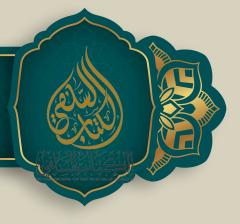


EFFECTS OF TRIBULATIONS

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May Allah Preserve Him

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إنَّ الحمد لله، نحمده ونستعينه ونستغفره ونتوب إليه، ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا وسيِّئات أعمالنا، من يهده الله فلا مضل له، ومن يضلل فلا هادي له، وأشهد أنَّ محمَّدًا عبده ورسوله، صلَّى الله وسلَم عليه، وعلى آله وأصحابه أجمعين. أمَّا بعد:

Indeed, all praise is due to Allah. We praise Him, seek His help, ask His forgiveness, and repent to Him. We seek refuge with Allah from the evils of our own selves and from the consequences of our bad deeds. Whomever Allah guides, none can misguide him; and whomever He leaves astray, none can guide him. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone without any partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May Allah's peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions. To proceed:

فهذا موضوع نحتاج إلى مذاكرته والوقوف على طَرَفٍ من جوانبه؛ وذلك من باب الحيطة؛ لأنَّ معرفة آثار الشَّيء وعواقبه وأضراره يعطي العبد شيئًا من الحصانة منه والحذر من الوقوع فيه، وقد قيل قديمًا: "كيف يتَّقى من لا يدري ما يتَّقى؟!"

This is a topic that we need to review and examine some of its aspects, as a matter of caution, because knowing the effects, consequences, and harms of a thing gives the servant some immunity from it and helps him avoid falling into it. It has been said in the past: "How can one guard against what he does not know?"

الَّذي لا يَعرف الفتَن، ولا يَعرف آثارَها وعواقبَها وعوائدَها؛ ربَّما دخل في شيء منها وتلطَّخ بها وأضرَّت بحياته، ثمَّ بعد ذلك يلحقُه من النَّدم ما يلحقه.

Whoever does not know the tribulations (fitan), nor their effects, consequences, and outcomes, might fall into some of them, become tainted with them, and harm his own life, then afterwards he would be overwhelmed with great regret.

ومعرفة آثار الفتن نافعٌ للعبد نفعًا كبيرًا، ومفيدٌ له فائدةً عظيمةً؛ لأنَّه من باب النَّظر في العواقب ومآلات الأمور، وهذا يُعدُّ من حصافة العبد، أي: أنَّه قبل أن يُقدم على أمر من الأمور؛ ينظر في عواقبه وآثاره.

Knowing the effects of tribulations is of great benefit to the servant, because it allows one to look into the consequences and end results of matters. And this is considered from the prudence of the servant—that before he proceeds in any affair, he considers its outcomes and consequences.



ولهذا جاء في سيرة الإمام أحمد رحمه الله أنَّ نفرًا من علماء بغداد جاؤوا إليه رحمه الله في بيته، فقالوا: يا أبا عبدالله هذا الأمر قد تفاقم وفشا - يعنون إظهار القول بخلق القرآن وغير ذلك - فقال لهم أبو عبد الله: فما تريدون؟ قالوا: أن نشاورك في أنا لسنا نرضى بإمرته ولا سلطانه! فناظرهم أبو عبد الله ساعة وقال لهم:

For this reason, it is mentioned in the biography of Imam Ahmad رحمه that a group of scholars from Baghdad came to him and entered his house. They said: "O Abu 'Abdillah, this matter has become widespread and public" –referring to promoting the belief that the Qur'an was created and other such innovations– so Abu 'Abdillah said to them: "What do you want?" They said: "We want to consult you—we are not pleased with his (the ruler's) leadership or authority!" Then Abu 'Abdillah debated with them for a while and said to them:

"عليكم بالنكرة بقلوبكم ولا تخلعوا يداً من طاعة ولا تشقوا عصا المسلمين ولا تسفكوا دماءكم ودماء المسلمين معكم، انظروا في عاقبة أمركم واصبروا حتى يستريح بر أو يستراح من فاجر." (١) فهذه دعوةٌ منه رحمه الله للنَّظر في آثار الفتن وعواقبها، وأيِّ شيءٍ سيعود على أهلها منها.

"You must reject [the evil] in your hearts, and do not remove a hand from obedience [to the ruler], and do not break the unity of the Muslims, and do not shed your blood nor the blood of the Muslims with you. Consider the outcome of your affair, and be patient until the righteous one finds relief, or relief is found from a wicked one." This was a call from him—may Allah have mercy on him—to look into the consequences and aftermaths of tribulations, and what outcome would come about upon the people from engaging in them.

وأخذ يحدِّثهم في ذلك، ثمَّ إنَّهم خرجوا من عنده ولم يتلقَّوْا كلامه بالقبول، بل لا زالوا على رأيهم مصرِّين، ودعوا إلى مسلكهم ابنَ أخي الإمام أحمد رحمه الله، دعوه إلى المسلك نفسه؛ فنهاه والده، وقال: احذر أن تصاحبهم؛ فإنَّ الإمام أحمد لم ينههم إلَّا عن شرّ، فاعتذر، ثمَّ كانت نهاية قصَّتهم أن خرجوا على السُّلطان، فكانت العاقبة التي حذَّرهم منها الإمام أحمد رحمه الله؛ قُتل من قُتل، وسُجن من سُجن، دون أن يقدِّموا شيئًا في باب الإصلاح.

He continued speaking to them about that, and then they left him without accepting his words. They remained upon their opinion and insisted upon it. They even invited the nephew of Imam Ahmad محمد to follow the same path, but his father forbade him, saying: "Beware of accompanying them—for Imam Ahmad only forbade them from evil." So he excused himself, and in the end, their story concluded with them rebelling against the ruler, leading to the very consequences that Imam Ahmad محمد لله had warned them of: some were killed, others imprisoned—and they contributed nothing beneficial to the cause of reform.



فالشَّاهد أنَّ النَّظر في عواقب الأمور ومآلات الأشياء وعدم التَّعجُّل والتَّسرُّع من أنفع ما يكون للعبد.

The point is that contemplating the consequences of matters, their end results, and refraining from haste and impulsiveness is among the most beneficial things for a servant.

ولهذا جاء عن الصَّحابيِّ الجليل عبد الله بن مسعود رضي الله عنه أنَّه قال: "إِنَّها ستكون أمورٌ مُشْتَبِهَات؛ فعليكم بالتُّؤَدَة، فإنَّك أن تكون تابعًا في الخير خيرٌ من أن تكون رأسًا في الشَّر." (١) فأوصى بالتُؤدَة وهي الأناة وعدم التَّعجُّل.

This is why it has been reported from the noble Companion 'Abdullāh ibn Mas'ūd (رضي) that he said: "Indeed, there will be confusing matters; so you must have calm deliberation (tu'adah), for being a follower in goodness is better than being a leader in evil." So he advised with tu'adah—which is patience, composure, and not being hasty.

وروى الإمام البخاري رحمه الله في كتابه الأدب المفرد عن عليِّ بن أبي طالب رضي الله عنه أنَّه قال: "لا تكونوا عُجُلًا مَذَابِيعَ بُذُرًا؛ فإنَّ مِنْ ورائكم بلاءً مبرِّحًا أو مُكْلِحًا، وأمورًا مُتَماحِلَةً رُدُحًا." (٢) أي ثقيلة وشديدة.

And Imam al-Bukhari (رحمه الله) narrated in his book "Al-Adab al-Mufrad" from 'Ali ibn Abi Tālib (رضي الله عنه) that he said: "Do not be hasty, talkative, reckless seed scatterers. For there lies ahead of you a severe or overwhelming trial, and heavy burdensome matters." i.e., matters that are heavy and severe.

فأوصى بأمور ثلاثة؛ قال: "لا تكونوا عُجُلا مذاييعَ بُذُرًا." فنهى عن العَجَلة، وهي التَّسُع، بل ينبغي على الإنسان أن يتأنَّى ويتروَّى وينظر فى العواقب والآثار، ثمَّ بعد ذلك يُقدِم بعد رويَّة وأَنَاةٍ.

So he advised three matters: he said, "Do not be hasty..." – meaning: don't rush. One should proceed with calm, contemplation, and consideration of consequences, then advance after reflection and patience.

والأمر الثاني أن يكونوا "مذاييع." وهذا أمرٌ يُحذَّر منه غاية التَّحذير، عندما تلتهب الفتن وتشتدُّ لا ينبغي للإنسان أن يكون ساعيًا في الشتدادها واشتعالها بكلامه ومقاله؛ بأن يكون مذياعًا للفتنة ومذياعًا للشَّرِ ومذكيًا لناره.

The second "...nor be talkative (madhāyī')" – this is a severe warning, especially during the flare of tribulations. A person should not become one who fuels fitnah with his words, statements, or broadcasts—someone who spreads the fire of trial and feeds its flames.



⁽١) أخرجه ابن أبي شيبة في المصنف (٣٨٣٤٣)، والبيهقي في الشعب (٩٨٨٦).

⁽٢) الأدب المفرد (٣٢٧)، قال الألباني: صحيح.

وذكر الأمر الثَّالث؛ قال: "بُذُرًا" أي: من بَذَرَةِ الفتن والسُّعاة في نشرها، والنَّبيُّ عَلَيُّ حذَّر الأَمَّة، وأخبر أنَّ الفتن توجد وستكون، وحذّرهم من السَّعي فيها، كما في حديث أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام -: "سَتَكُونُ فَتَنُّ القَاعِدُ فيهَا خَيْرٌ منَ المَاشِي، والماشِي خَيْرٌ منَ السَّاعي." (١)

And he mentioned the third matter: he said, "buthurā"—meaning, from those who burst forth at the onset of trials and are quick to spread them. The Prophet warned the Ummah and informed them that trials will appear and continue to exist, and he warned them against getting involved in them, as in the ḥadīth of Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه), in which the Prophet said: "There will be tribulations. The one sitting during them is better than the one walking, and the one walking is better than the one running."

