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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ تَسْلِيمًا

### Chapter Seventeen

#### On What the *Shehu* Mentioned to the People Concerning the Verses Which Incite Terror and the Description of the Hell-Fires

**R**ealize that the *Shehu* arranged these verses in sequence. He used to say: “Whoever obeys the commands of Allah and avoids His prohibitions has entered upon the path to Paradise. Whoever fails to obey the commands of Allah or avoid His prohibitions then he has stumbled into the Hell-Fires and have warranted being included among its people.

﴿لَهُمْ مِّنْ جَهَنَّمَ مِهَادٌ وَمِنَ فَوْقِهِمْ غَوَاشٍ﴾

“For them Hell will be the resting place and above them will be calamities.”

Allah ta`ala says:

﴿لَهُمْ مِّنْ فَوْقِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ مِّنَ النَّارِ وَمِنَ تَحْتِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ﴾

“For them from above will be the gloom of the Hell-Fires and beneath them will be gloom.” Allah ta`ala says:

﴿وَوَخَّابَ كُلِّ جَبَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ \* مِّنْ وَرَأَيْهِ جَهَنَّمَ وَيُسْقَىٰ مِنْ مَّاءٍ صَدِيدٍ \* يَتَجَرَّعُهُ وَلَا يَكَادُ يُسِيغُهُ وَيَأْتِيهِ الْمَوْتُ مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ وَمَا هُوَ بِمَيِّتٍ وَمِنَ وَرَأَيْهِ عَذَابٌ غَلِيظٌ﴾

“And every obstinate oppressor was brought to destruction. In front of him is Hell-Fires and he will be made to drink boiling contaminated water. He will be forced to drink it down his throat and death will come to him from every place, but he will not die and in front of him will be a tremendous torment.” Allah ta`ala says:

﴿فَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا قُطِعَتْ لَهُمْ نِيَابٌ مِّنْ نَّارٍ يُصَبُّ مِنْ فَوْقِ رُؤُوسِهِمُ الْحَمِيمُ \* يُصْهَرُ بِهِ مَا فِي بُطُونِهِمْ وَالْجُلُودُ \* وَلَهُمْ مَقَامِعٌ مِنْ حَدِيدٍ \* كُلَّمَا أَرَادُوا أَنْ يَخْرُجُوا مِنْهَا مِنْ غَمٍّ أُعِيدُوا فِيهَا وَذُوقُوا عَذَابَ الْحَرِيقِ﴾

“Then for those who disbelieved, garments of fire will be cut out for them. Molten lava will be poured down over their heads, which will cause their entrails to melt and their skins. And for them will be hooked rods made of iron. Each time they seek to get away from it, angrily they will be driven back into it and it will be said to them, ‘Taste the torment of roasting!’.”

Allah ta`ala says:

﴿أَذَلَّكَ خَيْرٌ نَزُلًا أَمْ شَجَرَةَ الزَّقُّومِ \* إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهَا فِتْنَةً لِلظَّالِمِينَ \* إِنَّهَا شَجَرَةٌ تَخْرُجُ فِي أَصْلِ الْجَحِيمِ \* طَلْعُهَا كَأَنَّهُ رُؤُوسُ الشَّيَاطِينِ \* فَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَالُونَ مِنْهَا فَمَالِؤُونَ مِنْهَا الْبُطُونَ \* ثُمَّ إِنَّ لَهُمْ عَلَيْهَا لَشَوْبًا مِّنْ حَمِيمٍ \* ثُمَّ إِنَّ مَرْجِعَهُمْ لِلَّيْلِ الْجَحِيمِ \* إِنَّهُمْ أَلْفَوْا آبَاءَهُمْ ضَالِّينَ \* فَهُمْ عَلَى آثَارِهِمْ يُهْرَعُونَ﴾

“Is that better entertainment or the tree of Zaqqum? Verily I have made it as a temptation for the unjust. Verily, it is the tree that springs out of the bottom of Hell-Fires. The shoots of its fruit-stalks are like the heads of devils. Then, they will eat from it and fill their bellies with it. Then after that they will be given molten lava to drink so that it becomes like a broth. Then after that their destiny will be the flaming fire of Hell-Fires. Verily, they found their fathers on the wrong path, so they too hastened in their footsteps!” Allah ta`ala says:

﴿إِنَّ شَجَرَةَ الزَّقُّومِ \* طَعَامُ الْأَثِيمِ \* كَالْمُهْلِ يَغْلِي فِي الْبُطُونِ \* كَغَلِيِّ الْحَمِيمِ﴾

“Verily the tree of Zaqqum will be the food of the sinners. Like boiling oil it will boil in the bellies, like the bubbling of molten lava.” It will be said to the Angels:

