

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



The Scales and The Scepter

Lessons in *Istiqamah* from Madyan to Egypt.

Surah Hud and
its sisters have
made me age.

— Hadith, Sunan At-Tirmidhi

A visual synthesis of
Verses 84–99. Revealed
during the Prophet's (ﷺ)
deepest grief, Surah Hud
diagnoses the timeless
diseases of economic
exploitation and political tyranny,
offering the ultimate cure:
steadfastness upon the truth.

Two Nations, Two Diseases

The Connecting Thread: Both nations fundamentally separated the worship of *Allah (Tawhid)* from their societal systems.



Nation: Madyan (Verses 84-95)

Prophet: *Shuaib* (AS)

Societal Disease: Economic Fraud & Market Corruption

False Idol: Absolute Free-Will over wealth and property



Nation: Egypt (Verses 96-99)

Prophet: *Musa* (AS)

Societal Disease: Blind obedience to a tyrant (*Amr Fir'awn*)

False Idol: Political power and arrogance

Madyan: A Metropolis of Wealth and the Speaker of the Prophets



The Setting: Madyan was a prosperous trade hub on major routes, settled by descendants of Madyan ibn Ibrahim. Wealthy, but spiritually hollow.



The Prophet: Sent from among them ('their brother Shu'ayb'), emphasizing familiarity and localized mercy.



The Title: Known as *Khatib al-Anbiyaa* (The Speaker of the Prophets) due to his unmatched eloquence, deep reasoning, and profound emotional appeal.



The Core Warning: Verse 84 (Surah Hud)

﴿ وَإِلَىٰ مَدْيَنَ أَخَاهُمْ شُعَيْبًا ۚ قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ ۚ وَلَا تَنْقُصُوا الْمِكْيَالَ وَالْمِيزَانَ ۚ إِنِّي أُرِيتُكُمْ بِخَيْرٍ



وَإِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ مُّحِيطٍ ۚ﴾



The English Translation:

And to Madyan [We sent] their brother Shu‘ayb. Shu‘ayb. He said, “O my people, worship Allāh; you have no deity other than Him. And do not decrease from the measure and the scale. Indeed, I see you in prosperity, but indeed, I fear for you the punishment of an all-encompassing Day.”

The Inseparable Nature of Faith and the Marketplace



The Branch: *Al-Mizan* (Economic Equity)

And do not lessen the measure and the weight. (Verse 84b)

Economic equity is the immediate fruit of monotheism. Fraud is a theological breach: you cannot worship the Creator while systematically cheating His creation.

The Root: *Tawhid*

O my people, worship Allah. You have no god other than Him. (Verse 84a)

Tawhid is the absolute foundation. The first rule of life; without it, human transactions have no true moral compass.

The Illusion of Prosperity vs. The Encompassing Day

The Illusion

Madyan lived comfortably.
Driven not by poverty, but
by unchecked greed.

The Reality: *Al-Muheet*

The Encompassing boundary. Human actions
are trapped within the inescapable limit of
Divine Knowledge and Judgment.

“I see you quite well off, and I fear for you the
punishment of an encircling day.” (Verse 84)

The Vocabulary of Divine Economics

Al-Qist

Give full measure and weight with Al-Qist. (Verse 85)

Meaning: More than just technical accuracy, Al-Qist implies an internal, proactive commitment to fairness. It is the spiritual antidote to skimming or giving slightly less.

Baqiyyatullah

Baqiyyatullah is better for you, if you are believers. (Verse 86)

Meaning: What rests lawfully with Allah. The pure, lawful sustenance that remains by Allah's grace is infinitely heavier and more eternal than the massive, stained profits of fraud. A shift from quantity to the purity (Barakah) of wealth.

Madyan's Malady and the Taunt Against *Salah*

The Warning (Verse 84): Worship Allah... and do not give short measure.



Sayyid Qutb's Insight: This represents the original secular argument—the attempt to sever religion (*Salah*) from financial markets.

