

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Restoring Hope: A Message and a Call to Action

Khutbah from al-Masjid al-Haraam
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Indeed, all praise is due to Allaah. We praise Him, seek His assistance, and ask His forgiveness. He deserves immense praise in proportion to His tremendous blessings upon us. All praise is due to Allaah who created us and blessed us so abundantly that no one can thank Him enough. I testify that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone without any partner. He decreed times during which adversities intensify and then abate. I further testify that our Prophet Muhammad is Allaah's worshipping servant and Messenger. He was a role model of hope, optimism, and aspiration for all mankind. O Allaah, send continuous salaah, salaam, and blessings upon him, his eminent family and Companions, and all who follow their path until the Day when all creation will return to Allaah.

Servants of Allaah, I counsel you all as well as myself to observe taqwaa of Allaah because it is the way out of adversity and it leads to attaining provision from unanticipated sources. "If someone observes taqwaa, Allaah will give him a way out of every difficulty and provide for him from where he never anticipated. And if someone places his full trust in Allaah, He will suffice that person in every way. Allaah's command shall inevitably take place, and He has decreed a specific term for all things." [at-Talaaq:2-3].

You must observe taqwaa of Allaah at all times. By doing so, you will find the results you long for on the Day of Reckoning. No good comes about from a long life if you depart from this world without taqwaa.

Dear Muslims, we are experiencing a time of compounded crises, battering waves of daunting challenges, and the spread of misguided inclinations and false hopes. Such circumstances stop us from sleeping at night and rip our hearts to shreds. They lead many people into the depths of hopelessness and despair, and cause them to wander in the darkness of frustration. There are people whose pessimism and despair keeps them in the aforementioned states of dejection and desperation. Whenever this debilitating illness affects a nation, it destroys it. Making matters even worse is the superficial understanding and lack of awareness among many people that has resulted from them being distant from knowledge and the people who have it, and also believing rumours and deliberate lies being spread to mislead people.

Servants of Allaah, this is why we need to take a serious, resolute reality check in order to address the raging winds of despair that are hitting many areas of the Ummah, devastating our young men and women, and blowing them away to all sorts of places such that we don't know where or for how long.

The heart may feel despair that leaves the chest feeling tense, and adversity may have set in and taken a firm footing. However, despite you losing hope, Allaah answers our calls and grants relief out of His infinite kindness and knowledge.

Dear people of eemaan, despair is one level of darkness among many others, and this is why the Qur'aan warns against this gloomy, unsettling, destabilizing quality. It also describes the people who have this quality as being astray, and even places them among those who reject Allaah. Our Lord, the Most Perfect, said, "Who could despair of their Lord's mercy besides those who are astray?" [al-Hijr:56]. Allaah also said, "Indeed, no one loses hope in Allaah except a people who reject Him." [Yoosuf:87].

Therefore, we say to those in despair with no sense of hope: take it easy upon yourselves and upon your Ummah. We call out to those who have been engulfed by frustration, desperation, misguidance, and doubts and we say to them: come to the brilliance of Islaam and the pristine tawheed it teaches. Come to the shade of happiness, optimism, and hope.

I busy my soul with aspirations I aim towards. Life is tense and restricted without the expanses of hope.

Our religion gives many glad tidings and blessed reasons for hope and optimism. Allaah said, "...until when the Messengers lost hope in their message being accepted by the people, and they

were certain they had been denied, that was when Our assistance and victory came to them.” [Yoosuf:110]. In addition, one of the greatest things that renews hope in our souls is Allaah’s statement, “Indeed, with difficulty comes ease. Indeed, with [that] difficulty comes [another] ease.” [ash-Sharh:5-6]. Here, Allaah emphasized that two times of ease would come with just one difficulty. Therefore, the one instance of difficulty cannot overcome two instances of ease.

We indeed place our hope in Allaah, our Protector, during prosperity and adversity. He is not pleased when His commands are contravened, and if Allaah seeks after someone nothing in the world can protect that person and there will be nowhere for him flee.

My brothers in Islaam, we need to remain hopeful and optimistic, abiding by the teachings of our upright religion, following the guidance of the chosen Prophet ﷺ, and actualizing the objectives of our dignified Sharee‘ah which aims to maximize advantages and minimize harms.

The life of our noble Prophet ﷺ was the best practical example of protecting one’s strength by remaining optimistic and hopeful through even the darkest of crises and most difficult of adversities. The Prophet ﷺ would even encourage his Companions, telling them, “This [religion] will reach as far as the night and day reach. Allaah will not leave any home in any urban or rural area without letting this religion enter it. That will happen by strengthening the honourable and humiliating the deplorable; honour by which Allaah strengthens Islaam, and degradation by which Allaah humiliates kufr.” (Collected by al-Imaam Ahmad in his Musnad).

