

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

These days we see that the whole world has been plunged into a state of panic and great disruption. A virus which is so small that it cannot be seen by the naked eye has disturbed the daily lives of almost all people around the world. Measures that are being taken in most countries to counter its spread are unprecedented in recent world history. Planes are staying on the ground, schools are closed, malls are being emptied, cruisers are cancelling their journeys around the world, tourists are staying at home, hotels are closing, world stock markets are plunging, investors are losing plenty of money, governments are pouring trillions of dollars in the economy and even mosques and churches are closing. In brief, there is disruption everywhere. Nowhere seems to be safe and almost all countries are operating in crisis mode and the future appears bleak. This calamity is no respecter of persons. Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Buddhists and people of all denominations are falling victim to the ferociousness of this virus.

As good Muslims, we are not at all indifferent to the situation prevailing and we sympathize with all people and we pray that Allah delivers the world of this calamity as soon as possible. In the Holy Quran Allah says:

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ
وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ
أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ

These are verses 156-158 of Sura Baqarah. Its translation is as follows:

“And We will try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives, and fruits; but give glad tidings to the patient, who, when a misfortune overtakes them, say, ‘Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.’ It is these on whom are blessings from their Lord and mercy, and it is these who are rightly guided.”

Trials are part and parcel of the life of a believer. When believers are confronted with trials, they show excellent patience (*sabran jameela*). Prior to the abovementioned verse we read:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ

Translation:

“O ye who believe! seek help with patience and Prayer; surely, Allah is with the steadfast.” (2:154)

We are faced with a situation where apart from the precautionary hygienic measures we cannot do much. This is the time where we should pay particular attention to our prayers

and at the same time show exemplary patience. We can show patience only with the Help of Allah. So, I suggest that we pray the following verse of the Holy Quran as much as we can:

رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَافِّفْنَا مُسْلِمِينَ

“Rabbaba afrigh alayna sabran wa tawaffana mouslemeen”

Translation: “Our Lord, pour forth upon us steadfastness and cause us to die resigned *unto Thee.*’ (7:126)

Here are some Ahadiths about Patience which I would like to share with you. They are as follows:

Abu Sa’id al-Khudri reported: Some people from the Ansar asked the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, and he gave them. Then they asked for charity again and he gave them. Then they asked again and he gave them until all he had was gone. The Prophet said, **“If I had anything, I would not withhold it. Whoever refrains from asking others, then Allah will make him content. Whoever would be independent, then Allah will make him independent. Whoever would be patient, then Allah will make him patient. There is no gift that is better and more comprehensive than patience.”** Source: Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 6105, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 1053

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said.

“As-Sabr (the patience) is illumination.” (Muslim 223).

The one whose beloved ones or relatives die and endures patiently, Allah will also admit him to Paradise as a recompense of his patience. He (SAW) said: **“Allah says, ‘I have nothing to give but Paradise as a reward to my slave, a true believer of Islamic Monotheism, who, if I cause his dear friend (or relative) to die, remains patient (and hopes for Allah’s Reward).’”** (Al- Bukhari)

The Holy Prophet (SAW) said: **“No fatigue, nor disease, nor sorrow, nor sadness, nor hurt, nor distress befalls a Muslim, even if it were the prick he receives from a thorn, but that Allah expiates some of his sins for that.”** (Al-Bukhari)

Holy Prophet (SAW) said: **“The believer who mixes with people and bears their annoyance with patience will have a greater reward than the believer who does not mix with people and does not put up with their annoyance.”** (Ibn Majah)

Be mindful of Allah and be patient as Prophet (PBUH) said: **“Verily, patience is at the first strike”** (Sahih Bukhari)

Hazrat Aisha reported: She asked the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, about plagues and he said, **“It is a punishment that Allah sends upon whoever he wills, but Allah has made it a mercy for the believers. Any servant who resides in a land afflicted by plague, remaining patient and hoping for reward from Allah,**

knowing that nothing will befall him but what Allah has decreed, he will be given the reward of a martyr.” Source: Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 5402

