

# Leave the Desert of Doubt, Receive Salvation

By

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Brothers and sisters...

May Allah purify your hearts and reward your steps with the best reward... May Allah make me, you and all sincere Muslims among those who are pleased with Allah and whom Allah grant them pleasure.

Today's speech discusses a very noticeable topic under the title of:

## Leave the Desert of Doubt, get salvation

Mentioning the characters of the believers in the beginning of *Surat-ul-Baqarah*, Allah says:

"ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ (٢) الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ (٣) وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ مِن قَبْلِكَ وَبِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ (٤) أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَىٰ هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ" القرآن: 2: 2-5

*"This is the Book wherein there is guidance, without doubt, to those who fear Allah; those who believe in the Unseen, are steadfast in prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them. And those who believe in the Revelation sent to you and sent before your time, and (in their hearts) have the assurance of the Hereafter. They are on (true guidance), from their Lord and it is these who will prosper" (The Qur'an, 2: 2-5)*

Evidently, the first character of a true believer is to have faithful belief in the Unseen; the Invisible world to come in the eternal life. This belief helps better life and stronger ability to overcome everyday difficulty. This crucial belief is claimed by every Muslim but only proved by very few people.

When you ask any Muslim: Do you believe in Allah?

S/He says: Yes.

You: Why?

S/He says: He is the Creator, the Lord, the Master, and the Sustainer.

You: How?

He created every thing, provides for everything, and is Able over every thing; He is the One Who gives and takes, grants and prevents.

You: why you are not obedient to Him? Why are not diligent in performing Salah and preserving the religious duty?

They can not give an unacceptable answer; they waver and fluster and began playing with words and taking refuge to false pretexts and fake excuses. This is like the case of the Israelites who applied some of the Book and denied the rest, then Allah blamed them saying:

"أفتؤمنون ببعض الكتاب وتكفرون ببعض" القرآن: 5 :85

"Do you believe in some of the Book and disbelieve in some of it"

*(The Qur'an, 2: 85)*

Here, when leaving lip services to practical service, the essence of belief is revealed.

### Lip Service and Practical Service

Many Muslims declare they are servants of Allah but they work in illegal business; they drink alcohol; they have illegal relationships; they practice usury; they neglect the daily religious duties; they are cruel with their wives and so nice to foreign women; they are ungrateful with their parents and so generous with their friends; they are always shy of their identity, Islamic duties and symbols; and hostile against their fellow Muslims, etc.

So, where is the disease?

The disease is their corrupt belief; they have no belief in Allah but they claim what they inherited from their forefathers when they are with Muslims and whenever they are alone, their real doubts and uncertain belief are manifested in their practices and vain statements.

**What is the remedy?**

The remedy is to think for awhile and reflect upon the truth brought by Messengers of Allah? So, the first step to believe in Allah is to believe in the Messengers, because they are the channels through which Divine Revelation are declared.

### **Messengers of Allah**

It is well known that there are six articles of Iman and having belief in the Messengers is one of them, but who are the Messengers?

The Messengers of Allah are the ones chosen by Allah for Human guidance, teaching, and enlightenment. They are the guides to the way of heavens, the channels of revelations, the reformists of life, the doctors of hearts, the light of souls, the comfort of spirit, the recovery of sickness, and the remedy of diseases.

They are the incontrovertible proof of Allah's Existence and Power; they unquestionable evidence of Allah's Justice and Mercy. They leave no excuse for dark hearts and mindless people:

"رسلا مبشرين ومنذرين لئلا يكون للناس على حجة بعد الرسل" النساء: 4: 165

*"Messengers bearing glad tidings and warnings, so that mankind will have no argument against Allah after the messengers..." (The Qur'an, 4: 65)*

Away from eloquence, refresh your reason and reflect upon the following facts:

They Messengers were sent to every nation around the world, Allah ﷻ said:

"إنا أرسلناك بالحق بشيرا ونذيرا وإن من أمة إلا خلا فيها نذير" فاطر: 35: 24

*"We have sent you with the truth as a herald of glad tidings and an announcer of warning"*

What is more important here is that Messengers are not only a decisive proofs against the deniers of Divine Light and Guidance but they are also a decisive proof on the existence of Allah. The messengers were sent to many nations during different periods of history. These nations lived in different geographical regions, spoke different languages, had different practices, habits and customs, and used to worship different gods; some worshiped the sun, the moon, the sky, the idols, the animals, etc. Some of these nations were highly civilized and some others were so primitive.

