

Fast 8

Prophet's great concern for humanity:

“Certainly a Messenger has come to you from among yourselves; very painful for him is your falling into distress, most concerned (he is) for you; to the believers (he is) compassionate, merciful. But if they turn away, say: Allah is sufficient for me — there is no god but He. On Him do I rely, and He is the Lord of the mighty Throne.” — 9:128–129

Notes: This is the true picture of the heart which grieved, not for his followers alone, not for one nation or country, but for all humanity. He grieves for the burdens **of all**, and he is most concerned for the welfare **of all**. The whole of humanity is meant here because the concluding words refer additionally to the believers. There is a special relation he bears to those who follow him; to them he is, in addition, compassionate and merciful.

“And if your Lord had pleased, all those who are in the earth would have believed, all of them. Will you (O Prophet) then force people till they are believers?” — 10:99

“And most people do not believe, though you (O Prophet) desire it eagerly. And you ask them no reward for it. It is nothing but a Reminder for the nations.” — 12:103–104

Notes: The reference in the above two verses is to the great zeal of the Holy Prophet and his over-exerting himself in preaching the Truth. The Truth would succeed only in accordance with God's plan and design. Even prophets cannot have their desires fulfilled in the manner they wish (their only desire being the reform of people) except according to God's plan. We, too, must not become disillusioned or frustrated when our mission to propagate Islam does not apparently succeed at the time and in the manner that we wish.

“Then perhaps you (O Prophet) will kill yourself with grief, sorrowing after them, if they do not believe in this announcement.” — 18:6

“Perhaps you (O Prophet) will kill yourself with grief because they do not believe.” — 26:3

Notes: The anxiety which the Holy Prophet felt on account of a fallen humanity was so great that he is spoken of here as almost killing himself with grief. His was a life of absolute devotion to the cause of humanity, his only concern being that human beings should rise to the true dignity for which God had made them.

“Now surely Allah leaves in error whom He pleases and guides aright whom He pleases, so (O Prophet) do not let your soul waste in grief for them. Surely Allah is Knower of what they do.” — 35:8