

on utter falsehood. Thus their efforts will be wasted and they will be doomed, and they will realise that they (those who were followed) were liars; their deeds that they hoped would benefit them will turn into a source of regret and sorrow for them; and they will abide forever in the fire and will never be brought out of it. Can there be any greater loss than this? That is because they followed falsehood and acted accordingly, pinning their hopes on that in which there was no hope, and forming an attachment to that which was not deserving of it. Hence their deeds will be rendered invalid because of the invalidity of the foundation of those deeds, and at that point sorrow will overtake them for their dashed hopes of reward and the ultimate harm that befalls them. This is unlike those who put their hopes in Allah, the Sovereign, the Truth, and sincerely strive for His sake, hoping for His mercy. Such a one has acted appropriately, so his deeds are valid, because they are based on truth. Thus he will attain the positive result of his efforts, and he will find his reward with his Lord in abundance, as Allah (ﷻ) says:

﴿Those who disbelieve and bar others from the path of Allah, He will cause their deeds to come to naught. Those who believe and do righteous deeds, and believe in that which was sent down to Muhammad – for it is the truth from their Lord – He will absolve them of their bad deeds and rectify their condition. That is because those who disbelieve follow falsehood and those who believe follow the truth from their Lord. Thus does Allah set forth for humankind their comparisons.﴾ (Muhammad 47: 1-3)

Then the followers will wish that they could be returned to this world so that they might disavow what they followed, give up associating others with Allah, and strive hard for the sake of Allah alone. But alas it will be too late; it will no longer be the time for respite or reprieve. Moreover, they will be lying, because if they did return (to this world), they would go back to their previous ways. These are no more than empty words and wishful thinking on their