Although Islam teaches us to take necessary precautions not to be sick as best as we can, if we nevertheless become sick we should exercise extreme patience and rely upon Allah for a cure. But we should keep praying throughout our life that we may be spared some debilitating illnesses. From the hadith we learn from Hazrat Anas who said

“The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, would say, **“O Allah, I seek refuge in you from leprosy, madness, degenerative diseases, and evil sicknesses.”** Source: Sunn Abī Dāwūd 1554

There are many such prayers of the Holy Prophet (saw). It will be to our benefit to learn them and recite them as best as we can. A compilation of many prayers is found in a book at the following address:

<https://www.alislam.org/book/treasure-house-prayers> Download and use it.

Since the beginning of this epidemic, I have been praying that Allah spare Mauritius from this calamity. Furthermore, when I heard on the radio that according to a study by an English University, Mauritius was the third country most likely to be hit by this misfortune, I stepped up prayers and asked our members to pray that we might be spared this epidemic. By Allah’s Grace, I am happy that we are among the last countries to be affected by it. Last week I saw in a dream that I was at a place with some friends. We were awaiting the arrival of another group of people. After some time, they arrived and we found ourselves in a mosque. Among those who came were some companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). Then it was revealed to me that it was in that mosque that Sura Al Asr (chapter 103) of the Holy Quran was revealed and I woke up.

As you might all be well aware this chapter of the Holy Quran is as follows:

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| 1. In the name of Allāh, the Gracious, the Merciful. | بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿١﴾ |
| * 2. By the <i>fleeting</i> Time, | وَالْعَصْرِ ﴿٢﴾ |
| 3. Surely, man is in a <i>state of</i> loss, | إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِفِي خُسْرٍ ﴿٣﴾ |
| 4. Except those who believe and do good works, and exhort one another to <i>accept</i> truth, and exhort one another to be steadfast. | إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ ﴿٤﴾ |

The English translation “in a state of loss” does not totally or amply convey the meaning of this word. Converted Muslim Professor Maurice Gloton of France has translated the word as *abime*. The literal meaning of this word is as follows from Larousse Dictionary:

“Gouffre naturel, cavité, précipice d'une profondeur insondable, ou lieu, espace qui n'a pas de limites assignables.” Google translates this as follows: “Natural abyss, cavity, precipice of unfathomable depth, or place, space which has no assignable limits.”

When we see the state of the world at this moment in history, we can say that its situation is depicted in Quranic Word “Al Asr”.

So, when I saw this dream it dawned upon me that this worldwide catastrophe will affect us whether we have infected cases in Mauritius or not because my attention is being directed towards exhorting one another to truth and to be steadfast. Eventually, one or two days later it was revealed to me some verses from the writings of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam (as) as follows:

Hay sare rah par khara who jo hay tumhare Mawla kareem

He who is your generous guardian is standing on the road

Neik ko kuch gham nahin goh bara gardaab hay

Those who are good at heart need not fear anything amidst great calamities

Baargah hay eizdi se tou na youn mayous ho

You have a meeting with God; no need for you to be not so desperate

Mushkilein khya chiz hein mouskil kusha ke saamne

What are problems to the One who solves problems

These words had a soothing effect on me and I understood that we will incha Allah weather through this storm. Furthermore, whilst I was praying in the early morning I was reading portions of Sura Yasin with the hope of reading it in full. But in the fifth *rakaat* I had a sort of blank and after Al fatiha I started reciting the following:

31. *As for those who say, ‘Our Lord is Allāh,’ and then remain steadfast, the angels descend on them, saying: ‘Fear ye not, nor grieve; and rejoice in the Garden that you were promised.*

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَابْشُرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ ﴿٣١﴾

32. *‘We are your friends in this life and in the Hereafter. Therein you will have all that your souls will*

تَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ ۚ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي

desire, and therein you will have all that you will ask for—

33. ‘An entertainment from the Most Forgiving, the Merciful.’

