

Causes of victory and defeat

A few days ago, and more specifically last Saturday, the 5th of June marking the 1967 third Arab Israeli 6-day war. Or as some enjoy calling it the Set-Back day. To learn a bit about it, listen to someone who lived through it, a Palestinian student. He says, I was in Egypt, initially, sharing the excitement of the people, and only being sorry for not being in my country at the time to witness the joy of victory or re-entering the towns of Thayfa and Yafa. But what I did not know is the fact that only a few days were between me and losing what is left of my country and my right to return to my family home. I can only do that with a special permission that took me years to get. The June war was meant to pull the dispersed and destitute Palestinians together, and instead, things got worse for them, and more of them were even prevented from seeing their families.

Another witness remembers how the Jordanian soldiers started retreating in an uncontrolled manner. They started to get rid of their military uniforms in fear of meeting the Israeli army. People in town also started to get rid of those things just in case the Israeli army would search and find such material and punish the people.

When the Israeli army came into the town, they ordered everybody to assemble at the main street in order to be evacuated to the east bank. The people through fear and hope were eager to leave thinking there was a better reality awaited them in Jordan.

Another witness says that what happened in 1967 was more than a setback. It was a destruction of a dream to reclaim what is rightfully ours that was lost in 1948. People's confidence was high because of the commentary of Ahmed Saeed in the Arab Voice Radio, and the military announcements of the shooting down of all enemy fighter planes broadcasted during the war. People were deluded about the power of the Arabs. And suddenly, all the talk was about retreating to the second defense line, then the third. This is the sign of the end of the dream, and a sign of worse to come. When we saw the Israeli tanks moving forward and the Jordanian soldiers retreating, we realized that what happened was a repeat of what happened only 20 years before.

Now, it has been 40 years to that war, and things are even worse. People then despite what was known as the Nakbah war or "the Catastrophe", the 1948 defeat. Despite that, people were optimistic. Most people were responding due to the propaganda and atmosphere of excitement most are Arab radio stations drummed up. Only some minority of people, especially those who witnessed

1948-Catastrophe. But, their voice was overwhelmed and they were silenced and accused of being the 5th column (or in short: Traitors).

The causes of victory and defeat in the Islamic history is an important topic, that the common Muslim should know about. And more specifically, those involved in prorogation of the Islamic faith. They should learn, and teach the causes of victory and defeat.

It is a known fact to us Muslims that Allah has promised us victory for this belief and his followers. He says: {We surly will make victorious, our messengers and the believers in this worldly life and when the day of witnessing happens} aya 51 of Ghafer. And in aya 55 of sourat An-Noor Allah says: {Allah promised those of you who believe and do good deeds, He will make them the successors in the land, just as he made those before them successors. And He will strongly establish their religion that he is satisfied with, for them, and He shall replace their fear with safety and security. Worship me and believe in no one else but I.}

This is a truthful promise which must be fulfilled. It was fulfilled during the life of the messenger (PPBU), then during his successors. Over the years, the Islamic power saw many victories and many defeats.

The word Victory is a big word with a wide scope, it includes:

A victory for someone who is propagating Islam may be in the victory of the belief even if the particular person is tortured or killed.

The Islamic nation today faces a devastating reality which can be summarized in three points:

1. A psychological defeat of many individuals, some unfortunately high level individuals.
2. Dependency in many areas, educations, cultural, economical and many more.
3. Weakness, humiliation, and scattering or break up. Despite the large land area, the Islamic nation has become so weak and of low status.

This nation must find out the causes of victory and defeat. And the reasons that led to this present demeaning position. It must bring itself out and up to what Allah wants for it . That is a leading position in this world.

Let us attempt to summarize the causes of victory and defeat very briefly:

First the causes of victory:

