

As Salamou Alaikoum Wa Rahmatoullahi Wa Barakatouhou

All praise is for Allah, we seek His help and His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allah from the evil of our own souls [and from our bad deeds]. Whomsoever Allah guides will never be led astray, and whomsoever Allah leaves astray, no one can guide. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, [alone and without any partner] and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

And We have sent you (O Muhammad SAW) not but as a mercy for the 'Alamin (mankind, jinns and all that exists).

قُلْ إِنَّمَا يُوحَىٰ لِي أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاحِدٌ فَهَلْ أَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

"Say (O Muhammad SAW): "It is revealed to me that your Ilah (God) is only one Ilah (God - Allah). Will you then submit to His Will (become Muslims and stop worshipping others besides Allah)?" Quran 21: 7-8

There is no doubt that the Muslim face now a days trials after trials. Islam is being attacked from every sides day and evening.

Of course we Muslims are suffering from all these attacks to the extent that practicing has become a difficult hurdle except those who remained steadfast to Islam teaching.

There is also no doubt that what is going on around the world is based on Allah's Willing and Wisdom to test the believers in order to know who are really truthful on His Message. The nations before us went through the same trials just as Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and his followers went through the same tests:

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَن تُدْخَلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُم مِّثْلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ مَسْتَهْمِبًا سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ
وَرُزِقُوا حَتَّىٰ يَقُولَ الرَّسُولُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ مَتَىٰ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ أَلا إِنَّا نَصْرُ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ

"Or think you that you will enter Paradise without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? They were afflicted with severe poverty and ailments and were so shaken that even the Messenger and those who believed along with him said, "When (will come) the Help of Allah?" Yes! Certainly, the Help of Allah is near!" Quran 2: 214

Just as they went through the same trials, shall we too. We shouldn't be surprised by it because Allah has warned us about it in the Quran:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ
وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكَاذِبِينَ
أَمْ حَسِبَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ أَنْ يَسْبِقُونَا سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ

"Alif-Lam-Mim.

Do people think that they will be left alone because they say: "We believe," and will not be tested. And We indeed tested those who were before them.

And Allah will certainly make (it) known (the truth of) those who are true, and will certainly make (it) known (the falsehood of) those who are liars, (although Allah knows all that before putting them to test).

Or those who do evil deeds think that they can outstrip Us (i.e. escape Our Punishment)? Evil is that which they judge!" Quran 29:1-4

Did Allah just warn us about these forecoming trials without teaching us a way to get out of it or to handle it?

Allah has revealed His Book to take us out of the darkness to the light. Meaning that we have been warned about our ailments and we have been simultaneously also gifted with the remedy to these ailments.

The following verses from the Surah Al Ankabut, mentioned above, actually inform us about the remedies:

مَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ أَجَلَ اللَّهِ لَآتٍ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ
وَمَنْ جَاهَدَ فَإِنَّمَا يُجَاهِدُ لِنَفْسِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَغَنِيٌّ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ
وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُكَفِّرَنَّ عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَحْسَنَ الَّذِي كَانُوا
يَعْمَلُونَ

"Whoever hopes for the Meeting with Allah, then Allah's Term is surely coming. and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower.

And whosoever strives, he strives only for himself. Verily, Allah is free of all wants from the 'Alamin (mankind, jinns, and all that exists).

Those who believe [in the Oneness of Allah (Monotheism) and in Messenger Muhammad SAW, and do not apostate because of the harm they receive from the polytheists], and do righteous good deeds, surely, We shall remit from them their evil deeds and shall reward them according to the best of that which they used to do." Quran 29:5-7

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُدْخِلَنَّهُمْ فِي الصَّالِحِينَ

"And for those who believe (in the Oneness of Allah and other items of Faith) and do righteous good deeds, surely, We shall make them enter in (the entrance of) the righteous (i.e. in Paradise)." Quran 29:9

We should remain steadfast to our religion whatever trials come and not compromise the teachings of our beloved Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) in order gain favor from the disbelievers. Whoever does so has truly betray his commitment to Allah. Those people are just like Allah says the following verses of Al Ankabut :

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَقُولُ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ فَإِذَا أُوذِيَ فِي اللَّهِ جَعَلَ فِتْنَةَ النَّاسِ كَعَذَابِ اللَّهِ وَلَئِن جَاءَ
نَصْرٌ مِّن رَّبِّكَ لَيَقُولُنَّ إِنَّا كُنَّا مَعَكُمْ أَوْ لَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَعْلَمَ بِمَا فِي صُدُورِ الْعَالَمِينَ
وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ

"Of mankind are some who say: "We believe in Allah," but if they are made to suffer for the sake of Allah, they consider the trial of mankind as Allah's punishment, and if victory comes from your Lord, (the hypocrites) will say: "Verily! We were with you (helping you)." Is not Allah Best Aware of what is in the breast of the 'Alamin (mankind and jinns). Verily, Allah knows those who believe, and verily, He knows the hypocrites [i.e. Allah will test the people with good and hard days to discriminate the good from the wicked (although Allah knows all that before putting them to test)]." Quran 29: 10-11

