

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَرْكَعُوا وَاسْجُدُوا وَاعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمْ وَافْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ

لَعَلَّكُمْ تَفْلِحُونَ ﴿٧٧﴾

Al-Hajj (The Pilgrimage) 22:77

O You Who Believe!

- Bow down.
- Prostrate yourselves.
- And adore your Lord.
- And do good.
- That you may prosper.

Commentary

Allamah Taba Tabai (AR)

“O you who believe! Bow down and prostrate, to worship your Lord and do good deeds haply you may succeed.”

The order to bow and prostrate is actually the order for worship (Namaz) and when it says, “ worship you Lord” it explain all kinds of worship other than Namaz, like Hajj and Fasting in Ramadan.

In the end of the verse are the words, “ they will always be successful” means all the commandments of the religion that have been explained because there is betterment of society and a greater life on fulfilling them as it says in Surah Anfal (24) “give your response to Allah and His Apostle, when He calls you.” You should respond to the messenger when he enjoins to things that are connected with your spiritual life and accept his biddings. This verse commands us to fulfill the tenets of Islam like worship or Jihad etc. “ Strive as it behooves to strive for Him.” (22:78)

The word “Jihad” means to strive to defend one’s society and faith but also has a wider connotation to include the defense against Satan and the demon soul within us that misguides and misleads us to sin and to fight against temptations that the Satan may instigate. The Messenger called the latter the “Greater Jihad”. It includes other things as well because it is a general order for defense against all things that are against mankind’s humaneness. This call is connected to God and all things done for Him. Surah Ankabut in verse forty-nine says, “ We shall certainly guide those who strive hard for Us to Our ways, and verily God is with those who do good deeds.”

A Discussion on Traditions

Usul Kafi quotes Burayd Ajli who says,

I said to Imam Abu Jafar (AS) about the meaning of this verse, “*O you who believe! Bow down and prostrate, to worship your Lord and do good deeds haply you may succeed. Strive for God as it behooves you to strive for Him.*”

The Imam answered,

- This verse refers to us the Ahlulbait, we are the ordained and chosen ones, and it is for about us that God has no objections in religion.
- The words “ The nation of the grand father Ibrahim” refers only to us and God has mentioned us in his earlier revealed books with the words “ and them”.
- The Muslims have read in the Qur’an that the Messenger was made a witness to that which he delivered from God to us and made us the witnesses of the people on that which we have delivered to them.
- So it is clear that everyone acknowledges the Judgment Day and we deny those who deny it.

The Compiler says

There are many traditions in this instance in Shia books from the Imams. In the verse being discussed we have dealt with traditions that refer to this meaning.

Mir Ahmed Ali (AR) and Aqa Mahdi Puya (AR)

The essential spirit of Islam has been summarised in this verse.