



مَسِيرَةُ نَبِيِّ فِي شَهْرِ اللَّهِ الْمُحَرَّمِ

THE JOURNEY OF A PROPHET IN THE SACRED MONTH OF MUHARRAM

FIRST KHUTBAH

ALL PRAISE IS DUE TO ALLAH, WHO HONORED HIS ALLIES AND GRANTED VICTORY TO THE RIGHTEOUS, HUMILIATED THE TYRANTS, AND DESTROYED THE ARROGANT. I BEAR WITNESS THAT THERE IS NO DEITY WORTHY OF WORSHIP EXCEPT ALLAH ALONE, WITHOUT PARTNER, THE TRUE KING, THE MANIFEST TRUTH. I ALSO BEAR WITNESS THAT OUR PROPHET MUHAMMAD IS THE SERVANT AND MESSENGER OF ALLAH, WHOM ALLAH SENT WITH THE FINEST LAW AND THE TRUE RELIGION. O ALLAH, SEND YOUR PRAYERS, PEACE, AND BLESSINGS UPON HIM, HIS FAMILY, ALL OF HIS COMPANIONS, AND THOSE WHO FOLLOW THEM IN RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTIL THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.

TO PROCEED:

SERVANTS OF ALLAH! FEAR ALLAH AS HE TRULY DESERVES TO BE FEARED, AND BE GRATEFUL FOR HIS COUNTLESS FAVORS AND BLESSINGS.

O BELIEVERS! AS WE ARE NOW NEARING THE END OF THE SACRED MONTH OF MUHARRAM, WE SHOULD NOT FORGET AN EVENT THAT TOOK PLACE DURING THIS BLESSED MONTH. IT IS A STORY THAT IS REPEATEDLY MENTIONED THROUGHOUT THE NOBLE QUR'AN, IN DETAIL AND IN SUMMARY, UNTIL MANY THOUGHTFUL READERS HAVE WONDERED ABOUT THE WISDOM BEHIND ITS FREQUENT REPETITION.

THE SCHOLARS, MAY ALLAH HAVE MERCY UPON THEM, EXPLAINED THAT AMONG ITS WISDOMS BESIDES COMFORTING THE HEART OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PEACE AND BLESSINGS BE UPON HIM), HIS FAMILY, AND HIS COMPANIONS IS THAT IT TEACHES AND GUIDES THE PROPHET AND HIS FOLLOWERS REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ISLAMIC STATE, THE ORGANIZATION OF ITS AFFAIRS, AND THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH IT IS FOUNDED.

PERHAPS YOU ALREADY KNOW, O BELIEVERS, WHOSE STORY THIS IS.

INDEED, IT IS THE STORY OF PROPHET MUSA (MOSES), PEACE BE UPON HIM, AND THE TYRANT PHARAOH A STORY OF A LONG STRUGGLE BETWEEN TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD.

ALLAH TESTED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THROUGH PHARAOH. ALTHOUGH ALLAH HAD FAVORED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL ABOVE THE PEOPLES OF THEIR TIME, PHARAOH DID NOT HONOR THEM. INSTEAD, HE OPPRESSED THEM, SLAUGHTERING THEIR SONS OUT OF FEAR OF THEIR INCREASING NUMBERS, WHILE SPARING THEIR WOMEN ONLY TO HUMILIATE AND ENSLAVE THEM. TRULY, HE WAS AMONG THE CORRUPTERS WHO SOUGHT NEITHER THE REFORM OF RELIGION NOR WORLDLY AFFAIRS.





SERVANTS OF ALLAH!

ALLAH WILLED TO RESCUE THIS BELIEVING COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSA IBN 'IMRAN (PEACE BE UPON HIM). OUR LORD, THE MOST HIGH, SPOKE TO HIM DIRECTLY, SAYING:

«"GO TO PHARAOH; INDEED, HE HAS TRANSGRESSED."»

MUSA KNEW EXACTLY WHO PHARAOH WAS. THEREFORE, HE ASKED ALLAH FOR HELP, EASE IN HIS MISSION, AND EXPANSION OF HIS CHEST. HE THEN TOOK HIS BROTHER HARUN (AARON), PEACE BE UPON HIM, AND TOGETHER THEY WENT TO PHARAOH.

AT THEIR VERY FIRST MEETING AFTER RECEIVING PROPHETHOOD, MUSA DECLARED:

«"INDEED, WE ARE MESSENGERS OF THE LORD OF THE WORLDS."»

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, HE MADE IT CLEAR TO PHARAOH THAT HE WAS NEITHER A LORD NOR A GOD.

