

In the name of God, The Most Gracious, Most Merciful

GOD'S RETRIBUTION IS INEVITABLE

It is they who brought the straying at the expense of guidance, and the retribution at the expense of forgiveness. Therefore, they will have to endure Hell." (2:175)

Nineteen months have passed since the assassination of God's Messenger of the Covenant, Dr. Rashad Khalifa. In his March issue, 1990, of the Submitters Perspective, Dr. Khalifa wrote an article about the retribution facing the disbelievers and enemies of the one true God. He said, "A massive asteroid will hit somewhere in the Middle East. The resulting heat will burn living organisms within a 100 mile radius. Total devastation will envelope the Arab world, main opponents of God, His miracle, and His Messenger of the Covenant (9:97, 3:81, 33:7). The Quranic prophecy in 44:10-15 will come to pass: A giant dust cloud will envelope the whole world and obscure the sun for a few months. In fulfillment of 17:92, the Arabs will mock and ridicule this prophecy. When will this happen? I do not know when; but I have a strong feeling that this will take place before the end of 1990. Only God knows the exact time." Dr. Khalifa based this on what God declares in Sura 44:9-15, "Indeed, they are *full of doubt, heedless. Therefore, look for the day when the sky brings a tremendous smoke. It will envelope the people: 'This is a painful retribution. Our Lord, remove this retribution for us, we now have believed.'* How come they now take heed, when a messenger had come to them, but they disregarded him and said, "Well educated, but crazy." We will remove the retribution a little bit. But then, you will soon revert."

The asteroid did not hit in 1990. However, as Dr. Khalifa wrote, he was not sure of the exact date for only God has this knowledge. This fact is given by God in Sura 27:65, "Say, No one in the heavens and *the earth knows the future except God. They do not even perceive how or when they will be resurrected.*" Dr. Khalifa was human and admitted that his prediction of the year 1990 was only a feeling of his, not a surety. The certainty was, and is, that the retribution will come at the time God wills.

The fact that the asteroid did not hit in 1990 does not in any way distract from the fact that this inevitable retribution will take place. Much of the Middle East is already suffering because of the war with Iraq. There has been tremendous destruction caused by the war. Some of the after affects will continue to plague these countries for years. As written in an article from, "Economic Times", July 2, 1991, in Bombay, "Black tides have coated beaches for hundreds of miles in the Gulf and crude oil is still trickling south four months after the Gulf war. About 150 miles of Saudi Arabia's north eastern coastline is smothered with thick heavy crude oil. Fishing industries on both sides of the Gulf have been devastated and shallow breeding grounds for fish, shrimp, and other marine life were destroyed. Thousands of sea birds have died."

And what of the asteroid? This past month, numerous articles have been written about an enormous asteroid expected to hit the earth within 50 years. Scientists say that it is inevitable and according to writer William J. Broad of New York, "The odds are that the moment could be

relatively soon, in celestial terms. Somewhere in space at this moment, hurtling toward earth at roughly 16 miles a second is the doomsday rock. The doomsday rock is an asteroid large enough to severely disrupt life on earth upon impact by lofting pulverized rock and dust that blocks most sunlight."

From the same article, Mr. Broad quotes Tom Gehrels, a professor of lunar and planetary science at the University of Arizona who heads a team that searches the sky for asteroids, "Eventually it will hit and be catastrophic." He also quotes Clark R. Chapman, an astronomer, "The earth is bound to be hit. Statistically, it's certain The risk of death is higher per person than a jet airplane crash. The risk is high enough to suggest that action should be taken."

Scientists believe they can somehow prevent an asteroid from hitting the earth. We know they cannot stop the will of God. The disbelievers will pay for rejecting the worship of God alone and for the killing of God's Messenger of the Covenant. He had gone to them with God's message of truth and told them to give up their idolatrous ways. But as the Quran says, "...they turned away from him saying, *"Well educated, but crazy!"* (44:14) When told of their coming retribution, *"They challenge, "When will this promise come to pass, if you are truthful?" Say, "You have a specific time, on a specific day, that you cannot delay by one hour nor advance"* (34:29-30).