

SEERAH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD(PBUH)

LESSON:62 (IN ENGLISH)



Assalamu 'alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaatuhu



SEERAH OF MUHAMMAD

(SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam)



LESSON 62



TOPIC:



The polytheists demand a sign.



THE POLYTHEISTS



DEMAND A SIGN



The Makkan pagans had been shown many signs that confirmed the truthfulness of Muhammad's (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) claim to be a prophet, but they ignored them all. Although they were not prepared to accept any further signs, they demanded that Muhammad (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) show them clear proof from Allah that he was indeed a messenger. Their intention of course was simply to humiliate him before the people.



One day the pagans were assembled at the Ka'bah and sent for the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam). The Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) hurried to meet them, thinking that they wished to discuss the possibility of entering Islam. He sat down with them to hear the same demands they had made before:



□ "Muhammad, you tell us that the prophets had signs: Musa had a miraculous staff, Saalih had a camel, and Isa resurrected the dead. The prophets of yore came with clear signs. We want you to also show us something to confirm that you are like them." ('alaihim assalam)



Prophets, the Quraysh thought, should have the power to perform miracles at will. They did not understand that Allah performed these miracles through His prophets. Deaf, dumb, and blind, as Allah characterizes them in the Qur'an, the disbelievers refused to see the numerous signs of Allah manifest in His creation and in the Qur'an. Instead, they wanted to see flamboyant acts of sorcery.



Accordingly, they asked the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) to do any of the following: turn Mount Safa into a mountain of gold, carry the mountains somewhere else and change the surrounding area into a wide valley, cause a spring to gush forth, or bring back to life their ancestors so that they could testify that Muhammad (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) was truly a prophet.



Allah mentions their demands for signs in the Qur'an:




"We shall not believe in you until you cause a spring to gush forth for us from the earth; or you have a garden of date trees and grapevines, and you cause rivers to gush forth in their midst; or you cause the sky to fall in pieces as you have claimed will happen; or you bring Allah and the angels before us face to face; or you have a house decorated lavishly; or you ascend into the heavens. No, we shall not even believe in your ascension until you

bring us a book that we can read!"  (17: 90-93)



The pagans claimed that if the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) performed any of these miracles, they would embrace Islam. This promise is also mentioned in the Qur'an:



"They swear their strongest oaths by Allah that if they were given a sign, they would believe."  (6: 109)



The Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) prayed to Allah asking Him to show the pagans one of the signs they asked for. Jibra'eel then came to the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) with Allah's answer:



□ The Prophet could choose between two options. The first choice was that the pagans would be given one of the signs they asked for on one condition: if they remained unbelievers after seeing the sign, they would be punished more severely than anyone else in the world.



□ The second choice was that they would not be shown the signs they requested, but the door of repentance and mercy would remain open for them.



The Prophet wisely told Jibra'eel: "The door of repentance and mercy should remain open."

To Be Continued...