PHARAOH WAS ASTONISHED BY WHAT HE SAW AND HEARD, FOR THE LAST TIME HE HAD KNOWN MUSA, HE HAD BEEN RAISED IN PHARAOH'S OWN PALACE AS A CHILD BEFORE FLEEING EGYPT AFTER THE INCIDENT OF THE KILLING. PHARAOH SAID:

«"DID WE NOT RAISE YOU AMONG US AS A CHILD, AND DID YOU NOT REMAIN AMONG US FOR MANY YEARS OF YOUR LIFE?"»

YET MUSA BOLDLY AND CLEARLY DEMANDED:

«"SO SEND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WITH US AND DO NOT PUNISH THEM. WE HAVE COME TO YOU WITH A SIGN FROM YOUR LORD, AND PEACE BE UPON WHOEVER FOLLOWS THE GUIDANCE."»

IN ESSENCE, MUSA CAME WITH TWO CALLS: TO INVITE PHARAOH TO ISLAM AND TO FREE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL FROM PHARAOH'S BONDAGE AND OPPRESSION.

PHARAOH THEN ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS A LORD BESIDES HIMSELF. MUSA REPLIED:

«"OUR LORD IS HE WHO GAVE EVERYTHING ITS FORM AND THEN GUIDED IT."»

PHARAOH WAS LEFT SPEECHLESS. AFTER WITNESSING THIS, AND AFTER MUSA DEFEATED THE MAGICIANS BY ALLAH'S PERMISSION, PHARAOH RESORTED TO FORCE. HE THREATENED MUSA WITH IMPRISONMENT AND SEVERE PUNISHMENT, SAYING:

«"I WILL SURELY MAKE YOU ONE OF THOSE WHO ARE IMPRISONED."»





O MUSLIMS!

IF WE MOVE BEYOND MANY SCENES OF THIS STORY AND ARRIVE AT ITS CONCLUSION, WE FIND THAT MUSA (PEACE BE UPON HIM) AND THE BELIEVERS WITH HIM FLED WITH THEIR RELIGION BY ALLAH'S COMMAND, WHILE PHARAOH AND HIS ARMIES STUBBORNLY PURSUED THEM.

THE CONFLICT REACHED ITS CLIMAX. MUSA AND HIS PEOPLE TRAVELED BY NIGHT THROUGH ALLAH'S REVELATION BECAUSE THEY WERE BEING PURSUED UNTIL THEY STOOD BEFORE A RAGING SEA. THEY HAD NO SHIPS, NO MEANS OF CROSSING IT, AND THEY WERE NOT ARMED. MEANWHILE, PHARAOH AND HIS ARMY WERE RAPIDLY APPROACHING, SHOWING NO MERCY.

THE COMPANIONS OF MUSA CRIED OUT:

«"INDEED, WE WILL SURELY BE OVERTAKEN!"»

THEIR DISTRESS REACHED ITS PEAK, AND HARDSHIP BECAME OVERWHELMING. YET MUSA, WITH COMPLETE CERTAINTY AND UNWAVERING FAITH, REPLIED:

«"NO! INDEED, MY LORD IS WITH ME; HE WILL GUIDE ME."»

SUCH ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE AND TRUST!

THE SEA, THE HEAVENS, THE EARTH, AND ALL MANKIND BELONG TO ALLAH, THE LORD OF THE WORLDS. HE CONTROLS THEM AS HE WILLS, AND HE IS THE BEST OF JUDGES.

THEN THE PATH OF SALVATION OPENED FROM WHERE NO ONE EXPECTED. ALLAH COMMANDED:

«"STRIKE FOR THEM A DRY PATH THROUGH THE SEA."»

THE SEA SPLIT, REVEALING A COMPLETELY DRY ROAD, AS THOUGH NO DROP OF WATER HAD EVER TOUCHED IT. THE BELIEVING COMMUNITY CROSSED SAFELY WHILE ALLAH WATCHED OVER THEM AND GRANTED THEM DELIVERANCE.

WHEN MUSA AND HIS PEOPLE HAD FULLY CROSSED, AND PHARAOH AND HIS ARMY HAD ENTERED THE SEA, THE WAVES CLOSED IN UPON THEM FROM EVERY SIDE, AND THEY WERE DROWNED.





ALLAH SAYS:

«"INDEED, IN THAT IS A SIGN, YET MOST OF THEM WERE NOT BELIEVERS. AND INDEED, YOUR LORD—HE IS THE ALMIGHTY, THE MOST MERCIFUL."»

THIS GREAT EVENT TOOK PLACE DURING THE SACRED MONTH OF MUHARRAM.

