

For Fast 7

Chapter 3

- 190** In the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day, there are surely signs for those who have understanding,
- 191** those who remember Allah, standing and sitting and (lying) on their sides, and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth: Our Lord, You have not created this in vain! Glory be to You! Save us from the punishment of the Fire.
- 192** Lord, whomsoever You make enter the Fire, him You indeed bring to disgrace. And there will be no helpers for the wrongdoers.
- 193** Our Lord, surely we have heard a Crier calling to the faith, saying: Believe in your Lord. So we do believe. Our Lord, grant us protection from our sins and remove our evils and make us die with the righteous.
- 194** Our Lord, grant us what You have promised us by Your messengers and do not disgrace us on the day of Resurrection. Surely You never fail in (Your) promise!
- 195** So their Lord accepted their prayer, (saying): I will not let the work of any worker among you to be lost, whether male or female; each of you is as the other. So those who fled and were driven forth from their homes and persecuted in My way and who fought and were slain, I shall truly remove their evil and make them enter Gardens in which rivers flow — a reward from Allah. And with Allah is the best reward.

Notes: We should study nature and reflect on the working of the physical world. This should make us conclude that nothing in the universe has been created “in vain”, or without purpose. Everything has a purpose and an end. In parallel with this, we ponder over the attributes of God given in the Quran (“remember Allah”), and should realise that our human lives and deeds are also not without a higher purpose. If we don’t realise this and fail to bring that purpose into our lives, and instead spend our lives only satisfying our material needs, then we will find our hearts burning in the fire of base desires, greed and jealousy.

The people mentioned in verses 190-194 don’t merely pray in words. They apply their “understanding” to the operation of the universe and “reflect” upon creation. This is also the basis of the development of all material knowledge and science.

V. 195 promises that their “work”, i.e. their deeds and not just empty words of prayer, are accepted. In this acceptance, Allah does not distinguish between men and women and says: “each of you [male and female] is as the other” — you are all the same, whether male or female.

V. 195 also shows that Muslims in the Holy Prophet’s time were first made to flee, were driven from their homes, and were persecuted for worshipping the One God, by their enemies, and it was *then* that they fought in battles in which they were slain. And they fought only *after* war was made upon them.
