



سُورَةُ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ

Surat al-'Ankabūt (29)

The Spider

COMMENTARY OF THE QUR'AN

RAMADAN 2020

Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Review for Today



Session 27

Review for Today

Āyāt 64-66



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Introduction

God’s precedence in testing humans’ faith

Testing people’s faith at all times. (Verses 1-4)

4 Verses



Different groups going through Divine Trials. (Verses 5-13)

9 Verses



Consequences of disbelieving in Prophets sent by God. (Verses 14-44)

31 Verses



The trials which those who opposed the Prophets went through. (Verses 45-68)

24 Verses

Achievements of those who struggle in the way of God – Divine Mercy and Guidance. (Verse 69)

1 Verse



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

وَمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَهُوٌ وَلَعِبٌ وَإِنَّ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ لَهِيَ
الْحَيَوَانُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾

The present, worldly life is nothing but a pastime and play, but the abode of the Hereafter is truly alive. If they but knew. (64)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

...إِلَّا لَهْوٌ وَعَيْبٌ...

...nothing but a **pastime** and **play**...

- **DEFINITION:** Pastime refers to something like a hobby, sport, or other pleasant activity a person indulges in regularly for purposes of enjoyment.
- **Meaning of Lahw (لهو):** Something done to keep the person busy and preoccupied and distract them from the primary issues of life – used 10 times in the Quran;



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

...إِلَّا لَهْوٌ وَوَلَعِبٌ...

...nothing but a **pastime** and **play**...

- **Definition:** Play means to engage in activity for enjoyment and recreation rather than a serious or practical purpose.
- **Meaning of La'ib (لعب):** Something which has a set of made-up rules which must be followed in order to reach to a made-up objective – used 8 times in the Quran.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

وَإِنَّ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ لَهِيَ الْحَيَوَانُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾

...but the abode of the Hereafter is truly alive. If they but knew. (64)

- Emphasis on the **next world**:

- Usage of: إِنَّ [Inna]
- Usage of: ل [Laam]
- Usage of: هِيَ [Hiya]
- Usage of a Nominal Sentence (Al-Jumla al-Ismiyyah – الجملة الإسمية)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

Question: Although the Qur’an itself recommends or even orders us to work and put in effort to cultivate the land and work hard, to get married and have a family, travel around the world, enjoy the beauties of life, etc. how can it then tell us that the life of this world is nothing but a pastime and play!?



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66



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Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

فَإِذَا رَكِبُوا فِي الْفُلِّ دَعَوْا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ
فَلَمَّا نَجَّاهُمْ إِلَى الْبَرِّ إِذَا هُمْ يُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٦٥﴾

When they embark on a ship *and find themselves in danger*, they call upon God sincerely believing in Him alone *as the only Deity, Lord, and Sovereign*. But when He brings them safe to land, see, they begin again to associate partners with God! (65)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

قَالَ رَجُلٌ لِلصَّادِقِ عليه السلام يَا ابْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ دُنِّي عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا هُوَ فَقَدْ أَكْثَرَ عَلَيَّ الْمُجَادِلُونَ وَ
حَيَّرُونِي

O Son of the Messenger of Allah – *Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad al-Sadiq*. Show me what God is, for many are the disputants and they have confused me.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

فَقَالَ لَهُ يَا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ هَلْ رَكِبْتَ سَفِينَةً قَطُّ قَالَ نَعَمْ

He, Imam Ja‘far al-Sadiq عليه السلام, replied: “O Servant of God! Have you ever sailed in a ship?”

The man replied: “Yes.”



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

قَالَ فَهَلْ كُسِرَتْ بِكَ حَيْثُ لَا سَفِينَةَ تُنْجِيكَ وَلَا سَبَاحَةَ تُغْنِيكَ قَالَ نَعَمْ

He, Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq عليه السلام, then asked: "Has it ever happened that the ship *you were in* became wrecked and *you were in such a situation* that there was no other ship in your vicinity to save you and swimming was of no avail *to save yourself*?"

The man replied: "Yes."



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

قَالَ فَهَلْ تَعَلَّقَ قَلْبَكَ هُنَالِكَ أَنَّ شَيْئًا مِنَ الْأَشْيَاءِ قَادِرٌ عَلَى أَنْ يَخْلُصَكَ مِنْ وَرَطَّتِكَ قَالَ نَعَمْ

He, Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq عليه السلام, then asked: "So at that point in time, did your heart grasp that there was something which has the ability to deliver you from your troubles?"

The man replied: "Yes."



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

قَالَ الصَّادِقُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فَذَلِكَ الشَّيْءَ هُوَ اللَّهُ الْقَادِرُ عَلَى الْإِنِّجَاءِ حَيْثُ لَا مَنْجِي وَ
عَلَى الْإِغَاثَةِ حَيْثُ لَا مُغِيثًا.

He, Imam Ja‘far al-Sadiq عليه السلام, concluded by saying: “So then that “thing” is Allah, The All-Powerful who is able to save *you* when there is no other saviour; and is able to grant relief *to one who calls upon Him* when there is no one else to grant relief.” [Al-Tawheed of Shaykh al-Saduq, Ch. 31, Tr. 5]



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

لِيَكْفُرُوا بِمَا آتَيْنَاهُمْ وَلِيَتَمَتَّعُوا فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٦٦﴾

And so let them show ingratitude for all that We have granted them, and so let them give themselves up to the enjoyment of the worldly life; but they will come to know. (66)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ

...but they will come to know.

“This application of the phrase has been done by Allah to make its meaning as broad as possible, and not to limit the listener's mind to any extent, as the result of a person's actions include: Divine punishment, disgrace in both worlds, and **any other** misfortune they may face.”



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 64 to 66

Points for Reflection

1. The creation of the world and the human being is based on a goal and wisdom, however when we forget about the world to come, that is when this life becomes a mere game.
2. Even more important than faith and sincerity is to MAINTAIN these traits until we leave this world.
3. “Success” in this world is given to EVERYONE – believers and non-believers.

