

REFLECTION UPON THE CURRENT CRUSADE WAR



Muhammad Salih Al-Munajjid

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*Bismi Allahi Alrrahmani Alrraheemi
In the name of Allah, the most
Beneficent, the most Merciful*

وقفات مع الحملة الصليبية

Reflection Upon The Current Crusade War

First Khutbah:

All perfect praise is due to Allaah; I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allaah and Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, upon whom may Allaah send salutations and exalt his mention, as well as that of his family and all his Companions.

Allaah says

سَنُلْقِي فِي قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الرُّعْبَ بِمَا أَشْرَكُوا بِاللَّهِ

Which means: ***“We will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve for what they have associated with Allaah...”*** (Aal-‘Imraan: 151). Allaah has informed the believers that He is their ally and gave them glad tidings that if they support His religion, He will, in turn, sustain them and instill terror in the hearts of the disbelievers.

After the battle of *Uhud*, *Abu Sufyaan* had consulted some of his people and suggested that they return and finish off the Muslims. However, when they were on the verge of doing so, Allaah implanted fear in their hearts and they came back without achieving what they desired.

The victory which Allaah grants the believers is manifested in one of the following ways:

- Either Allaah kills the disbelievers,
- Or, suppresses them so that they turn back disappointed,
- Or, He combines both the ways.

So, after the war of *Uhud*, the second type ensued, for fright was cast into their hearts and they rushed back without confronting the believers in *Madeenah*, as intended. Yet, why exactly were they so petrified? The answer lies in the verse in which Allaah says

بِمَا أَشْرَكُوا بِاللَّهِ

Which means: ***“... for what they have associated with Allaah...”*** (Aal-‘Imraan: 151), meaning they were terrified because they set partners with Allaah. Since they were not His allies and supporters, He had forsaken them and instilled terror in their hearts.

As for the believers, Allaah makes their hearts and feet steadfast, as He says

إِذْ يُغَشِّيكُمُ الْتُّعَاسَ أَمَنَةً مِّنْهُ وَيُنْزِلُ عَلَيْكُمْ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً لِّيُطَهِّرَكُم بِهِ وَيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمْ رِجْزَ الشَّيْطَانِ وَلِيَرْبِطَ عَلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتَ بِهِ الْأَقْدَامَ. إِذْ يُوحِي رَبُّكَ إِلَى الْمَلَكَةِ أَنِّي مَعَكُمْ فَثَبَّتُوا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا سَالِقِي فِي قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الرُّعْبَ فَأَضْرِبُوا فَوْقَ الْأَعْنَاقِ وَأَضْرِبُوا مِنْهُمْ كُلَّ بَنَانٍ. ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ شَاقُّوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ

Which means: *“[Remember] when He overwhelmed you with drowsiness [giving] security from Him and sent down upon you from the sky, rain by which to purify you and remove from you the evil [suggestions] of Satan and to make steadfast your hearts and plant firmly thereby your feet. [Remember] when your Lord inspired to the angels, “I am with you, so strengthen those who have believed. I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieved so strike [them] upon the necks and strike from them every fingertip (i.e., their hands and feet). That is because they opposed Allaah and His Messenger.” (Al-Anfaal: 11-13).* So, Allaah reminds the believers: remember the bounty of Allaah upon you when it was time to face your enemy and you sought the support of your Lord, and thus, He aided you with one thousand angels, following one another. Allaah made that not but a source of good tidings, so that your hearts would be assured thereby; then, He sent down rain to purify you, make your hearts committed and your feet solidly planted. Allaah then directed the angels to make the believers firm and informed them, saying

سَالَقِي فِي قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الرُّعْبَ

Which means: *“...I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieved...”*. Indeed, terror is greater than the greatest soldier of Allaah; in effect, it is the supreme troop of Allaah against the disbelievers, since, as a result of this fear, a combatant cannot handle his weapon or fight, and all he is capable of doing is turning his back and fleeing, if possible.

