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40. Does the personality and status of an individual have an effect on their reward and punishment?

The Qur'an states the following with regards to the wives of the Prophet SAWA:

يَا نِسَاءَ النَّبِيِّ مَن يَأْتِ مِنكُنَّ بِفَاحِشَةٍ مُّبَيِّنَةٍ يُضَاعَفْ لَهَا الْعَذَابُ ضِعْفَيْنِ ۚ وَكَانَ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّـهِ يَسِيرًا

"O wives of the prophet! Whoever of you commits an open indecency, the punishment shall be increased to her doubly; and this is easy to Allah." 1

And likewise, in terms of doing good, the reward doubles:

وَمَن يَقْنُتْ مِنكُنَّ لِلَّـهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا نُّؤْتِهَا أَجْرَهَا مَرَّتَيْنِ وَأَعْتَدْنَا لَهَا رِزْقًا كَرِيمًا

"And whoever of you is obedient to Allah and His Apostle and does good, We will give to her reward doubly, and We have prepared for her an honorable sustenance."2

● The higher the tip of the mountain is, the deeper the valley of that mountain becomes. In Hadiths, we also read the following:

يغفر للجاهل سبعون ذنبا قبل أن يغفر للعالم ذنب واحد

● ***"God will forgive the ignorant seventy sins before a single sin is forgiven of a learned scholar"***3.

A Persian poem translates as follows:

نردبان این جهـــــان ، ما و منیست

عاقـــبت این نردبان ، افتادنیـــست

لاجرم آنکس که بـــــالاتر نشست

استخوانش سخت تر خواهد شکست

The ladder of this world is about “me” and “us”
The result of this ladder is to fall
In so much as the higher on it one sits
The harder their bones will end up breaking.

1. Ahzab 33:30
2. Ahzab 33:31
3. Al Kafi – Part 1, page 59.

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