

Contemplations with Iceland Volcano

تأملات مع بركان أيسلندا

{English – إنجليزي}

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{باللغة الإنجليزية}

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All praises be to Allah, and peace and blessings be upon the best of Messengers (Muhammad), then:

In a small country which is no more than a distant island in the north of the Atlantic Ocean, there is a small volcano erupting under a glacier and blowing waves of dust clouds arousing general terror in all Europe and universal embarrassment for international flights.

The aircrafts stopped, airports were closed, flights were suspended, 113 European air ports closes all international flights, more than 63 thousand air flights are canceled and the airlines companies losses are estimated with 250 million dollar per day. The affected people are more than seven million passengers; all the ways are closed before them, air port terminals became as if they were beds for passengers, air ports started to provide them with beds and covers in addition to the losses of importers and exporters.

Today, Europe became semi isolated from the external world as it faced the biggest failure in aviation transport. Some people considered that the worst in the history of civil aviation!

1- Take admonition, O you with eyes (to see):

Dust clouds from only one volcano strike a whole continent with terror and fear, paralyze its aviation movement, so how will be the matter if many volcanoes erupt?

This matter really is worth contemplation, thinking, consideration and admonition. Muslims have to contemplate these great events, this contemplation should be based on their creed and belief in Allah, their trust that every thing good is endowed from their Lord's Mercy and Benevolence and everything bad takes place with His Knowledge.

"That is the Decree of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing." (Yaseen: 38)

{ذَلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ}

Allah decides and measures every thing with Wisdom. "He cannot be questioned as to what He does, while they will be questioned." (Al-Anbiyaa': 23)

{لَا يُسْأَلُ عَمَّا يَفْعَلُ وَهُمْ يُسْأَلُونَ}

Believers have to contemplate everything that could render a sermon to think and consider the Divine Acts. The Muslim consideration should not only be confined to what happens in near places or times, they have to consider any Signs of Allah whether they are near or far from them in time or in place.

2- And We sent not the signs except to warn, and to make them afraid (of destruction):

Volcanoes and earthquakes are soldiers of Allah which Allah sends upon His slaves whom He chose as per His Wish, as a warning, threatening or as an affliction , a trial or a punishment.

"And none can know the hosts of your Lord but He." (Al-Muddathther: 31)

{وَمَا يَعْلَمُ جُنُودَ رَبِّكَ إِلَّا هُوَ}

Among the soldiers of Allah is the cinder which is composed of small broken up particles of glass and rocks that threaten aircrafts and hinder their movements. This cinder is described to be killing because inhaling it causes to tear the lung tissues.

Attributing what happened only to the natural phenomena that take place only through universal systems and laws indicates that the people are unaware of the Creator and Disposer of this universe. Who manages the matters like that? And who runs them against whom He wishes as per His Measure and Planning!

"It is He Who shows you the lightning, as a fear (for travellers) and as a hope (for those who wait for rain). And it is He Who brings up (or originates) the clouds, heavy (with water). And *Ar-Ra'd* (thunder) glorifies and praises Him, and so do the angels because of His Awe. He sends the thunderbolts, and therewith He strikes whom He wills, yet they (disbelievers) dispute about Allāh. And He is Mighty in strength and Severe in punishment." (Ar-Ra'd: 12-13)

{هُوَ الَّذِي يُرِيكُمُ الْبَرْقَ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا وَيُنشِئُ السَّحَابَ الثِّقَالَ ﴿١٢﴾ وَيَسْخِرُ الرِّعْدَ بِحَمْدِهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ مِنْ خِيفَتِهِ وَيُرْسِلُ الصَّوَاعِقَ فَيُصِيبُ بِهَا مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَهُمْ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي اللَّهِ وَهُوَ شَدِيدُ الْمِحَالِ ﴿١٣﴾}

3- And this (Hell) is nothing else than a (warning) reminder to mankind:

What happened is one of Allah's Signs which Allah sends to his slaves as a reminder and admonition for the believers and frightening and terrifying those who turn away, the believing hearts take admonition, submit with humility and repent to their lord, while the heedless hearts are only preoccupied with economic losses, following the media and watching the volcano while forgetting the Lord of the volcano:

"They have hearts wherewith they understand not, and they have eyes wherewith they see not, and they have ears wherewith they hear not (the truth). They are like cattle, nay even more astray; those! They are the heedless ones." (Al-A'raaf: 179)

{لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ آذَانٌ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا أُولَئِكَ كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْغَافِلُونَ}

One of the signs of cruel hearts is that the people hear the terrible events and the sermons which make the mountains submissive yet they continue to be tyrannical and commit their sins and to be confined to following their desires heedless of any threatening or warning.

