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From their tongues, they made it seem as if they truly wanted to accompany the Prophet (\circledast) on his journey to Makkah, but were unable to do so because of their families and possessions. However, in their hearts, they never had an intention to even join the Prophet (\circledast) on that journey. Therefore, what they uttered with their tongues was in conflict with what they had in their hearts. Along with this, they were not even sincere when they made the request for the Prophet (\circledast) to seek Allah's forgiveness for them. In fact, they did not think they did anything wrong. Why then, would they seek Allah's forgiveness? It is for these reasons, Allah made their hypocrisy clear to the Prophet (\circledast) and said, *'They say with their tongues what is not in their hearts'*.

The Prophet (^(#)) was further instructed (by Allah) to tell them, **'Who then has any power at all (to intervene) on your behalf with Allah, if He intends you hurt or intends you benefit?'** It means, if Allah wishes to cause harm to them and give them defeat at the hands of the believers, who can defend them against Allah's decree? Similarly, if Allah wishes to help them and grant them benefit from the spoils of war, then no one can stop it. Allah has complete control of all matters, and they (the bedouins) should not think that staying away from accompanying the Prophet (^(#)) to Makkah (for Umrah) would have averted some harm from them and brought benefits to them. (Tafseer Al Qurtubi vol.16 pg. 229 Maktaba Rasheediya Queta; Safwah At Tafaseer vol.3 pg. 204 Maktaba Tawfiqiyah Dar As Sabooni 2009)

At the end of the verse, they are reminded that Allah is Ever All Aware of what they do. He is fully knowledgeable and well informed of everything they do. Through His complete and perfect knowledge, He is aware of what they concealed in their hearts of hypocrisy and lies, and so, He made it manifest to the Prophet (ﷺ).

Surah Al Fath states in verse 12:

12. "Nay, but you thought that the Messenger and the believers would never return to their families; and that was made fair-seeming in their hearts, and you did think an evil thought and you became a useless people going for destruction."

In this verse, Allah revealed the evil thoughts which the hypocrites entertained in their hearts about the Prophet (ﷺ) and the believers. He made it clear that the 'lagging behind' by the Bedouins (who were hypocrites), was not on account of their excuses or mere disobedience to the Prophet (ﷺ), instead, it was solely based on the 'bad thoughts' they kept hidden in their hearts.

About this, Allah said, 'Nay, but you thought that the Messenger and the believers would never return to their families'. This is the evil thought the hypocrites had in their hearts. They thought, and even believed and hoped that when the Prophet (ﷺ) and the believers journeyed to Makkah for Umrah, they would be attacked and killed by the unbelievers and would never return to their families in Madinah. They entertained this thought to such an extent that it became firm in their hearts and they were even delighted about it. They had so much conviction in their evil thought that they discouraged others from accompanying the Prophet (ﷺ), saying to them, 'Certainly, Muhammad and his companions would be eaten up, so do not accompany them'. They also said,'Where are you going with him? Wait and see the outcome of their expedition'. (Tafseer Al Baghwi vol.4 pg. 191 Idara Taleefaat Ashrafiya Multan Pakistan; Safwah At Tafaseer vol.3 pg. 204-205 Maktaba Tawfiqiyah Dar As Sabooni 2009)

While speaking about their evil thought, Allah said, 'and that (thought) was made fair-seeming in your hearts'. That is, this evil thought was pleasant and agreeable to them. They were happy about entertaining such thoughts about the Prophet (ﷺ), but Allah Himself said, 'and you (O hypocrites) did think an evil (wicked) thought'. Allah made it clear to them that although they enjoyed having such thoughts about the Prophet (ﷺ), it was wicked and evil of them to do that. It is for this reason, He said to them, 'and you are a destroyed people'. It means that you would be destroyed by Allah and will suffer His wrath and punishment. (Safwah At Tafaseer vol.3 pg. 205 MaktabaTawfiqiyah Dar As Sabooni 2009)

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Some commentators of the Holy Quran have explained the above statement by saying that it means, 'And you (O hypocrites) are a corrupt people. You will not reform yourselves for anything that is good'. (Tafseer Al Qurtubi vol.16 pg. 229 Maktaba Rasheediya Queta)

Surah Al Fath states in verse 13:

13. And whosoever does not believe in Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad[#]), then verily, We have prepared for the disbelievers a blazing Fire.

In this verse, Allah makes it evident that those who did not accompany the Prophet (ﷺ) (on his journey to Makkah) and entertained evil thoughts about him, were in reality unbelievers who did not really believe in Allah and His Messenger (ﷺ), although they uttered statements of belief with their tongues. This shows that those who do not have sincerity in their beliefs, and are not truthful in what they confess, would not be regarded as believers in the sight of Allah, and they would be made to enter the blazing fire of Hell. It is about these people, Allah says, 'And whosoever does not believer in Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad), then verily, We have prepared for the disbelievers a blazing Fire'.(Tafseer Al Bahrul Muheet vol.9 pg. 489 Dar Al Fikr Beirut 1992; Safwah At Tafaseer vol.3 pg. 205 Maktaba Tawfiqiyah Dar As Sabooni 2009)

Surah Al Fath states in verse 14:

14. And to Allah belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth, He forgives whom He wills, and punishes whom He wills. And Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

The verse informs man, including the unbelievers and the hypocrites who 'lagged behind', that the dominion of the heavens and earth belongs to Allah alone. He is the Owner, Controller and King of the heavens and earth and all that is in them. As such, He is independent of His servants and has no need for them or their services and worship. He has simply put them to a test by making them legally responsible to worship Him and serve Him, so that He can reward those who believe and punish those who disbelieve.

The verse further states, 'He forgives whom He wills and punishes whom He wills. And Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful'. This verse establishes that forgiveness and punishment are solely in Allah's control (authority), and is totally based upon His decision and Will. This statement sends a direct message to the hypocrites that requesting the Prophet (ﷺ) to seek Allah's forgiveness for them in no way brings any guarantee that they would be forgiven by Allah. This is solely based on Allah's will. The message is also given to all those who are insincere in their Imaan (faith), and those of the hypocrite Bedouins who made false excuses and entertained bad thoughts about the Prophet (SAW), that if they become true believers and repent for their sins, then Allah will surely forgive them since He is Oft-Forgiveng, Most Merciful.