

Vanguards of Khurasan Magazine Publishes Al-Libi Article on Meaning of Mercy

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[Please note: Images may have been removed from this document. Page numbers have been added.]

On 26 February, a forum participant posted to a jihadist website a statement that contains links to the 16th issue of "Vanguards of Khurasan" Magazine. This issue of the magazine includes an article by Abu-Yahya al-Libi entitled "We Sent Thee not, but as a Mercy for All Creatures." In the article, Al-Libi explains this Koranic verse and praises the mercy of the prophet, saying that God sent his messenger when "humanity was on the verge of taking its last breath." The writer also says that the "contemporary ignorance is the same as the pre-Islamic state" and that "the principles of greed, selfishness, and self-interest have become the ruling principles" in society. The magazine was produced and disseminated by the Al-Fajr Media Center. OSC processed the table of contents for this issue of the magazine as GMP20100227121002.

A translation of the article follows: "'We Sent Thee not, but as a Mercy for All Creatures (Koranic verse, Al-Anbiya, 21:107)'

"By Shaykh Abu-Yahya al-Libi

"First Episode

"It is a Koranic verse in the Book of Almighty God that does not exceed 25 letters. This verse causes one to pause before the truth, which the Prophet Muhammad's message introduced in a uniquely eloquent depiction, an unmatched rhetorical style, and with a deep meaning. These few letters and words were a legitimizing entrance and convincing proof for those who sought to enter through it into this vast horizon and space where hearts and spirits are content and life is harmonized. 'Verily this Qur'an doth guide to that which is most right (or stable), and giveth the glad tidings to the believers who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a magnificent reward (Koranic verse, Al-Isra, 17:9).'

"All humans are looking for mercy and eagerly seek its sources, which embrace the ease of mind, security, tranquility, stability, justice, and protection of rights. For this, the people wandered the lands. When they find partial mercy, even an illusionary one, through an experience, law, or policy, they embrace it, elevate it, use it, and consider it the means to salvation and the path to pride. However, once they live within its illusion for some time and prepare to receive its blessings, the illusionary mercy reveals itself and they discover its true nature and are subjected to its hell. They realize that the illusion has blinded their eyes and covered their hearts and that they will continue to live in torture and misery. Consequently, they start searching for another means of mercy, hoping that the path will lead them to mercy, rest, and refuge. Only those who were chosen by God will find goodness; those who were not will suffer misery, discomfort, and torture, and the torture of the afterlife is more severe and they will have no champion: 'If Allah had so willed, He could have made them a single people; but He admits whom He will to his mercy; and the wrong-doers will have no protector nor helper (Koranic verse, Al-Shura, 42:8).'

"Nothing is better evidence in our contemporary, dying, and uncivilized era than the many organizations, establishments, and institutions that claim to care for human rights, through which they try to secure the minimum level of mercy to establish an organized life for these people amidst the waves of sufferings that make every moment of their lives harder.

"Humans with their instincts, characteristics, and features, have been prepared by their creator Almighty God for complex, contradictory, and unforeseen situations, as well as diverse and ever-changing emotions and feelings, numerous perceptions, and contradictory and interchanging desires. Humans, throughout their entire life, need to live harmoniously with these matters in a way that matches the perfect image within them, thus calming their spirits, easing their minds, guiding their actions, and match their perceptions to the inescapable and unavoidable truths that are embedded deep in their hearts. Moreover, any instability in a person's instinct, features, deeds, or perceptions will drag the person down to afflictions, difficulties, and drowning in a sea of hardships. They will also distance him from 'mercy,' depending on his distance from the state of human perfection that every rational person should seek. This perfection cannot be achieved or even fully realized or known except through the inspiration sent from the creator, who knows everything that takes place in the universe. 'Should He not know, He that created? and He is the one that understands the finest mysteries (and) is well-acquainted (with them) (Koranic verse, Al-Mulk, 6:103).'

