

Hoping for Good



**Adopting Positive Characteristics
Leads to Peace of Mind**

Hoping for Good

ShaykhPod Books

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Acknowledgements

All praises are for Allah, the Exalted, Lord of the worlds, who has given us the inspiration, opportunity and strength to complete this volume. Blessings and peace be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad whose path has been chosen by Allah, the Exalted, for the salvation of mankind.

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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 understanding the difference between having hope in obtaining good and wishful thinking. This discussion is based on Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, Verses 78-82 of the Holy Quran:

“And among them [people of the book] are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture [the Torah and Bible] except [indulging in] wishful thinking, but they are only assuming. So woe to those who write the "scripture" with their own hands, then say, "This is from Allah," in order to exchange it for a small price. Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn. And they [the people of the book] say, "Never will the Fire touch us, except for [a few] numbered days." Say, "Have you taken a covenant with Allah? For Allah will never break His covenant. Or do you say about Allah that which you do not know?" Yes, [on the contrary], whoever earns evil and his sin has encompassed him - those are the companions of the Fire; they will abide therein eternally. But they who believe and do righteous deeds - those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally.”

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

Hoping for Good

Chapter 2 – Al Baqarah, Verse 78

وَمِنْهُمْ أُمِّيُّونَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا أَمَانِي وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَظُنُّونَ ﴿٧٨﴾

“And among them [people of the book] are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture [the Torah and Bible] except [indulging in] wishful thinking, but they are only assuming.”

“And among them [people of the book] are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture [the Torah and Bible] except [indulging in] wishful thinking, but they are only assuming.”

This verse criticises those people who verbally claim to follow a particular religion yet fail to learn and act on its teachings. Many from the people of the book would blindly recite their divine scriptures unaware of what they taught and advocated, similar to the muslims of today who recite the Holy Quran without understanding its meaning. As a result, these uneducated people from the people of the book would then blindly follow their elders and scholars without understanding the teachings of their divine scriptures. In most cases, this led to their misguidance as many of their elders and scholars intentionally misinterpreted their divine scriptures for the sake of obtaining worldly things, such as wealth and social status. For example, most of them rejected Islam and advised their ignorant follows to reject Islam also even though they clearly recognised its truthfulness as the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, were discussed in their divine scriptures. Chapter 6 Al An'am, verse 20:

“Those to whom We have given the Scripture recognize it [the Holy Quran] as they recognize their [own] sons...”

And chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 146:

“Those to whom We gave the Scripture know him [Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him] as they know their own sons...”

And chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 78:

“And among them [people of the book] are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture [the Torah and Bible]...”

This verse therefore warns against adopting ignorance by failing to learn and act on divine knowledge as this often leads to blind imitation of others, which in turn often leads to misguidance. Chapter 6 Al An'am, verse 116:

“And if you obey most of those upon the earth, they will mislead you from the way of Allāh. They follow not except assumption, and they are not but misjudging.”

This is one of the reasons why learning and acting on Islamic knowledge is an obligation on every muslim according to the Hadith found in Sunan Ibn Majah, number 224.

A muslim is not expected to understand all the complicated and detailed aspects of Islamic knowledge, such as the complicated aspects of Islamic jurisprudence. But they are expected to learn the fundamental elements of faith discussed in the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and are expected to regularly study, learn and act on these two sources of guidance throughout their lives. This will ensure one does not blindly follow others in all their religious affairs which in turn will reduce the chances of becoming misguided.

Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 78:

“And among them [people of the book] are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture [the Torah and Bible] except [indulging in] wishful thinking, but they are only assuming.”

Ignorance also prevents one from sincerely obeying Allah, the Exalted, which involves using the blessings they have been granted in ways pleasing to Allah, the Exalted. How can one use the blessings they were granted correctly when they do not know how to? These ignorant people will then misuse the blessings they have been granted while assuming they are rightly guided, as they claim faith in Allah, the Exalted, through their speech. This attitude will only encourage them to adopt cultural practices and beliefs assuming they are religious practices and beliefs. This will only lead to further misguidance, as many of these practices are rooted in

polytheism and the disobedience of Allah, the Exalted. This is quite evident when one observes ignorant muslims.

