

SURATULMUJAADALA (58)

The *Suratulmujaadala* carries on the theme of reward and punishment from the preceding surah. Believers shall be rewarded in this world as well as in the afterworld, while disbelievers and hypocrites shall be punished in this world as well as the afterworld. Anyone who submits oneself to the Messenger is a true believer. But whoever does not submit oneself to the Messenger, opposes him and launches a whispering campaign against him is a hypocrite and he shall be punished in this world as well as the afterworld. Hence, the Surah, from the first verse to the fourth verse, presents such a truly believing lady who brought her hardship to the notice of the Messenger and instantly, Allah, in His infinite mercy, solved her problem to her entire satisfaction and through her, a wicked practice, followed since the days of the Ignorance, was rescinded, of course, with necessary penalty. She was rewarded in this very world and her reward in the afterworld shall be greater.

The Surah, from the fifth verse to the eighth verse, criticizes the conduct of disbelievers and hypocrites who were hostile to the Messenger, insulted him, launched a whispering campaign against him in spite of being warned against it, and conspired against him for they were in collusion with the Jews. Naturally, they shall be punished in this world and the afterworld. Hence, the Surah, in the ninth and tenth verses, prohibits the true believers from doing anything that has, even, the remotest similarity with the hypocrites. Since the hypocrites used to sit in a gang in the presence of the Messenger, whisper together, and even pass insulting remarks against him in veiled words, these instructions became necessary. They apply to any gathering or meeting. These hypocrites used to whisper among themselves against the Messenger as well as with the Messenger against the believers. Many other persons used to follow suit and hence, spoiled much of the precious time of the Messenger. The twelfth verse was, therefore, revealed to discourage this practice and when it was brought home to them, its cancellation, also, followed in a few days. But the hypocrites were, in any case, deterred.

The Surah, again, takes up the conduct of the hypocrites from the fourteenth verse to the twentieth verse. The Surah exposes their false oaths sworn to the Messenger to clear their position and threatens them with the punishment of the fire. The eighteenth verse exposes their habit of compulsive lying and the nineteenth verse includes them in the Devil's party for the Devil had gained his upper hand over them. The Surah, then, proceeds to celebrate the conduct of true believers and includes them in Allah's party, beginning the twenty-first verse with the clear prophecy of their supremacy. The twenty-second verse announces Allah's pleasure for them and promises them the Paradise where they shall stay eternally.

SURATULMUJAADALA

In the name of ALLAH, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

1. Allah has, certainly, heard the speech (of the lady) who was arguing with you about her husband and complaining to Allah and Allah has been listening to the discussion of both of you; Allah, indeed, hears (and) sees (everything).
2. (Those people) who, among you, by uttering *zihhaar* (you are like my mother's back), separate from their wives (must know that) they (their wives) do not become their mothers: their mothers are, only (those women) who have given birth to them; and they, in fact, utter a word outrageous and false; and Allah is, indeed, pardoning, forgiving.
3. And (those people) who separate (sever conjugal ties with) from their wives by uttering *zihhaar* and then, (would like to) take back what they have uttered, must, then, free a neck (a slave) before both of them touch (enter into conjugal ties with) each other; with such (a command), you are being exhorted (to restrain yourselves from following wicked practices); and Allah is cognizant (aware) of what you do.
4. But whoever cannot find (a slave) must, in that case, undergo fasting for two months uninterruptedly (without break) before both of them touch each other: but whoever cannot do so, must, then, feed sixty

سُورَةُ الْمُجَادَلَةِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قَدْ سَمِعَ اللَّهُ قَوْلَ الَّتِي تُجَادِلُكَ فِي زَوْجِهَا وَتَشْتَكِي
إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ يَسْمَعُ

تَحَاوَرَكُمَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ ﴿١﴾

الَّذِينَ يُظَاهِرُونَ مِنْكُمْ مِنْ نِسَائِهِمْ مَا هُنَّ
أُمّهَاتُهُمْ إِنَّ أُمَّهَاتَهُمْ إِلَّا الَّتِي وَلَدْنَهُمْ
وَأِنَّهُمْ لَيَقُولُونَ مُنْكَرًا مِنَ الْقَوْلِ وَزُورًا
وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَعَفُوفٌ غَفُورٌ ﴿٢﴾

وَالَّذِينَ يُظَاهِرُونَ مِنْ نِسَائِهِمْ ثُمَّ يَعُودُونَ لِمَا قَالُوا
فَتَحْرِيرُ رَقَبَةٍ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَتَمَاسَّ دَلِكُمْ ثَوَعُظُوتَ
بِهِ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿٣﴾

فَمَنْ لَمْ يَجِدْ فَصِيَامُ شَهْرَيْنِ مُتَتَابِعَيْنِ مِنْ قَبْلِ
أَنْ يَتَمَاسَّ فَمَنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَاِطْعَامُ سِتِّينَ مِسْكِينًا
ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ لَمْ يَلِدْ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ

poor persons; such is (the enjoinder) so that you must believe in Allah and His Messenger; and such are Allah's bounds and disbelievers shall have a grievous punishment.

