



www.acquiringknowledge.co.uk

info@acquiringknowledge.co.uk

acquiringknowledge

acqknowledge

وَمَآ أَرْسَلْنَكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَلَمِينَ

And We have not sent you but as mercy for all the worlds [21:107]



ANSWER:

Ar-Rahmah lil 'alāmīn / A mercy for all the Worlds



COMMENTARY

(And We have not sent you but as mercy for all the worlds. - 21:107) 'Alamin is plural of 'Alam which means 'world' and includes all creatures including humans, animals, plants, Jinns etc. In order to properly understand the meaning of the verse one should also understand that the true essence of the entire universe is the invocation of Allah Taʻālā and His worship. When this essence departs from this world and no one is left to worship Allah, everything in it will perish. In other words that is the day when Qiyāmah would occur. When it is understood that the invocation and worship of Allah Taʻālā is the essence of all living things, then the reason for describing the Holy Prophet as mercy to the Worlds becomes obvious because it is his teachings and the purity of his personal life alone which keep alive the worship of Allah Taʻālā until Qiyāmah. That is why he declared "I am the blessing sent by Allah" (Ibn 'Asākir quoting Abū Hurairah). Sayyidnā Ibn 'Umar radī'allāhu 'anhu has reported that the Holy Prophet said, that is, "I am the blessing sent by Allah so that I lift up the people (who obey Allah) and humble the other people (who disobey Allah)". (Ibn Kathīr)

It, therefore, follows that performing jihad against the unbelievers in order to lessen shirk and kufr (unbelief) and in the hope of reclaiming those who transgress the Divine Commands of Allah Taʻālā is an act of mercy.

TAFSĪR IBN KATHĪR

Muhammad si is a Mercy to the Worlds

(And We have sent you not but as a mercy for the `Alamin.) Here Allah tells us that He has made Muhammad a mercy to the `Alamin, i.e., He sent him as a mercy for all of them peoples, so whoever accepts this mercy and gives thanks for this blessing, will be happy in this world and in the Hereafter. But whoever rejects it and denies it, will lose out in this world and in the Hereafter, as Allah says: (Have you not seen those who have changed the blessings of Allah into disbelief, and caused their people to dwell in the house of destruction Hell, in which they will burn, -- and what an evil place to settle in!) 14:28-29

And Allah says, describing the Qur'an: (Say: "It is for those who believe, a guide and a healing. And as for those who disbelieve, there is heaviness in their ears, and it is blindness for them.













They are those who are called from a place far away.") 41:44

Muslim reports in his Sahih: Ibn Abi `Umar told us, Marwan Al-Fazari told us, from Yazid bin Kisan, from Ibn Abi Hazim that Abu Hurayrah said that it was said, "O Messenger of Allah, pray against the idolators." He said: (I was not sent as a curse, rather I was sent as a mercy.) This was recorded by Muslim.

Imam Ahmad recorded that `Amr bin Abi Qurrah Al-Kindi said: "Hudhayfah was in Al-Mada'in and he was mentioning things that the Messenger of Allah had said. Hudhayfah came to Salman and Salman said: `O Hudhayfah, the Messenger of Allah would sometimes be angry and would speak accordingly, and would sometimes be pleased and would speak accordingly. I know that the Messenger of Allah addressed us and said: (Any man of my Ummah whom I have insulted or cursed when I was angry -- for I am a man from among the sons of Adam, and I get angry just as you do. But Allah has sent me as a Mercy to the Worlds, so I will make that my anger into blessings for him on the Day of Resurrection.") This was also recorded by Abu Dawud from Ahmad bin Yunus from Za'idah.

It may be asked: what kind of mercy do those who disbelieve in him get. The answer is what Abu Ja`far bin Jarir recorded from Ibn `Abbas concerning the Ayah: (And We have sent you not but as a mercy for the `Alamin.) He said, "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, mercy will be decreed for him in this world and in the Hereafter; whoever does not believe in Allah and His Messenger, will be protected from that which happened to the nations of earthquakes and stoning."

And Allāh Ta'ālā knows best.

