

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

So, it is because of this dislike for the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), and their unwillingness to follow the orders of the Quran, Allah said about them (in the verse) **‘But when a decisive Sûrah is sent down, and fighting is mentioned therein, you will see those in whose hearts is a disease (of hypocrisy) looking at you with a look of one fainting to death.’**

At the end of the verse, while speaking about them (the hypocrites), Allah says, *فالولى لهم* (Fa Awlaa Lahum). The expert commentators of the Holy Quran have given two translations and interpretations for this statement. According to some of them, the statement translates as, ‘But it was better for them’ which means that it was better for them (the hypocrites) to listen to Allah and obey Him, rather than show aversion and dislike to what He commanded them to do. This is the interpretation accepted by Hafiz Ibn Katheer and Hafiz Jalaluddeen Al Mahali (in his Tafseer Al Jalaalain). (Tafseer Ibn Katheer vol.5 pg. 541 Dar Al Kitab Al Arabi, Beirut 2013; Haashiya As Saawi Ala Al Jalaalain vol.4 pg. 91 Dar Al Fikr Beirut)

Many exegetes however, have mentioned that the statement *فالولى لهم* (Fa Awlaa Lahum) is meant to be a threat and a bad invocation against the hypocrites for their hypocrisy which they showed to Allah and His Messenger. It means ‘Woe unto them’, and ‘May the punishment come upon them’. This is the official commentary of given by the great Tabi’ee Imam of Tafseer and Hadith, Qatadah (A.R). He said, ‘This (statement) is a threat (to the hypocrites). It is as if Allah has said, ‘The punishment is better for them’. This is the interpretation/ explanation which has been accepted by Hafiz Ibn Jareer At Tabari, Imam Qurtubi, Imam Al Baghwi, Abu Hayyan and Allama As Sabuni. (Tafseer At Tabari vol.26 pg. 64 Dar Ihya At Turath Al Arabi Beirut 2001; Tafseer Al Qurtubi vol.16 pg. 207 Maktaba Rasheediya Queta; Tafseer Al Baghwi vol.4 pg. 183 Idara Taleefaat Ashrafiya Multan Pakistan; Tafseer Al Bahrul Muheet vol.9 pg. 470, 471 Dar Al Fikr Beirut 1992; Safwah At Tafaseer vol.3 pg. 196 Maktaba Tawfiqiyah Dar As Sabooni 2009)

Surah Muhammad states in verse 21:

**21. Obedience (to Allah) and good words (were better for them). And when the matter is resolved on, then if they had been true to Allah, it would have been better for them.**

Here Allah mentions that if the hypocrites had been obedient to Him and His Messenger, and had uttered good words, then it would have been far better for them, and more virtuous. It further states, **‘And when the matter is resolved on, then if they had been true to Allah, it would have been better for them’**. It means when the decision to go to battle is decided by the Prophet (ﷺ) and the true believers, it would have been better for the hypocrites to prove their true faith in Allah by following the Prophet (ﷺ) and accompanying him in battles, rather than making up lies and feeble excuses to stay away from the expeditions.

Surah Muhammad states in verse 22:

**22. So would you perhaps, if you turned away, cause corruption on earth and sever ties of relationship.**

Here, Allah addresses the hypocrites directly and says to them, ‘O hypocrites, seeing that you have turned away from Islam, it is possible that you may return to your past ignorant ways of creating mischief and anarchy in the land, and breaking family ties’. It means seeing that the hypocrites who have outwardly accepted Islam, have chosen to turn away from the commands given in the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet (ﷺ), it is highly possible that they will return to their old ways/practices of the Jahiliyah period (pre-Islamic times). By doing so, they will turn to killing and murder, break family ties, create mischief and lawlessness in the land and commit every type of sin/evil.

The great exegete, Qatadah (A.R) said, ‘How did you see the people when they turned away from the Book of Allah? Did they not shed blood and commit murder, and break family ties? Did they not disobey Allah?’ (It means that when people turn away from being obedient to Allah, they begin to commit every type of sin and injustice). (Tafseer Al Baghwi vol.4 pg. 183,184 Idara Taleefaat

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Surah Muhammad states in verse 23:

**23. Such are they whom Allah has cursed, so that He has made them deaf and blinded their sight.**

Referring to the hypocrites who have been mentioned before, this verse states that Allah's curse has fallen upon them, and so, they have been cursed by Allah and thrown far away from His Mercy. The result of this 'La'nah' (curse) is that Allah has made them deaf, to the extent that they are unable to listen, understand and benefit from the truth of the Quran when it is being recited to them. He has also blinded the sight of their hearts, so they remain blind to the path of truth, and cannot be guided to the guidance of Allah.

While explaining this verse, Imam Qurtubi has stated, 'Here, Allah informs people that whoever does what the hypocrites have done, then His curse (La'nah) shall fall upon him, and the ability to benefit from his hearing and sight shall be seized from him, to the extent that he will not be submissive to the truth even if he hears it. (Tafseer Al Qurtubi vol.16 pg. 209 Maktaba Rasheediya Queta; Safwah At Tafaseer vol.3 pg. 196 Maktaba Tawfiqiyah Dar As Sabooni 2009)

Surah Muhammad states in verse 24:

**24. Do they not then think deeply in the Qur'ân, or are their hearts locked up (from understanding it)?**

This question (in the verse) is meant to be a rebuke/reproach to the hypocrites since they have refused to follow the teachings of the Holy Quran. Allah questions them and says, 'Have they not pondered and looked deeply into the teachings of the Quran so that they may see/know what Allah has mentioned about rewards for obedience and punishments for disobedience. They would have also seen proofs of the truth of Islam, and the falsehood of kufr and shirk. However, their conduct shows that they have not pondered and looked deeply into the Quran. If they had done so, they would not remain as hypocrites.