

4.5 An embarrassing inquisition to us from God:

Before mentioning my next point, I want to point out how inconsequential we are to God. He does not need us, He just advises us to worship Him '*And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me. [56] I do not want from them any provision, nor do I want them to feed Me. [57] Indeed, it is Allah who is the [continual] Provider, the firm possessor of strength*' [51: 56–58]¹. However, if not a single person worshipped Him He would lose nothing, and yet on the other hand, if every single one of us worshipped Him He would gain nothing.

Moreover, if He gave all the people everything that they ask for, it would only scratch the surface of what He owns, and that is the reality of the situation. This information is delivered to us in a saying (Hadith) of the Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), quoting what God said to him:

O My slaves, you commit sins night and day and I forgive all sins, so seek My forgiveness and I shall forgive you. O My slaves, you can neither do Me any harm nor can you do Me any good. O My slaves, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and jinn of you to be as pious as the most pious heart of any man of you, that would not increase My domain a thing. O My slaves, were the first of you, and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to be as wicked as the most wicked heart of any man of you, that would not decrease My domain in a thing. O My slaves, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to stand in one place and make a request of Me, and were I to give everyone what he requested, that would not decrease what I have, any more than a needle decrease the sea if put into it. O My slaves, it is but your deeds that I reckon for you and then recompense you for, so let him who finds good (i.e., in the Hereafter) praise Allah, and let him who finds other than that blame no one but himself.²

As we see from the Hadith, God is in no need for us, but we all realize that since God created us and provides for us, we are obligated to thank and worship Him. Then why is there a verse in the Quran in which He invites us to worship Him (instead of ordering us), in spite of the fact that He does not need us!? The only logical deduction is that it is for our benefit and not His! The verse is:

*Is it not due time for the hearts of (the ones) who have believed to submit to the Remembrance of Allah and that which came down of the Truth, and that they should not be as the ones to whom the Book was brought earlier? Then (their) span became long to them, so their hearts hardened; and many of them are immoral. [57: 16]*³.

That is our God, merciful and gracious. He advises us from being like a faction of those who received previous Scriptures and abandoned it, whose hearts became harsher with the passage of time till they turned away from God. It is as if He is asking us haven't we had enough fun and stayed long enough away from Him, and that isn't it time to turn to Him! Why does He request that from us when He can compel us to do it!? So what will our choice be?

¹ Sahih International

² Sahih Muslim 2577

³ Dr Ghali

This should be the last chapter in this book since it is based on tangible logic, and together with the previous chapters, they should have guided the reader to the right path. The next chapter, however, requires what I loosely term 'theoretical' logic. To clarify, the previous chapters initiated thoughts and counter-thoughts in the reader, whereas the next chapter is merely an illustration of future incidents projected to the reader to strike his core of conscience.

The next chapter, in contrast to all the previous chapters that were aimed at guiding a person, indicates what a person will face if he fails to accept and comply with righteousness. Contrary to what many people would expect, the next chapter will not talk particularly about the reward (Heaven) to those who comply or about the punishment (Hell) to those who defy God. It will simply narrate some incidents that occur between individuals in the Hereafter, incidents that are very realistic from the perspective of logical expectation.