

Fast 13

Orphan raised to greatness:

Chapter 93: *Al-Duḥā*, The Brightness of the Day

The Holy Prophet is addressed in this short chapter as follows.

“¹By the brightness of the day! ²And the night when it is still! — ³Your Lord has not forsaken you, nor is He displeased. ⁴And surely the later state is better for you than the earlier. ⁵And soon will your Lord give you so that you will be well pleased.

⁶Did He not find you an orphan and give (you) shelter? ⁷And find you groping, so He showed the way? ⁸And find you in want, so He enriched you?

⁹Therefore the orphan, do not oppress. ¹⁰And him who asks, do not rebuke. ¹¹And the favour of your Lord, do proclaim.”

Notes:

Verses 3–5: This chapter is one of the earliest revelations. It prophesied that God would never desert the Prophet, and make the end for him better than the beginning so that the Holy Prophet would be pleased at the success of his mission.

Verses 6–8: These verses remind the Holy Prophet that:

- 1) God had given him a home, rescuing him from the deprivation he suffered as an orphan;
- 2) he had been struggling and groping to find the truth about life, and God had revealed it to him;
- 3) he was enriched, with *spiritual* wealth. Also, as ruler of Arabia, which he became, he had control of the national wealth of the Muslims, which he used for the good of the general public while he and his family lived more simply than anyone else.

Verses 9–11: Just as God had been kind and generous to the Holy Prophet, the Prophet is told to treat others in the same way, who are in the same conditions as he was:

- 1) he must not oppress the poor and destitute, but rather be their support;
- 2) he must not rebuke anyone who asks a question because of lacking knowledge, but explain to him gently;
- 3) in thankfulness for the spiritual wealth, i.e. revelation, bestowed on him, he must proclaim it to the world.

All this guidance applies to every Muslim also. Point (3) can be taken in a general sense, meaning that in regard to the favours and good things we receive from God, we must *mention them to others as a mark of thankfulness to God*. This will keep us happy as well. Must we be miserable all the time and tell people only about what we lack and the problems we suffer?
