

# Ramadan Immersion



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## Protecting Oneself from Trials

- Hadith shows how vigilant we must be about fitna - it can come at any time
- Once fitna is broken open, it doesn't close
- The Prophet (SAW) said: Fitna is sleeping, may Allah's curse be upon the one who awakens it
- There can be people in the community who can awaken fitna through their actions

## Responsibilities of Believers in the Face of Fitna

- Hold on to the Qur'an and Sunnah
  - The Prophet (SAW) told us that if we hold onto these two, we will never go astray
  - Allah says in Surah Ali-Imran, Ayah 103:

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا

And hold firmly to the rope of Allah and do not be divided

- The bond of brotherhood is deep in Islam, Allah gives it to the believers
  - We have to have to hold onto the rope and help others as well
  - We are not to sow discord in the community

- Holding on to *tawheed* - the purest form of belief
  - Surah An'aam, Ayah 82:

الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ الْأَمْنُ وَهُمْ مُّهْتَدُونَ

It is (only) those who are faithful and do not tarnish their faith with falsehood who are guaranteed security and are (rightly) guided.

- The sahaba asked upon hearing this ayah, "Who amongst us does not wrong ourselves?" The Prophet (SAW) told them that ظلم here refers to shirk
- As long as we preserve our statement of tawheed, we are within our deen
- We need to continuously assess our belief every day
  - We need to ask ourselves what motivates us to do what we do
  - We should consider our intentions
- We should think of what consumes us every day
- It is important to ensure our belief is sincerely for Allah
- God-consciousness, or taqwa
  - Surah Nisa, Ayah 131:

وَلَقَدْ وَصَّيْنَا الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ أَنْ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ

Indeed, We have commanded those given the Scripture before you, as well as you, to be mindful of Allah.

- The essence of taqwa is that the servant places between himself and that which he fears a وقاية, or barrier
- Umar (RA) said that taqwa is when you are walking through a thorny pathway and gather your clothing, being careful with each step
- Ibn Masud (RA) said: Taqwa is that you obey Allah and don't disobey Him, you remember Him and don't forget Him, and thank Him, and don't reject His blessings

- We should try to be constantly remembering Allah - when one keeps forgetting Him, Allah opens for them doors to everything
  - This leads to constant sins
- To reject Allah's blessings is the lesser form of كفر (disbelief)
  - We should never be in a thankless state
- The Prophet (SAW) said that worshiping Allah during الحرج is like making hijra to the Prophet (SAW)
  - An-Nawawi says that الحرج means trials and tribulations. In this time of fitna, people are heedless and occupied - only a few will worship Allah in that state. This is why the reward is so great
- Make dua
  - Surah Ghafir, Ayah 60:

وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ

Your Lord has proclaimed, "Call upon Me, I will respond to you. Surely those who are too proud to worship Me will enter Hell, fully humbled."

- Allah mentions those who are arrogant from His worship (referring to dua)
  - When one doesn't make dua to Allah, it means they think they don't need Allah
- Speak to Allah abundantly
  - When Musa (AS) answered Allah (SWT) when He asked about his staff, he elongated his speech - he mentioned descriptions of the staff and what he used it for
    - When you love someone, you will talk to them more

- When Yunus (AS) was in the belly of the whale, he made the dua:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

There is no god (worthy of worship) except You. Glory be to You! I have certainly done wrong.

- Allah responded to the call and saved Yunus from the difficulty
- This is an example for us as believers on how to be saved from trials