

Surah 38. Sad

Asad: What Upon him alone from among all of us should a [divine] reminder have been bestowed from on high?" Nay, but it is My Own reminder that they distrust!¹¹ Nay, they have not yet tasted the suffering which I do impose!¹²

Malik: Is he the only fit person among us to whom the admonition is revealed?" But in fact they doubt My admonition, for they have not yet tasted My punishment.

Mustafa Khattab:

Has the Reminder been revealed ?only? to him out of ?all of? us?" In fact, they are ?only? in doubt of My ?revealed? Reminder.¹ In fact, ?they do so because? they have not yet tasted My punishment.

Pickthall: Hath the reminder been revealed unto him (alone) among us? Nay, but they are in doubt concerning My reminder; nay but they have not yet tasted My doom.

Yusuf Ali: "What! Has the Message been sent to him (of all persons) among us?" But they are in doubt concerning My (own) Message! Nay they have not yet tasted My Punishment! ^{4154 4155}

Author Comments

11 - Lit., "that they are in doubt of": i.e., it is not the personality of the Prophet that fills them with distrust, but, rather, the substance of the message proclaimed by him - and, in particular, his insistence on God's absolute oneness and uniqueness, which runs counter to their habits of thought and social traditions.

12 - Sc., "on people who refuse to accept the truth".

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In other words, they do not question the honesty of the Prophet (?), but question the Quran itself. This verse is similar to 6:33.

4154 - Here comes in envy. 'If a Message had to come, why should it come to him, the orphan son of 'Abdullah, and not to one of our own great men?'

4155 - They have no clear idea of how Allah's Message comes! It is not a worldly thing to be given to any one. It is a divine thing requiring spiritual preparation. If they close their eyes to it now, it will be brought home to them when they taste the consequences of their folly!

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