Most of the messengers did not meet each other or even knew about the others. Most of them lived in primitive societies and did not join any school or get any knowledge.

However, they declared the same message of Tawhid (monotheism; Allah is Only One; who has neither a child nor a wife and who has no partner or match). He is the Only Creator and the One who has the right to be worshipped. This very creed is declared by them all e.g. the Qur'an, 11: 26; 50; 61; 84.

Each of those Messengers declared that there will be a new life after death where people will be given life again and will be reckoned for their deeds in this life.

All the messengers declared there will be a house of eternal happiness for the righteous and good people called Paradise and another house of everlasting punishment for the disbelievers and sinners called Hellfire.

All of them announced the coming Last Day.

All of them declared that Allah will bring life to the dead and will cause them to get out of their graves.

They invite people to justice and mercy, benevolence and sympathy, purity and moderation, love and brotherhood, truth and honesty.

The likeness of the Allah, messengers, and people is that of a great engineer, a group of great cities, and their inhabitants.

The cities are endowed with light every day and they just see the light and know nothing about the source of light.

They have pure water about do not know about the source of this water.

Their cities are rich, orderly and well-organized but they do not know who makes this miraculous order and precise system.

They have experienced great confusion through generations and so many claims have been made to work out a satisfied answer.

Some said: The source of this great system is nature itself.

Others said: We know no greater power than the sea, it must be the maker of this system and source of this light; do you not see how great, vast and dangerous is it?

Others said: The Sun is the source of this great order.

Others said: The Mountains are the most powerful being.

Whereas others ascribe the creation and order to fire, stars, water, rivers, fierce animals, etc.

While they were held in their confusion, an honest man, whom they know for sure and is known for his truthfulness and honesty, came to them declaring that the Great Creator of this system is a Great Being who sent him to this city and order them to obey Him.

They knew no fault or sin in his personality... He tells them that the Creator, the Builder and the Maker of these cities is only ONE and His Kingdom is in the far desert.

No one could reach Him but He entrusted some angels with revealing the truth about Him to some of His servants; Messengers.

He tells you if you want these graces to continue, you should believe in Him as the Only God and Creator and should be humble servants to Him.

However, they belie the Messenger and kill him...

They belie their certain belief that he is a truthful and honest.

He then passed away to his Lord.

The same event takes place in every city and they give the same reply. Only a few persons accept these Messengers and believe in what they convey.

After the passing of some generations and centuries, other messengers were also sent conveying the same message about the Great Builder and Maker, and they received the same answer.

Mentioning this very fact, Allah says:

"ألم يأتكم نبأ الذين من قبلكم قوم نوح و عاد و ثمود و الذين من بعدهم لا يعلمهم إلا الله، جاءتهم رسلهم بالبينات، فردوا أيديهم في أفواههم وقالوا إنا كفرنا بما أرسلتم به و إنا لفي شك مما تدعوننا إليه مريب. قالت رسلهم: أفي الله شك فاطر السماوات و الأرض، يدعوكم ليغفر لكم من ذنوبكم و يؤخركم إلى أجل مسمى، قالوا إن أنتم إلا بشر مثلنا فأتونا بسلطان مبين. قالوا إن أنتم إلا بشر مثلكم ولكن الله يمين على من يشاء و ما كان لنا أن نأتيكم بسلطان إلا بإذن الله و على الله فليتوكل المؤمنون" القرآن: 14: 9-11

*"Has not the account of those, who (went) before you, reached you? The people of Noah, and `Ad, and Thamud?— and of those who (came) after them? None knows them but Allah. To them came messengers with Clear (Signs); but they put their hands up to their mouths, and said: "We do deny (the mission) on which you have been sent, and we are really in suspicious (disquieting) doubt as to that to which you invite us."*

*Their messengers said: "Is there a doubt about Allah, the Creator of the heavens and the earth? It is He Who invites you, in order that He may forgive you your sins and give you respite for a term appointed!" They said: "Ah! you are no more than human like ourselves! You wish to turn us away from the (gods) our fathers used to worship: then bring us some clear authority."*

*Their messengers said to them: "True, we are human like yourselves, but Allah does grant His grace to such of His servants as He pleases. It is not for us to bring you an authority except as Allah permits. And on Allah let all men of faith put their trust." The Qur'an, 14: 9-11*

The fact revealed now is that these are many messengers, sent to many and different nations at different times within different historical and environmental circumstances in various geographical regions with different tongues but they conveyed the same message.

