

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENCE FOR THE BELIEVER



Let us strive to increase our taqwa of Allah Ta'aala with the true taqwa by fulfilling all that was commanded by Allah and His Messenger and avoiding all that He had

prohibited. Salawaat and salaam upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam, his family, his Companions and his followers until the End of Time.

Today's khutbah will discuss upon a topic that is noteworthy, namely "The Characteristics Of Patience For The Believer."

Sabr (patience) is from among the major type of akhlaaq and it is heavily emphasized in al-Qur'an whether in the Makkan or Madinan soorahs. It denotes a very noble akhlaaq to be

inculcated by every human being. According to Imaam al-Ghazzaali rahimahullaah: "Sabr is a special characteristic belonging to the humans and not possessed by the animals

due to their deficiencies, and also not possessed by the angels due to their perfections."

This is because animals are dominated by lust and desire, while angels are bound to fully devote themselves voluntarily in attaining nearness with Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala.

Among the examples of those with great and ultimate patience are the Messengers, those better known as Ulul 'Azm. They are Prophet Nooh, Ibraaheem, Moosa, 'Isa, and Muhammad

sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam. Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: "... So be patient, [O Muhammad], as were those of determination among the messengers .." (al-Ahqaaf 46:35)

The Ulul 'Azm are those that were persistent in inviting mankind to entirely submit and enslave themselves to Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala, leaving all forms of shirk unto Allah

Subhaanahu Wata'aala. Furthermore, they are those having utmost patience when giving da'wah. They will be opposed by those having no belief in Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala.

Just look at the sabr of Nabi Nooh 'alayhissalam, who gave da'wah for 950 years just inviting mankind to having belief in Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala, but not many had actually

believed in the divine message including his own wife and son. Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: "And We certainly sent Noah to his people,

and he remained among them a thousand years minus fifty years, and the flood seized them while they were wrongdoers." (al-'Ankaboot 29:14)

Al-Qur'an heavily stresses upon the characteristics of patience for it is a trait that is of utmost value, whether from the religious or moral perspective. Sabr is not merely additional or

complementary welfare, but an obligation that is truly needed by mankind in their enhancement of both the material and spiritual aspects, and to attain personal and communal

happiness. However, to refrain oneself while being tested by Allah and refraining oneself from matters that are prohibited by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala is truly a difficult

endeavor that necessitates solid effort and high imaan unto Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. There are many characteristics of the patient ones mentioned by Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala

al-Qur'an. According to ibn Katheer rahimahullaah, the three major characteristics of the patient ones are: First, sabr in abstaining from the forbidden matters and committing sins.

Second, sabr in the obedience of Allah's Commands and attaining nearness to Him. Third, sabr in the wake of various forms of calamities and tribulations.

Among the characteristics of sabr of the mu'min are:

1. Sabr from the temptations of evil desire

To refrain oneself from his own evil desire that can lead to the disobedience of Allah

Subhaanahu Wata 'aala's Commands truly necessitates a high level of patience. For example, a muslimah that is covered and not exposing her 'awrah to non-mahram males because she knows

that it is a grave sin for doing so. Similarly with young Muslim men or women whom are struggling to resist their evil desire with full sabr, in preventing themselves from falling into

fornication. Indeed, the human instinct at times would incline into committing matters that have been decreed haraam by Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala.

But due to the solid imaan unto Allah, the strong dose of sabr would be induced to restrain the soul from committing evil deeds. Narrated Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh,

Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"The (Hell) Fire is surrounded by all kinds of desires and passions,

while Paradise is surrounded by all kinds of disliked undesirable things." (al-Bukhaari)

The desire and longing for the pleasures and luxuries of life is one of the tests from Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. The believers must have sabr from the opulence of this world.

We are prohibited from surrendering to our own nafs (evil desire) that would consist of women, progenies, abundant wealth, healthy livestock, beautiful gardens and orchards.

If we do not restrain our own desire, then such ease and pleasure will make us arrogant and transgress.

2- Sabr in fulfilling the obligations commanded by Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala Every obligatory duties decreed by Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala must

be fulfilled in the best manner. Fulfilling these obligations truly requires sabr. For example, we need to remain patient in performing the five daily prayers,

fasting in Ramadaan, fulfilling our zakaat obligation, and performing hajj at the House of Allah in the Haram, and many others.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in

al-Qur'an:

"And enjoin prayer upon your family [and people] and be steadfast therein. We ask you not for

provision; We provide for you, and the [best] outcome is for [those of] righteousness." (Ta-Ha 20:132)

As Muslims, we are exempted from fulfilling the orders and commands of Allah. The 'ibaadah performed must be in compliance with that which has been taught by Prophet

Muhammad sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam, and they are to be done with full ikhlaas. It is only then that we would attain the rewards from Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala and His Pleasure.

According to Imaam al-Ghazzaali rahimahullaah, sabr upon obedience is difficult because we humans have a habit of laxity towards 'uboodiyyah (servitude).