The Taunt & Anatomy of Arrogance

قَالُوا يَشْعِيبُ أَصْلَوَاتُكَ تَأْمُرُكَ أَنْ نَتَّزِكَ
مَا يَعْبُدُ ءَابَاؤُنَا أَوْ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ فِي أَمْوَالِنَا مَا
نَشَاءُ إِنَّكَ لَأَنْتَ الْحَلِيمُ الرَّشِيدُ

The Taunt: O Shuaib, does your *Salah* command you that we leave what our fathers worshipped, or doing what we please with our wealth?

Linguistic Gem (Zamakhshari): The end of the verse, “You are indeed the one who is clement and right-minded! (*al-halim ar-rashid*),” is pure sarcasm. They mocked his integrity in a corrupt market.

The Blueprint of Da'wah from the Orator of the Prophets



The Clash of Allegiances

The Threat (Verse 91)
"If not for your clan (*Raht*),
we would have stoned you."

The Paradigm Shift (Verse 92)
"Is my clan more respectable to you
than Allah? And you have taken Him as
something thrown behind your backs."



Synthesis:
A profound warning against elevating tribalism, nationalism, or societal approval over the majesty of Allah. When society protects a Prophet only out of tribal loyalty rather than divine reverence, the societal compass is entirely broken.

The Cry of Justice and the Erasure of Madyan

The Event (Verses 94)

*wa akhazatil lazeena zalamu
as-Saihah*
— "and the (Awful) Cry seized
those who had wronged"

Linguistic Insight (Verse 95)

ka'an lam yaghnaw fiha —
"As if they never prospered there."
The complete, terrifying erasure
of their economic legacy.

The Physical Scene (Verse 94)

"fa-asbahu fi diyarihim jathimeen"
— "Then morning found them
prostrate in their homes."

The Cosmic Law

"Away with *Madyan* just as
Thamud was done away with!"
Zamakhshari and classical scholars
note the connection: defying God's
signs leads to identical cosmic
consequences, regardless of the era.

Musa vs. The Tyrant: The Anatomy of Blind Following

The Arrival

Musa is sent with *Ayatin* (Signs) and *Sultan Mubeen* (Clear Authority).

Pharaoh

The Chiefs (*Mala'*)

The People

مُوسَىٰ

Musa (AS)

The Contrast

Despite overwhelming divine proof, the people chose *Amr Fir'awn* (the command of Pharaoh).

The Tragic Flaw

"And the command of Pharaoh was not rightly guided." (Verse 97)

Context Note: A direct historical warning to the Quraysh—and all future generations—against blindly following corrupt leaders (like Abu Jahl) out of tribal solidarity over divine truth.



The Imagery (Verse 98)

He will precede his people on the Day of Resurrection and lead them into the Fire.

Sayyid Qutb's Insight

A chilling irony. A leader is traditionally a shepherd who leads his flock to water (*wird*) for life and sustenance. Fir'awn leads his people like a shepherd, but the watering hole he drives them into is the Hellfire.

The Verdict & Core Lesson

"And wretched is the place to which they are led."

Blind obedience to a tyrant does not absolve the follower. Individual responsibility is absolute.

The Terrifying Rhetoric of the Watering Hole

“...and wretched is the watering hole to which they are led [wa bi’sa al-wird al-mawrood].” (11:98)



The Metaphor (*Wird*):
In classical Arabic, a wird is a watering place where a shepherd leads his parched, thirsty flock to drink and find relief.

The Inversion:
Pharaoh’s people followed him for glory, security, and wealth. He leads them to the Wird as promised, but the ‘water’ they eagerly plunge into is the Hellfire.

The Dual Curse of Corrupted Systems

The Imagery

Madyan relied on the illusion of absolute wealth.

Sayyid Qutb's Insight

Fir'awn relied on the illusion of absolute power.

Dunya (This World)

The Verdict (Verse 99)

“They were pursued by a curse in this [world] and on the Day of Resurrection. Wretched is the gift that is given.”

