

مديون الله

(5) The train of Month of Ramadan from heedless to sincerity

Lessons from Hurricane Ike

My personal experience in Houston Ramadan 1429  
September 2008

All Praise to Allah .

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①

Praise to Allah is the feeling which fills the heart of the believer as he believes that: all matters are up to Allah only. The heart of the believer praises Allah in every second as he feels the infinite grace of Allah all around him.

But it is again Allah's grace that when a believer says " Praise to Allah " it is recorded for him as a good deed outweighing everything. Prophet Mohamed told that: once a man said:

" Lord I praise You as befits the Majesty of your face and the greatness of your power

The two angels accompanying that man could not evaluate the remark and referred to Allah Almighty, who commanded them "Register it in his record as he said it, and I shall reward him as he deserves, when he returns to Me"

All Praise to Allah at the beginning of every matter and all Praise to Him at its end.

Today September 13, 2008, Ramadan 13, 1428,  
It is the duty of every muslim and muslima to say to Allah: All Praise to You, our Lord, as it is out of Your Mercy and Grace, that You saved our lives, our kids, our homes and the City of Houston, the place we live in and worship You in.

It was Hurricane Ike, category 3 hurricane, a very severe, strong wind with a speed of 120 miles / hour which attacks us in an extreme

tough way. Actually it was announced three days before that: Hurricane Ike is directed either to Miami or to Louisiana, and because of that, most of the people of Houston were not so interested to follow its pathway. But, ~~the will~~ of Allah to shift the hurricane to the direction of Houston, and this becomes clear by Thursday morning.

3  
Actually we decided to stay at home in Houston and not to leave it, as we believe that Allah said in the Holy Quran in Surat 4 An-Nisa v. 78:

78 "Wherever you may be, death will overtake you even if you are in fortresses build up strong and high!"

So, we prayed to Allah to save us, and it was at 7:30 pm, around the time of

breaking the fast, that everything becomes dark as there was power outage for few minutes, during which we tried to eat iftar quickly. Again the light was there, but we started to feel that the issue is not simple.

(4) Since 9 pm until 5 a.m next day i.e 8 hours, there was no electricity i.e total darkness, hot weather, fear in the hearts that we may die at any moment. It

It was the most difficult eight hours I ever faced in my life because of the extreme high blowing voice of the wind <sup>which</sup> makes you to feel that the house, the trees, and <sup>away</sup> you yourself may blow away any moment.

Also the very severe rain started to interfere with the sound of the wind, as if all the soliders of Allah (the rain and the wind) are against the mankind.

The sound of the wind was like the sound of  
the warning of the great disaster,

Actually it was in the middle of the darkness,  
the loneliness, the helplessness and the sadness  
that my heart started to cry calling on the Only

Power that can save us ↓↓

## Calling on Allah.

- ① As it was clear that this Hurricane is severe punishment from Allah to us, and only Allah
- ② Knows how it will finish and when??
- ② As it may be this is my last night on the earth, and in reality I am not prepared, as I am in need to do more good deeds.
- ③ As I remembered the number of the days which I lost, during which I was not so close to Allah.
- ④ As I remembered the Holy Quran, and that I need a lot of time to learn about it and to

follow its rules.

(6) As I remembered the fights which destroyed the time and the relations with the very close people in our lives, and now I am leaving this life forever, so I was blaming myself for these mistakes.

(6) As I remembered the blessings of Allah all around, which we never appreciated or Praise Allah for it.

(8) As I remembered the house and the car and all the worldly enjoyments which we spoil our life for owning them, and now, I realized that these enjoyments were <sup>in</sup> reality deceiving enjoyments.

(9) As I remembered the punishment of the grave.

(10) As I remembered the punishment of the Hell fire, the severe eternal one.

It was my tears running on my face, which made me to realize how serious is the feeling

of death, at the time when death is already around.

It was these minutes of crying, thinking, reflecting and suddenly, I decided to pray two rakas in the middle of this disaster so that I can ask Allah for forgiveness and to do Du'a to Allah to <sup>save</sup> allow us for us and to allow us for some more time on the earth so that we can increase our good deeds and after the prayer, I felt great relief.

(7)

Again I remembered the verses of the Quran in Surat 23 AL Muminun (99- 118) :

99. Until when death comes to one of them, he says: My Lord send me back.

100. So that I may do good in that which I left behind! No! it is but a word that he speaks and behind them is a barrier until the Day when they will be resurrected.

101. Then, when the Trumpet is blown, there will be no

kinship among them that Day, nor will they ask of one another.

102. Then, those whose scales of (good deeds) are heavy they are the successful.

103. And those whose scales (of good deeds) are light, they are those who lose their own selves, in Hell will they abide.

