

Efforts and Striving: According to Which Life Plan Are You Operating? Divine or Non-Divine?

God created the world, the people, and the societies within it, and provided the opportunity to choose between two life plans: one good and one bad. Based on this power of choice, He gave people and societies the ability to carry out these two plans. Those who live according to the good plan will succeed, and those who live according to the bad plan will be miserable.

Bihar al-Anwar (Beirut edition), vol. 5, p. 159, hadith 18: - Al-Hasan ibn Mahbub and Ali ibn al-Hakam narrated from Mu'awiyah ibn Wahb, who said: I heard Abu Abdullah (Imam Sadiq) say, "Among the revelations God gave to Moses and included in the Torah was this: 'I am God; there is no god but Me. I created creation and I created good, and I have caused good to flow through the hands of those I love. Blessed is the one through whose hands I cause good to flow. I am God; there is no god but Me. I created creation, and I created evil, and I have caused evil to flow through the hands of those I will. Woe to the one through whose hands I cause evil to flow.'"

Narration by Ibn Abi Umayr:

- Ibn Abi Umayr said: I asked Abu al-Hasan Musa ibn Ja'far (Imam Kazim) about the meaning of the Prophet's statement: "The wretched one is the one who was wretched in his mother's womb, and the blessed one is the one who was blessed in his mother's womb." The Imam (peace be upon him) replied: "The wretched one is the one whom God knew, even while in his mother's womb, would perform the deeds of the wretched after birth. The blessed one is the one whom God knew, even while in his mother's womb, would perform the deeds of the blessed after birth." I then asked him about the meaning of the Prophet's saying, "Act, for everyone is facilitated towards what he was created for." The Imam (peace be upon him) said: "God, the Exalted, created jinn and humans to worship Him, not to disobey Him. This is His saying, 'I did not create jinn and humans except to worship Me.' So He made everyone facilitated towards what they were created for. Woe to the one who prefers blindness over guidance."