



Autumn

We are in autumn right now. Leaves are changing colours and they are falling off trees, leaving them bare. The Qur'an and Ahadith mention trees and leaves and other aspects of nature.

Let's reflect on the following ayah which talks about trees:

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ أَصْلُهَا ثَابِتٌ وَفَرْعُهَا فِي السَّمَاءِ (٢٤)

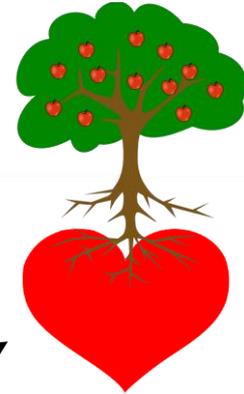
تُؤْتِي أُكْلَهَا كُلَّ حِينٍ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهَا وَيَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأَمْثَالَ لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ (٢٥)

(24). See you not how Allah sets forth a parable? A goodly word as a goodly tree, whose root is firmly fixed, and its branches (reach) to the sky. (25). Giving its fruit at all times, by the leave of its Lord, and Allah sets forth parables for mankind in order that they may remember.

The believer produces good words and good actions just like a good tree will give good fruit



A believer is like the goodly tree



"goodly word"

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

"No one has the right to be worshipped"

is firmly set in the believers heart.

Explanation:

The believer is like a good tree. Just like a good tree will give fruits, stands up tall and is strong, the believer is the same. The believer will say good things, do good actions and has firm belief in Allah and his Messenger.

Good words in this ayah refer to the phrase "None has the right to be worshipped, except Allah". This good word is firmly set in the believers heart just like the roots of a tree are firmly set in the ground.

Allah uses the example of the tree, because we are surrounded by them in our daily life and can look at them and reflect on them to understand what a believer and his faith should be like.

Now let's reflect on a hadith which also contains the theme of trees and nature:

عن أنس: أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم مر بشجرة يابسة الورق -
فضربها بعصاه فتناثر الورق فقال إن الحمد لله وسبحان الله ولا إله إلا الله
والله أكبر لتساقط من ذنوب العبد كما تساقط ورق هذه الشجرة.



Anas (ra.) reported that the Messenger of Allah once went out when the leaves were falling from the trees. He took hold of a branch and said:

Indeed, (saying) "Alhamdulillah" and "SubhanAllah", and "Laa ilaha ilAllah", and "Allahu Akbar", cause a slave's sins to fall away just as the leaves of a tree fall. (Ahmed)

Learn the following phrases and their meaning:

Meaning	Phrase
Glory be to Allah	الحمد لله
All praise and thanks is only for Allah alone	سبحان الله
There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah	لا إله إلا الله
Allah is Greater than everything	الله أكبر

Remembering Allah

Just like trees must get rid of dying leaves, as believers, we need to get rid of our sins. In this hadith, we are taught that by saying the above phrases, our sins can fall away like leaves off a tree in autumn.

Just like trees need to make space for fresh leaves and flowers to grow in Spring, they must go through the season of Autumn. Likewise, the believer must take time out of his/her day in praising Allah so that his/her heart is clean and polished.

Reflect on the trees and how they change in Autumn. They let go of the bad, in preparation for the good. Look around you and see how beautiful the season of Autumn is once this process takes place.