104. The Fire will burn their faces and there in they will grin, with displaced lips (disfigured).

105. "Were not My Verses (this Quran) recited to you, and then you used to deny them.

106. "They will say: "Our Lord! our misfortunate overcame us, and we were an erring people".

107. Our Lord! Bring us out of this. If ever we return (to evil) then indeed we shall be oppressors.

108. He (Allah) will say: Remain you in it with ignominy and speak you not to Me! "

It was these verses in my mind, that caused me to feel so sad regarding our way of life as muslims.

We are supposed to be sure that death comes suddenly, and we need to be ready with good deeds all the time. But again, this is not our realities, it is the worldly life that we are over occupying ourselves with all the time as if we will never die

Again, I seeked refuge with Allah from the cursed Shaitan, and I tried to calm down and to remember my good deeds and to ask Allah to save us, as prophet Mohamed taught us that good deeds are a reason for answered supplications

And it is always Allah's mercy that gradually the sound of the wind started to become weaker and weaker, also the daylight started to appear and the rain stopped gradually, all

This happened around 6:30 AM. and gradually we started to realize that we are saved and we are still alive and also that <sup>the</sup> hurricane is about to end.

10 Immediately I prayed two rakus to thank Allah for His Mercy, and also to promise Him to keep these hours in mind all my life so that they will always remind me of the reality of the worldly life.

So Let every one of us remember the Following

Facts :

- ① All matters are up only to Allah.
- ② Rain, Flood and wind are Allah's soldiers, which He sends them to people out of His Wisdom and justice.
- ③ Death can come at any time so try to be ready through doing good deeds.
- 4) Only Allah <sup>the</sup> Duaa to Allah, is the tool of the

believer at the time of adversity.

. Always be close to Allah at the time of prosperity so that Allah will save you at the time of adversity.

At the end, let us remember the story of the people of Ad-Thamud whom Allah destroyed them completely through sending a destructive ~~city~~ <sup>crisis</sup> them,

Allah said in Surat 41 Fussilat V. 13 → 18

13. But if they turned away, then say "O Mohamed: "I

have warned you of a destructive ~~city~~ <sup>crisis</sup>, torment, but)

like the one which overtook <sup>^</sup>Ad and Thamud people"

14. When the messengers came to them from before them and from behind them (saying): "Worship none but Allah", they said: "If our Lord had so willed, He would surely, have sent down the angels. So indeed we disbelieve in that with which you have been sent."

15. As for <sup>^</sup>Ad, they were arrogant in the land without right, and they said: Who is having more Power and

"than us? See they not that Allah Who created them is more powerful than them. And they used to deny Our Ayat (proofs - evidences - verses - lessons)

(12)

16. So We sent upon them a furious wind in days of evil omen (for them) that We might give them a taste of disgracing torment in this present worldly life. But surely, the torment of the Hereafter will be more disgracing, and they will never be helped.

And  
17.

As for Thamud, We showed and made clear to them the Path of Truth (Islamic Monotheism) through Our Messenger, but they preferred blindness to guidance, so the Saqah (a destructive - awful cry torment, hit, a thunderbolt) of disgracing torment seized them because of what they used to earn

18. And, We saved those, who believed and used to fear Allah, keep their duty to Him, and avoid evil.

13 This is the story of the previous nations whom Allah the provider blessed them with a lot of bounties, so that they worship Him alone and be thankful to Him. Instead they became arrogant and refer the blessing to themselves i.e. they believed that (1) they have all the power on the earth (2) and (2) they refused to follow their messengers, whom they called them to worship None but Allah. Accordingly it was the punishment of Allah i.e. the total destruction through Allah's soldiers (the cry, the wind, the torment) as this is what they deserve.

Let's question ourselves:

- 1- Are we arrogant?
- 2- Are we believing that mankind is the source of all the power on the earth?
- 3- Are we not following the rules of the Quran?

Let's admit our ignorance and weak faith  
and ask Allah's forgiveness.

2. Be very thankful to Allah Who saved us  
from the punishment (the Hurricane), inspite  
of our sins

3. Let's remember that: over the last three years,  
the city of Houston is already exposed to two  
Hurricanes ( Rita and Ike), and still it is  
saved because of Allah's Mercy. But let's  
be careful, otherwise the third hurricane  
may be the final one.

O, Allah, Our lord, the Most Merciful:

We ask You to accept our repentance and to  
forgive our sins.

We ask You to shower us with Your Mercy all the time.

We ask You to help us to follow the Right Path.

And we ask You to increase Your blessings and Favours upon  
our prophet Mohamed (S.A.W) and his family and companions  
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