I HAVE SAID WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD, AND I SEEK ALLAH'S FORGIVENESS FOR MYSELF AND FOR YOU. SO SEEK HIS FORGIVENESS, FOR INDEED HE IS THE MOST FORGIVING, THE MOST MERCIFUL.

SECOND KHUTBAH

ALL PRAISE IS DUE TO ALLAH, THE LORD OF ALL THE WORLDS. I BEAR WITNESS THAT THERE IS NO DEITY WORTHY OF WORSHIP EXCEPT ALLAH ALONE, WITHOUT PARTNER, THE PROTECTOR OF THE RIGHTEOUS. I ALSO BEAR WITNESS THAT MUHAMMAD IS THE SERVANT AND MESSENGER OF ALLAH, THE TRUTHFUL, THE RIGHTEOUS, AND THE TRUSTWORTHY. O ALLAH, SEND YOUR PRAYERS, PEACE, AND BLESSINGS UPON HIM, HIS FAMILY, ALL OF HIS COMPANIONS, AND THOSE WHO FOLLOW THEM IN RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTIL THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.

TO PROCEED:

«"O YOU WHO BELIEVE! IF YOU FEAR ALLAH, HE WILL GRANT YOU A CRITERION (TO DISTINGUISH TRUTH FROM FALSEHOOD), REMOVE YOUR SINS FROM YOU, AND FORGIVE YOU. AND ALLAH IS THE POSSESSOR OF GREAT BOUNTY."»

BROTHERS IN FAITH,

BETWEEN THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF THIS STORY LIE MANY LESSONS AND PROFOUND REFLECTIONS.

AMONG THE GREATEST OF THESE IS THAT THE LIGHT OF ALLAH WILL ALWAYS PREVAIL AND REMAIN MANIFEST, NO MATTER HOW HARD THE CRIMINALS STRIVE TO EXTINGUISH IT. LIKEWISE, NO MATTER HOW ARROGANT THE TYRANTS BECOME, THEY WILL ULTIMATELY PERISH. EVEN IF THEY DECEIVE THE MINDS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE FOR A TIME, THE HEARTS OF THE SERVANTS ARE IN THE HAND OF ALLAH; HE TURNS THEM HOWEVER HE WILLS.





REFLECT UPON THE MAGICIANS OF PHARAOH: AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY THEY WERE MAGICIANS, BUT BY THE END OF THE DAY THEY HAD BECOME RIGHTEOUS MARTYRS. WHERE THEN WERE PHARAOH'S REWARDS AND GIFTS? WHERE WERE HIS COMPANIONS, MINISTERS, AND CLOSE ASSOCIATES? THIS IS A PRACTICAL LESSON DEMONSTRATING THAT TRUE FAITH TRIUMPHS OVER WORLDLY LIFE, AND FIRM DETERMINATION OVERCOMES PAIN. ALLAH, THE MOST HIGH, HAS SPOKEN THE TRUTH:

«"AND ALLAH WILL PERFECT HIS LIGHT, EVEN THOUGH THE DISBELIEVERS DISLIKE IT."»

SERVANTS OF ALLAH,

THE MUSLIMS DURING THE TIME OF PHARAOH LIVED THROUGH EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. THE EMINENT TĀBĪ'Ī MUJĀHID (MAY ALLAH HAVE MERCY ON HIM) SAID THAT THEY FEARED BEING KILLED IN THEIR PUBLIC PLACES OF WORSHIP, SO THEY WERE COMMANDED TO MAKE THEIR HOMES PLACES OF WORSHIP. THEY WERE ALSO COMMANDED TO BE PATIENT, ESTABLISH PRAYER, SEEK ALLAH'S HELP, AND PLACE THEIR TRUST IN HIM.

ALLAH SAYS:

«"MOSES SAID TO HIS PEOPLE: SEEK HELP THROUGH ALLAH AND BE PATIENT. INDEED, THE EARTH BELONGS TO ALLAH; HE GRANTS IT AS AN INHERITANCE TO WHOM HE WILLS AMONG HIS SERVANTS. AND THE GOOD END BELONGS TO THE RIGHTEOUS."»

PRAYER IS THEREFORE THE DISTINGUISHING MARK OF A MUSLIM IN TIMES OF EASE AND HARDSHIP ALIKE, JUST AS OUR LORD COMMANDED:

«"O YOU WHO BELIEVE! SEEK HELP THROUGH PATIENCE AND PRAYER. INDEED, ALLAH IS WITH THE PATIENT."»

