

Ramadan Daily Quran Studies, by Dr Zahid Aziz, 2025

Produced by:

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Study 3:

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ
brings people from darkness into light

كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ
بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ ﴿١٤﴾ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ^ط

“A Book which We have revealed to you (O Prophet)
that you may bring forth people, by their Lord’s permission,
from darkness into light,
to the way of the Mighty, the Praised One, of Allah,
Whose is whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth.”

— 14:1–2

هُوَ الَّذِي يُنَزِّلُ عَلَىٰ عَبْدِهِ آيَاتٍ بَيِّنَاتٍ لِّيُخْرِجَكُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ^ط
وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُمْ لَرَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿٩﴾

“He it is Who sends down clear messages to His servant,
that he may bring you forth from darkness into light.
And surely Allah is Kind, Merciful to you.” — 57:9

رَسُولًا يَتْلُوا عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ مُبَيِّنَاتٍ
لِّيُخْرِجَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ^ط

“...a Messenger who recites to you the clear messages of Allah,
so that he may bring forth those who believe and do good deeds
from darkness into light.” — 65:11

- Light enables people to see things, to see the right path to follow, in contrast to the wrong path to avoid. The Holy Prophet brought people into that light, as stated in the verses above, so that they could see for themselves what was right and what was wrong.
- Bringing people into light is, therefore, quite different from giving them a set of rules and regulations which they follow blindly, without light, in the hope that this will lead to their salvation.

- The word for “darkness” in all the above verses is the plural *ẓulumāt*. The Holy Prophet’s countrymen were enveloped in many types of darkness: idol-worship, ignorance, cruel customs, superstition, blind following of tradition, blind following of religious leaders, injustice, oppression of the helpless, etc.
- The “clear messages of Allah”, delivered to them by the Holy Prophet, brought them into light so that they could see the darkness they had been living in.

- The Quran gives the following example:

أَوْ مَنْ كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَأَحْيَيْنَاهُ وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُ نُورًا يَمْشِي بِهِ فِي النَّاسِ
كَمَنْ مَثَلُهُ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ لَيْسَ بِخَارِجٍ مِّنْهَا^ط

“Is he who was dead, then We raised him to life
and made for him a light by which he walks among the people,
like him whose likeness is that of one in darkness
from which he cannot come forth?” — 6:122

- This verse is not speaking about a particular person or about someone who was actually dead in body.

- It is about morally and spiritually dead persons being raised to life by the Holy Prophet and being given guidance to lead their lives. The words “by which he walks among the people” mean that such a person then guides other people too, who can follow his light.
- It is implicitly understood in this verse, without a direct mention of the Holy Prophet, that he is the one who brings that light from God to people.

- Another such verse says:

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ ط

“Allah is the Friend of those who believe —
He brings them out of darkness into light.” — 2:257

- The Holy Prophet himself was a great light:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا ﴿٤٥﴾ وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُّنِيرًا ﴿٤٦﴾

“O Prophet, surely We have sent you as a witness, and a bearer of good news and a warner, and as an inviter to Allah by His permission, and as a light-giving sun.”

— 33:45–46

- The “light-giving sun” illuminates the whole world. When the sun is out, lesser lights (or previous prophets) are no longer necessary.
- Also, the one who could give light to others and raise them from the depth of vice and immorality to the height of purity and perfection could not himself be in the darkness of impurity.
- This is an answer to those critics of the Holy Prophet Muhammad who accuse him of following his material and worldly desires because of his marriages and the wars which he fought.

- This is why two verses later the Quran says to the Holy Prophet:

وَلَا تُطِيعِ الْكُفْرِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقِينَ وَادْعُ أَذْهُمُ وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ ۗ وَكَفَى بِاللَّهِ وَكِيلًا ﴿٣٨﴾

“And do not obey the disbelievers and the hypocrites,
and disregard their annoying talk, and rely on Allah.

And Allah is sufficient as having charge of affairs.” — 33:48

- The Prophet is told to disregard this “annoying talk”, which means the hurtful allegations made against him, because the time would come when the following question would be asked:

- How is it that the Prophet illumined the world and opened the flood-gates of light to a darkened world, if it was darkness that filled his own mind?
- This verse also teaches Muslims that when they are offended and hurt by provocative attacks on their religion and their Prophet, and by sarcasm and ridicule against them, they should bear their feelings of hurt and anger with patience, and ignore the abuse.

END OF STUDY 3