

**In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

## ***SUBMISSION EVEN INADVERSITY***

***"They are the ones whose hearts tremble upon mentioning God, they steadfastly persevere during adversity(y, they observe the contact prayers (Salat) and from our provisions to them, they give" (22:35).***

Adversity is a part of life, and everyone will face it during their lifetime. This is actually the best way for God to test if we will worship Him under all types of situations. It would be very easy to be appreciative, content, and submissive if everything throughout our entire lifetime were perfect. We are given many examples throughout Ouran that tell us we will have to face adversity. In verses 64 and 65 of Sura 17, God instructs and permits Satan to work on us. ***"Go ahead and entice them with your voice, mobilize all your forces and all your men against them, and take a share of their money and children, and promise them. Anything the devil promises is no more than an illusion. As for my servants, you have no power over them.' Your Lord suffices as a protector."*** God also speaks of the adversity we will face in Sura 2:155-156, ***"We must test you with some fear, hunger, and loss of money, lives, and crops. Give good news to the steadfast who say when an affliction befalls them, 'We belong to God, and to Him we ultimately return. "***

We're all aware of the examples of fair weather friends found in the Quran such as in Sura 22:11 ***"Among the people there is the one who worships God conditionally. If things go his way, he is content. But if some adversity befalls him he makes an about-face. Thus" he loses both this life and the Hereafter. Such is the real loss."*** It is very important for us to be appreciative and remember God under all circumstances, and if this is not done, we become people who are appreciative and worship God only if things go our way. We do not want to be conditional worshippers of God. It is a human tendency to even deny hardship for fear that God may be humiliating us. God provides an example of this in Sura 7:94-95, ***"Whenever we sent a prophet to any community, we afflicted its people with adversity and hardship that they may implore. Then we substituted peace and prosperity in place of that hardship. But invariably, they turned heedless and said, 'It was our parents who experienced that hardship before prosperity.' Consequently, we punished them suddenly when they least expected."*** The conditional worship of the human being and his arrogance is shown throughout the Quran. We must learn from these examples and not act like those described in Sura 39:49, ***"If the human is touched by adversity, he implores us, but as soon as we bestow a blessing upon him, he says, 'I attained this because of my cleverness!'"*** ***Indeed, this is only a test, but most of them do not know."***

There are reasons God sends down His provisions in exact measure. Sura 42:27 says, ***"If God increased the provision for His servants, they would transgress on earth. This is why He sends it precisely measured to whomever He wills. Surely He is fully Cognizant and Seer of HIS servants."***

Another example of this is found in Sura 43:33, ***"If it were not that all the people might become one (disbelieving) congregation, we would have granted everyone who disbelieves in the Most Gracious mansions with silver roofs, and stairs upon which the3' could climb."*** A true believer submits to God's will in every aspect of his life. God knows what is best for us and we must be able to recognize this. Our Lord says in Sura 2:216, ***"...You may dislike something which is actually good for you,***

*and you may like something which is actually bad for you. God knows while you do not know."* Just as reductions or hardships are a test so, too, are blessings. God teaches the example of someone who was arrogant and unappreciative of his blessings in Sura 18:34-43, **"Once, after harvesting, he was debating with his friend: 'I am far more prosperous than you, and I have more children.' He entered his garden, and wronged his soul by saying, 'I am secure for life; I do not think that the Hour (the Hereafter) will ever come. Even if I am returned to my Lord, I will (be clever enough to) possess an even better one over there.' His friend said to him, as he debated with him, 'Have you disbelieved in the one who created you from dust, then from a tiny drop, then perfected you into a man? As for me, God is my Lord, and I will never set up any other god besides my Lord. When you entered your garden, you should have said, 'This is what God has given me. No one possesses power except God.' You may see that I possess less money and less children than you. My Lord may grant me better than your garden. He may send a violent storm from the sky that wipes out your garden, leaving it completely barren. Or, its water may sink deeper, out of your reach. 'His crops were wiped out, and he ended up sorrowful, lamenting what he had spent on it in vain, as his property lay barren. He finally said, 'I wish I never set up my property as a god besides my Lord.' No force on earth could have helped him against God, nor was he capable of receiving any help."**

God would like to see us appreciative under all circumstances. However, He must expose our true qualities. To accomplish this He tests the people through adversity. Sura 3:142 says, **"Do you expect to enter Paradise without God distinguishing those among you who strive, and without distinguishing those who steadfastly persevere?"** A perfect example found in the Quran of arrogant people whose true qualities were exposed, and who failed the test of adversity by showing their lack of belief in God, is found in Sura 3:153-154. These verses show a terrible reflection of ego, arrogance and rejection. **"Recall that you rushed (after the spoils), paying no attention to anyone, even when the messenger was calling from behind you. Consequently, He substituted one misery in place of another, that you might not grieve over what you missed, nor agonize over the hardship you suffered. God is Cognizant of everything you do. After the setback, He sent down peaceful slumber that pacified some of you. Others were selfishly concerned about themselves. They harbored thoughts about God that were not true- the same thoughts they had harbored during the days of ignorance. Thus, they said, 'Is anything up to us?' Say, 'Everything is up to God.' they concealed inside themselves what they did not reveal to you. They said, 'If anything were up to us, none of us would have been killed in this battle.' Say, 'If you stayed in your homes, those destined to be killed would have crawled into their death beds.' God thus puts you to the test to bring out your true convictions, and to unveil what is in your heart. God is fully aware of the innermost thoughts."** These are the type of thoughts we must avoid, with God's help. God does promise to strengthen the sincere with the proven word, in this life, so we can withstand adversities.

God promises never to burden any soul beyond his, or her, means (2:286). Therefore we know that the adversity is a test and good for strengthening our soul. God says in Sura 3:139-141, **"You shall never waver, nor worry, for you shall be the victors, if you are believers. If you suffer any hardship, the enemy suffers the same hardship. We alternate the days of victory and defeat among the people. God thus distinguishes those who truly believe, and grants martyrdom to some of you. God does not love the unjust. God thus toughens those who believe, and humiliates the disbelievers."**

We always ask God to make our lives easy, peaceful, and to bless us with convenience rather than hardship. Inshallah, "God-willing," we will continue to receive assurances and contentment from God. It is also important for us to recognize and understand the meanings of hardship and adversity if we are faced with them, thereby, allowing us to strengthen and purify our souls. **"He knows their past and their future, while none encompasses His knowledge. All faces will submit to**

*the Living, the Eternal, and those who are burdened by their transgressions will fail. As for those who worked righteousness, while believing, they will have no fear of injustice or adversity" (20:110-112).*

**PRAISE BE TO GOD, LORD OF THE UNIVERSE!**