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Solar eclipses, Hurricanes hitting the USA one after the other, Earthquakes in Mexico, Solar flares, flooding in Bangladesh, Sierra Leone, Mumbai, Southeast Asia, and other countries, as well as wars, unjustified killing and murder, oppression and transgression throughout the world...

Natural disasters and calamities have been hitting different parts of the world throughout the history of the world. Many people take these disasters as accidents and coincidence brought about by 'mother nature', whereas the believers take these disasters, calamities, changes in the norm, and occurrences as signs that it's time to wake up, time to get back to our senses, to make us remember who's in control of this universe, and they could also be as torments, punishments and trials from Allah the most powerful, the most magnificent, the most wise.

When we look at the guidance contained in the Quran and Sunnah about these natural disasters, we can conclude three points:

1. Natural disasters ^{could be a} ~~are~~ punishment from Allah for those people who are either disbelievers or have exceeded his limits.
2. Natural disasters are a warning for those who are sinners and disobeying their creator
3. Natural disasters are a test for the believers.

Throughout the Holy Quran Allah has clarified this point that natural disasters result from disobedience to him, as Allah says:

وَمَا أَصَابَكُمْ مِّنْ مُّصِيبَةٍ فَبِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَيَعْفُو عَن كَثِيرٍ

And whatever of misfortune befalls you, it is because of what your hands have earned. And He pardons much. (Ash-Shura 42:30), And Allah says:

وَلَوْ يُؤَاخِذُ اللَّهُ النَّاسَ بِمَا كَسَبُوا مَا تَرَكَ عَلَى ظَهْرهَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ وَلَكِنْ يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ۖ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِعِبَادِهِ بَصِيرًا

And if Allâh were to punish men for that which they earned, He would not leave a moving (living) creature on the surface of the earth, but He gives them respite to an appointed term, and when their term comes, then verily, Allâh is Ever All-Seer of His slaves. (Fatir 35:45), and Allah says:

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

Evil (sins and disobedience of Allâh, etc.) has appeared on land and sea because of what the hands of men have earned (by oppression and evil deeds, etc.), that Allâh may make them taste a part of that which they have done, in order that

they may return (by repenting to Allâh, and begging His Pardon). (Ar-Rum 30:41), and Allah says:

Sometimes natural disasters are very intense and crush even the innocent people living in the affected areas. Allah swt has warned us in Quran about such trials, disasters and afflictions which do not only hit the disobedient people, but also those righteous ones living amongst the disobedient.

While these natural disasters are occurring before our eyes, it is obligatory to ponder and contemplate over them, and be reminded of Allah's control over the universe, the weather and these natural occurrences, and also recall how Allah punished the previous nations with some of these natural phenomena as well. Allaah (The Most High) promised to punish the rebellious, disobedient people just as He punished those before them by way of [خَسَفٌ—swallowed by the earth]; [نَسْفٌ—wind blast] and [رِيحٌ—wind] etc. They were punished for being inattentive and heedless (to Allaah's commandments and prohibitions), as Allaah (The Most High):

أَفَأَمِنَ الَّذِينَ مَكَرُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ أَنْ يَخْسِفَ اللَّهُ بِهِمُ الْأَرْضَ أَوْ
يَأْتِيَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ
أَوْ يَأْخُذَهُمْ فِي تَقْلُبِهِمْ فَمَا هُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ
أَوْ يَأْخُذَهُمْ عَلَى تَخَوُّفٍ فَإِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ لَرَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ

“Do those who devise evil plots feel secure that Allah will not sink them into the earth, or that the torment will not seize them from directions they perceive not? Or that He may catch them in the midst of their going to and fro (in their jobs), so that there be no escape for them (from Allah’s Punishment)? Or that He may catch them with gradual wasting (of their wealth and health). Truly! Your Lord is indeed full of Kindness, Most Merciful? [16:45-47]

And Allaah (The Most High) said:

أَفَأَمِنَ أَهْلُ الْقُرَىٰ أَن يَأْتِيَهُمْ بَأْسُنَا بَيِّنًا وَهُمْ نَائِمُونَ
أَوَأَمِنَ أَهْلُ الْقُرَىٰ أَن يَأْتِيَهُمْ بَأْسُنَا ضُحًى وَهُمْ يُلْعَبُونَ
أَفَأَمِنُوا مَكْرَ اللَّهِ فَلَا يَأْمَنُ مَكْرَ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ

