

Do Not Despair of Allah's Mercy

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ
وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالْأَمْوَالِ وَالنَّمْرِاتِ وَبَشِيرِ الصَّابِرِينَ (١٥٥) الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ
مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ (١٥٦))

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ قَالَتْ: فَقَدْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ لَيْلَةً مِنَ الْفَرَّاشِ، فَأَلْتَمَسْتُهُ،
فَوَقَعَتْ يَدِي عَلَى بَطْنِ قَدَمَيْهِ، وَهُوَ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ وَهُمَا مَنْصُوبَتَانِ وَهُوَ
يَقُولُ:

«اللَّهُمَّ! أَعُوذُ بِرِضَاكَ مِنْ سَخَطِكَ، وَبِمُعَافَاتِكَ مِنْ عُقُوبَتِكَ، وَأَعُوذُ
بِكَ مِنْكَ، لَا أَحْصِي ثَنَاءً عَلَيْكَ، أَنْتَ كَمَا أَثْنَيْتَ عَلَى نَفْسِكَ.»

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The human, sent as a Khalifa on Earth, is subject to various trials in accordance with the purpose of creation. The test process that began in paradise with our mother Hawa and father Adam will manifest differently for everyone until the day of Judgment Day. All of humanity will undergo this test and everyone will have their share. In the end, some will be among the winners while others will complete their lives as losers. Success in this test will increase one's reliance on and submission to Allah (swt), leading them to attain the promised glad tidings. In this aspect, the trial is not a bad thing; rather, it is one of the means to attain divine promises.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

It's impossible for anyone other than Allah (swt) to know the kind of trial we'll face or what difficulties will befall each person. However, when believers encounter hardship, they believe it's a test from Allah (swt), refraining from rebellion or objection, facing it with patience and reliance on Him. This strengthens their faith and brings them closer to the Creator. In the Qur'an, Allah (swt) says, **'We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger, and a loss of wealth, lives, and fruits. But give good tidings to the patient, who, when disaster strikes them, say, 'Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return.'"**¹

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Having the awareness that one is constantly being tested, a person should live life in a state of caution and should never forget this reality. There is neither a specific time nor a specific place for the test.

At any moment and anywhere, a person may face various trials. While it's possible to be tested and lose one's comfort at a time of ease, it's also possible to face calamities and hardships, yet emerge victorious within the difficulty. Both winning and losing in this test depend on a person's patience, steadfastness, reliance on Allah and submission to Him. The winners will attain the pleasure and contentment of Allah, becoming the righteous believers about whom Allah speaks of with praise.

Dear Jama'ah!

At times, when the weight of the burden becomes too heavy, we may lose hope and fall into despair. Let's know that no matter what difficulties we face or trials we endure, there is an all-knowing, all-seeing and ever-watchful God who knows and decrees everything. In this world, it should never be forgotten that nothing happens except by the will and decree of Allah. Even the flight of a bird in the sky, the movement of a bug on the ground, or the flutter of a leaf on a branch are all dependent on Allah's will and decree for their existence. Therefore, as servants of the Most Merciful, no matter what we encounter, good or bad, we believe that it's all by the decree and permission of Allah. We face these situations with complete patience and reliance on Him, never falling into despair and never losing our trust in Allah. We believe firmly that the ultimate power and might belong solely to the Almighty Allah. As echoed in the call to prayer five times a day, 'Allah is the greatest, and there is no power greater than Him.' He knows and observes everything that happens. Therefore, no matter the situation, Allah will never abandon His servant, nor will He leave them halfway. Through severe trials and hardships, Allah purifies and cleanses His servants. After that, surely beautiful days and glad tidings will come.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Let's conclude our khutba with a dua from our Prophet: "O Allah, I seek refuge in Your pleasure from Your wrath, and I seek refuge in Your protection (against sin) from Your punishment. I seek refuge in You from You. I cannot enumerate Your praise, You are as You have praised Yourself."² Through this opportunity, we also pray to Allah (swt) for help for our oppressed brothers and sisters, both in Palestine and in every corner of the world. We pray that they successfully overcome this severe trial soon.

¹ Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:155-156

² Muslim, Salât, 222