

سُورَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ



وَتَأْتِيهِمْ لَأَكِيدَنَّ أَصْنَامَكُمْ بَعْدَ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا مُدْبِرِينَ

And [I swear] by Allah , I will surely plan against your idols after you have turned and gone away.

Ibrahim عليه السلام asked for a good reputation, and the Qura'an is praising his actions. This is the culmination of his dua. The prophets are our stars. Their tests are over, and they passed with flying colours. If you want to move forward, follow their example.

وَتَأْتِيهِمْ

Ibrahim عليه السلام was a young boy, but this didn't stop him from following the truth, and preaching it, even though he was surrounded by idol worshippers. He rejected the idols of his people.

لَأَكِيدَنَّ أَصْنَامَكُمْ

His people had a celebration for their idols, and they invited him to come and see how enjoyable festivals were. On the way, he pretended to be sick, and began writhing on the ground. This was one of the three lies that he spoke, and which he will remember until the Day of Judgement, citing it as the reason he couldn't ask Allah to start the reckoning, when the people who will be waiting for their accounts will ask him to intercede.

بَعْدَ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا مُدْبِرِينَ

Everyone went forward to the festival, leaving him, but some of them heard him muttering that he would harm the idols after they were all out of the way. He hated the idols, and had made a plan to destroy them. All this was from his rushd.

These actions are sanctioned exclusively for Ibrahim عليه السلام, we cannot go around destroying the idols and brandishing axes and hammers. Ibrahim had a plan to make them realize that their fake idols were nothing. This plot of his was for good, so he spoke to himself, saying that he would carry out his plan when everyone left.

So the people went ahead to the place of the festival, which was a distance away, and left their idols behind. What was the plan?

So he made them into fragments, except a large one among them, that they might return to it [and question].



فَجَعَلَهُمْ جُذَاذًا إِلَّا كَبِيرًا لَهُمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِ يَرْجِعُونَ

فَجَعَلَهُمْ جُذَاذًا

All the many idols, big and small, were kept in that one place, like a temple. So Ibrahim عليه السلام went to this place with an axe or hammer, and Ibrahim went and shaved them into little pieces.

إِلَّا كَبِيرًا لَهُمْ

There were numerous idols, and he reduced all but one of them to tiny pieces. He left the biggest idol intact.

Ibrahim عليه السلام had made da'awah to them before he took this step.

Ibrahim says كَبِيرًا لَهُمْ to stress the fact that the idol was not big for him, but for the idol worshippers. The idol was nothing but wood and stone for any believer. We must be careful not to inadvertently honour the idols with our words.

When the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم wrote letters to the non believer rulers, inviting them to Islam, he would dictate to be written عظيم الفرس, the ruler of Faris, the fire worshippers, or عظيم الروم, the ruler of Rome, the Christians. This was to signify that they were great for their own people, not the believers.

لَعَلَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِ يَرْجِعُونَ

Ibrahim made this whole plot to teach his people tawheed. They would see one idol intact while the letters were reduced to tiny pieces, and would realize that if there were many gods they would fight amongst each other, leaving havoc in their wake.

They said, "Who has done this to our gods? Indeed, he is of the wrongdoers."



قَالُوا مَنْ فَعَلَ هَذَا بِآلِهَتِنَا إِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

The people returned from their celebrations, and were shocked to see the destruction of their idols. They didn't notice that the biggest idol remained intact.

قَالُوا مَنْ فَعَلَ هَذَا بِآلِهَتِنَا

The إله is someone to whom you are attached with worship and magnifying. They were attached to so many gods. People who commit shirk are not satisfied with the One, so they need many gods, and will never be satisfied. As their needs emerge, they will bring more and more false gods. When you are satisfied, you will not search any further. They cannot see that the statues of wood and stone which they make themselves are nothing.

إِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

The one who worships idols is the one who is oppressing and harming himself, not the one who destroys them. These idols cannot see or hear, they have no ability, their worshippers have to take care of them. Their visions are mixed up, and they can't differentiate between truth and falsehood. They accused the one who destroyed their idols as oppressive and unfair, but they could not see their own sins.

The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم didn't destroy the idols in the Ka'abah while he was in Makkah, because the governing body was polytheist. But later, when he opened Makkah, he broke all 360 idols placed around the Ka'abah, while reciting جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَزَهَقَ الْبَاطِلُ إِنَّ الْبَاطِلَ كَانَ زَهُوقًا Truth has come, and falsehood has departed. Indeed is falsehood ever bound to depart سورة الإسراء 13:81. He had the authority then, and he did it himself, not anyone else. To stage protests and create problems in society is not allowed.

They said, "We heard a young man mention them who is called Ibrahim"



قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا فَتًى يَذُكُرُهُمْ يُقَالُ لَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ

قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا فَتًى

Ibrahim عليه السلام was very young, maybe 10 or 11 years old. When he was waiting for the people to leave for the celebration, pretending to be sick, he was muttering to himself that he would show them the reality of their idols. Allah could have prevented anyone from hearing him, but He wanted all the goodness from this situation.

يَذُكُرُهُمْ يُقَالُ لَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ

They remembered his name immediately, so he was not difficult to find. This was the beginning of the nurturing

of Ibrahim عليه السلام, who was honoured with the title of أبو الأنبياء, the father of the prophets.

They said, "Then bring him before the eyes of the people that they may testify."



قَالُوا فَاتُوا بِهِ عَلَىٰ عَيْنِ النَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَشْهَدُونَ

They didn't bother to make any investigation, and arrested him, and presented him before the people, who had all gathered to see him. The word على implies that he was put upon a raised surface, like a stage, so that everyone could see him, like a raised arena.

The people had all gathered to see him being punished. They wanted everyone to see the consequences of harming their idols, but actually they inadvertently became witnesses for the truth, لا إله إلا الله. It was like the trials of war criminals in our time, when the proceedings are telecast live in TV and everyone can see them.

The disbelievers will serve the deen without them realizing it. Ibrahim عليه السلام wanted this, so that the truth would become public.

They said, "Have you done this to our gods, O Ibrahim?"



قَالُوا أَأَنْتَ فَعَلْتَ هَذَا يَا بَرَاهِيمَ

They brought Ibrahim عليه السلام and questioned him, in front of all the people. It was a tribunal, but they verified the crime before issuing the punishment, is that they could punish him without guilt.

He said, "Rather, this - the largest of them - did it, so ask them, if they should [be able to] speak."

قَالَ بَلْ فَعَلَهُ كَبِيرُهُمْ هَذَا فَسْأَلُوهُمْ إِنْ كَانُوا



يَنْطِقُونَ

Ibrahim عليه السلام answered with another lie, also connected to his rushd. This was the best way to deal with the situation. So he said that the biggest idol was to blame, adding that the smaller ones would say the same thing if they could speak.