Faith Within

the Universe



Adopting Positive Characteristics Leads to Peace of Mind

Faith Within the Universe

ShaykhPod Books

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We pray that Allah, the Exalted, completes His favour on us and accepts each letter of this book in His august court and allows it to testify on our behalf on the Last Day.

All praise to Allah, the Exalted, Lord of the worlds and endless blessings and peace by upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad, on his blessed Household and Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all.

Compiler's Notes

We have tried diligently to do justice in this volume however if there are any short falls found then the compiler is personally and solely responsible for them.

We accept the possibility of faults and shortcomings in an effort to complete such a difficult task. We might have unconsciously stumbled and committed errors for which we ask for indulgence and forgiveness of our readers and the drawing of our attention thereto will be appreciated. We earnestly invite constructive suggestions which can be made to ShaykhPod.Books@gmail.com.

Introduction

The following short book discusses some of the signs of Faith within the Universe. This discussion is based on Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, Verses 163-167 of the Holy Quran:

"And your god is one God. There is no deity [worthy of worship] except Him, the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful. Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the [great] ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every [kind of] moving creature, and [His] directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and earth are signs for a people who use reason. And [yet], among the people are those who take other than Allah as equals [to Him]. They love them as they [should] love Allah. But those who believe are stronger in love for Allah. And if only they who have wronged would consider [that] when they see the punishment, [they will be certain] that all power belongs to Allah and that Allah is severe in punishment. [And they should consider that] when those who have been followed disassociate themselves from those who followed [them], and they [all] see the punishment, and cut off from them are the ties [of relationship]. Those who followed will say, "If only we had another turn [at worldly life] so we could disassociate ourselves from them as they have disassociated themselves from us." Thus will Allah show them their deeds as regrets upon them. And they are never to emerge from the Fire."

Implementing the lessons discussed will aid one to Adopt Positive Characteristics. Adopting Positive Characteristics Leads to Peace of Mind and Body.

Faith Within the Universe

Chapter 2 - Al Baqarah, Verses 163-167

وَإِلَاهُكُورَ إِلَهُ وَكِدُ لَّا إِلَهَ إِلَّهُ إِلَّهُ مَا الرَّحْمَانُ ٱلرَّحِيمُ اللَّهُ

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ ٱلسَّكَوَّتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ وَٱخْتِلَفِ ٱلْيَلِ وَٱلنَّهَارِ وَٱلْفُلْكِ ٱلَّتِي جَنِّرِى فِي ٱلْبَحْرِبِمَا يَنفَعُ ٱلنَّاسَ وَمَا أَنزَلَ ٱللَّهُ مِنَ ٱلسَّمَاءِ مِن مَآءٍ فَأَخْيَا بِهِ ٱلْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِن يَنفَعُ ٱلنَّاسَ وَمَا أَنزَلَ ٱللَّهُ مِنَ ٱلسَّمَاءِ مَا لَمُسَخَّرِ بَيْنَ ٱلسَّمَاءِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ لَآيَتِ لِقَوْمِ صَعْلِ دَابَّةٍ وَتَصْرِيفِ ٱلرِّينَ وَٱلسَّحَابِ ٱلْمُسَخَّرِ بَيْنَ ٱلسَّمَاءِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ لَآيَتِ لِقَوْمِ يَعْقِلُونَ السَّ

"And your god is one God. There is no deity [worthy of worship] except Him, the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful.

Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the [great] ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every [kind of] moving creature, and [His] directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and earth are signs for a people who use reason.

And [yet], among the people are those who take other than Allah as equals [to Him]. They love them as they [should] love Allah. But those who believe are stronger in love for Allah. And if only they who have wronged would consider [that] when they see the punishment, [they will be certain] that all power belongs to Allah and that Allah is severe in punishment.

[And they should consider that] when those who have been followed disassociate themselves from those who followed [them], and they [all] see the punishment, and cut off from them are the ties [of relationship].

Those who followed will say, "If only we had another turn [at worldly life] so we could disassociate ourselves from them as they have disassociated themselves from us." Thus will Allah show them their deeds as regrets upon them. And they are never to emerge from the Fire."

