

The Dua'a (prayer) of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Ta'if

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اللَّهُمَّ إِلَيْكَ أَشْكُو أضعف قُوَّتِي وَقلة حِيلَتِي وَهُوَ إني عَلَى النَّاسِ يَا أَرْحَمَ
الرَّاحِمِينَ. أَنْتَ رَبُّ الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ وَأَنْتَ رَبِّي إِلَى مَنْ تَكَلَّمْتَنِي إِلَى بَعِيدٍ
يَتَجَهَّمُنِي أَمْ إِلَى عَدُوٍّ وَمَلَكَتَهُ أَمْرِي إِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ بِكَ عَلَيَّ غَضَبٌ فَلَا أُبَالِي
وَلَكِنْ عَافِيَتُكَ. هِيَ أَوْسَعُ لِي أَعُوذُ بِوَجْهِكَ الَّذِي أَشْرَقَتْ لَهُ الظُّلُمَاتُ وَصَحَّ
عَلَيْهِ أَمْرُ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ مِنْ أَنْ تُنْزِلَ بِي غَضَبَكَ أَوْ يَجِلَّ عَلَيَّ سَخَطُكَ لَكَ
الْعَتَبِي حَتَّى تَرْضَى وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِكَ.

(O Allah to You I complain of my weakness and lack of resources, and my humiliation before mankind. You are the most merciful of those who show mercy. You are the Lord of the weak and You are my Lord. To whom do You entrust me? To someone distant that attacks me! Or to an enemy that You gave him control over my affairs? If you are not angry with me then I do not care, but Your protection is much better and more ample for me. I seek protection in the light of Your face, which illuminates the darkness, and through which all affairs in this life and in the Hereafter become right, may it never that I should incur Your wrath, or that You should be displeased with me. I will appeal to You till You are pleased with me. There is no power, and there is no way except through You)

We learn several concepts from the prayer of the Prophet (PBUH):

1-It is proper to complain to Allah, and turn to Him seeking His help, guidance and protection

2-We should start our Dua'a by praising Allah, and acknowledging that He controls our destiny

3-It is proper to ask questions in order to understand the reason underlying our difficulty, and to correct our mistakes, and to seek patience and perseverance

4-No one can help us except Allah

5-When we help ourselves then the help of Allah is forthcoming

6-During difficult times it is important to turn to Allah seeking His forgiveness and pleasure

7-Never lose hope of Allah's mercy

(1)It is proper to complain to Allah, and to turn to Him seeking His help, guidance, and protection

We have the example of God's prophets who, turned to Allah and prayed to Him seeking His guidance and help.

Zakareyya prayed to Allah, complaining that he has reached old age and that his wife was barren, and that they had no children. He prayed and asked Allah to grant him a son, to carry on the tradition and work of the family of Yacoub (Jacob), and Allah did respond to him, and gave him the news of Yahya, a righteous son:

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَهَنَ الْعَظْمُ مِنِّي وَاشْتَعَلَ الرَّأْسُ شَيْبًا وَلَمْ أَكُنْ بِدُعَائِكَ رَبِّ شَقِيًّا
وَإِنِّي خِفْتُ الْمَوَالِيَ مِنْ وَرَائِي وَكَانَتِ امْرَأَتِي عَاقِرًا فَهَبْ لِي مِنْ لَدُنْكَ وَلِيًّا
يَرِثُنِي وَيَرِثُ مِنْ آلِ يَعْقُوبَ ۖ وَاجْعَلْهُ رَبِّ رَضِيًّا
يَا زَكَرِيَّا إِنَّا نُبَشِّرُكَ بِغُلَامٍ اسْمُهُ يَحْيَىٰ لَمْ نَجْعَلْ لَهُ مِنْ قَبْلُ سَمِيًّا

“He (Zakareyya) said: “My Lord! Infirm indeed are my bones, and the hair of my head does glisten with grey, but never am I unblessed in my prayer to You. Now I fear what my relatives (and colleagues) may do after me: but my wife is barren, so give me an heir, as from Yourself. One that will truly inherit me and inherit the posterity of Jacob, and make him my Lord, one with whom You are well-pleased.” His prayer was answered: “O Zakareyya, We give you good news of a son, his name shall be Yahya, and no one by that name have We conferred distinction before.”

