write."

The Pen said: "O my Lord, what shall I write"

He said: "Write the decree and whatever will [happen] throughout eternity.""

This Hadith has been recorded by Imam Ahmad through various routes of transmission.

At-Tirmidhi also recorded it from a Hadith of Abu Dawud At-Tayalisi and he (At-Tirmidhi) said about it,

"Hasan Sahih, Gharib."

Allah says,

"You, by the grace of your Lord, are not insane." (68:2)

meaning -- and all praise is due to Allah -- 'you are not crazy as the ignorant among your people claim. They are those who deny the guidance and the clear truth that you have come with. Therefore, they attribute madness to you because of it.'

And verily, for you will be reward that is not Mamnun. (68:3)

meaning, 'for you is the great reward, and abundant blessings which will never be cut off or perish, because you conveyed the Message of your Lord to creation, and you were patient with their abuse.'

The meaning of *gher mamnun* (not Mamnun) is that it will not be cut off.

This is similar to Allah's statement:

"...a gift without an end." (11:108)

and His statement

Then they shall have a reward without end. (95:6)

Mujahid said, *gher mamnun* (Without Mamnun) means

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(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)(Tafsir Surah Qalam by Ibn Kathir)

"Without reckoning."

And this refers back to what we have said before

Concerning Allah's statement:

"And verily, you are on an exalted (standard of) character." (68:4)

Al-'Awfi reported from Ibn 'Abbas:

"Verily, you are on a great religion, and it is Islam."

Likewise said Mujahid, Abu Malik, As-Suddi and Ar-Rabi' bin Anas. Ad-Dahhak and Ibn Zayd also said this.

Sa'id bin Abi 'Arubah reported from Qatadah that he said concerning Allah's statement (And verily, you are on an exalted (standard of) character).

"It has been mentioned to us that Sa'd bin Hisham asked 'A'ishah about the character of the Messenger of Allah, so she replied: 'Have you not read the Qur'an' Sa'd said: 'Of course.' Then she said: 'Verily, the character of the Messenger of Allah was the Qur'an.'

Abdur-Razzaq recorded similar to this and Imam Muslim recorded it in his Sahih on the authority of Qatadah in its full length:

This means that he would act according to the commands and the prohibition in the Qur'an. His nature and character were patterned according to the Qur'an, and he abandoned his natural disposition (i.e., the carnal nature). So whatever the Qur'an commanded, he did it, and whatever it forbade, he avoided it.

Along with this, Allah gave him the exalted character, which included the qualities of modesty, kindness, bravery, pardoning, gentleness and every other good characteristic. This is like that which has been confirmed in the Two Sahihs that Anas said,

"I served the Messenger of Allah for ten years, and he never said a word of displeasure to me (Uff), nor did he ever say to me concerning something I had done: 'Why did you do that'

And he never said to me concerning something I had not done: 'Why didn't you do this'

He had the best character, and I never touched any silk or anything else that was softer than the palm of the Messenger of Allah. And I never smelled any musk or perfume that had a better fragrance than the sweat of the Messenger of Allah.'

Imam Al-Bukhari recorded that Al-Bara' said:

"The Messenger of Allah had the most handsome face of all the people, and he had the best behavior of all of the people. And he was not tall, nor was he short."

The Hadiths concerning this matter are numerous. Abu 'Isa At-Tirmidhi has a complete book on this subject called Kitab Ash-Shama'il.

Imam Ahmad recorded that A'ishah said:

- "The Messenger of Allah never struck a servant of his with his hand, nor did he ever hit a woman. He never hit anything with his hand, except for when he was fighting Jihad in the cause of Allah.

- And he was never given the option between two things except that the most beloved of the two to him was the easiest of them, as long as it did not involve sin. If it did involve sin, then he stayed farther away from sin than any of the people.

- He would not avenge himself concerning anything that was done to him, except if the limits of Allah were transgressed. Then, in that case he would avenge for the sake of Allah."

Imam Ahmad also recorded from Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah said:

"I have only been sent to perfect righteous behavior."

Ahmad was alone in recording this Hadith.

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(Continued from page 9)

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Fire, and that is easy for Allâh. (30) If you avoid the great sins which you are forbidden to do, We shall expiate from you your (small) sins, and admit you to a Noble Entrance (i.e. Paradise). (31) And wish not for the things in which Allâh has made some of you to excel over others. For men there is reward for what they have earned, (and likewise) for women there is reward for what they have earned, and ask Allâh of His Bounty. Surely, Allâh is Ever All-Knower of everything. (Surah An-Nisa 32)

So Allah(swt) also wanted us to have the Chamber of Commerce. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce "The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business organization representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions. Our members range from mom-and-pop shops and local chambers to leading industry associations and large corporations. They all share one thing—they count on the Chamber to be their voice in Washington, D.C" (<https://www.uschamber.com/about/about-the-us-chamber>).

The problem is we as Muslims cannot count on them to speak for the Muslims, because we count on Allah(swt) only. We have so many differences. We don't want to celebrate the holidays of the disbelievers (ie. Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day etc.). We don't want to fornicate, drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, and dance to the music as they do when celebrating. If we are true Muslims we only celebrate two celebrations per year. They are Eidul Fitr after Ramadhan, and Eidul Adhaa after Hajj. We should not be celebrating anything else, because Allah says, "**O you who believe! Eat not up your property among yourselves unjustly except it be a trade amongst you, by mutual consent. And do not kill yourselves (nor kill one another). Surely, Allâh is Most Merciful to you.**" (Surah Nisa' 4:29)

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ern California Muslim Business Directory (see in this issue) and the LAICOC Business Journal (coming). We can have workshops, seminars, and discounts on products and services within the LAICOC network. Islamic financing, medical care, and education. Insha Allah, we can do it all in a halal and Islamic manner.

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(Continued from page 7)

Sheikh 'Abdullah Bukhari

ry Innovation is misguidance." The Messengers (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) commanded the taqwa of Allah and we should obey those in authority and adhere to his Sunnah and the Sunnah of the rightly guided Khulafaa. Part 3 in next issue, insha Allah.

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