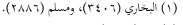
أي: أنَّ المرء كلَّما كان بعيدًا عن تحريك الفتنة وإشعالها وإيقادها وإضرامها؛ كان خيرًا له وأصلح، يبتعد عنها، ويسأل الله - تبارك وتعالى - أن يعيذه ويعيذ المسلمين من شرّها، لا أن يكون أداةً في اشتعالها وانتشارها.

Meaning: the further a person is from stirring the fitnah, igniting it, fueling it, or causing it to flare up, the better and more sound it is for him. He should distance himself from it and ask Allah – Blessed and Exalted – to protect him and protect the Muslims from its evil, rather than being an instrument in igniting and spreading it.

وقد جاء في صحيح مسلم (٢) من حديث زيد بن ثابت، عن نبيّنا - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام - أنَّه قال: "تَعَوَّدُوا بِاللهِ مِنَ الفِتَنِ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْ الفِتَنِ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْ اللهِ مِنَ اللهِ مِن الله - تبارك وتعالى - أن يعيذ المسلمين منها، وأن يحميَهم من غوائلها وآثارها وأخطارها وأضرارها.

And it is reported in Sahih Muslim from the hadīth of Zayd ibn Thābit, that our Prophet said: "Seek refuge with Allah from trials, those which are apparent and those which are hidden." So trials are to be sought refuge from, and the servant should ask Allah – Blessed and Exalted – to protect the Muslims from them, and to safeguard them from their outcomes, effects, harms, and dangers.

And it is frequent in the reported supplications to seek refuge in Allah from the evil of trials, and to seek refuge from misleading tribulations.



⁽۲) برقم (۲۸٦٧).



وهذا أمرٌ ينبغي أن يكون المسلم على عناية به، وأن يحافظ عليه؛ لأنَّ الحافظ هو الله - تبارك وتعالى والمعيذ هو الله، فيلجأُ العبد إلى الله - تبارك وتعالى - لجوءًا صادقا، يسأل ربَّه - جلَّ وعلا - أن يعيذه، وأن يَقيه، وأن يحميَه والمسلمين من الفتن، هذا الَّذي يجب على كلّ مسلم.

This is a matter that every Muslim should pay close attention to and uphold—because the true Preserver is Allah – Blessed and Exalted, and the true Protector is Allah. So the servant must turn to Allah – Blessed and Exalted – with sincere devotion, asking his Lord – Glorified and Most High – to protect him, to shield him, and to preserve him and the Muslims from tribulations. This is what is obligatory upon every Muslim.

وباب فِقْهِ آثار الفتن يفيد الإنسان؛ لأنَّ النَّظر في العواقب - عواقب الفتن - ومعرفةَ مآلاتها قبل تَقَحُّمهَا ودُخولها يفيدُ الإنسانَ حصانةً منها وحذرًا من الوقوع فيها، وكما قيل: "السَّعيد من اتَّعظ بغيره."

And the subject of understanding the consequences of tribulations (fiqh āthār al-fitnah) benefits a person, because examining the outcomes—the consequences of tribulations—and knowing their end results before plunging into them or entering them, grants a person protection from them and caution against falling into them. As it is said: "The happy one is the one who learns a lesson from others."

فينظر ويتأمَّل ويتروَّى ويتفقَّه في الآثار، ويسأل أهلَ العلم، وأهلَ الذِّكر قبل أن يتقحَّم فتنةً، ربَّماكان فيها رأسًا، وربَّماكان فيها فاتحًا لباب شرِّ عليه وعلى غيره.

So he looks, reflects, deliberates, understands the outcomes, and asks the people of knowledge and remembrance before throwing himself into a tribulation—where he might become a figurehead within it, or a door-opener to evil upon himself and others.

وقد جاء في الحديث في سنن ابن ماجه والسُّنَّة لابن أبي عاصم من حديث أنس بن مالك رضي الله عنه أنَّ النَّبِيَّ ﷺ قال: "إِنَّ مِنَ النَّاسِ نَاسًا مَفَاتِيحَ لِلشَّرِّ مَغَالِيقَ لِلخَيْرِ؛ فَطُوبَى لَمَنْ جَعَلَ اللهُ مِفْتَاحَ الخَيْرِ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ." (١)
يَدَيْهِ، وَوَيْلٌ لَمنْ جَعَلَ اللهُ مِفْتَاحَ الشَّرِ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ." (١)

And it was reported in Sunan Ibn Mājah and in As-Sunnah by Ibn Abī 'Āṣim, from the ḥadīth of Anas ibn Mālik (رضي الله عنه), that the Prophet said: "Among people are those who are keys to good and locks to evil, and among people are those who are keys to evil and locks to good. So glad tidings to the one for whom Allah has made him a key to good, and woe to the one for whom Allah has made him a key to evil."



يجب على المسلم أن يربأ بنفسه أن يكون مفتاحًا للشَّرِّ ورأسًا فيه وداعيةً من دُعاته، يورّط نفسَه ويورّط غيرَه ويقحِّمهم في وَرْطات لا يَحمد هو ولا هم عواقبَها، لا في الدُّنيا ولا في الآخرة.

A Muslim must elevate himself above being a key to evil, a leader in it, or a caller to its path—entangling himself and others in predicaments whose consequences he and they will not be able to praise, neither in this world nor in the Hereafter.

فالشَّاهدُ أنَّ باب فقهِ عواقب الفتن وآثارها وما يَنجُم عنها من أضرار وأخطار؛ يفيد المسلم فائدةً كبيرةً. وآثار الفتن كثيرة وعديدة، ويطول عدُّها والكلامُ عليها. لكنَّني أشير في هذه الرِّسالة إلى جملة من الآثار وشيءٍ من العواقب، راجيًا من الله - تبارك وتعالى - أن يكون في ذلك خيرٌ ونفعٌ لنا أجمعين.

The takeaway here is that the field of understanding the consequences of tribulations and their effects, and what harms and dangers arise from them, provides the Muslim with great benefit. The effects of tribulations are many and numerous, and listing them and elaborating on them would be lengthy. However, in this treatise, I will point out a number of those effects and some of the consequences, hoping from Allah – Blessed and Exalted – that it brings goodness and benefit to us all.



الأثر الأول: انصراف النَّاس عن العبادة

FIRST EFFECT: TURNING AWAY FROM WORSHIP

من آثار الفتن أنَّها سبب لانصراف العبد عن العبادة الَّتي خُلق لأجلها والطَّاعة الَّتي أُوجِد لتحقيقها، وينصرف عن ذكر الله - تبارك وتعالى - وتُصبح حياته وأيَّامه وأوقاته مشغولةً بالقيل والقال والأمور الَّتي تُثار والفتن الَّتي تتأجَّج، وقلبه يكون مشوَّشًا مضطربًا مشغولًا، فلا يهدأ ولا يطمئنُّ ولا يتحقَّق منه ذكرٌ لله - تبارك وتعالى - على وجه الطُّمأنينة، فيكون مضطرب القلب، مشوَّش البال، منشغل الخاطر؛ ولهذا جاء في الحديث الصَّحيح عن نبيِّنا - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام - أنَّه قال: "عِبَادَةٌ فِي الهَرْج كَهِجْرَةِ إِليَ." (١)

Among the effects of tribulations is that they become a cause for a servant to turn away from worship—the very purpose for which he was created—and from obedience, which he was brought into existence to fulfill. He turns away from the remembrance of Allah — Blessed and Exalted — and his life, his days, and his time become consumed with idle talk, debates, and the issues that are stirred up and the tribulations that are ignited. His heart becomes confused, disturbed, and preoccupied—he neither rests nor feels tranquility, and he does not achieve a state of remembrance of Allah — Blessed and Exalted — with serenity. Thus, his heart becomes unsettled, his thoughts disordered, and his focus distracted. For this reason, it is authentically reported from our Prophet that he said: "Worship during the time of turmoil is like migrating to me."

الهَرْج: ما يكون في النَّاس من اضطراب، وعندما تموج الأمور وتضطرب، وينشب بين النَّاس الفتن والقتل ونحو ذلك، من يكون في مثل هذا الوقت مشتغلا بعبادة الله - تبارك وتعالى - فهو كالمهاجر إلى النَّبيِّ - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام -. وهذا يبيِّن أنَّ من كان في الهرج مشتغلًا بالعبادة؛ فإنَّه موقَّقُ سالمٌ مِنْ أوضار الفتنة.

Al-Harj refers to the disorder and chaos among people—when matters are shaken, and tribulations and killings arise. Whoever, in such a time, devotes himself to worshiping Allah – Blessed and Exalted – is like one who migrated to the Prophet . This shows that whoever is devoted to worship during turmoil is blessed and safe from the filth of fitnah.

(١) أخرجه الطبراني في الكبير (٢١٣/٢٠) من حديث معقل بن يسار ينفه، وصحَّحه الألباني في صحيح الجامع (٣٩٧٤).



وأيضًا في الوقت نفسه يدلُّ على أنَّ الَّذي ينبغي على الإنسان في الفتن هو الإقبال على العبادة، وتجنُّب الفتن؛ ليفوز بالسَّعادة والرَّاحة والطُّمأنينة، ولهذا جاء في الحديث الصَّحيح عن نبيِّنا - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام - أنَّه قال: "إِنَّ السَّعِيدَ لَمنْ جُنِّبَ الفِتَن." (١) وكرَّرها - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام - أنَّه قال: "إِنَّ السَّعِيدَ لَمنْ جُنِّبَ الفِتَن." (١) وكرَّرها عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام - ثلاث مرَّات.

