

THE THORN IN THE EYES OF THE COUNTERFEIT

“Do you think that you will be left [as you are] while Allah has not yet made evident those among you who strive [for His cause] and do not take other than Allah, His Messenger and the believers as intimates? And Allah is Acquainted with what you do” (at-Tawbah, 16)

Recently a popular social media personality made a comment regarding one of the Islamic Armed groups fighting in the path of Allah and I quote

“their lack of understanding lead them to try and fight the entire world at once”

The claim here is that such thinking lacks knowledge wisdom and foresight!

Some have used such statements as proof to try and undermine those whom they oppose, and then accuse such thought or ideas as being deficient in understanding, and to be lacking foresight. All of these accusations are aimed at the Armed Islamic groups that wish to establish Allah’s Shariah on the earth?

Yet when we investigate the lives of the Prophets Alaihimus Salaam, the Seerah of the final prophet of Allah, Muhammad ﷺ; we see that the idea, of wanting to take on the whole world or taking on ancient (or in this case modern) superpowers, are not alien to Islam.

It is well documented in the Seerah of our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and in the lives of some of the Khulafah that succeeded him and the Muslim army Generals that came after them, all the way till our present times, all of them were as it may seem “fighting the entire world at once”.

We see Prophet of Allah Nūh (as) in the depths of time and we can almost hear him as he addresses his people, alone as it seems. However, Nuh (as) was not alone. Nuh (as) was aware of the presence of Allah – upon Who he had placed his trust, and was aware of His Power. So, he addressed them without fear, not afraid of their authority or tyranny, saying:

“...If my stay and my reminding of the signs of Allah is hard on you, then I put my trust in Allah. So, devise your plot, you and your partners, and let not your plot be in doubt for you. Then, pass your sentence on me and give me no respite.” (Yunus, 71)

‘Gather yourselves and the power and authority you have – you and your allies that you honour yourselves by – and then do whatever you can without leaving me time for respite.’

He did not say this out of carelessness or empty zeal that would quickly dry up and disappear. Rather, he said it while he knew that he was accompanied by power that would never disappear, while he knew that Allah was with him and that they could not harm him so long as his trust in Allah was unshaken and as long as he held firmly to His Rope – With that conviction, he (as) was ready to receive whatever Allah had Willed. Had Allah Willed something other than what Nuh was expecting, it would never be out of betrayal of His slave, Rather, it would be a test, an evaluation of iman, and means of purification and distinction.

And look to Hūd (as) and how he stood between his people all alone while they were the strongest people on Earth and the most viscous of them. They tried to scare him through their false gods that they venerated, saying:

“All that we say is that some of our gods have seized you with madness.” (Hud, 54)

So, he (as) stood up to them, relying on Allah with, firm like a mountain, and he (as) would speak the words of the believer who fears none but Allah:

“I call Allah to witness and bear you as witnesses that I am free from what you ascribe as partners to Him in worship. So, plot against me, all of you, and give me no respite. I put my trust in Allah, my Lord and your Lord! There is not a moving creature except that He has grasp of its forelock. Verily, my Lord is on the truth.” (Hud 54-56)

And reflect on the stand taken by Ibrahim (as), the khalīl of Allah, while he debated with his people and faced them and taught them that he cared nothing for what they or their false gods would do to him, none of their threats affected him. Security, tranquillity, firmness and conviction are only for the helpers of Allah, for those who truly single Him out for worship, and do not associate any with Him.

As for the polytheists, how can they be granted any of this tranquillity and security which Allah grants, while they associate partners in worship with Him, that He gave no approval of? Such people are rather granted: fear, anxiety, cowardice and betrayal.

“Do you dispute with me concerning Allah while He has guided me, and I fear not those whom you associate with Allah in worship? Nothing can happen to me except when my Lord Wills something. My Lord comprehends in His Knowledge all things. Will you not then remember? And how should I fear those whom you associate in worship with Allah while you fear not that you have joined in worship with Allah things for which He has not sent down to you any authority. So, which of the two groups is more deserving of security? If you only knew.” (Al-anaam, 80-81)

“It is those who believe and do not mix their belief with wrongdoing (polytheism). For them, there is security, and they are the guided.” (Al-Anaam, 82)