"There is a ideal image and a state of perfection for both individuals and societies that everyone seeks to achieve and obtain, so that then they would reach the peaceful place that every spirit yearns for. This image and perfection will guide the people to permanent tranquility, deep calm, total security, comprehensive mercy, a good and comfortable life. Societies old and new only boast to each other about the stability, growth, mercy, and harmony that prevails among their people and the fairness of distribution of their rights. These are the aims that every president, king, or amir, no matter how tyrannical, try to convince his people and followers that he is working to achieve, striving to accomplish, and struggling to deliver. Despite his oppression, coercion, and cruelty, the pharaoh said to his people: 'I but point out to you that which I see (myself); Nor do I guide you but to the path of right! (partial Koranic verse, Ghafir, 40:29).'

"God has sent his messenger, prayers and peace be upon him, when humanity was as if it was dying from all the chronic diseases that afflicted its body. Because of these diseases, all the organs had rotted and the poisons of corruption had spread through the body. Humanity was on the verge of taking its last breath as it was only breathing the suffocating air of the pre-Islamic era.

"Diseases, pain, and distress had reached their peak. Hence, humanity was preparing to fall into the bottomless abyss. Its eyes were dizzy from the magnitude of intoxicating of sins, superstition, silliness, and imagination that surrounded it, suffocated it, and penetrated into its arteries and veins.

"Therefore, the herald of success, righteousness, and reform, shouted in its face, warning it of danger: Salvation, salvation. He took its hand and strongly pulled it away from the precipice of peril into which it was about to fall. God saved it with His granted mercy (the Prophet Muhammad), who gave the best example on how to deal with those who violated his mercy, rejected his call, and deviated from his path, even though he cared for them and strived to advise them. (The prophet said:) 'I am like a man who lit a fire and insects and moths began to fall in it and he tried to prevent them from going into the fire, but they overcame him and fell into it. This is like me and you; I am trying to prevent you from falling into the fire. Beware the fire! Beware the fire! But you overcome me and fall into it.' (Hadith)

"No one will describe the dark and corrupted pre-Islamic era more accurately than those who were burned by its fire, scorched in its hell, and experienced its environment. Back then, their hearts were ignorant, their souls were uncivilized, and their minds were lost until they tasted the sweetness of faith and their hearts were cleansed by its pureness and they sipped from its fresh

water. Thus, their hearts were purified, their spirits were renewed, their minds were rightly guided, their manners were refined, and their lives were straightened.

"They could differentiate then between what they were and what they had become as Ja'far Ibn-Abu-Talib said when he was standing before the Abyssinian king, Al-Najashi: 'We were an ignorant people, worshipping idols, feeding on carrion, practicing immorality, deserting our families, and violating the covenants of mutual protection. The strong among us devoured the weak. Such was our state until God sent us a messenger who was one of us; we know his ancestry, truthfulness, honesty, and purity. He summoned us to God to worship Him only, discarding all the stones and idols that we and our fathers used to worship in his stead. He ordered us to be honest in speech and trustworthy in deed, etc.'

"An epoch that was tainted and whose people were mired in vice, corruption, and evil is worth being described as a state of ignorance (pre-Islamic epoch), which suggests the absence of any trace of education that guides the lives of people, corrects them, and refines them. They did not have any kind of education in their doctrines, worships, interactions, manners, peaceful moments, and wars.

"The reason behind this is most probably 'suspicion and desire' and the consent and agreement that is permanently linked with desires and their effects and gives precedence to the inclinations of the spirit. They persisted in applying this concept as much as possible even if it was at the expense of corrupting and destroying the whole society due to the intensity of desires, which have no mercy on societies.

"Instincts regressed, hearts were hardened, and minds were dominated by customs, traditions, and habits. They only were concerned with following the steps of their ancestors; they only saw salvation in following and imitating them, even if they were deviant. God says: 'When it is said to them: "Follow what Allah hath revealed:" They say: "Nay! we shall follow the ways of our fathers." What! even though their fathers were void of wisdom and guidance? (Koranic verse, Al-Baqarah, 2:170)' This unleashed savagery, assault, injustice, greed, selfishness, arrogance, and foolish tribalism. (Pre-Islamic poetic verses praising tribalism omitted)

"The life of misery, suffering, and evil, which the people of the pre-Islamic era were experiencing and tumbling in its cauldron, was not the result of a feature related only to this era. It is foolish and ridiculous to think that the reason behind this life was the primitive way of life such as their means of transportation: camels, mules, and donkeys; their lodgings: tents, wool, and caves; and their weapons: swords, spears, and arrows. All these components and others are used to ease life and as a way to reach the great goals in life. They correct values, refine societies, and build manners and ethics. Yet, tainting the epochs and times with the taint of the pre-Islamic era or its opposite does not depend on such isolated, renewed, numerous, and diverse reasons.

