

For Fast 26

Chapter 32

- 15** Only they believe in Our messages who, when they are reminded of them, fall down prostrate and celebrate the praise of their Lord, and they are not proud.
- 16** They forsake (their) beds, calling upon their Lord in fear and in hope, and spend (on good works) out of what We have given them.

Note: Those who truly believe in Allah's messages spontaneously fall down prostrate before Allah on hearing them. They do so out of a feeling which naturally arises in their hearts. It is not artificial, forced, or a ritual. This is why they are able to "forsake their beds" for prayer and rise in the middle of the night. Regarding the Holy Prophet's prayer, *see note at the end*.

Apart from developing closeness to God at night, during the day their relationship with fellow beings is that of doing good to them, described in the words "spend (on good works) out of what We have given them".

Chapter 37

- 75** And Noah certainly called upon Us, and excellent Answerer of prayers are We!
- 76** And We delivered him and his people from the great distress;
- 77** and made his offspring the survivors,
- 78** and granted him among the later generations (the salutation):
- 79** peace be on Noah among the nations!
- 80** Thus do We reward the doers of good.

Note: On the one hand, Noah called upon Allah; on the other, Allah is an excellent answerer of prayers. Due to this relationship, and those people being "doers of good", Noah and his followers were saved.

- 95** He (Abraham) said: Do you worship that which you carve out?
- 96** And Allah has created you and what you make.
- 97** They said: Build for him a building, then cast him into the flaming fire.
- 98** And they designed a plan against him, but We brought them low.
- 99** And he said: Surely I flee to my Lord — He will guide me.
- 100** My Lord, grant me a doer of good deeds.
- 101** So We gave him the good news of a forbearing son.

Note: Abraham preached to his people against their idolatry and worship of heavenly bodies. They opposed him and planned to kill him. "I flee to my Lord" in v. 99 may mean that he would go elsewhere as commanded by God, to escape their persecution, or that he sought

refuge in God from their plans. He prayed to be granted a doer of good deeds, not just a son. In fulfilment, his son Ismail (Ishmael of the Bible) was born.

Additional Note on Ch. 32, v. 16 above — “They forsake (their) beds, calling upon their Lord...”

Maulana Muhammad Ali writes as follows about the Holy Prophet Muhammad's rising at night for prayer:

“ The Holy Prophet used to pass half or even two-thirds of the night in prayer. His practice was to go to sleep immediately after the Isha prayers, and then he generally woke up after midnight and passed almost all this latter half of the night in Tahajjud prayers, sometimes taking a short nap, which would give him a little rest, just before the morning prayer. This practice he kept up to the last. While in the congregational prayers the recitation of the Holy Quran was generally short, owing to the audience among whom were children and women and aged people, the recitation in the Tahajjud prayer was generally long, and it is related in Hadith that he used to stand so long reciting the Holy Quran that his feet would get swollen.

It is nothing but a distortion of facts to call such a person a voluptuary, simply because he took certain widows under the shelter of his roof and made them share the honour of partnership with him in matrimonial life. The man who passed half and even two-thirds of the night in prayer and who strenuously worked during the day-time for the all-round welfare of a whole nation, could not possibly have time for the indulgence of his passions. It is also a noteworthy fact that the only thing which kept him awake was a recitation of the Holy Qur'an, or the glorification of the Divine Being, and it is impossible to fathom the depth of his love for God and his love for the word of God, when it is borne in mind that only the greatest attraction could keep a man awake during the night and enable him to conquer sleep.”