Marium (Mary) 19: 4-7

Though Zakareyya was old and never had children, he did not lose hope of God’s mercy, and prayed that God may give him a son to carry on his work. He was afraid what will happen after he is gone, who will carry on the work! Zakareyya also started his Dua’a to Allah by praising Allah, and by acknowledging Allah’s blessings over him.

Yacoub (Jacob) who is Israel prayed to Allah after he lost his son Youseff (Joseph). He told his sons never to despair of Allah’s soothing mercy:

قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَشْكُو بَنِيَّ وَحُزْنِي إِلَى اللَّهِ وَأَعْلَمُ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ
يَا بَنِيَّ أَذْهَبُوا فَتَحَسَّسُوا مِنْ يُوسُفَ وَأَخِيهِ وَلَا تَيْأَسُوا مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يَيْأَسُ مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ
الْكَافِرُونَ

“He (Jacob) said: “I only complain of my distraction and anguish to Allah, and I know from Allah that which you do not know. O my sons go and enquire about Joseph and his brother, and never give up hope of Allah’s soothing mercy. Truly no one despairs of Allah’s mercy, except those who have no faith.”

Youseff (Joseph) 12: 86 & 87.

Prophet **Yunus**, when he was in the belly of the whale prayed to Allah and sought His forgiveness for the mistake that he made, and his prayer was answered:

وَدَا النُّونِ إِذْ ذَهَبَ مُغَاصِبًا فَظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ نَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ
مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَجَجْنَاهُ مِنَ الْعَمِّ ۖ وَكَذَلِكَ نُنْجِي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

“And remember Za An-Noun, when he departed angrily; he thought that We had no power over him; but he cried through the depths of darkness: “There is no god but You, glory be to You, I was indeed wrong”. So We listened to him and delivered him from distress, thus do We deliver those who have faith.”

Al-Anbia’a (The Prophets) 21: 87 & 88.

We learn to admit our mistakes, and to turn to Allah seeking His forgiveness, and know that Allah listens to our prayers, and will answer us in due time, in his own way.

Prophet **Ayyoub (Job)** turned to Allah, seeking His help as he was suffering from chronic illness. Allah responded to his prayer and cured him, for he exhibited patience and faith:

وَأذْكَرُ عَبْدَنَا أَيُّوبَ إِذْ نَادَى رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الشَّيْطَانُ بِنُصْبٍ وَعَذَابٍ

ارْكُضْ بِرِجْلِكَ ۗ هَذَا مُغْتَسَلٌ بَارِدٌ وَشَرَابٌ

وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ أَهْلَهُ وَمِثْلَهُمْ مَعَهُمْ رَحْمَةً مِنَّا وَذِكْرَى لِرَأْسِ الْأَوَّلِينَ

وَخُذْ بِيَدِكَ ضِغْتًا فَاضْرِبْ بِهِ وَلَا تَحْنُتْ ۗ إِنَّا وَجَدْنَاهُ صَابِرًا ۗ نِعْمَ الْعَبْدُ ۗ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ

“Remember Our servant Ayyoub (Job), behold he cried to his Lord: “Satan has afflicted me with distress and suffering!” “Strike with your foot: Here is water wherein to wash, cool and refreshing, and water to drink.” And We gave him his people and doubled their number, as a grace from Us, and a thing for commemoration, for all who have understanding. “And take in your hand a little grass, and strike therewith, and break not your oath.” “Truly WE found him full of patience and constancy, how excellent is the servant! Ever did he turn to Us!”