Did the people of the towns then feel secure against the coming of Our Punishment by night while they are asleep? Or, did the people of the towns then feel secure against the coming of Our Punishment in the forenoon while they play? Did they then feel secure against the Plan of Allah. None feels secure from the Plan of Allah except the people who are the losers. [7:97-99]

Wake up brothers and sisters, Allah is showing us signs in front of our eyes, right at our doorstep...Go back to Allah, repent and strive to be obedient to Allah.

O Slaves of Allaah! Allaah shows His creatures signs...eclipses, hurricanes, earthquakes, solar flares...by way of which they can reflect and contemplate, and so that they may return to obedience and not remain in their misguidance and heedlessness.

Allaah's signs, admonitions and reprimands are of various types- sometimes it is by way of drowning, just as the people of Nooh were destroyed through drowning. Sometimes it is by way of winds, just as Allaah destroyed the people of Ad. Sometimes it is by way of (severe torment- destructive loud thunder bolts), just as Allaah destroyed Thamood by way of (thunderbolts followed by an earthquake). Sometimes is it by way of turning their houses upside down, just as Allaah destroyed the people of Lut. Sometimes is it by way of a violent wind with shower of stones just as Allaah destroy Shu'aib's people. And sometimes it is by way of enemies who are given the upper hand, just as Allaah gave the upper hand to a people who had extreme strength over Bani Israa'eel.

Brothers and sisters in Islam! These calamities, miseries, natural disasters that we see here in America and throughout the world as well, are in reality a reminder and chastisement from Allaah upon His slaves, so that they may return

(to Allaah in repentance)-seeking rescue and deliverance from Allaah. Allaah (The Most High) said:

فَلَوْلَا إِذْ جَاءَهُمْ بَأْسُنَا تَضَرَّعُوا

But only if they humbled and submitted themselves when our punishment and signs came to them?

وَلَكِنْ قَسَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَزَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

-But their hearts became hardened, and Shaitan (Satan) made fair-seeming to them that which they used to do.

[6:43]

Brothers and sisters in faith! Indeed it is a calamity that these afflictions have occurred, and we ask Allah to relieve ~~them~~ ^{the people} but the greater calamity is that these disasters have occurred and ^{people} still remain heedless about Allah and their disobedience to Him. Many have not turned away from their sins nor repented to Allaah (Glorified and Exalted Be He). The one who stays away from the congregational prayer has not ^{one} ~~ceased doing so~~; ^{come to the congregation,} the who does not pay attention to his children and their upbringing has not ceased doing so; the one who eats usury and engages in forbidden dealings and business transactions is still not paying attention and not turning away (from his sin). This (behaviour of the people) is the same regarding all other acts of disobedience and major

sins. The people remain upon their misguidance and increase in it-neither being reminded nor learning lessons of these signs
that Allah is showing us...

Let us Ponder over the People of Ad who were indulged in polytheism and rejected their messenger Hūd. The people of Aad used to claim that they were the super power of their time, the strongest nation, the most powerful society, very similar to the society we live in today, and the people of Aad used to say:

فَأَمَّا عَادُ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً ۗ أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُمْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً ۗ وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ -

"Who is mightier than us in strength?" See they not that Allâh, Who created them was mightier in strength than them. And they used to deny Our Ayât (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, revelations, etc.)! (Fussilat 41:15)

~~If they are so strong, then why can't they stop hurricanes, earthquakes, solar flares, or eclipses....~~

So what was the result of their arrogance, transgression and oppression, Allah says in the Quran:

كَذَّبَتْ عَادٌ فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عَذَابِي وَنُذُرِ
إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا صَرْصَرًا فِي يَوْمٍ نَحْسٍ مُّسْتَمِرٍّ
تَنْزِعُ النَّاسَ كَأَنَّهُمْ أُعْجَازُ نَخْلٍ مُّنْقَعِرٍ
فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عَذَابِي وَنُذُرِ

'Ad (people) belied (their Prophet, Hûd), then how (terrible) was My Torment and My Warnings? Verily, We sent against them a furious wind of harsh voice on a day of evil omen and continuous calamity. Plucking out men as if they were uprooted stems of date-palms. Then, how (terrible) was My Torment and My Warnings? (Al-Qamar 54:18-21)

So How did the prophet Muhammad deal with natural disasters...?