- 1) True belief and good deed. Allah has stated that in many Ayas. And the main points that form the true belief are:
 - a) Dedicated true worship of Allah May he be exalted.
 - b) Performing prayers and brining in charity and following all what the messenger (PPBU) has ordered and avoiding or deterring from what he forbid.
 - c) Drawing support from and depending upon Allah alone. Calling for help from him alone, and asking the victory from Allah. Omar ben khattab said. On the day of the battle Badr, The messenger (PPBU) looked and saw the infidel and they were 1000 fighter, and looked at his companions and they were 319. The messenger faced the Qiblah put out his hands and started calling his Lord: {Lord, fulfill what you promised me, Lord provide what you promised me. Lord if you destroy this punch of people of Islam, you would not be worshiped on this earth.} He kept on putting his hands out, calling his Lord facing the Qiblah until his robe or over coat fell off his shoulders. Abu-Baker came up and placed his robe on his shoulders holding it from falling, and said: Prophet of Allah, enough asking you Lord, for he will fulfill what he promised you.
 - d) Patience and stability either before or during the battle. This religion will be made strong after many tests and calamities.
 - e) Abundance of remembering Allah and saying his name.
- 2) The second reason for victory is the unity of the nation. When Sala-Eddin wanted to liberate the Al-Aqsa mosque, he first ordered the union between the two most powerful Muslim countries then, Egypt and Sham. When they were united he went on to fight the crusaders. Separated fragmented Muslims are far from victory.
- 3) Another reason for victory is the strong believing leadership. Strong scholar and material strength are both required for victory.
- 4) Building up the power and logically pursuing what it takes. Everything that can be done, big or small. The messenger PPBU pursued what it takes, for he wore the shield, and dug the trench, carried the weapons, took care of the soldiers and the military commanders, assigned the money. But remember, even when doing what it takes, still dependence still remain upon Allah alone.

Also remember, that it was never ever that Muslims had more weapons, or numbers than infidel. But, belief always made things to be better with Muslims. Whenever Omar felt the victory is slow coming he used to write to his field commanders saying: {We do not fight people with numbers and weapons but with this religion, Check you may have come up with some thing different?} He reminds them to revise their actions.

Doing what is required and getting the arms ready can be divided into many items but the most important are:

- a) Preparation of the true believing soldier and field commander and purifying it from non-believers. The soldier who is aim is to die in the line of Allah. Omeir ben h7amam when the messenger PPBU said: {Get up to a paradise its width is like all the skies and earth.} Omeir said "bukh, bukh". The messenger said {What makes you say that bukh bukh} he replies "Messenger of Allah, only that I would be of people of this paradise", the messenger said: {you are of its people}. Omeir took a few dates (about five) off his bag and started eating, then he said, Am I going to live to eat all these dates. What a long life it will be. He mean waiting to go to paradise. He threw the dates away, went to fight until he was killed.
 - b) The second item is to get the military equipment ready.
 - c) Part of military equipment is the financial required. Money is a major part of any war. Othman got a whole army ready. The messenger said: {Nothing Othman can do that will hurt him after what he did today}
 - d) Know your enemies and their capabilities. Collecting the intelligence as the messenger used to do by finding out the size of the enemy's army by finding out how many they slaughter to eat.
 - e) Total trust in Allah and confidence in his promises. We must be certain that Allah will make this religion victorious no matter how tight things get, and no matter what the size of obstacles are in the rout towards victory.
- 5) another cause for victory is that the nation is at the level of victory with its resources, capabilities, resolve (determination), and intentions.

For Allah may delay the victory if the nation is not ready for it. The capabilities to manage liberated Muslim land.

- 6) Jihad or Fighting in the name of Allah, commending good and deterring against evil. Jihad keeps the nation safe from external dangers, while commending good and deterring evil keeps it safe internally.

Jihad is a cause for glory and power and victory. Allah says: {It was decided that you shall fight, yet is disliked by you. And you may hate something and there is good in it for you. And you may love something and yet it is evil for you. Allah knows and you do not.} 2-216. When looking at the interpretation of the scholar Imam Qurtuby who lived at the time when Andalusia fell; one could only feel regret in between the lines and phrases. He says that "and you may hate something" refers to fighting and blood shed and donating money. "and there is good in it for you": refers to the taking over the land, victory and glory. While the statement: "and you may love thing" refers to loving relaxation and the false peace. Being bad for you refers to the suffered humility, and the losing their dignity and honor, and the take over by the non-believers and being removed from your land.

It is known that the non-believers will not leave Muslims in peace even if Muslims leave them in peace. We were told this by Allah {And they still fight you fight you until they return you off your belief if they could . . . } 2-217. and in another Aya: {Neither the Jews nor the Christians will be happy with you unless you follow their religion and sect}2-120.

They shall only be happy in one case and one outcome. They will not leave you without a fight. Not a military fight, for that is too hard for all. They will fight you with cultural, intellectual, media, sex. They shall fight you to wreck your religion and belief, and to loose your faith and conviction. So, dear Muslim, just be careful and stay alert.