Therefore, Allaah fulfilled His promise, granted victory to His slave (Muhammad *sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam*) and defeated the coalition of the disbelievers alone, by Himself; surely, there is no one worthy of worship save Allaah, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer of all that exists. Allaah says

فَدَّكَانَ لَكُمْ ءَايَةٌ فِي فَنَّتَيْنِ الَّتِي قَاتَلْتُمَا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَأَخْرَجَ الْكَافِرَ

Which means: *“Already there has been for you a sign in the two armies which met [in combat at Badr] – one fighting in the cause of Allaah and another of disbelievers....” (Aal-‘Imraan: 13).* Hence, Allaah made the believers prevail due to their faith.

Terror is a great tool which the Muslims asked for in their supplications against the disbelievers. *Yazeed ibn ‘Aamir*, may Allaah be pleased with him, was amongst the ranks of the unbelievers during the battle of *Hunayn*; when he later became Muslim, some of the Companions, may Allaah be pleased with them, asked him: *“How was the nature of this terror which Allaah instilled in the hearts of the disbelievers? Describe it for us.”* Thereupon, he, may Allaah be pleased with him, grabbed a stone and flung it strongly against a metal pot, which caused a very loud noise, and remarked: *“This is how we felt horror in our hearts.”* The Companions, may Allaah be pleased with them, used to pray against the disbelievers during their *Witr* (prayer of odd-numbered units performed after ‘*Ishaa*’ (night prayer) in *Ramadhaan*, uttering: *“O Allaah! Fight the disbelievers, who hinder people from following Your path, belie Your Messengers and do not believe in Your promise. Differ between their hearts (i.e., disunite them), True Lord!”*

The Muslims used to invoke Allaah in favor of their fellow Muslim brothers and against the disbelievers, especially during the reign of ‘*Umar*, may Allaah be pleased with him, when Muslim armies were deployed in Iraq, Syria, Egypt and other countries, and engaged in conflicts. So, their

brothers supplicated for them and implored Allaah to cast fear into the hearts of the disbelievers.

Another of the great soldiers by which Allaah conferred triumph to His Messenger *sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam* and destroyed the infidels, is the wind. Allaah says

فَأَمَّا هَادٌ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً

Which means: *“As for ‘Aad, they were arrogant upon the earth without right and said, ‘Who is greater than us in strength?...’ (Fussilat: 15). Similarly, the disbelievers of today claim the same, declaring: ‘We are the superpower; who is superior to us in terms of strength? We are the only one in the world!’ Allaah says*

فَأَمَّا هَادٌ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُمْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ. فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا صَرْصَاءً فِي أَيَّامٍ نَحْسَاتٍ لِنُذِيقَهُمْ عَذَابَ الْخِزْيِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَخْزَىٰ وَهُمْ لَا يُنصَرُونَ

Which means: *“As for ‘Aad, they were arrogant upon the earth without right and said, ‘Who is greater than us in strength?’ Did they not consider that Allaah who created them was greater than them in strength? But they were rejecting Our signs. So We sent upon them a screaming wind during days of misfortune to make them taste the punishment of disgrace in the worldly life; but the punishment of the Hereafter is more disgracing, and they will not be helped.” (Fussilat: 15-16). In this manner, Allaah sent a very cold tornado during days of tribulation (for the people of ‘Aad), which was humiliation for them in this life, and certainly, the punishment awaiting them in the Hereafter is indeed more humiliating.*

Likewise, in the course of the battle of *Al-Ahzaab*, the wind affected the outcome of the battle, significantly. Allaah says

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَاءَتْكُمْ جُنُودٌ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا وَجُنُودًا لَّمْ تَرَوْهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا

Which means: *“O you who have believed, remember the favor of Allaah 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 Allaah, of what you do, Seeing.” (Al-Ahzaab: 9). Mujaahid, may Allaah have mercy on him, commented on this verse: ‘Allaah directed a strong current of air over them, which turned over their pots and uprooted their tents, so much so that they packed up and left the area.’”*

Therefore, the Prophet *sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam* informed us: *“I was granted victory by the eastern wind and ‘Aad was destroyed by the western wind.”*

Moreover, *Abu Sa’eed Al-Khudri*, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated: *“We said to the*

Prophet sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam on the day of the battle of the Trench: ‘O Messenger of Allaah! Is there anything which we can say (i.e., in order to win the support of Allaah)?’ So, he sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam replied: **‘Yes; say: ‘O Allaah! Conceal my (hidden) sins (from people) and protect me from (that which causes) fear’.**’ Consequently, Allaah hit the enemies with a fierce breeze and, as a result, they were defeated.” (Ahmad). Allaah says

وَرَدَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِغَيْظِهِمْ لَمْ يَنَالُوا خَيْرًا

Which means: **“And Allaah repelled those who disbelieved, in their rage, not having obtained any good ...”** (Al-Ahzaab: 25).