It also indicates that what is most appropriate for a person in times of fitnah is to turn to worship, and to avoid fitnah, so that he may attain happiness, comfort, and tranquility. For this reason, it is authentically reported from our Prophet that he said: "Indeed, the truly happy one is he who is kept away from tribulations." He repeated it three times.

فالسَّعادة في تجنُّب الفتن، والاشتغال بالعبادة، والذِّكر والطَّاعة لله - سبحانه وتعالى والتَّقرُّب إليه - جلَّ وعلا - بما شرع، بأنواع العبادات، وأنواع الأذكار، وأنواع القربات.

So happiness lies in avoiding tribulations, and in engaging in worship, remembrance, and obedience to Allah – Glorified and Exalted – and drawing near to Him – Glorified and High – through that which He has legislated, including various acts of worship, types of remembrance, and forms of devotion.

And it is authentically reported in Sahih Muslim, from the hadīth of Umm Salamah (may Allah be pleased with her), the wife of the Prophet , that she said: "The Messenger of Allah woke up one night in a state of alarm, saying: 'Subhān Allāh! What has Allah revealed of treasures! What has Allah revealed of tribulations! Who will wake up the women of the chambers (i.e., his wives) to pray?"

The Prophet , when tribulations were sent down, guided toward prayer, toward worship of Allah – Blessed and Exalted – and toward drawing near to Him. He said: "Who will wake up the women of the chambers to pray! Perhaps one is clothed in this world but naked in the Hereafter."



⁽١) أخرجه أبوداود (٢٦٦٣) من حديث المقداد بن الأسود هيلُه ؛ وصحَّحه الألباني في الصَّحيحة (٩٧٥).

⁽٢) صحيح البخاري (٢) ٧٠٦٩،٦٢١٨،٥٨٤٤،٣٥٩).

وأيضًا: يدلُّ على هذا المعنى؛ قوله - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام -: "بَادِرُوا بِالأَعْمَالِ فِتَتَّا كَقِطَعِ اللَّيْلِ المُظْلِمِ." (١) فأرشد إلى الأعمال الصَّالحة، يعنى يُقبل الإنسان على طاعة الله، على الصَّلاة، على الذِّكر، على الدُّعاء، على تلاوة القرآن.

And also, this meaning is indicated by the saying of the Prophet : "Rush to do good deeds before trials come like pieces of a dark night." So he guided toward righteous actions, meaning a person should turn toward obedience to Allah—toward prayer, remembrance, supplication, and recitation of the Qur'an.

When tribulations arise and swirl around, people become distracted from righteous actions and acts of worship—except for a few whom Allah – Blessed and Exalted – grants success, guidance, and support.

لَما وقعت الفتنة في زمن التَّابعين؛ قال الحسن البصري رحمه الله - وهو ممَّن اعتزل الفتنَ، قال: "يا أيُّها النَّاس! إنَّه - والله! - ما سلَّط الله الحَجَّاج عليكم إلَّا عقوبة؛ فلا تُعارضوا عقوبة الله بالسَّيف، ولكن عليكم بالسَّكينة والتَّضرُّع. فإنَّ الله يقول: ﴿وَلَقَدُ أَخَذُنَهُم بِٱلْعَذَابِ فَمَا ٱسۡتَكَانُواْ لِرَبِّهِمْ وَمَا يَتَصَرَّعُونَ﴾ [المؤمنون ٧٦] (١)

When the fitnah occurred during the era of the Tābi'īn, al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī رحمه الله —who was among those who distanced themselves from tribulations—said: "O people! By Allah, al-Ḥajjāj was not given authority over you except as a punishment from Allah; so do not confront the punishment of Allah with the sword, but you must remain calm with humility in supplication." For Allah says: "And indeed We seized them with punishment, but they did not humble themselves to their Lord, nor did they invoke (Him) with submission to Him." (Surah Al-Mu'minūn, 23:76)

أي: أنَّ الواجبَ على الإنسان هو الاستكانة إلى الله، والتَّضرُّع إليه، وملازمة ذِكْرِه، وأن يُصلح حاله ونفسه وبيته، وأن يستقيم على طاعة ربِّه على الوجه الَّذي يُرضي الله – تبارك وتعالى –.

That is: what is obligatory upon a person is to humble himself before Allah, to supplicate to Him with earnestness, to remain constant in His remembrance, to rectify his own condition, his soul, and his household, and to remain steadfast upon the obedience of his Lord in the manner that pleases Allah – Blessed and Exalted.



⁽١) أخرجه مسلم (١١٨) من حديث أبي هريرة رضى الله عنه.

⁽٢) أخرجه ابن سعد في الطبقات الكبرى (١٦٤/٧)، وابن عساكر في تاريخ دمشق (١٧٨/١٢).

It was reported from Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه, regarding this same meaning, that he said: "There will be a tribulation from which nothing will save one from it except supplicating like the supplication of a drowning man."

And each of us knows how the supplication of a drowning man is—how does one supplicate when he realizes he is drowning? He said: "There will be a tribulation from which none will be saved except by supplicating like a drowning man." You must turn to Allah – Blessed and Exalted – with sincere turning, asking Him to save you, to shelter you, to deliver you, and to protect you.



الأثر الثاني: صرف الناس عن العلم والعلماء

SECOND EFFECT:

TURNING PEOPLE AWAY FROM KNOWLEDGE AND THE SCHOLARS

من آثار الفتن وعواقبها: أنَّها تصرف النَّاس عن مجالس العلم ومُجالسة العلماء، وتعلُّم الأحكام، ومعرفة الدِّين، وتكون القلوب مشغولة، وفيها نارُ الفتنة متأجّجَة، فلا يطمئنُّ لطلب علم، ولا يُقبل على مجالسة العلماء، بل يكون منصرفًا عن ذلك كلِّه.

Among the effects and consequences of tribulations is that they turn people away from gatherings of knowledge, from sitting with the scholars, from learning religious rulings, and from understanding their religion. Their hearts become preoccupied, inflamed with the fire of fitnah, and thus they find no tranquility for seeking knowledge, nor do they incline toward the company of scholars. Rather, they become completely turned away from all of that.

بل أَزْيَدُ مِنْ ذلك وأعظم أنَّها تُفضي - أي الفتنة - بكثيرٍ من النَّاس إلى انتقاص العلماء واحتقارهم، وعدم معرفة أقدارهم، والوقيعة فيهم، وفي أعراضهم، والنَّيل منهم.

Even worse—and more dangerous—is that tribulations often lead many people to belittle the scholars, to despise them, to fail in recognizing their status, and to fall into slander against them and their honor, attacking and speaking ill of them.

قد جاء في الحديث عن نبيّنا - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام - أنَّه قال: "لَيْسَ مِن أُمَّتِي مَنْ لَمْ يَرْحَمْ صَغِيرَنَا، وَيُوَقِّرْ كَبِيرَنَا، وَيَعْرِفْ لِعَالمِنَا حَقَهُ." (١)

And it was narrated from our Prophet that he said: "He is not one of my Ummah who does not have mercy on our young, respect our elders, and recognize the rights of our scholars."

ففي الفتنة يقع كثيرٌ من النَّاس في انتقاص العلماء واحتقارهم ولمزهم وهَمْزِهِم والطَّعن فيهم والتَّقليل من شأنهم ورميهم بالأوصاف العظيمة، يتجرَّأ على مقام العلماء جرأةً سَافِرَة، جرأةً سيِّئةً، وذلك كلُّه من آثار الفتن، والعياذ بالله.

During tribulation, many people fall into belittling the scholars, disrespecting them, criticizing them with sarcasm and mockery, attacking them, devaluing their status, and accusing them with grave descriptions. They show brazen boldness toward the position of the scholars—an evil and shameless boldness. And all of this is among the effects of tribulations. And we seek refuge in Allah.



وممًّا جاء في هذا المعنى من الأخبار الَّتي تُروى في التَّاريخ؛ أنَّه لَمّا كانت فتنة عبد الرَّحمن بن الأشعث، وقد دخل في هذه الفتنة عددٌ من القرَّاء وكثيرٌ من النَّاس، لَمّا كانت هذه الفتنة؛ انطلق نفرٌ من النَّاس، فدخلوا على الحَسَن البَصْري، وهو إمام من أجلَّة أهل العلم، وفقيه مِنْ كبار فقهاء الإسلام.

Among the historical accounts that have come to us in this meaning: When the fitnah of 'Abdur-Raḥmān ibn al-Ash'ath occurred—and many Qurr'ā' and people got involved in it—a group of people came and entered upon al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī, who was an eminent scholar, a jurist among the senior scholars of Islam.

دخلوا على الحسن البصري فقالوا: ما تقول في هذا الطَّاغية - أي الحجَّاج - الَّذي سفك الدَّم الحرام وأخذ المال الحرام وترك الصَّلاة وفعل ..؟! وذكروا له من أفعال الحَجَّاج.

They said to him: "What do you say about this tyrant—the Ḥajjāj—who has shed sacred blood, taken unlawful wealth, abandoned prayer, and done such and such...?" And they mentioned his actions.

