

## DARUL ULOOM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO A CONCISE COMMENTARY COURSE OF THE HOLY QURAAN (2001-2020)

Surah Al Ahqaf states in verse 27:

**27. And indeed We have destroyed towns (populations) around you, and We have (repeatedly) shown (them) the Ayât (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, etc.) in various ways that they might return.**

Here, Allah addresses the people of Makkah (especially the unbelievers) and states that He has destroyed towns/cities of people who lived around them in the past. From among the destroyed towns/cities were:

- 1) The people of 'Ad who lived in Yemen, south of Makkah.
- 2) The people of Thamud who lived between Makkah and Syria to the north of Makkah.
- 3) The people of Saba, who lived in Yemen.
- 4) The people of Madyan who were on the route to Ghazzah (Western Palestine).
- 5) The people of Lut who lived by the lake (Dead Sea) which they (the Makkans) used to pass by (on the way to Jordan).

These were cities/towns around Makkah which were known and recognized by the people of Makkah. The verse stated, ‘**And We have repeatedly shown them the signs so that they may return to the straight path**’. It means that Allah continuously sent evidences, proofs, exhortations and admonitions to them so that they may turn away from disbelief and misguidance. However, even after many signs and evidences were given to them, they did not accept the message of truth that came from Allah.

Surah Al Ahqaf states in verse 28:

**28. Then why did those whom they had taken for gods besides Allah, as a way of approach (to Allah) not help them? Nay, but they vanished completely from them (when there came the torment). And that was their lie, and their inventions which they had been inventing (before their destruction).**

Here, Allah questioned the unbelievers who turned away from the right path, and admonished them by saying, ‘Why did their gods whom they took as patrons and intercessors, not help them against the punishment when it came to them?’

They worshipped their gods and used them as intercessors, believing that they can help them and provide protection to them. However, when the punishment of Allah descended, their gods could not help them in the least. Instead, they disappeared from them and failed to come to their help when it was much needed. This clearly shows that the claim they made that their idols/images/gods were partners of Allah and were their intercessors to Allah, was nothing but a clear fabrication and lie which they made up about their gods and the objects they worshipped.

Surah Al Ahqaf states in verse 29:

**29. And (remember) when We sent towards you (Muhammad), a group of the jinns, listening to the Qur'ân, when they stood in the presence thereof, they said: "Listen in silence!" And when it was finished, they returned to their people, as warners.**

In this verse, Allah speaks about the incident regarding a group of jinns who listened to the Holy Quran from the Prophet (ﷺ) and accepted Islam. It is narrated that they met the Prophet (ﷺ) at a place named 'Wadi An Nakhla' at a time when he was departing from the city of Ta'if. At that time, he was reciting the Holy Quran in his Salaah and when they heard the recitation, they (the jinns) stopped and listened. The verse states that when they presented themselves close to the Prophet (ﷺ), they advised each other to be silent so that they may listen attentively to the Quran. When the Quraanic recitation came to an end, they accepted Islam and returned to their tribes, warning them about Allah's punishment if they did not believe in Allah.

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While speaking about the message they gave to their tribes (from the jinns), Allah states:

**30. They said: "O our people! Verily! We have heard a Book (this Qur'ân) sent down after Mûsa (Moses), confirming what came before it, it guides to the truth and to a Straight Path (i.e. Islâm).**

They called out to their tribes, informing them that they had listened to a revealed Book and Scripture which has been sent down to a prophet after Moosa (A.S). They explained that the book confirms what has been revealed before it in the Taurah, and it guides to the truth and the straight path. They continued to preach to their jinn tribes and said:

**31. O our people! Respond (with obedience) to Allah's Caller (i.e. Allah's Messenger Muhammad), and believe in him (i.e. believe in that which Muhammad has brought from Allah and follow him). He (Allah) will forgive you of your sins, and will save you from a painful torment (i.e. Hell-fire).**

The verse explains that those jinns who listened to the Quraanic recitation of the Prophet (ﷺ), continued to encourage their tribes to accept Islam, and appealed to them saying, 'O our people! Respond to Allah's caller.' That is, respond and listen to the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) and accept his message of true faith in Allah and his prophethood. If you believe in him and follow his teachings, Allah will forgive you of your sins and wrongdoings, and shall protect you from the painful punishment in the hereafter. In this way, they strongly urged their fellow jinns to believe in Allah and His prophet, and also warned them of the severe consequences they would face if they were to disbelieve in Allah.

About this, verse 32 of Surah Al Ahqaf states:

**32. And whosoever does not respond to Allah's Caller, he cannot escape on earth, and there will be no Auliya' (protectors) for him besides Allah (from Allah's Punishment). Those are in manifest error.**

Here, they (the jinns) have given a clear warning to their tribes people and stated that whoever does not respond to the caller of Allah, and they chose to disbelieve in Him, then he will not be able to escape Allah's punishment on the earth, and there will be none to protect him against the torment of Allah. Those who chose the path of disbelief are in clear misguidance and manifest error.

As stated by the great commentators of the Holy Quran, the above verses regarding the incident of jinns, is meant to be a rebuke to the polytheists of Makkah. It sent a message to them saying that even the jinns who are a powerful creation and are more proud and haughty than humans, humbled themselves and listened to the Holy Quran, and then accepted Islam. But they, despite the fact that they had more sense and intelligence than the jinns, failed to even listen to the Quran attentively. They should therefore be ashamed of themselves in their conduct towards the Prophet (ﷺ).

With respect to the above verses in which it is stated that a group of jinns listened to the Quran and then accepted Islam, the scholars of Seerah and Tafseer have stated that this occurred a few times and are evident in authentic Ahadith.

One such incident occurred at a time when the Prophet (ﷺ) was commissioned as a prophet by Allah and he was granted prophethood. At that time, the jinns who used to go up to the lowest sky to listen to the news of the heavens were stopped, and were stoned with flames of fire if they tried to go close to the lowest heaven. Upon this, Iblees (Satan) addressed the jinns and said, 'This, which has occurred in the heavens is due to some matter which has occurred on earth.'

Having said this, he sent out many groups of jinns in different directions to investigate and search for any new matter which has recently occurred on earth. In this way, a group of the jinns known as 'Nasibeen' (the nobles of the jinns) travelled until they came to the region of Tihamah. When they arrived at Batn Nakhlah (the area of Nakhlah), they heard the Prophet (ﷺ) reciting the glorious Quran in Salah. They listened attentively to it, and advised each other to be silent.