

LOCKDOWN RAMADAN



Three months to Ramadan... Two months to Ramadan... The excitement builds, as the blessed month comes closer. The frequent Umrah goers have begun their planning. Spiritual and physical preparations have started. Joy bursts from every corner of the house.

And then suddenly, everything came to an unexpected halt. A lockdown was put in place, flights were cancelled and hopes were shattered.

Every time this all-too familiar event comes to mind, I think of a strikingly similar incident. An incident that took place 1,400 years ago and still ignites a flame of faith in my heart.



I remember the time Muhammad ﷺ and His companions set out for Makkah Mukarramah with their spotless Ihrams, intending to perform Umrah. I think of the Muhaajireen, who could not contain their happiness at the mere thought of returning home. I think of the Ansaar, who were unable to hide their joy at the feeling of being privileged enough to perform Umrah for the first time. I then think of their short-lived happiness, cruelly crushed by the disbelievers when they refused to allow them entry into Makkah Mukarramah.

I imagine the devastation of the Sahaba... How great their anguish must have been, when they were so close to their destination, and yet so far. I imagine their overwhelming grief, as they desperately tried to hold on to a shard of dwindling hope by not taking off their

Ihram. I think of their incomparable sorrow when the pure white cloth fell away from their tearing bodies . I imagine their piercing agony as they shaved their hair and watched each strand slowly flutter to the ground. I envision their heartbreaking journey back to Madinah, how their footsteps spelt a tale of unbearable pain and anguish. I think of Ali رضى الله عنه's incomparable turmoil as he lifted the pen to write the peace treaty. I imagine his hand quivering as he penned down the unjustifiable conditions set by the disbelievers. Can the words of any language adequately describe the grief and heartache experienced by Nabi ﷺ and the Sahaba as they turned their faces away from the Baytullah and set off towards Madinah Munawwarah once more...?

Hot tears course down my cheeks as these scenes play before the eyes of my mind. An Ayah flashes before me at this instance:

لَقَدْ صَدَقَ اللَّهُ رَسُولَهُ الرُّؤْيَا بِالْحَقِّ لَتَدْخُلَنَّ الْمَسْجِدَ الْحَرَامَ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ آمِنِينَ مُحَلِّقِينَ رُءُوسَكُمْ وَمُقَصِّرِينَ لَا تَخَافُونَ فَعَلِمَ مَا لَمْ تَعْلَمُوا فَجَعَلَ مِنْ دُونِ ذَلِكَ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا

“He knew what you did not know and has arranged before that a conquest near [at hand].”

[QURAN 48:27]

Certainly has Allah showed to His Messenger the vision in truth. You will surely enter al-Masjid al-Haram, if Allah wills, in safety, with your heads shaved and [hair] shortened, not fearing [anyone]. He knew what you did not know and has arranged before that a conquest near [at

hand]. [Quran 48:27]

Undoubtedly the Sahaba رضى الله عنهم felt broken beyond repair when they were forced to return to Madinah Munawwarah, but they did not know that Allah ﷻ had a much greater plan for them. A grander victory was written for their tired souls. A wondrous pilgrimage awaited their aching hearts. This was through the blessing of following the command of Nabi ﷺ.

The world today is at a stand-still. As the seasons of Umrah and Hajj arrive, the frequent goers feel their hearts shatter into smithereens and the first-timers see their dreams crash in front of them. At this juncture, I remind them of this Ayah. I say to them, follow the commands of Allah, for He will make a way out of this situation. Our conquest is yet to come. Trust the greater plan of your Rabb...

وَقُلْ جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَزَهَقَ الْبَاطِلُ إِنَّ الْبَاطِلَ كَانَ زَهُوقًا

And say, “Truth has come, and falsehood has departed. Indeed is falsehood, [by nature], was ever bound to depart.” [Quran 17:81]

- *Bint Mohammed*