Aishiah (the wife of the Prophet) said: I never saw Allah's Apostle laughing loudly enough to enable me to see his tonsils, but he used to smile only. And whenever he saw clouds or winds, signs of deep concern would appear on his face. I said, "O Allah's Apostle! When people see clouds they usually feel happy, hoping that it would rain, while I see that when you see clouds, one could notice signs of

dissatisfaction on your face." He said, "O 'Aisha! What is the guarantee for me that there will be no punishment in it, since some people were punished with a wind? Verily, some people ~~saw~~ (received) the punishment, but (while seeing the cloud) they said, 'This cloud will give us rain.' "(Sahih Bukhari : Book 6 , Volume 60 ,Hadith 353)

Brothers and sisters....Natural disasters and these natural phenomena are signs from Allah, and a warning for those who are sinners and this is in many verses in the Quran, as Allah says:

وَلَنُذِيقَنَّهُمْ مِّنَ الْعَذَابِ الْأَدْنَىٰ دُونَ الْعَذَابِ الْأَكْبَرِ لَعَلَّهُمْ
يَرْجِعُونَ

And verily, We will make them taste of the ~~near torment (i.e.~~ the torment in the life of this world, i.e. disasters, calamities, etc.) prior to the supreme torment (in the Hereafter), in order that they may (repent and) return (i.e. accept Islâm). (As-Sajdah 32:21)

أَوَلَا يَرَوْنَ أَنَّهُمْ يُفْتَنُونَ فِي كُلِّ عَامٍ مَّرَّةً أَوْ مَرَّتَيْنِ ثُمَّ لَا
يَتُوبُونَ وَلَا هُمْ يَذَكَّرُونَ -

Don't they see and understand that they are tried with tribulations once or twice every year (with different kinds of calamities, disease, famine, etc.)? Yet, they turn not in

repentance, nor do they learn a lesson (from it). (At-Tawbah 9:126)

Natural disasters are signs and tests for the believers, as Allah says:

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ
وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ

1.And certainly, We shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits, but give glad tidings to As-Sâbirin (the patient ones, etc.). (Al-Baqarah 2:155), And Allah says;

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَنْ تُدْخَلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُمْ مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ
قَبْلِكُمْ ۗ مَسَّتْهُمُ الْبَأْسَاءُ وَالضَّرَّاءُ وَزُلْزَلُوا حَتَّى يَقُولَ
الرَّسُولُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ مَتَى نَصْرُ اللَّهِ ۗ أَلَا إِنَّ نَصْرَ
اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ - 2:214

Or do you think 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 Allâh?" Yes! Certainly, the Help of Allâh is near! (Al-Baqarah 2:214),

and Allah says:

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ –
وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ^ط فَلْيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلْيَعْلَمَنَّ
الْكَاذِبِينَ - 29:3

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 Allâh 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 Allâh knows all that before putting them to test). (Al-'Ankabut 29:2-3)

Second Khutbah:

We ask Allah to relieve all of those suffering throughout the world, and relieve those who have been affected by the natural disasters that have occurred within the past couple of weeks....

So How do we view and deal with natural phenomena such as eclipses, solar flares... and calamities, and natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes and earthquakes... and trials and tribulations in general? Indeed the Quran and Sunnah have guided us in all walks of life. The Quran and Hadith also tell

us the methods to deal with the natural disasters and calamities. Some of these ways are as follows:

1. Piety

2. Repentance

3. Patience

Piety, righteousness, obedience to Allah and fear of Allah is the way to get out of any difficulty, as Allah says:

وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا - 65:2

And whosoever fears Allâh and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty).

وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ يُسْرًا -

And whoever fears Allah and is conscious of him, He will make his affairs easy.

And Allah says:

وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَكْفُرْ عَنْهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِ وَيُعْظِمْ لَهُ أَجْرًا - 65:5

And whoever fears Allah and keeps his commandments, then Allah will expiate his sins and grant him great reward.