R. 5.

34. And who is better in speech than he who invites *men* to Allāh and does good works and says, ‘I am surely of those who submit?’

35. And good and evil are not alike. Repel *evil* with that which is best. And lo, he between whom and thyself was enmity will become as though he were a warm friend.

*36. But none is granted it save those who are steadfast; and none is granted it save those who possess a large share of good.

أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ ﴿٣٣﴾

يُنْزِلُ مَنْ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٣٤﴾

وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٣٥﴾

وَلَا تَسْتَوِ الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ۚ إِذْ قَعَّ بِالنَّارِ هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَاذًا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ ﴿٣٦﴾

وَمَا يُلْقِيهَا إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَوَمَا يُلْقِيهَا إِلَّا دُوحٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿٣٧﴾

These were verses 31-36 of chapter 41 of the Holy Quran. Then in the next rakaat I resumed reading Sura Yasin.

So briefly, taking into consideration these messages I make an appeal to one and all that we turn to Allah and seek His forgiveness for us and for mankind as well. This is not a light matter. It should be given our full attention and we should pray that Allah shows His Mercy on mankind and that mankind in general take heed before its too late. Mankind should recognize his Lord and behave according to His dictates.

When there was the plague in India, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) addressed the people in the following words:

“In itself the plague is a terrible torment. Secondly the law itself is quite severe with it.... Be it a child or a woman, they are separated from others. People are ordered to evacuate their houses. When I thought about this disease and its laws I felt anguish in my heart and in Tahajjud I prayed about it and it was revealed to me “*Innallaha laa yoghayyero maa be qawmin hatta yoghayyero maa be anfosehim*” (Allah will not change the condition of a people unless they change what is in their own selves). Then I thought that most probably the revelation “Who can tell lightning not to fall on earth” may be referring to this.

I want to make you understand that those who supplicate before the arrival of misfortune and who seek forgiveness and who give charity, Allah will have Mercy upon them and will protect them against His Punishment. Do not listen to my words as a tale. I am giving an advice from Allah. You should think about your own situation. You and your friends should engage yourselves in supplications. Seeking forgiveness (reciting *istaghfaar*) acts like a shield against terrible misfortunes. In the Holy Quran Allah says:

“Maa kaanallaho mo’azzebahoum wa houm yastaghferoune” (8:36). So, if you wish to be protected against this calamity recite *istaghfaar* profusely” (Malfuzaat Vol 1).

I say it again: we are living in a period of history which is almost unique. Let us arm ourselves with the spiritual weapons mentioned and move forward by placing our trust in our Lord and beseech Him to eliminate this calamity as soon as possible.

Yaa Dafial baliyaat idfa hazal balaa

“O Thou who has the Power to push away calamities, push away this calamity.”

Yaa arhamour Rahemeen farrij annin naas

“O thou who art Most Merciful among Those who show Mercy grant relief to the people”.

Yaa arhamour Rahemeen farrij anna

“Thou who art Most Merciful among Those who show Mercy grant relief to us”.

Besides these, one might also make the following prayers:

Bismillahil lazi ma’asmehi laa yazourro shay’oune fil arze wa laa fissamaa’e wa howas sami’oul alim

“With the Name of Allah, with whose Name nothing can cause any harm either on earth or in the heavens” and,

A’ouzo bi kalimatillahit taamaate min sharre maa khalaq

“I seek protection in the perfect words of Allah against all harm that He has created”.

Remember the previous prayers of which we talked about in my previous sermons and try to recite them and hope for Allah’s Mercy. This morning, I received the following message “*sa yaj’a lallaho barda ousrin yousra*” meaning “Allah will bring ease after difficulty.” My personal opinion is that Allah is asserting His Sovereignty on humans and on earth in a dramatic way. It is unfortunate that very few people will read this in the dramatic events that are unfolding.

In this moment of distress, we have a special thought for all those who are with us but are in France and Singapore. We pray that Allah keep them safe under His Special Protection and that through His special Help He helps them all to weather through these hard times. May Allah have Mercy on all of us. Ameen.