Sa’D 37: 41-44

Prophet **Ibrahim (Abraham)** turned to Allah, after he left his wife Hajir, and his son Isma'il in the desert of Macca, and prayed to Allah:

رَبَّنَا إِنِّي أَسْكَنْتُ مِنْ دَرِيَّتِي بِوَادٍ غَيْرِ ذِي زَرْعٍ عِنْدَ بَيْتِكَ الْمُحَرَّمِ رَبَّنَا لِيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ فَاجْعَلْ أَفْنِدَةً مِنَ النَّاسِ تَهْوِي إِلَيْهِمْ وَارْزُقْهُمْ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَشْكُرُونَ

“Our Lord I have made some of my offspring to dwell in a valley without vegetation, by Your sacred house; in order, O our Lord that they may establish regular prayer; so fill the hearts of some people with love towards them, and feed them with fruits, so that they may give thanks.”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 37

Prophet **Muhammad** (PBUH) prayed to Allah when he was in dire distress, and Allah heard his prayer. Allah sent the angel of the mountain, who informed him that he can and will destroy Ta'if and Macca if the prophet wished that. But Prophet Muhammad's reply was: “I wish Allah to guide their hearts, so that some of their offspring may believe and become Muslims”.

(2) We should start our Dua'a by praising Allah, and acknowledging His blessings

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) started his Dua'a by stating that Allah is his Lord, and the lord of others who are weak and vulnerable, and those who have no one to help them or support them. He also confirmed his belief that there is no god but Allah. The Qur'an enumerates God's blessing on us as human beings, in giving us our faculties and our intellect to know Allah, and to understand our accountability to Him:

وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

“It is Allah who brought you out of the wombs of your mothers when you knew nothing; and He gave you hearing, and sight, and intelligence and affections that you may give thanks.”

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 78

Allah subjected everything in the heavens and earth to serve man

أَلَمْ تَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ سَخَّرَ لَكُمْ مَّا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَأَسْبَغَ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَهُ ظَاهِرَةً وَبَاطِنَةً

“Do you not see that Allah has subjected to your use all things in the heavens and on earth, and has made His bounties flow to you in exceeding measure, seen and unseen?”

Luqman 31: 20

The best gift that Allah gave mankind is the ability to talk, reflect and understand:

الرَّحْمَنُ

عَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ

عَلَّمَهُ الْبَيَانَ

“Ar-Rahman (Most Gracious). It is He who taught the Qur’an. He has created man. He has taught him intelligent speech.”

Ar-Rahman (Most-Gracious) 55: 1-4

We cannot count all of Allah’s blessings, and many times man falls short, but Allah is often-forgiving, most merciful:

وَأَتَاكُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ مَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُ ۚ وَإِنْ تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ لَا تَحْصُوهَا ۗ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَظَلُومٌ كَفَّارٌ

“And He gives you of all that you ask for, but if you count the favors of Allah, never will you be able to count them; indeed man is given up to injustice and ingratitude.”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 34

And

وَإِنْ تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ لَا تُحْصُوهَا ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَغَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

“If you would count up the favors of Allah, never would you be able to count them, for Allah is often-forgiving, most-merciful.”

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 18

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) told us to praise Allah, at the beginning of our speech, and before we say anything. Otherwise our words have no relevance.

When we praise Allah, and turn to Him seeking His forgiveness, guidance, and mercy we are worshipping Him, for we admit our weakness, and our dependence on Allah. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Dua’a (calling on Allah and praying to Him) is Ebada (worship)) Narrated by Termidhi.

(3) It is proper to ask questions in order to understand the reasons we are experiencing difficulty, and to correct our mistakes, and to seek patience and perseverance

Sometimes the difficulty we are experiencing is the result of our own wrong actions, as the Qur’an explains:

وَمَا أَصَابَكُمْ مِنْ مُصِيبَةٍ فَبِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَيَعْفُو عَنْ كَثِيرٍ

“Whatever misfortune happens to you is because of the things you have done, and Allah forgives many mistakes.”

Ash-Shura (Consultation) 42: 30.

Therefore, it is important to examine our actions, and find out if we have made mistakes, then admit our mistakes and work to correct them, and not persist in wrong-doing after we have realized what we have done.