Accordingly, it was this wind that made them retreat, after having been defeated, with frustration, and they were not able to accomplish what they had gone there for. They were deceived by their great number and were confident that they will succeed and strike the Prophet sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam, but Allaah sent the wind on them, which shook their camps and filled terror in their hearts; and, this is one of the ways in which Allaah grants victory to His believing slaves.

Slaves of Allaah! Compare the conditions of the two factions, in order for you to grasp the effect of the soldiers of Allaah when He dispatches them against the disbelievers; note the terrifying effect that the wind had on the disbelievers. Allaah says

وَكَفَى اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الْقِتَالَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ قَوِيًّا عَزِيزًا

Which means: **“...And sufficient was Allaah for the believers in battle, and ever is Allaah Powerful and Exalted in Might.”** (Al-Ahzaab: 25). This verse denotes that never does Allaah go to war against anyone but He defeats him and never does someone seek His support, but he will be made victorious; truly, nothing can incapacitate Him and no strength or force that people may possess will be of any help to them, if Allaah does not aid them with His Power and Might.

Slaves of Allaah! During the battle of *Badr*, Allaah supported the Muslims with another combatant – dust. The Prophet sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam once threw that at the disbelievers from a distance and it did not leave any one of them but entered into his eyes. This took place again during the battle of *Hunayn*, as Allaah says

وَمَا رَمَيْتَ إِذْ رَمَيْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ رَمَىٰ

Which means: **“And you threw not, [O Muhammad sallAllaahu alaihi wa sallam], when you threw, but it was Allaah who threw...”** (Al-Anfaal: 17). He sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam took a handful of each of dust and pebbles, and threw it towards the disbeliever’s side, which then went in their eyes. This was the cause of their rout and what repulsed the disbelievers in their wrath (meaning defeated and angered them) and enabled the believers to kill them. Naturally, this is but expected for when dust comes into the eyes and nose of a fighter, he cannot carry out nor see anything; so, when he is blinded and cannot open his eyes to look, the only thing he will do is stay in his place, waiting to be killed or try to escape.

Thus, dear brothers, our Prophet *sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam* was granted this eminence of his enemies being scared from him, as he *sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam* stated: ***“I was granted five things which no other Prophet before me was granted...”***, and he mentioned among them: ***“...I was granted victory from a one month’s traveling distance (i.e., an enemy as far away as a traveling distance of one month would surrender to the Muslims out of fear)”***; in another narration, he *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam* said: ***“I was granted victory due to terror being instilled in the hearts of my adversaries.”*** The enemy laying down their arms because of terror from a traveling distance of one month is an exclusive quality bestowed on only the Prophet *sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam*, yet, some scholars observed that this fear may also be a distinction granted to his *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam* nation after him as well, if they are sincere with their Lord. When fear arises, the disbelievers escape and, as mentioned before, the wind is one way of planting terror in their hearts. *Ibn Katheer*, may Allaah have mercy on him, related, on the subject of the battle between the Muslims and the Persians: *“Sa’d ibn Abu Waqaas, may Allaah be pleased with him, led the Thuhr (noon) prayer in congregation, then addressed the people, admonishing and encouraging them; after that, he recited the saying of Allaah*

وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي الزَّبُورِ مِنْ بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ

Which means: ***‘And We have already written in the book [of Psalms] after the [previous] mention [i.e. the Torah. It may also refer to the original inscription with Allaah, i.e., the Preserved template] that the land [of Paradise] is inherited by My righteous Servants.’*** (Al-Anbiyaa’: 105). He also recited different verses related to Jihaad, and uttered Allaahu Akbar (God is the Greatest) four times, after which, they attacked the enemy. They fought for three consecutive days and each of the two armies was persistent. On the fourth day, they fought fiercely until it was noon, when a strong wind came and pulled up the tents of the Persians and threw the bed of Rustom (the Persian leader), who tried to escape on his mule, but the Muslims caught up with him and killed him along with his assistant in the battle of Al-Qaadisiyyah. In this war, the Muslims took the lives of thirty thousands of them.”