فقال الحسن البصري رحمه الله: "أرى ألَّا تُقاتلوه؛ فإنَّها إنْ تَكُنْ عقوبةً من الله - أي تسليط الحجَّاج -؛ فما أنتم برادِّي عقوبة الله بأسيافكم، وإن يكنْ بلاء؛ فاصبروا حتَّى يحكم الله، وهو خير الحاكمين." فخرجوا من عنده، وهم يقولون: نطيع هذا العِلْجَ؟! (١)

So al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī رحمه الله said: "I see that you should not fight him. For if this (i.e. the authority of al-Ḥajjāj) is a punishment from Allah, then you cannot repel Allah's punishment with your swords. And if it is a trial, then be patient until Allah judges, and He is the best of judges." So they left his presence saying: "Shall we obey this "ilj" (low-life)?"

فلمَا تأجَّجت الفتنة في نفوسهم؛ عندما يقول العالم قولًا لا يوافِق أهواءهم ولا يمشي مع ميُولاتهم وتوجُّهاتهم رأسًا؛ يطعنون به.

So when the fitnah was already burning in their hearts, and the scholar said something that did not align with their desires, and did not match their inclinations and direction—they turned against him calling him names.

(١) الطبقات الكبرى لابن سعد (١٦٤-١٦٣٧)، والكني والأسماء» للدولابي (١٠٣٥/٣)، وتاريخ دمشق (١٧٨/١٢).



والطُّعون ممَّن أُشربوا الفتنة في أهل العلم لا حدَّ لها في قديم الزَّمان وحديثِه، ربَّما رموه بمُداهنةٍ، ربَّما رموه بعَمَالَةٍ، ربَّما رموه بأوصافٍ وألقاب لا حدَّ لها.

And slander against the scholars by those influenced by fitnah has no limits, in early or modern times. They may accuse him of flattery, or of collaborating with the regime, or they may label him with endless accusations and slurs.

فالفتنُ تُجَرِّئ النَّاس على مقام العلماء، وانتقاصِ العلماء، وتحقير العلماء، والوقيعةِ في أهل العلم، وهذا من أخطر ما يكون على الإنسان، حمانا الله جميعًا من ذلك.

Tribulations embolden people against the status of scholars—they lead to belittling and disparaging them and to backbiting and slander against the people of knowledge. This is among the most dangerous matters for a person. May Allah protect us all from that.

ثمَّ إنَّ هؤلاء النَّفر الَّذين قالوا للحَسَن هذه المقالة ولم يستجيبوا لنصحه؛ خرجوا مع ابن الأشعَث فَقْتِلُوا جميعًا، فلم يحصَّلوا خيرًا، ولم يستفيدوا - أيضًا - من نصائح أهل العلم؛ لأنَّ أهل العلم أصبح ليس لهم مقامٌ عندهم، وليس لكلامهم أيُّ اعتبار أو أيُّ شأنٍ.

Moreover, those individuals who said such words to al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī and did not heed his advice went out with Ibn al-Ash'ath, and all of them were killed. They did not attain any good, nor did they benefit from the advice of the people of knowledge, because, by that point, the scholars had no status in their eyes, and their words held no value or weight to them.



الأثر الثالث: تصدُّر الشُّفهاء

THIRD EFFECT: THE EMERGENCE OF THE FOOLISH AS LEADERS

ومن آثار الفتن أيضًا: أنَّها يترتَّب عليها تصدُّر السُّفهاء، ومن لا علمَ عندهم، ومن لا فقه لهم في دين الله.

Among the effects of tribulations is that they result in the emergence of the foolish—those who have no knowledge, no understanding of the Religion of Allah.

They take leadership roles driven solely by emotion, without proper knowledge of Allah's Religion, without insight, without deliberation or composure.

They begin to take prominent positions, issuing rulings recklessly, promoting statements, spreading agitation, and interfering in matters of fatwā and beyond, while they are not known for knowledge, nor patience, nor sound judgment. Rather, they are driven by emotional fervor ignited by tribulations.

For this reason, Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله said in his book Al-Minhāj: "And when tribulation strikes, even the wise are unable to restrain the foolish." And this is the nature of tribulations, just as Allah said: "And fear a Fitnah (affliction, trial) which affects not in particular (only) those of you who do wrong (but it may afflict all the good and the bad people)." (Surah Al-Anfāl, 8:25)

And once the fitnah occurs, no one is safe from being tainted by it except the one whom Allah protects. We ask Allah – the Most High – to grant us all safety.



الأثر الرابع: الانتهاء إلى العواقب المُزدِيَة والمَآلات السَّيِّئَة

FOURTH EFFECT: ENDING IN DESTRUCTIVE CONSEQUENCES AND EVIL OUTCOMES

من آثار الفتن وعواقبها: أنَّ مَنْ يدخل الفتنة ويتورَّط فيها؛ يبوء بالعواقب المردية والمآلات السَّيِّئة ، ولا ينال منها خيرًا، وفي الوقت نفسه لا يحصّل خيرًا.

Among the effects and consequences of tribulations is that whoever enters into the fitnah and becomes entangled in it ends up with destructive consequences and evil outcomes. He gains no benefit from it—and at the same time, he does not bring about any good.

وشيخ الإسلام ابن تيمية رحمه الله تتبَّع جملةً من الفتن الَّتي ثارتْ في أزمنة قبله ورصدها رحمه الله، وذكر في كتابه منهاج السُّنَة خلاصةً جميلةً نافعةً مفيدةً لمالات تلك الفتن فقال رحمه الله: "قلَّ من خرج على إمام ذي سلطان إلَّا كان ما تولَّد على فعله من الشَّرِّ أعظم ممَّا تولَّد من الخير." وذكر أمثلةً كثيرةً لِفِتَنٍ حصلتْ، ثمَّ لحِّص نتَاجَ وآثار تلك الفتن؛ فقال رحمه الله: "فلا أقاموا دينًا، ولا أَبْقُوْا دُنْيا." (١)

Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah حمه الله studied a number of tribulations that had occurred in the times before him and recorded them, and he mentioned in his book Minhāj as-Sunnah a beautiful, beneficial summary of the consequences of such tribulations, saying: "Rarely does anyone rise up against a leader with authority except that the evil resulting from his action is greater than the good that resulted from it." And he cited many examples of past fitan, and then summarized their consequences by saying: "They neither upheld the religion nor preserved the worldly life."

أي: من تصدَّروا في تلك الفتن، وسعوا فيها، ما أقاموا دينًا، ولم يُبقوا دُنيا؛ لأنَّ الفتنة إذا ثارت؛ يقع القتال، ويكثر الهَرْجُ، ويموج النَّاس، وتحصُل الفتن، والعواقب السَّيِّئة، ولا يحصِّل مُثِيرو الفتنة أيَّ حَيْر.

Meaning: those who led or participated in such tribulations neither upheld the Religion nor preserved the worldly order. Because when fitnah erupts, killing increases, chaos spreads, people are thrown into upheaval, and evil consequences unfold—and those who stirred the fitnah do not achieve any good.

(١) منهاج السنة (٢٨ ٥-٤/٢٥).



وَمَرَّ قريبًا معنا قصَّةُ النَّفر الَّذين لم يَعْبَؤوا بنصيحة الإمام أحمد، وكذلك قصَّة النَّفر الَّذين لم يعبؤوا بنصيحة الحسن البصري رحمه الله، وكانت النّيجة عند هؤلاء وعند هؤلاء أنَّهم ما أقاموا دينًا، وكانت مآلاتهم؛ إمَّا إلى حبس أو إلى قتل أو هروب أو غير ذلك من المالات والنِّهايات، وهذا متكرّرٌ في التَّاريخ.

And we recently mentioned the story of the group who ignored the advice of Imam Aḥmad, as well as the group who ignored the advice of al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī. The result, in both cases, was that they neither upheld the Religion nor preserved their worldly lives. Their outcomes were either imprisonment, killing, fleeing, or other disastrous ends. And this is something that has repeated throughout history.

In volume eight of Siyar A'lām an-Nubalā', in the biography of al-Ḥakam ibn Hishām, the Umayyad ruler—who was the emir of al-Andalus—al-Dhahabī mentions in a lengthy story (which cannot be fully quoted here, but can be reviewed in *Siyar A'lām an-Nubalā'):

بدأها الذَّهبي رحمه الله بقوله: "كَثُرُت العلماء بالأندلس في دولته - أي دولة الحكَم - حتَّى قيل: إنَّه كان بقرطبة أربعة آلاف مُتَقَلِّس مُتَزيِّن بزِيِّ العلماء - يعني: كَثُرُ أهل العلم وطلبة العلم والمتزيِّين بزيِّ أهل العلم - قال: فلّمًا أراد الله فناءهم؛ عزَّ عليهم انتهاك الحَكَم للحُرمات، وائتمروا ليخلعوه، ثمَّ جيَّشوا لقتاله، وجرت بالأندلس فتنة عظيمة على الإسلام وأهله، فلا قوَّة إلَّا بالله."

He begins the account by saying: "During the rule of al-Ḥakam, the number of scholars in al-Andalus increased—until it was said that in Córdoba there were four thousand people wearing the garb of scholars." Meaning: the number of scholars, students of knowledge, and those who appeared in scholarly dress had greatly multiplied. Then he says: "When Allah willed their end, they became angered by al-Ḥakam's violations of sacred matters, and they plotted to depose him. Then they gathered an army to fight him, and a great fitnah broke out in al-Andalus—bringing harm to Islam and its people. There is no might nor power except with Allah."

Then he narrates the story in detail, and at the end, it is mentioned that many of them were killed, some fled, and others were imprisoned—all without having established the Religion through such ignited and inflamed tribulations. And the one who is truly successful, as it is said, is he who learns a lesson from others.



