

The Help of Allah is Near!

Shaykh Abdur-Rahman As-Sa'dee (Rahimahu-llah)
[Tafseer Soorah al-Baqarah, 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 Allah?' Yes! **Certainly** the Help of Allah is **Near!**"

Allah, the Blessed and Most High, is informing (us) that He must test His servants with **Sarraa'i** (affluence, good health, and good things), **Darraa'i** (sickness, poverty, harmful things) and **Mashaqqah** (hardships, difficulties) - just as He did with those before them. Hence, this is His continuous *sunnah* (way) which does not change, nor is it replaced (with some other way) - i.e. that whoever stands up (to represent) His *Deen* (Islam) and His *Shar'* (Divine Law) - then, He must test/try him.

So, if he is patient upon the Command of Allah (i.e. remains firm, acting in the way commanded by Allah), and does not care about (or concern himself with) the unpleasant (trials) that fall in his way – then, he is **as-saadiq** (the truthful, sincere one) who will achieve from **As-Sa'aadah** (success, good fortune, happiness) its perfection, and from **As-Siyaadah** (dominion, rulership) its eventual end.

Similarly, whoever takes the **Fitnah** (trials, persecutions,) of the people to be like the '**A-dhaab** (punishment) of Allah, by allowing these difficulties or hardships to turn him away from what he is trying to do (of good for the sake of Allah); and he allows the trials to divert him from his goal - then, he is **al-kaadhib** (the liar, insincere one) in this claim to having *Emaan* (True Faith).

Indeed, **Al-Emaan** (True Faith) is not simply the outward adornments (decorations), wishing (inside oneself), and mere claims (of being a true Believer) - unless and until it is confirmed, as being true, or proven to be a lie, by the **actions** (of the one claiming *Emaan*).

Indeed, what has already occurred with the earlier nations is that which Allah mentioned about them: "...They were afflicted with **Ba'saa'...**", i.e. **Faqr** (severe poverty), and **Darraa'**, i.e. **Amraad** (Sickness and physical ailments); and **Zulziloo**, i.e. they were shaken with all types of frightening things, including the threat of being killed and exiled (from their homes), their wealth being taken and the killing of their loved ones, as well as other types of harms - until their situation and the shaking (of their patience) eventually led them to feel like the Help of Allah was coming **too slow**, even though they were **certain** that it would (eventually) come.

However, due to the severity of the situation and its distress, ..."The Messenger and those who believed along with him said: '**When (will come) the Help of Allah?**'... But, since relief only comes with **hardship**, and the more the situation becomes tight and narrow, the (more certain) that it must open up and widen - so Allah said: 'Yes! **Certainly the Help of Allah is Near!**

So, this is how it is, that everyone who stands up to represent *Al-Haqq* (The Truth), then, indeed he will be tested!

Hence, the more severe and difficult (the trial) is for him - **if he is patient and perseveres with what he is upon** (i.e. his Deen) - the **Mihnah** (trial, test) will be transformed into a **Minhah** (gift, favor, from Allah), and the **Mashaqqaat** (hardships, difficulties) will be transformed into **Raahaat** (means of rest, comfort). And this will be followed by **Intisaar** (victory) over your enemies, and **Shifaa'** (healing) of the sickness in his heart.

And this Qur'anic verse is just like the saying of Allah, the Most High:

"Do you think that you will enter Paradise before Allah **tests** those of you who fought (in His Cause) and (also) **tests** those who are **As-Saabiroon** (the patient)?" [Aali 'Imraan, 3:142]

And the saying of Allah, the Most High:

"*Alif-Laam-Meem*. Do people think that they will be left alone to say: 'We Believe', and will not be **tested**, and indeed We tested those who were before them (who claimed to believe). And Allah will certainly make known (the truth of) those who are true, and will certainly make known (the falsehood of) those who are liars [although Allah knows all of this before putting them to test]. [Al-Ankaboot, 29:1-3]

Therefore, at the time of **Al-Imti-haan** (tests and trials) a person will either be **honored** (by being patient, in obedience to Allah) or **disgraced** (by losing patience and disobeying Allah).

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