

KHUTBA
Friday 09th of April 2010
English

After hardship is ease

Dear Muslims,

In this life, we are exposed to many difficulties and burdens. We have, definitely, already met many in the past; and the wise and realistic people would expect more in their coming days. However, for us Muslims, Allah swt promised us ease after any hardship: ***Verily, along with every hardship is relief * Verily, along with every hardship is relief.*** [Al-Sharh 5-6]

Nevertheless, this ease is conditional and connected to faith and belief: ***and for those who fear God, He will make their path easy.*** [Al-Talaq 4]

So the true Muslim with strong faith is never worried during the hard time because, as Allah swt promises, the good times will come soon after. There are many examples in the Islamic history that clearly illustrates how hard times can reveal goodness. The early and first example is the pain and suffer that Muslims experienced during the early days of Islam in Makkah. However, soon after, they have migrated to *Almadinah* and in a short period they became the stronger and the favored side.

Another example is the Al-Ahzab battle which is better described by the Quran: ***O ye who believe! Remember the Grace of God, (bestowed) on you, when there came down on you hosts (to overwhelm you): But We sent against them a hurricane and forces that ye saw not: but God sees (clearly) all that ye do * Behold! they came on you from above you and from below you, and behold, the eyes became dim and the hearts gaped up to the throats, and ye imagined various (vain) thoughts about God! * In that situation were the Believers tried: they were shaken as by a tremendous shaking.*** [Al-Ahzab 9-11]

Also after the death of the Prophet (saws), when many people abandoned Islam and returned back to become disbelievers, the situation became terrible and unstable. However just soon after, everything was settled, and Muslims were again able to spread the Message to the whole universe.

The last example is when the hypocrites conspire against the Prophet's wife, Aisha, and claimed that she had sexual relation with another man. Soon after, Allah revealed their conspiracy and declared that Aisha is innocent. The astonishing thing, however, is the way that the Quran describes this event: ***Those who brought forward the lie are a body among yourselves: think it not to be an evil to you; On the contrary it is good for you.*** [Al-Nur 11], indicating that although seemingly bad, this incidence will bring good for Muslims.

So, hardship, corruption, suffers and many unpleasant incidences or acts, although not desired, may sometimes be necessary and even pre-requirement for the good to come. Indeed, the continuous exposure to troubles and difficulties may result in pessimism and disappointment. In such times the need for people who understand the right concept of life such as leaders and scholars, arises. It is their responsibility to help others to overcome such conditions. Prophet Muhammed (saws) took this responsibility himself during the early Islamic period. He was continuously urging them to be optimistic and telling them that every thing will change soon. Here are two incidences as an example:

When his Companions complained about the harsh conditions and persecution in Makkah, he answered: **«By Allah! This religion (Islam) will be completed (and triumph) till a rider (traveler) goes from San'a' (the capital of Yemen) to Hadramout fearing nobody except Allah and the wolf lest it should trouble his sheep, but you are impatient.»** [Narrated by Al-Bukhari] **Al-Bara' said: «On Al-Khandaq (the trench) Day there stood out a rock too immune for our spades to break up. We therefore went to see the Messenger of Allah (saws) for advice. He took the spade, and struck the rock uttering: "Bismillah, Allahu Akbar (in the Name of Allah, Allah is Great) the keys of Ash-Sham (geographical Syria) are mine, I swear by Allah, I can**

see its palaces at the moment.” On the second strike he said: “Allahu Akbar, Persia is mine, I swear by Allah, I can now see the white palace of Madain.” And for the third time he struck the rock, which turned into very small pieces, and said: “Allah is Great, I have been given the keys of Yemen, I swear by Allah, I can see the gates of San‘a while I am in my place.”» [Narrated by Ahmad]

It is noteworthy that helping people does not mean telling them lies or giving them a fake picture of the situation, but rather by showing them how to behave and think to get out of this situation, spread the optimism and helping them to be patient and accept Allah’s will.

Dear Muslims,

Never be despair or disappointed during the hard times. In contrast use it to refine your self both at personal and religious level. Know that every one have a destiny that he has to fulfill and nothing can happen in this universe without Allah’s will: ***No kind of calamity can occur, except by the leave of God: and if any one believes in God, (God) guides his heart (aright): for God knows all things.*** [Al-Taghabun 11]

So, instead of crying about what has happened and blaming this or that, accept the fact that it happened and ask God to help you to overcome the situation. Don’t be sad and be positive because Allah promises the believer with good end.

So lose not heart, nor fall into despair: For ye must gain mastery if ye are true in Faith. [Al-Imran 139]

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 are delivered into safety. But never will be warded off our punishment from those who are in sin. [Yusuf 110]

Know that Allah owns the whole universe and that He promises to answer the believer’s prayer; hence, seek His help, ask Him for your needs and don’t ask other persons, because He is the only one who can help you. **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. Get to know Allah in prosperity and He will know you in adversity. If you ask, ask of Allah; if you seek help, seek help of Allah. The pens have dried with what befalls (on you). So, 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. Know that there is a lot of good in patience, that victory comes with patience, relief with affliction, and ease with hardship.»** [Narrated by Ahmad]

May Allah give us strength to endure hardship with patience and to emerge from all the trials and tribulations of this life with our faith renewed and our trust in Allah increased.

Amen