The ignorant from the people of the book assumed that failing to learn and act on divine knowledge and instead learning a few practices from their religion was enough for salvation. They turned their faith into a few empty practices and did not understand that their faith was meant to affect every intention, word and action they perform. This understanding only occurs when one gains and acts on religious knowledge. Sadly, many Muslims have followed in their footsteps by relying on a few physical acts of worship assuming this is the path of success. When one turns their faith into a few practices and rituals performed in a language they do not understand, their faith no longer becomes a way of life. When the next generation follow in their footsteps it is only a matter of time before they abandon these few practices assuming they are only a part of their culture instead of understanding that their faith is meant to be a way of life. For example, the elders which migrated to western countries held onto their culture in respect to the clothing but the next generation who were born and raised in the west abandoned this way of dressing assuming it was only a cultural practice and not a way of life. The issue with culture and fashion is that they are always changing from generation to generation and if faith is seen as a few cultural practices it too will be abandoned with the passing of time. This is what occurred with the people of the book, the Jews and Christians, also. Once upon a time their churches and synagogues were full of devoted worshippers and seekers of knowledge but when the people abandoned knowledge and only relied on a few practices, the next generation went a step further and even abandoned these few practices and as a result their synagogues and churches became empty.

In addition, those who adopted this mentality amongst the older generation held onto the few practices they learned but due to changes in the general mentality of society, the next generation no longer desire to blindly implement cultural practices and even often question why they should adopt faith and act on these practices. If the older generation are unaware of why they are Muslims, then how can they explain this to the next generation? Ignorance will only encourage the next generation to abandon their faith and the few practices they were taught by their elders and to instead lead a life serving their own desires.

If Muslims fail to change their attitude by studying and acting on Islamic knowledge and encourage the next generation to do the same, then they too will share the fate of the people of the book mentioned in this verse.

Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 78:

“And among them [people of the book] are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture [the Torah and Bible] except [indulging in] wishful thinking, but they are only assuming.”

This also warns of a dangerous consequence of failing to learn and act on divine teachings. The one who adopts this attitude will inevitably believe things about their faith which are simply not true. For example, they may learn some divine attributes of Allah, the Exalted, such as the fact He is All

Forgiving and All Merciful and as a result they will indulge in wishful thinking while believing they possess hope in His mercy and forgiveness. Meaning, they will persist on the disobedience of Allah, the Exalted, while believing He will forgive them, as He is All Forgiving. Even though, Allah, the Exalted, forgives whoever He wants, none the less, He has made it clear that He will not treat the wrongdoer and doer of good equally in this world or in the next, as this would contradict His justice. Chapter 45 Al Jathiyah, verse 21:

“Or do those who commit evils think We will make them like those who have believed and done righteous deeds - [make them] equal in their life and their death? Evil is that which they judge.”

This wishful thinker believes they are showing respect to Allah, the Exalted, while they are actually indicating He does not judge with justice as they believe He will treat the doer of good equally to the wrongdoer. Hope in Allah, the Exalted, is always tied with His obedience. The one who sincerely strives to obey Him, by using the blessings they have been granted in ways pleasing to Him and sincerely repents from the sins they happen to commit is worthy of hoping in the mercy and forgiveness of Allah, the Exalted.

Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 78:

“And among them [people of the book] are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture [the Torah and Bible] except [indulging in] wishful thinking, but they are only assuming.”

