

Donkeys With Knowledge



Mufti Aasim Rashid

This verse describes the ignorance of those who were blessed with knowledge but failed to act upon it. Allah (SWT) references the people of Musa (AS), who were given the Torah but refused to acknowledge it despite their observance of multiple divine signs. The inception of their faith was set with the precedence that they will only uphold that which is convenient to their lifestyle and forgo that which is disadvantageous.

Allah (SWT) likens these people to that of a donkey carrying volumes of books. Although a donkey has the potential to trail through difficult terrains carrying books, it will never have the capability to understand and convey the contents of the books.

Similar are those who were handed divine scriptures but did not uphold or convey the teachings of the scriptures.

This example transcends to the Ummah of our Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in regards to those of us who have been blessed with the knowledge or the opportunity to gain knowledge but fail to uphold it. Once we acquire knowledge, it becomes our duty to sustain that knowledge through our actions. If we succeed in that, we will be grouped with those who are the best of Allah's (SWT) creation and if we fail, we risk falling with those Allah (SWT) describes in this verse as the "wretched".

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ حُمِّلُوا التَّوْرَةَ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَحْمِلُوهَا كَمَثَلِ الْحِمَارِ يَحْمِلُ أَسْفَارًا
بِئْسَ مَثَلُ الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ

The example of those who were entrusted with the Torah and then did not take it on is like that of a donkey who carries volumes [of books].

Wretched is the example of the people who deny the signs of Allah.

And Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people.

[Al-Jumuah 5]