And look at Mūsā (as), the one who spoke with Allah. Look at him in the most difficult hours while he was being tested, as Fir’awn and his troops – with all their power and numbers – were catching up to him. At the time, they possessed all the power and authority, and Mūsā was in a position of weakness and was a minority, having nothing physical to defend himself with. He and his followers had fled from these tyrants in order to protect their religion, and were suddenly met by the sea with no way to escape. So, when his companions saw Fir’awn with all his power quickly approaching accompanied by his massive number of troops, they said:

“We will surely be overtaken.” (As shura, 61)

However, in the most dangerous, difficult, and frightening circumstances, Mūsā replied with complete trust, certainty, and firmness that cannot be displayed even by the biggest and strongest of the mountains:

“No! Indeed, my Lord is with me, and He will guide me.” (Ash Shurah, 62)

So, what was the result of Mūsā (as) realizing Allah’s presence with him? What was the result of this firmness and trust in Allah?

“Then We inspired to Mūsā: “Strike the sea with your stick,” and it parted, and each separate part became like the huge, firm mass of a mountain. Then, we brought the others near to that place, and We saved Mūsā and all those with him. Then, we drowned the others. Indeed, in this is a sign. Yet, most of them are not believers. And verily, your Lord is truly the Mighty, the Merciful.” (Ash shura, 63-68)

Now let us look into the Seerah of our most beloved ﷺ.

We see that after the hijrah of to al-Madinah and after the formation of the first Islamic state lead by the prophet of Allah ﷺ, after the defeat of badr and after the battle of Uhud the Kuffar gathered and formed a coalition, was not al-Madinah attacked by the confederates in the battle of al-ahzab, the confederates at Ahzab, were all the disbelieving superpowers of that region, coming together to attack the Muslims in al-Madinah.

This was a coalition that included the Kuffar of Quraysh and other Arab pagan tribes, as well as Jews.

The disbelieving confederate besieged al-Madinah for 30 days until Allah made an opening for the Muslims with a Miracle, Allah sent strong winds that made life unbearable for the attackers, to the point that it destroyed their will to march forward and carry on the fight, the disbelieving camp was forced to retrieve and give up on the idea on attacking the Muslims.

Allah says:

“O you who have believed, remember the favour of Allah upon you when armies came to [attack] you and We sent upon them a wind and armies [of angels] you did not see. And ever is Allah, of what you do, Seeing” (Al-Ahzab, 9)

Let us now look at the best man after the Prophets Alaihimus Salaam. The companion of the Messenger of Allah, Abu Bakr as-Siddeeq (ra).

During the the khilafah of Abu Bakr some tribes abandoned islam and reverted to disbelief, these battles were known as wars of ridda, they refused to pay zakat and Abu Bakr saw that that was a rejection of the whole of Islaam. During this time only Makkah and Madinah remained under the authority of the first caliph, this was also a time that several individuals also claimed Prophethood, all this tribulation arose all at once.

As all of this fitna was happening, at the same time the army of Usamah bin Zayd was being sent to confront the Romans, this was an army which rasulAllah ﷺ had envoyed to send two days before his ﷺ death. Abu bakr was approached by some of the sahabah who tried to press him, saying do not send the army of Usamah as that may leave Madinah vulnerable to an attack but Abu Bakr refused to halt the army of Usamah.

The Companions put forward their suggestion to the Caliph that in the wake of the clouds of apostasy gathering on all sides, the expedition should be held back for sometime. It shows the fathomless depth of courage, grit, determination and power of Faith wielded by Abu Bakr Siddiq when he answered them, "If I was convinced that a beast would tear me apart after the dispatch of the army, I would not hold back at any cost what the Prophet ﷺ had ordered to go ahead."

In response to the call of the Caliph, the Companions already enlisted collected in the military camp outside Al-Madinah. Although they joined the army of Usamah a section still had some reservations about it for two reasons. One, Usamah was the son of a slave and he was only 17 years old, and therefore, too young and inexperienced to lead an army of distinguished Companions. Before moving ahead Usamah sent Umar as a soldier of his army to Al-Madinah with the message that the eminent Companions should be called back as the headquarters of Islam was under the threat of an enemy attack. Responding to the message of Usamah, the Khalifah said, "Had the departure of Muslim troops

rendered the city of Al-Madinah vacant and I would be left alone to be taken away by beasts of prey, the march of the army would not be put off."

Was Abu Bakr lacking foresight and wisdom?

