

28th March 2008

When calamity strikes

In the name of Allah most Gracious most merciful

All thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.

Because of the tragedy which happened earlier this week causing the death of our little girls, the Imam the following five messages to share with you.

The first message is titled: Every soul will get the taste of death.

Death is a basic rule of Allah; imposed upon all his creations in this life. Upon each and every soul, except upon Him self (Almighty). So the meaning of being a God does materialize. And the name of Allah the ever living appears clearly. Allah says: {everything whatsoever upon this life will perish. And the face of your Lord full of Majesty and Honour will remain forever.} 55:26-27.

When the messenger (PPBU) died, Omar as if he was objecting to this idea said: "whoever says Muhammad is dead I will chop his head off". But Abu-Bakr said: "whoever is worshiping Muhammad; let them know that Muhammad has died. And whoever is worshipping Allah, let them know that Allah is for ever alive, never dies". Abo-Baker also said to Omar quoting the Koran saying: "O' Omar, have you not heard the statement of the truth (meaning the verse of the Koran): {And

Muhammad is just a messenger like all those messengers before him. Is it that if he dies or gets killed then you would switch backward or retract? And this whoever retracts will harm Allah absolutely nothing. And Allah will reward those who are patient}”. Allah also says: {and you shall die, and so shall they} 39:30.

The second message is: Heed and learn lessons.

It is in His wisdom (May He be exalted) that with every move or halt, with every motion or stationary, a sign of His singularity, majesty and greatness. And it is for that that no event should pass by us unnoticed. Instead, we should draw lessons. Allah says: {You who have visions, take heed or take lessons}. He is mistaken; whoever thinks that being young at age; and being fit at health and being strong in the body and mind is going to be enough protection from the rules and the norm of Allah (or that is enough protection from death). A mother did not wake her son some morning in order that he would miss his flight. To this mother the flight seemed to be a dangerous trip, thinking that she will save him from Allah's destiny. She did not know that when time for death approaches it can not be altered. When the flight departure time had passed, the mother went to wake her son up, but she found him dead.

A father is told that his son died with his friends in an accident because his belongings were found among the wreckage. He knew his son was not dead because his son is in

his bed asleep and did not go on that trip; only to find him dead in bed.

Those two children of ours who died a few days ago, after the trip started in two buses and a car. They stopped after some distance at some restaurant to have some breakfast and some rest. And those two who died, they switched places from the bus they were riding to the car with two other girls. And the accident took place, and the death occurred to those that Allah had already decided to die that day. And if they knew the accident was going to happen they would not have changed their places. But, it is Allah's fate and destiny as He says in His book: {and no soul knows what it shall earn tomorrow, and no soul will know upon which land it shall die}

The third message is: Be patient and expect paradise as your reward.

The third message is titled from what the messenger (PPBU) said: "Family of Yaser, be patient. For you have an appointment with paradise". And He (PPBU) also said: {the faithful man and woman will continue to be tested by Allah with himself and with his child and with his money; up until he or she will meet Allah with all his sins gone}. The messenger (PPBU) also said: {when the slave has a child who dies, Allah asks the angels: Have you received the soul of the child of my slave? They say: "Yes". Allah then says; "And what did my slave say?" They say: "He said: thanks be to Allah, We all belong to Allah, and to Him we shall all return". Allah then says: "Build for my slave a house in paradise. And call it (the house of thanks)"}. And the

messenger (PPBU) reported to us that Allah said: {when I take the soul of someone in this life whom another slave of mine loves but yet remains patient in expectation. I have no reward for my slave other than paradise}.

Salamah's Mother (Om-Salamah) said I heard the messenger (PPBU) saying {if a calamity befalls a slave, and if he says: We all belong to Allah, and to Him we shall all return. O' God, reward me for my loss and compensate me better, then Allah will certainly reward him and compensate him better than what he lost.} Om salamah continued to say: then Abo-salama (her husband) died. And I said: who of all the Muslims can be better than Abo Salamah? He was the first to immigrate to the messenger, but I still said it. And Allah compensated me with better than Abo-salamah. Allah compensated me with the Messenger himself (PPBU).

The scholar Ibraheem Al-harby had an eleven year old son, who learnt the entire Koran, and he taught him much of the Hadeeth and Islamic law. Then the child died and a friend went to give condolences. Ibraheem told his friend: I was hoping he would die. His friend said: How could a scholar like you say that after all the trouble of teaching him all that. Ibraheem said: I had a dream and saw as if the day of resurrection had come. And it was a very hot day. And I saw children with glasses of water welcoming people and giving them to drink. So, I asked one of them to give me some water. But the child looked and said: "But you are not my father". And I asked: who are you? And the child replied: We are the children who died in the

first life and left our parents behind. We meet them, welcome them and hold the drink for them. That's why I used to hope my son would die. May Allah reward the parents of the two girls: "Aya" and "Eman" for their patience and we ask Allah to make paradise be their destiny.

The fourth message is: Be part of the community.

The community spirit that appeared in this occasion, and the love of people to each other, and the feelings that they were one nation or one body was but clear to notice. If a part of the body had a problem, then the other parts or organs nurse and feel for the affected part. We saw, the care people had, and love and the-get-together and support for the stricken families. It is with this tight adherence and the belonging and being part of the group that Allah shall make us victorious.

The fifth message is: prayers (duaa) to Allah, and asking for forgiveness.

Asking Allah to support us in this life, and asking Allah to bless and be merciful to the deceased girls.

And all thanks be to Allah.