

Fast 27

Final triumph of the Holy Prophet:

Chapter 110: *Al-Nasr* or The Help

This chapter was revealed during the last pilgrimage of the Holy Prophet and he lived only eighty days after its revelation.

“¹When Allah’s help and victory comes, ²and you (O Prophet) see people entering the religion of Allah in companies, ³celebrate the praise of your Lord and ask His protection. Surely He is ever Returning (to mercy).”

Notes:

Verses 1–2: The great victory which had come was the triumph of the religion of Islam in the whole of Arabia. Deputation after deputation from all parts of Arabia came to Madinah and accepted Islam. History does not present another example of the wonderful transformation wrought by the Holy Prophet within the short space of twenty years.

Verse 3: On witnessing the greatest triumph known to history, the Holy Prophet is told to celebrate the praise of his Lord, and to ask protection. “Celebrating (*tasbih*) the praise of the Lord” also teaches that the people joining Islam should be taught the concept of the Oneness of God in Islam. This is because the beliefs they held formerly about God, in particular ascribing partners to God, are contrary to the perfection of God, and perfection of God is what is declared by performing the verbal act of *tasbih* (saying *subhan Allah*).

For whom was protection or forgiveness (*ghafir*) to be asked? If it was for himself, it was a protection against elation at an unprecedented victory, because elation ill befitted a Teacher of righteousness. But more likely, he was required to ask protection for the masses which were now accepting Islam in companies. In fact he was required to ask Divine forgiveness or protection for his erstwhile oppressors, forgiveness for his deadly enemies, who were guilty of the gravest crimes.

Note also that whenever our Holy Prophet Muhammad found himself in the company of people he used to make *istighfar* before taking his leave. The intention was to protect his heart from being affected by any evil in the people’s talk, since not everyone was at a high standard of purity.

From this we can gauge how much he feared and hated sins.

Not only the Holy Prophet individually, but Muslims as a whole are also addressed here. Muslims, as a body, must observe the Holy Prophet’s example of religious propagation and do the same. That is, they should spread the praise and glory of Allah throughout the world with single-mindedness of purpose and seek Allah’s protection against their internal

weaknesses, for it is because of these weaknesses that Allah later closed the door of His help and victory upon the Muslims, and the rising tide of the religion of Islam subsided.

Ever returning to Mercy: This attribute of Allah indicates not only that if a person turns back from the actual commission of sins, Allah turns to him mercifully, it also means that whenever and however a servant turns to his Lord, so, too, will his Lord favour him with compassion.

Thus, in the hour of his triumph, the Holy Prophet asked Allah for protection for himself from the slightest shortfall in obeying His commands, and forgiveness of sins and faults of others, whether friend or foe, follower or opponent. And this, almost the last revelation he received, reiterated that Allah is ever returning to mercy.