"And your god is one God. There is no deity [worthy of worship] except Him, the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful. Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the [great] ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every [kind of] moving creature, and [His] directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and earth are signs for a people who use reason. And [yet], among the people are those who take other than Allah as equals [to Him]. They love them as they [should] love Allah. But those who believe are stronger in love for Allah. And if only they who have wronged would consider [that] when they see the punishment, [they will be certain] that all power belongs to Allah and that Allah is severe in punishment. [And they should consider that] when those who have been followed disassociate themselves from those who followed [them], and they [all] see the punishment, and cut off from them are the ties [of relationship]. Those who followed will say, "If only we had another turn [at worldly life] so we could disassociate ourselves from them as they have disassociated themselves from us." Thus will Allah show them their deeds as regrets upon them. And they are never to emerge from the Fire."

Islam teaches mankind that the only One they must obey in every situation is their Creator and Sustainer, Allah, the Exalted. Chapter 2 Al Bagarah, verse 163:

[&]quot;And your god is one God. There is no deity [worthy of worship] except Him..."

In reality, whoever one obeys thereby modelling their life upon is what they worship, even if they claim not to believe in any deity. Humans have been created in a way whereby they must obey and follow something. Whether this something are other people, social media, fashion, culture or even their own desires. Chapter 25 Al Furgan, verse 43:

"Have you seen the one who takes as his god his own desire?..."

Whatever or whomever a person obeys and follows is who they worship. Therefore, muslims must support their verbal declaration of faith with actions by sincerely obeying Allah, the Exalted, in every situation over all other things. This involves using the blessings they have been granted in ways pleasing to Allah, the Exalted, as outlined in the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. The one who behaves in this manner will be granted peace of mind and success by the Most Merciful. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 163:

"And your god is one God. There is no deity [worthy of worship] except Him, the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful."

And chapter 16 An Nahl, verse 97:

"Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do."

Whereas, the one who rejects the Oneness of Allah, the Exalted, and instead obeys and worships other things will be deprived of the mercy needed to obtain peace of mind and success in both worlds, even if they possess the entire world and experience moments of fun and entertainment, as no one can escape the control and authority of Allah, the Exalted. Chapter 9 At Tawbah, verse 82:

"So let them laugh a little and [then] weep much as recompense for what they used to earn."

Chapter 20 Taha, verses 124-126:

"And whoever turns away from My remembrance - indeed, he will have a depressed [i.e., difficult] life, and We will gather [i.e., raise] him on the Day of Resurrection blind." He will say, "My Lord, why have you raised me blind while I was [once] seeing?" [Allāh] will say, "Thus did Our signs come to you, and you forgot [i.e., disregarded] them; and thus will you this Day be forgotten.""

Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 163:

"And your god is one God..."

After discussing the disobedience of the children of Israel and their punishment in the previous verses, even though they claimed to be the beloveds of Allah, the Exalted, Allah, the Exalted, makes it clear that the same God who punished the children of Israel for their disobedience, will also punish any other community, such as the muslim community, if they persist on His disobedience also, as the rules and traditions of Allah, the Exalted, are universal for every community. Chapter 33 Al Ahzab, verse 62:

"[This is] the established way of Allāh with those who passed on before; and you will not find in the way of Allāh any change."

Muslims must therefore avoid the misguided attitude of believing they are superior to the previous nations thereby behaving as if the rules of Allah, the Exalted, do not apply to them, as this leads to wishful thinking in Allah, the Exalted, not hope in His mercy. Hope in the mercy of Allah, the Exalted, is always tied to His sincere obedience whereby one strives to use the blessings they have been granted in ways pleasing to Him, as outlined in Islamic teachings, then hopes that Allah, the Exalted, will grant them mercy and forgiveness in both worlds. Whereas, the wishful thinker persists on the disobedience of Allah, the Exalted, while believing Allah, the Exalted, will grant them mercy and forgiveness in both worlds simply because they verbally claim to be a muslim. This difference

between hope and wishful thinking has been discussed in a Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2459. The tradition of Allah, the Exalted, of punishing those who persist on His disobedience has never changed for any community in the past nor will it change for the muslim nation, thinking otherwise only leads to wishful thinking and punishment in both worlds.

