

Fruits for the Week

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THE PATH (*AL-SIRAT*)

Allah (SWT) says: *“Instead of Allah, and lead them on to the way (al-sirat) of the flaming Fire (Hell); but stop them, verily, they are to be questioned.”* (37:23-24)

The word *al-sirat* is a Qur’anic term meaning road, path or way. In the above-mentioned *ayat*, it refers to a bridge. On the Day of Judgment, every person is supposed to walk on *al-sirat* over Hell before he may move on to Paradise. *Al-sirat* could be as wide as possible for a person to walk easily or as thin as a sharp edge.

Everyone will be brought to see how is Hell. While he is seeing and hearing what is in it, angels may help him to walk his way on *al-sirat* or may dump him into Hell.

One of the best descriptions about *al-sirat* is the one in the Book of *Ihya ‘Ulumuddin* written by Imam Al-Ghazali. The following is an excerpt from his description:

This is a long bridge over Hell which is sharper than sword and more subtle than hair. He who treads on straight and right path in this world will cross it easily and will get salvation. He who is misguided and saddled with sins will slip therefrom at the first step and will fall down into Jahannam. Below the bridge, there is the fire of Hell. The sinners will fall down below with their heads downwards and legs upwards. The Prophet will say then: O, my Lord, make us safe, make us safe. The wailing and cries of the dwellers of Hell will reach your ears. What will be

your condition then?

The Prophet (SAW) said: *“People will cross the bridge over Hell. There will be thorns and iron pegs which will catch the sinners from every side. Some will cross it like lightning, some like blowing of wind, some like running of horse; some will walk, and some will walk on their breasts. The inmates of Hell will not live or die and they will be burnt by fire.”*

Anas reported that he heard the Prophet (SAW) saying: *“The bridge will be sharp like sword and thin like hair. The angel will give salvation to the believing males and females. Angel Jibriel will catch my waist and I will say: O Lord, give us salvation, give us salvation. The number of those who will slip down will be numerous.”*

Since everyone is to be brought towards Hell on *al-sirat*, one has to prepare himself as of today before it is too late. One has to do all he can to improve his qualities and to mend his ways. He is to correct his intention as well. Above all he has to do everything for the love of Allah.

While walking on *al-sirat*, one will be able to see and hear what is going on in Hell. The scene is horrible and the penalty is beyond imagination. Everyone is scared to see or even to hear. Every person is worried about himself being dumped into Hell. Na’udzubillah min dzalik. Wallahu A’lam

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