

Names of Allah

(from the Stories of the Quran)

September 22, 2019

Waasi'un Aleem

Values are what ground us, and one of the important values we should all have to appreciate the little things and Allah SWT will show us even more.

Allah SWT is so vast and His Ways to nurture us, to grow us are limitless. Even little opportunities from Him can change our lives in huge, vast ways. We should be grateful and appreciative of everything, like the story of Sulaiman AS, who was given so much by Allah SWT and took inspiration from a little ant on gratitude, subhanAllah.

Today's topics will be about *dhulm*, the story of Talut and Jalut and Allah SWT's name and *sabr*. *Dhulm* or transgression limits the life of a person, dries it up, makes it empty and this limitation is not from Allah SWT, but the person himself. Such a person is weak, frustrated, disrespectful and loses the ability to be patient.

Allah SWT, who is capable of anything, made *dhulm* forbidden for Himself, and there is no patience, or guidance or good for those who do *dhulm*. When something goes wrong or is in imbalance in our lives, we should always look if we're unknowingly transgressing somewhere.

Nabi SAW said that even just one unfair word said makes a person a *dhalim*, the one who does *dhulm*. And this could be something as small as not giving people their positions. Also how we speak with people, young ones deserve mercy and elders ones with respect. We should always scrutinize our actions, our words, our behaviors and make sure we are not indulging in any sort of *dhulm*.

The Story of Talut and Jalut

These were enemy kings, Talut and Jalut, and this was not a coincidence that their names are so similar. Allah SWT never does anything randomly. This story is related in Surah Baqarah, ayaat 246-252.

In this story, there are only a few people on the truth, those who do the right thing and those who defeated a much larger group of people. And this is how it is with Allah SWT, it isn't about the quantity, but quality. A big change comes with little steps of course. If a person cannot appreciate the little things, then how do you see the bigger picture? In this particular story, the focus is on the little things. The characters in this story are the Banu Israel, the chiefs of the tribe and the prophet who is not mentioned by name, Talut, the king and Jalut, the enemy king, and Dawud AS.

When Allah SWT has not made something obligatory on you and everything is going well, then you should not make things for yourself difficult. This story starts when this group of people of the Banu Israel, for whom Allah SWT ordained peace, wanted to fight for the sake of Allah SWT. They asked their messenger, to appoint for them a king and to fight against an enemy. They did *dhulm* on themselves in this way by disrespecting their messenger as well as making conditions with Allah SWT.

The messenger told them that this sort of fighting wasn't obligatory on them, and would be hard for them if ordained upon them. They didn't listen and when it was made obligatory on them, many of them turned away but a small group. Also, instead of accepting whatever Allah SWT chose for them, Talut as the king, they again committed *dhulm* and said he wasn't a worthy enough king for them. The messenger asked them to accept the king as he is, because he meets the qualifications of a king, vastness in two things: knowledge and power/strength.

Allah's measures are far vaster than ours, He knows what we need better than we do, so when we put *shart* on Allah SWT when we ask from Him, we end up limiting ourselves, putting ourselves in a situation that we cannot handle. And this is where His Name **Waasi'un Aleem** comes him.

Allah SWT vastness is infinite, not like ours. We can at the most imagine things or project things for a number of years but Allah SWT knows past, present, future, interactions etc. When He gives us something it is like a blank cheque, subhanAllah. Also like recycling is sort of like an endless process, we can use and reuse and reuse and in different capacities. So like Talut was present within the tribe, and then he was made king by Allah SWT.

Allah SWT then told the messenger that He would support Talut with a sign, so that the people could rest assured that he was worthy - this shows Allah's Mercy and Kindness with these people. The Banu Israel lost the trunk containing some of Musa's AS things with the Torah, the staff etc. and the angels would bring this trunk to Talut as a sign. This trunk would make the Banu Israel tranquil because it was a memory of Musa AS.

This shows how Allah SWT cared for their feelings, with such care and patience He brought them back to belief. People are not like this, we have limited patience even with our loved ones, including children. Allah SWT knew that firawn would drown, yet sent him 9 signs. Even with us,

He has the same care, the same patience, how He provides us guidance etc. When Allah SWT brings anything to us, this is why we should accept it with grace and gratitude, with openness.

Now that they had a king, and he would be stricter with the people than the messenger they had. Nothing moved forward, Allah SWT planned it this way, until all the people were convinced. So they traveled to the king, in thousands and he took them in. He tested them to bring out the people with the best qualities, to be part of his victory over his enemy. Barakah is not always in quantity, but always quality.

They were tested to not drink water from a river when they desired it, but had to go without, or drink only very little. And only a very small number succeeded in this. And in the same way, when we pray, or go to study circle, we need to feel this gratitude that He has allowed us to do this, despite our challenges and situations, made it easy for us. And He appreciates our efforts and rewards us!

And even from this small number of the Banu Israeel, when they saw the army of Jalut, they were shaken and showed weakness saying they would not be able to stand in such a big army. Only a few of these people, they showed strength and firmness, and supported the other believers who were shaken. They reminded them that smaller numbers could defeat a large army too and that Allah SWT is with the patient people.

Similarly, just a few words could save someone from hell fire, so never discount anything small also. They stood in front of the army and made the dua:

رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَثَبَّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ

And then Dawood AS who was part of the army ended up being the one who killed the enemy king Jalut. Allah SWT raised him, granted him wealth, kingdom, authority and also the wisdom to judge between people.

Allah SWT has no end to His Power and Authority, that is how vast He is and through this Quality of His, He brings out in us patience, subhanAllah. Think vast of Allah SWT because He is as we think of Him!