There is nothing wrong in asking questions in order to understand. Faith based on knowledge and proper understanding is much better than blind faith and ignorance. The Qur'an tells us that Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) asked Allah to show him how Allah gives life to the dead:

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ أَرِنِي كَيْفَ تُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ ۖ قَالَ أَوَلَمْ تُؤْمِنْ ۖ قَالَ بَلَىٰ وَلَٰكِن لِّيَطْمَئِنَّ قَلْبِي

“Abraham said: “My Lord show me how You give life to the dead.” He said: “Do you not then believe?” He said: “I believe, but I want to satisfy my own understanding.”

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 260.

Sometimes the difficulty that we are experiencing is a test and trial from Allah.

Then we need to have faith and exhibit patience and perseverance, and not give up, but turn to Allah seeking His help and guidance. The Qur'an states:

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ حَتَّىٰ نَعْلَمَ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ مِنكُمْ وَالصَّابِرِينَ وَنَبْلُوَ أَخْبَارَكُمْ

“We will surely test you and try you till We know who among you strive their utmost, and who patiently persevere, and We will test your reported mettle”

Muhammad (Prophet Muhammad) 47: 31

When we have faith and turn to Allah, He will guide our hearts:

مَا أَصَابَ مِنْ مُصِيبَةٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ ۗ وَمَنْ يُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ قَلْبَهُ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

“No kind of calamity can occur without the leave of Allah, and if anyone believes in Allah, Allah will guide his heart, for Allah knows all things.”

At-Taghabun (Mutual loss & gain) 64: 11

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) complained of his weakness, and lack of resources, and his insignificance before people. He wanted to be successful in his mission. He faced lots of difficulties, and was rejected by his own people. Despite calling them to Allah for several years only few believed in him as God's messenger. He was

told that other prophets before him faced similar difficulties, and were rejected by their own people as well. The proper reaction is to patiently persevere, and not give up, or lose hope of God's mercy. It will come in due time. The Qur'an states:

And

فَاصْبِرْ كَمَا صَبَرَ أُولُو الْعَزْمِ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ وَلَا تَسْتَعْجِلْ لَهُمْ

“Therefore, patiently persevere, as did all messengers of firm resolve.”

Al-Ahqaf (Winding Sand-tracts) 46: 35

قَدْ نَعْلَمُ إِنَّهُ لَيَحْزُنُكَ الَّذِي يَقُولُونَ فَإِنَّهُمْ لَا يُكَذِّبُونَكَ وَلَكِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ يَجْحَدُونَ
وَلَقَدْ كُذِّبَتْ رُسُلٌ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ فَصَبَرُوا عَلَىٰ مَا كُذِّبُوا وَأُوذُوا حَتَّىٰ أَنَّهُمْ نَصَرْنَا ۗ وَلَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ ۗ وَلَقَدْ
جَاءَكَ مِنْ نَبِيٍّ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

“We know indeed the grief that their words cause you; it is not you they reject, it is the signs of Allah, which the wicked deny. Rejected were the messengers before you. With patience and constancy they bore their rejection and their persecution until Our aid did reach them.”

Al-Ana'm (The Cattle) 6: 33 & 34

(4) No one can help us except Allah

وَإِنْ يَمَسُّكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ ۗ وَإِنْ يُرِدْكَ بِخَيْرٍ فَلَا رَادَّ لِفَضْلِهِ ۗ يُصِيبُ بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ
عِبَادِهِ ۗ وَهُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

“If Allah touch you with difficulty none can remove it but He; if He wants some benefit for you, there is none that can keep back His favor.”

Yunus (Jonah) 10: 107

Those entities that people worship besides Allah have no power, and cannot prevent the will that Allah destines for us. The Qur'an states:

قُلْ أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ أَرَادَنِيَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ هَلْ هُنَّ كَاشِفَاتُ ضُرِّهِ أَوْ أَرَادَنِي بِرَحْمَةٍ هَلْ هُنَّ مُمْسِكَاتُ رَحْمَتِهِ قُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ يَتَوَكَّلُ الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ

“Say: “Do you see the things that you invoke besides Allah, can they if Allah wills some affliction for me, remove His affliction, or if He wills some mercy for me can they keep back his mercy? Say: “Sufficient is Allah for me! In Him trust those who put their trust.”