4- The believers are sensitive and have vivid hearts:

They are affected with such terrible events and they follow the guidance of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). When the Prophet saw wind or clouds, his face changed, so he went to and fro fearing that a punishment may descend.

His fear was resulting from his seeing clouds, so how would be the matter if he saw piles of cinder with the height of 11 kilometers in the air!!

When the sun eclipsed, the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, was in his utmost state of fear and submission to his Lord upon seeing this universal sign. He came out dragging his garment behind him in hurry fearing that this the Hour (Day of Resurrection). Despite that, till this moment, we find people who are not affected by that at all, do not fear or take any admonition?!

5- They made not a just estimate of Allah such as is due to Him, Truly, Allah is All-Strong, All-Mighty:

What happened is really a great evidence of Allah's Might, His Might is over any other might or power. He shows us the wonders of His Might and evidences of his Power in what He created and decreed.

Whatever Allah wants to be, it will be and whatever He does not want to be, it will never be. Allah is the All-Mighty:

"It is Allâh Who has created seven heavens and of the earth the like thereof (i.e. seven). His Command descends between them (heavens and earth), that you may know that Allâh has power over all things, and that Allâh surrounds all things in (His) Knowledge." (At-Talaaq: 12)

{اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ وَمِنَ الْأَرْضِ مَنْلَهُنَّ يَنْزَلُ الْأَمْرُ بَيْنَهُنَّ لِتَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ أَحَاطَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا}

Allah's Might has no boundary:

"Allâh is not such that anything in the heavens or in the earth escapes Him. Verily, He is All-Knowing, All-Omnipotent." (Fater: 44)

{وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُعْجِزَهُ مِن شَيْءٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَلِيمًا قَدِيرًا}

6- The powerlessness of the people:

Whenever man becomes arrogant and tyrannical in the earth, and claims that he reached the absolute peaks of completeness and doing without his Lord, Allah sends of the evidences what shows man's frailty, helplessness and his need to his Lord:

"O mankind! It is you who stand in need of Allâh. But Allâh is Rich (Free of all needs), Worthy of all praise." (Fater: 15)

{يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ}

What did the country do with all its bodies and power to face this Solider of Allah, could they stop or hinder it?

They watch what happens but they are helpless before it regardless of whatever technologies and sciences they reached!!

Where are their power and might? Where are their studies and researches? Where are their discoveries and inventions? Did they hinder Allah's Command?!! Did they lifted a punishment or delayed one of Allah's Decrees?!

Only in a few moments, safety changes to fear, the profits of the airline companies become losses estimated with hundreds of millions and a whole continent becomes helpless before this disaster despite of whatever scientific technology they reached so that Allah show them how they are weak and helpless and to know the truthful saying of Allah:

"Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): "Indeed the affair belongs wholly to Allâh." (Al-'Imraan: 154)

{قُلْ إِنَّ الْأَمْرَ كُلَّهُ لِلَّهِ}

7- Where is the material power?

How many times they boasted with their power and material tyranny and became vain thereof. Yet, this development could do nothing against a cloud of smoke:

"Who is he besides the Most Gracious that can be an army to you to help you? The disbelievers are in nothing but delusion." (Al-Mulk: 20)

{أَمَّنْ هَذَا الَّذِي هُوَ جُنْدٌ لَكُمْ يَنْصُرُكُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ الرَّحْمَنِ إِنَّ الْكَافِرِينَ فِي عُرُورٍ}

They are really in delusion; they think they are safe, under protection and in peace!!

When they thought they reached a great pace in the field of aviation industry, they were surprised with the volcano which descended suddenly upon them. Their aviation movement became unable and of great loss:

"Until when the earth is clad in its adornments and is beautified, and its people think that they have all the powers of disposal over it, Our Command reaches it by night or by day." (Yunus: 24)

{حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَخَذَتِ الْأَرْضُ زُخْرُفَهَا وَازْبَيَّتْ وَطَنَ أَهْلِهَا أَنَّهُمْ قَادِرُونَ عَلَيْهَا أَتَاهَا أَمْرُنَا لَيْلًا أَوْ نَهَارًا}

8- The knowledge of which is only with my Lord. And of knowledge, you (mankind) have been given only a little:

Where are science, progress and technology now? Are they able to destroy this volcano cloud?! Ecologists, geologists and meteorology scientists became in bewilderment and worry: some of

them say that the volcano will abate and others say, it will grow more. Others stay in bewilderment and do not know when the volcano shall stop emitting cinders which flow kilometers high, cinders may continue for several days, months or more!!

