

One very scary Ayah (verse) of the Quran

There is a statement in Quran (Surah Ya-s-Seen, verse #12), which most people either do not understand / comprehend fully or take it very lightly ignoring its enormous consequences. This statement from Allah (SWT) is:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ وَنَكْتُبُ مَا قَدَّمُوا وَآثَارَهُمْ وَكُلَّ شَيْءٍ
أَحْصَيْنَاهُ فِي إِمَامٍ مُّبِينٍ

(36:12) We shall surely raise the dead to life and We record what they did and the traces of their deeds that they have left behind. We have encompassed that in a Clear Book.

Explanation: This shows that three kinds of the entries are made in the conduct-book of men. First, whatever a person does, good or bad is entered in the divine register. Second, whatever impressions a man makes on the objects of his environment and on the limbs of his own body itself, become recorded, and all these impressions will at one time become so conspicuous that man's own voice will become audible and the whole history of his ideas and intentions and aims and objects and the pictures of all of his good and bad acts and deeds will appear before him. Third, whatever influences he has left behind of his good and bad actions on his future generation, on his society and on mankind as a whole, will go on being recorded in his account as far as they reach and as long as they remain active and operative. The full record of the good and bad training given by him to his children, the good or evil that he has spread in the society, and its impact on mankind as a whole, will go on being maintained till the time that it goes on producing good or evil results in the world.

This raises a few important points and consequences:

Firstly, our actions affect others either positively or negatively. This means we must think carefully before we do the action, not only about the action but also its consequences. We are not isolated individuals, rather we have relationships in the society which we are also responsible for. For example, our actions as parents have effects on our children, our actions as teachers have effects on our students, etc. Therefore, this means Islam came to deal with the actions and their effects in society, which means that individual change is always connected to the societal environment. Islam is not an individualistic religion but a collective one where the individual is integral to the society and community in which he/she lives. So any call to individual change without societal change is incorrect.

Secondly, the more responsibility and power you have the more accountable you are for the actions and their consequences. So the state, government and ruler have the most impact on society through their actions and their consequences. When creating a policy, the impact will affect all people in the country or even those in other countries. It is possible that the impacts are felt not only at that time but also for several generations afterwards. When the ruler applies the laws that prohibit alcohol, pornography and usury then numerous immoral acts will decrease or even disappear from public life. Similarly, when the ruler applies Sharia comprehensively and imposes strict sanctions to those who violate it, then it will certainly result in the obedience of the people to Allah سبحانه وتعالى. It is not surprising then that the just rulers will get immense rewards. Conversely if rulers start or encourage immorality in society, all the ill effects of immorality which will spread into generations will not only go into individual records, but also will be recorded in the deeds of the rulers or whoever started or encouraged these immoral acts.

Similarly as an individual if we do any act and spread it, the effects of these acts will have far reaching consequences. For example in this age of social media we can spread a message to millions by just clicking a send button (viral videos). If somebody said a lie, backbites, slanders, ridicules any person and sent to others and this message been kept resending to others, in no time we have destroyed the reputation of an innocent (even if he/she does possess that qualities, we are not supposed to talk about it with other) person in front of thousands of people. According to that Ayah of Quran that person who started this act initially will continue to get a share of the blame along with others who are part of spreading this message until it stops. Can you even imagine what a great loss that person accumulated in his bad deeds record by just sending one message? Similarly if one person starts any Bidah (Innovation) in religion Islam, people who follow that innovation generation after generation, he will be held responsible for this effect on religion which may last for generations. In contrast anybody starting a good and noble work, people following that work or imitating that work, he will continue to get good reward as long as this noble work continues in the society and society is benefitting for it.

We can cite several examples of our actions in our daily life, which effects positively or negatively on our environment and society and we will be held responsible for their

effects as long they exist. We must think seriously consequences of any act/work/message/behavior we involve in. Do not think, it is your one individual act of good or bad, it will have serious repercussions in your record book of deeds which is being prepared in this world and will be presented to you on the Day of Judgment and your final outcome of going into Paradise or Hellfire depends on it. The importance of this statement in Quran has become more serious challenge and relevant in this age of information technology, where in just a few minutes you can spread your work/message/actions to thousands of people across the world. Once this message spreads, there is no way of retrieving it back even if you realize your mistake. Therefore now days, we have to be extra vigilant and be prepared for any unintended consequences. Also a term used commonly in today's world is "Trend setter" and people feel proud of being a trend setter, but they do not realize that the trend they are setting is leading the society towards good or bad (Like fashion, music, abusing people or compelling people towards giving charity, be nice to parents, neighbors and doing voluntary works for good causes etc)? People following their trend will have impact on trend setter's overall deeds (good or bad) depending on the trend they set and will continue to be credited good or bad deeds as long as the trend they set persists in the society.

Note: The concept of "Sadaqatul Jaria" (Perpetual charity) is also based on this Ayah of the Quran. Like if someone builds or invest in a Mosque, orphanage, hospital, water well etc for public use, he will continue to get a share of the reward as long as these things are utilized by people even after his death. Similarly if someone builds a nightclub, Movie Theater etc, he will continue to earn bad deeds as long people use this evil facilities even after his death. As Allah said in the above mentioned Ayah "We record what they did and the traces of their deeds that they have left behind. We have encompassed in a clear book"!