

To those who suffered during the recent riots and in general for all those who are being tested (Part.5)

The beginning of a brighter future

Mufti Muhammad Hasan Amritsari, the founder of Jāmiyah Ashrafiyyah Lahore, was a scholar who was an expert in logic. He had come to Thānabawan to spend some time in the company of Moulāna Ashraf Ali Thānwi رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, his spiritual guide. During his stay, he received a letter from home stating that his wife and children had become very sick and were afflicted by a torrent of problems, which distressed him greatly. He informed Moulāna Thānwi of this, to which Moulāna responded by saying, "Since a Mu'min (believer) believes that whatever occurs is 'muqaddar' (with a ق) i.e., destined and decided by Allāh, what is the need for him to ever become 'mukaddar' (with a ك) i.e., upset, worried, miserable and distressed." Moulāna Thānwi then explained to him the reality of the matter based on logical premises, "I will prove to you logically that every difficulty which afflicts a believer is only for his benefit. There are only four logical possibilities with regards to difficulties, that afflict any believer:

- 1) Allāh benefits 100% from his servant's suffering. This is impossible, as that would necessitate that Allāh is in need of His servants for acquiring benefit. The reality is that Allāh is beyond and pure from benefitting from his creation, since Allāh is totally independent of his creation.
- 2) Allāh benefits 50%, and His servant benefits 50%. This is also impossible, since this too would necessitate that Allāh needs His servants to acquire benefit, from which Allāh is pure. (Allāh is not in need of anyone in the least, not a little and not a lot. The entire creation is dependent on Him.)
- 3) Allāh does not benefit from His servant's suffering, nor does the person himself benefit. This too is impossible, since any occurrence which has no benefit is useless and futile, whereas it is impossible for Allāh, the Wise, to do something which is futile.
- 4) Allāh does not benefit at all, while the person who is suffering from that difficulty benefits 100%. This is the only possible conclusion, since all other possibilities have been exhausted and proven false."

From this, we understand that man benefits totally from every sort of difficulty he experiences. Allāh himself declares in the Qur'aan: "Say (to the Muslims, o Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), "Under no circumstances does any difficulty ever afflict any of us except that Allāh has decreed it for **our benefit**. He is our *Maulā* (Friend and Helper)." (Surah Taubah v.51) Allāh Ta'ala also informs us in the Qur'an: "Many a time you dislike a thing while (in fact) it is good for you, and many a time you love a thing while it is evil for you. And Allāh knows while you do not know." (Surah Baqarah v.16)

The beginning of a bright future, Inshā-Allāh

An example:

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He feverishly made du'a for Allāh to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions. One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, 'Oh Allāh! How could you do this to me?' Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! 'How did you know I was here?' asked the weary man of his rescuers. 'We saw your smoke signal,' they replied.

The Moral of This Story: It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because Allāh is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground, it just may be a smoke signal that summons the Mercy of Allāh and it may be the beginning of a bright future.

A believer never loses hope in Allāh and never falls prey to despondence.

There is no door other than the door of Allāh-A Lesson from Children

Many a time we have seen mothers slap or hit their children when they have been naughty or disobedient, yet those children cling on to their mothers and refuse to leave them. That little child is teaching us a lesson: Although I am getting a hiding well-deserved, how can I leave my mother? Where would I go? If that child is not prepared to leave its mother, then where are we going to go, leaving our Allāh? There is no one else for us, except Allāh.

It is mentioned in the Mathnawi of Moulāna Jalāluddīn Rumi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ that once Allāh Ta'ala said to Nabi Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, "I love My bondsmen very much when they behave towards Me like infants, who in spite of their mother's punishment and anger, still attach themselves to her, instead of running away. When that mother gives him a slap, he still flees to her and, while crying, holds onto her strongly. The small child does not want help from anyone save the mother. The child even shows no inclination to his father. Instead, he looks upon his mother as the source and origin of all good and evil. O Mūsā, your connection with us in ease and difficulty is similar to that of this child; that except for Us, your attention is not drawn to anyone else ..."

Thus, no matter what the condition or circumstance, our dependence upon Allāh Ta'ala should be as the child's dependence upon its mother. On the acceptance, patience, tolerance and fortitude exercised, Allāh Ta'ala blesses a person with the sweetness of Imaan.¹

¹ Tafwidh by Maulana Yunus Patel