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THE ATTITUDE OF A BELIEVER: TAWAKKUL (HAVING TRUST IN ALLAH)

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (saw), together with his closest Companion sayyidina Abu Bakr (ra), set out to migrate to Madinah. The idol worshippers (mushriks), who had learned about the situation, started to look for them all around. In order to elude and avert the mushriks, the Messenger of Allah (saw) hid in a cave on Mount Sevr with his Companion Abu Bakr. The mushriks came to the cave for a while and stood in front of it. At that critical moment, sayyidina Abu Bakr (ra) said, "O Messenger of Allah! Should they bow down and look at their feet, they may see us." Thus he expressed his concern, fearing that they may be caught. Our Prophet (saw), with his complete trust in and submission to Allah, calmed down his friend, saying: "**Do not worry at all! Allah is with us. Why are you worrying about the two people while Allah is with them?**"

Respected Brothers and Sisters!

One of the most important principle that we should sincerely believe is tawakkul (having trust in Allah swt). Tawakkul means referring the end and result of our works to Allah Ta'âla after doing our best and exerting our efforts to the best of our abilities. Tawakkul also means accepting our weakness and helplessness and surrendering ourselves humbly to Allah (swt). At every moment and in every state, whether be happy or sad, whether be rich or poor, it is to take refuge only in Allah (swt). There are difficult times and unbearable situations where we have no body to turn for help. But we know that there is our Rabb for whom we always open our hands and ask His help without losing our hope. This is the tawakkul.

My Brothers and Sisters!

It is necessary for us to look back at the lives of the prophets and understand the real and true meaning of tawakkul, for every one of them not only taught what tawakkul was but also showed us, with their own practices, the best examples of tawakkul (putting trust in Allah swt).

The first example of tawakkul in human history comes from the life of Adam (as), who demonstrated for us the meaning of tawakkul by his regret of the mistake or sin he had committed with his wife Eve, without

having lost hope from Allah's mercy. When Adam (as) and his wife, Hawwa (Eve) realized that they had done wrong, they immediately offered the following du'a: "**O Allah! We did wrong to ourselves. If you don't forgive us and if you do not have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers.**"

Muslim Brothers and Sisters!

Tawakkul also means to be firm and resolute like Ibrahim (as) when he was thrown into fire for the sake of tawhid (oneness of Allah). Or like Ismail (as), tawakkul is to show the courage to sacrifice all one's life in the way of Allah whenever necessary. Tawakkul is to be patient and strong like Ayyub (as) when his sickness was very severe and unbearable. Tawakkul is to do self-sacrifice and act unselfishly like Ya'qub (as), who lost his eyes due to his intense love of and longing for his son Yusuf. Tawakkul is to depend exclusively on Allah (swt) and seek refuge only in Him in the face of all kinds of challenges like Yusuf (as) who is the example of trust, chastity and humbleness.

And finally, tawakkul is to be hopeful like the Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw), who, despite all kinds of challenges and predicaments, never fell in despair at all. To be mutawakkil is first and foremost to have an unshakeable iman (faith) and trust in Allah Almighty and then work to achieve your legitimate ideals and goals. Tawakkul is to be persistent in the way of compassion and mercy; of truth and justice; of morality and virtue.

My Brothers and Sisters!

We should well understand the meaning and significance of Tawakkul in Islam. It is a very positive, active and dynamic moral virtue. As such it encourages Muslims to act on time before it is too late; to do your human part to the extent of your limit before leaving it to Allah. In other words, tawakkul cannot be seen as an excuse for idleness, laziness and indolence. On the contrary, tawakkul is exerting constant efforts, hardworking and productivity. Taking all the necessary measures and precautions beforehand is the consequence of one's having trust in Allah. It is not abandoning one's role and responsibility in the face of challenging conditions, which is completely incompatible with the spirit of Islam. Such a blind practice of tawakkul is, to say the least, nothing but laziness and escaping from responsibility, leading eventually to failure and even disaster.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

So let us try to do our best in assuming our responsibilities and fulfilling our duties. Let us all understand well that having trust in Allah means acting on our part while knowing that all success and result come from Him, provided that we try our best in every endeavor we undertake. Let us rely not on this material world, which is a means in our hands to achieve our goals. Wherever we are, we should make efforts and work hard within full trust in Allah (swt). Let us make an effort to have the characteristics of the true believers described in the following verse of Qur'an: "**The true believers are those whose hearts tremble with fear, when the name of Allah is mentioned, and whose faith grows stronger as they listen to His revelations and they put their trust in their Rabb.**"

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Let us conclude our khutbah with the following prayer that our Prophet (saw) taught us: "**In the name of Allah, I trust in Allah; Might and power is only with Allah. O Allah! I seek refuge in You lest I stray or be led astray, or slip or be made to slip, or cause injustice, or suffer injustice, or do wrong, or have wrong done to me.**"