

Allah the Most gracious, the most knowledgeable and the Most Wise created everything, and for everything that he created there is a purpose. Man was created to worship Him, the sun was created to provide light and heat, the moon and stars were created to guide the travellers and tell dates and the tides, the fresh water rivers, lakes, streams and ponds were created to provide drinking water for plants and animals, the oceans and seas were created so that ships can sail upon them transporting people and different types of merchandise and supplies, all of these are creations that Allah has made subservient to human beings. However, these created entities are all under Allah's control and He can order them and direct them to do whatever he pleases. One of Allah's magnificent creations that we are observing today and that He uses to remind us of His power, his might as well as his mercy is the wind.

The Wind is a sign of Allah's power, might and mercy:

وهي آية من آيات الله تعالى قال سبحانه: (إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ
وَإِخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَالْفُلْكِ الَّتِي تَجْرِي فِي الْبَحْرِ بِمَا يَنْفَعُ النَّاسَ وَمَا أَنْزَلَ
اللَّهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مِنْ مَّاءٍ فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ دَابَّةٍ
وَتَصْرِيفِ الرِّيَّاحِ وَالسَّحَابِ الْمُسَخَّرِ بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ لآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ)

Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the [great] ships

which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every [kind of] moving creature, and [His] directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and the earth are signs for a people who use their intellects.

Brothers and sisters in Islam...From Allah's wisdom is that he sends different types of winds, sometimes we may perceive them as good winds, but they bring about punishment, and other times they can be perceived as destructive winds and they bring about goodness. Sometimes Allah sends cold winds and other times warm winds...Sometimes he sends winds from the north, or from the south, or from the east or the west. Sometimes the wind pushes the clouds, sometimes the wind breaks up the clouds, sometimes Allah brings warm clouds together with cold clouds, sometimes Allah sends hurricanes and tornadoes, sometimes Allah sends winds to push the boats sailing in the ocean to reach their destination, other times the winds take the boat off course.

Allah says:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ الْجَوَارِ فِي الْبَحْرِ كَالْأَعْلَامِ * إِنْ يَشَأْ يُسْكِنِ الرِّيحَ فَيَظْلَنَ رَوَاكِدَ (عَلَى ظَهْرِهِ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُورٍ) [الشورى: 32-33]

And of His signs are the ships in the sea, like mountains. if He willed, He could make the wind still, and the ships would remain motionless on its surface. Indeed in that are signs for everyone who is patient and grateful.

When we ponder over the Quran and it's meanings, we find that Allah swears by the wind, and he named two surahs in the Quran about the wind. Anything that Allah swears by in the Quran and names two surahs by their name is something that deserves our pondering, our contemplation and understanding. Allah says:

والذاريات ذروا

By those [winds] scattering [dust] dispersing

والمرسلات عرفاء، فالعاصفات عصفاء، والناشرات نشرا

By those [winds] sent forth in gusts

And the winds that blow violently

And [by] the winds that spread [clouds]

Allah speaks to us in the Quran about the wind and the different kinds of wind. Usually if Allah mentions it in the singular form **الريح** then it is used as a punishment as Allah says:

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحاً صَرْصِراً، (فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحاً وَجُنُوداً) [الأحزاب / 9]

And if Allah uses it in the plural form **الرياح** then it is used as a mercy:

وقال في الجمع : (وَأَرْسَلْنَا الرِّيَّاحَ لَوَاقِحَ) [الحجر / 22] ، (أَنْ يُرْسِلَ الرِّيَّاحَ مُبَشِّرَاتٍ) [الروم / 46] . هـ

The merciful wind contains numerous benefits such as blowing the clouds to areas that need shade or rain, or blowing the seeds from the trees and different types of pollens from flowers and plants so that they scatter in other places and continue to grow. Sometimes winds are a mercy for the birds, who can rest their constantly flapping wings when flying and let the wind carry them wherever they want to go. Winds are a mercy for the sailors who travel upon the oceans and are pushed and directed in certain directions.

The wind has numerous benefits in it such as bringing and distributing rain upon the lands and animals which need it to survive, as Allah says:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ الرِّيحَ بُشْرًا بَيْنَ يَدَيْ رَحْمَتِهِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً طَهُورًا

Allah is the one who sends the wind as a glad tiding and mercy and we have sent down rain from the sky with pure water.

Also the wind can be sent to aid Allah's prophets and messengers, like what occurred during the Battle of Al Ahzaab with our prophet Muhammad:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَاءَتْكُمْ جُنُودٌ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا وَجُنُودًا لَمْ تَرَوْهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا

O you who believe, remember the favor of Allah upon you when armies came to [attack] you and We sent upon them a wind and armies [of angels] that you did not see. And Allah is always aware of what you are doing, He sees everything'.

Sometimes the wind can be used as a punishment that Allah uses to chastise the disobedient or hypocrites or evil doers.

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا - عَنِ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ قَالَ " نُصِرْتُ بِالصَّبَا،
وَأُهْلِكَتْ عَادٌ بِالدَّبُورِ "

Narrated Ibn `Abbas:

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "I have been made victorious with the Saba (i.e. easterly wind) and the people of 'Ad were destroyed with the Dabur (i.e. westerly wind)."

Allah destroyed the people of Aad with a strong, fierce, destructive wind as He says:

وَفِي عَادٍ إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّيحَ الْعَقِيمَ

And in 'Aad [was a sign], when We sent against them the barren wind.

