

FROM THE MINBAR

MAN'S STRUGGLE & ALLAH'S HELP

Khutbah delivered by Imam Dr. Zijad Delic at SNMC on November 18th, 2011 corresponding to Zul Hijjah 22nd, 1432 H.

BACKGROUND

Indeed all praise is for God, Lord of the worlds. Peace and blessings of God be upon Muhammad (S), his family, Khulafai Rashidin, all his Companions, and all those who follow in their footsteps until the Last Day. All praise is for God! We praise Him. We seek His help and ask for His forgiveness. We seek God's refuge from evils of ourselves and from our evil actions. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except God, alone, having no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad (S) is His Messenger.

My dear brothers and sisters in Islam ~ *As Salamu 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu.*

INTRODUCTION

If we perceive the world we live in and set up the balance wheels of our hopes and our struggle according to the *Sunnah* of God (God's unchangeable order), we will be able to stand firm before the waves of life and overcome all kinds of difficulties and obstacles.

Nothing would hold us back or handicap us from reaching our goal, and, without being influenced by the passage of seasons and changing circumstances, we will remain ever-fresh and ever-shining in our environment of struggle, belief, hope, and resolution. Almighty God informs humanity in the following words: "*Verily, We have created man into toil and struggle.*" {Al Balad 4}

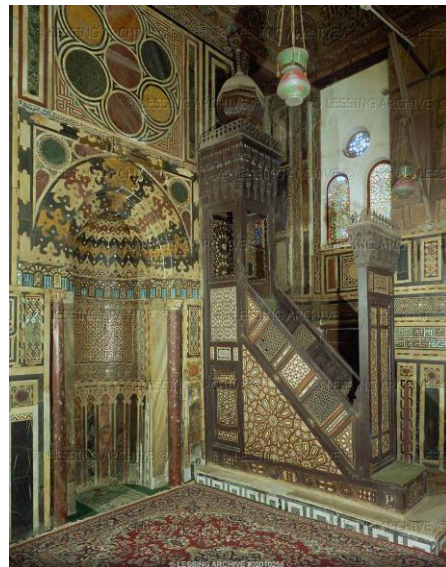
STORY: AN EXAMPLE

Let me illustrate the reality of struggle in one's life with the example of a cocoon of a butterfly.

"A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to



support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were Allah's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. If Allah allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us.

We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never "fly"!

I asked for Strength.....And Allah gave me Difficulties to make me strong. I asked for Wisdom.....And Allah gave me Problems to solve. I asked for Prosperity.....And Allah gave me Brain and Brawn to work. I asked for Courage.....And Allah gave me Danger to overcome. I asked for Love.....And Allah gave me troubled people to help. I asked for Favors.....And Allah gave me Opportunities. I received nothing I wantedI received everything I needed! "*So blessed be Allah, the best of creators!*" (23: 14)

ISLAM & STRUGGLE

Islam, a religion of reality not illusions, stands with man on the ground and treats him/her according to his/her natural dispositions without acting towards him/her as it acts towards the spiritual world of *Malaikah* (angels) who always obey the order of God.

Islam accepts man as a creature who can be influenced by the forces of good or evil. Islam provides the road map in life and guides him/her towards improvement and realization of the great responsibility for every action he/she does in *Duniya* (this world).

On the Day of Judgment one will have that what he/she has striven for as Almighty God informs us: "*And that man can have nothing but what he does (good or bad), and that his/her deeds will be seen. Then he/she will be recompensed with full and the best recompense and that to your Lord is the End (return of everything).*" {An Najm 39-41}

Islam asks its followers to be in constant struggle (*Kabad*) and to strive in this world that they could attain the prosperity and success in this world and the *Akhirah* (the hereafter). This world could be understood as the place of opportunities and chances; however, it could be also understood as the garden in which we seed for the future life.

Everything depends on how much we take care of the garden – how much we water it and cultivate it. Our success is due to our struggle – our *Kabad* and the *Rahmah* of God (His Mercy) and His Help.

This Issue 'From The Minbar' presents

⇒ **MAN'S STRUGGLE & ALLAH'S HELP**

⇒ In next issue: 'Hijrah'

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DEPEND ON WORK AND/OR DU'A

We have the best example of the struggle in the early generation of Muslims who have taken the initiatives and contributed to the future generation in a way that the whole world has benefited to a great extent from their efforts. Muslims of the modern times are still talking about our predecessors' contribution to the modern civilization and their legacy but we don't do much to follow their footsteps and their great example.