Another misguided belief those who fail to learn and act on Islamic teachings adopt is that they belittle the punishment of the Day of Judgement and Hell. They assume that as they are muslims they will die muslims, which means they will eventually enter Paradise, even if they are punished in Hell first. First of all, leaving this world with faith is not guaranteed and those who persist in the disobedience of Allah, the Exalted, because of their ignorance, may well leave this world without their faith as they failed to nourish their faith with acts of obedience. Faith is like a plant which must be nourished with good actions and just like a plant dies when it does not obtain nourishment, such as water, so may well the faith of a muslim who fails to support their verbal declaration of faith with actions. Secondly, the punishment of the Day of Judgement and Hell is unbearable, even for a moment, let alone many years. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, has warned that on the Day of Judgement the one who enjoyed their worldly life the most will be dipped into Hell for a moment and pulled back out. He will be asked if he had experienced anything good in his entire existence to which he will reply in the negative, as Hell is that terrible it destroys the memories and feelings of any enjoyment a person has ever felt. This has been warned in a Hadith found in Sunan Ibn Majah, verse 4321. This is enough to make it clear that a single moment of Hell is unbearable therefore one must never belittle it as if it is like a worldly prison. In addition, this misguided attitude is the same one adopted by the people of the book who also belittled Hell and as a result Allah, the Exalted, criticised them in the Holy Quran. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 80:

“And they say, “Never will the Fire touch us, except for [a few] numbered days.” Say, “Have you taken a covenant with Allāh? For Allāh will never break His covenant. Or do you say about Allāh that which you do not know?””

Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 78:

“And among them [people of the book] are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture [the Torah and Bible] except [indulging in] wishful thinking, but they are only assuming.”

Another classic misguided assumption adopted by ignorant muslims is that they assume they will be saved on Judgement Day from Hell by the intercession of a holy person, spiritual guide and teacher, such as the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, even though they persisted on the disobedience of Allah, the Exalted. Even though the intercession of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, is a fact none the less, many muslims will still enter Hell and as mentioned earlier, a moment in Hell is unbearable. In addition, these ignorant people fail to understand that the same way the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, will intercede for muslims, he will also testify against those who abandoned learning and acting on the Holy Quran. Chapter 25 Al Furqan, verse 30:

“And the Messenger has said, "O my Lord, indeed my people have taken this Qur’ān as [a thing] abandoned.””

One can only abandon something after they have accepted and took it. Therefore, this obviously refers to the muslims as they are the ones who took the Holy Quran from the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. It does not take a scholar to determine what will occur to the person who the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, testifies against on Judgement Day.

These ignorant people believe that as they are from the nation of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, they will be forgiven irrespective of their actions. This was the same misguided attitude adopted by the people of the book which Allah, the Exalted, criticized in the Holy Quran. Chapter 5 Al Ma'idah, verse 18:

“But the Jews and the Christians say, "We are the children of Allāh and His beloved." Say, "Then why does He punish you for your sins?" Rather, you are human beings from among those He has created. He forgives whom He wills, and He punishes whom He wills...”

An ignorant person who fails to learn and act on Islamic knowledge will assume that the tradition of Allah, the Exalted, will be changed for them. Meaning, even though He has punished and will punish the former nations

which persistently disobeyed Him, the ignorant person believes this tradition will be changed for them. But they fail to understand that the tradition of Allah, the Exalted, does not change for anyone or any nation. Chapter 35 Fatir, verse 43:

“...Then do they await except the way [i.e., fate] of the former peoples? But you will never find in the way [i.e., established method] of Allāh any change, and you will never find in the way of Allāh any alteration.”

Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 78:

“And among them [people of the book] are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture [the Torah and Bible] except [indulging in] wishful thinking, but they are only assuming.”

Another classic misguided assumption adopted by ignorant muslims is that they assume they will be saved on Judgement Day from Hell simply because they claim love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and his Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, even though they fail to prove this love through actions by learning and acting on his traditions. They fail to remember that even the previous nations claim to love their Holy Prophets, peace be upon them, yet they will not be with them on Judgement Day as they failed to practically follow in their footsteps. The same outcome will occur to the muslims who fail to

practically follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, which involves using the blessings one has 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. This has been indicated in many verses, such as chapter 4 An Nisa, verse 69:

“And whoever obeys Allāh and the Messenger - those will be with the ones upon whom Allāh has bestowed favor of the prophets, the steadfast affirmers of truth, the martyrs and the righteous. And excellent are those as companions.”

