



LOOKING BACK TO MOVE AHEAD

If one is driving a car, it is extremely dangerous to look back while driving ahead. The same is true for many day to day things. However, it is different for a Mu'min (Believer) who wishes to safely walk the path of life and reach his goal and object — the eternal pleasure of Allah Ta'ala. He must constantly keep looking back. He must look back fourteen centuries to the life of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) and the Sahaaba (R.A.). Looking back to the glorious era will not only light up the path ahead for him so that he may walk with ease, it will also give him great courage to confront whatever obstacles come in his way and will also console him upon the trials that he may have to face.

NEW WORLD ORDER — SAME OLD TACTICS

Many aspects that the world is witnessing today are in fact as old as the first *jahiliyyah* (period of ignorance). Sanctions against Muslims, coalitions being formed with the underlying motive to annihilate true Islam in its pristine purity (under whatever name and pretext that may be done), labeling true sincere Muslims with various epithets (titles) to drive the masses away from them, mocking fundamental aspects of the Deen of Allah Ta'ala in order to disincline people from it, wholesale propaganda against Islam and the Muslims, etc, These and many other similar aspects are no surprise to any person who has a basic knowledge of the seerah of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam). Even a cursory glance at some of the incidents in the first period of Islam will suffice to understand the present situation in its proper perspective.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST "TERROR"

No sooner did Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) commence his Da'wat towards the Deen of Allah Ta'ala, the kuffaar began their campaign against what they regarded as the "terror" of the time. Initially they "lobbied" Abu Talib, the uncle of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) and a well respected leader of the people of Makkah, to stop Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) from propagating the Deen of Allah Ta'ala. Despite their lobbying, this strategy did not bear any fruit. The message of Islam continued to spread.

They also tried to entice Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) with wealth, women and leadership in exchange of halting his mission. This also failed.

"FUNDAMENTALIST"

One day Walid bin Mugheera, one of the "intelligentsia" of the Quraish, gathered his people

and warned them that something must be done to drive people away from Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam). Since the season of Haj was near, he feared that people who would come from far and wide could become inclined towards Islam. Many suggestions were offered: Some suggested that Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) be labeled as "insane" (Allah Forbid!). Others suggested he be titled as just a "poet." Walid rejected these suggestions saying that the Qur'an had such a sweetness that nobody would believe that one conveying the message of the Qur'an is a madman or a poet. Eventually they all agreed to the suggestion of Walid himself, to label Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) a *Saahir* (one who practices black magic). He reasoned that with the advent of Islam, many sons had become estranged from their fathers (due to having accepted the new Deen). Many brothers became enemies. Many marriages were ruined. This, he said, was the effect of black magic. Thus they began inciting people against Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) with this label of "magician." As a result many tribes became hostile towards Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam).

Even today the lobbying continues. Prominent Muslims are still enticed with wealth, women and positions to work against the true mission of Islam. Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) was also labeled as a magician. In these times, first the meaning of the word "fundamentalist" was given a derogative twist and all true practicing Muslims were labeled with it. That was not good enough. Now every practicing Muslim, who is clearly identified as a Muslim from a mile, is a terrorist. The same old strategy. Only the words are new.

ISLAM MOCKED

Another strategy adopted by the enemies of Islam was to constantly mock Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam). For instance they would mockingly claim— "Why is this messenger walking in the bazaars?" "Why does he eat?" Or they would say: "If you are indeed a messenger, move away these mountains and make these barren lands into lush gardens." The mocking continues today. Sometimes the Islamic punishment for adultery and theft is called "barbaric." On other occasions the Shari law of hijab is called "oppressive"

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and “humiliating.” The same old strategy has repeated itself.

