The Feast....Continued

The stories of the experiences and choices of the disbelievers are many—another feast to learn from. Repeated in knowledge gained from these lessons is without price to those sincerely seeking.

Remember, for the self, the body that exists in this temporary world, the many feasts for our benefit. To reassure our hearts.

"Do you not realize that God knows everything in the heavens and everything on earth? No one can perceive secrets without God being their fourth, nor fire without God being the sixth, nor less than that, nor more, without Him being there with them wherever they may be. Then on the Day of Resurrection. He will inform them of everything they had done. God is fully aware of all things. Have you noticed those who were enjoined from conceiving secrets, then insist on conspiring? They conspire to commit sin, transgression, and disobedience of the messenger. When they came to you, they greet you with a greeting other than that declared by God. They say inside themselves, 'God will not punish us for our transgressions.' Their only requisite is Gehenna, wherein they burn: what a miserable destiny, O you who believe, if you have to confer secretly, you shall not confer to commit sin, transgression, and to disobey the messenger. You shall reverence God, before whom you shall be summoned, and be careful with the words we choose when communicating. This takes alot of patience and steadfastness and those who have this quality are extremely fortunate, by God's grace. Words are like weapons, if used the wrong way they can really influence someone's perception of us. Of course God knows that we may say things that don't coincide with what is in our hearts, but we should all try to engage in only righteous conversations.

"Do you not see that God has cited the example of the good word as a good tree whose root is firmly fixed, and its branch is high in the sky? It produces its crop every season, as designed by its Lord. God thus cites the examples for the people, that they may take heed. And the example of the bad word is that of a bad tree changed at the soil level; it does not stand. God strengthens those who believe with the proven word, in this life and in the Hereafter. And God sends the transgressors astray, God does what He wills (14:24-31).

"Obedience and righteous attitudes are expected of them. Thus, if mobilization is ever required, and they show their confidence in God, it will be better for them (47:21).

"Why do they not study the Quran carefully? Are their minds blocked? Surely, those who slide back, after the guidance has been manifested to them, the devil has enticed them, and has misled them. This is because they said to those who hated God's revelation, 'Do you not wish some of the things you say, God fully knows their secret conspiracies. How will it be far them when the angels put them to death? They will bow down on their faces and their rear ends. This is because they followed what angered God and hated to observe Him. Consequently, He has nullified their works. Did those with doubts in their hearts think that God will not bring out their evil thoughts? Had we willed we could have exposed them to you, and you would have recognized them by certain marks. You can recognize them by their twisted utterances. God is fully aware of all your works. We will certainly put you to the test, in order to distinguish the strivers among you, and those who steadily persevere. We must expose your true qualities (47:23-31).

ALL PRAISE BE TO GOD

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IN THE NAME OF GOD, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

The Feast

by Kathryn Kolton

When we think of the word "feast," we think of abundance, overflowing, expansive variety, more than is needed to satisfy, certainly above and beyond what was thought of as extraordinary. When we hear a phrase like, "a feast for the eyes," we think of extraordinary, unimaginable beauty, beyond our wildest dreams. An entire sura is entitled, "The Feast." This sura's most important lesson is learned by the disciples of Jesus, when they request a feast from God to assure their hearts.

The word "feast" makes us think of food. A basic need of our garment in this world. And our body is a worldly priority in this life. The first five verses of this sura talk about foods that are lawful for all people, as well as those that are prohibited. The prohibited foods are so few, and we now know there are obvious health reasons for those few prohibitions. Otherwise, God tells us all foods are lawful, and good. And abundant. We cannot comprehend the provisions of God. He provides for us, that we might be mindful of Him. And this is a temporary world!

The descriptions of Heaven and Hell in Quran are described as "feasts" of both kinds. For the believers, the "feast" is everything ever wanted, given without any effort on the believer's part, including clothing, jewelry of gold, and fine furnishings, pure drinks, etc. No limitations. For the unbelievers, there is no benefit, and daily, the universe continues to expand. Mirror images of each other. This does not include those daily miracles each of us experience in our lifetimes, and that we know come only from God. A feast of miracles! Until the world ends.

Quran is a feast for the soul. It is a complete - direction for all phases of human affairs: how to deal with disbelievers; conduct ourselves with all people; treat other believers, spouses, and children; how to understand and use our charity, money, jobs, to benefit others, as reminders of God's kindness. To increase our appreciation. Instead of sending one angel, we know who we will be unbelievably powerful, God sends "five thousand angels despatching" to assist and protect the believer.

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