Az-Zumar (The Groups) 39: 38

And

أَمَنْ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ ۖ قَلِيلًا مَا تَذَكَّرُونَ

“Who can answer the distressed when he calls on Him, and who relieves his suffering, and makes you mankind inheritors of the earth? Can there be another god besides Allah? Little it is that you heed!”

An-Naml (The Ants) 27: 62

Allah cares for us, and He wants to help us and guide us:

يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ وَيَهْدِيَكُمْ سُنْنَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ وَيَتُوبَ عَلَيْكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ
وَاللَّهُ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَتُوبَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَيُرِيدُ الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الشَّهَوَاتِ أَنْ تَمِيلُوا مَيْلًا عَظِيمًا
يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُخَفِّفَ عَنْكُمْ ۗ وَخُلِقَ الْإِنْسَانُ ضَعِيفًا

“Allah does wish to make clear to you, and to guide you into the ways of those before you; and He does wish to turn to you in mercy, and Allah is all-knowing, all-wise. Allah does wish to turn to you, but the wish of those who follow their lusts is that you should turn away, from Him, far away. Allah does wish to lighten your burdens, for man was created weak.”

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 26-28

(5) We should help ourselves, then Allah will help us

When we are experiencing difficulty, or going through hard times we should not sit idle, and expect that the heavens will open and help us. We need to take initiative and help ourselves. Once we have done our job and started the process of change, then we can hope for Allah's help to come. The Qur'an states:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ

“Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change it themselves.”

Ar-Ra'd (Thunder) 13: 11

Allah also gave us a free will, and allowed us to choose and decide for ourselves.

He did not force us to do something against our will. Therefore, we are responsible and accountable:

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ ۚ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ

“Let there be no compulsion in religion, truth stands clear from error.”

Al-Baqara 2: 256

And

وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَآمَنَ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كُلُّهُمْ جَمِيعًا ۗ أَفَأَنْتَ تُكْرِهُ النَّاسَ حَتَّىٰ يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ

“If it was the will of your Lord, then everyone on earth would have believed; are you then forcing people to believe against their will?”

Yunus (Jonah) 10: 99

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) realized this concept, and did his best and put his trust in Allah. We too, should shoulder our responsibility, do our work to the best of our ability, and put our trust in Allah, and accept what He wills for us

During these difficult times it is important to do what is right, have faith, and to get close to Allah and seek His pleasure

To be truthful and continue to exhibit faith in the face of adversity is not easy, but is what is required. The Qur'an states that we are subjected to tests and trials in order to sort out who is truthful and have faith, from those who are lying and have rejected faith:

وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكَاذِبِينَ

“We have indeed tested and tried those before you, and surely Allah will know those who are truthful and will know those who are false and lying.”

Al-Ankabut (Spider) 29: 3

And

وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ

“And Allah most certainly knows those who believe, and certainly knows those who are hypocrites.”

Al-Ankabut (Spider) 29: 11

It is during adversity and difficult times that our true nature becomes apparent: do we give up or patiently persevere? Do we lose faith and turn away from Allah, or our faith is strengthened as we turn to Allah for help and guidance:

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ حَتَّىٰ نَعْلَمَ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ مِنْكُمْ وَالصَّابِرِينَ وَنَبْلُوَ أَخْبَارَكُمْ

“We will certainly test you and try you, till We know who among you strive their utmost, and who patiently persevere, and We will test your reported mettle.”

Muhammad (Prophet Muhammad) 47: 31

How do we get close to Allah?