Chapter 2 Al Bagarah, verse 163:

"And your god is one God. There is no deity [worthy of worship] except Him, the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful."

This verse also indicates that as the reason for creating the creation is to bestow mercy on them, obtaining this mercy is easier than obtaining the anger and wrath of Allah, the Exalted. Meaning, every person has the ability to earn the mercy of Allah, the Exalted, in order to obtain peace of mind in both worlds, as it only requires one to use the blessings they have been granted in ways pleasing to Allah, the Exalted, as outlined in Islamic teachings.

Allah, the Exalted, then explains some signs within the universe which clearly indicate His Oneness. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verses 163-164:

"And your god is one God. There is no deity [worthy of worship] except Him, the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful. Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth..."

When one observes the creation of the Heavens and the Earth and the countless perfectly balanced systems, it becomes clear that there is only One who created and sustains the universe. For example, the perfect distance of the Sun from the Earth is a clear sign, as the Earth would not be inhabitable if the Sun was slightly closer or further away from it. Similarly, the Earth has been created in such a way which creates a balanced and pure atmosphere which allows life to thrive on it. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 164:

"...and the alternation of the night and the day..."

The perfecting timings of the days and nights and their varied lengths throughout the year allow people to obtain maximum benefit from them. If the days were longer, people would become exhausted from the long hours. If the nights were longer, people would not have enough time to earn their livelihood and other useful things, such as knowledge. If the nights were shorter, then people would not be able to rest enough to obtain optimal health. Changes to the length of the day and nights would also affect crops, which would have a detrimental impact on the provision of people and animals. The fact that the days and nights and other balanced systems within the universe operate in perfect harmony also clearly indicates the Oneness of Allah, the Exalted, as multiple Gods would desire different things, which would lead to chaos within the universe. Chapter 21 Al Anbiya, verse 22:

"Had there been within them [i.e., the heavens and earth] gods besides Allah, they both would have been ruined..."

Chapter 2 Al Bagarah, verse 164:

"...and the [great] ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain..."

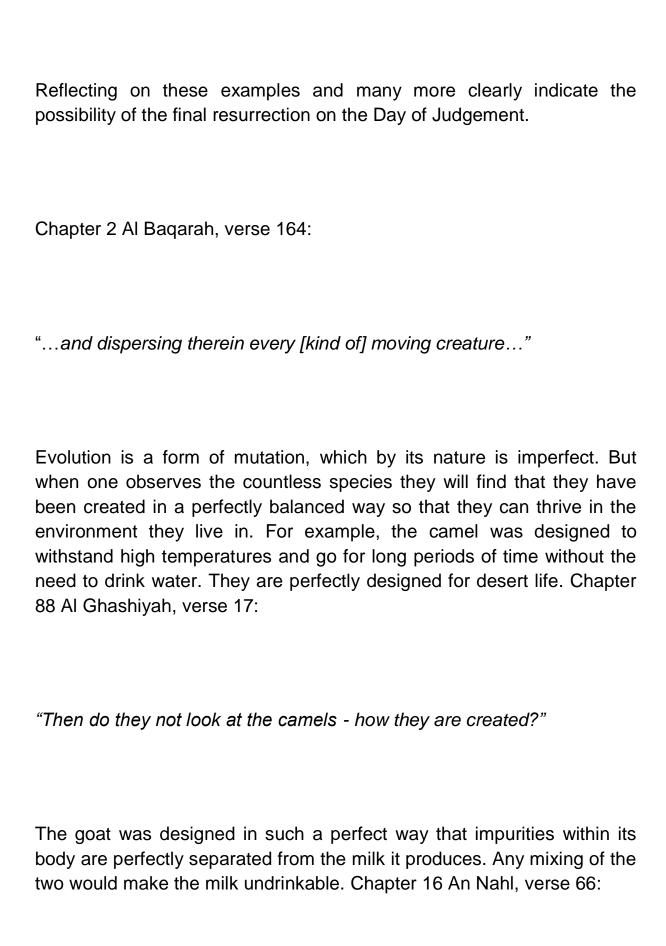
When one observes the perfectly balanced water cycle it also clearly indicates a Creator. Water from the sea evaporates, rises and then condenses to produce acidic rain which comes down upon the mountains. These mountains neutralise the acidic rain so that people and animals can utilise it. If there were any changes to this perfectly balanced system it would lead to disaster for people and animals on Earth. The salt in the sea prevents the dead creatures within the ocean from contaminating it. If the ocean was allowed to become contaminated then sea life would not be possible and the impurity from the oceans would overwhelm life on land also. The water within the oceans and seas have been created in such a way that sea life can thrive within it while heavy ships can sail on top of it. If the composition of water was slightly different an imbalance would occur which would cause either sea life to thrive within the water or allow ships to sail on top of it but both would not be possible at the same time. Even to this very day, transport by sea is still the most commonly used form of transporting goods across the world. This perfect balance is therefore essential to life on Earth.

