

## Examples of the prophet's patience (Endurance & tolerance)

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## In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

### Importance of patience

It is for the great status of the quality or character of patience (or endurance and tolerance) that it was one of Allah's names [The Most Tolerant]. As Imam Ahmed said; the Koran urged and recommended patience 90 times. For a Muslim, patience is a necessary quality to have for this life and for the religious faith.

Allah says: **{We created man to be in a struggle}**. That is a struggle with difficulties, with pains and with the entire life's problems, a struggle with all the coming aches and calamities and a struggle with the taking away of riches and mercies, or with the loss of loved ones. We are exposed to some sort of a problem almost everyday of our lives. Imam Ali described this life by saying: "how one could describes a life which starts with crying, and goes on with a struggle, and it ends with demise". The messenger ppbu said: **{if this entire life had as much value as the weight of a mosquito's wing, then Allah would not have given to an unbeliever from it as much as a mouth full of drink}**. No, it is not worth that much as far as Allah is concerned. That is why unbelievers, sinners, criminals and aggressors are allowed to enjoy it. Allah says: **{and if not for that all people would all be on the same grouping, (that is all being unbelievers and misguided) then we would have given to those who are unbelievers ceilings of silver and high towers upon which they assemble}**. That would be too much temptation for many of Allah's slaves and that's the reason why he did not give all that to the unbelievers.

### The believer is prone to be tested

A character of this life is being a place of struggle and a place of testing through troubles. A faithful individual must get himself/herself used to being patient. Patience is necessary for all humans, and especially for believers. People of faith are more prone to being inflicted with troubles

and calamities in their property, and in themselves and in their loved ones. Allah says: **{assuredly you will be tried in your money (*property*) and your person and you shall hear much wrong from those who were given the Scripture before you and from those who associated others with Allah (*the idolaters*), but if you preserve and be patient and fear Allah then that is one of the tremendous matters}** 3:186. That is Allah's laws in this life that the people of evil are always after the people of faith. Allah had Abeles (Satan) for Adam and Nimrod for Prophet Abraham; and Faro for Prophet Moses, and Aba-Jahl for Prophet Muhammad.

The messenger ppbu said: **{the most tested or tried people are the prophets then those who are more like them and so on..}**. Allah says: **{or did you think that you will enter paradise while yet there has not come unto you the like of (*that which came to*) those who passed away before you? Affliction and adversity befell them; they were shaken as with earthquake, till the messenger (*of Allah*) and those who believed along with him said: When does Allah's help and support come?}** 2:214. yes, paradise is a valuable commodity, and it has a high price, and a price that was paid by many of those before us. You must endure troubles in property and in money and in health and security.

### **The prophet's patience over types of troubles**

Patience is of many types. You may be afflicted with a sickness which can take away your health, or a loss in your money, or a loss of a loved one. You must be patient upon your affliction. There is also endurance in abstaining from an enjoyable temptation that involves disobedience towards Allah. Yet you hold off it in fear of Allah's punishment and in expectation for His reward.

Prophet Ayoub was patient over the affliction he had in his body and in his loved ones or family. Prophet Joseph was patient in holding off against the temptation offered by a woman who was in charge of his affairs; despite that he was a young, unmarried and a stranger and an unknown man. She then tried the threat of imprisonment and he still held off. Prophet Joseph was an example in patience and endurance because he tolerated the devious scheming of his brothers and their envy towards him and the affliction they caused him. He was patient when he worked

as a servant; and patient when his employer tempted him by offering her self to him. Then he was patient at the false accusation directed at him and for which he was falsely imprisoned. For years he was patient and Allah rewarded him by giving him authority and power in the land. Allah always rewards those who are patient and who are God fearing.

### **The patience of Prophet Muhammad ppbu**

The master of all patients is prophet Muhammad ppbu.

Allah says: { **be patient as did those with the resolve of the messengers, and do not rush things for them** },

Allah says: { **have beautiful patience** }.

Allah says: { **be patient, Allah's promise is true, and don't be belittled by those who have no certainty** }

Allah says: { **and be patient, and your patience is with Allah, and do not be saddened over them, and do not be disheartened by what they deviously scheme** }

Early Muslims were afflicted with major problems in Mecca at the early days of Islam. When the messenger ppbu passed by Yaser's family when they were being tortured by the people of Quraish and he was unable to do anything for them he said to them: { **be patient people of Yaser, for you have an appointment with paradise** }.

Muslims where boycotted in Mecca for three years up to the point that they ate leafs off the trees. They were tortured for thirteen years. Khebab ebn Ert (خباب بن الأرت) came complaining to the messenger ppbu from His master lady who used to burn his skin in order to force him to denounce Islam. He said: "Messenger of Allah, would you not ask Allah to give us victory". Even at that condition he still was asking with respect. He wasn't ordering the messenger to ask Allah. Many of the early Muslims were killed and some did actually denounce Islam. Allah says: { **except for those who are forced but within their heart they are at peace and contentment in faith** } 16:106. The messenger ppbu said: { **those before you used to take the man and dig a hole in the ground and have him placed into it. His head was cut with a saw into two, and metal teeth are used to separate the flesh off the bones. All that would not hold them off their faith. By Allah, He shall fulfil this faith up to the point where a traveller from Sanaa (in Yemen) would travel to Hadramote with no fear in his heart except the fear** }

**of Allah, and the fear of a wolf attacking his cheep, just don't hurry things up}**. The messenger ppbu is telling you to be careful and not to let anything takes you off your faith.

### **Effects of lack of patience on the individual Muslim**

What we see today in our Islamic societies in the west that some people have left their faith under materialistic and psychological pressures. Facing lack of money or abundance of money, and facing temptation of the western culture with its glamour and what it offers of available alcohol and women and other attractions. There are those Muslims who do not completely leave Islam to another faith, but leave some of the Islamic values and rulings. That is the individual has lost his patience and a lot of his faith. Other people when they become a victim of aggression resort to personal revenge and personal retribution. That has got nothing to do with faith, because it is personal. When Islam allowed retribution; it controlled it by forbidding doing wrong against this that does the wrong. The messenger ppbu said: **{Give back what you are entrusted with to this who entrusted you, and do not betray this who betrayed you}**. You are not permitted to lie to this that lies to you. And this who unrightfully attacks your honour, you are not permitted to attack his. And this who slanders you, you are not permitted to slander him back. And this who wrongs you, you are not permitted to wrong them back. And this who betrays you, you are not permitted to betray them. These are some of the great Islamic values and good morals. When a Muslim gets involved into this revenge and winning for him self through what Islam does not permit then he/she has given up some of the Islamic values and rules.

Be patient, for Allah has prearranged all events. Ask Allah with a truthful heart believing that what Allah delays for you is better. And what Allah brings sooner is also good. And what Allah assigns for the end is good. Allah says: **{and you may hate something and yet it is good for you. And you may love something and it is bad for you. Allah knows and you do not know}** 2:216.

Dear brothers; patience is the key to all good. We ought to stick to being patient, and hold our selves from all temptations despite what we may dislike. That alone is an elevated worship, and a higher status, and one of the best Godly morals. It is a moral of the faithful and a moral of the

messengers. Obey Allah despite the fact that Allah tests us with plights and difficulties, and obey Allah by staying off sins.

I ask Allah for forgiveness, you too ask Him for forgiveness, He is the most forgiving, the Most merciful. No strength and no power except through Allah and with Allah the Most Elevated the Almighty.