After the death of Abu Bakr, Umar ibn al-Khattab (ra) followed the very same example, and continued the fight pushing the Islamic borders North, East and West. Umar was simultaneously engaged in warfare with both the Romans in the West and the Persians in the East. It could be said that Umar also was challenging the greatest Super powers at his time, and all at once. I ask again, were these actions of Umar (ra), actions of someone who lacks foresight, were those that followed him considered as; not having knowledge or wisdom? Umar challenged the entire world until he was known by the name of, Umar the Conqueror!

Here it should suffice the reader that the notion that Islamic groups accused of wanting to take on the entire world is not alien to Islam, and doing so is no different to doing what the Prophets before Prophet Muhammed ﷺ did.

Would anyone dare to say, their actions are incorrect and deserve our condemnation!

Can we now condemn the Islamic groups of today who are following in the footsteps of the ancestors, can we use such sayings so as to mock or drill holes in such groups, we see how easily such claims are refuted. All we need to do is go to the best of leaders, the Final Messenger ﷺ, and then to his ﷺ, two closest companions, the first two Khulafa al-Rashideen, Those who ruled the Muslim Ummah after his ﷺ death.

However, even with these examples, those, who in their hearts have a disease may say: "but that was the prophet of Allah ﷺ," or "that was the companions how can you use them as a comparison for our times". We say, they were people of the highest calibre whom Allah was pleased with and they were pleased with Him, and we hope to walk in their footsteps.

I will use one last example, and it is not a Prophet or a Messenger, but a man like you and I. No excuses can be used here! The example is no other than, Salahudeen al-Ayyoubi!

After years of attacks by the crusaders and the decimation of the Muslim lands a man rose up to challenge the super powers of his time by taking the fight to the crusaders themselves.

Hearing this and hearing of the capture of Jerusalem the crusaders despite their grievances amass an army numbering over six hundred thousand, to fight the Muslims. If that was not bad enough these army's were not lead by any old leaders, they were headed by no other than; The Roman Empire Frederick Barbarossa of Germany, King Richard (lion heart) of England and the King of France. It is narrated in the annals of History that the army was so big, that there were not enough ships to sail them to Muslim lands, so the army of Frederick Barbarossa travelled by land. In this example, can anyone with an ounce of truth in their hearts deny that Salahudeen was fighting the entire World or the biggest Superpowers of his time

The outcome was clear, another victory for Allah and a victory for the religion of Islam.

All of the above should be more than enough proof against the weak minded and uneducated individuals living in their comfortable dwellings in the west.

Those that find nothing better than to try and point fingers in applicable ideas against “their Muslim brothers” on the battlefields of today, or do they separate themselves and/or make bara from the Mujahideen of today?

How can a social media personality who has never experienced any discomfort for the sake of this Deen, have the courage to speak out and against people who are putting their lives on the line so that we in the west can feather ourselves by reading about their bravery, but only when it suits us, so that we can proudly say, we are Muslimeen.

Here I would also like to use this opportunity to address the issues that some also try to use against Islamic groups fighting to uphold the Deen of Allah. Namely, they like to focus on the mere size or number of combatants or the number and size of their weapons, especially when comparing them to their enemies. Once they do this, they say: “the proof is in the equation, this is clear defeat”.

You are quick to forget the Battles of Badr, Khandaq, Hunayn and on and on. When did the first group of Muslims ever face an army that they, the Muslims outnumbered them in bodies and weapons. Never!

Never have numbers been a requirement for victory!

Allah says:

"How many a little company hath overcome a mighty host by Allah's leave! Allah is with the steadfast" (Al-Baqarah, 249)

The Seerah is enough for the Brave-hearted ones.

It is obvious that those who use these strawman arguments, to stand between the truth do so as they lack concrete proof from the Qur'an and Sunnah, they have no evidence to defame the Muslims, except to build strawman arguments, to either please the Kuffar or to please People, begging, asking, pleading to be accepted, giving themselves titles like: “Speaker” & “Shaykh” & “Mufti” & “Imam”. The more followers the more money.

Does the one who sleeps under the shadow of a barrel Bomb feel like he or she needs to be accepted, do they think about pleasing anyone besides Allah?

Allah his Messenger ﷺ has accepted them and so have the ones whose hearts weep for the same end. While you try and prove to those in charge of you, that you have a common enemy, we ask Allah to make us, like your common enemy, like Musa, Ibraheem, Nuh and Muhammad ﷺ, like Salahudeen! They are the examples we wish to follow.

As for Your example, it is like a great poet once said:

“Like the Ram who uses its horns in order to run into the mountain, hey you ram have mercy upon your head (horns) and don't have mercy upon the mountain”

Allah Knows Best!

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