Chapter 2 Al Bagarah, verse 164:

"...and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness..."

Denying the possibility of humans being resurrected on the Day of Judgement is a strange claim when there are many examples of resurrection which occur throughout the days, months and years. For example, Allah, the Exalted, uses rain to give life to a dead barren land and causes a dead seed to burst forth alive in order to provide for the creation. Similarly, Allah, the Exalted, can and will give life to the dead seed named human, who is buried in the Earth, like the dead seed which sprouts to life. The changing of the seasons clearly show the resurrection. For example, during winter, the leaves of trees die and fall off and the tree appears lifeless. But during other seasons, the leaves grow once again and the tree appears full of life. The sleep wake cycle of all creatures is another example of resurrection. Sleep is the sister of death, as the senses of the sleeper are cut off. Allah, the Exalted, then returns a person's soul to them if they are destined to live on thereby giving life to the sleeping person once again. Chapter 39 Az Zumar, verse 42:

"Allāh takes the souls at the time of their death, and those that do not die [He takes] during their sleep. Then He keeps those for which He has decreed death and releases the others for a specified term. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought."



"And indeed, for you in grazing livestock is a lesson. We give you drink from what is in their bellies - between excretion and blood - pure milk, palatable to drinkers."

Each species has been granted a specific life span which prevents one species overcoming others. For example, flies have a very short life span, 3-4 weeks, and lay up to 500 eggs. If its lifespan was longer, then the population of flies would become disproportionate and would cause them to overwhelm all other species in this world. Whereas, other creatures which have a very long life span have the ability to produce only a few offspring. Again this allows for their population to be moderated. All of this cannot be an accident nor can the process of evolution explain it.

Chapter 2 Al Bagarah, verse 164:

"...and [His] directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and earth..."

The winds are essential for wind pollination, which allow for crops, plants and trees to reproduce. In the earlier days, wind was essential for sea travel, which to this very day, is the main mode of transporting goods across the world. Winds are required to move the rainclouds to specific locations in order to provide water for the creation, something they cannot live without. A perfectly balanced system of the winds is

observed within the Earth, as a lack of winds would lead to chaos for the creation and an increase in winds also leads to chaos for the creation. Similarly, rain is also perfectly balanced, as too little rain leads to droughts and famine and too much rain leads to mass floods. Chapter 23 Al Mu'minun, verse 18:

"And We have sent down rain from the sky in a measured amount and settled it in the earth. And indeed, We are Able to take it away."

This perfectly balanced system cannot be random and clearly shows the hand of the Creator.

Chapter 2 Al Bagarah, verse 164:

"Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the [great] ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every [kind of] moving creature, and [His] directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and earth are signs for a people who use reason."