3- Content with the will (decree) and trials from Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala Whenever we hear about trials and tribulations, we would picture them in our

mind as pain, hardship, and sadness. Such trials are deemed as exclusive for those living in poverty. On the contrary, wealth and progenies are also forms of tribulations from

Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. It becomes a trial when such wealth makes a person stingy or having progenies whom have strayed from religious teachings.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: "Your wealth and your children are but a trial, and Allah has with Him a great reward." (at-Taghaabun 64:15)

Those that remain patient with the decree of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala will always have good thoughts of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. All tribulations whether being in pain or

sadness will be encountered with perseverance and certainty that there is always hikmah and goodness for his own life and well-being on Allah's earth. Upon stricken with calamity,

he will place his hands on his chest uttering "Hasbiy Allaahu wa ni'mal wakeel" which means "Allah is sufficient for me and the best of those on whom to depend."

Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: "And We will surely test you with something of fear and

hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient." (al-Baqarah 2:155)

When one is engulfed with trouble in his life, he will accept such decree with contentment. For him, all of Allah's Decree is good for him. Such is the characteristic and attitude

of those having high imaan whenever they are inflicted with calamity. Even the Prophet sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam had categorized them as extraordinary. Suhayb radiy Allaahu 'anh

reported that Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"How wonderful is the case of a believer; there is good for him in

everything and this applies only to a believer. If prosperity attends him, he expresses gratitude to Allah and that is good

for him; and if adversity befalls him, he endures it patiently and that is better for him." (Muslim)

Those that are incapable of accepting such tribulation are those having deficient sabr in their soul. Hence, they will abhor every decree and trials encountered. Such hatred would emerge from

their hearts after denying the qadaa' and qadr that Allah had decreed for them. Their hearts would question, "Why is God being so cruel to me?" Furthermore, such hatred will lead one

to utter blasphemous remarks and profanities against the decree of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala. Such hatred could even trigger one to physically injure his own body or even

cause one to commit suicide. These are those having extremely weak hearts and imaan whenever they are being tested.

4- Gratefulness upon the tribulations from Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala This is one of the noblest characteristics of the slave upon stricken with trials and tribulations from

His Creator. After remaining patient and being pleased, he will then experience a sense of beauty and pleasure, which is being grateful for all those tribulations.

This is because the trials of pain and grief endured had caused his imaan to become stronger and getting closer to Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. All the physical and spiritual pain

had all vanished when the love for Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala and gratefulness to Him entered the slave's heart. This is the sunnah of the Nabi sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam upon receiving

tribulations. He would become grateful and utters, "Alhamdulillaahi 'alaa kulli haal (Praise is to Allah in all circumstances)..." (ibn Maajah: da'eef)

Among the lessons that we can derive and conclude from today's *khutbah* are:

- 1. As Muslims, must train ourselves to always inculcate sabr.
 - 2. We must always remain

istiquamah in fulfilling the commands of Allah under any circumstances.

3. We must remain diligent in resisting evil temptations so as to avoid everything prohibited by Allah.

4. We must always endeavor, making du'aa, and placing tawakkal upon Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala at the strike of calamity for they all come from Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala.

"O you who have believed, seek help through patience and prayer. Indeed, Allah is with the patient." (al-Baqarah 2:153)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي و إِيّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَبَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ وَإِيّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَبَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قُولِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغُورُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الأُحيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالأُمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيْمُ

O Allah, You are the Almighty Lord, we are grateful unto You for having bestowed upon us Mercy and Blessings, nourishing us to strive to continue in strengthening the Muslim nation especially the state of Selangor, as an advanced, progressive, peaceful, and benevolent state.

We beseech and beg You, Ya Allah, to strengthen our imaan, increase our good deeds, strengthen our unity, increase our provision, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, nourish our soul with beautiful akhlaaq, guide us to the Path that is Pleasing to You,

protect us from Your severe tribulations such as the long drought, severe flooding, disease outbreak, violence and instability, poverty, and others, so that our land will become more peaceful and blessed.

O Allah, we implore upon you, keep us steadfast upon the methodology of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaa'ah, and protect us from 'ageedah and practices that are misguided and deviated such as extreme Shee'ism, Qaadiyani, and others.

Oh Allah, we ask You to open up the hearts of the Muslim ummah especially in Selangor, to fulfill their zakaat obligation as You had decreed in al-Qur'an. Bless the lives of those who have fulfilled their zakaat obligation, loving and caring for the poor and needy.

and also those that have given away and endowed (waqt) their wealth to the Selangor Islamic Development Trust Fund (Tabung Amanah Pembangunan Islam Selangor) with eternal rewards until the Hereafter.

Purify their wealth and soul so that they will live according to that which pleases You. Protect the poor and needy from disbelief and everlasting poverty. Allaahummaa ameen





DI SEDIAKAN OLEH : BAHAGIAN KHUTBAH, JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH:
UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT,
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR