

DAILY QUR'ANIC REFLECTIONS

From Juz' 17: Rightful inheritors of earth

وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي الزَّبُورِ مِنْ بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ

Certainly We wrote in the Psalms, after the Torah: "Indeed My righteous servants shall inherit the earth." (al-Anbiyā':105)

Reflections:

In a world rife with oppression of all sorts, be it at the macro level with colonial legacies and neo-colonial agendas or at the micro level with humans not upholding individual and collective rights and fulfilling responsibilities, it seems the central question is that of ultimate control over the earth and its inheritance. The Almighty also has a *sunnah*: a Divine way of action, in which He has granted freewill to all humans to act with volition, while declaring successively through revelation to His Prophets that this earth will have a good end – it will be inherited by His Virtuous servants. The concept of the Final Saviour is so intrinsic to hopefulness for humanity, that all Divinely inspired perspectives which consider the Wisdom and Compassion of the Almighty to be central to His Being, emphasize the eventual unity of humanity under the banner of God, Godly and Goodness.

Inheritance of the earth: The End of times (or Latter Days) is considered the most important part of human history, since it is chronologically considered the last before its end and transition into the eschatological realm towards the Hereafter. With reason it may be argued that this era is supposed to be the most advanced and evolved form of the human in its journey on this earth because of maximized human expertise and enhanced human experience, reaching its zenith. The Holy Qur'ān categorically rejects any sense of material superiority to be the yardstick of human elevation, as other ancient civilizations despite material prowess succumbed to disobedience of the Almighty and wrought destruction upon themselves¹. Meanwhile, the Almighty reminds the oppressed ones and those deemed weak in a message full of hope and glad tidings, that they shall become the leaders of the earth and its inheritors². The God-centered approach to futures studies lies in a simple premise: The earth is God's, He bequeaths it to the one He Wishes from His Servants, and the good ending is with the God-conscious³.

Becoming a Righteous Servant: The inheritance is available for anyone striving towards Righteousness. The Holy Qur'ān is clear on the criterion: a righteous servant is an *'abd* (utterly subservient to the Almighty), while embodying *ṣalāḥ* (an attitude of constant reformation); a person not satisfied with the status quo, rather one who is at the forefront of change and reform towards Truth and Justice in all spheres of life, be it personal, familial, communal or societal – in preparation for the Abā Ṣāliḥ (the Imam of the Age- al-Mahdi (AJ)) to lead the whole world towards the peak of justice as it will be filled with oppression⁴. May the Almighty hasten his Re-appearance and grant us the servitude and reform within to be at his service.

To ponder: What is my standing as an inheritor of the earth under the Walī of the Almighty?

Discussion (with a scholar): How will the world come together in unity under the Tawhīdī banner of Imām al-Mahdī AJ?

¹ 89:5-14

² 28:5

³ 7:128

⁴ Majma' al-Bayān v.7 p.120