This verse makes it clear that this outcome is only for those who practically obey Allah, the Exalted, and His Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, not for those who only claim love through their words.

Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 78:

“And among them [people of the book] are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture [the Torah and Bible] except [indulging in] wishful thinking, but they are only assuming.”

To conclude, the only way one can avoid being misguided by others and adopting wishful thinking and false beliefs about Allah, the Exalted, the Holy Quran, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and the afterlife is by learning and acting on the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. This will ensure they use 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. This leads to peace of mind and success in both worlds. 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."

But the one who fails to behave in this manner and instead adopts ignorance as they way, will misuse the blessings they have been granted. This will lead to stress and difficulties in this world and then they will encounter difficulties and trouble in the hereafter which they never realized or expected because of their ignorance. 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 39 Az Zumar, verse 47:

"And if those who did wrong had all that is in the earth entirely and the like of it with it, they would [attempt to] ransom themselves thereby from the worst of the punishment on the Day of Resurrection. And there will appear to them from Allāh that which they had not taken into account."

Chapter 2 – Al Baqarah, Verses 79-82

فَوَيْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ يَكْتُوبُونَ الْكِتَابَ بِأَيْدِيهِمْ ثُمَّ يَقُولُونَ هَذَا مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ لِيَشْتَرُوا بِهِ ثَمَنًا

قَلِيلًا فَوَيْلٌ لَهُمْ مِمَّا كَتَبَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَوَيْلٌ لَهُمْ مِمَّا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿٧٩﴾

وَقَالُوا لَنْ تَمَسَّنَا النَّارُ إِلَّا أَيَّامًا مَعْدُودَةً قُلْ أَتَّخَذْتُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ عَهْدًا فَلَنْ يُخْلَفَ

اللَّهُ عَهْدَهُ ۖ أَمْ تَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٨٠﴾

بِكُلِّ مَنْ كَسَبَ سَيِّئَةً وَأَحَاطَتْ بِهِ خَاطِئَتُهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا

خَالِدُونَ ﴿٨١﴾

وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٨٢﴾

"So woe to those who write the "scripture" with their own hands, then say, "This is from Allah," in order to exchange it for a small price. Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn.

And they [the people of the book] say, "Never will the Fire touch us, except for [a few] numbered days." Say, "Have you taken a covenant with Allah? For Allah will never break His covenant. Or do you say about Allah that which you do not know?"

Yes, [on the contrary], whoever earns evil and his sin has encompassed him - those are the companions of the Fire; they will abide therein eternally.

But they who believe and do righteous deeds - those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally."

“So woe to those who write the "scripture" with their own hands, then say, "This is from Allah," in order to exchange it for a small price. Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn. And they [the people of the book] say, "Never will the Fire touch us, except for [a few] numbered days." Say, "Have you taken a covenant with Allah? For Allah will never break His covenant. Or do you say about Allah that which you do not know?" Yes, [on the contrary], whoever earns evil and his sin has encompassed him - those are the companions of the Fire; they will abide therein eternally. But they who believe and do righteous deeds - those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally.”

Allah, the Exalted, criticizes the people of the book who intentionally altered and misinterpreted their divine scriptures in order to obtain worldly things, such as wealth and leadership. For example, they would take bribes from the rich in order to alter divine law so that they were granted concessions to commit sins through fulfilling their worldly desires. They even altered the description of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and the Holy Quran mentioned in their divine scriptures in order to prevent their blind followers from accepting Islam. Chapter 6 Al An'am, verse 20:

“Those to whom We have given the Scripture recognize it [the Holy Quran] as they recognize their [own] sons...”

And chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 146:

“Those to whom We gave the Scripture know him [Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him] as they know their own sons...”

And chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 79:

“So woe to those who write the "scripture" with their own hands, then say, "This is from Allah," in order to exchange it for a small price...”

