

## Quick Notes for Quran Study 4 - Study Information

- **Study Leaders:**
  - Dr. Rashad Khalifa: Leads the commentary on Suras 37 and 10.
  - Dr. Mahmood Sabahi: Leads the commentary on Sura 3.
- **Date of Recording:** 01/21/1990 & 01/22/1990

### Quran Verses Discussed

- Sura 37 (The Arrangers): Verses 1–69
- Sura 10 (Jonah): Verses 43–54
- Sura 3 (The Family of Imran): Verses 118–129
- Reference Verses:
  - Sura 90:4 (Humans created for hard work)
  - Sura 7:172 (The primordial witness of God)
  - Sura 44 (The Smoke)

### Detailed Summary of Discussion

#### 1. Sura 37:1–69 (The Arrangers)

- Entering Hell (Humorous Survey):
  - Dr. Khalifa and the group jokingly brainstorm "methods" disbelievers use to force their way into Hell (insisting on entry despite God's mercy).
  - The List: Storming the gates, tunneling under the fence, pole vaulting, doing somersaults (circus style), and being shot out of a human cannon.
  - Theological Point: Disbelievers insist on Hell; God does not want them there, but they break through the barriers (like the number 19) to get in.
- "The Blamers" (Az-Zajirat):
  - A discussion on the translation of verse 37:2. Ismail jokingly told a critic it meant "Goats" to silence him.
  - Actual Meaning: Rashad explains these are angels who blame disbelievers ("We served you, yet you disbelieved").
- Lord of the Easts (Astronomy):
  - Debate over the translation of Mashariq (Easts). It is defined as the "risings" of heavenly bodies (Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Moon, Sun).
- Creation & The Shahada:
  - Wet Mud: Humans were created from "wet mud" (Teen Lazib), described as malleable, sticky clay (clay + water).

- The Shahada: Dr. Khalifa argues the testimony (Shahada) should only be La ilaha illa Allah. He cites Sura 7:172, stating that souls witnessed God's Lordship before creation, but never witnessed Muhammad. Therefore, witnessing Muhammad is technically a "lie" because the soul did not see it.

## **2. Sura 10:43–54 (Jonah) – The Asteroid**

- H. Jay Melosh Article:
  - Dr. Sabahi reads an article from Nature magazine by planetary scientist H. Jay Melosh.
  - The Theory: An asteroid/comet impact hit Earth, vaporizing rock and creating a firestorm that broiled the planet (killing dinosaurs).
  - The Connection: Dr. Khalifa connects this scientific theory to the "Smoke" prophesied in Sura 44, saying a similar asteroid impact would trigger the end of the world/Hell on Earth.
- Communities/Congregations:
  - Verse 47 mentions every "community" (Ummah) has a messenger. The group clarifies Ummah refers to a religious congregation (e.g., Baptists, Muslims) rather than a neighborhood.

## **3. Sura 3:118–129 (The Family of Imran)**

- Hypocrites & Outsiders:
  - Warning: Believers are told not to befriend outsiders who wish them harm (3:118).
  - Biting Fingers: A sign of the hypocrites' rage is "biting their fingers" when they leave the company of believers. This is described as a psychological manifestation of deep anguish and hatred.
- The Battle of Badr (Statistics):
  - God supported the believers with 3,000 and then 5,000 angels (3:124-125).
  - Dr. Khalifa's Note: He urges the group to check the Encyclopedia Britannica regarding the Battle of Badr. He states that historically, the disbelievers outnumbered the believers significantly (citing a ratio of roughly 10 to 1 in equipment/camels).
- Strength of Faith:
  - Dr. Sabahi relates a story about the Black Muslim movement (Nation of Islam context) in Brooklyn. He notes that when these individuals found faith (even in early stages), they gained immense strength and

confidence, allowing them to walk fearlessly into dangerous areas (drug zones) where others were afraid.

### **Administrative & Personal Notes**

- Ramadan & Moon Sighting:
  - The group criticizes the traditional method of visual moon sighting, calling it "dumb" in the age of astronomy.
  - Rashad notes that the Washington Post publishes exact moon/planet rise times, yet religious leaders still confuse the dates every year (Pakistan and India often celebrating Eid on different days).
- Lydia's Exam: Mention is made of Lydia's sister taking her ECFMG (medical) exam on Tuesday; the group agrees to read Al-Fatihah for her success.