

Surah 68. Al-Qalam

Asad: Or is it that [they fear lest] thou ask them for a reward, [O Prophet,] so that they would be burdened with debt [if they listened to thee]?

Malik: Or have you, O Prophet, demanded a compensation from them, that they are overburdened with debt?

Pickthall: Or dost thou (Muhammad) ask a fee from them so that they are heavily taxed?

Yusuf Ali: Or is it that thou dost ask them for a reward so that they are burdened with a load of debt? ⁵⁶²⁷

Transliteration: Am tasaluhum ajran fahum min maghramin muthqaloona

Khatab:

Or are you asking them for a reward ?for the message? so that they are overburdened by debt?

Author Comments

5627 - Cf. l.iii. 40, n. 5074. It costs the Unbelievers nothing to hear the Prophet, for the Prophet asks for no reward, and indeed suffers for their benefit. Al-Mustafa is addressed in the first instance, but there is always a universal interpretation. The righteous man asks for no reward for his preaching or example: if he did, the value would be too great for the world to pay for. The Unbelievers behave as if they had the secret of the Unseen, but they are empty triflers, for, if they only tried to formulate spiritual laws, they would fail.

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