Hence, terror, wind and dust are amongst the soldiers of Allaah which He sends upon the disbelievers whenever and however He pleases, owing to the supplications made by the sincere Muslims, which truly shake the ground from underneath the disbelievers. The Prophet *sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam* told us: ***“You are granted victory and sustained on account of the weak amongst your ranks...”***; why, though? He *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam* goes on to say: ***“...due to their prayers and supplications.”*** Indeed, Allaah responds to the supplications of Muslims. More often than not, Muslims raise their hands in prayer, during trials and disasters which inflict some Muslim countries, like in the period we are living now. How many times did the Muslims invoke Allaah? How many old men and women beseech Allaah, with humbleness? Then, what was the result? Support from Allaah, as He says

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ

Which means: ***“And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me—indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me...”*** (Al-Baqarah: 186). I swear by Allaah, it is definitely on account of the supplications of Muslims.

Slaves of Allaah! We were undergoing a crisis, fear and apprehension, a few days ago, before the Crusaders had attacked. People were concerned as to how violently they will strike, how many Muslims will die consequently, what the outcome will be and who the next on their hit-list will be. All these thoughts are due to fear which has overwhelmed many people's hearts; but do they not perceive the manner in which Allaah has relieved us and responded to the supplications of the Muslims? Yes, I assert that Allaah has mitigated us and we have seen many of His signs. Various remarkable things have come to pass, but do Muslims even deserve that, being in the situation they are now? Definitely not. Do they have a Muslim leader and a pure banner under which they fight? No; in fact, their ranks are diverse, as we see.

The Muslims are weak and they do not have a united banner nor are they all together under one Muslim leader. Their ranks include Muslims, innovators, infidels, apostates and so on; undoubtedly, everybody knows what the beliefs of the *Ba'th* party are, yet, in spite of all this, Allaah has shown us indications of His help, but why? Is it possibly due to having an Islaamic leader? No. Is it because the ranks of the attacked armed forces are upon the pure Islaamic monotheism? No. Then, still, why did Allaah relieve us and there were some unexpected occurrences which even the disbelievers themselves did not expect? It is nothing but due to the supplications of the Muslims and the sincerity of some of them, who fought against the disbelievers; this, along with the support of the oppressed (i.e., as a way of answering their prayers and supporting them). Did the Crusaders not kill women and children? Did they not burn homes along with their residents? Did they not demolish homes whilst there were children in them? Did we not see the horrible photos of the oppressed Muslims? Was the tragedy not great? Was not the wound severe? Did some of these people not have *Sunni* parents upon the Islaamic monotheism, praying against the oppressor? These acts, alongside the supplications of the Muslims, were the reason behind some of the extraordinary things that took place and astonished the world. I swear by Allaah, that it had amazed the world, from the East to the West. There were military analysts all over studying the events as to what happened and how. Do you really think that these winds and the moving dust are normal?

If someone was to come and relate to us the recent story of an old man shooting down the most advanced and well-equipped helicopter in the world, with his old, beat-up rifle, and not only that, but he had captured its crew, then, we would consider that a scenario of a movie on television and not a real-life narrative. However, these are signs which Allaah is showing to us, believers, as samples of victory; it is as though He is telling us: "If you only hold on to My Book and support My religion, I will suffice you for the rest."

O Muslims! These are examples of how Allaah will aid us, so return to Him and defend His religion. This is only some of what Allaah would decree if we obey Him ... Fulfill your obligations and refrain from what Allaah has prohibited, shun sins, seek the help of Allaah and supplicate to Him with humility. Undeniably, it is Him Who can grant you victory and relief you during afflictions. Is it not time that we take lessons and admonitions from what happens?

