

Şuhayb ibn Sinān narrated that God's Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

1

Wonderful is a believer's situation. Everything that happens to him is good, and this is so for none other than a believer.

2

If he encounters what is pleasant, he is grateful and this is good for him;

3

and if he suffers an adversity, he remains patient and this is good for him.⁽¹⁾

From the Qur'an

- ﴿Give glad tidings to those who remain patient in adversity; (155) who, when a calamity befalls them, say, 'To God we belong, and to Him we shall return'. (156) On such people, blessings and mercy are bestowed by their Lord; Such people will be rightly guided'.﴾ (2: 155-157)
- ﴿Surely in this there are signs for every one who is patient in adversity and deeply grateful [to God].﴾ (14: 5)
- ﴿For your Lord had declared: 'If you are grateful, I shall certainly give you more; but if you are ungrateful, then My punishment shall be severe indeed'.﴾ (14: 7)

The Narrator

Abu Yaḥyā Şuhayb ibn Sinān al-Namiṛī al-Rūmī was taken captive by the Byzantines during his childhood. He lived among them and spoke their language. Hence, he came to be known as belonging to them. He was one of the earliest converts to Islam and was persecuted and tortured for his faith. He took part in the Battle of Badr and other battles and expeditions. He led the congregational prayer in the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah after the assassination of 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb. He did not take part in the strife that occurred after the assassination of 'Uthmān, the third caliph. He died in Year 38 AH 657 CE.

Summary

The Prophet (peace be upon him) gives all believers the happy news that all their affairs will be good for them. When something good happens to them, they will be thankful and express their gratitude to God, and this will earn them His reward. If they go through some adversity, they remain patient and they are rewarded for that.

1 Related by Muslim, 2999.



Message and Meaning

1

The Prophet (peace be upon him) wonders at the situation of a believer and his relationship with God. It is a feeling of wonder that gives pleasure, because a believer stands to gain God's reward in all situations.

2

If God grants him a favour in respect of himself, his family or property and he is delighted with it, he will thank God for His favours. His thanks will bring him further good, as God will grant him more of His blessings and reward him for his gratitude.

3

If God tests him with some affliction or adversity, he will remain patient and resign himself to it. He hopes to gain God's reward for so doing, and God will inspire him to remain patient and give him good reward in return for his patience and acceptance.

This hadith covers all that God wills for His servants. He tests them with either good or bad means. He says: 'We test you all with evil and good by way of trial'. (21: 35) If a believer remains patient when he is afflicted with adversity and thankful when he experiences a blessing, then he is a complete believer. Scholars of the early generations said that faith is divided in halves: one half is patience in adversity and one half is thankfulness. God says: 'Surely in this there are signs for every one who is patient in adversity and deeply grateful [to God]'. (14: 5)





Implementation

1

A true believer who accepts God's decree, remains patient in adversity, shows gratitude for God's favours and blessings will have his affairs going along the best way. It behoves every Muslim to aspire to the status of a patient and thankful believer, so that his grade is raised and his reward is multiplied.

2

Every believer should be thankful for God's countless favours and blessings. When he tries to take stock of God's favours in his faith, life, self, health, education, business, work, property, family, etc. he realizes that he swims in a great pool of blessings, and that he falls very short of being thankful.

3

Paying thanks to God for His favours ensures receiving more of them.

4

When facing an adversity a believer knows that God's will is bound to be done and that what has happened to him could not have been averted.

5

A Muslim should never feel in a panic when some adversity happens. A trial will happen to him, no doubt. However, patience in adversity ensures help and reward, while despair brings humiliation and frustration.

6

Sa'īd ibn Jubayr said: 'Patience means that a person demonstrates to God his acceptance that what has happened to him is from Him, and that he hopes for God's reward for it. A person may feel anxiety, but he trains himself to show nothing of it. He is seen to be patient'.⁽¹⁾

7

Ibn Rajab said: 'Those who are content sometimes look at the wisdom of God as He tests His servants, and know that He is not to be blamed for His decree. At other times, they look at the reward for the acceptance of God's will, and this enables them to forget the pain of their affliction. On the other hand, they may observe the majesty and greatness of God who is testing them, and they become absorbed in this so that they forget their pain. This is only achieved by the top elite who have the right knowledge and love of God. They may even enjoy their trial because it comes from the One they love. Some of them said: 'He let them experience some sweetness in the suffering He caused them'.⁽²⁾

8

During his illness, one of the *tābi'īn* was asked how he felt. He said: 'The part of it I love best is that which He loves best'.⁽³⁾

9

'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb said: 'Had patience and thankfulness been two camels, I would not mind which of them I ride'.⁽⁴⁾

1 Ibn al-Qayyim, 'Uddat al-Ṣābirīn wa Dhakhīrat al-Shākirīn, p. 97.

2 Ibn Rajab, Jāmi' al-'Ulūm wal-Ḥikam, Vol. 1, p. 487.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibn al-Qayyim, 'Uddat al-Ṣābirīn wa Dhakhīrat al-Shākirīn, p. 94.