بل إنَّ عددًا كبيرًا ممَّنْ شاركوا في الفتن ودخلوا فيها كانت نهايتهم فيها النَّدم وتمنِّي أن لو لم يدخلوا في تلك الفتن. وسُطِّر من ذلك شيءٌ كثير في كتب التَّاريخ والتَّراجمِ، أَخْبَارٌ لأولئك الّذين شاركوا في الفتن كانت نهاياتهم النَّدم على ذلك.

In fact, a large number of those who participated in tribulations and became involved in them ended up regretting their involvement, and they wished they had never entered into such trials. This has been recorded abundantly in the books of history and biographies—narrations about those who took part in fitan, whose end was remorse over their involvement.

Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله said: "And likewise, the vast majority of the earlier ones regretted having entered into fighting."

And Ayyūb as-Sakhtiyānī حمه الله said, when mentioning the reciters (Qurrā') who had gone out with Ibn al-Ash'ath: "I do not know of anyone among them who was killed except that people wished he had died in a different way. And no one among them survived except that he praised Allah for having been saved." Meaning: they were all regretful for what they had done.

Among the beneficial and insightful reports in this topic is the story of Zubayd ibn al-Ḥārith al-Yāmī, who is one of the narrators in the Six Books (al-Kutub al-Sittah), and a scholar of Islam. He was among those who initially entered the fitnah of Ibn al-Ash'ath, but he was saved from it and survived without being killed.



قال محمَّد بن طلحة: "رآني زُبيد مع العلاء بن عبد الكريم ونحن نضحك، فقال: لو شهدتَ الجماجم ما ضَحِكْتَ!" والجماجم التي يشير إليها: جماجم المسلمين ورؤوسهم تتساقط بأيدي المسلمين أنفسهم، يقتل بعضُهم بعضًا، ثمَّ قال زبيد: "وَلَوَدِدْتُ أَنَّ يدي - أو قال: يميني - قُطعت من العَضُد ولم أكن شهدت ذلك." (١)

Muḥammad ibn Ṭalḥah said: "Zubayd saw me with al-'Alā' ibn 'Abd al-Karīm while we were laughing, so he said: 'Had you witnessed al-Jamājim, you would not be laughing!" And al-Jamājim he referred to are the skulls of Muslims—their heads falling at the hands of one another, with Muslims killing fellow Muslims. Then Zubayd said: "I wish that my hand—or he said: my right arm—had been cut off from the shoulder and I had not witnessed that [fitnah]."

Then another tribulation arose, and he was called to participate in it—but by then, he had seen its effects and consequences, and he had become alert and aware.

Pay attention to his refined and experienced response—one born of suffering and wisdom. In some narrations, Manṣūr ibn al-Mu'tamir used to visit Zubayd, and he mentioned to him that the household (Ahl al-Bayt) were being killed—seeking to encourage him to join Zayd ibn 'Alī in another uprising. But Zubayd said: "I will not go out except with a Prophet—and I will not find one."

Meaning: I will not find a Prophet to go out with. He said this out of deep awareness, personal experience, and a clear vision of the devastating consequences that came from past fitan.



⁽١) تاريخ خليفة (ص٧٦).

⁽١) أخرجه يعقوب بن سفيان في تاريخه (١٠٧/٣)، وابن عساكر في تاريخ دمشق (١٩/٢٧٩).

الأثر الخامس: من دخل في الفتن انحطّ قدره

FIFTH EFFECT: LOSS OF STATUS FOR THOSE WHO ENTER TRIBULATIONS

أيضًا من آثارها: أنّ مَن يدخل فيها وهو من أهل العلم ربَّما أنَّها تؤدِّي به إلى نقوص قدره وسقوط شأنه، ومن سَلِم من تلك الفتن تكون سلامته منها رفعةً له وسببًا لانتفاع النّاس بعلمه ومضيّ الخير وجريانه على يديه بتوفيقٍ من الله – تبارك وتعالى.

Among the effects of tribulations is that those who enter into them, especially among the people of knowledge, may lose their standing and diminish their status. Whereas those who are saved from such trials, their very safety from them becomes a source of honor, and a means for people to benefit from their knowledge and for goodness to continue through them, by the success and guidance of Allah, Blessed and Exalted.

ولهذا قال عبد الله بن عون: "كان مسلم ابن يسار عند النّاس أرفع من الحسِن - أي البصري -، فِلَمَّا وقعت الفتنة خفَّ مسلمٌ فيها وأَبْطأً عنها الحسن - أي: تأخّر واعتزل الفتن، فأمَّا مسلمٌ فإنَّه اتَّضَعَ - أي عند النَّاس ، وأمَّا الحسن فإنَّه ارتفع." (١)

For this reason, 'Abdullāh ibn 'Awn said: "Muslim ibn Yasār was held in higher regard by the people than al-Ḥasan [i.e., al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī]. But when the fitnah occurred, Muslim entered it quickly, and al-Ḥasan withdrew and avoided it. So Muslim's status diminished, and al-Ḥasan was elevated."

مسلم بن يسار الذي قال عنه عبد الله بن عون هذا الكلام؛ وهو ممَّن دخل في فتنة ابن الأشعث؛ لكنَّه لمّا انتهت كان يحمَد الله ويقول في حمده لله - تبارك وتعالى - يقول: "يا أبا قِلابة! إنِّي أحمدُ الله إليك أنِّي لَمْ أَرْمِ فيها بسهم، ولم أطعَن فيها برمح، ولم أضرب فيها بسبف."

Muslim ibn Yasār, about whom 'Abdullāh ibn 'Awn said this, was one of those who entered the fitnah of Ibn al-Ash'ath. But after it ended, he used to praise Allah, and say in gratitude: "O Abā Qilābah! I praise Allah to you that I did not throw a single arrow in it, nor did I stab with a spear, nor strike with a sword."

(١) أخرجه ابن أبي شيبة في المصنف (١١/١١)، وابن سعد في الطبقات (١٦٥ /٧)، وابن عساكر في تاريخه (١٤٦/٥٨).



معنى كلامه: أنا مشيتُ معهم؛ لكنَّني ما رميتُ بسهم ولا ضربتُ بسيف.

The meaning of his words is: I walked with them, but I did shoot an arrow, nor did I strike with a sword.

فكان يقول هذا الكلام، يحمد الله، وكان عنده أبو قلابة رحمه الله، فقال له أبو قلابة: يا أبا عبد الله! فكيف بمن رآك واقفا في الصَّفّ؟ - أنت عالم معروف بين النّاس ومكانتك معروفة؛ فكيف بمن رآك بين الصَّقِّين - فقال: "هذا مسلم بن يسار، والله! ما وقف هذا الموقف إلا وهو على الحقَّ؟!"

At that time, Abū Qilābah was with him and said: "O Abā 'Abdillāh! What about those who saw you standing in the ranks?" – You are a known scholar among the people with a known status. What about those who saw you between the two ranks (of battle) and said: "This is Muslim ibn Yasār, and by Allah, he would not take this stance unless he is upon the truth!"

وُقُوفُكَ بين الصَّقَيْن، وحضورك بنفسك، وقيامك مع هؤلاء، وجودك نفسه؛ هذا ممَّا يزيد الفتنة. فبكى مسلم بن يسار، لَمَّا نبَّهه على هذا الأمر؛ فقال أبو قلابة: "فبكى وبكى حتَّى تمنَّيتُ أنِّي لم أكن قلتُ له شيئًا." (١)

Your mere presence among the ranks, your physical attendance, your alignment with them—this is something that fuels the fitnah further. So Muslim ibn Yasār wept, and Abū Qilābah said: "He wept and wept until I wished I had never said anything to him."

Meaning: he was deeply moved and shaken by the reminder of how far his situation had gone—even just by standing among them, without fighting. So what then of those who actually took part?



الأثر السادس: اشتباه الأمور واختلاط المقّ بالباطل

SIXTH EFFECT:

CONFUSION OF MATTERS AND MIXING TRUTH WITH FALSEHOOD

من آثار الفتن وعواقبها: أنَّ الأمور تشتبه فيها على النَّاس وتختلط، ولا يَمِيزُ كثيرٌ من النَّاس بين حقِّ وباطل، ويُقتل الرَّجل ولا يدري فيما قتل! ويقتلَه قاتله ولا يدري فيما قتله!! لكنّها فتنة مضطرمة، ويموج النَّاس، وتتغيَّر التُّفوس، وتعظمُ الأخطار، وتُحدِقُ الشُّرور بالنَّاس، وتصبحُ الأمور مُشْتَبِهَة.

Among the effects and consequences of tribulations is that matters become confused for people and mixed up, and many are unable to distinguish between truth and falsehood. A man is killed, and he does not know why he was killed! And his killer kills him without knowing why he killed him! But it is a raging fitnah. The people are in upheaval, souls are disturbed, dangers grow great, and evils surround the people. Matters become completely ambiguous.

يقول أبو موسى الأشعري رضي الله عنه: "إنَّ الفتنة إذَا أقبلت شبَّهت، وإذا أدبرت تبيَّنت." (١) الفتنة إذا أقبلت على النَّاس شبَّهت، يصبح أمِرُها مشتَبِهًا على النَّاس غير متَّضح، وإذا أدبرت عرف النّاسُ حالها وتبيَّن لهم أمرُها.

Abū Mūsā al-Ash'arī رضي الله عنه said: "When the fitnah begins, it appears ambiguous; but when it ends, it becomes clear." That is, when a fitnah first appears, it is ambiguous to the people, its reality unclear. Only after it passes do the people realize its true nature.