Others believe the worst will come latter!!

Geologists declared in meteorology offices: "We see different signs; some of them indicate that the eruption will abate while others show that it is progressing".

9- The helplessness of Human Calculations:

Despite the fact that, many times the people may predict the happening of these events before they happen, these events prove every day the helplessness of the people whether in analyzing them and expecting the crises, in preparation and precautions or in facing them.

When Allah's Decree takes place, then the strategic or precautions studies center, control devices, research and gathering information centers or others shall be of no avail:

"The decision of the matter, before and after (these events) is only with Allāh." (Ar-Room: 4)

{لِّلَّهِ الْأَمْرُ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَمِنْ بَعْدُ وَيَوْمَئِذٍ يَفْرَحُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ}

Experts acknowledged that the effect of the volcano in that way did not happen before.

"But Allāh's (Torment) reached them from a place whereof they expected it not." (Al-Hashr: 2)

{فَأَنذَاهُمْ اللَّهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَمْ يَحْتَسِبُوا}

10- No refuge but with Allah:

Whatever power, mind and intelligence man has against these universal signs, he has no way other than resorting to Allah who create and manage them, submit to Him and call and worship Him sincerely. For that, prayer is recommended to be established when seeing the greatest signs like the moon and sun eclipses.

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said:

"These are two signs amongst the Signs of Allah, and they do not eclipse because of anyone's death or life. So, if you see them, hasten for the Prayer." (Reported by Al-Bukhari)

{إن الشمس والقمر لا يحسفان لموت أحد ولا حياته ، ولكنهما آياتان من آيات الله يريهما عباده ، فإذا رأيتم ذلك فافزعوا إلى الصلاة}

11- Glorified and Exalted is Allah, the Transformer of Hearts:

How fast matters change and conditions vary. Whenever Allah wants a thing to be, Allah says: Be and it is instantly without any hindrance.

In an eye wink, Allah changes the conditions.

While the people practice their daily lives and without any introductions, this volcano surprises them with these great clouds to embarrass their planning, calculations and expectations.

The believers contemplate this matter to remember the Hour (the Day of Resurrection): "Do they then feel secure from the coming against them of the covering veil of the Torment of Allāh, or of the coming against them of the (Final) Hour, all of a sudden while they perceive not?" (Yusuf: 107)

{أَفَأَمِنُوا أَنْ تَأْتِيَهُمْ غَاشِيَةٌ مِّنْ عَذَابِ اللَّهِ أَوْ تَأْتِيَهُمُ السَّاعَةُ بَغْتَةً وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ}

12- Allah's Wonder in His Decrees:

Allah makes this blazing fires emerge from the heart of ice and under a glacier. The president of Iceland said: " What we see here in Iceland, we can not see in any other part of the world, it a mixture of volcanic upheaval and glaciers".

How great is Allah's Might and how glamorous are his wonders which he uses to make the heedless see and to call them to think:

"We will show them Our Signs in the universe, and in their own selves, until it becomes manifest to them that this (the Qur'ān) is the truth. Is it not sufficient in regard to your Lord that He is a Witness over all things?" (Fussilat: 53)

{سَنُرِيهِمْ آيَاتِنَا فِي الْآفَاقِ وَفِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ أَوَلَمْ يَكْفِ بِرَبِّكَ أَنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ}

Allah makes for his slave signs inside their selves and in the universe to manifest His wonderful Creation, brilliant Might so that they will see the right. And those who turn away, are the humiliated.

One of the wonders is that the country in which the volcano erupted "Iceland" was not affected with what happened. The air currents carried the volcano cinders away, so the aircrafts land and fly there without any fear or worry, that cinder was destined to go elsewhere!!

13- Viewing nature with polytheistic eyes:

One of the examples of the people ingratitude and denial to their Lord is that they attribute any thing small or big which happens in the universe to the power of nature. Instead of submitting to the Might of Allah in what happens, we find the president of the country in which the volcano erupted says, "What happens is a mere display of nature's powers."