﴿خُذُوهُ فَاعْتَلُوهُ إِلَىٰ سَوَاءِ الْجَحِيمِ \* ثُمَّ صُبُّوا فَوْقَ رَأْسِهِ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْحَمِيمِ﴾

“Seize him (meaning everyone from the people of the hell fires) and drag him into the midst of the Hell-Fires. Then pour from over his head the torment of molten lava.” Allah ta`ala says:

﴿خُذُوهُ فَغُلُّوهُ \* ثُمَّ الْجَحِيمَ صَلُّوهُ \* ثُمَّ فِي سِلْسِلَةٍ ذَرْعُهَا سَبْعُونَ ذِرَاعًا فَاسْلُكُوهُ﴾

“Seize him and fetter him, then throw him in the blazing Fire. Then fasten him with a chain which is seventy cubits!” Allah ta`ala says:

﴿هَذَا فَلْيَذُوقُوهُ حَمِيمٍ وَغَسَّاقٍ \* وَآخِرُ مِنْ شَكْلِهِ أَزْوَاجٌ﴾

“Then let them taste it - molten lava and puss from dirty wounds. And other punishments of a similar kind doubled.” Allah ta`ala says:

﴿إِذِ الْأَغْلَالُ فِي أَعْنَاقِهِمْ وَالسَّلَاسِلُ يُسْحَبُونَ \* فِي الْحَمِيمِ ثُمَّ فِي النَّارِ يُسْجَرُونَ﴾

“When iron collars will be rounded over their necks and with chains they will dragged along in the molten lava and then they will roasted in the Fire.” Allah ta`ala says:

﴿إِنَّ لَدَيْنَا أَنْكَالًا وَجَحِيمًا \* وَطَعَامًا ذَا غُصَّةٍ وَعَذَابًا أَلِيمًا﴾

“Verily with Me are fetters and a raging Fire. And food that chokes and a painful punishment.”

**Then after that the Shehu** would mention the dialogue of the people of the Hell-Fire as it is mentioned in the prophetic tradition related by al-Bayhaqi: that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said, “Verily there will be five supplications for the people of Hell-Fires. Allah ta`ala will respond to four of their supplications. When they make the fifth supplication they will not be allowed to speak thereafter forever. They will say:

﴿قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أَمَتْنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ وَأَحْيَيْتَنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ فَاعْتَرَفْنَا بِذُنُوبِنَا فَهَلْ إِلَى خُرُوجٍ مِّن سَبِيلٍ﴾

‘Our Lord You caused us to die twice and You gave us life twice. You alone know our sins. Is there in way out of this!?’ Allah ta`ala will respond:

﴿ذَلِكُمْ بِأَنَّهُ إِذَا دُعِيَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ كَفَرْتُمْ وَإِنْ يُشْرَكُ بِهِ تُؤْمِنُوا فَالْحُكْمُ لِلَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْكَبِيرِ﴾

‘This is because when Allah alone was called upon you denied Him and when associates were made with Him you believed in them. For the final judgment belongs to Allah the Exalted the Great.’ Then they will say:

﴿رَبَّنَا أَبْصَرْنَا وَسَمِعْنَا فَارْجِعْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا إِنَّا مُوقِنُونَ﴾

‘Our Lord we have seen and we have heard. Return us so that we can do righteous deeds. Indeed we are people of certainty.’ Allah ta`ala will respond:

﴿فَذُوقُوا بِمَا نَسِيتُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا إِنَّا نَسِينَاكُمْ وَذُوقُوا عَذَابَ الْخُلْدِ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ﴾

‘Then taste that which you used to forget of the meeting with this Day of yours. Verily I have forgotten you. And taste the punishment of eternity for what you used to do.’ Then they will say:

﴿رَبَّنَا أَخِّرْنَا إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ نُجِيبُ دَعْوَتَكَ وَنَتَّبِعِ الرَّسُولَ﴾

‘Our Lord postpones us for a short time so that we can answer Your call and follow the messengers.’ Allah ta`ala will respond:

﴿أَوَلَمْ تَكُونُوا أَقْسَمْتُمْ مِّن قَبْلُ مَا لَكُم مِّن زَوَالٍ﴾

‘Were you not among those who swore from before that you would never come to an end!?’ Then they will say:

﴿رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ﴾

‘Our Lord take us out of it, so that we can do good deeds other than what we used to do.’ Then Allah ta`ala will respond:

﴿أَوَلَمْ نَعْمَرْكُمْ مَّا يَبْتَذَكِّرُ فِيهِ مَن تَذَكَّرَ وَجَاءَكُمُ النَّذِيرُ فَذُوقُوا فَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِن نَّصِيرٍ﴾

