

Be Content With The Divine Decree

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله وعلى آهله وصحبه أجمعين

Ramaḍān is a month of blessing and mercy and it is upon the believer to take advantage of the month and to ask Allāh (سبحانه وتعالى) to accept it from us.

The Muslims should be patient with the qadr of Allāh (عز وجل), as the Prophet (ﷺ) said, “*Wal Qadarihi khairihi wa sharrihi – everything that is good and bad in this world is predestined by Allāh.*”

Allāh says in the Qur’ān,

﴿حِكْمَةٌ بَالِغَةٌ﴾

“Perfect wisdom...”
[Sūrah Al-Qamar 54:5]

Whatever Allāh decrees in this life has the greatest of wisdoms, whether we know it or not.

This patience with the decree of Allāh is especially needed for those who have been restricted this Ramaḍān due to the present pandemic.

In Ibnul Qayyim’s book ‘*Uddat as-Sābirīn -The Provisions of the Patient*, he mentions a narration of Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal wherein he said, “Allāh (عز وجل) mentioned the affair of patience in the Qur’ān in more than 90 places to inform us of the tremendous importance of that affair.”

From them is the command of Allāh to be patient with the decree. Allāh says,

﴿وَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ فَإِنَّكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا﴾

“So wait patiently (O Muḥammad) for the decision of you Lord...”
[Sūrah At-Tur 52:48]

Allāh also says,

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ﴾

“...Indeed, Allāh is with those who are patient”
[Sūrah Al-Baqarah 2:153 and Sūrah Al-Anfal 8:46]

Ibnul Qayyim also mentions a narration of one of the salaf, Abū ‘Alī where he said, “These individuals have attained tremendous virtues in this life and the next because they have obtained the ma‘iyya of Allāh.” This means that Allāh is with them in this life and the next; He supports and rewards them because He is pleased with them.

Citing more examples from the Qur’ān, Allāh also mentions three rewards for the people who exert patience. He says,

﴿الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمْ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ﴾ ﴿١٥٧﴾ ﴿أُولَئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ
مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ﴾

“Who, when afflicted with a calamity says, ‘Truly! To Allāh we belong and truly, to Him we shall return. They are those on whom are the ṣalawāt (i.e blessings) from their Lord, and they are those who receive His mercy, and it is they who are the guided ones.”

[Sūrah Al-Baqarah 2:156-157]

The three rewards:

1. Allāh will mention them with good among the malāikata
2. They will have the mercy of Allāh
3. They will be guided

Ibnul Qayyim mentioned a narration of one of the imāms of the salaf who was afflicted with a calamity. When someone came to give his condolences, he said to him, “Why should I not be patient when Allāh has promised me three rewards, each better than this world and all that is in it?”

Further examples of being patient is seen in the ḥadīth of Abū Ḥurayra where the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "No fatigue, nor disease, nor sorrow, nor sadness, nor hurt, nor

distress befalls a Muslim, even if it were the prick he receives from a thorn, but that Allāh expiates some of his sins for that.”

Also, from the ḥadīth of ‘Ā’ishah, the Prophet (ﷺ) said, “No calamity befalls a believer except that Allāh will raise him in levels, and Allāh will erase his sins.”

Ibnul Qayyim brings another narration from one the imāms of the salaf, Yūnus ibn ‘Ubayd. A man came to him and he was complaining about his financial problems, so Yūnus said to him, "Would you be happy to give up your eyesight for a hundred thousand dirhams?" He said, "No." He said, "Then what about your hearing?" He said, "No." He said, "Then what about your tongue?" He said, "No." He said, "Then what about your ‘aql (intellect)?" He said, "No, not for anything!" Then Yūnus reminded him of the favours of Allāh upon him after which he (Yūnus) said, "I see that Allāh (عز وجل) has given you hundreds of thousands of blessings, yet you are complaining of financial constraints!"

So the believer should count the blessings of Allāh upon him to achieve patience, in addition to the fruits of removing sins and elevating ranks.

Likewise, there is the ḥadīth of Abū Ḥurayra where the Prophet (ﷺ) said, “Look at those below you and do not look at those above you, so it can be a means for you to be appreciative of what Allāh has bestowed upon you.”

Reference is made to our brothers and sisters in Filasṭīn, China, Burma, Syria, and Yemen, to reflect on their sufferings in comparison to our lockdown restrictions.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, “Whoever among you wakes up physically healthy, feeling safe and secure within himself, with food for the day, it is as if he acquired the whole world.”

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, “Amazing is the affair of the believer! Indeed, all of his affairs are good for him. This is for no one but the believer. If something good happens to him, he is grateful to Allāh, which is good for him. And if something bad happens to him, he has patience, which is good for him.”

وصلى الله على نبينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه وسلم