

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلِيفَةَ الْأَرْضِ

6:165 And it is He Who has made you generations coming after generations, replacing each other on the earth.

وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِّيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ

And He has raised you in ranks, some above others that He may try you in that which He has bestowed on you.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ سَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

Surely, your Lord is Swift in retribution, and certainly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Allah Made Mankind Dwellers on the earth, Generation After Generation, of Various Grades, in order to Test Them

Allah said,

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلِيفَةَ الْأَرْضِ ...

And it is He Who has made you generations coming after generations, replacing each other on the earth.

According to Ibn Zayd and others,

meaning, He made you dwell on the earth generation after generation, century after century and offspring after forefathers.

Allah also said,

وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَجَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ مَلَائِكَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ يَخْلُقُونَ

And if it were Our will, We would have made angels to replace you on the earth! (43:60)

وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ

And makes you inheritors of the Earth, generations after generations. (27:62)

إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً

Verily, I am going to place (mankind) generations after generations on earth. (2:30)

عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يُهْلِكَ عَدُوَّكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرَ
كَيْفَ تَعْمَلُونَ

It may be that your Lord will destroy your enemy and make you successors on the earth, so that He may see how you act. (7:129)

Allah's statement,

... وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ ...

And He has raised you in ranks, some above others,

means, He has made you different from each other with regards to provision, conduct, qualities, evilness, shapes, color of skin, and so forth, and He has the perfect wisdom in all this.

Allah said in other **Ayat**,

نَحْنُ قَسَمْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ مَعِيشَتَهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَرَفَعْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ
فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِّيَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا سُخْرِيًّا

It is We Who portion out between them their livelihood in this world, and We raised some of them above others in ranks, so that some may employ others in their work. (43:32)

انظُرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ وَلَآخِرَةُ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ
وَأكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا

See how We prefer one above another (in this world), and verily, the Hereafter will be greater in degrees and greater in preferment. (17:21)

Allah's statement,

... لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ ...

that He may try you in that which He has bestowed on you.

means, so that He tests you in what He has granted you, for Allah tries the rich concerning his wealth and will ask him about how he appreciated it. He also tries the poor concerning his poverty and will ask him about his patience with it.

Muslim recorded that Abu Sa`id Al-Khudri said that the Messenger of Allah said,

إِنَّ الدُّنْيَا حُلْوَةٌ خَضِرَةٌ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ مُسْتَخْلِفُكُمْ فِيهَا فَنَظِيرٌ مَادَا تَعْمَلُونَ، فَاتَّقُوا الدُّنْيَا وَاتَّقُوا النِّسَاءَ فَإِنَّ أَوَّلَ فِتْنَةٍ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ كَانَتْ فِي النِّسَاءِ

Verily, this life is beautiful and green, and Allah made you dwell in it generation after generation so that He sees what you will do. Therefore, beware of this life and beware of women, for the first trial that the Children of Israel suffered from was with women.

Allah's statement,

... إِنَّ رَبَّكَ سَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ (١٦٥)

Surely, your Lord is swift in retribution, and certainly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

this is both discouragement and encouragement, by reminding the believers that Allah is swift in reckoning and punishment with those who disobey Him and defy His Messengers.

... وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

And certainly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

for those who take Him as protector and follow His Messengers in the news and commandments they conveyed. Allah often mentions these two attributes together in the Qur'an.

Allah said,

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَذُو مَغْفِرَةٍ لِّلنَّاسِ عَلَى ظُلْمِهِمْ وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَشَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

But verily, your Lord is full of forgiveness for mankind in spite of their wrongdoing. And verily, your Lord is (also) severe in punishment. (13:6)

نَبِّئْ عِبَادِي أَنِّي أَنَا الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ
وَأَنَّ عَذَابِي هُوَ الْعَذَابُ الْأَلِيمُ

Declare unto My servants, that truly, I am the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful. And that My torment is indeed the most painful torment. (15:49-50)

There are similar **Ayat** that contain encouragement and discouragement.

Sometimes Allah calls His servants to Him with encouragement, describing Paradise and making them eager for what He has with Him. Sometimes, He calls His servants with discouragement, mentioning the Fire and its torment and punishment, as well as, the Day of Resurrection and its horrors.

Sometimes Allah mentions both so that each person is affected by it according to his or her qualities.

We ask Allah that He makes us among those who obey what He has commanded, avoid what He has prohibited, and believe in Him as He has informed. Certainly, He is

Near, hears and answers the supplication, and He is the Most Kind, Generous and Bestowing.

Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

لَوْ يَعْلَمُ الْمُؤْمِنُ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنَ الْعُقُوبَةِ مَا طَمَعَ بِجَنَّتِهِ أَحَدٌ، وَلَوْ
يَعْلَمُ الْكَافِرُ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ مَا قَنَطَ أَحَدٌ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ،

If the believer knew Allah's punishment, no one will hope in entering His Paradise. And if the disbeliever knew Allah's mercy, no one will feel hopeless of acquiring Paradise.

خَلَقَ اللَّهُ مِائَةَ رَحْمَةٍ فَوَضَعَ وَاحِدَةً بَيْنَ خَلْقِهِ يَتَرَاخَمُونَ بِهَا
وَعِنْدَ اللَّهِ تِسْعَةٌ وَتِسْعُونَ

Allah created a hundred kinds of mercy. He sent down one of them to His creation, and they are merciful to each other on that account. With Allah, there remains ninety-nine kinds of mercy.

Muslim and At-Tirmidhi also recorded this **Hadith**, At-Tirmidhi said "**Hasan**".

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Messenger of Allah said,

لَمَّا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ الْخَلْقَ كَتَبَ فِي كِتَابٍ فَهُوَ عِنْدَهُ فَوْقَ الْعَرْشِ إِنَّ
رَحْمَتِي تَغْلِبُ غَضَبِي

When Allah created the creation, He wrote in a Book, and this Book is with Him above the Throne: 'My mercy overcomes My anger.'

This is the end of the Tafsir of Surah **Al-An`am**, all the thanks and appreciation for Allah.



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