The following verses of Surah Al Ankabut between Ayat 14-42, give us a glimpse of the trials that other Prophets and their followers went through and how Allah saved them from the harm of the disbelievers and rewarded them because of their faith and perseverance. All of this is for us to learn through it and be armed with the true Faith in Allah (Aqida), knowledge and patience in order to get rid of our daily hardship hurdles. That's why Allah says to His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) in the next verse

وَتِلْكَ الْأَمْثَالُ نَضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ وَمَا يَعْقِلُهَا إِلَّا الْعَالِمُونَ

"And these similitudes We put forward for mankind, but none will understand them except those who have knowledge (of Allah and His Signs, etc.)." Quran 29:43

Allah then continue by providing Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) with other trials remedies

أَتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِيَّائِي مِنْ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ

"Recite (O Muhammad SAW) what has been revealed to you of the Book (the Quran), and perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat). Verily, As-Salat (the prayer) prevents from Al-Fahsha' (i.e. great sins of every kind, unlawful sexual intercourse, etc.) and Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief, polytheism, and every kind of evil wicked deed, etc.) and the remembering (praising, etc.) of (you by) Allah (in front of the angels) is greater indeed [than your remembering (praising, etc.) Allah in prayers, etc.]. And Allah knows what you do." Quran 29:45

Definitely the prayer with Khushu'u and the remembrance of Allah are two main remedies in time of trials, grief, depression and weakness. Allah continues by providing us golden rules on how to discuss and behave with Christians and Jews.

وَلَا تُجَادِلُوا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَّا بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ وَقُولُوا آمَنَّا بِالَّذِي أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَأُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُمْ وَإِلَهُنَا وَإِلَهُكُمْ وَاحِدٌ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ

"And argue not with the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), unless it be in (a way) that is better (with good words and in good manner, inviting them to Islamic Monotheism with His Verses), except with such of them as do wrong, and say (to them): "We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you; our Ilah (God) and your Ilah (God) is One (i.e. Allah), and to Him we have submitted (as Muslims)." Quran 29 :46

With what we are facing now a days, it is quite clear that we Muslims have abandoned the true teachings of Islam and are behaving in ways that contradict these basics principles. Many Muslims have gone far to the two extremes:

- **The first group is that of those who are too harsh, intolerant and not patients** in their conduct with others. This results in wrongly hurting Muslims themselves, their neighbours and non Muslims.
- **The second group is too flexible and soft** that they compromise the fundamental teachings of their religion in the name of freedom, living together, democracy, integration etc....

None has suffered the same hardship and trials that Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) went through, yet he never sought revenge by ordering murdering, insulting, suicide attacks of his enemies as what some do today.

Instead he was lenient to his enemies to the extent of praying for them to receive guidance from Allah.

He only used force in cases where he imperatively needed to defend himself or after breach of security commitment by his enemies. In each case he acted proportionally according to the degree of the harm done to him.

We all know the hadith of Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her) relating the harder suffering the Prophet encountered in Taif. After this incident the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

"I looked up and saw Gabriel in it. He called me saying, "Allah has heard your people's saying to you and how they have replied. Allah has sent the Angel of the Mountains to you that you may order him to do whatever you wish to these people." The Angel of the Mountains greeted me, and said, "O Muhammad, order what you wish. If you like, I will let the mountains fall on them." The Prophet said, "No, I hope that Allah will bring from their descendants people who will worship Allah alone without associating partners with Him."

Source: Sahih Bukhari 3059, Sahih Muslim 1759

That was the mercy of Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) to those who wronged him until wishing from them and their offsprings the guidance of Islam.

Have we behave the same to those who insulted Islam and harmed us?

Have we ever called our neighbours to Islam with our good conduct not to mention gifting them a copy of Quran or a book on the biography of Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)?

None is and will be merciful as Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was.

Are we going then to betray Allah and His religion just because we need to prove our moderation whereas the one who was merciful and moderate than any of us didn't compromise any of Allah's commandments revealed to him?

Allah has warned him in the Quran if he (صلى الله عليه وسلم) were to follow the desires of Jews and Christians:

وَلَنْ تَرْضَىٰ عَنْكَ الْيَهُودُ وَلَا النَّصَارَىٰ حَتَّىٰ تَتَّبِعَ مِلَّتَهُمْ قُلْ إِنَّ هُدَىٰ اللَّهِ هُوَ الْهُدَىٰ وَلَئِنِ اتَّبَعْتَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ بَعْدَ الَّذِي جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ مَا لَكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ

"Never will the Jews nor the Christians be pleased with you (O Muhammad Peace be upon him) till you follow their religion. Say: "Verily, the Guidance of Allah (i.e. Islamic Monotheism) that is the (only) Guidance. And if you (O Muhammad Peace be upon him) were to follow their (Jews and Christians) desires after what you have received of Knowledge (i.e. the Quran), then you would have against Allah neither any Wali (protector or guardian) nor any helper." Quran 2:120

Islam is a religion of middle path and moderation. Any exaggeration to the extreme or moderation to the extreme is at the violation of the true teachings of Islam.