Certainly we get close to Allah by obeying His orders, and living our life as He has commanded us to do. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) explained that doing Fara'id

(obligatory rituals of worship) brings us close to Allah, and allows us to gain His pleasure. He said: (My servant cannot come closer to Me with anything better than what I made obligatory on him. My servant keeps coming to Me with optional service till I love him. When I love him, I become his sight that he sees with; and his hearing that he hears with; and his hand, that he uses; and his leg that he walks with; and if he asks me, I will give him.) Narrated by Muslim

Those who lack faith only complain, and insist it is not fair, and give up and reject faith. In contrast, those of faith understand that the difficulty that they are experiencing was allowed by Allah for a reason. Either it is their fault, or it is a test and trial from Allah. Therefore, they correct their wrong behavior, and they patiently persevere.

Doing right when experiencing difficulty, and not wronging anyone, may mean forgiving others, and not returning an injury with injury. The Qur'an states:

وَجَزَاءُ سَيِّئَةٍ سَيِّئَةٌ مِثْلُهَا فَمَنْ عَفَا وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الظَّالِمِينَ

“The recompense for an injury is an injury equal thereto; but if a person forgives and makes reconciliation his reward is due from Allah”

Ash-Shura (Consultation) 42: 40

And

ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ السَّيِّئَةِ نَحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَصِفُونَ

“Repel evil with that which is best, We are well-acquainted with what they say”

Al-Mumenoun (The Believers) 23: 96

And

وَلَا تَسْتَوِي الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ۗ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ

“Goodness and evil are not equal. Repel evil with what is better: then will he between whom and you was hatred become as it were your intimate friend”

Fusselat (Explained in detail) 41: 34

(6)Never lose hope of Allah’s mercy

God’s prophets were tested and tried most severely, compared to other human beings. They withstood the test, patiently persevered and never lost hope of God’s mercy. The Qur’an states:

وَلَقَدْ كُذِّبَتْ رُسُلٌ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ فَصَبَرُوا عَلَىٰ مَا كُذِّبُوا وَأُوذُوا حَتَّىٰ أَنَا هُمْ نَصَرْنَا ۗ وَلَا مَبَدَّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ ۗ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَكَ مِنْ نَبِيِّ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

“Rejected were the messengers before you; with patience and constancy they bore their rejection and their persecution until Our aid did reach them; None can alter the words (and decrees) of Allah. You have already received some account of these messengers”

Al-Ana’m (The Cattle) 6: 33 & 34

On the tongue of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham):

قَالَ وَمَنْ يَقْنَطُ مِنْ رَحْمَةِ رَبِّهِ إِلَّا الضَّالُّونَ

“He (Abraham) said: ‘And who despairs of the mercy of his Lord, but such as go astray?’”

Al-Hijr (Rocky Sand-tracts) 15: 56

And on the tongue of Prophet Yacoub (Jacob):

وَلَا تَيْأَسُوا مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ ۗ إِنَّهُ لَا يَيْئَسُ مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْكَافِرُونَ

“Do not despair of the soothing mercy of Allah, for no one despairs of Allah’s mercy except those who have no faith”

Youseff (Joseph) 12: 87

Allah does control everything, and nothing happens without His will and permission. When we are good and do righteous deeds Allah may allow our efforts to succeed, or our efforts may fall short. We should not be discouraged, but try again and never lose hope or give up. When we show faith, patience and perseverance then Allah will guide us, and reward us. The Qur’an states:

مَا أَصَابَ مِنْ مُصِيبَةٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ ۗ وَمَنْ يُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ قَلْبَهُ ۚ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

“No kind of calamity can occur except by the leave of Allah; and if anyone believes in Allah, Allah guides his heart, for Allah knows all things.”

At0Taghabun (Mutual loss & gain) 64: 11

Allah is wise in his decisions, and nothing happens without a reason. We may not know the wisdom behind Allah’s orders or decrees because our knowledge is limited.