Second Khutbah:

All perfect praise is due to Allaah; I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Him and Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, upon whom may Allaah send salutations and exalt his mention, as well as that of his family and all his Companions.

During the battle of *Badr*, whilst the Prophet *sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam* was beseeching Allaah, *Jibreel* came to him and instructed him to cast dust towards the disbelievers, which he did, and the dust did not leave a single man but entered in his eyes; and, similarly, this happened during the battle of *Hunayn*. Allaah also supports the Muslims by instilling fear into the hearts of the disbelievers, as was in the case of the Muslims who defeated the Christians during the battle of *Looshah* in 887 A.H., when the Christians had surrounded the Muslims and both sides fought aggressively. The Muslims then received aid from the Muslims of Spain, so when the Christians saw the increase in their number the next morning and recalled how they (nearly) lost against them the night before even without the fresh reinforcements, the Christians were terrified and started to retreat. But, the Muslims came out of their encircled town and fought them very forcefully, which resulted in the downfall of the Christians, who fled and left everything behind, even their food and weapons. Thus, the Muslims acquired all that remained as booty, while the opponents withdrew in humiliation.

History acquaints us with many other stories of wars between Muslims and Christians, in which the opponents were defeated, and how Allaah implanted fear into their hearts, which is a weapon of Allaah to assist Muslims.

How can one explain the killing amongst their (i.e., the Crusaders') ranks due to 'friendly fire', which is recurring? What is the given explanation of a Patriot missile hitting their planes or the collision of two of their own aircrafts? How do they excuse a Challenger tank shooting at its counterpart? How can someone rationalize a Marine's unit attacking another Marine's corps?

Slaves of Allaah! What is the explanation of all these incidents and many others? Do they lack communication skills or equipment? Do they not have symbols by which they are able to distinguish their troops from others? Do they not possess the best of equipments and planning? Is not the only clear answer to all these questions that Allaah has instilled terror in their hearts, to the extent that they are unable to discern friend from enemy!

Slaves of Allaah! It is only fear. In fact, some of the Jews who are with them, testified that terror is widely spread amongst their ranks, as well as lack of experience. Thus, we are now aware that the actuality of the power which they boast about and this great image of themselves that they have set, is nothing more than a Hollywood film, for their reality is totally different. If the Muslims become sincere with Allaah, they will gain multiples of what they have already secured from them, casualties will be much more in their lines and they will have retreated after having been crushed. They claimed that the war is going to be like a picnic and decided on the new government with which they want to replace the old one, because winning was an unquestionable issue in their eyes. Yet, what happened, exposed their continuous lying; for instance, one day, they declare Baghdad was captured and the next day, they deny it, maintaining that they are still in the process, and they turn again, and announce that they are done; these are the type of different lies they keep telling the world. Where is their claim of being precise and objective? These untruths have become

old and short-lived. It is true that the ranks of the Muslims are mixed, but they still consist of people from the *Sunnah* who supplicated. The numbers of the Muslims in mosques attending prayers have increased, particularly for the *Fajr* (dawn) prayer. Have we not heard of some heroic stories of Muslims? Did they not allocate their tasks, whereby women cooked food and men fought and guarded the streets in their trenches?

Allaah says

وَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ

Which means: “... ***But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you ...***” (Al-Baqarah: 216). Sufyaan ibn ‘Uyaynah, may Allaah have mercy on him said: “*What the slave hates is better than what he likes, because what he detests, incites him to pray and what he loves, distracts him from supplicating.*”

We do not know what will happen; we are hearing about bombardment and massive killings in the defenses of Muslims. The Crusaders might actually win and many of them may die during this war. It is possible that Allaah strikes the oppressors against one another; and, indeed, there are many lessons for Muslims to learn.

If we were to ask whether this war has improved the Muslims in terms of their commitment to the religion, the answer would be that it has. Muslims have begun to ask more regarding matters of the faith, their tone has become more Islaamic and many fake, disbelieving banners and slogans which existed, have been dropped. Yes, people have realized that victory only comes about when we become sincere with Allaah.

Dear brothers! These are important and very effective lessons, and the most important thing is that Muslims draw lessons from events when they happen.