But Allah, the Exalted, warns them that no matter what worldly things they obtain they will be small compared to what they would have obtained if they sincerely obeyed Allah, the Exalted, by strictly adhering to their divine scriptures. The peace of mind and success in both worlds granted to those who behave correctly is like an ocean compared to the drop one can obtain through compromising on their faith. 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."

In addition, the very worldly things one obtains through compromising on their faith in this way will become a source of stress, misery and

depression for them, as Allah, the Exalted, alone controls the effect worldly blessings have on their bearer and He alone controls the spiritual hearts of people, the abode of peace of mind. This is the reason one will often observe those drowned in worldly luxuries to be the people who suffer more mental issues such as anxiety, depression and suicidal tendencies than anyone else. This clearly indicates the without peace of mind all worldly blessings and luxuries are paltry, just like verse 79 states. 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.""

This worldly and hereafter punishment for those who compromise on divine teachings by intentionally misinterpreting them thereby granting themselves and others the concessions to misuse the blessings they have been granted has been indicated at the end of verse 79. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 79:

"...Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn."

A curse removes one from the mercy of Allah, the Exalted, which prevents them from obtaining peace of mind and success in either this

world or the next irrespective of what worldly things they happen to obtain. In addition, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, has warned in a Hadith found in Sunan Ibn Majah, number 253, that gaining Islamic knowledge for the sake of worldly things, such as showing off to others will cause one to enter Hell.

Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 79:

“So woe to those who write the "scripture" with their own hands, then say, "This is from Allāh," in order to exchange it for a small price. Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn.”

A branch of this attitude is when so-called Islamic scholars advocate actions which are not rooted in the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, in order to amass a following, while claiming that what they advocate is from Allah, the Exalted. As a result, their ignorant followers hold onto these practices believing they are from Allah, the Exalted, and take these scholars as their spiritual leaders whose obedience under all situations is mandatory. Muslims must avoid these types of people and instead learn and act on the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and avoid all other actions, even if they appear to be good deeds, as the more one acts on other things the less they will act on the two sources of guidance, which in turn leads to misguidance. This is one of the reasons 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.

The attitude described in verse 79 is also adopted by the con artists who claim to solve the worldly problems of people through religious spiritual exercises for a fee. They offer spiritual exercises claiming they are from Allah, the Exalted, even though He nor His Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, prescribed them. These people must be avoided at all costs as they only encourage muslims to lose trust in Allah, the Exalted, and as they take muslims away from the teachings of the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, which leads to misguidance. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 79:

“So woe to those who write the "scripture" with their own hands, then say, "This is from Allāh," in order to exchange it for a small price. Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn.”

One of the reasons why Allah, the Exalted, criticizes this attitude heavily is due to the fact that it leads to the misguidance of other people. Adopting a misguiding attitude is bad enough but it becomes much worse in the eyes of Allah, the Exalted, when one's actions leads to the misguidance of others. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, has warned that the one who misguides others will incur the same sin of each of their misguided followers. This has been confirmed in a Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2674. Therefore, one must ensure they learn, act and advise others to strictly

adhere to the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, at all times.

Allah, the Exalted, then explains why many scholars from the people of the book intentionally edited and misinterpreted their divine scriptures. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 80:

"And they [the people of the book] say, "Never will the Fire touch us, except for [a few] numbered days."..."

They deluded themselves through their wishful thinking when they assumed that they were the favorites of Allah, the Exalted, and as a result He would either pardon them outright for their sins or subject them to a very mild punishment. These outcomes therefore made editing and misinterpreting their divine scriptures for the sake of gaining worldly things, such as wealth and leadership, worth it, just like a thief who plans to steal something valuable believing the risk is worth it, even if they get caught and are sent to prison. Chapter 5 Al Ma'idah, verse 18:

"But the Jews and the Christians say, "We are the children of Allāh and His beloved." Say, "Then why does He punish you for your sins?" Rather, you are human beings from among those He has created. He forgives whom He wills, and He punishes whom He wills..."

