

Khutba

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English

Patience

Dear Muslims

Allah, Almighty, say in Quran ***"Who say, when afflicted with calamity: "To God we belong, and to Him is our return" *They are those on whom (descend) blessings from their Lord, and Mercy, and they are the ones that receive guidance" Al-Baqarah 156-157***

"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.

Alqamah, and others, said regarding the meaning of the latter verse: **"He (i.e. the person referred to in the verse) is the one who, when calamity strikes him, knows that it is from his Rabb (God) and accepts it with equanimity and submission (to Allah's Will)"**

Every one should know that hardships and calamities that has occurred, occur or will occur to him are from Allah, the wisest of judges; and that He, almighty, does not aim to punish or destroy him by these hardships. Rather, the purpose of these hardships is to hear you praying and asking Him His help. Yes, Allah, the creator of the whole universe, wants to hear you asking Him. He wants to see you knocking on his door seeking His help with tender heart and hope. When the person does that, then He promised him with good rewards. ***"Be sure We shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil), but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere" Al-Baqarah 155.***

"Say: "O ye my servants who believe! Fear your Lord, good is (the reward) for those who do good in this world. Spacious is God's earth! those who patiently persevere will truly receive a reward without measure!"" Al-Zumar 10.

"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)" Muhammad 31.

Abu Sa'id and Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (PBUH) said: *(Never a believer is stricken with a discomfort, an illness, an anxiety, a grief or mental worry or even the pricking of a thorn but Allah will expiate his sins on account of his patience)* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.**

Abu Yahya Suhaib bin Sinan (May Allah be pleased with him) reported that: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, *(How wonderful is the case of a believer; there is good for him in everything and this applies only to a believer. If prosperity attends him, he expresses gratitude to Allah and that is good for him; and if adversity befalls him, he endures it patiently and that is better for him)* **Narrated by Muslim.**

Al-Fudayl bin Eyad said: **Allah keep testing the faithful person with calamities just as the good person keep doing good things to his family.**

So, whenever you are faced with hardship you have to be patient and keep in mind that it is Allah, the wisest, the most knowledgeable, and the most merciful, who has destined it for you. He might bestow His mercy on his slave by giving him blessings, and further by guiding him to thank these blessings. He, almighty, might also bestow this mercy, on the other hand, by testing and trying him with hardships and calamities and guiding him to accept His will and be patient, expiating his sins in account of that.

Every one is tried and tested with calamities according to his faith. The more faithful the slave is the harder the test will be. Prophet Mohamed indicated this when he said: *(This world is a prison for the believer and paradise for the non-believer)* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.** Since that is the case, the most tested people are the prophets. They were tested by calamities and hardships more than everyone as they are the most faithful to their Lord. Abu Sa'id Al-khodri asked the Messenger, "O Allah's Messenger, who among the people are most severely afflicted? He replied: *"Those who are mostly afflicted among the people are the prophets, then the scholars, then the righteous. Indeed, some of them are afflicted with lice until it killed them. And some were afflicted with poverty until they had nothing to wear but a coarse cloak. Indeed, they were more happy with affliction than you would be with comfort"* **Narrated by Ibn Majah.**

When exposed to calamities, people respond in different ways. These ways can be categorized in 4 categories:

- 1- Wrath and anger: This is of three types:
 - By heart (i.e. to be angry with God because of what has happened to you) and it is forbidden in Islam. ***"There are among men some who serve God, as it were, on the verge: if good befalls them, they are, therewith, well content; but if a trial comes to them, they turn on their faces: they lose both this world and the Hereafter: that is loss for all to see!" Al-Hajj 11.***
 - By saying bad things and expressing the anger by words. It is also forbidden in Islam.
 - By acts: such as beating cheeks, and tearing the clothes. It is also forbidden in Islam.

- 2- Patience: Although he feels pain and grief, the person accepts the God's will. His patience protects him from showing wrath and anger. However he still feels the pain in his heart. This category is the least to be when you are faced by hardships as Allah says: **"...and be patient and persevering: For Allah is with those who patiently persevere"** *Al-Anfal 46*.
- 3- Acceptance: This acceptance is in a way that the person does not feel burden or pain because of the hardship. He faces it with total acceptance and submission knowing that it is from Allah. The difference between acceptance and patience lies on the feeling of pain and hardness to accept the calamity.
- 4- Gratitude: This is the highest degree where the person thanks Allah for the hardship and calamity knowing that it is for his good. This category can only be reached by people with strong and true faith.

Dear Muslims,

Patience is a golden key for great rewards. **"Be sure We shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil), but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere * Who say, when afflicted with calamity: "To God we belong, and to Him is our return" "Al-Baqarah 155-156**

Prophet Muhammad said: *(There is no Muslim who is stricken with a calamity and (then) says what God has enjoined (to say): 'Verily, to God we belong and unto Him is our return; O God, reward me for my affliction and compensate me with something better' but God will compensate him with something better)* **Narrated by Muslim.**

Patience during calamities is not easy and requires high degree of training and self control. Here are some things that you need to recall during the hardships, which can help you to be patient and get the great rewards:

1- Believing in destiny and that whatever happens is happening with Allah's will. **"Say: "Nothing will happen to us except what God has decreed for us: He is our protector": and on God let the Believers put their trust" Al-Tawbah 51.**

"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.

Prophet Mohamed said: *(Allah wrote down the decrees of creation fifty thousand years before He created the heavens and the earth.)* **Narrated by Muslim.**

2- Knowing that death is the fate of everyone **"Every soul shall have a taste of death..." Al-Imran 185.**

3- Knowing that this worldly life is the place where we are tested and tried with hardships **"Be sure We shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil), but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere" Al-Baqarah 155.**

4- Knowing that wrath and grief does not change the destiny but rather make the hardship worse, make you gain more sins, and make you miss the rewards.

5- Remembering that you, all what you have and whatever on the earth belongs to Allah, as He is the creator of everything

6- Consoling your self by remembering the biggest calamity that Muslims have, the death of prophet Mohamed (PBUH).

7- Performing prayers. Allah says in Quran: **"O ye who believe! Seek help with patient perseverance and prayer; for God is with those who patiently persevere" Al-Baqarah 153.** That was the act of Prophet Mohamed as it has been reported that he used to pray whenever he is faced with hardships.

8- Remembering the rewards of patience. **"Gardens of perpetual bliss: they shall enter there, as well as the righteous among their fathers, their spouses, and their offspring: and angels shall enter unto them from every gate (with the salutation): * "Peace unto you for that ye persevered in patience! Now how excellent is the final home!" "Al-Ra'd 23-24.**

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him), said that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: *(Allah (mighty and sublime be He) says: My faithful servant's reward from Me, if I have taken to Me his best friend from amongst the inhabitants of the world and he has then borne it patiently for My sake, shall be nothing less than Paradise)* **Narrated by Al-Bukhari**

We ask Allah to help us face calamities and hardships with patience and acceptance and reward us with the rewards of patience.

Amen