I ask myself often: Why do Muslims depend so much on others and talk so much about their past without really trying to emulate it? Why don't they struggle as the first generations of Muslims did? Why don't they put their trust in God after they do their part or share?

It looks like we have locked our Islamic thought; it seems that we have forgotten or neglected *Ijtihad* which is there to provide *Ummah* (community of Muslims) with the essential means to recover its identity and to re-establish its deserving place in world civilization at any time.

One essential question of our being in Canada is our *Kabad* – our struggle in searching for new methods of establishing all principles of our Din in practical life within the Canadian context, using the Qur'an and the Sunnah of our Messenger, Muhammad (S) as two main ideological sources.



GOD'S SUNNAH

This struggle has to be part of Muslims' lives from their birth to death. We cannot neglect this duty one single moment. Our life, as Shaykh Muhammad Abduhu says, is like a plant and its phases of growth. The seed thrown into the field (soil) struggles to throw the burden from itself and grow into the space.

The same is the case of a man with *Kabad*. From the time he/she is born, he/she starts breathing the air, crying, crawling, walking, and overcoming many different hardships and obstacles in life to make himself/herself, his/her family, and his/her community or society happy and successful. Shaikh Abduhu has compared *this type of a committed Muslim* with a seed and his/her good deeds with the fruits of the seed.

The life of a *committed Muslim* is all struggles: he/she does good deeds and stands against evil protecting the ethical principles and sacrificing on that path and in return does not ask for anything except the pleasure of his/her Lord and His Mercy.

Those who think that God's help and His support will come without man's struggle live the life of delusion. There are many examples from the Muslim history that clearly show that God's help comes when we deserve it.

One day, a *Sahabi* (a companion of the Prophet) came to the Messenger of God and asked him for *Du'a* by which he would be able to release himself from the debt. Muhammad (S) told him simply: "*Ask from God to free you from laziness.*"

The Messenger of God had been correcting erroneous understanding of *Tawakkul* pointing out on the dangers of such understanding. And during the time of Omar (ra) some people understood *Tawakkul* in the same way.

It happened that Omar (r.a) was walking in the streets of *Madinah* and met a group of people sitting and enjoying the shade of the palm trees. After introduction, he asked them about their passive approach. They said that they put trust in God. Omar (r.a) told them if you were true believers, you would do some work and take care of the field in front of yourselves and then put your trust in God. He told them that this is the way true believers have chosen, for work and struggle (*Kabad*) are the instruments of God's Help not laziness.

It is our duty to adjust our lives to the *Sunnah* of God. In God's *Sunnah* there is no withdrawal, for we do so it would be unnatural, as He explains in the Qur'an: "*That has been the Sunnah (Order) of God already with those who passed away before. And you will not find any change in the Sunnah of God.*" {Al Fath 23}

A man has as much as he/she strives for, and whatever he/she was looking forward, he/she will face it when the books would be opened in front of us, as Almighty God informs us: "*So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom shall see it. And whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom shall see it.*" {Az Zilzal 7,8}

CONCLUSION

Let us ask ourselves: What can we do that we could be able to fulfill correctly our mission in Canada as Canadian Muslims? Certainly, we have to ask Almighty God to make us more responsible, wiser that we would be able to understand the concept of teachings of Islam and its implementation in our day-to-day life – here in our Canada. We cannot only

put our trust in God and exclude ourselves from the life reality.

Tawakkul means acceptance of all the rules and regulations of God by full reasoning. *Tawakkul* makes Muslims look optimistic when experiencing trials and fighting temptations and hardships in the real arena of life. That was an actual miracle of the Islamic historical wonder.

As Muslims, we are well aware of our own imperfection and incapability and for that reason our concept of *Tawakkul* is different from any other concept in all other systems and ways of life.

We know and believe that there is no help from God by only asking Him to help us. We truly believe that God will not change our conditions until we commit ourselves to working on that change. We truly believe that the Help of God will come only then when we believe in God's message truly and when we do our share of work God Almighty asked us to fulfill. Our faith must be supported by our actions.

Almighty God informs the believing community: "*O you who believe! If you help the cause of God, He will help you, and will make your foothold firm.*" {Muhammad 7}

We know that the promise of God is Truth and for that reason, we ask Him to help us in our struggle for creating better and inclusive environment for all human beings locally and globally.
Allahumma Amin.

AN ACTION ITEM

If YOU like this Khutbah and what we, at your SNMC, do, PLEASE:

Support our activities & projects

Please Donate ONE Prayer Spot for \$2,500 and be the ONE who will build the Masjid and the Center so that it could help us and our children maintain Islamic Identity and build strong Canadian National Identity, Insha Allah.



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