‘Did I not prolong your lives so that whoever would receive admonition could receive it!?’ And warners came to you, so taste! For the unjust there are no helpers!’ Then they will say:

﴿رَبَّنَا غَلَبَتْ عَلَيْنَا شِقْوَتُنَا وَكُنَّا قَوْمًا ضَالِّينَ \* رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا مِنْهَا فَإِن عُدْنَا فَإِنَّا ظَالِمُونَ﴾

‘Our Lord our wretchedness overcame us, and we were a people in error. Our Lord bring us out of it and if we return to it then we will indeed be among the unjust.’ Allah ta`ala will respond:

﴿اٰخِسُوْا فِيْهَا وَلَا تَكَلِّمُوْنَ﴾

‘Be silent in it! And do not speak!’ For then they will never thereafter speak again.

**There are many other dialogues** of the people of the Fire. Among them are those mentioned in the prophetic tradition related by Ibn al-Mubaarik, who said: ‘It has reached me that the people of the Hell-Fires will seek redemption with the custodian of Hell. Allah ta`ala says:

﴿وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ فِي النَّارِ لِخَزَنَةِ جَهَنَّمَ ادْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ يُخَفِّفْ عَنَّا يَوْمًا مِّنَ الْعَذَابِ﴾

“Those in the Hell-Fire will say to the custodians of Hell: ‘Supplicate to your Lord that He may alleviate from us a day from the punishment.’ The custodians will answer them:

﴿أَوَلَمْ تَكُ تَأْتِيكُمُ رُسُلُكُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ قَالُوا فَادْعُوا وَمَا دُعَاءُ الْكَافِرِينَ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ﴾

“Did there not come to you your messengers with clear messages? They will say: ‘Indeed!’ They will say: ‘Go on and supplicate for the supplication of the disbelievers is only in error.’ When they seek relief with the custodians of Hell-Fires, they will call to Malik, and he will be angry sitting in the center of Hell upon an axle around which the Angels of punishment revolve. There Malik is able to see the furthest part of Hell in the same manner as the nearest part. The people will say: “O Malik! Seek our needs with your Lord!” And they will beg him for death. He will say remain silent refusing to answer their request for eighty years. A year there will be three hundred and days. A month will be thirty days. And a day there will be like a thousand years of your reckoning. Then after eighty years he will show regard for them saying:

﴿إِنَّكُمْ مَّا كُنْتُمْ﴾

“Verily you will reside therein.” When they hear what he says they will then seek relief as they did before. Some of them will say to others. “O you there! Perhaps He will alleviate from us the punishment and affliction the way it was alleviated before. So let us adhere to patience. For perhaps patience will benefit us in the same manner that the people of obedience were patient with obedience to Allah. Thus, patience benefited them when they were patient.” Thus, they will all agree to remain steadfast with the punishment. They will be patient until their patience goes for a long time. They will then have regret and call out:

﴿سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْنَا أَجْرُ عَنَّا أَمْ صَبَرْنَا مَا لَنَا مِنْ مَّحِيصٍ﴾

“It is the same whether we show remorse or show patience. There will be no escape.” Meaning there will be no escape from it to safety.

**Then Iblis** will say to them:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَعَدَكُمْ وَعَدَّ الْحَقُّ وَوَعَدْتَكُمْ فَأَخْلَفْتُمْ وَمَا كَانَ لِي عَلَيْكُمْ مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ إِلَّا أَنْ دَعَوْتُكُمْ فَاسْتَجَبْتُمْ لِي فَلَا تَلُمُونِي وَلُومُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ مَا أَنَا بِمُصْرِخِكُمْ وَمَا أَنْتُمْ بِمُصْرِخِيَّ إِنِّي كَفَرْتُ بِمَا أَشْرَكْتُمُونِ مِنْ قَبْلُ﴾

“Verily Allah promised you a promise of truth and I made a promise to you. However I went against my promise. I had no authority over you except that I invited you. You in turn answered my invitation. Therefore do not blame me, but blame yourselves. I cannot answer your screams nor will you be able to answer my screams. Verily I deny what deities you used to associate before with Him.” For when they hear what he says, they will detest themselves. He will say to them:

﴿لَمَقْتُ اللَّهَ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ مَقَّتِكُمْ أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِذْ تُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى الْإِيمَانِ فَتَكْفُرُونَ \* قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أَمَتْنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ وَأَحْيَيْتَنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ فَاعْتَرَفْنَا بِذُنُوبِنَا فَهَلْ إِلَى خُرُوجٍ مِنْ سَبِيلٍ﴾

“Verily Allah’s detestation is greater than our detestation of ourselves. They will say: ‘Twice have You caused us to die and twice have You caused us to live. Now we confess our sins. Is there any way for us to get out?’ He will say in answer to them:

﴿ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُ إِذَا دُعِيَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ كَفَرْتُمْ وَإِنْ يُشْرَكُ بِهِ تُؤْمِنُوا فَالْحُكْمُ لِلَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْكَبِيرِ﴾

“This is because when Allah alone was called upon they denied Him and believed in partners besides Him. For the Final Judgment it will be with Allah the Exalted the Great.” This will be the first dialogue.