Akhirah (The Hereafter)

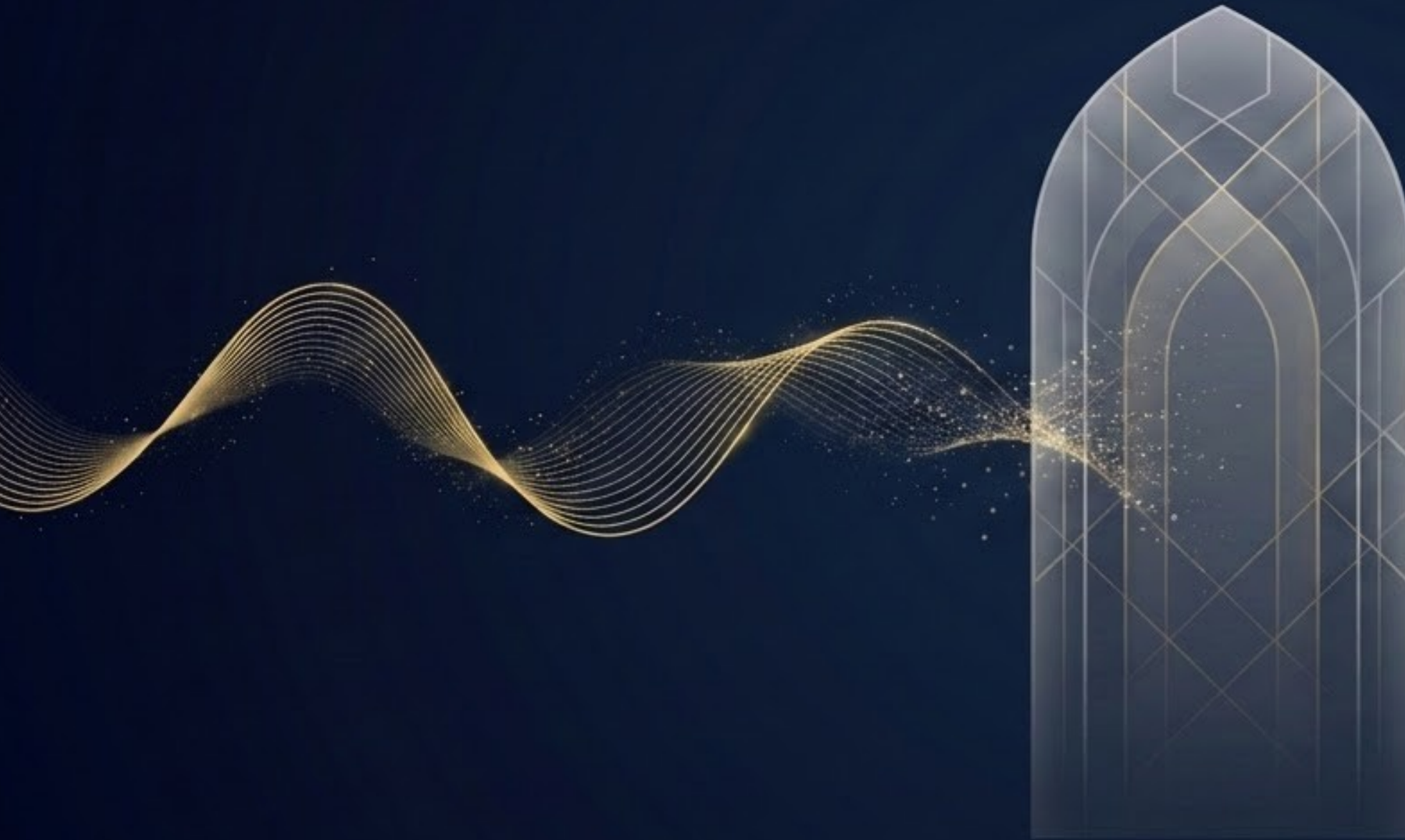
The Pattern

Both separated their worldly systems from *Tawhid*. Both were pursued by a curse across both realms. Worldly dominance is fundamentally hollow without spiritual integrity.



Can the Dead Hear?

Reconciling Prophetic Miracles with Quranic Absolutes



An Exploration of Islamic Theology and the Realm of Barzakh

Salih (AS) and the Ruins of Thamud

After the elite of Thamud arrogantly slaughtered the miraculous she-camel, **Allah granted them** a 3-day respite before a devastating blast seized them, **leaving them lifeless** on their knees.