Sometimes the wind can be a sign of a nation or a group of people being punished, or indication that some hypocrites have died and passed away:

عَنْ جَابِرٍ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ قَدِمَ مِنْ سَفَرٍ فَلَمَّا كَانَ قُرْبَ الْمَدِينَةِ هَاجَتْ رِيحٌ شَدِيدَةٌ تَكَادُ أَنْ تَذْفِنَ الرَّكِبَ فَرَعِمَ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ قَالَ " بُعِثَتْ هَذِهِ الرِّيحُ لِمَوْتِ مُنَافِقٍ " . فَلَمَّا قَدِمَ الْمَدِينَةَ فَإِذَا مُنَافِقٌ عَظِيمٌ مِنَ الْمُنَافِقِينَ قَدْ مَاتَ

Jabir reported that Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) came back from a journey and as he was near Medina, there was such a

violent gale that the mountain seemed to be pressed. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said:

This wind has perhaps been made to blow for the death of a hypocrite, and as he reached Medina a notorious hypocrite from amongst the hypocrites had died.

So how should we as Muslims deal with and think about the wind? It may have knocked down some of our trees, or blown away some furniture in our yards, or blown our cars around when driving to work, or to the masjid....We'll discuss this in the second khutbah

-----second khutbah-----

O believers, take heed of the signs of Allah in front of our eyes, the sun, the moon, the trees, the weather and the winds...Creatures that Allah created to remind us of his Power, His Might, His magnificence and His mercy. One of the important matters that we must be reminded about is that a Muslim should never curse anything from Allah's creation, whether it is the rain, the sun, the moon, the animals, or even the wind.

عَنْ أَبِي بِنِ كَعْبٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ " لَا تَسُبُّوا الرِّيحَ فَإِذَا رَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَكْرَهُونَ فَقُولُوا اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ خَيْرِ هَذِهِ الرِّيحِ وَخَيْرِ مَا فِيهَا وَخَيْرِ مَا أُمِرْتُ بِهِ وَنَعُودُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ هَذِهِ الرِّيحِ وَشَرِّ مَا فِيهَا وَشَرِّ مَا أُمِرْتُ بِهِ "

It was narrated from Ubayy bin Ka'b that the Messenger of Allah(s.a.w) said:

"Do not curse the wind. When you see what you dislike, then say: ('O Allah! Indeed we ask you of the good of this wind, and the good of what is in it, and the good of what it has been commanded. And we seek refuge in You from the evil of this wind, and the evil of what is in it, and the evil of what it has been commanded.)"

A Muslim should never curse the winds nor be upset or show disapproval of the wind, solely because the wind is one of Allah's creations, and when we show our anger or disapproval of the wind then it is many times ^{unconsciously} directed towards the creator of the winds, who is Allah, the creator of nature, the creator of rain, and the one who is in control of everything.

عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ ~~رَوَى عَنْ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ~~ أَنَّ رَجُلًا نَازَعَتْهُ الرِّيحُ
رِدَاءَهُ عَلَى عَهْدِ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ فَلَعَنَهَا - فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ " لَا تَلْعَنُهَا فَإِنَّهَا مَأْمُورَةٌ وَإِنَّهُ
مَنْ لَعَنَ شَيْئًا لَيْسَ لَهُ بِأَهْلٍ رَجَعَتْ اللَّعْنَةُ عَلَيْهِ "

Narrated Abdullah ibn Abbas:

The wind snatched away a man's cloak during the time of the Prophet (ﷺ) and he cursed it. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: Do not curse it, for it is under command, and if anyone curses a thing undeservedly, the curse returns upon him.

It is normal for the believer that when experiencing and witnessing strong winds, hurricanes, tornadoes or storms that we feel scared, and these occurrences should remind us that these winds could be a punishment that Allah is sending to those who are disobedient. So the believer should take heed and hasten to repent to Allah and ask His forgiveness.

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ زَوْجِ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ قَالَتْ: مَا رَأَيْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ ضَاحِكًا قَطُّ حَتَّى أَرَى مِنْهُ لَهَوَاتِهِ، إِنَّمَا كَانَ يَتَبَسَّمُ ﷺ، قَالَتْ: وَكَانَ إِذَا رَأَى غَيْمًا أَوْ رِيحًا عُرِفَ فِي وَجْهِهِ، فَقَالَتْ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ النَّاسَ إِذَا رَأَوْا الْغَيْمَ فَرِحُوا، رَجَاءً أَنْ يَكُونَ فِيهِ الْمَطَرُ، وَأَرَاكَ إِذَا رَأَيْتَهُ عُرِفَتْ فِي وَجْهِكَ الْكَرَاهَةُ؟ فَقَالَ: يَا عَائِشَةُ، مَا يُؤْمِنِي أَنْ يَكُونَ فِيهِ عَذَابٌ؟ عَذِّبَ قَوْمٌ بِالرِّيْحِ، وَقَدْ رَأَى قَوْمٌ الْعَذَابَ مِنْهُ فَقَالُوا: {هَذَا عَارِضٌ مُمَطِّرُنَا}

A'isha said, "I never saw the Prophet laugh so much that I could see his tonsils. He used to smile, and grin." "Whenever the Prophet saw a cloud or wind, distress could be seen in his face." She said, "Messenger of Allah, when people see a cloud, they rejoice, hoping that there will be rain in it. Yet when you see it, I see distress in your face." He replied, "'A'isha, what will assure me that there is no painful punishment in it? People have been punished by wind. Some people saw the punishment and stated, 'This is a rain cloud coming to us.'"

And let us be reminded of Allah's statement
in the Quran

10 (عَسَىٰ أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تُحِبُّوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ شَرٌّ لَّكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ)

We ask Allah to hasten our repentance and enable us to use the signs that He shows us in nature to return back to Him and be reminded of his magnificence, his mercy, his might and his power, and that He's in control of all of our affairs.

إن الله وملائكته يصلون على النبي يا أيها الذين آمنوا صلوا عليه وسلموا تسليما