So from fearing Allah constantly and being conscious of him we receive a way out from all difficulties, ease in our lives, and expiation of our sins and great reward...

2.Repentance:-When some one repents Allah swt takes away his torment. This fact has been highlighted in Quran as follows:-

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ مُعَذِّبَهُمْ وَهُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ - 8:33

And He will not punish them while they seek (Allâh's) Forgiveness. (Al-Anfal 8:33)

3.Patience:-

This act is beneficial for all those people who are being tested by Allah swt .If they face the calamity and natural disaster with patience than they will get reward for it. This fact has been highlighted in Holy Quran in the following manner:-

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ
وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالْثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ - 2:155

الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ -
2:156

أُولَئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ ۖ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ
2:157 -

And certainly, We shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits, but give glad tidings to As-Sâbirin (the patient ones, etc.). Who, when afflicted

with calamity, say: "Truly! To Allâh we belong and truly, to Him we shall return." They are those on whom are the Salawât (i.e. blessings, etc.) (i.e. who are blessed and will be forgiven) from their Lord, and (they are those who) receive His Mercy, and it is they who are the guided-ones. (Al-Baqarah 2:155-157)

Brothers and sisters....Allaah is in control of everything we see in nature, the sun, the moon, the clouds, the rain, the earth, the tides, the oceans, and even the unseen things...sometimes Allah gives the earth permission to breathe, which is when major earthquakes happen as what happened last night in Mexico; sometimes Allah allows the moon to cover the sunlight, as we saw in the eclipse, sometimes Allah allows the sun to shoot flares as we witnessed a few days ago, sometimes Allah creates hurricanes in the middle of the oceans, as we've seen the past couple of weeks, all of these things should scare human beings, so that they submit to the one and only creator of these things, so that the believers repent, give up sins, pray to Allaah and feel regret [for their sins, mistakes and shortcomings.

When there had been an earthquake, some of the righteous predecessors said: your Lord and creator is warning you of something. When Madeenah was struck by an earthquake,

'Umar ibn al-Khattaab (may Allaah be pleased with you) addressed the people and said: if there is another earthquake, I will not stay here with you." As he viewed that Allah was punishing them for something and did not want to remain amongst them.

Our response, as Muslims when there is an earthquake or some other sign such as an eclipse, strong winds, hurricanes or floods, should be to hasten to repent to Allaah and pray to Him for safety, and to remember Him much and seek His forgiveness, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said when there was an eclipse: "If you see anything like that, hasten to remember Him, call on Him and seek His forgiveness." (Part of an agreed-upon hadeeth narrated by al-Bukhaari (2/30) and Muslim (2/628)).

It is also recommended, encouraged to show compassion to the poor and needy, and to give charity to them, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said:

"Show mercy, and you will be shown mercy." (Narrated by Imaam Ahmad, 2/165)

"Those who are merciful will be shown mercy by the Most Merciful. Have mercy on those who are on earth, and the One Who is in heaven will show mercy to you." (Narrated by Abu Dawood (13/285), al-Tirmidhi (6/43)).

“Whoever does not show mercy will not be shown mercy.”
(Narrated by al-Bukhaari (5/75), Muslim (4/1809)).

May Allah save us from natural disasters and save us from His wrath through which He punishes transgressors, and may Allah give us vision so that we can reform ourselves, our communities and our societies, and help those who are under trial Ameen.

May Allah aid our brothers and sisters in Burma, and may Allah send his obedient servants from the heavens and earth to aid them and assist them, send your animals, your insects to those harming the Muslims in Burma ya rabbal

Aalaameen, O Allah send your angels, send your winds, send your rain, send your hail, ^{to stop the oppressing ones in Burma} relieve our brothers and sisters in Burma from the oppression and transgression that they are going through. And aid all of the Muslims throughout the world O lord of creation, lord of might, lord of wisdom, lord

of mercy and lord of power. O Allah ^{redirect the natural disasters and the hurricanes in the atlantic ocean,} that are occurring to uninhabited areas, and protect your obedient servants, Ya AlQawiyy Ya AlAziz!!

اللهم انك تعلم اننا نريد ان نخلص
من كل خطر وندوة طرانا على ربنا