The 3-Day
Wait

The Sayhah
(The Blast)

The
Aftermath



The Post-Destruction Rebuke

"Only after they had perished did Prophet Salih (AS) turn to their bodies and speak: '**O my people, I had certainly conveyed to you the message of my Lord and advised you, but you do not like advisors.**'"

(Surah Al-A'raf 7:79)

Shuaib (AS) and the Earthquake of Madyan



Sent to the people of Madyan who were rife with economic fraud, Prophet Shuaib (AS) faced similar mockery. A devastating earthquake seized them.

The Aftermath

The Parallel Admonishment

Following the exact pattern of Salih (AS), Shuaib stood over the ruins of his people and addressed the dead:

"O my people! I have indeed conveyed my Lord's Messages unto you and I have given you good advice. Then how can I grieve over people who are disbelievers." (Surah Al-A'raf 7:93)

The Confrontation at the Well of Badr



Days after the decisive Muslim victory, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) rode his camel to the well containing the corpses of the Quraysh elite. He called out their leaders by name:

"O Abu Jahl bin Hisham! O 'Utbah bin Rabiah! O Shaybah bin Rabiah!"

"Have you found what your Lord promised to be true? I certainly found what my Lord has promised me to be true."

The Prophets spoke, and the dead perceived.

But is this the default state of Barzakh?

The Quranic Negation

The Quran establishes a universal law regarding human capability and the barrier of death. In the default state, communication is severed.



The Absolute Rule

And the living and the dead are not alike. Indeed, Allah causes to hear whom He wills, but you cannot make hear those in the graves.

(Surah Fatir 35:22)

Takeaway: By human effort alone, the dead are entirely cut off from the realm of the living.

The Metaphor of the Deaf Heart

The absolute inability of the dead to hear is so universally true that the Quran utilizes it as the ultimate metaphor for spiritual stubbornness.



Physical Death (The Grave)



Spiritual Death (The Stubborn Heart)

Indeed, you will not make the dead hear, nor will you make the deaf hear the call when they turn their backs in retreat. (Surah An-Naml 27:80)

The Mechanism of the Miracle

Scholars (like Ibn Kathir) reconcile these texts not by diluting them, but by recognizing Divine boundaries.



The Synthesis: Human beings have no inherent power to make the dead hear, honoring the absolute truth of Surah Fatir 35:22. However, the Creator of Barzakh can temporarily suspend its laws to grant miraculous perception to the dead exclusively when His Messengers speak.

The Purpose of the Exception (Hujjah)

Why bend the laws of the universe for corpses? Allah returned perception to the people of Salih, Shuaib, and the Quraysh at Badr strictly to establish Hujjah (ultimate proof).



The Psychological Devastation

It was an extension of their punishment. They were made to experience the crushing realization that the Prophets they mocked were entirely truthful, and the promises of their Lord were absolutely real.

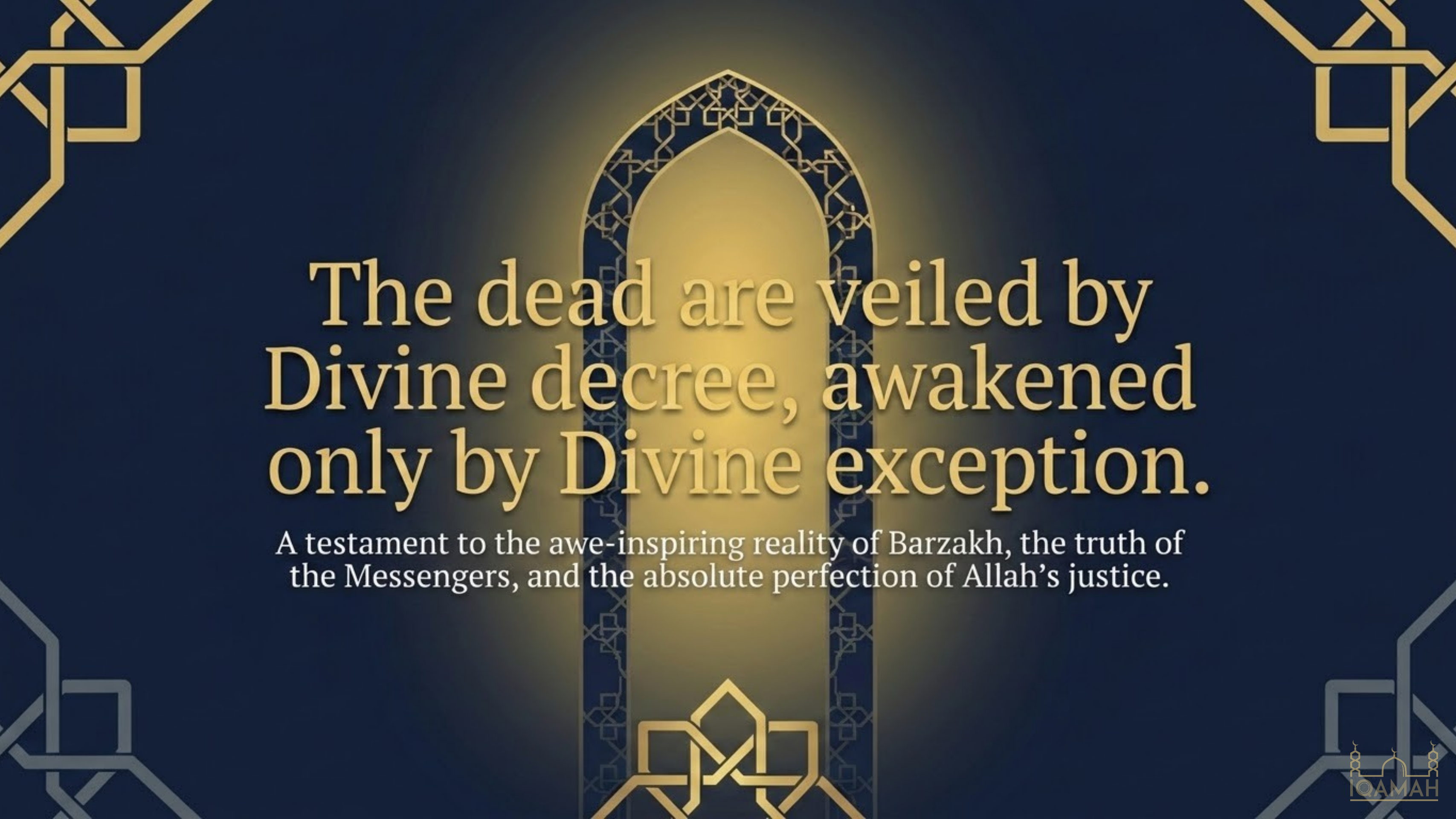
The Anguish of Silence

“They cannot reply.”



Scholarly Insight

The true agony of this miraculous hearing is compounded by their utter helplessness. As the exegesis notes, they hear the admonishment of the Prophets flawlessly, but they are trapped in the silence of the grave. They are stripped of the ability to argue back, to justify themselves, or—most tragically—to repent. The time for deeds is over.



The dead are veiled by
Divine decree, awakened
only by Divine exception.

A testament to the awe-inspiring reality of Barzakh, the truth of the Messengers, and the absolute perfection of Allah's justice.

Closing Dua

O Allah, Al-Wadud, Ar-Rahim, we seek Your forgiveness for our shortcomings.
Cleanse our hearts from attachment to anything that displeases You.

O Allah, grant us uncompromising integrity. Let us not be among those who
give short measure—in our business, our relationships, or our duties to You.
Make us agents of reform (Islah).

Ya Allah, we place our full trust in You. Grant us the Tawfiq to stay upon the
Straight Path, for we cannot take a single step without Your grace.

O Allah, protect us from oppressive leaders and from becoming oppressors
ourselves. Give us the courage to recognize falsehood, and save us from the
ruin of blind loyalty to anything other than Your Truth.