But Allah, the Exalted, makes it clear that wishful thinking has no value in His sight and the one who persists on disobeying Him will face the consequences of their actions. In addition, their attitude was nothing but a disrespect to Allah, the Exalted, as they believed He would treat the doer of good and the wrongdoer equally on the Day of Judgement. Chapter 45 Al Jathiyah, verse 21:

“Or do those who commit evils think We will make them like those who have believed and done righteous deeds - [make them] equal in their life and their death? Evil is that which they judge.”

The people of the book believed He would punish others for their sins but spare them. As a result, they attributed injustice to Allah, the Exalted, which in itself is a grave sin. This has been indicated at the end of verse 80. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 80:

“And they [the people of the book] say, “Never will the Fire touch us, except for [a few] numbered days.” Say, “Have you taken a covenant with Allah? For Allah will never break His covenant. Or do you say about Allah that which you do not know?””

Muslims must therefore avoid the attitude of intentionally misinterpreting the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, in order to gain worldly things, such as wealth and leadership. Sadly, many muslims have followed in the footsteps of the people of the book by claiming they are the favorites of Allah, the Exalted, as they belong to the nation of the Holy Prophet

Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. As a result, they adopt wishful thinking, just like the people of the book, by believing they will be pardoned or subjected to a mild punishment for ignoring the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, which in turn leads to misusing the blessings they have been granted. They fail to understand that even though the intercession of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, is a fact, yet many muslims will still go to Hell. This has been confirmed in the Hadiths which discuss his intercession on Judgement Day, such as the one found in Sunan Ibn Majah, number 4308. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, has warned that on the Day of Judgement the one who enjoyed their worldly life the most will be dipped into Hell for a moment and pulled back out. He will be asked if he had experienced anything good in his entire existence to which he will reply in the negative, as Hell is that terrible it destroys the memories and feelings of any enjoyment a person has ever felt. This has been warned in a Hadith found in Sunan Ibn Majah, verse 4321. This clearly shows that even a moment in Hell is unbearable therefore, one should not assume the punishment given to them in Hell will be a mild one.

Allah, the Exalted, then makes His longstanding tradition clear to all nations, which clearly eliminates the wishful thinking attitude many have adopted. This tradition will not be changed for any person or nation, as this would challenge the justice of Allah, the Exalted. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verses 81-82:

“Yes, [on the contrary], whoever earns evil and his sin has encompassed him - those are the companions of the Fire; they will abide therein eternally. But they who believe and do righteous deeds - those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally.”

One being encompassed by their sins occurs when one persists on their sinful conduct without attempting to sincerely repent from it. Sincere repentance includes feeling guilty, seeking the forgiveness of Allah, the Exalted, or anyone else who has been wronged, as long as this does not make the situation worse, promising not to commit the same or similar sin again and making up for any rights which have been violated in respect to Allah, the Exalted, and people. The one who sincerely repents will not be encompassed by their sins, only the one who boldly persists on their disobedience of Allah, the Exalted.

Allah, the Exalted, also makes clear that success in this world or the next is not possible without actualizing one's faith by performing righteous deeds, which involves using the blessings one has 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. Verbally claiming faith without supporting it with actions will not lead to peace of mind and success in either this world or the next. In fact, the one who fails to actualize their faith runs the risk of leaving this world without their faith, which is the greatest loss. This can occur as one's faith is like a plant which must be nourished with good deeds. The same way a plant will die when it fails to obtain nourishment, such as water, so may well the faith of a person who fails to nourish it with good deeds. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 82:

"But they who believe and do righteous deeds - those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally."

To conclude, one must avoid misinterpreting divine teachings in order to suit their desires. They must not cherry pick which divine commands and prohibitions to act on and which ones to ignore according to their desires, as this is a form of misinterpreting divine teachings. They must avoid adopting wishful thinking by assuming they can ignore obeying Allah, the Exalted, yet achieve peace of mind and success in both worlds. This attitude only leads to trouble in both worlds. 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.""

Instead, they must sincerely obey Allah, the Exalted, by 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. This attitude leads to peace of mind and success in both worlds. 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."

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