

For Fast 17

Chapter 17

- 107** Say: Believe in it [the Quran] or do not believe. Surely those who are given the knowledge before it, fall down prostrate on their faces, when it is recited to them,
- 108** and they say: Glory be to our Lord! Surely the promise of our Lord was to be fulfilled.
- 109** And they fall down on their faces, weeping, and it adds to their humility.

Note: “Those who are given the knowledge before it” are the knowledgeable among the followers of previous scriptures, primarily Jews and Christians, who knew that a great prophet was to arise in accordance with prophecies of their scriptures. When he came and recited his revelation to them, the righteous among the knowledgeable ones recognised its truth and fell down before the Lord, crying that the promised had been fulfilled.

Now it is our duty to “recite” the Quran to them, i.e. spread it among them, that they may recognise its truth.

- 110** Say: Call on Allah or call on the Beneficent. By whatever (name) you call on Him, He has the best names. And do not be loud in your prayer nor be silent in it, and seek a way between these.

Note: We may call on Allah by the name “Allah” or by any of His attributes. The “best” and the most beautiful and appealing qualities that can be conceived of by man are found in Allah. “Prayer” here is in the general sense of calling upon God. One must not be too loud in prayer, as it is undignified and God can hear us anyway. On the other hand, complete silence does not move one’s heart as much as when we utter words audibly.

Chapter 18

- 6** Then perhaps you (O Prophet) will kill yourself with grief, sorrowing after them, if they do not believe in this announcement.

Note: In his prayers, in particular, the Holy Prophet expressed such tremendous grief and sorrow before Allah that people did not believe in his message, that he was being consumed by that sorrow. Unless we too have at least some heart-felt sorrow at the lack of acceptance of truth in the world, and we express it in our prayers, we cannot hope take Islam to the world.

- 10** When the youths sought refuge in the Cave, they said: Our Lord, grant us mercy from Yourself, and provide for us a right course in our affair.

Note: These were some Christian youths in very early Christian history who were persecuted by the king of the time because of their belief in One God. They took refuge in a cave, with the above prayer, for several years. The Prophet Muhammad too sought shelter in a cave from his persecutors, but only for three days during his migration to Madina.