5. (Those people) who oppose and confront Allah and His Messenger shall be humbled and punished as (those people) who preceded them, had been humbled and punished; and We have revealed verses expounding (the guidance); and disbelievers shall have a humiliating punishment.

6. (Imagine) the Day when Allah resurrects (raises from the dead) all of them and then, He shall make them known what they have been doing (in this world); Allah has enumerated and preserved a record of it and they have forgotten it; and Allah is a witness to everything.

SECTION 2

7. Do you not consider that Allah knows what is throughout the heavens and what is throughout the Earth? There is neither any whispering (in which secrets are confided) of the three, but He is the fourth of them nor of the five, but He is the sixth of them and neither fewer than such (a number) nor more, but He is with them wherever they are and then, He shall make them known what they have been doing (in this world) on the Day of Resurrection; indeed, Allah has the knowledge of everything.

وَلِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ﴿٥٨﴾

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحَادُّونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ كُتِبُوا كَمَا كُتِبَ الَّذِينَ
مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ وَقَدْ أَنْزَلْنَا آيَاتٍ يَبَيِّنُ لِلْكَافِرِينَ
عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ ﴿٥٩﴾

يَوْمَ يَبْعَثُهُمُ اللَّهُ جَمِيعًا فَيُنَبِّئُهُمْ بِمَا عَمِلُوا
أَخْصَصَهُ اللَّهُ لُؤْلُؤَهُ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ ﴿٦٠﴾

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ
مَا يَشْعُرُونَ مِنْ تَجَوُّزٍ ثَلَاثَةً إِلَّا هُوَ رَابِعُهُمْ
وَلَا خَمْسَةً إِلَّا هُوَ سَادِسُهُمْ وَلَا آدَنَ مِنْ ذَلِكَ
وَلَا أَكْثَرَ إِلَّا هُوَ مَعَهُمْ أَيْنَ مَا كَانُوا ثُمَّ يُنَبِّئُهُمْ
بِمَا عَمِلُوا يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٦١﴾

8. Do you not see (those people) who were forbidden (commanded against) whispering (conspiratorial conversation) and even then, they have, repeatedly, been doing what they were forbidden and they have been whispering of sin and exceeding (Allah's bounds) and disobeying the Messenger and when they come to you, they salute you with what Allah has not saluted you with and they say to themselves, "Why has Allah not punished us for what we have been saying?" The Hell is enough for them: they shall go into it: hence, what an evil place of return it is!

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ نُهُوا عَنِ النَّجْوَى ثُمَّ يَعُودُونَ لِمَا نُهُوا عَنْهُ وَيَتَنَجَّوْنَ بِالْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَمَعْصِيَتِ الرَّسُولِ وَإِذْ أُلْحَاهُمْ وَكَحَيِّكَ بِمَا لَمْ يُحَيِّكَ بِهِ اللَّهُ وَيَقُولُونَ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ لَوْلَا يُعَذِّبُنَا اللَّهُ بِمَا نَقُولُ حَسْبُهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ يَصَلُّونَهَا فَيَنْسُوا الصَّبِيرَ ﴿٨﴾

9. O the (people) who believe! When you whisper to each other, you must not whisper to each other of sin and exceeding (Allah's bounds) and disobeying the Messenger and whisper to each other of obedience and guarding yourselves against disobeying Him and you must fear Allah to Whom all of you shall be gathered up (raised from the dead for accountability).

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّا نَسَجَّيْتُمْ فَلَا تَتَنَجَّوْا بِالْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَمَعْصِيَتِ الرَّسُولِ وَتَتَنَجَّوْا بِالْبِرِّ وَالنَّقْوَىٰ وَأَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ ﴿٩﴾

10. In fact, whispering (conspiratorial conversation comes), from the Devil in order to grieve (those people) who believe though he cannot harm them, at all, except by Allah's permission; and in Allah, (alone), must, then, the believers trust.

إِنَّمَا النَّجْوَى مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ لِيَحْزُبَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَلَيْسَ بِضَارِّهِمْ شَيْئًا إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١٠﴾

11. O the (people) who believe! When you are told to make room for (others) in (your) gatherings, you must, then, make room (for them), Allah will make room for you and when you are told to stand up, you must, then, stand up, Allah will elevate the positions of (those

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَافْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ أَنْشُرُوا فَأَنْشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ

people) who believe among you and of (those people) who have been granted knowledge; and Allah is cognizant (aware) of what you do.

وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١١﴾

12. O the (people) who believe! When you hold a whispering (secret conversation) with the Messenger, you should, then, give, before your secret conversation, (some) alms; such (a practice) is the best and the purest for you; but, if you do not find (anything), Allah is forgiving, merciful.

يَتَأْتِيَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نَجَّيْتُمُ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ مَوَّابَيْنَ يَدَيَّ
نَجْوَاكُمْ صَدَقَةٌ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَأَطْهَرُ فَإِنْ لَمْ تَجِدُوا
فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿١٢﴾

13. Are you afraid that you will have to give alms before your whispering (secret conversation with the Messenger)? So, when you could not do it — and Allah has turned forgivingly to you — you must, then, keep performing the obligatory prayer and paying *zakaat* and obeying Allah and His Messenger; and Allah is cognizant (aware) of what you do.

أَمْ أَشْفَقْتُمْ أَنْ تُقَدِّمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ نَجْوَاكُمْ صَدَقْتُمْ
فَإِذْ لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَتَابَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ فَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ
وَأَنُؤُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَاللَّهُ
خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٣﴾

SECTION 3

14. Do you not see (observe those people) who make friends with such a group (of people) with whom Allah is indignant? They are neither with you nor with them and they swear oaths on falsehood though they know (it).

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ تَوَلَّوْا قَوْمًا غَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ
مَّا هُمْ مِنْكُمْ وَلَا مِنْهُمْ وَيَحْلِفُونَ عَلَى الْكَذِبِ
وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٤﴾

15. Allah has prepared a violent punishment for them: how evil is, indeed, what they are doing!

أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا إِنَّهُمْ سَاءَ مَا كَانُوا
يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٥﴾

16. They have made their oaths a shield and hence, they prevent (the people) from Allah's way and

اتَّخَذُوا أَيْمَانَهُمْ جُنَّةً فَصَدُّوا عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَلَهُمْ
عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ ﴿١٦﴾

hence, they shall have a humiliating punishment (in the afterworld).

17. Neither will their properties (money power) nor their children (man-power) avail (help) them against Allah at all; such (people) are the inhabitants of the fire (of the Hell): they shall abide in it eternally.
18. The Day when Allah raises all of them from the dead, they will, then, swear to Him as they have been swearing to you and think that they are on something (on a firm footing safe from accountability). (But) listen! They are themselves liars.
19. The Devil has gained the upper hand over them and hence, made them neglect remembering Allah; such (people comprise) the Devil's party; listen! Indeed, (those in) the Devil's party are the losers (misled and ruined).
20. In fact, (those people) who oppose and confront Allah and His Messenger are such (people as are) among the vilest.
21. Allah has destined (preordained) — I and My messengers shall, certainly, achieve supremacy; indeed, Allah is strong, mighty.
22. You will never find such people as believe in Allah and the Last Day, being friendly with (those people) who oppose and confront Allah and His Messenger, even if they are their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their relatives. Such are (the people) in whose hearts

لَنْ تُغْنِيَ عَنْهُمْ أَمْوَالُهُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُهُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ
شَيْئًا أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٧﴾

يَوْمَ يَبْعَثُهُمُ اللَّهُ جَمِيعًا فَيَحْلِفُونَ لَهُ كَمَا يَحْلِفُونَ لَكُمْ
وَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ عَلَى شَيْءٍ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْكَاذِبُونَ ﴿٨﴾

أَسْتَحْوَذَ عَلَيْهِمُ الشَّيْطَانُ فَأَنسَاهُمْ ذِكْرَ اللَّهِ أُولَئِكَ
حِزْبُ الشَّيْطَانِ أَلَا إِنَّ حِزْبَ
الشَّيْطَانِ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ ﴿٩﴾

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحَادِّثُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ
أُولَئِكَ فِي الْأَذَلِّينَ ﴿١٠﴾

كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَا غَلَبَ عَلَيْنَا أُنَا وَرُسُلِي إِنَّ اللَّهَ
قَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ ﴿١١﴾

لَا يَجِدُ قَوْمًا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ
يُوَادُّونَ مَنْ حَادَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَوْ كَانُوا
آبَاءَهُمْ أَوْ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ أَوْ إِخْوَانَهُمْ
أَوْ عَشِيرَتَهُمْ أُولَئِكَ كَتَبَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ

(Allah) has ingrained belief (*eimaan*) and supported them with mercy* on His Own part and He will admit them into the gardens under which rivers will be flowing, abiding among them eternally, Allah pleased with them and they, pleased with Him; such (people comprise) Allah's party; listen! Indeed, (those in) Allah's party are going to be the prosperous (marked by success).

* *Ibn-i-Katheer interprets (رُوحٌ) roohun to connote (قُوَّةٌ) quwwatun (power) and (تَأْيِيدٌ) taaeedun (support).*

الْإِيمَانَ وَأَيَّدَهُمْ بِرُوحٍ مِّنْهُ وَيُدْخِلُهُمْ
جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا
رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ أُولَئِكَ حِزْبُ اللَّهِ
أَلَا إِنَّ حِزْبَ اللَّهِ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٥٨﴾