

## **Bismillaheer Rahmaneer Raheem – In the Name of Allah the All-Beneficent, All-Merciful**

As Salamu Alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh,

All praise be to Allah and may Allah's peace and blessing be upon his last messenger, Muhammad alayhe salat wa salam. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad (sallallahu alayhe wa salam) is his slave and last messenger.

The topic is about calamities and hardship and tests facing the Muslim Ummah today. If someone is afflicted with a calamity, and that person shows patience then it will be good for him/her in the here-after and that is similar if Allah's favours are bestowed to them and they are thankful and grateful for Allah, then once again it will be good for them in the here-after and in surat Az-Zumar Allah subhana wa Ta'ala says concerning these type of people: **Say: "O My servants who believe, have taqwa of your Lord. Good is for those who do good in this world, and Allah's earth is spacious! Only those who are patient shall receive their reward in full, without reckoning."** (Surat Az-Zumar 39:10)

If a person is obedient to Allah subhana wa Ta'ala then he/she will benefit in the here-after, however if he/she is disobedient by committing sins till he/she meets Allah then he/she is surely one of the losers. We have been given this life and there are a lot of beneficial things to do to increase our eeman and deeds and instead of wasting our time, we should be busy with the worship of Allah Azza wa Jall. Allah the Almighty says: **We have not created jinn's and mankind except to worship Me.** (Az-Zariyat 51:56)

Allah the Almighty has also ordered us that we fear Him as He should be feared and not to die except in a state of Islam: **O believers! Fear Allah [by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden] as He should be feared and die not but as true Muslims.** (Surat Alee-e-Imran 3:102)

Similarly, Allah subhana wa Ta'ala described His believing slaves as the one who joined between fear of Allah's punishment and sincerity in worship in their hearts: **Verily! Those who live in awe for fear of their Lord; and those who believe in the ayat of their Lord; and those who join not anyone [in worship] as partners with Allah; and those who give that [their charity] which they give [and also do other good deeds] with their hearts full of fear, because they are sure to return to their Lord [for reckoning]. It is those who race for good deeds and they are foremost in them** (Surat Al-Mu'minin 23:57-61)

Allah subhana wa Ta'ala does not put any hardship on a person in the religion of Islam and does not burden a person beyond his scope. Allah has said in Surat Al-Hajj: **Strive in the Way of Allah as you ought to strive with sincerity and discipline; He has chosen you and has not laid upon you any hardship in the observance of your faith...** (Surat Al-Hajj 22:78)

Allah has also said in Surat Al-Baqarah: Allah does not burden any human being with more than he can bear. (Surat Al-Baqarah 2:286)

Islam is a simple and flexible religion. Everyone, regardless of where they live, can easily practice the Deen of Islam. At the same time, we get tested by Allah subhana wa Ta'ala in different situations. The main test is whether we turn to him for help or not and be steadfast in His worship. Allah Azza wa Jall says in Surat Al-Kahf: **We have decked the earth with all kinds of ornaments to test the people and to see which of them do the best deeds.** (Surat Al-Kahf 18:07)

Similarly Allah said in Surat Al-Mulk: **The One Who created death and life, so that He may put you to test, to find out which of you is best in deeds: He is the All-Mighty, the All-Forgiving.** (Surat Al-Mulk 67:02) and also in Surat Ad-Dahr: **Indeed, We have created man from the sperm drop containing both sexes, so that We may test him. Therefore, We gave him the faculties of hearing and sight.** (Surat Ad-Dahr 76:02)

By Allah subhana wa Ta'ala passing us through various test, he is trying us to see who is best in deeds and who is the truthful worshipper. We should turn to Him in repentance for indeed he is the Most Merciful.

If Allah afflicts you with a calamity there is none who can remove it but He. In Surat Yunus Allah says: **If Allah afflicts you with a calamity, none can remove it but He; and if He intends to bestow a favor, none can withhold His bounty. He bestows it on whomsoever of His servants He pleases; He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.**" (Surat Yunus 10:107)

Allah also has mentioned that everyone shall go through a trial and be tested: **Do you think that you will enter paradise without going through the trial? Allah has not yet tested you to see who among you strive hard for His cause and who show patience for His sake.** (Surat Alee-e-Imran 3:142)

Therefore by turning to Allah for forgiveness and being patient, by the will of Allah that calamity will end and mercy will be shown. Allah subhana wa Ta'ala commanded us to seek his help with patience and that He is with those who have patience. **O' You who believe! Seek My help with patience and prayer: surely, Allah is with those who are patient.** (Surat Al-Baqarah 2:153). And surely, the good news is for those who endure with patience as Allah mentioned: **We shall surely test your steadfastness with fear and famine, with loss of property, life and produce. Give good news to those who endure with patience; who, when afflicted with calamity, say: "We belong to Allah and to Him we shall return."** (Surat Al-Baqarah 2:155-156).

Just as I talked about Allah describing the believers as fearful Him, Allah Azza wa Jall also mentions that those who are punctual in their Salah are those who fear Allah and we shall seek help through patience and salah: **Seek Allah's help with patience and Salah: it is indeed hard to be patient and to be punctual in offering Salah except for those who fear Allah, who are certain in their mind that they are going to meet their Rabb and that they are going to return to Him for final judgement.** (Surat Al-Baqarah 2:45-46).

Therefore, let's be sincere in our worship, fear Allah as He should be feared and have patience so that we may succeed. And if we are facing a calamity, then let's seek help through the salah and patience insha'Allah. If I have said anything wrong then know that it is either from the Shaitan or me and if I have said anything good, then know that it is from Allah.

...O Rabb! Give us patience and cause us die as Muslims." (Surat Al-A'raf 7:126)