"You can see that during a single era, there is a big variation between societies regarding these purely materialistic issues, as well as variations in all means of comfort, pleasure, and luxury. In spite of all these variations, all these societies deserve to be described as pre-Islamic societies, and this title is applicable to all of them. This means that the reason for giving this title is not just about the material aspects or standard of living the society achieved but is something above and beyond this. Despite the wide variations in the standard of living between the societies of the Romans and Persians and the Arab tribes, all these societies were societies of ignorance, barbarianism, and tribalism, built on injustice, tyranny, barbarism, oppression of the weak, corruption, and a separation from values. In general, these societies were living like animals, without any religion and without belief in God. God says: 'Many are the jinns and men we have

made for hell: They have hearts wherewith they understand not, eyes wherewith they see not, and ears wherewith they hear not. They are like cattle, nay more misguided: for they are heedless (of warning) (Koranic verse, Al-A'raf, 7:179). 'Or thinkest thou that most of them listen or understand? They are only like cattle; nay, they are worse astray in path (Koranic verse, Al-Furqan, 25:44).'

"The contemporary ignorance is the same as the pre-Islamic state. We will not be exaggerating if we say that our current dying age has drowned in the depths of the dark sea of ignorance, a drowning that is unprecedented. Our society is skilled in breaking away from values, mercy, and spreading corruption. All that Ja'far Ibn-Abu-Talib, may God be content with him, mentioned about evil has reached its pinnacle in our age and been surpassed by the innovations in crime, sin, and ways to corrupt the earth, in ways that our ignorant predecessors could not have imagined. This has caused societies and people to suffer hardship and instability. They have strayed far from their origins and fatally constricted their hearts. The ways of animal life are in total control. Lust and desires dominate. The meanings of mercy, leniency, and sympathy are absent from them and so they are seeking them here and there, but only find a scorching fire, a raging inferno. Attributes have been overcome by barbarianism, cruelty, and brutality, as the principles of greed, selfishness, and self-interest have become the ruling principles in all dealings within the society and in all politics, during war and peace.

"Nevertheless, we see some people ignoring all these suffocating shackles around society and instead are impressed by the technology and modern means, making them the basis for judging these drugged societies. They take this seductive technology as a way to kill those who want mercy for the world and to save it from the scorching modern hell. Through their infatuation with these means, they try to prevent anyone who is truly searching for salvation for himself and for peace, and drag them back into the bottomless abyss. There is no peace except in the religion (Islam), which has been sent as a mercy to the world. God says: 'So set thou thy face steadily and truly to the faith: (establish) Allah's handiwork according to the pattern on which He has made mankind: no change (let there be) in the work (wrought) by Allah; that is the standard religion, but most among mankind understand not (Koranic verse, Al-Rum, 30:30).'

"From the abovementioned points, we can realize the severity of the crime committed by those who oppose God's way, and have been blinded and unable to distinguish between their spiritual and physical needs. These people have gone to search for spiritual rest and peace for their hearts in modern buildings, luxurious vehicles, and advanced technology, and became like the one who sheds the blood of his victim on a golden platter. Therefore, those people who stand in God's way deserve more severe punishment, according to the severity of their crime and the ugliness of their corruption. 'Those who reject Allah and hinder (men) from the path of Allah, for them will We add penalty to penalty; for that they used to spread mischief (Koranic verse, Al-Nahl, 16:88).'

Imam Ibn-Kathir, may God rest his soul, wrote: 'This means torture for their non-belief, and more torture for preventing people from following the truth.' (Tafsir Ibn-Kathir 4/593)

"To be continued, God willing."