

Lessons from the Battle of Hunain

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ
سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ
أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from those that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be among the people who receive His blessings in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

While we are celebrating the month of Syawal, let us all remind ourselves about a battle that occurred in this blessed month, the Battle of Hunain. This battle was directly mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 9 (Surah al-Taubah), verse (ayat) 25:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

لَقَدْ نَصَرَكُمُ اللَّهُ فِي مَوَاطِنَ كَثِيرَةٍ وَيَوْمَ حُنَيْنٍ إِذْ أَعْجَبَتْكُمْ كَثْرَتُكُمْ فَلَمْ تُغْنِ عَنْكُمْ شَيْئًا وَضَاقَتْ عَلَيْكُمُ الْأَرْضُ بِمَا رَحُبَتْ ثُمَّ وَلَّيْتُم

مُدْبِرِينَ ﴿٢٥﴾

Which means: *Allah has surely blessed you with His help on many battlefields, and on the day of Hunain, when you were proud of your great number, then it did not help you at all, and the earth was straightened for you despite all its vastness, then you turned back on your heels.*

The Battle of Hunain occurred between the Muslims led by Prophet Muhammad PBUH and the Bani Hawazin led by Malik bin Auf in the eight year of Hijrah (Migration). This battle was caused by the Bani Hawazin, who wanted to destroy the Muslims after they managed to take control of Mecca. This is the nature of the enemies of Islam, always striving to weaken the Muslims. They will not allow Muslims to build their own strength, be it in terms of politics, economics or knowledge. Truly Allah says in the Quran in Chapter 2 (Surah al-Baqarah), verse (ayat) 120:

وَلَنْ تَرْضَىٰ عَنْكَ الْيَهُودُ وَلَا النَّصَارَىٰ حَتَّىٰ تَتَّبِعَ مِلَّتَهُمْ

Which means: *The Jews will never be pleased with you, nor will the Christians, unless you follow their faith...*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Allah the Almighty reminds Muslims that any success can only be achieved with the help of Allah. We will not gain victory and success without the help of Allah. Therefore, we should always seek the help of Allah through righteous practices such as performing prayers, the remembrance of Allah (*zikrullah*), avoiding actions that He has prohibited/immoralities and

purifying our hearts. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi:

وَإِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلِ اللَّهَ ، وَإِذَا اسْتَعَنْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ

Which means: *When you ask, ask of Allah, and if you ask for help, seek help from Allah.*

Islam was able to grow strong because the Prophet PBUH and his companions were known to be worshippers of Allah in the nighttime and soldiers for the cause of Allah in the daytime. Their noble character granted them the aid of Allah the Almighty. Muslims are stronger when they are close to Allah and grow weak when they distance themselves from Allah. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 9 (Surah al-Taubah), verse (*ayat*) 25:

لَقَدْ نَصَرَكُمُ اللَّهُ فِي مَوَاطِنَ كَثِيرَةٍ

Which means: *Allah has surely blessed you with His help on many battlefields...*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the battle of Hunain, Allah taught the believers to always be honorable. For the first time, they were able to go into battle with 12,000 men, a number that was huge compared to their previous battles. Some of the companions began to feel proud of their numbers and forgot that all their previous battles were won with the aid of Allah the Almighty. Thus, they were given a test in the form of a sudden attack. The earth felt so restricted that they ran away. The pride they felt towards their military strength caused Allah the Almighty to withdraw his help (for a while) as a lesson.

It was that small moment of pride that had invited the wrath of Allah. Nowadays, as Muslims continue to neglect their worship of Allah, commit immoralities, backbite and let their envy consume them, how do we expect Allah the Almighty to send help our way? Therefore, let

us all unite in order for us to increase in strength as a people and achieve victory without the help of the enemies of Islam. Allah the Almighty will help us as long as we help His religion. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 47 (Surah Muhammad), verse (ayat) 7:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن تَنْصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ ﴿٧﴾

Which means: *O you who believe, if you will help (the religion prescribed by) Allah, He will help you, and will stabilize your footings.*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي
هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.