They forget the Might of Allah who created nature and made it serviceable to us. Nature has nothing to do and any thing that happens, takes place with the Will and Wish of Allah:

“Allāh is He Who raised the heavens without any pillars that you can see. Then, He rose above (*Istawā*) the Throne (really in a manner that suits His Majesty). He has subjected the sun and the moon (to continue going round), each running (its course) for a term appointed. He manages and regulates all affairs; He explains the *Ayāt* (proofs, evidence, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) in detail, that you may believe with certainty in the meeting with your Lord.” (Ar-Ra’d: 2)

{اللَّهُ الَّذِي رَفَعَ السَّمَاوَاتِ بِغَيْرِ عَمَدٍ تَرَوْنَهَا ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي لِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى يُدَبِّرُ الْأَمْرَ يُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّكُمْ بِلِقَاءِ رَبِّكُمْ تُوقِنُونَ}

“So glorified be He and exalted above all that they associate with Him, and in Whose Hands is the dominion of all things: and to Him you shall be returned.” (Yaseen: 83)

{فَسُبْحَانَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ}

14- With fire, we remember fire:

The temperature of the fire volcanic melting that caused this cinder reached 1200 Celsius which melted 10% of the glacier. This fire is one of the world fires, so how will be fire in the Hereafter? So when Allah mentioned the world fire, He said, “We have made it a Reminder (of the Hell-fire in the Hereafter), and an article of use for the travellers (and all the others, in this world).” (Al-Waqi’ah: 73)

{نَحْنُ جَعَلْنَاهَا تَذْكَرًا وَرَمَاقًا لِلْمُقْتَبِينَ}

So that this fire reminds us with the greatest fire in the Hereafter. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him said, “Your (ordinary) fire is one of 70 parts of the (Hell) Fire.” (Classified as Saheeh by Albani)

{إن ناركم هذه جزء من سبعين جزءا من نار جهنم}

15- No person knows what he will earn tomorrow:

Volcano clouds caused airports to close and retain millions of passengers, some of them sent calls for help to their embassies to help them go back to their homes.

How many conferences were held, meetings prepared, reservations confirmed and appointments scheduled, then these passengers sleep on the airport seats and take them as beds:

“If I had the knowledge of the *Ghaib* (Unseen), I should have secured for myself an abundance of wealth, and no evil should have touched me.” (Al-A’raaf: 188)

{وَلَوْ كُنْتُمْ أَغْلَمَ الْغَيْبِ لَاسْتَكْفَرْتُمْ مِنَ الْخَيْرِ وَمَا مَسَّنِيَ السُّوءُ}

16- And whatever of misfortune befalls you, it is because of what your hands have earned. And Allah pardons much.

This is a divine way, The more there are sins, injustice and killings, spreading illegal sexual intercourse, the more there will be public disasters such as destructive hurricanes, drowning floods, deteriorating earthquakes, fatal diseases, overwhelming plagues, test with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits or other calamities that Allah frightens his slaves with, remind them with His Power and Might and that if the people disobey him, He shall never care about them or of their destruction in any where:

“Evil (sins and disobedience to Allâh) has appeared on land and sea because of what the hands of men have earned (by oppression and evil deeds), that He (Allâh) may make them taste a part of that which they have done, in order that they may return (by repenting to Allâh, and begging His Pardon).” (Ar-Room: 41)

{ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ}

This is not the last disaster that afflicts who turns away from Allah's Way, became tyrannical and oppressor

“Have not then those who believed yet known that had Allâh willed, He could have guided all mankind? And a disaster will not cease to strike those who disbelieved because of their (evil) deeds or it (i.e. the disaster) settles close to their homes, until the Promise of Allâh comes to pass. Certainly, Allâh breaks not His Promise.” (Ar-Ra'd: 31)

{أَفَلَمْ يَيْئَسِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ لَوْ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ لَهْدَى النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَلَا يَزَالُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا تُصِيبُهُمْ بِمَا صَنَعُوا قَارِعَةٌ أَوْ تَحُلُّ قَرِيبًا مِّن دَارِهِمْ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَادَ}

17- The misfortunes of some people are benefits for other people:

Upon the emerging of this economic disaster which faced the international airline companies, the demand for trains, buses and water cruisers increased and also the pressure on booking at hotels increased.

The railway stations companies were activated and they spread extra trains between the European countries. Also, the journeys prices were increased in general.

Glorified is Allah who divides sustenance. While some people taste the bitter feeling of their deadly losses, others enjoy imaginary benefits that they never dreamt of!!