The Dua'a of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Ta'if BS Foad, MD 2018

(O Allah to You I complain of my weakness and lack of resources, and my insignificance before mankind. You are the most merciful of those who show mercy. You are the Lord of the weak, and You are my Lord. To whom do you entrust me? To someone distant that attacks me! Or to an enemy that You gave him control over my affairs? If You are not angry with me then I do not care, but Your protection is much better and more ample for me. I seek protection in the light of Your face which illuminates the darkness, and through which all affairs in this life and in the Hereafter become right, may it never that I should incur Your wrath, or that You should be displeased with me. I will appeal to You till You are pleased with me. There is no power, and there is no way except through you)

(1)It is proper to complain to Allah, and to seek His help, guidance and protection. God's prophets did turn to Allah. Zakareyya complained that he had no children, and Allah responded and gave him Yahya: "O Zakareyya! We give you good news of a son, his name shall be Yahya" Marium (Mary) 19: 7; Yacoub (Jacob) turned to Allah after he lost his son Joseph: "I only complain of my distraction and anguish to Allah" Youseff (Joseph) 12: 86; Yunus (Jonah) turned to Allah, in repentance, and was forgiven: "He cried in the depths of darkness: 'There is no god but You, glory be to you, I was indeed wrong'" Al-Anbia'a (Prophets) 21: 87; Ayyoub (Job) sought Allah's mercy, and was cured of his illness: "Truly We found him full of patience and constancy, how excellent is the servant! Ever did he turn to Us" Sa'D 37: 44; Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) prayed to Allah to provide for his family after he left them in Macca: "Our Lord! I have made some of my offspring to dwell in a valley without vegetation, by Your sacred house; in order, our Lord that they may establish regular prayer, so fill the hearts of some people with love towards them, and provide for them, so that they may give thanks" Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 37

(2)Start the Dua'a by praising Allah, and acknowledging His blessings. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) started by stating that Allah is the most merciful, and the Lord of the weak; "It is Allah who brought you out of the wombs of your mothers when you knew nothing; and He gave you hearing, sight, intelligence and affection that you may give thanks" An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 78;"If you count the favors of Allah, never will you be able to enumerate them; indeed man is prone to injustice and ingratitude" Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 34; "If you count the favors of Allah, never will you be able to count them, for Allah is often-forgiving, most-merciful" An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 18

(3) It is proper to ask questions in order to understand the reason we are experiencing difficulty, and to correct our mistakes, and to seek patience and perseverance. Sometimes it is our own fault "Whatever misfortune happens to you is because of the things you have done, and Allah forgives many mistakes" Ash-Shura (Consultation) 42: 30. Sometimes, it is a test and trial from Allah "We will surely test you and try you, till We know who among you strive their utmost, and who patiently persevere, and We will test your reported mettle" Muhammad 47: 31: God's prophets were tested: "Therefore patiently persevere, as did all messengers of resolve" Al-Ahqaf 46: 35"; "Repel evil with what is best, We know what they say" Al-Mumenoun (The Believers) 23: 96.

(4)No one can help us except Allah. "If Allah touch you with difficulty, none can remove it but He; if He wants some benefit for you, there is none that can keep back His favor" Yunus (Jonah) 10: 107.

(5) We should help ourselves, then Allah will help us "Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change it themselves" Ar-Ra'd (Thunder) 13: 11. During difficult times it is important to do what is right, have faith, get close to Allah and seek His pleasure. We should be faithful to our rituals of worship, and offer optional service, rather than complain or say that it is not fair. "The recompense for an injury is an injury equal thereto; but if a person forgives and makes reconciliation his reward is from Allah" Ash-Shura (Consultation) 42: 40; **(6)Never lose hope of Allah's mercy** "Only those who have no faith ever lose hope of Allah's mercy" Youseff 12: 87; "He (Abraham) said: 'And who despairs of the mercy of his Lord, but such as go astray? Al-Hijr 15: 56 ; Allah is well aware of our difficulty: "No kind of calamity can occur except by Allah's leave; and if anyone believes in Allah, Allah guides his heart" At-Taghabun 64:11; "Rejected were the messengers before you, with patient perseverance they bore their rejection" Al-Ana'm 6: 34.