The one who reflects on all these perfectly balanced systems cannot logically deny the existence of a single Creator who has power over all

things. In addition, when one observes these perfectly balanced systems and others within the creation of the Heavens and the Earth they will notice one major thing which is not balanced, namely, the actions of people. The doer of good does not receive their full reward in this world and the evil doer does not receive their full punishment, even if they are punished by a government. It is logical to understand that the single Creator, Allah, the Exalted, who balanced all other systems within this universe will one day also balance the actions of people, the major imbalanced thing in this world. For this balancing of actions to occur, people's actions must come to an end first. This is the Day of Judgement when the actions of people will be judged and balanced forever.

But those who have already made their minds up to use the blessings they have been granted according to their own desires and live by a code of conduct which suits their desires or the desire of others will not appreciate nor be affected by the signs within the universe which clearly indicate the Oneness of Allah, the Exalted, the importance of sincerely obeying Him and the inevitable Judgement Day. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verses 164-165:

"...are signs for a people who use reason. And [yet], among the people are those who take other than Allah as equals [to Him]. They love them as they [should] love Allah..."

When one fails to pay heed to the signs within the universe and those discussed within Islamic teachings then they will inevitably obey and worship things besides Allah, the Exalted, such as their own desires, social media, fashion, culture and people. This will cause them to misuse the blessings they have been granted, which only leads to

misery, stress and trouble in both worlds, even if they possess the entire world and experience moments of fun and entertainment. Chapter 9 At Tawbah, verse 82:
"So let them laugh a little and [then] weep much as recompense for what they used to earn."
Chapter 20 Taha, verses 124-126:
"And whoever turns away from My remembrance - indeed, he will have a depressed [i.e., difficult] life, and We will gather [i.e., raise] him on the Day of Resurrection blind." He will say, "My Lord, why have you raised me blind while I was [once] seeing?" [Allāh] will say, "Thus did Our signs come to you, and you forgot [i.e., disregarded] them; and thus will you this Day be forgotten.""
Only those who actualize their faith by taking heed of the signs within the universe which indicate the importance of sincerely obeying Allah, the Exalted, will do so. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 165:
"But those who believe are stronger in love for Allāh"

They will strive to prove their faith through actions, which involves using the blessings they have been granted in ways pleasing to Him, as outlined in the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. They behave in this manner even when their desires are contradicted by Islamic teachings as they know doing this is best for them. They behave as the wise patient who accepts and acts on the medical advice of their doctor knowing it is best for them despite the fact they are prescribed bitter medicines and a strict diet plan. As a result, they will be granted peace of mind and success in both worlds, even if they do not possess many things, such as wealth. Chapter 16 An Nahl, verse 97:

"Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do."

Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 165:

"And [yet], among the people are those who take other than Allah as equals [to Him]. They love them as they [should] love Allah. But those who believe are stronger in love for Allah..."

The people of the book took their scholars as Lords by obeying them without question and taking their opinions to be the words and commands of Allah, the Exalted. Chapter 9 At Tawbah, verse 31:

"They [the people of the book] have taken their scholars and monks as lords besides Allah..."

Sadly, this often occurs amongst muslims who blindly follow and imitate their spiritual teachers and the spiritual exercises they ordain instead of adhering to the way commanded by Allah, the Exalted, the way of the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. Chapter 3 Alee Imran, verse 31:

"Say, [Prophet Muḥammad, peace and blessings be upon him], "If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins...""

A muslim must avoid behaving like cattle and instead use the common sense they have been granted in order to study and learn the teachings of the two sources of guidance, the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, instead of blindly following people who appear righteous. In truth, the more one follows and obeys other sources of religion knowledge the less they will follow and obey the two sources of guidance, which in turn, leads to misguidance. This is why the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, has warned in a Hadith found in Sunan Abu Dawud, number 4606, that any matter which is not rooted in the two sources of guidance will be rejected by Allah, the Exalted.

Allah, the Exalted, then warns those who disobey Him, by misusing the blessings they have been granted, that they will never be able to escape the consequences of their actions in this world or in the next, as Allah, the Exalted, controls all things, including their spiritual heart, the abode of peace of mind. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 165:

"...And if only they who have wronged would consider [that] when they see the punishment, [they will be certain] that all power belongs to Allāh and that Allāh is severe in punishment."

