

# Prophetic instruction and personal ethics

LESSON PLAN 3 PRESENTATION

YAQeen™  
INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC RESEARCH



# Recap & connect

**Lesson plan ②** looked at the macro-level impact of corporate and government entities on the environment.

- These powerful entities exploit the environment's resources for profit.
- Today's environmental crisis is mostly a consequence of this system.

**Lesson plan ③** shifts from a macro-level to the personal-level of thinking about environmental ethics.

- We will explore hadith traditions about our personal mindset, attitudes, values, and practices that have a positive effect on the environment



Photo: Eoghan Rice / Trócaire.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A\\_young\\_boy\\_sits\\_over\\_an\\_open\\_sewer\\_in\\_the\\_Kibera\\_slum,\\_Nairobi.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_young_boy_sits_over_an_open_sewer_in_the_Kibera_slum,_Nairobi.jpg)

The Prophet said, **“Should you wish to act, ponder well the consequences. If good, carry on. If not, desist.”**

(Ibn al-Mubārak)

إذا أردت أن تفعل أمرا فتدبر عاقبته. فإن كان خيرا فأَمْضِه؛ وإن كان شرا فانتَه

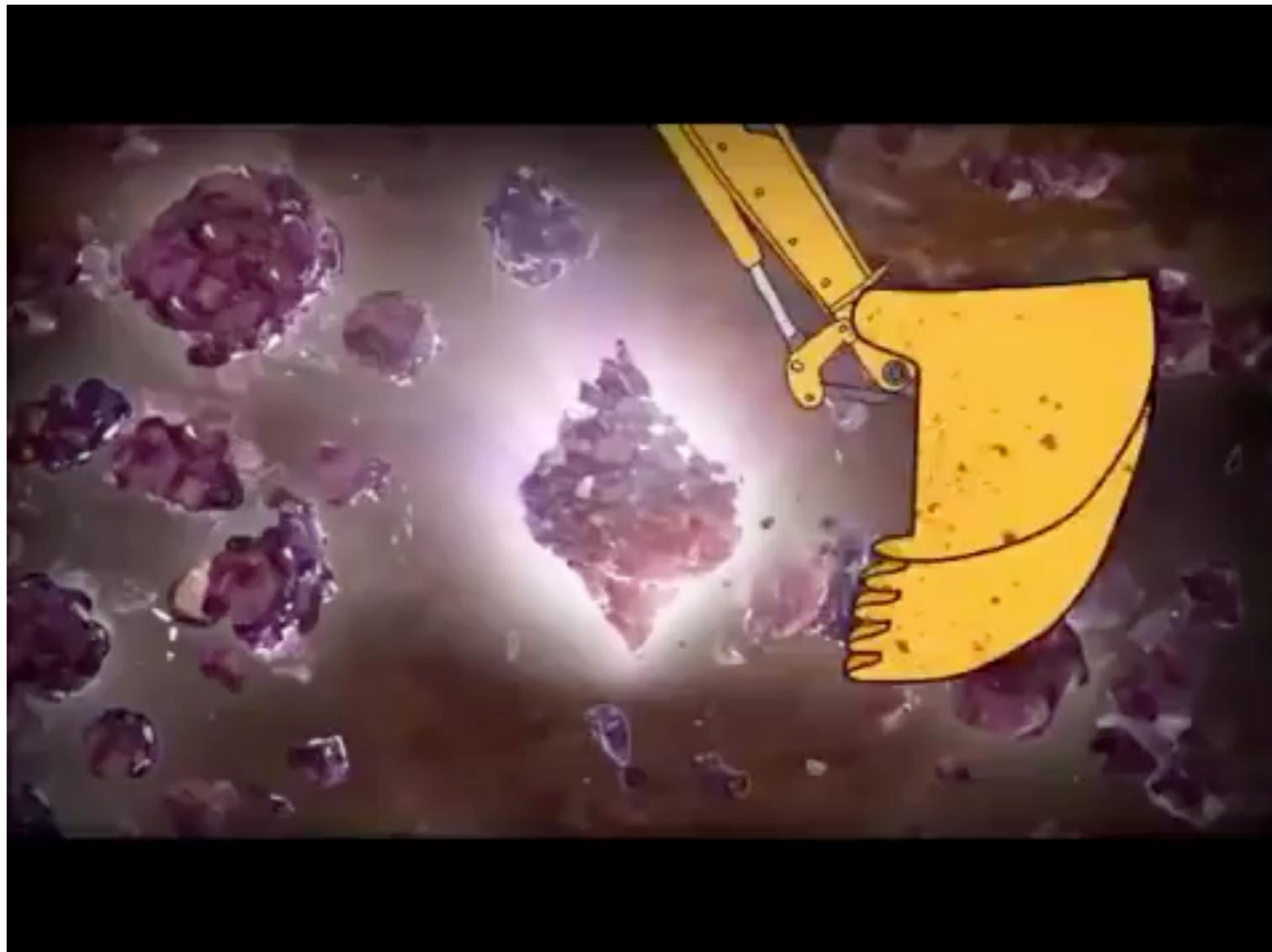
(ابن المبارك)



# Partner activity

## post-its review

What messages and lessons can you derive from the video?





# “Consumerism”

With your partner, reflect on each clip and discuss the prompts on your worksheet.

- **Part two** (1:20-3:35): Describe the man’s attitudes and habits in this clip, and the kinds of societal and cultural pressures that may be shaping them.
- **Part three** (3:35-4:33): Describe the man’s mindset transformation at the end of the video and what may have caused him to change. What factors from this man’s life may have made this transformation initially difficult?





# Prophetic advice

## post-its

- 1 Review the messages written on your post-it notes.
- 2 With your partner, make further connections with these messages and the hadiths.
- 3 How can we link the messages from the “Consumerism” video to the prophet’s advice on **personal environmental ethics?**



**"Should you wish to act, ponder well the consequences. If good, carry on. If not, desist."  
(Ibn al-Mubārak)**

### **Macro: big actors, actions and consequences**

- Action: extracting tons of natural resources (fossil fuels, oil, minerals, metals) and demolishing natural landscapes in the process.
- Consequence: the extinction of many species, the destruction of many natural habitats, and the pollution of many bodies of water.

### **Personal actions and consequences**

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Consequence: \_\_\_\_\_

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Consequence: \_\_\_\_\_



**“I used to think that top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don’t know how to do that.”**

(Gus Speth)