When these strategies failed to stem the tide of people accepting Islam, the kuffaar began to wield the stick of sanctions. A pact was made by all the allies of the time to totally boycott Banu Hashim and Banu Muttalib (who were harbouring Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam)). Nobody was allowed to buy from them or sell anything to them or intermarry with them. For almost three years Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) and the Muslims were banished to Shib Abi Talib (valley of Abu Talib). These years passed in extreme difficulty with poverty being the order of the day. The sanctions of that era did result in the Muslims suffering starvation for some days. However, it could not stop Islam. The sanctions of today will also insha-Allah never be able to affect Islam. When Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) had prepared to migrate to Madinatul Munawwara, the kuffaar embarked on the “coalition” strategy. Every person who had any standing in his tribe or clan gathered in Darun Nadwa, their meeting place, and formed a coalition. It was decided that one young strong person from each tribe will join the strike force of this joint campaign. They will surround the house of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) at night and when he emerges in the morning, all will simultaneously pounce upon him. They tried this, but Allah Ta’ala blinded them and Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) walked away to safety through their midst. The coalition of today will also fail to affect Islam and the Muslim Ummah. Another coalition was formed against the Muslims at the time of the battle of the trench. This coalition was also doomed to failure.

PRESCRIPTION OF SABR AND TAQWA

Thus these strategies are no surprise. They happened then. They are happening now. The forces of *baatil* were overcome then by implementing the Qur’anic prescription of *sabr* (patience) and *taqwa* (piety/fear of Allah). Allah Ta’ala has clearly declared: **“If you are patient and have taqwa, their (the disbelievers) evil schemes will not harm you at all”**. The very same prescription is to be adopted today for success against what outwardly may seem to be the most formidable enemy. Trials may certainly come. However, these conditions sometimes are brought about to test the resolve of the true Mu’mineen. The adverse conditions distinguish the “men” from the “boys.” Those who are true in their Imaan only become more steadfast on Deen in the face of such onslaughts. They are not cowed by the enemies of Islam. They do not start backtracking from their Deen — whether in the practical aspects of Deen, or whether in attire or appearance.

Thus the Mu’mineen remain steadfast and never lose heart. Yes indeed! They do keep looking back at the golden era of Islam. They take consolation and courage from the incidents of that time and they continue to move ahead.

Questions CHILDREN AND TARAWEEH

Q During the month of Ramadhaan many people bring their children along for Taraweeh Salaah. Due to Taraweeh Salaah being lengthy, after a short while the children become playful and disturb the entire congregation. Since the children form their own row right at the back, it is difficult to control them. What can be done to prevent the disturbance.

A It is extremely important that the sanctity of the Musjid be maintained at all times. This includes totally refraining from all worldly talk in the Musjid and raising one's voice in permissible conversation even if nobody is in the Musjid. Thus to raise one's voice while others are in the Musjid and to disturb their ibaadat is a double sin.

As for children, a child under the age of seven years should not be brought to the Musjid at all. If he has already turned seven, the child could be brought to the Musjid provided that he has been trained in the matters of tahaarat (purity) and he has been taught the etiquette of the Musjid. It is the parents responsibility to ensure that the child conducts himself in an appropriate manner in the Musjid.

CHILDREN WILL BE CHILDREN

Nevertheless, while every effort must be made to ensure that young children who attend the Musjid do not disturb others, it cannot be expected that the children will at all times behave as they are told. Children will be children and at times will become playful. Apart from being in their nature to be playful, they sometimes learn the wrong lessons from teenagers and even adults who, in some Musjids, sit at the back chatting away while waiting for the Imaam to go into ruku. Therefore, to minimise the occurrence of any disturbance from the children, the following procedure could be adopted:

MINIMISED

Make three or four children stand at both ends of the rows of adults. Thus if in each row, four children have been made to stand on either side, in three rows twenty four children will easily be accommodated. By adopting this procedure, the children will not be together and they will also be under close adult supervision. Hence the chances of them creating a disturbance will be greatly minimised.

It should be remembered that under normal general conditions, children should not be joined in the rows of adults, unless if there is only one child in the entire congregation. Otherwise, children should form their own row behind the adults. The above procedure is only to be adopted during Taraweeh to avoid the disturbance to the Salaah of others.

