

Brothers and sisters in Islam...This world that we live in is filled with difficulties, hardships, trials, tribulations and suffering. One day may be one of joy, happiness and bliss, but they are followed by numerous days of difficulty. We laugh for a few minutes, but cry for many hours. All of our situations, feelings, ideas, conditions and circumstances are constantly changing.

As Allah says:

وَتِلْكَ الْأَيَّامُ نُدَاوِلُهَا بَيْنَ النَّاسِ

“And these are how the days are (good and not so good), we give to people by turns” Ali Imran:140

Poverty one moment, wealth the next; peace in one place, war in the next, health at one time, sickness during other times; might, honor, and glory at times; followed by humiliation, weakness and disrespect at other times. Some of us suffering from sickness and diseases, others suffering from the disrespect of their children towards them, this one is experiencing hardship because of the bad manner of his wife, while she is experiencing difficulties because of the disrespect of her husband, the other one is experiencing hardship because his business is not earning profits, this is what all of us have experienced throughout our lives here on this earth. Hardships and difficulties arise on a daily basis, Muslims throughout the world are experiencing different types of trials and tribulations. In Burma Muslims are being slaughtered by the Buddhists, in Iraq and Syria Muslims are being forced to leave their homelands, in Yemen Muslims have not food nor clean water to drink, Muslims throughout the world are portrayed as terrorists, mocked at, slandered, defamed, and disrespected. Looking at the situation throughout the world and the state of the Muslims is one that may

disappoint some, and may cause others to lose hope, but be informed my beloved brothers and sisters that the true believer in Allah, the creator everything, is in control of all of our affairs. No matter what leader is governing the country we live in, no matter what situation we're in, Allah is the one who plans everything and Allah is the one that the true believers place their trust in.

There is only one who can completely remove the hardships that the Muslims are experiencing today, not any leader, not any political party, not any organization, not any human being...It is only Allah that can remove our hardships and difficulties...The one who planned these occurrences, situations and circumstances...The one who knows the wisdom behind them...The knower of the unseen...Allah the Most Magnificent Lord and Creator...Allah is the only one who can answer the hopeless one, Allah is the only one who can give the despaired one what He needs...The Muslim needs to be patient during times of difficulties, and repent to Allah, and supplicate to Allah, and seek closeness to Allah through good deeds, prayer, charity and patient perseverance so that Allah will remove these hardships. The Muslim should not let what happens around him effect his faith in Allah, and The Muslim should remind himself of the trials and tribulations of the previous nations that came before us, the trials that the Prophet Muhammad endured, the companions, and the Muslims throughout history. Indeed the trials and tribulations of the previous nations were far more difficult to bare then the difficulties that the Muslims are experiencing today throughout the world and particularly here in the west.

Allah sometimes tests us with fear, sometimes with hunger and thirst, sometimes with poverty, other times with an abundance of wealth,

sometimes with sickness, sometimes with death, sometimes we're tested with our families, and sometimes were tested with our own selves. Indeed, all of us will be tested according to the level of our faith and when our faith is stronger, then the test is longer, larger, and more difficult to bear.

عَنْ مُصْعَبِ بْنِ سَعْدٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، قَالَ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَيُّ النَّاسِ أَشَدُّ بَلَاءً قَالَ " الْأَنْبِيَاءُ ثُمَّ الْأُمَّتُ فَالْأُمَّتُ فَيُنْتَلَى الرَّجُلُ عَلَى حَسَبِ دِينِهِ فَإِنْ كَانَ دِينُهُ صُلْبًا اشْتَدَّ بَلَاؤُهُ وَإِنْ كَانَ فِي دِينِهِ رِقَّةٌ ابْتُلِيَ عَلَى حَسَبِ دِينِهِ فَمَا يَبْرَحُ الْبَلَاءُ بِالْعَبْدِ حَتَّى يَتْرُكَهُ يَمْشِي عَلَى الْأَرْضِ مَا عَلَيْهِ " خَطِيبَةٌ

"O Messenger of Allah(s.a.w)! Which of the people is tried most severely?" He said: "The Prophets, then those nearest to them, then those nearest to them. A man is tried according to his religion; if he is firm in his religion, then his trials are more severe, and if he is frail in his religion, then he is tried according to the strength of his religion. The servant shall continue to be tried until he is left walking upon the earth without any sins."