And Muṭarrif ibn 'Abdillāh ibn ash-Shikhkhīr said: "Fitnah does not come to guide the people when it arrives—but to challenge the believer on his Religion."

$$(7)$$
 أخرجه ابن سعد في الطبقات $(7/7)$ ، وأبو نعيم في الحلية $(7/7)$



ولنعتبر في هذا الباب بفتنةِ المسيح الدَّجَّال الَّتي هي أعظم الفتن، والنّبيُّ - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام - ذكر لأمَّته فيها حقائق جليَّة، وأمورا واضحة، تكشفُ عوار الدَّجَّال، وتبيّن حقيقتَه، ومع ذلك يتبعُه خلقٌ لا بحصيهم إلَّا الله.

And we should reflect in this context upon the tribulation of al-Masīḥ ad-Dajjāl, which is the greatest of all tribulations. The Prophet informed his Ummah about it with clear facts and explicit details that expose the Dajjāl's falsehood and reveal his true reality—yet, despite all of that, multitudes will follow him, in numbers known only to Allah.

يقول - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام -: "مَنْ سَمِعَ بِالدَّجَالِ فَلْيَنْأْ عَنْهُ - أي: يبتعد عنه ولا يقترب من مكانه - فَوَاللهِ! إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَأْتِيهِ وَهُوَ يَحْسِبُ أَنَّهُ مُؤْمِنٌ فَيَتَّبِعُهُ مِمَّا يَبْعَثُ بِهِ مِنَ الشَّبْهَاتِ." (١) فيتَّبعه: أي: يتَّبع الدَّجَّال ممَّا يَبعث به من الشبهات، أي ممّا يُثيره الدجَّال من الشبهات التي تخطفُ القلوب، وتأسِرُ النَفوسَ.

The Prophet said: "Whoever hears of the Dajjāl, – let him keep away from him – for by Allah, a man may come to him thinking he is a believer, and then follow him due to the doubts he stirs within him." He said, "let him keep away from him"—meaning: stay far from him and do not approach his location. For by Allah, a man may approach him thinking himself to be strong in faith, yet end up following the Dajjāl due to the doubts and confusions the Dajjāl casts—doubts that captivate hearts and ensnare souls.

وجاء في الحديث في صحيح مسلم (٢) أنَّ النَّبيَّ - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام - قال: "مَنْ قَاتَلَ تَحْتَ رَايَةٍ عِمِيَّةٍ، يَغْضَبُ لِعَصَبَةٍ أَوْ يَدْعُو إِلَى عَصَبَةٍ أَوْ يَدْعُو إِلَى عَصَبَةٍ أَوْ يَنْصُرُ عَصَبَةً؛ فَقُتِل، فَقِتْلَةٌ جَاهِلِيَّةُ."

It was also narrated in Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim that the Prophet said: "Whoever fights under the banner of blind partisanship, becoming angry for tribal loyalty, calling to tribal loyalty, or supporting tribal loyalty—then is killed—his death is a death of Jāhiliyyah (pre-Islamic ignorance)."

وقوله: عقِيَّة: أي: الأمر الأعمى، لا يَسْتَبِين حاله، ولا يتَضح أمره، وهذا حال الفتن وشأنها أنَّها يصبح النّاس يموجون فيها، ولا يتّضِح لهم فيها أمرٌ، ولا تَستبينُ لهم فيها جادة. ومن لطيف ما يُذكر في هذا المقام قصَّةَ الصَّحابيِّ لجليل سعد بن أبي وقّاص - رضي الله عنه وأرضاه-.

And his statement, "under a blind banner (raayah 'ummiyyah)", means: a cause that is ambiguous, unclear, without discernment or clarity—and this is exactly how fitan are. People become engulfed in them, lost in their waves, and unable to distinguish truth from falsehood. Among the insightful accounts in this context is the story of the noble companion Sa'd ibn Abī Waqqāṣ رضي الله عنه.



⁽٢) برقم (١٨٤٨) من حديث أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه.

يقول ابن سيرين: قيل لسعد بن أبي وقَّاص: ألا تقاتل؟! - يقصدون في الفتنة التي كانت، وهو القتال الَّذي كان بين معاوية وبين عليّ بن أبي طالب، وكان سعد ممّن اعتزل ذلك وابتعد عنه، فقالوا له: ألا تقاتل؟!

Ibn Sīrīn said: It was said to Sa'd ibn Abī Waqqāṣ: "Will you not fight?"—referring to the civil conflict between Mu'āwiyah and 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib رضي الله عنهما. And Sa'd was among those who withdrew from that fitnah and stayed far from it. So they asked him: "Will you not fight?!"

فإنَّك من أهل الشُّورى، وأنت أحقُّ بهذا الأمر من غيرك؟! فقال: "لا أقاتل حتَّى تأتوني بسيف له عينان ولسان وشفتان يعرف المؤمن من الكافر،" يعني: تأتوني بسيف يعرف المؤمن من الكافر، إن ضربت مسلمًا نَببا عنه لا يقتله، وإن ضربت كافرًا قتله. ثمَّ قال: "فقد جاهدت وأنا أعْرِف الجهاد." (١)

They said to him: "You are one of the members of the shūrā (consultative council), and you are more deserving of this matter than others!" He replied: "I will not fight unless you bring me a sword that has eyes, a tongue, and lips—so that it can distinguish the believer from the disbeliever." Meaning: bring me a sword that knows who is a believer and who is a disbeliever—so that if it strikes a Muslim, it would bounce off and not kill him, but if it strikes a disbeliever, it would kill him. Then he said: "I have engaged in jihad before, and I know what true jihad is."

Meaning: As for this type of fighting—where Muslim heads fall and they kill one another —I will not enter into it unless I have such a sword with this description.

ثمَّ ضرب مثلاً عجيبًا، قال فيه رضي الله عنه: "مثلُنا ومثلُكم كمثل قوم كانوا على محجَّةٍ بيضاء، فبينِما هم كذلك يسيرون؛ هاجت ريح عَجاجةٌ فضلُّوا الطَّريق - اشتبه الطّريق بسبب العجاج والرِّيح والتبس عليهم - فقال بعضهم: الطَّريق ذات اليمين؛ فأخذوا فيها فتاهوا وضلّوا، وقال آخرون: الطّريق ذات الشَّمال؛ فأخذوا فيها فتاهوا وضلّوا.

Then he gave a remarkable example. He said: "The likeness of us and you is like a people who were walking upon a clear, white path. While they were proceeding along it, a stormy wind blew with dust, and they lost sight of the way. Some of them said: 'The path is to the right,' so they went to the right and got lost. Others said: 'The path is to the left,' so they went to the left and got lost.



وقال آخرون: كنًا في الطّريق حيث هاجت الرّيح فنُنيخُ؛ فأناخوا فأصبحوا، فذهب الرِّيح وتبيَّن الطريق، فهؤلاء هم الجماعة، قالوا: نَلزم ما فارَقَنَا عليه رسول الله ﷺ حتَّى نلقاه، ولا ندخل في شيءٍ من الفتن." (١)

And some said: 'We were upon the path when the wind blew, so we will kneel down and remain where we are.' So they sat down until the wind cleared and the path became visible again. These are the people of the jamā'ah (the united group). They said: 'We will stick to what we were upon when the Messenger of Allah departed us until we meet him. And we will not enter into any of the tribulations.'"

وكان منهجُ سعد بنِ أبي وقَّاص وعبدِ الله بن عمر وجماعة من الصَّحابة أنَّ الحلَّ في الأمر الَّذي كان بين معاوية وبين عليِّ ليس السَّيف، وإنَّما الحلُّ السَّعي في الصُّلح والتّروِّي في الأمور ونحو ذلك.

The approach of Sa'd ibn Abī Waqqāṣ, 'Abdullāh ibn 'Umar, and a group of companions was that the solution to the matter between Mu'āwiyah and 'Alī was not through the sword, but through striving for reconciliation, deliberation, and similar means.

وعليُّ رضي الله عنه كان له اجتهاده، ومعاوية رضي الله عنه كان له اجتهاده، ولا يُعدم مَنْ كان مجتهدًا متحرِّيًا الحقَّ والصَّواب من أجر الاجتهاد والخطأ، وذنبه مغفور، كما قال - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام -: "إِذَا حَكَمَ الحَاكِمُ فَاجْتَهَدَ فَأَصَابَ فَلَهُ أَجْرًانِ، وَإِذَا اجْتَهَدَ فَأَخْطأً فَلَهُ أَجْرٌ." (٢)

As for 'Alī, he had his ijtihād (independent reasoning), and Mu'āwiyah had his ijtihād as well. One who strives to reach the truth and correctness through ijtihād is not deprived of reward, even if he errs. As for ijtihād and its outcomes—then the one who is correct receives two rewards, and the one who errs still receives one reward, and his error is forgiven. As the Prophet said: "If a judge gives a ruling and strives to reach the correct conclusion and is correct, he will have two rewards. And if he strives and errs, he will have one reward."

لكنَّ جماعة من الصَّحابة رأوا أنَّ الحلَّ في مثل ذلك ليس بالسَّيف والقتال، وإنَّما بالسَّعي في الصُّلح والبعد عن القتال وجمع الكلمة إلى غير ذلك من المسالك.

However, a number of the companions believed that the solution in such a matter was not through fighting and bloodshed, but through efforts toward peace, avoiding combat, and preserving unity, among other approaches.



⁽١) أخرجه بهذا التمام ابن الأعرابي في معجمه (٧١٣)، والخطابي في العزلة (ص٧٢)، وابن عساكر في تاريخ دمشق (٩٦/٣٩).

⁽٢) أخرجه البخاري (٧٣٥٢)، ومسلم (١٧١٦) من حديث عمرو بن العاص رضى الله عنه.

