

Fast 15

Chapter 108: *Al-Kauthar* — The Abundance of Good

This is a very early revelation, in which God says to the Holy Prophet:

“¹Surely We have given you abundance of good. ²So pray to your Lord and sacrifice. ³Surely your enemy is cut off (from good).”

Notes:

Verse 1: This chapter (like chapter 94) was also revealed when the Holy Prophet possessed nothing and was entirely helpless. This verse states in most certain and powerful terms that God has granted him *Al-kauthar*, which means *the abundance* or *the abundance of good*. Here it means *the abundance of good* which God gave the Holy Prophet — he was promised the triumph of Islam over all religions, and granted help against his enemies and intercession for his community. In fact, he was granted so much of goodness of all kinds that it cannot be counted. It was bestowed upon him in the greatest measure not granted to any mortal before or after.

Verse 2: This makes it clear that it is not the Holy Prophet alone who is promised this abundance of good but also every true follower of his who makes use of the means for the attainment of it. Two ways to attain the abundance of good promised in v. 1 are: *praying to God*, and *sacrifice*, which means the devoting of one’s life to the good of humanity.

Prayer is communion with God which raises in a person’s heart the highest aspirations and makes him drink deep at the fountain of Divine morals. If there is no aspiration for good, it is simply impossible to do good; hence prayer is mentioned first. And when these noble aspirations arise, man is told, if need be, to lay down his very life for the service of humanity, not of one group or one nation or one community.

The Holy Prophet’s life was the perfect example of prayer and sacrifice. He is instructed in the Quran to declare: “My prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are surely for Allah, the Lord of the worlds” (6:162).

Prayer and sacrifice are mutually bound together. Prayer for its perfection requires sacrifice, so that when you utter the first *takbir* you cut off all worldly connections, just like sacrificing an animal. Sacrifice for its perfection requires prayer to beseech God that one’s actions of sacrifice may be accepted.

Verse 3: This verse refuted the allegation of the opponents that, as the Holy Prophet had no male offspring, his name and mission would come to an end after him. This verse contains a prophecy that it is his enemies who would be cut off and leave no successors to continue

their name or work. The Holy Prophet would be blessed with spiritual progeny till the Day of Judgment. This, of course, proved true during the life of the Holy Prophet, when the next generation descended from his enemies, far from following in their fathers' footsteps, actually became Muslims. The spiritual progeny of the Holy Prophet continues to exist, and through its work the next generation descended from his present-day opponents might be favourably inclined towards Islam.
