

The Owner of the Two Gardens

Allah Ta`ala tells us the story of two men. One of them was poor, but he believed in Allah. He was thankful to Him. He was well pleased with his simple life and happy with what Allah had provided him.

The other, however, was rich. Allah has given him two beautiful and bountiful gardens of grapes, and had surrounded both with date-palms; and had put between them green crops (cultivated fields etc.).

Rivers flowed through the gardens. Allah also gave tremendous wealth and castles to him.

This rich man was arrogant and greedy with his wealth. He was ungrateful to Allah for His blessings and never thankful of the great bounty of Allah. One day he went into one of his gardens pointing to what it has of castles and fruit... saying in full arrogance, "These castles and gardens and wealth will never be finished and I will be rich all my life... And I think not the Hour will ever come, and if indeed I am brought back to my Lord, (on the Day of Resurrection), I surely shall find better than this when I return to Him."

He enjoyed the bounties of what Allah had provided from the two gardens, of delicious fruits and abundant wealth, never giving charity to the poor nor to those who were need.

The believer one day went to him in peace and harmony and told him in a nice way, "O rich man, Allah granted you great bounties and Allah will question you about them on the Day of Judgment. You

should thank your Lord for these blessings and do not be fooled by all this wealth and do not forget the Day of Judgment."

The rich man got up from his seat very angry and said in arrogance: "Quiet, you poor man! Don't advise me! Can't you see that I am far wealthier than you and I have many children and I own a lot of slaves and servants?!"

Then the rich man laughed in ridicule and said: "I do not believe there is a day in which I will be judged in ... and who will judge me and I am the owner of this abundant wealth and power? Even if I were to go back to a Lord that will judge me after I die, as you claim, I will have a great reward and place and much more wealth because I am rich in this life..."

The poor man said in fear of Allah: "Do you disbelieve in Allah O rich man? It is Allah that created you from dust in the beginning and provided you with all this great wealth, children, slaves and servants. Even if I am less in wealth and children than you Allah will give me great reward in Jannah, much better than wealth and children. Do not disbelieve in Allah O owner of the two gardens. Do not disbelieve."

The rich man became even more arrogant and insisted on his disbelief and the believer left him after saying: "Remember that it was Allah who gave you all these blessings is fully able to take them from you." The believer continued praying to Allah to guide the rich man.

Next morning the rich man went out from his castle to his gardens in full arrogance and foolishness, as was his habit, and when he reached the gardens he saw a horrible sight.

The gardens had become desolate and empty. All his fruits and plants were ruined and totally destroyed.

Allah had send upon it a great flood and strong winds, which destroyed all that was in the two gardens during the night without the rich man ever noticing. He went about crying and weeping.

He fell to the ground and sat down in great sadness and agony while saying: "I wish I did not associate partners with Allah and disbelieve in Him. I wish I had obeyed the poor mans requests and thanked my Lord." But it was too late for that now and all the regret did not benefit him after he lost everything in this world and the next.

(Surah Kahf; 32-42)

Finally, we learn some important lessons from this story:

(1) One should not lose himself in the luxuries of this present life of ours and should not be deluded thereof.

(2) One should trust what is in Allah's Hand more than what is in his own hand.

(3) One should put his entire trust in Allah alone.

(4) Obedience of Allah should be one's first and final goal.

(5) Anyone who prefers anything to Allah and His obedience will surely suffer loss in this world and then in the Hereafter.

(6) One should whole-heartedly accept the advice of his compassionate brother, as in rejecting his advice there rests complete destruction and ruin.