الأثر السابع: التَّغرير بالنَّاشئة والشَّباب

SEVENTH EFFECT: MISLEADING THE YOUTH AND THE YOUNG GENERATION

أيضًا في الفتن وممًا يترتّب عليها: أنّ الفتن تكون سببًا ووسيلة لاستدراج النّاشئة وصغار الأسنان والتّغرير بهم من خلال خطوط وقنوات ومسارات إلى أن يصلوا إلى عواقب وخيمة ونهايات مؤلمة.

Also among the effects and consequences of tribulations is that they become a means of luring and misleading the youth, those of a younger age, by leading them through various routes, channels, and stages, until they reach devastating consequences and painful outcomes.

Here, it is essential that the youth not be deceived by the propaganda that is promoted, or by slogans that are stirred, or by eloquent phrases that are written and shared. Rather, if he is invited to anything, he should refer the matter to the senior scholars. The Prophet said: "Blessing lies with your elders."

If a person is invited toward a path or direction, he should refer the matter back to the senior scholars—those firmly grounded in knowledge, known for their depth, their long-standing engagement in study and review, and their experience in issuing fatāwā, giving guidance, advice, and teaching. In normal situations, one refers to them and asks questions.

لكن في الفتن قد يُستدرَج بعض النّاشئة ويؤخذون عبر خطوات إلى أن يدخلوا في أمور عظيمة وورطات جسيمة، ربَّما لا يجدون لأنفسهم منها مخرَجًا، وتكون البدايات مع الصِّغار من مثيري الفتن في أشياء مألوفة وأمور معروفة، مثل أن يجتمع جماعة ويتعاهدون على أشياء معروفة ومتقرّرة.

However, during times of tribulation, some of the youth may be drawn step by step into matters of great danger and serious entanglements—from which they may later find no way out. Often, these beginnings start with the junior figures who stir fitnah, through familiar and seemingly noble matters.



فيقولون مثلاً: نجتمع على الإيمان بالله وملائكته وإقامة الصَّلاة وإيتاء الزَّكاة ونتعاهد على ذلك، ويضيفون لها بعض الأشياء الَّتي تجعل الشَّابَّ فيما بعد يجد أنَّه التزم بعهد، وربَّما دخل في حزبٍ أو سلك في تنظيم أو دخل في بيعة أو نحو ذلك، ويجد نفسه في مسار يحتار فيه، وربَّما يصعب عليه الرُّجوع، وقد قطع فيه شوطًا وتورَّط في ذلك المسلك والمسار، بينما إذا كان الشَّابُ موفَّقًا ومَنَّ الله عليه بالتَّوفيق؛ فإنَّه يسلم من ذلك، ومثل هذه الأمور كانت توجد من قديمٍ.

For example, a group may come together and pledge to uphold agreed-upon truths—like belief in Allah, His angels, performing the prayer, paying the zakāh—and make mutual promises upon that. Then, they add other things to it, such that the youth begins to feel bound by an oath. Eventually, he may find himself in a faction, organization, or pledge of allegiance (bayʻah)—and he finds himself on a path he is uncertain about, from which return becomes difficult, after he has already gone far down it and become entangled. Whereas, if the youth is blessed by Allah with guidance and success, he is saved from all of that. And such things have existed since earlier times.

في زمن التَّابعين يَرْوِي لنا مطرِّف بن عبد الله بن الشَّخِير قصَّةً له لَمّا كان صغيرًا، يقول: "كنَّا نأتي زيد بن صُوحَان، فكان يقول: يا عباد الله! أكرموا وأجملوا فإنَّما وسيلة العباد إلى الله خصلتين الخوف والطمع، - كان واعظا يعظُ ويذكّر ويخوِّفهم بالله، ويرغّبهم في العبادة والطّاعة-.

In the era of the Tābi'īn, Muṭarrif ibn 'Abdullāh ibn ash-Shikhkhīr narrated a story from his youth. He said: "We used to go to Zayd ibn Ṣūḥān. He would say: 'O servants of Allah, be noble and dignified—for the servants' path to Allah lies in two traits: fear and hope." He was a preacher who would remind people, encourage them to fear Allah, and inspire them toward worship and obedience.

فيقول: فأتيته ذات يوم وقد كتبوا كتابًا فَنسَّقُوا كلامًا من هذا النَّحو: إنَّ الله ربُّنا، ومحمَّد نيّنا ﷺ، والقرآن إمامنا، ومن كان معنا كنَّا وكنَّا، ومن خالفنا كانت يَدُنَا عليه وكنَّا وكنَّا - كتبوا كتابًا بهذه المعاني وبهذه المضامين التي في ظاهرها أنَّها أمر لا إشكال فيها عند كثير من النّاس.

He continues: "One day I went to him, and they had written a document. They had composed a statement along these lines: 'Allah is our Lord, Muhammad is our Prophet, the Qur'an is our guide. Whoever is with us—we are with him; and whoever opposes us —our hand is against him,' and so on..." They had written a document with these meanings—statements that, on the surface, seemed unproblematic to many people.

He said: "They began presenting the document to each man, one by one. Every time they showed it to someone, they asked: 'Do you affirm this, O so-and-so?' and he would reply: 'Yes, I affirm it."



قال: حتَّى انتهوا إليَّ؛ فقالوا: أقررتَ يا غلام؟! - يعني: بهذه الأمور - قال: قلت: "لا، ما أقررتُ." قال زيد - أي: ابن صوحان -: "لا تَعجَلُوا على الغلام، قال: ما تقول يا غلام؟"

He continued: "Then they reached me and asked: 'Do you affirm this, young man?' I said: 'No, I do not affirm it." So Zayd ibn Ṣūḥān said: "Do not rush the boy." Then he said to me: "What do you say, young man?"

قال: قلت: إِنَّ الله قد أخذ عليَّ عهدًا في كتابه فلن أُحْدِثَ عهدًا سوى العهد الَّذي أخذه الله عليَّ في كتابه. قال: فرجع القوم عن آخرهم، ما أقرَّ منهم أحد، وكانوا زهاء ثلاثين نفسًا.

I replied: "Allah has already taken a covenant from me in His Book, and I will not introduce another covenant besides the one Allah has already taken from me in His Book." Then Muṭarrif said: "So the group, all of them, withdrew. Not one of them affirmed it, and they were about thirty individuals." ("Zuhā" – meaning: about thirty individuals.)

الشَّاهد أنَّ الفتن ربَّما يُستدرج فيها كثير من الشَّباب وصغار السِّنِّ في تنظيمات أو في تحزَّبات أو في بيعات أو في نحو ذلك من الأمور ممَّا يترتَّب عليه ما لا يَحْمدون عاقبته.

The point here is that in times of tribulation, many youth and young individuals may be gradually lured into group structures, partisan affiliations, or pledges, and other such matters whose consequences they later come to regret.



الأثر الثامن: إضعاف الأهْوَّة الإيمانيَّة والرَّابطة الدِّينيَّة

EIGHTH EFFECT: WEAKENING OF FAITH-BASED BROTHERHOOD AND RELIGIOUS UNITY

أيضًا من آثار الفتن ومآلاتها المردية: أنَّها تفكّك المجتمعات، وتضعف الأخوَّة الإيمانيَّة والرَّابطة الدِّينيَّة، وتنشر بين النَّاس الضَّغَائن والأحقاد والعداوات، ولهذا جاء في الحديث الَّذي في الصَّحيحين، (١) حديث حذيفة بن اليمان رضي الله عنه قال: "كان أصحاب رسول الله على الله عنه قال: "كان أصحاب الله عنه الخير، وكنت أسألُه عن الشَّرِّ مخافة أن يدركني، فقلت: "يا رسول الله! إنَّا كنَّا في جاهليَّة وشرّ، فجاءنا الله بهذا الخير، فهل بعد هذا الشَرِّ من خير؟" قال: "نَعَمْ، وَفِيهِ دَخَنٌ."

Among the destructive consequences of tribulations is that they lead to the fragmentation of communities, and the weakening of Faith-Based brotherhood and the Religious bond. They spread hatred, animosity, and division among people. For this reason, it is reported in the Ṣaḥīḥayn (al-Bukhārī and Muslim) from the ḥadīth of Ḥudhayfah ibn al-Yamān (impurity): "The Companions of the Messenger of Allah used to ask him about the good, but I used to ask him about the evil for fear that it would reach me. So I said: 'O Messenger of Allah, we were in a state of ignorance and evil, and then Allah brought us this good—so is there any evil after this good?' He said: 'Yes.' I asked: 'And after that evil, will there be any good?' He said: 'Yes—but in it is dakhan (impurity).'"

In other narrations, he said: "There will be remnants," and in another version: "A group with specks [of corruption]—a truce upon hostility." And in another narration: "Hearts of some people will no longer return to what they once were."



فالشَّاهد أنَّ الفتن عندما تتأجَّج؛ تغيِّر النُّفوس وربَّما تخلخلت معاني الأخوَّة والرَّابطة الإيمانيَّة، والله - تبارك وتعالى - يقول: ﴿إِنَّمَا ٱلْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُواْ بَيْنَ أَخَوَيُكُمُّ وَاتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ﴾ [الحجرات ١٠]

The takeaway is that when fitnah is ignited, it changes people's hearts, and may disrupt the meanings of brotherhood and faith-based unity. And Allah – Blessed and Exalted – says: "The believers are nothing else than brothers (in Islâmic religion). So make reconciliation between your brothers, and fear Allah, that you may receive mercy." (Surah al-Ḥujurāt, 49:10)

والنَّبيُّ - عليه الصَّلاة والسَّلام - يقول: "كُونُوا عِبَادَ الله إِخْوَانًا، المُسْلِمُ أَخُو المُسْلِم لَا يَخْذُلُهُ وَلَا يَظْلِمُهُ وَلَا يَخْفِرُهُ، التَّقوَى هَا هُنَا بِحَسْبِ امْرِئِ مِنَ الشَّرِّ أَنْ يَحْقِرَ أَخَاهُ المُسْلِمَ." (١) والأحاديث في هذا المعنى كثيرة.