[The abovementioned procedure has been advised in accordance to a fatwa published in Al-Balaagh, Karachi, Nov.1996 issue. The fatwa was certified correct by Mufti Taqi Usmani Saheb (M.Z.)]

SUPERPOWER

The word “super” conveys the meaning of something that is above others — something that is superior in some form and dominates everything. Thus the word superpower implies some “power” that is above all powers. It tacitly implies a power that is invincible. In reality, and in its absolute sense, there is only ONE superpower: Allah Ta’ala. We are reminded numerous times daily in the Azaan about this reality when we hear the repeated declaration of *Allahu Akbar* (Allah is the Greatest)!

ALLAH TA’ALA IS THE ONLY SUPERPOWER

As Mu’mineen (Believers) we should firmly embed this fundamental belief in our hearts and constantly refresh and reinforce it. The power of Allah Ta’ala is supreme. The **ONLY** power is the power of Allah Ta’ala. The entire world and all its forces put together cannot harm even one pore of a person if Allah Ta’ala decides to protect him. Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) made Hazrath Ibn Abbas (R.A.) who was still a young child at that time, ride with him on the same animal. Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) then said to him: *“O Lad, I will teach you something — Uphold the commands of Allah Ta’ala and Allah Ta’ala will protect you. Uphold the commands of Allah Ta’ala and you will find the help of Allah Ta’ala with you. And know well that if the nations of the world assemble to benefit you, they cannot benefit you except to the extent that Allah Ta’ala has decreed for you. And if they get together (form a coalition) to harm you, they will not be able to harm you except to the extent that Allah Ta’ala has decreed against you. The pens (which have written down the divine decree of Allah Ta’ala in the heavens) have been lifted and the scrolls have dried”* (Mishkaat).

In the past there were nations who claimed to be superpowers. The Qur’an narrates the arrogant challenge of the people of Aad: *“Who is stronger than us?”* they exclaimed. Allah Ta’ala replied to this arrogant challenge in the words: *“Do they not see that Allah, who created them, is greater than them in power?”* Hence the day came when the forces of Allah were mobilised against them. A severe wind destroyed all of them and left them lying dead like huge palm trees uprooted from the ground.

Firoun had made the most arrogant claim when he said: “I am your lord the most high.” However, all his arrogance and pride and his perception of being a “superpower” was drowned in the river Nile.

AIR FORCE OF BIRDS

In *Surah Feel* the incident of the destruction of Abraha and his army of elephants is narrated. Abraha thought that he was a superpower and marched along with an army of elephants to destroy the Ka’ba Shareef. Allah Ta’ala sent an air force of small birds who carried small bombs (mud pebbles) in their beaks. These bombs were really smart since not a single bomb strayed from its intended target and not a single target escaped. *Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!* Allah Ta’ala declares: *“And nobody knows (the reality of) the armies of your Lord, except He”*. Just as small birds with even smaller pebbles were used to destroy mighty elephants, if Allah Ta’ala wills He will use the seemingly weakest nation to defeat and humiliate the apparently mighty powers of this world.

The unseen armies of Allah Ta’ala are mobilised in favour of the Believers when the Believers themselves become the true servants of Allah Ta’ala. By means of righteous actions and abstention from sin they will draw down the mercy of Allah Ta’ala. When the help of Allah Ta’ala comes, none can do anything to prevent the dominance of the Believers. Therefore one should be forever conscious of the fact that Allah Ta’ala alone is the **only** superpower. **Only** He should be worshipped — and feared.

40 SUJOOD

Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is reported to have said: *“A person is closest to Allah Ta’ala while he is in sajda.”* In the state of sajda he has placed his forehead onto the ground and lowered himself to the utmost. Thus when he humbles himself in this manner, he becomes closest to Allah Ta’ala.