And the prophet Muhammad said:

عَظُمَ الْجَزَاءُ مَعَ عَظَمِ الْبَلَاءِ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ إِذَا أَحَبَّ قَوْمًا ابْتَلَاهُمْ فَمَنْ رَضِيَ فَلَهُ الرِّضَا وَمَنْ سَخِطَ فَلَهُ السُّخْطُ "

"Great reward comes with great trials. When Allah loves a people, He tests them, and whoever accepts it attains His pleasure, whereas whoever shows discontent with it incurs His wrath."

Allah associated greatness of difficulties and calamities with higher rewards. So, enduring through lighter problems and challenges has a smaller reward than enduring greater difficulties and challenges. Given that this life has its share of challenges and difficulties for all, Allah has

provided an opportunity of high rewards for those who endure these challenges with patience rather than with complaints and ingratitude. And for those who show displeasure and discontent with Allah's decree end up in a lose-lose situation because not only they have to live through their current suffering but also incur Allah's wrath for their displeasure and discontent with His decree.

As part of our Islamic faith, we believe that all matters are in the hands of Allah. However, for some of us our faith can get shaken during times of trials and hardships. Especially during these times we are experiencing here in the United States. But be informed my beloved brothers and sisters that experiencing difficulties and hardships, is good for the believers, and a sign that Allah means well for a person, as the Prophet said:

(مَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ بِهِ خَيْرًا يُصِبْ مِنْهُ)

"If Allah wants to do good to somebody, He afflicts him with trials."

Being afflicted by difficulties and hardships is a sign that Allah wants good for us, and be informed that the more difficult the test, the more greater the reward, it is during these times though that we should remind ourselves that a believer's position and rank is raised in front of Allah and that these hardships may very well be a sign of Allah's love for us. This can help us in maintaining and even strengthening our faith.

So being patient while being tested is to purify us and remove our sins, may Allah forgive all of us our sins and shortcomings.

The Prophets of Allah starting from Adam, and Noah, and Abraham, and Moses, and Jesus, and Muhammad experienced hardships and difficulties, but they still did not lose hope, nor were they weakened by them, nor did they lose faith in Allah, rather they faced these hardships and difficulties head-on with patience, perseverance and firm faith, listen to what some of them had to experience:

عَنْ خَبَابِ بْنِ الْأَرْتِ، قَالَ شَكَوْنَا إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ وَهُوَ مُتَوَسِّدٌ بُرْدَةً لَهُ فِي ظِلِّ الْكَعْبَةِ وَقَدْ لَقِينَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ شِدَّةً، فَقُلْنَا أَلَا تَسْتَنْصِرُ لَنَا أَلَا تَدْعُو لَنَا. فَقَالَ " قَدْ كَانَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ يُؤْخَذُ الرَّجُلُ فَيُخْفَرُ لَهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيُجْعَلُ فِيهَا، فَيَجَاءُ بِالْمِنْشَارِ فَيُوضَعُ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ فَيُجْعَلُ نِصْفَيْنِ، وَيُمَشَّطُ بِأَمْشَاطِ الْحَدِيدِ مَا دُونَ لَحْمِهِ وَعَظْمِهِ، فَمَا يَصُدُّهُ ذَلِكَ عَنْ دِينِهِ، وَاللَّهِ لَيَتِمَّنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرُ، حَتَّى يَسِيرَ الرَّكَّابُ مِنْ صَنْعَاءَ إِلَى حَضْرَمَوْتَ لَا يَخَافُ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَالذِّئْبَ عَلَى غَنَمِهِ، وَلَكِنَّكُمْ تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ "

We complained to Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) (about our state) while he was leaning against his cloak in the shade of the Ka`ba. We said, we're experiencing extreme hardships and difficulties from the hands of the disbelievers, won't you ask Allah to help us? won't you invoke Allah for us?" He said, "Among those who were before you a (believer) used to be captured and a pit used to be dug for him, then he used to be placed in it. Then a saw used to be brought and put on his head which would be split into two halves. His flesh might be combed with iron combs and removed from his bones, yet, all that did not cause him to revert from his religion. By Allah! This religion (Islam) will be completed (and triumphant) until a rider (traveler) goes from San`a' (the capital of Yemen) to Hadramout fearing nobody except Allah and the wolf lest it should trouble his sheep, but indeed you are impatient ones."

## Islam and the Muslims will always be victorious no matter what hardships we experience. Just keep faith and be patient.

