

Seeking a cure from illness does not negate patience

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: Allaah has tested me with dangerous illnesses since I was young. Now I am in my thirties and there is no cure for this illness. Thus what is the reward that results from patience, especially patience upon trials and illnesses, may Allaah reward you with good?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹: There is no doubt that the Muslim is commanded with patience upon what he dislikes from the tribulations and illnesses. Along with patience he utilises the beneficial means by Allaah's permission. Therefore if he has an illness he seeks to cure it along with having patience and seeking the reward, while not panicking. And the permissible means do not negate patience. This because patience during this condition; it is refraining the tongue from complaining, and refraining the soul from panicking, and refraining the hand from slapping the cheeks and tearing the garments. Thus if there are beneficial means, and a cure for this illness then he seeks to cure it. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)² said:

ما أنزل الله داءً إلا أنزل له دواءً علمه من علمه وجهله من جهله

"Allaah has not sent down an illness except that He sent down a cure. Those who know it know it and those who are ignorant of it are ignorant of it."

Therefore the One who sent down the illness sent down the cure. And His sending down the cure is proof that we search for this cure and we utilise it. As for if there is no cure, meaning the doctors are unable to find the cure, then the afflicted person is patient and seeks the reward from Allaah (سبحانه وتعالى)³. And the patient person is rewarded. Allaah (تعالى)⁴ said:

إنما يُوفى الصابرون أجرهم بغير حساب

[Only those who are patient shall receive their rewards in full, without reckoning.]⁵

¹ (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

³ (سبحانه وتعالى) (Subhanahu wa-ta'ala) The Exalted, The Most High

⁴ (تعالى) Ta'aala (He, The Most High)

⁵ سورة الزمر - Soorah az-Zummar [39:10]

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And Allaah will test the believer. If Allaah loves a people He will test them. Verily if Allaah loves a people He will test them. So whoever is patient will have a reward and whoever panics then upon him is a sin.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ إِذَا أَحَبَّ قَوْمًا ابْتَلَاهُمْ، فَمَنْ رَضِيَ فَلَهُ الرِّضَا، وَمَنْ سَخِطَ فَلَهُ السَّخَطُ

“Verily if Allaah loves a people He test them, thus whoever is pleased, for him will be pleasure, and whoever is angry, for him will be anger.”

As it appears in the hadeeth; and with this the believer is at ease. And he knows that which befell him was not going to miss him, and that which missed him was not going to befall him. And it is hoped that this illness and this disease will be better for him with Allaah (سبحانه وتعالى). The Exalted said:

وعسى أن تكرهوا شيئاً وهو خيرٌ لكم وعسى أن تحبوا شيئاً وهو شرٌ لكم

[But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you; and perhaps you love a thing and it is bad for you.]⁶

⁶ سورة البقرة - Soorah al-Baqarah [2:216]