18- Always to remember Allah's Blessings:

Whoever sees what happened to the people in the airports, their sleeping on seats, their fatigue

and the anxiety aroused by waiting and expecting, has to remember Allah's Blessings and that Allah endowed us with comfort, security and safety.

Believers see the calamities afflicting others, so they shall feel their calamities are nothing if compared to others', their hearts then are full of praising Allah and their tongues thank Him warmly.

19- Scenes upon Scenes:

These volcanoes and earthquakes remind us with the greatest final earthquake (at the Day of Resurrection), only one volcano resulted in such disasters and terror, so how shall be the matter when all the earth shall be quake?

"O mankind! Fear your Lord and be dutiful to Him! Verily, the earthquake of the Hour (of Judgment) is a terrible thing. The Day you shall see it, every nursing mother will forget her nursling, and every pregnant one will drop her load, and you shall see mankind as in a drunken state, yet they will not be drunken, but severe will be the Torment of Allâh." (Al-Hajj: 1-2)

{يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ إِنَّ زَلْزَلَةَ السَّاعَةِ شَيْءٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١﴾ يَوْمَ تَرَوُنَّهَا تُدْهَلُ كُلُّ مُرْضِعَةٍ عَمَّا أَرْضَعَتْ وَتَضَعُ كُلُّ ذَاتِ حَمْلٍ حَمْلَهَا وَتَرَى النَّاسَ سُكَارَىٰ وَمَا هُمْ بِسُكَارَىٰ وَلَٰكِنَّ عَذَابَ اللَّهِ شَدِيدٌ}

The cinder that screened the sun in these countries remind us with what Allah, the All Mighty, says:

"When the sun is wound round and its light is lost and is overthrown." (At-Takweer: 1)

{إِذَا الشَّمْسُ كُوِّرَتْ}

And the spread of the volcano parts in the air reminds with what Allah, the All Mighty, says:

"And when the stars fall." (Al-Takweer: 2)

{وَإِذَا النُّجُومُ انْكَدَرَتْ}

It means when the stars spread in the heaven and then fall on the earth.

The breakdown of the aviation movement and the airports reminds us with what Allah, the All Mighty, says: "And when the pregnant she-camels are neglected." (Al-Takweer: 4)

{وَإِذَا الْعِشَارُ عُطِّلَتْ}

Al-'Ishar are the best of pregnant camels, they are considered the best of the Arab's money at that time. Allah hints to the breakdown in the operation of the functions of similar precious money. The people are stuck by which hinder them from benefiting from such money.

The helplessness of the European continent with its equipments and devices, its bewilderment before what happens, the inquiry of all about happens, reminds us with the helplessness of man at the Day of Resurrection when he stands stuck in confusion because of what he sees:

“When the earth is shaken with its (final) earthquake. And when the earth throws out its burdens. And man will say, ‘What is the matter with it?’” (Az-Zalzalah: 1-3)

{إِذَا زُلْزِلَتِ الْأَرْضُ زِلْزَالَهَا ﴿١﴾ وَأَخْرَجَتِ الْأَرْضُ أَثْقَالَهَا ﴿٢﴾ وَقَالَ الْإِنْسَانُ مَا لَهَا}

These accumulated clouds that fill the air in tremendous heights, remind us with the smoke which Allah shall emit before the Day of Resurrection:

“Then wait you for the Day when the sky will bring forth a visible smoke, covering the people: this is a painful torment.” (Ad-Dukhan: 10-11)

{فَارْتَقِبْ يَوْمَ تَأْتِي السَّمَاءُ بِدُخَانٍ مُّبِينٍ ﴿١٠﴾ يَغشى النَّاسَ هَذَا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ}

Finally:

Watching and seeing the greatest universal frightening Signs of Allah are enough that they can do a greater effect than what the sermons and advices may render. They are the greatest deterring, the most eloquent sermonizer and the most fluent adviser. Through the time stages, the elapse of ages and the life calamities, we can have admonitions from and sermons by which the smart people shall reckon their selves, check their situations so that they shall not live with errors and taken suddenly.

May Allah provide His Grace to our Muslim brothers everywhere and make this sign a sermon by which the wrongful people shall be guided to His Right Path and Truthful Religion. Allah is the All Hearer, All Responsive; Allah is the Most Kind and Courteous, Well-Acquainted (with all things).

And all praise and thanks are Allah’s, Lord of the ‘Alamīn (mankind, jinn and all that exists).