

will result in disgrace and scandal in this world, as well as ongoing regret because of what the believers achieve of power and victory.

Then in the hereafter, they will have a painful and devastating punishment because of their lies, disbelief and evil doing. But in their ignorance and foolishness they do not realise that.

﴿In their hearts is a disease﴾. What is meant by disease here is the disease of doubt, confusion and hypocrisy. The heart is vulnerable to two (spiritual) diseases that make it unhealthy and unbalanced: the disease of false doubts and the disease of desires that may lead to destruction. Disbelief, hypocrisy, doubt and innovation are all (spiritual) diseases that result from doubts and confusion. *Zinâ* (illicit sexual activity) and the inclination towards immoral actions and sin result from the disease of desires, as Allah (ﷻ) says:

﴿...lest one in whose heart is a disease should be moved with desire...﴾ (al-Ahzâb 33: 32)

– this has to do with the desire for *zinâ* (fornication or adultery). The one who is truly safe is the one who is protected from these two diseases, for he will have certainty and faith, and will be patient in refraining from all sins; thus he will enjoy good spiritual health.

﴿In their hearts is a disease; and Allah has increased their disease﴾. This verse, which speaks of the hypocrites, highlights Allah's wisdom in decreeing sin for the sinners: because of their previous sins, He causes them to commit further sins that will incur His punishment, as He says elsewhere:

﴿We will turn their hearts and eyes away [from the truth], since they refused to believe in it the first time...﴾ (al-An'âm 6: 110)

﴿...So when they chose to deviate [from the truth], Allah caused their hearts to deviate [from right guidance]...﴾ (aş-Şaff 61: 5)

﴿As for those in whose hearts is a disease, it will add doubt to their doubt...﴾ (at-Tawbah 9: 125)

So the punishment for sin is more sin, just as the reward for good deeds is more good deeds. Allah (ﷻ) says: