

Messengers 4 – trying to become a prophet

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 Allah, and not something that anyone can obtain through hard work. ¹

The Qur'an states:

Allah 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'an states:

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

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

Allah knows best with whom to place His Message.

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

So Prophethood is something which Allah 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.

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NEXT TIME: Do Prophets perform miracles?

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