And the Prophet said: "Be servants of Allah as brothers. A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim—he does not betray him, nor oppress him, nor belittle him. Piety is right here (pointing to his chest). It is enough evil for a man to belittle his Muslim brother." And there are many other ahadith in this meaning.



الأثر التاسع: المِرأةُ على القتل وسفك الدّماء

NINTH EFFECT: BOLDNESS TOWARD KILLING AND BLOODSHED

أيضًا من عواقب الفتن ومآلاتها: أنَّها ترخص فيها دماء المسلمين- أي بينهم -، وتتجرَّأُ النُّفوس على القتل، ويستحلّ النَّاسُ دماء بعضهم بعضًا، وقد جاء عن عبد الله ابن عمر رضي الله عنهما أنَّه قال: "في الفتنة لا ترون القتل شيئًا." (١) وكان رضي الله عنه عظيم النَّهي عن الدَّخول في إراقة لدِّماء، واستلاب الأموال، والتَّعدِّي على الأعراض.

Among the consequences and destructive outcomes of tribulations is that the blood of Muslims becomes cheap in their own eyes—they begin to see no value in it, and souls become emboldened to kill, and people begin to deem each other's blood lawful. It is reported from 'Abdullāh ibn 'Umar رضي الله عنهما that he said: "During fitnah, people will not consider killing to be anything significant." And he رضي الله عنه was severely opposed to entering into anything involving the shedding of blood, the seizing of wealth, or the violation of people's honor.

وله في هذا كلمة عظيمة جميلة ينبغي أن تُحفظ ويُحافظ عليها، ألا وهي أنَّ رجلًا كتب إلى ابن عمر رضي الله عنهما، أن كُتُبْ إليَّ بالعلم؛ فكتب إليه: "إنَّ العلم كثيرٌ؛ - يا ابنَ أخي - ولكن إن استطعت أن تَلْقَى الله خفيفَ الظّهر من دماء المسلمين، حَميصَ البطن من أموالهم، كافَّ اللَّسان عن أعراضهم، لازمًا لجماعتهم، فَافْعَلْ." (٢) وهو وصيّة من أعظم الوصايا وأجمعها للعلم كلّه والخير كله.

And he has a profound and beautiful statement that deserves to be memorized and preserved. A man once wrote to Ibn 'Umar asking: "Write to me with knowledge." So Ibn 'Umar wrote back: "Knowledge is abundant, O my nephew—but if you are able to meet Allah with a light back (free of Muslim blood), an empty stomach (free of their wealth), a restrained tongue (from their honor), and adhering to their unity—then do so." This is a recommendation among the greatest of recommendations—encompassing all knowledge and all goodness.



⁽¹⁾ ${\it Tl}(y) = {\it Tl}(y)$, وسير أعلام النبلاء (${\it TTT}(y)$).

⁽٢) أخرجه أحمد (٤٨٧١).

الأثر العاشر: اختلال الأمن

TENTH EFFECT: THE COLLAPSE OF SECURITY

أيضًا من آثار الفتن: أنَّها تؤدِّي إلى اختلال الأمن، والأمنُ من أعظم البِّعم الَّتي منَّ الله - سبحانه وتعالى - بها على أمَّة الإيمان: ﴿ٱلَّذِيَ أَطُّعَمَهُم مِّن جُوع وَءَامَنَهُم مِّنُ حَوْفٍ﴾ [قريش ٤].

Among the effects of tribulations is that they lead to the collapse of security. And security is among the greatest blessings that Allah – Glorified and Exalted – has granted to the nation of faith. As He says: "(**He**) **Who has fed them against hunger**, **and has made them safe from fear**." (Surah Quraysh, 106:4)

فالأمن نعمة عظيمة، أمنُ الإنسان على دَمِه، أمنُه على ماله، أمْنُه على نفسه وعرضه إلى غير ذلك، هذه من النِّعم الكبار، لكن إذا اضطربتِ الأمورُ وشبَّت الفتن واشتعلَت؛ أربقت دماءٌ وأُتلفت أموالٌ وأُزهقت أرواح ويُتِّمَ أطفالٌ ورُبِّلَ نساءٌ، إلى غير ذلك من العواقب الّتي لا تُحمد.

So security is a tremendous blessing—a person's safety in his blood, his wealth, his person, his honor, and so on. These are among the greatest of blessings. However, when affairs become unstable, and fitan ignite and flare up, then blood is spilled, wealth is destroyed, lives are lost, children become orphans, women become widows, and the consequences that follow are many and not at all praiseworthy.



الأثر المادي عشر: تَجَرُّؤُ أهل الانملال على نَشْرِ باطلِهم

ELEVENTH EFFECT:

THE BOLDNESS OF THE IMMORAL IN SPREADING THEIR FALSEHOOD

أيضًا من آثار الفتن: أنَّها تفتح على النّاس أبواباً من الانحراف، سواء من الجوانب العقديَّة أو الجوانب الأخلاقيَّة، ويتجرَّأ أهل الانحلال والفساد في نشر باطلهم وفسادهم؛ لأنَّ أصحاب الحقِّ شغلتهم الفتنة، واشتغلوا بها، وضيَّعت أوقاتَهم، وصرفتهم عن باب الإفادة والنَّفع والانتفاع.

Among the effects of tribulations is that they open the doors of deviation for the people, whether in matters of belief ('aqīdah) or morality. Those who are corrupt and immoral become bold in promoting their falsehood and corruption because the people of truth have become distracted by the tribulation, busy with it, their time wasted by it, and diverted from benefiting others and benefiting themselves.

فيستغل أهل الفساد وأهل الشَّرِ ذلك؛ فيبدؤون في بثِّ باطلهم ونشر شرِّهم ودعوتهم للرَّذيلة والفساد أو دعوتهم إلى الانحلال العقدي والمذاهب الفاسدة المنحرفة، يجدون لأنفسهم فرصةً عند اشتغال النَّاس وأهل الخير بالفتن، وهذا ممّا يؤكِّد على كلِّ مسلم أن يكون في غاية الحَذَر من الفتن وعوائدها.

During such times, the people of evil and corruption seize the opportunity to spread their falsehood, call others to indecency and corruption, or promote doctrinal deviation and misguided ideologies. They find for themselves a platform, as the righteous and the reformers are occupied with fitnah. This is something that underscores the importance for every Muslim to be extremely cautious about tribulations and their consequences.



الأثر الثاني عشر: تسلّط الأعداء

TWELFTH EFFECT: EMPOWERMENT OF THE ENEMIES

أيضًا من الآثار: أنَّها تؤدِّيٍ أو تفضي إلى تسلُّط الأعداء عندما يتنازع أهل الحقِّ ويفشو فيهم الهرج والقتل ويموج أمرهم وتضطرب كلمتهم؛ يستغل الأعداء هذه الفرصة ويتسلّطون على أهل الإيمان ويضغطون عليهم بأنواع من الضَّغوطات؛ والله – تبارك وتعالى – يقول: ﴿وَلَا تَنَزَعُواْ فَتَفْشَلُواْ وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمُ ﴾ [الأنفال ٤٦].

Another effect of tribulations is that they lead to the empowerment of the enemies. When the people of truth fall into disputes, and killing spreads among them, and their affairs become chaotic, and their word becomes disunited—their enemies seize the opportunity and gain power over the people of Faith, pressuring them in various ways. Allah – Blessed and Exalted – says: "And do not dispute (with one another) lest you lose courage and your strength departs." (Surah al-Anfāl, 8:46)

فالواجب على أهل الإيمان أن يكونوا في غاية الحذر من الفتن وأخطارها، وأن يكونوا في حيطة من ذلك، وأن يقبلوا على الله -سبحانه وتعالى - إقبالا صادقًا بأن يُعيذهم من الفتن ما ظهر منها وما بطن، وأن يصلح لهم أحوالهم، وأن يجمع كلمتهم على الحقَّ والهدى.

Thus, it is obligatory upon the believers to be extremely cautious of tribulations and their dangers, to be constantly vigilant, and to turn to Allah – Glorified and Exalted – with sincere hearts, asking Him to protect them from all tribulations—those that are apparent and those that are hidden.

ونسأل الله الكريمَ ربَّ العرش العظيم بأسمائه الحسنى وصفاته العليا، وبأنَّه الله الَّذي لا إله إلَّا هو الَّذي وسع كلَّ شيء رحمةً وعلمًا؛ أن يعيذنا من الفتنِ ما ظهر منها وما بطن، وأن يجيرنا من الفتن، وأن يسلِّمنا من غوائلها، وأن يحفظنا بحفظه، إنَّه - تبارك وتعالى -سميعٌ مجيب. وصلَّى الله وسلَّم وبارك وأنعم على عبد الله ورسوله نبيّنا محمَّد وآله وصحبه أجمعين. (١)

We ask Allah—the Most Generous, Lord of the Mighty Throne—by His most beautiful names and lofty attributes, and by the fact that He is Allah, there is no deity worthy of worship but Him, and that His mercy and knowledge encompass all things, to protect us from all tribulations—what is apparent and what is hidden, to shelter us from trials, to keep us safe from their consequences, And to preserve us with His divine protection. Verily, He – Blessed and Exalted – is the All-Hearing, the Responsive. And may the peace, blessings, and abundant grace of Allah be upon His servant and Messenger, our Prophet Muḥammad, and upon his family and companions.

