

Surah 41. Ha-Mim

Asad: And, too, when We bestow Our blessings upon man, he tends to turn aside and keep aloof [from remembering Us]; but as soon as evil fortune touches him he is full of wordy prayers!⁴⁷

Malik: When We bestow favors on man, he turns away and drifts off to another side; and when an evil befalls him, he comes with lengthy supplications.

Mustafa Khattab:

When We show favour to someone, they turn away, acting arrogantly. And when touched with evil, they make endless prayers ?for good?.

Pickthall: When We show favor unto man, he withdraweth and turneth aside, but when ill toucheth him then he aboundeth in prayer.

Yusuf Ali: When We bestow favors on man he turns away and gets himself remote on his side (instead of coming to Us); and when Evil seizes him (he comes) full of prolonged prayer! ^{4523 4524}

Transliteration: Waitha anAAamna AAala alinsani aAAda wanaa bijanibihi waitha massahu alshsharru fathoo duAAain AAareedin

Author Comments

47 - Lit., "wide [i.e., prolonged or diffuse] prayers".

4523 - The last verse and note dealt with men's distortion of the values of life. Here we come to men's ingratitude and hypocrisy. If they receive good, they go farther away from Allah, instead of coming nearer to him. If they suffer ill, they call on Allah and offer prolonged prayers, but it is not sincere devotion and therefore worthless.

4524 - Cf. xvii. 83. A) An argument is now addressed, of a most searching nature. Examine your own souls. See if you do not really find something unusual in Allah's Revelation! If you do, and yet you reject it, what a terrible responsibility fastens itself on you? Could anything be more foolish or more misguided than to reject a Message which is transforming the whole world? B) 'If you resist the convictions of the whole world, you are only forming a Cave or a narrow obscure sect or schism, which serves no purpose, and is unfit to live in the broad light of Universal Religion.' Cf. ii. 176, n. 176. C) Allah's Truth always spreads, in its own good time, across to the uttermost ends of the earth, as it did in the case of Islam. But its intensive spread in the hearts and souls of people is even more remarkable than its extensive spread over large areas. Men like the four Companions of the Prophet-and many more-became leaders of men and arbiters

of the world's fate. Madinah from being a focus of jarring tribes and factions that hated each other, became the seat of heroic actions and plans and the nursery of great and noble heroic deeds that resounded throughout the world. It makes no difference what men may say or do. Allah's Truth must prevail, and He knows who obstruct and who help.

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