“TOP SPEED”

In the month of Ramadhaan Allah Ta’ala has showered His special Mercy and given us forty more opportunities to get closer to Him. In the twenty rakaats of taraweeh, a person will perform sajda 40 times. With each sajda he will get closer to Allah Ta’ala. However, to gain this proximity by means of salaah and performing sajda, the salaah and sajda must be performed correctly. Especially in the case of taraweeh, many people desire that the taraweeh should be performed at “top speed.” However, if the salaah is performed in such a haste that:

- The recitation of the Qur’an Shareef is unclear
 - The ruku and sajda is performed haphazardly
 - The wajib aspect of ie’tidaal (performing every posture properly without haste) is not fulfilled in the qauma (standing posture after ruku) and jalsa (sitting between the two sajdas)
 - The durood at the end of the salaah is omitted
 - The salaah is performed in such a manner as if it is a burden which one merely wants to get over with
- ... then such a salaah takes a person further away from Allah Ta’ala. The salaah itself curses the person for having destroyed it.

BARGAIN FIVE MINUTES

The month of Ramadhaan is a month to exert oneself in Ibadat of Allah Ta’ala. To be on the lookout for the place where taraweeh finishes ten minutes earlier than other places, just so that one can get “leave” earlier, is against the spirit of Ramadhaan. Undoubtedly it is necessary that the Huffaaz should consider the condition

(CONTINUED OVERLEAF)

COUNT ALLAH'S BLESSINGS

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... **you are richer than 75% of this world.**

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace ... **you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.**

If you woke this morning with more health than illness ... **you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.**

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... **you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.**

If your parents are still alive and still married ... **you are very rare.**

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful ... **you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.**

If you can read this message... **you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you and, furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.**

Have a good day, **count your blessings to thank Allah Ta'ala**, and pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are. K(courtesy: Al-Balaagh, Karachi)

From the pen of



FAQIHUL UMMAH

The sterling advice of Faqihul Ummah Hazrath Mufti Mahmood Saheb (*Rahmatullahi Alaihi*) has helped thousands of people to overcome many problems and difficulties — especially in the line of *Islahun Nafs* (inner-self reformation). Hereunder is a reply to a letter seeking guidance.

PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES

SUMMARY OF LETTER: Bismihī Ta'ala
Respected Mufti Saheb

As Salaamu Alaikum

I am in severe problems and difficulties. I cannot even think why these difficulties have come upon me. What wrong have I done that I have been taken to task in this manner? Kindly make dua for me.

SUMMARY OF REPLY: Bismihī Ta'ala
Respected Brother

As Salaamu Alaikum

I wholeheartedly make dua for you that Allah Ta'ala must remove your difficulties. May you be exonerated and freed from your difficulties in a most respectable manner.

Furthermore, I wish to draw your attention to another aspect. Never consider yourself as blameless and sinless. Daily we commit sins and still think that we have been taken to task despite being blameless. However the reality is that there is a mountain of blame upon us. This can be understood by the following example: A light switch is switched on in one place and at a distance the bulb lights up. However, the connection between the two by means of the wiring is often not seen (but the link is certainly there). Likewise our sins have "switched on" the problems (though we cannot see it - translator). May Allah Ta'ala forgive our sins. May He keep us with respect and safety and save us from sins. (Tarbiyatut Taalibeen pg.179)

40 SUJOOD

(FROM PAGE 3)

of the people since there are often weak and sick people in the congregation. Thus while performing the salaah properly with all its etiquettes, they should recite the Qur'an Shareef clearly with *tajweed* at a good pace. However, to "bargain" for five and ten minutes, which time is then often spent chatting outside the Musjid, is completely against the spirit of this Mubarak month.

Therefore, appreciate the 40 sujood (plural of sajdah) in Taraweeh and get closer to Allah Ta'ala. Do not destroy this golden opportunity — merely to save ten minutes.

PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

"The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to Allah can stand up to anything."

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