

the end of fear and grief? This is a life in *al-barzakh* (the period between death and the resurrection) that is more perfect than the life of this world. In fact the Prophet (ﷺ) told us that the souls of the martyrs are in the crops of green birds that drink from the rivers of paradise and eat from its fruits, then they go back to the lamps that are suspended from the Throne. In this verse there is the greatest encouragement of jihad for the sake of Allah, and being steadfast and patient in jihad. If people were aware of the reward of those who are killed for the sake of Allah, no one would stay behind. But the lack of certainty is what makes their resolve fail, makes them sleep more and causes them to miss out on immense rewards. How could it be otherwise, when Allah (ﷻ) says:

﴿Allah has purchased from the believers their lives and their wealth, in return for which paradise will be theirs; they fight in His cause, and they slay and are slain...﴾ (at-Tawbah 9: 111)

If a man had one thousand souls and lost them one by one for the sake of Allah, that would be insignificant in comparison to this great reward. Hence after seeing with their own eyes the reward of Allah, the martyrs would only wish to return to this world so that they might be killed again and again for His sake.

This verse indicates that there is bliss and torment in *al-barzakh*, as is confirmed in so many texts.



﴿وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٥﴾ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ ﴿١٥٦﴾ أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٥٧﴾﴾ (سورة