"وَلَلْأَخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لَّكَ مِنَ الْأُولِ" Exegesis of the Verse

Darulifta Ahlesunnat (Dawateislami)

Question

What do the scholars of Islam say regarding the following matter: Is the meaning of ﴿وَلُلْاخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لِّكُ مِنَ الْأَوْلَى} simply that 'your future is better than your past'? Has this verse been revealed concerning every Muslim? Please provide a complete exegesis of this verse.

بِسُمِ اللهِ الرَّحُمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ اللهِ الرَّحِيْمِ اللهِ الرَّحِيْمِ الْمَلِكِ الْوَهَّابِ اللهُمَّ هِدَايَةَ الْحَقِّ وَالصَّوَابِ

And indeed, for you, the later moment is better than the former. This blessed verse was revealed for the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَالهِ وَسَلَّم Commentators have given multiple meanings for this verse. One interpretation of this verse is that, O Beloved صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَالهِ وَسَلَّم Indeed, the Hereafter is better for you than this world, because there awaits you the Praiseworthy Station (al-Maqām al-Maḥmūd), the Pool of Kawthar (al-Ḥawḍ al-Kawthar), and all the goodness that has been promised. This includes your precedence over all Prophets and Messengers rinks includes your precedence over all prophets and stations through your intercession and countless honours and nobilities that cannot be adequately expressed.

Furthermore, the exegetes have also stated another meaning for this verse: that the upcoming states and circumstances are better and superior for you than the previous ones. This implies that Allah Almighty's promise is that He will elevate his ranks day by day, increasing his honour upon honour and status upon status, so that his stations will continue to progress in every coming moment. In Tafsīr Nasafī, it is stated:

اى مااعدالله لك في الآخرة من المقام المحمود والحوض المورود والخير الموعود خير ممااعجبك في الدنيا Meaning, whatever Allah Almighty has prepared for you in the Hereafter, such as the Praiseworthy Station, Pool of Kawthar, and the promised goodness, is better than the good that you preferred

in this world. (Tafsir Nasafi, vol. 3, p. 653; Gharā'ib al-Tafsir Wa 'Ajā'ib al-Tāwīl, vol. 2, p. 1354; Fatāwā Riḍawiyyah, vol. 30, pp. 165-166, summarised)

وَاللهُ أَعْلَمُ عَزَّوَ جَلَّ وَرَسُولُه أَعْلَم صَلِّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَاللهِ وَسَلَّم (Allah Almighty knows best and His Messenger)

knows best.)

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