Then they will call out a second time:

﴿رَبَّنَا أَبْصَرْنَا وَسَمِعْنَا فَارْجِعْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا إِنَّا مُوقِنُونَ﴾

“Our Lord take us out so that we can do good, then we will have certainty.” Then Allah ta’ala will answer them:

﴿وَلَوْ شِئْنَا لَآتَيْنَا كُلَّ نَفْسٍ هُدَاهَا وَلَكِنْ حَقَّ الْقَوْلُ مِنِّي لَأَمْلَأَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ \* فَذُوقُوا بِمَا نَسِيتُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا إِنَّا نَسِينَاكُمْ وَذُوقُوا عَذَابَ الْخُلْدِ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ﴾

“If I had desired I would have given every soul its guidance, however the word is true from Me that I will fill the Hell-Fires with the Jinn and mankind all together. So therefore taste what you used to overlook of the meeting with this Day of yours. I have overlooked you. So taste the punishment of eternity due to what you used to do.”

Then they will call out a third time:

﴿رَبَّنَا أَخِّرْنَا إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ نَجِبْ دَعْوَتَكَ وَتَتَّبِعِ الرَّسُولَ﴾

“Our Lord postpone us for a short time so that we can respond to Your call and follow the messengers.” Then Allah ta’ala will answer them:

﴿أُولَئِكَ تَكُونُوا آفَاسَتُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ زَوَالٍ \* وَسَكَنْتُمْ فِي مَسَاكِنِ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَتَبَيَّنَ لَكُمْ كَيْفَ فَعَلْنَا بِهِمْ وَضَرَبْنَا لَكُمْ الْأَمْثَالَ \* وَقَدْ مَكَرُوا مَكَرَهُمْ وَعِنْدَ اللَّهِ مَكَرُهُمْ وَإِنْ كَانَ مَكَرُهُمْ لِتَرَوُنَّ مِنَ الْجِبَالِ﴾

“Did you not swear before that you would not come to an end. You resided in the homes of those who were unjust to themselves and it became clear to you how I dealt with them and I threw similarities for you. They plotted their plots, but their plots were with Allah, even had their plots were as big as the mountains.”

Then they will call out a fourth time:

﴿رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ﴾

“Our Lord take us out so that we can do good deeds other than what we used to do.”

Then Allah ta`ala will answer them:

﴿أَوَلَمْ نُعَمِّرْكُمْ مَّا يَتَذَكَّرُ فِيهِ مَن تَذَكَّرَ وَجَاءَكُمُ النَّذِيرُ فَذُوقُوا فَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِن نَّصِيرٍ﴾

“Did I not prolong your lives? But you did not take heed from the reminder when there came to you the Warner. So taste the punishment. There can be no helper for the unjust.” Then they will reside therein as long as Allah wills, He will then call out to them:

﴿أَلَمْ تَكُنْ آيَاتِي تَتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ فَكُنْتُمْ بِهَا تُكَذِّبُونَ﴾

“Were not My signs recited to you, yet you were among those who denied them.”

When they will hear His address, they will say to themselves: “Now our Lord will show us mercy!” They will say at that time:

﴿رَبَّنَا غَلَبَتْ عَلَيْنَا شِقْوَتُنَا وَكُنَّا قَوْمًا ضَالِّينَ \* رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا مِنْهَا فَإِنَّا ظَالِمُونَ﴾

“Our Lord our wretchedness overcame us and we were a people in error. Our Lord take us out of it, for if You were to return us, indeed we were among the unjust.” Allah ta`ala will say at that point:

﴿اٰخِسُوْا فِيْهَا وَلَا تَكَلِّمُوْنَ﴾

“Be silent and do not speak!” At that point all hope and answering of supplication will be cut off from them. Then they will encounter one another and spit in each others faces. Then they will be covered and shut in. For this reason Allah ta`ala says:

﴿هٰذَا يَوْمٌ لَا يَنْطِقُوْنَ \* وَلَا يُؤْذَنُ لَهُمْ فَيَعْتَذِرُوْنَ﴾

“This is Day they will not be allowed to speak, nor will permission be given - so that they might give excuses.”