Indeed there are hardships that we're experiencing here in the USA, but when we compare our hardships to what our brothers and sisters are facing throughout the Muslim world, they become insignificant. Here in America we may be looked at in a derogatory way, we may hear hurtful comments, and we may be discriminated against, but these things are nowhere comparable to what the previous nations experienced of comments, torture, disrespect, violence and discrimination. Don't lose hope, nor despair, these may be times of difficulty, and may be times of fear, but be informed that indeed Allah has promised his obedient servants that there will be ease after difficulty, and peace after violence and war, and prosperity after poverty, and good after the bad, as Allah says:

( فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا )

So, verily, with every difficulty, there is relief, indeed, with every difficulty there is relief.

And Allah says:

سَيَجْعَلُ اللَّهُ بَعْدَ عُسْرٍ يُسْرًا

“After difficulties, Allah will soon grant relief and ease”

Ease, victory, peace and triumph is coming my brothers and sisters, all we have to do is be patient, preserve, and be good Muslims. Don't fear the creation, fear the creator. Allah is in control of all our affairs, no one can harm us nor benefit us except by the will of Allah...Put your trust in Allah, teach your children to trust in Allah and fear no one except the creator...Listen to the advice of the prophet to

Abdullah ibn Aabaas:

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ: "كُنْتُ خَلْفَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَوْمًا، فَقَالَ: يَا غُلَامُ! إِنِّي أَعْلَمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ: أَحْفَظْ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظْكَ، أَحْفَظْ اللَّهَ تَجِدْهُ تُجَاهَكَ، إِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلْ اللَّهَ، وَإِذَا اسْتَعْنَيْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ، وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ الْأُمَّةَ لَوِ اجْتَمَعَتْ عَلَى أَنْ يَنْفَعُوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَنْفَعُوكَ إِلَّا بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ لَكَ، وَإِنْ اجْتَمَعُوا عَلَى أَنْ يَضُرُّوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَضُرُّوكَ إِلَّا بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ؛ رُفِعَتْ الْأَقْلَامُ، وَجَفَّتِ الصُّحُفُ"

وَفِي رِوَايَةٍ غَيْرِ التِّرْمِذِيِّ: "أَحْفَظْ اللَّهَ تَجِدْهُ أَمَامَكَ، تَعَرَّفْ إِلَى اللَّهِ فِي الرَّحَاءِ يَغْرِفْكَ فِي الشَّدِيدَةِ، وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ مَا أَحْطَأَكَ لَمْ يَكُنْ لِيُصِيبِكَ، وَمَا أَصَابَكَ لَمْ يَكُنْ لِيُحْطِئَكَ، وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ النَّصْرَ مَعَ الصَّبْرِ، وَأَنَّ الْفَرَجَ مَعَ الْكُرْبِ، وَأَنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا"

One day I was behind the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) [riding on the same mount] and he said, "O young man, I shall teach you some words [of advice]: Be mindful of Allah and Allah will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him in front of you. If you ask, then ask Allah [alone]; and if you seek help, then seek help from Allah [alone]. And know that if the nation were to gather together to benefit you with anything, they would not benefit you except with what Allah had already prescribed for you. And if they were to gather together to harm you with anything, they would not harm you except with what Allah had already prescribed against you. The pens have been lifted and

the pages have dried." In Another narration it reads: Be mindful of Allah, and you will find Him in front of you. Recognize and acknowledge Allah in times of ease and prosperity, and He will remember you in times of adversity. And know that what has passed you by [and you have failed to attain] was not going to befall you, and what has befallen you was not going to pass you by. And know that victory comes with patience, relief with affliction, and hardship with ease."

No one can harm us no matter how many people gather against us except by the will of Allah, nor can anyone protect us except by the will of Allah the Most High. Let's put our trust in Allah and remember he's in control of all of our affairs, and that we may dislike something and it could be good and beneficial for us, and we could also like something and it could be harmful for us, indeed Allah knows and we do not know as Allah says:

وَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تُحِبُّوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ شَرٌّ لَّكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

"It is possible that you may dislike a thing which is good for you, and that you love a thing which is bad for you. Indeed Allah knows, and you do not know."

#### Second khutbah

Brothers and sisters in Islam, don't despair or lose hope about the current situation we're in, don't be sad or disappointed...being hopeless, sad, and depressed will not benefit us nor will it make our situation better. Seek Allah's aid, trust in Allah's promise, and take the necessary means to remove any hardship or difficulty we're experiencing. Indeed, revering Allah, being conscious of Allah, repenting to Allah, trusting in Allah, and doing righteous deeds during times of ease is what will remove our hardships and difficulties.

وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ

"And whoever fears Allah and is conscious of Him, He will make a way out for any difficulty. And Allah will provide for that person from sources that he could never imagine"

Allah is the one who can remove our hardships, Allah is the one who can change the situation of our hearts, our ummah, if we truly believe in Allah and practice Islam, Allah is the one who makes the mighty people and nations into forgotten civilizations, and Allah is the one who can change weak people and nations into the most powerful civilizations in the world.

عَنْ أَبِي الدَّرْدَاءِ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ - ﷺ - فِي قَوْلِهِ تَعَالَى {كُلَّ يَوْمٍ هُوَ فِي شَأْنٍ}. قَالَ " مِنْ شَأْنِهِ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ ذُنُوبًا وَيُفْرِجَ كَرْبًا وَيَرْفَعَ قَوْمًا وَيَخْفِضَ آخَرِينَ "

The Prophet said concerning the Verse: "Every day He is (engaged) in some affair." "His affairs include forgiving sins, relieving distress, raising some people (nations) and bringing others low."

One of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad by the name of Ad Dahaak ibn Qais said: 'Remember Allah in times of prosperity, and he will remember you and take care of you in times of difficulty. Yunus

used to revere Allah and make the remembrance of Allah, and when he was in the belly of the whale, Allah said about him:

فَلَوْلَا أَنَّهُ كَانَ مِنَ الْمُسَبِّحِينَ لَلَّيْتُ فِي بَطْنِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ

"Had it not been that he used to glorify Allah, then He would certainly have remained inside the belly of the whale until the Day of Resurrection."

Why didn't Yunus remain in the stomach of the whale forever? What did he do during that unimaginable and frightful situation? He was patient and supplicated to Allah? And What was Yunus' supplication to get him out of the belly of the whale?

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ " دَعْوَةُ ذِي النُّونِ إِذْ دَعَا وَهُوَ فِي بَطْنِ الْحُوتِ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ . فَإِنَّهُ لَمْ يَدْعُ بِهَا رَجُلٌ مُسْلِمٌ فِي شَيْءٍ قَطُّ إِلَّا اسْتَجَابَ اللَّهُ لَهُ " .

"The supplication of Dhun-Nun (Prophet Yunus) when he supplicated, while in the belly of the whale was: 'There is none worthy of worship except You, Glory to You, Indeed, I have been of the transgressors. (Lā ilāha illā anta subḥānaka innī kuntu minaz-ẓālimīn)' So indeed, no Muslim supplicates with it for anything, ever, except Allah responds to him."

When Allah tested Ayyub, with the loss of his family, the loss of his wealth and the loss of all his children, and he had nothing left, what did he do? He was patient and grateful to Allah, and supplicated to Allah to remove His hardships, as Allah says about him in the Quran:

وَأَيُّوبَ إِذْ نَادَى رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الضُّرُّ وَأَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ فَكَشَفْنَا مَا بِهِ مِنْ ضُرٍّ وَآتَيْنَاهُ أَهْلَهُ وَمِثْلَهُمْ مَعَهُمْ رَحْمَةً مِّنْ عِنْدِنَا وَذَكَرَى لِلْعَابِدِينَ

And (remember) Ayub/Job, when He cried to his Lord, "Truly distress and difficulty has overcome me, but you O Allah are the Most Merciful of those that are merciful. So We listened to him: We removed the distress and difficulty that was on him, and We restored his people to him, and doubled their number, as a Grace from Ourselves, and a thing for commemoration, for all who serve Us.

So let us be patient during these times of difficulties and hardships, and let us be constantly grateful to Allah for what we have of peace, food, shelter, and most importantly safety and security, something which many other people throughout the world don't have. And never forget the words of the prophet Muhammad:

" مَنْ لَزِمَ الْإِسْتِغْفَارَ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ مِنْ كُلِّ فَرْجٍ وَرِجًا وَمِنْ كُلِّ ضَيْقٍ مَخْرَجًا وَرَزَقَهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ "

"Whoever persists in asking for forgiveness, and constantly makes 'istigfaar' Allah will grant him relief from every worry, and a way out from every hardship, and will grant him provision from (sources) he could never imagine."