SERVANTS OF ALLAH,

SUPPLICATION AND SINCERE RELIANCE UPON ALLAH ARE AMONG THE GREATEST MEANS OF RELIEF FROM DISTRESS AND DELIVERANCE FROM OPPRESSION.

ALLAH SAYS:

«"THEY SAID: UPON ALLAH WE HAVE RELIED. OUR LORD, DO NOT MAKE US A TRIAL FOR THE WRONGDOING PEOPLE, AND SAVE US BY YOUR MERCY FROM THE DISBELIEVING PEOPLE."»





BROTHERS IN ISLAM,

A FOURTH LESSON IS THE EXPOSURE OF THE DECEPTION PRACTICED BY CRIMINALS AND TYRANTS UPON THE COMMON PEOPLE AND THE IGNORANT MASSES. PHARAOH SAID TO HIS PEOPLE:

«"HAVE YOU BELIEVED IN HIM BEFORE I GAVE YOU PERMISSION?"»

IBN KATHIR (MAY ALLAH HAVE MERCY ON HIM) COMMENTED THAT PHARAOH KNEW FULL WELL THAT THIS STATEMENT WAS COMPLETELY FALSE. HE MERELY SAID IT TO DECEIVE AND MISLEAD THE IGNORANT FOLLOWERS OF HIS KINGDOM.

HOW ASTONISHING! THE PEOPLE BECAME FEARFUL THAT MUSA AND HIS FOLLOWERS WOULD SPREAD CORRUPTION, WHILE IN REALITY IT WAS PHARAOH AND HIS PEOPLE WHO WERE THE TRUE CORRUPTERS, YET THEY FAILED TO REALIZE IT.

THIS STORY REMINDS EVERY BELIEVER THAT THE BOND OF FAITH AND RELIGION TRANSCENDS ALL BARRIERS OF TIME. THE DAY ON WHICH MUSA (PEACE BE UPON HIM) WAS SAVED WAS A DAY OF IMMENSE JOY. OUR PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PEACE AND BLESSINGS BE UPON HIM) FASTED ON THAT DAY, AND HIS UMMAH HAS CONTINUED TO FAST IT UNTIL THIS VERY DAY.

O ALLAH, HELP US ALL TO REMEMBER YOU, THANK YOU, AND WORSHIP YOU IN THE BEST MANNER.

OUR LORD, WE BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU HAVE REVEALED AND WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE MESSENGER, SO RECORD US AMONG THOSE WHO BEAR WITNESS TO THE TRUTH.

OUR LORD, FORGIVE OUR SINS AND OUR EXCESSES IN OUR AFFAIRS, MAKE OUR FEET FIRM, AND GRANT US VICTORY OVER THE DISBELIEVING PEOPLE.

O ALLAH, GRANT HONOR TO ISLAM AND THE MUSLIMS EVERYWHERE, HUMILIATE DISBELIEF AND THE DISBELIEVERS, DESTROY THE ENEMIES OF THE RELIGION, AND MAKE THIS LAND SECURE AND PEACEFUL, AS WELL AS ALL THE LANDS OF THE MUSLIMS.

O ALLAH, GRANT SUCCESS TO THE RULERS OF THE MUSLIMS EVERYWHERE IN THAT WHICH YOU LOVE AND ARE PLEASED WITH. HELP THEM IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PIETY, GUIDE THEM, AND MAKE GUIDANCE EASY FOR THEM.





O ALLAH, GRANT SUCCESS TO THE CUSTODIAN OF THE TWO HOLY MOSQUES, KING SALMAN BIN ABDULAZIZ, AND TO HIS TRUSTWORTHY CROWN PRINCE, MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN. GRANT THEM SUCCESS IN WHAT YOU LOVE AND ARE PLEASED WITH, ASSIST THEM IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PIETY, REWARD THEM ABUNDANTLY FOR SERVING ISLAM AND THE MUSLIMS, GRANT VICTORY TO OUR SOLDIERS, AND PROTECT OUR BORDERS.

O ALLAH, ACCEPT OUR MARTYRS AMONG THE RIGHTEOUS. FORGIVE US, OUR PARENTS, AND ALL THE MUSLIMS.

OUR LORD, GRANT US GOOD IN THIS WORLD AND GOOD IN THE HEREAFTER, AND PROTECT US FROM THE PUNISHMENT OF THE FIRE.

SERVANTS OF ALLAH,

REMEMBER ALLAH, AND HE WILL REMEMBER YOU. THANK HIM FOR HIS BLESSINGS, AND HE WILL INCREASE YOU IN FAVOR. INDEED, THE REMEMBRANCE OF ALLAH IS GREATER, AND ALLAH KNOWS ALL THAT YOU DO.

