

KHUTBA

Friday 29.01.10

English

Hope and Despair

Dear Muslims,

Life is full of troubles and difficulties that make life unpleasant sometimes. When facing these difficulties people are of two kinds. Some people act patiently and are hopeful that it will turn for the better while others become desperate and see only the dark side of life.

Indeed it is natural to feel happy in the good times and sad and disappointed in the bad times. Sometimes, it is considered even healthy to express our feelings, especially when we are overwhelmed or pushed to our limits. However, we should not let our feelings control us because neither good times nor bad times persist forever. This can easily happen as it is part of the human nature to do that, if it is not well controlled.

If We give man a taste of Mercy from Ourselves, and then withdraw it from him, behold! he is in despair and (falls into) blasphemy. * But if We give him a taste of (Our) favours after adversity hath touched him, he is sure to say, "All evil has departed from me:" Behold! he falls into exultation and pride. [Koran 11:9-10]

Yet when We bestow Our favours on man, he turns away and becomes remote on his side (instead of coming to Us), and when evil seizes him he gives himself up to despair! [Koran 17: 83]

Man does not weary of asking for good (things), but if ill touches him, he gives up all hope (and) is lost in despair. [Koran 41:49]

As Muslims we are taught by our religion to be hopeful. We should always face difficulties with patience and optimism because we know that Allah is there and He will help us if we ask Him. Even in our worst situation, when we make many big sins and vices, get carried away and controlled by our desires and followed the devil path, we still know that Allah will forgive us if we perform *Tawbah* and correct our behavior:

Say: "O my Servants who have transgressed against their souls! Despair not of the Mercy of God: for God forgives all sins: for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. [Koran 39:53]

This attitude of being hopeful has been encouraged by the prophets. Prophet Jacob said to his sons:

O my sons! Go ye and enquire about Joseph and his brother, and never give up hope of God's Soothing Mercy: truly no one despairs of God's Soothing Mercy, except those who have no faith. [Koran 12:87]

And to prophet Mohammad (saws) when he said: **Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: «A strong believer is better and is more lovable to Allah than a weak believer, and there is good in everyone, (but) cherish that which gives you benefit (in the Hereafter) and seek help from Allah and do not lose heart, and if anything (in the form of trouble) comes to you, don't say: If I had not done that, it would not have happened so and so, but say: Allah did that what He had ordained to do and your" if" opens the (gate) for the Satan».** [Muslim]

Imran b. Husain reported: «Verily the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) said: Seventy thousand men of my Ummah would enter Paradise without rendering account. They (the companions of the Prophet) said: Who would be those, Messenger of Allah? He (the Prophet) said: They would be those who neither practice charm, not take omens, nor do they cauterize, but they repose their trust in their Lord». [Muslim]

These are examples on how Islam encourages people to be hopeful in Allah. Despair is not allowed because it is a character of people who does not know that Allah is merciful. It is a character of people with no faith while the true Muslims should always be faithful. They know that everything is from Allah and no one can change the will of God.

On the authority of Abdullah bin Abbas, who said: «**One day I was behind the prophet and he said to me:» «Young man, I shall teach you some words [of advice]. Be mindful of Allah, and Allah will protect you. Be mindful of Allah, and you will find Him in front of you. If you ask, ask of Allah; if you seek help, seek help of Allah. Know that if the Nation were to gather together to benefit you with anything, it would benefit you only with something that Allah had already prescribed for you, and that if they gather together to harm you with anything, they would harm you only with something Allah had already prescribed for you. The pens have been lifted and the pages have dried».** [Al Tirmidhi]

They also know that after darkness comes light and after hardship come the ease.

Verily, with every difficulty, there is relief.* Verily, with every difficulty there is relief. [Koran 94:5-6]

Dear Muslims,

Nowadays Muslims are weak and defeated. Islam is accused to be the religion of terrorism and Muslims are abused and suppressed in many places in the world. In spite of that we should not panic because this is the normal cycle as Allah told us:

If a wound hath touched you, be sure a similar wound hath touched the others. Such days (of varying fortunes) We give to men and men by turns: that God may know those that believe, and that He may take to Himself from your ranks Martyr-witnesses (to Truth). And God loveth not those that do wrong. [Koran 3:140]

These hard times we face are to test our faith and belief. It is good chance for us to see our weaknesses. Instead of being desperate, we should use this chance to revise and strengthen ourselves, overcome our weaknesses and be bound to our religion.

Did ye think that ye would enter Heaven without God testing those of you who fought hard (In His Cause) and remained steadfast? [Koran 3:142]

And We shall try you until We test those among you who strive their utmost and persevere in patience; and We shall try your reported (mettle). [Koran 47:31]

Or do ye think that ye shall enter the Garden (of bliss) without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? They encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even the Apostle and those of faith who were with him cried: "When (will come) the help of God?" Ah! Verily, the help of God is (always) near! [Koran 2:214]

(Respite will be granted) until, when the messengers give up hope (of their people) and (come to) think that they were treated as liars, there reaches them Our help, and those whom We will be delivered into safety. But never will be warded off our punishment from those who are in sin. [Koran12:110]

Know that the support from Allah does not come easy. It comes after hard tests and calamities. These calamities are, as mentioned, for us to reform ourselves and be good human as well as good Muslims. Once we have done that, the support will come.

Men said to them: "A great army is gathering against you": And frightened them: But it (only) increased their Faith: They said: "For us God sufficeth, and He is the best disposer of affairs." * And they returned with Grace and bounty from God: no harm ever touched them: For they followed the good pleasure of God: And God is the Lord of bounties unbounded. [Koran 3:173-174]

So fear Allah, reform yourself, strengthen your faith and be ready for the relief, help and support.

O Allah, we seek refuge from despair and punishment. And; we ask You to forgive us, our parents and all Muslims.

Amen

Khutba av Sidi Mohamed Ould Cherif