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Forgiveness & Punishment

In the next part of the ayah, Allah says:

“فَيَغْفِرُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ”

“Then He will forgive whom He pleases and He will punish whom He pleases”

Everything that we do is in the Knowledge of the All-Knowing. In this part of the ayah Allah says that He will forgive whom He pleases and He will punish whom He pleases. All authority, decision and judgment rest only with Allah. Only He will be the One to say who will be forgiven and who will be punished.

Power over Every Single Thing

“وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ”

“And Allah has Power over every single thing”.

Allah can do whatever He wants to, there is nothing that is outside the Power of Allah. If Allah wanted to, He could forgive the worst of sinners and if Allah wanted He could punish the most pious of men. There is nothing that He cannot do; He is not bound by rules and laws. Rather He does whatever He pleases and He can do all that He pleases to do. So the lesson for us is that nothing should matter in our lives except Allah. No one else has any power to bring us any harm or any benefit except He and He has Power to do all things.

Verse-285 “Important rulings on Iman”

أَمَّنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلٌّ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ
وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ لَا نُفِرُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِنْ رُسُلِهِ وَقَالُوا
سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ

“The Messenger believes in all that was revealed to him from his Rabb and (so do) the believers. Every single one of them believes in

involuntarily that he does not act upon and that he does not speak out.

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Everything is in his knowledge. Nothing exists beyond his reach and control. He knows inexplicable of the self of the man.
Everything Belongs to Allah

”لِلّٰهِ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ“

”To Allah alone belong all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth.“

Here Allah reminds us that every single thing in all of creation belongs only to Him. Everything belongs to Allah completely and it belongs only to Him.

Account for Outer and Inner Actions

”وَ اِنْ تَبَدَّوْا مَا فِيْ اَنْفُسِكُمْ اَوْ تَخْفَوْا يَحْسِبْكُمْ بِهٖ اللّٰهُ“

”If you disclose what is within yourselves or you conceal it, Allah will call you to account for it“.

The scholars say that what Allah means here by what is "within yourselves" are the thoughts that you have in your mind. So in this part of the ayah Allah is saying that for all of the thoughts that are in your mind, it does not matter if you disclose these thoughts with your words or you disclose them with your actions or instead if you keep them hidden to yourself, Allah will still take you to account for all of them. Allah will hold you accountable for all that you show and even all that you keep secret. So we see from this ayah that Allah will hold us to account even for the thoughts that are in our minds. Now when this ayah was first revealed it troubled the Companions of the Prophet (S.A.W). So they went to the Prophet (S.A.W) and told him (S.A.W) that Allah had given them a burden that is more than they can bear. They said that they are able to control the actions that they do, but they are often not able to control the thoughts that they have. Sometimes thoughts come into their minds that they do not like and they do not want Allah to take them to account for those thoughts. So after the Suhaba (ra) went and complained to the Prophet (S.A.W), Allah then revealed the ayah where He said:

”لَا يَكْتَلِفُ اللّٰهُ نَفْسًا اِلَّا وُسْعَهَا“

”Allah does not burden a soul more than it can bear.“

One of the meanings of this ayah was that a Muslim would not be held accountable for those thoughts that come to his mind

hereafter, where we all will be answerable to Allah almighty for our actions. Good and pious people will go to Heaven and our sins will be penalized by going to Hell. Quran has discussed this aspect to the maximum after 'Tauhid' (Oneness of Allah) and 'Risalat' (Prophet being the messenger of Allah).

7. Muflehoon (People who will be successful)

وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

"They are the ones who are rightly guided (with the help and guidance from their LORD).

Muttaqis and pious people are the one who will be successful, i.e. all those who have faith in Allah, His Prophets, His revealed Books and the Day of Judgment will be successful and will go to Heaven. Allah says,

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ

"Verily those who had faith and performed good deeds, Heaven is for them.

(Sura Al-Baqarah: 284-286)

Verse-284 "Oneness of Allah"

لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ وَإِنْ تُبَدُّوْا مَا
فِيْ اَنْفُسِكُمْ اَوْ تَخْفَوْا بِحٰسِبِكُمْ بِهٖ اللّٰهُ فَيَنْشُرْ
لِمَنْ يَّشَآءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَنْ يَّشَآءُ وَاللّٰهُ عَلٰى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيْرٌ

"To Allah alone belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth, and if you disclose what is within yourselves or you conceal it, Allah will call you to account for it, then He will forgive whom He pleases and He will punish whom He pleases. And Allah has Power over every single thing."

Explanation: In the world of beliefs, first comes belief in Oneness of Allah. He is eternal who has created the entire universe.