Also, the Prophet ﷺ liked optimism. Anas ؓ narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said, “There is no contagion or ill omen from superstition [such as the direction in which a bird flies]. However, I do like optimism.” The Companions asked, “Messenger of Allaah, what is optimism?” He replied, “[What you feel when you hear] a pleasant word.” (Collected by al-Bukhaaree and Muslim).

In addition, when the Prophet ﷺ sent some of his Companions for a certain task he counselled them saying, “Convey glad tidings and do not chase the people away. Make things easy, not difficult.” (Collected by al-Imaam Muslim).

Ubayy ibn Ka‘b ؓ narrated that the Messenger of Allaah ﷺ said, “Convey the glad tidings to this Ummah that they shall have honour, nobility, victory, and authority upon the earth.” (Collected by al-Imaam Ahmad in his Musnad with a saheeh chain of narration).

A Prophet came to us after despair, when a long time had passed without a Messenger being sent, and people were worshipping idols upon the earth. That Prophet was a light and guide who taught us Islaam, and we praise Allaah for that.

Ummah of hope and optimism, realize that the words “hope” and “optimism” are very captivating terms which have substantial meanings and effects. If stripped of such meanings, they are nothing more than dreams and figments of the imagination. Thus, they must not be contaminated with inactivity or laziness. Rather, the actions of the heart must be coupled with actions of the limbs.

Thus, servants of Allaah, hope provides light throughout the uncertainties of life, and it rises to illuminate the darkness of adversity. Did the noble Prophets attain victory and authority with anything other than hope, optimism, patient perseverance, certainty, and action? They were the best of mankind, and the fatigue they faced was extremely bitter, but they still conveyed Allaah’s message and guidance. The Prophet Nooh called his people for nine hundred and fifty years and did not lose hope. Likewise, the Prophets Ibraaheem, Moosaa, ‘Eesaa, and Muhammad did not lose hope regarding their respective peoples. The Prophet Yoonus remained under several layers of darkness but did not lose hope. He called out to Allaah, “There is none worthy of worship except You, the Most Perfect. I was indeed among those who perpetrated tremendous wrongdoing,” and Allaah responded. “So We responded to him and rescued him from such adversity. Thus We rescue the people of eemaan.” [al-Anbiyaa’:88].

Have great people throughout history reached the heights of civilization and distinction without being driven by optimism and called by hope? How long will you remain disturbed? Will you never give up being in despair? If the traps of the night have been set, nothing will save you from them except hope.

Thus, servants of Allaah, you must rid yourselves of laziness and feebleness. You must pursue the means to success, and that entails placing full trust in Allaah while taking diligent action. Lofty aspirations are not attained by negligence, and how could they ever be reached by the lethargic? Thus, hope is a message and a call to action, not blaming each other, laziness, or argumentation. On the other hand, losing hope leads to the avoidance of moderation. A lack of hope produces extremism, takfeer, destruction, and acts of terrorism; or alienation and discarding the established foundations of Islaam and all principles and values.

My people, I remain hopeful despite your despair. The sky will eventually rain and the valley will come back to life. I am certain of this and it satisfies me just as a full cup quenches extreme thirst.

However, even more profound than that is Allaah's statement, "Do not become weak and disheartened, as you shall have the upper hand if you truly have eemaan." [Aal 'Imraan:139]. At times of panic, one is not to succumb to grief. His certainty is to be like a mountain anchored in his heart. He sees the glimmer of Allaah's assistance even in the depths of adversity when despair may set in.

Dear people of eemaan, one of the incredible factors that inspires hope and optimism is the praise and gratitude that has been engraved in history due to the extraordinary stances taken by many esteemed people – authorities and the general public – from this nation of the Two Sacred Mosques and their efforts of consolation and brotherhood. Those efforts have served to alleviate the suffering of our afflicted brothers, uphold the truth in the face of falsity, and uphold justice in the face of oppression no matter how unruly and arrogant its perpetrators become. After the Decisive Storm, Restoring Hope came as light that illuminates people's insight and vision, and places happiness and brightness in their souls. This came after the Decisive Storm accomplished its objective of standing against the hostility perpetrated by rebellious gangs of aggression and oppression who revolted against legitimate leadership and served foreign agendas seeking to sow the despised seeds of sectarianism in this entire region.

