

Patience

From The Life of Sultan -us-Salateen Al-Malik Al-Nasir Salah Al-Deen Al- Ayubi



You might just be wondering who this man was?

Salah al deen, Kurdish by birth, was the son of Najm al deen Ayyub, a soldier and politician. He also was a poet and Sufi. Salah al deen's uncle took him on many battles and thus from a young age he had learnt political and military skills from both his father and his uncle Asad Al Deen Shirkuh. He most skilfully eradicated the Shiite Fatimids in the year 1171. He was responsible for the conquest of Al Quds (Jerusalem) on the 2nd October 1187 (583) A. H., the battle of Hattin and many more great conquests. Despite his privileged status, an amazing fact was that Salah al deen totally despised wealth.

If you focus on the life of this exemplary Sultan and his amazing character, which to date surpasses the feats of any ruler in today's world, his legendary patience would amaze you.

Al Qadi ibn Shaddad narrates:

"... Then he entered into conversation, although he looked very weary. He had already dismissed all those on duty. Shortly an old Mameluke - (slave) - whom he held in high regard, entered the tent and presented a petition on behalf of some of the volunteers who were engaged in war. He (the sultan) said, 'I am tired, leave it a while.' But the old Mameluke did not obey; he brought the petition close to the sultans face, so that he could read it, and his gaze fell on the name that was written on the top of the list, which he recognised. He said, 'he is a man who deserves a fair hearing'. He (the Mameluke) said, 'then let my master write his approval on the petition'. He (the Sultan) answered, 'there is no inkstand here'. He was sitting at the entrance to the tent, which was a large one. No one could enter but we could see the inkstand inside.

'It is there inside the tent,' said the Mameluke as though requesting his highness to fetch the inkstand himself. The Sultan turned and saw the inkstand, then he said, 'by Allah he is right'. Then he leaned on his left arm, reached out his right hand, brought it closer, and signed the petition for him."

After that, when he was told that he possesses a great moral disposition, he replied, "We did not lose anything; his need has been fulfilled, and reward has been attained."

I leave you to ponder over an ordinary Mameluke talking to the ruler of vast lands the way you would talk to an ordinary person.

Many such occurrences ensued, but less can be written.

Once Shaykh al Khabushani, one of the scholars, asked Salah al Deen to abolish some of the taxes while he was going on a campaign. When he refused to do it there and then, he scolded the sultan and said may your campaign be victory less. He then struck the sultan on the head with a cane, causing his head gear to fall off. Eventually, the campaign was unsuccessful and the sultan returned. Upon returning, he kissed the hand of the scholar and sought his forgiveness. This shows his level of humility in many ways, a few of which are; for someone to be able to hit him, for him to bear being beaten and for him to come and apologise.

Another incident occurred in the plains of Acre, whilst in the pain of a disease that covered his body. The severity of the disease caused him to be unable to sit up. Be that as it may, Salah-al-Deen mounted his horse in the path of Allah, hoping for His mercy, without uttering a single complain. Instead he said, "The pain leaves me when I am on horseback – in the path of Allah - and returns when I dismount." *Subhanallah!* What an amazing personality of a king who showed high levels of patience, forbearance and humility.

A possible question would be, "What exactly is patience?" Indeed it is the ability to tolerate and bear what may have been decreed for you, without complaining or mourning.

Sabr or patience is an amazing quality, but unfortunately it is only few that are blessed with it.

Verily, Allah ﷻ tests a person according to his religious commitment. Not many people understand that whatever happened was decreed, and whatever is decreed cannot be changed.

Ali رضي الله عنه says "A moment of patience in the moment of anger prevents thousands of moments of anger."

If not, Allah ﷻ would have never tested Sayyiduna Wa Habeebuna Muhammad ﷺ, the Prophets or even the pious predecessors. *Sabr* is nothing but the key to success in this world, as well as the hereafter. Thus, making it very important for us to acquire this beautiful quality of *Sabr*.

In conclusion, looking at the importance of *Sabr* and the levels of *Sabr* in the lives of the pious, **we can understand that *Sabr* is very vital and necessary in the life of a believer.** If the people before us could tolerate all the torture, we can, too – they were not superhuman, after all.

Bibliography

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