

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

The verse continues and states, ‘Or are their hearts locked up?’ It means that the reason the hypocrites have chosen not to accept the teachings/message of the Holy Quran is either they did not think deeply enough in the Quran to see its truth, or it may be that their hearts are sealed and hence, nothing of the truth can penetrate it. By saying, ‘Or are their hearts locked up (sealed)’, Allah wishes to make it clear that the real cause for their non-acceptance of the Holy Quran, is that their hearts have been sealed and ‘locked-up’ and so, they cannot see (with their hearts) or understand the beautiful message of the truth which is given in the Holy Quran.

While explaining this verse, the great scholar of Tafseer, Allama Sabooni (A.R) writes, ‘In the verse, the word ‘or’ means ‘but’ (أَمْ ‘Am’ means بَلْ ‘Bal’), so the meaning of ‘Or are their hearts locked up’ means ‘but (in truth) their hearts are locked up (sealed)’. (This explanation has been accepted by all scholars of the Quran). Allam Sabooni further states, 'First of all, Allah Has rebuked the hypocrites for not thinking deeply in the Holy Quran, and then He reprimanded them for having hard and dark hearts that cannot reflect and ponder. The verse explains that their hearts are filled with hardness and darkness. It is as though their hearts are shackled with iron locks (and sealed up) and no light (Nur) and Imaan (faith) can enter it.

The great Mufasssir (exegete) of the Holy Quran, Imam Ar Raazi (A.R) says, ‘Certainly the heart has been created for Al Ma’rifah (to know and recognize the Creator, Allah) and when there is no Ma’rifah in it (i.e. when there is no recognition of Allah in it), it is as though it does not exist. This is just like the statement of a person who says about one who causes harm to others ‘This is not a human being, but he is a wild animal’, or he says (about a hard-hearted person), ‘This is not a heart, it is a stone’. (Tafseer Al Kabeer - Safwah At Tafaseer vol.3 pg. 196-197MaktabaTawfiqiyah Dar As Sabooni 2009)

Therefore, the message of the verse is that those who have refused to accept the truth of the Holy Quran, from the hypocrites and other disbelievers, their hearts have been sealed by Allah on account of their own actions. As such, though they were listening to the Holy Quran from the Prophet (ﷺ), it could not enter their hearts, and it could not bring any effect on them.

While explaining the verse which states, ‘Or are their hearts locked up’, the great Tabi’ee Imam from the pious predecessors, Khalid bin Ma’dan (died 103 AH) said, ‘There is not a person except that for him there are four eyes. Two (eyes) have been placed in his head for his Dunya (worldly life), which he uses for his living (and livelihood), and two (eyes) have been placed in his heart for his Deen (religion), which he uses to see what Allah has promised him from the unseen matters. When Allah intends goodness for a person, He makes him see with the two eyes which have been placed in his heart. But when He does not intend goodness for a person (due to the person’s own actions), He effaces those two eyes (in the heart). (Tafseer At Tabari vol.26 pg. 68 Dar Ihya At Turath Al Arabi Beirut 2001)

Surah Muhammad states in verse 25:

25. Verily, those who have turned back as disbelievers after the guidance has been manifested to them, Shaitân (Satan) has beautified for them (their false hopes), and prolonged their term (age).

Here, Allah says that those people who have turned away from Imaan (faith) and returned to Kufr (disbelief) after the path of guidance have been made clear to them through apparent signs and miracles, then Satan is the one who has enticed them to do that, and has made their actions of rejecting Islam and committing sins beautiful to them. As such, they viewed their rejection of Islam as one that was good and excellent. But the truth was that Satan misled them, and deceived them with false hopes and a long term. He made them think that their ways were right, and he beautified the material things of the world for them. They were then attracted to these and forgot about Allah (and the hereafter). Satan also made them believe that they had long lives to live in the world and they will have to compromise the pleasures of this world if they were to accept/follow Islam. (Anwarul Bayaan vol.4 pg. 585 DarulIshaat Karachi 2005)

Qatada (A.R) says that the above verse speaks about the unbelievers of the People of the book (the Jews) who denied the Prophet (ﷺ) after they recognized him from the description given in their Holy

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Scriptures. Other scholars of the Holy Quran like Ibn Abbas (R.A), Adh Dhahak and As Suddi (A.R) have stated that the verse refers to the hypocrites who refused to accompany the Prophet (ﷺ) for battles after they knew that these instructions were given to them in the Holy Quran. (Tafseer Al Qurtubi vol.16 pg. 212 Maktaba Rasheediya Queta; Tafseer Al Baghwi vol.4 pg. 184 Idara Taleefaat Ashrafiya Multan Pakistan)

Surah Muhammad verse 26 states:

26. This is because they said to those who hate what Allah has sent down: "We will obey you in part of the matter," but Allah knows their secrets.

Here, Allah says that the hypocrites/ the Jews were deceived and fooled by Satan because of their own actions. The Jews, and at times, the hypocrites will say to the polytheists (those who hated the revelation from Allah) that they will follow them in some of the things they did. As a result, they (the Jews and the hypocrites) began to show hatred and enmity to the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) just as the polytheists (Mushrikeen) did, and the hypocrites will abstain from giving support to the Prophet (ﷺ) when he went for Holy battles against the unbelievers. These were said secretly by both the Jews and the hypocrites to the polytheists, since they did not want to make it known to the Muslims. However, Allah, Who is the Knower of the secret and open, revealed this to the Prophet (ﷺ) and their hidden mischief became apparent and known to everyone. It is about such conversations, the verse alludes to when it states, 'But Allah knows their secrets'. It means that Allah has full knowledge of the secret talks held by the Jews, hypocrites and polytheists (Mushrikeen). (Tafseer Al Baghwi vol.4 pg. 184 Idara TaleefaatAshrafiya Multan Pakistan; Tafseer Al Qurtubi vol.16 pg. 213MaktabaRasheediyaQueta)

Surah Muhammad states in verse 27:

27. Then how (will it be) when the angels will take their souls at death, smiting their faces and their backs?

Here, Allah mentions the woeful and sorrowful condition of the hypocrites and unbelievers at the time of death and says about them, 'What a disastrous situation they will encounter at the time of death when the angels will beat them and smite their faces and backs when they take their souls. At that time, the angels will have iron hammers in their hands and they will strike their faces and backs with it.