

**Qari Muhammad Asim MBE**, Senior Imam at Makkah Masjid (mosque) in Leeds and Chair at Mosques & Imams National Advisory Board considers the question a lot of people have been asking, *have we left it too late to act against Climate Change? Is the world set on a course for destruction and there is nothing we can do about it?*

1. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said ***“If the Hour (the day of Resurrection) is about to be established and one of you was holding a seedling, let him take advantage of even one second before the Hour is established to plant it.”*** (Ahmad)

This is a clear instruction from our Prophet (pbuh) that no matter what we think is about to happen we must continue to play our role and fulfil our duty. This narration can be used in many contexts but it is telling that the example for nature has been used and is very pertinent to today’s climate problems. As Muslim’s, we never give up on life, no matter how palliative that life is, we would continue to provide that person with the best of care with the intention that he will get better. It should be no different to issues of the planet. This planet is an amanah of our Creator and we must continue to show care, compassion and fight for its justice.

2. In Surah Rum (30:41) Allah swt says ***“Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned so He may let them taste part of [the consequence of] what they have done that perhaps they will return [to righteousness].”***

You are quite well versed with this ayah, the main point I take from this that Allah swt is asking us to ‘reflect’ and telling us that if we reflect on the consequences we are facing, we have the ability to change things and go back to better times. ‘Reflection’ is described as a process that helps turn experience into knowledge and involves thought and exploration of a concept or event. It is a form of problem solving that is used to resolve issues, and involves the careful consideration of a current practice, based on their knowledge and beliefs

The Quran is a coaching manual and continues to coach us about climate action till this day

3. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said ***“When any of you sees an injustice/evil let him change it with his hand. If he is not able to do so, then let him change it with his tongue. And if he is not able to do so then let him hate it with his heart though that is the least of his faith”***(Sahih Muslim).

Here we are clearly being told that it is incumbent upon Muslims to stand up against all forms of injustice and that includes standing up for climate justice. It is not enough for us to

## Climate Change: is it too late to act?

be sad about the devastation being caused, to please our Lord and creator, we must convert our feelings of sorrow, anger, guilt etc into something more meaningful which brings about systemic change.

4. Some other Quran ayahs which are relevant to climate justice movements

**"...Allah does not change the condition of people unless they change what is in themselves".** (Quran [13:11](#))

*"You who believe, uphold justice and bear witness to God, even if it is against yourselves, your parents, or your close relatives. Whether the person is rich or poor, God can best take care of both. Refrain from following your own desire, so that you can act justly- if you distort or neglect justice, God is fully aware of what you do. (Quran 4:135)*

**"Be a community that calls for what is good, urges what is right and forbids what is wrong. Those who do, are the successful ones"**  
(Quran 3:104)