Thus, hope is to be restored now. It is a message, a course to be followed, and a call to action in the hopes that people will be properly directed and do what is right. This would provide the opportunity for rebuilding, relief, tending to wounds, and making rectification and success reality. The King Salmaan Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Work will serve its function as part of the leading role played by the land of the Two Sacred Mosques and its Islaamic, humanitarian, and global message. It is truly a gesture of tremendous merit from standpoints of history, humanity, and civilization. It is a compassionate relief effort added to the robust historical record of the Salmaan of decisiveness, hope, determination, and action. We ask Allaah to place this among his good deeds, as Allaah is the Most Generous and Kind. "And if you spend anything [for Allaah], He will replace it [in this world and the hereafter], and He is the best of providers." [Saba':39].

May Allaah bless us by His two revelations and allow us to glean benefit from the guidance of His Messenger. I say this much and I ask Allaah, the Most Great and Majestic, to forgive me, you and all Muslims for every misdeed. Thus, ask His forgiveness and repent to Him. He is certainly the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.

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All praise is due to Allaah; a praise that fills the heart with optimism, brightness, and hope. I testify that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone without any partner, and I testify that our Prophet Muhammad is Allaah's worshipping servant and Messenger. He was best of all who called people to remain optimistic and hopeful. May Allaah send salaah, salaam, and blessings upon him, his, family, his Companions, and all who follow their path until the Last Day.

Servants of Allaah, make taqwaa the supporting pillar of your hearts and the source of clarity for your vision. Never lose hope no matter how difficult things get.

My brothers in eemaan, knowing that the Lord of the heavens and the earth is the One who removes adversity is enough to encourage us to maintain our aspirations and happiness, and to guide us to the means of optimism and hope. Despair may put an end to a person, so do not ever lose hope, because Allaah is the One who will suffice you. He gives ease after difficulty, so do not be overcome by dread, since Allaah is the One who grants relief.

We also say to the young people of this Ummah: remain optimistic about a bright future. Work hard now to in order to enjoy what lies ahead of you, and so that you will not have any regrets about the past. All people live on hope, since time is like an ocean and hopes are like ships.

We also say to our sons and daughters who are students: make sure you take the means to attaining success and everything you hope for. By doing so, all you aspire towards will come to you by Allaah's permission. May Allaah grant you success and guidance in this world and the hereafter.

We say to our courageous troops, the soldiers of Islaam: you are the ones at the frontiers who defend the boundaries of the Two Sacred Mosques. We ask Allaah to grant you all that is best in your Ribaah and Jihaad in His path. Remain optimistic that victory, honour, dignity, and stability will be brought about. Such is the way Allaah regulates His creation. "Thus, Allaah came to them from where they did not anticipate and He cast severe fear into their hearts." [al-Hashr:2]. "We will certainly test you until We make known those among you who truly struggle in Our path and those who persevere. And We will also test your words." [Muhammad:31].

In addition, we say to our brothers in the fortunate country of Yemen: May Allaah grant you all that is best in restoring hope. This is your golden opportunity, so do not waste it. Remain united in aiming to achieve security, stability, and legitimate governance, as well as in aiming to eliminate division and sectarianism. May Allaah always bless you with hope, happiness, and goodness.

Those who are being oppressed because of their religion in Palestine, around al-Masjid al-Aqsa, and in Iraq, ash-Shaam, Burma and all other places must also defend themselves by maintaining very deep hope in Allaah. We ask Allaah to grant them assistance and victory out of His infinite bounty and kindness.

Remain mindful of Allaah's glad tidings and remain hopeful. Having hope is what the Qur'aan teaches us. It is the course to which our eemaan directs us. It is a basic human need. Restoration of hope is a message to the entire Ummah in all realms and situations. When you remain optimistic about attaining good, you will achieve it. Look forward to relief and seeing the light at the end of adversity. When you do so, you will actualize the directives of your religion and comply with the Sunnah of your Prophet ﷺ. By doing so, you will achieve goodness in your religion, in this world, and in the hereafter, and you will bring happiness to yourselves, your nations, your societies, and your Ummah.

If you are overcome by adversities and you fear them, do not ever give up. Rather, remain hopeful. When you want to succeed in making your hopes reality, that hope must be accompanied by action it requires.

May Allaah have mercy upon you all. In conclusion, invoke salaah and salaam upon the beloved chosen Messenger whose example we are to follow. Your Lord has commanded you with this in His noble statement, "Indeed, Allaah and His angels send salaah upon the Prophet. People of

eemaan, invoke salaah and abundant salaam upon him.” [al-Ahzaab:56].

Additionally, the Prophet ﷺ said, “If someone invokes salaah upon me once, Allaah will send salaah upon him ten times as a result.”

[followed by du‘aa’...]