

Fruits for the Week

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TSUNAMI AND ALLAH'S REMINDER FOR HUMAN BEINGS

It was Sunday, 26 December 2004. A day to rest. But for tens of thousands, it was the day of death. Within minutes, nature changed the lives of millions of people across the Indian Ocean: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania are struck by a devastating tsunami.

No one had any idea that life would be altered forever. Children frolicked on beaches. Parents watched dotingly. Holiday-makers basked in the sun. Trains wound their way along scenic coasts. Fishermen scoured the seas for their daily bread. Suddenly, a tsunami swallowed up the children and the parents, the holiday makers and the train passengers, the fishermen and the boats, and even the townspeople in their inland dwellings. Then it spat them out.

By the time the tsunami had finished, more than 150,000 lives were lost. The situation may be even worse as the death toll continues to rise. For some, no more tears are left. Their families are dead, homes destroyed. No amount of money will bring back the lives they knew before the catastrophe. Nevertheless, hope has to be given. The compassion and philanthropy shown by people all around the world will help a little.

Yet something more terrible is to come. Armageddon Online explicitly warns us of a mega-tsunami in future, though no one knows when it will happen. It would be generated from the Atlantic Ocean hitting the entire region. No coastline in the North Atlantic

would be spared. Britain, France, Spain, Portugal as well as North Africa, the Caribbean and Brazil would be badly hit. However, the real damage would be to the east coast of the USA. Boston, New York and Miami would be wiped off from the map. Skyscrapers would be bulldozed as if they never existed. Bridges would be ripped from their foundations. Virtually every human in these cities would be killed.

If the mega-tsunami is what Allah (SWT) wills, no one can stop it. Even the latest technology will not be of any help. Read the following verses from the Quran: "*When the sun is folded up; when the stars fall, losing their luster; when the mountains vanish; when the she-camel, ten months with young, are left untended; when the wild beasts are herded together; when the oceans boil over with a swell...then, shall each soul know what it has put forward.*"(81:1-14)

The recent tsunami should be heeded as the most precious reminder that death will come to us at any time and anywhere. We do not know what will happen tomorrow. We do not know how we shall die. To make ourselves ready to face uncertainty in future, we should be ready to enjoin what is instructed by Allah (SWT) and to refrain from what is prohibited. May Allah (SWT) protect us from any possible dangers in this world and the hereafter.

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