The Muslims who migrated to Abyssinia could have also made the same arguments in order to live in peace with the King, Negus. But when confronted with their Faith by the Negus, they didn't give up rather they recited the truth revealed by the Almighty and the Best Protector. And the outcome of this steadfastness is known to all, Allah guided the Negus to Islam.

That's how we Muslims should behave by keeping the fundamental teachings of Tawhid (Oneness of Allah) and by behaving with good conduct with the main aim of spreading truth, justice and good manners around us.

This is nothing but what the messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has summarized to Abu Dharr:

عن أبي ذر ومعاذ بن جبل أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: (اتق الله حيثما كنت واتبع السبيل الحسنة تمحها وخالق الناس بخلق حسن) رواه الترمذي وقال: حديث حسن.

Abu Dharr reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said to me, "Fear Allah wherever you are, follow a bad deed with a good deed and it will erase it, and behave with good character toward the people."

Source: Sunan At-Tirmidhi 1987

Ibn Rajab says: "This is a powerful advice, bringing together the rights of Allah and the rights of His servants."

There is no doubt we face difficult trials and provocations from the disbelievers but if we return to Allah's Book and the Sunnah, none of these attacks will harm us in our faith. Read what Allah says :

لَتُبَدَّلُونَ فِي أَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ وَلَتَسْمَعَنَّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ آتَوْا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا أَذًى كَثِيرًا وَإِنْ تَصْبِرُوا وَتَتَّقُوا فَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ

"You shall certainly be tried and tested in your wealth and properties and in your personal selves, and you shall certainly hear much that will grieve you from those who received the Scripture before you (Jews and Christians) and from those who ascribe partners to Allah, but if you persevere patiently, and become Al-Muttaqun (the pious - see V. 2:2) then verily, that will be a determining factor in all affairs, and that is from the great matters, [which you must hold on with all your efforts]."

Quran 3: 186

Notice two conditions for this success:

1. Patience and
2. Taqwa (Allah consciousness).

- How can you achieve patience by murdering your neighbors and having bad conduct?
- How can you achieve Taqwa by betraying Allah's commandments and the teachings of His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم)?

Coming back to Surah Al Ankabut from which we are drawing lessons on how to remain steadfast in time of trials, Allah said to Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)

قُلْ هُوَ بِاللَّهِ يُبَيِّنُ وَبَيْنَكُمْ شَهِيدًا طَّيِّعُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِالْبَاطِلِ وَكَفَرُوا بِاللَّهِ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ

"Say (to them O Muhammad SAW): "Sufficient is Allah for a witness between me and you. He knows what is in the heavens and on earth." And those who believe in Batil (all false deities other than Allah), and disbelieve in Allah and (in His Oneness), it is they who are the losers." Quran 29: 52

Allah went on to remind that the whole earth belongs to him and we should keep steadfast to His worship wherever we are and being conscious that we will die. The best reward being for those who believe in Him by doing good deeds, being patients and putting their trust in Allah:

يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّ أَرْضِي وَاسِعَةٌ فَإِيَّايَ فَاعْبُدُونِ
كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ
وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُبَوِّئَنَّهُمْ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ غُرَفًا تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ
فِيهَا نِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ
الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ

"O My slaves who believe! Certainly, spacious is My earth. Therefore worship Me (Alone)." Everyone shall taste the death. Then unto Us you shall be returned. And those who believe (in the Oneness of Allah Islamic Monotheism) and do righteous good deeds, to them We shall surely give lofty dwellings in Paradise, underneath which rivers flow, to live therein forever. Excellent is the reward of the workers. Those who are patient, and put their trust (only) in their Lord (Allah)."
Quran 29: 56-59

We should put our trust in Allah and not let our fear for worldly matters overwhelmed us to the extent of compromising our religion:

وَمَا يَتَّبِعُ مِنْ دَابَّةٍ لَّا تَحْمِلُ رِزْقَهَا اللَّهُ يَرْزُقُهَا وَإِيَّاكُمْ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ
"And so many a moving (living) creature there is, that carries not its own provision! Allah provides for it and for you. And He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower."
Quran 29:60

اللَّهُ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَقْدِرُ لَهُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ
"Allah enlarges the provision for whom He wills of His slaves, and straitens it for whom (He wills). Verily, Allah is the All-Knower of everything." Quran 29 :62

وَمَا لَهُذِهِ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَهْوٌ وَلَعِبٌ ۗ وَإِنَّ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ لَهِيَ الْحَيَوَانُ ۗ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ
"And this life of the world is only amusement and play! Verily, the home of the Hereafter, that is the life indeed (i.e. the eternal life that will never end), if they but knew"
Quran 29 :64

Allah ends this Surah, just as it started at Ayah 6, in an inspiring fashion instilling hope to those going through hardships while holding steadfast to their religion:

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِيْنَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا ۗ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ
"As for those who strive hard in Us (Our Cause), We will surely guide them to Our Paths (i.e. Allah's Religion - Islamic Monotheism). And verily, Allah is with the Muhsinun (good doers)." Quran 29:69

May Allah forgive us, guide us to His straight path and keep us steadfast and strong during trials. Amine