

Messengers 4 – Trying to become a Prophet

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: Can a person become a Prophet if he tries hard enough - as is stated by some of the philosophers?

ANSWER:

Islam teaches that Prophethood is an honour bestowed upon certain people by Allaah, and not something that anyone can obtain through hard work.¹

The Qur'aan states:

Allaah chooses messengers from the angels and from men.

[Soorah al Hajj (the 22nd chapter) aayah 75]

So in contrast to what certain philosophers say, a person cannot 'acquire' Prophethood through leading the life of self discipline, refining one's manners and forcing oneself to perform certain rituals. These thinkers believe that this meditation and purifying one's inner and outer self will cause a person to gain a special insight into the hidden nature of things – something which other people cannot do.

This is of course something that Islam rejects completely.

The Qur'aan states:

And when there comes to them a sign (from Allaah) they say:

'We will not believe until we receive the like of that which the Messengers received!

Allaah knows best with whom to place His Message.

[Soorah al An'aam (the 6th chapter) aayah 124]

So Prophethood is something which Allaah chooses to give to certain people based on His Wisdom and Knowledge since He knows which people are most suitable for taking on this responsibility.

It is not merely a 'level' that we all can aim towards achieving by working very hard.

¹ Refer to al irshaad ilaa saheeh il i'tiqaad of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan p179