This is a clear proof that the sender is only ONE.

If you believe in this self-evident argument, then the Messengers are truth and they are proofs of the existence of Allah.

Consequently, you should not only believe but should also follow the guidance brought by them to escape destruction.

### The Example of a Prophet

This very rational example that we have discussed find support in the report related by Al-Hasan al-Basri who said, it is reported to me that the Messenger said to his Sahabah:

*"My and your likeness is equal to a group of people who traveled through a vast and dreadful desert full of dust and hardship. While on their way, they lost the way and they do not know whether the remaining distance is greater than the distance they travelled or not. They exhausted their water and food supplies. Their mounts such as horses and camels died. Now, they have to face the desert without food, without a means of conveyance. They are sure that they sooner or later will perish in this devastating desert."*

This refers to the confusion of people regarding the universe, the creator, the different beliefs and creeds, the nice system of the cosmos, the bleak

and dismal thoughts of destiny and death, the questions of the wisdom behind the creation and the nature of God.

Back to the Prophet, he added:

*"While they are held in this confusion, a man appeared to them with nice garment and drops of water coming from his hairs.*

*Immediately, they said: You must be coming from a near urban area. As you face proves your dwelling is so close to here.*

*When he fronted them, he said: How are you?*

*They said: fine.*

*He asked: What are the problems with you?*

*They said: as you see.*

*He said: what do you see if I guide you to a wealthy land where you find fresh water and green gardens?*

*They said: We will never disobey you!*

*Give me solemn pledges and firm promises in the Name of Allah that you fulfill your word.*

*They gave him the same confirming that they will never disobey him.*

*He then led them to a wonderful area where abundant water springs and flourishing gardens are everywhere.*

*They lived there so long until Allah willed the Messenger to say:*

*O people, let us move now?*

*They said: to what destination?*

*He said, to a richer land with water better than this water and gardens greater than these gardens.*

*However, most of them said: We have come to this nice area after we lost all hopes and thought that we will never have the like of it; how can we find more luxurious area than this? What we want more than that?"*

This the trend adopted by most of people and Allah declared their thought when saying:

"إن الذين لا يرجون لقاءنا ورضوا بالحياة الدنيا واطمأنوا بها والذين هم عن آياتنا غافلون. أولئك مأواهم النار بما كانوا يكسبون" يونس: 10: 7-8

*Indeed, those who do not believe in the meeting of Us and are pleased with this earthly life and feel secure therein and those who are heedless of our signs (physical creations and Divine revelation), their refuge will be Hellfire because of what they use to earn." The Qur'an, (10: 7-8)*

Allah ﷻ also says:

"من كان يريد الحياة الدنيا وزينتها نوف إليهم أعمالهم فيها وهم فيها لا يبخسون. أولئك الذين ليس لهم في الآخرة إلا النار وحبط ما صنعوا فيها وباطل ما كانوا يعملون". سورة هود: 15-16

*"Those who desire the life of the Present and its glitter, to them We shall pay (the price of) their deeds therein— without diminution. (15) They are those for whom there is nothing in the Hereafter but the Fire, to naught shall come that which they have performed and of no effect are the deeds that they do!" The Qur'an, 11: 15-15*

Only small group of those people followed the guiding messenger and said,

*"You were about to perish and he relieved you.*

*You gave him your word that you will never disobey him and he proved truthful at the beginning. So, by Allah he will prove truthful in his promise this time also. So, this group followed him and the majority*

*stayed behind. Soon, an enemy knew about their area and in the morning, they were either murdered or taken as captives.*<sup>1</sup>

When you have the true vision of life, you will believe that it is passing and the real life is to come. Your behaviors will all be adjusted because of this firm belief, as you will be free from the allurements and temptations of this world.

O Allah, bless us with true understanding of Your Glorious Book and sincere following in the footsteps of the Best and Last Prophet. Amen!

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<sup>1</sup> Ibn al-Mubarak, Kitab al-Zuhd and Ibn Abu Al-Dunia, Kitab al-Zuhd al-Kabeer.