As mentioned earlier, this punishment will begin in this world whereby the very worldly things one possesses becomes a source of stress, misery and trouble for them. They will move from one stress to the next and lead a dark and constricted life, even if they experience moments of fun and entertainment. Chapter 9 At Tawbah, verse 82:

"So let them laugh a little and [then] weep much as recompense for what they used to earn."

Because of their heedlessness they will not be able to connect the reason for their depression and misery with their disobedience of Allah, the Exalted. As a result, they will blame the wrong things within their lives, such as the few good friends and relatives they possess. This will cause them to remove these good elements from their lives, which in turn, only leads to more misery and stress for them. And what awaits

them in the hereafter is even more bitter and disastrous. Chapter 20 Taha, verses 124-126:

"And whoever turns away from My remembrance - indeed, he will have a depressed [i.e., difficult] life, and We will gather [i.e., raise] him on the Day of Resurrection blind." He will say, "My Lord, why have you raised me blind while I was [once] seeing?" [Allāh] will say, "Thus did Our signs come to you, and you forgot [i.e., disregarded] them; and thus will you this Day be forgotten.""

And chapter 2 Al Bagarah, verse 165:

"...And if only they who have wronged would consider [that] when they see the punishment, [they will be certain] that all power belongs to Allāh and that Allāh is severe in punishment."

In the hereafter, their punishment, stress and anguish will push them to blame those who misguided them in this world, those who they took as their role models and obeyed in all situations. But this will not be accepted from them and they will not be able to shift blame to others, as each person is responsible for their own actions. In fact, even the Devil will announce this truth on Judgement Day thereby destroying the hopes of the wrongdoers of escaping the consequences of their own actions by blaming him. Chapter 14 Ibrahim, verse 22:

"And Satan will say when the matter has been concluded, "Indeed, Allah had promised you the promise of truth. And I promised you, but I betrayed you. But I had no authority over you except that I invited you, and you responded to me. So do not blame me; but blame yourselves...""

Their stress and anguish will only increase when they observe how those who supported them in their misguided ways during their lives on Earth, friends and relatives, will dissociate themselves from them as they do not wish to share in their punishment. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 166:

"[And they should consider that] when those who have been followed disassociate themselves from those who followed [them], and they [all] see the punishment, and cut off from them are the ties [of relationship]."

Only those who accompany good people in this world will benefit from their companionships in both worlds. The people who encourage them to sincerely obey Allah, the Exalted, by using the blessings they have been granted in ways pleasing to Him as outlined in Islamic teachings. Chapter 43 Az Zukhruf, verse 67:

"Close friends, that Day, will be enemies to each other, except for the righteous."

The only ties which will remain firm and count in one's favour on the Day of Judgement are the ties forged in the obedience of Allah, the Exalted, whether these ties are with good people, the Holy Quran or good deeds. One must therefore concentrate on forging ties in ways pleasing to Allah, the Exalted, so that they obtain peace of mind and success in both worlds. Chapter 5 Al Ma'idah, verses 15-16:

"...There has come to you from Allāh a light and a clear Book. By which Allāh guides those who pursue His pleasure to the ways of peace and brings them out from darknesses into the light, by His permission, and guides them to a straight path."

But those who choose the path of misguidance and obeying and worshipping other than Allah, the Exalted, will eventually face the inevitable Day of Judgement, when they will not be granted a second chance at reforming their behaviour. They will be left with regrets which will not aid them in the least. In fact, their regrets will only increase their anguish and stress. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 167:

"Those who followed will say, "If only we had another turn [at worldly life] so we could disassociate ourselves from them as they have disassociated themselves from us." Thus will Allāh show them their deeds as regrets upon them. And they are never to emerge from the Fire."

Muslims must therefore take the countless opportunities of reforming their behaviour in this world before their time runs out. They must strive to utilize all their time and resources so that they dedicate them in ways pleasing to Allah, the Exalted, and avoid obeying and worshipping all other things, such as social media, people, fashion, culture and their own desires, so that they obtain peace of mind and success in both worlds and escape a dark and constricted life in this world and the unimaginable punishment and regret of the hereafter.

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