

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC COLLEGE



It has been reported by Abdul Rahman Bin Auf and Abu Ubaidah that Rasullulah(SAW) said,

“If you hear of a plague in a land, do not go there, if you have a plague in your land, do not leave it.”

(Al Bukhari 3473)

Rasulullah(SAW) said,

“If a person stayed in his locality during a pandemic Sabiran Muhtasiban expecting his recompense from Allah and dies because of the plague he will be a shaheed.”

(Al Bukhari 3474)

A discourse during Dhuhr time
instead of Juma Khutba
on

17th - 24th April 2020

by

Imam Abdul Quddoos Azhari

at

**Australian International Islamic College
Brisbane, Australia**

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the name of Allah The Most Beneficent The Merciful

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the multiverse and all that exists.

Peace and blessing of Allah upon our beloved
Nabi, Muhammed (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasalam)

Dear Respected Brothers and Sisters

Assalamu Alaikum Warahatullahi Wabarakatuhu

People all over the world are changing the way they live.

Life is no longer “normal” due to the current Corona Virus Pandemic.

People are very worried, many people are scared from the overwhelming media assault on our senses. TV, radio, newspapers, social networking, they are all replete with messages and conspiracy theories. Some of the messages we receive are often conflicting, the handling of this pandemic is different in different countries, some are in lockdown, some are not. There are confusing warnings about the symptoms of the virus, there are high temperatures, fevers, dry coughs, lung infections, breathing problems and possible eventual death.

Many people around the world are so terrified by these warnings that we have seen a terrible blame game and racist attacks on different people in different countries. We have seen attacks on Chinese, Africans and Muslims. We have seen accusations and counter accusations.

This is how the world reacting to the pandemic. However, for us, the Muslims, the believers, for us who love our connection with Allah, we are really saddened by the closure of mosques, we are saddened by the loss of our daily congregational prayers, our Jum'a prayer and our Ramadan Taraweah.

I would like to bring to your attention today very briefly about the historical background of pandemics and plagues as told in Al Quran and from the sayings of our Nabi Mohamed (SAW).

Allah, Ta'ala says,

‘Be sure, We shall test you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives and crops; but give glad tidings to the steadfast’. (Al Quran:2:155)

It has been reported by Abdul Rahman Bin Auf and Abu Ubaidah that Rasullulah (SAW) said:

“If you hear of a plague in a land, do not go there, if you have a plague in your land, do not leave it.” (Al Bukhari 3473).

The prophet (SAW) also said:

“If a person stayed in his locality during a pandemic Sabiran (patiently)

Muhtasiban expecting his recompense from Allah and dies because of the plague he will be a shaheed". (Al Bukhari 3474).

"When Allah loves someone (whether an individual or a group of people) He will test them, if they accept the test happily, happiness will be theirs, but if they are angered by it then anger is all that they will get. (Tirimizi)

It is a real and difficult testing time for all of us. The extent of Allah's recompense would always depend on the extent of the test and the reaction of the believers to the test.

There is no question that we are going through tremendously inconvenient and testing challenges. These challenges do allow us to have a lot of time on our hands. We are now spending a lot of time at home with our families and children. We should be using this time meaningfully, we should reflect positively, we should ponder and contemplate what Allah, Ta'ala, has created.

It is true that we have more restrictions placed on us due to the Corona Virus. We must look at the new requirements including self-isolation and social distancing as opportunities to finally read those books that we placed on the shelf waiting for a spare moment. We can now read more of the Holy Qur'an and its meaning, we can read Seerah, Hadith, Sunnah and stories of the Sahabah. There is so much that we wanted to do when we didn't have this blessed free time. Now we have the time and we finally have the opportunity to do the very thing that needs to be done alone. This is our chance to use this time constructively to model our children and our lives on those of the Sahabah and to become like the perfect Mumineed ourselves.

Allah, Ta'ala, describes the perfect Mu`min (Believer) in many verses of the Holy the Quran

❖ Devotees of Allah Ibad ur Rahman (Merciful)

Allah says,

- ***"And He is the One Who made the Night and the Day to follow each other: for such as have the will to celebrate His praises or to show their gratitude. And the devotees of (Allah) Most Gracious are those who walk on the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, "Peace!";***
- ***Those who spend the night in adoration of their Lord (whilst) prostrate and standing;***
- ***Those who say, "Our Lord! Avert from us the torment of Hell, for its torment is indeed an affliction grievous, Bad indeed is it as an abode, and as a place to rest in";***
- ***Those who, when they spend, are not extravagant and not niggardly, but hold a just (balance) between those (extremes);***
- ***Those who invoke not, with Allah, any other god, nor slay such life as Allah has made sacred except for just cause, nor commit fornication; and any that does this will meet punishment and the Penalty on the Day of Judgment will be doubled to him, and he will dwell therein in ignominy, except for the one who repents, believes, and works righteous deeds, for Allah will change the evil of such persons into good, and Allah is Oft-***

Forgiving, Most Merciful, And whoever repents and does good has truly turned to Allah with an (acceptable) conversion;

- ***Those who witness no falsehood, and, if they pass by futility, they pass by it with honourable (avoidance);” (Al Quran 28:62-72)***

❖ **The Perfect Mumin**

Allah, Ta’ala, says about the **Perfect Mumin** – ***“Successful indeed are the believers, Who are humble in their prayers, and who avoid vain talk; and who are active in deeds of charity; and who safeguard their reproductive organs, except with those joined to them in the marriage bond, or with those whom their right hands possess, for (in their case) they are free from blame, but those whose desires exceed those limits are transgressors; those who faithfully observe their trusts and their covenants; And who (properly) observe their prayers; these will be the heirs, who will inherit Paradise; they will dwell therein for ever.” (Al Quran 23:1-11)***

❖ **The Righteous Mumin**

Allah says about **The Righteous Mumin** – ***“It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces towards the east or the west; but it is righteousness to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves (or captives); to be steadfast in prayer and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient in pain (or suffering) and adversity and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the people of Taqwa.” (Al Quran 2:177)***

❖ **People of intelligence and deep understanding - Ulul albab.**

Allah says about the **people of intelligence and deep understanding - Ulul albab.** – ***“Behold! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, there are indeed Signs for those with understanding. Those who celebrate the praises of Allah, standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and contemplate the (wonders of) creation in the heavens and the earth, (With the thought):’ “Our Lord! Not for naught Hast Thou created (all) this! Glory to Thee! Give us salvation from the penalty of the Fire.” (Al Quran 3:190, 191)***

These are the perfect descriptions of the intelligent, effective and faithful Ibad ur Rahman – the true devotees of Allah, perfect Mumineen, perfect righteous people whom Allah mentions in the Holy Quran.

Let us to work hard during this time of difficulty to inherit and imprint in our hearts and minds the quality of the perfect Mumineen.

If you see the history of the Anbiyah and our beloved Rasul (SAW) during difficult times they always turned to Allah (SWT) and Allah helped them.

The Knife Could Not Cut Ismael (A.S).

“So, we gave him the good news of a boy ready to suffer and forbear. Then, when (the son) reached (the age of serious) work with him, he said; “O my son! I see in a vision that I offer thee in sacrifice: Now see what is thy view!” (The son) said: “O my father! Do as thou art commanded: thou wilt find me, if Allah so wills, one practising Patience and Constancy! So, when they had both submitted their wills (to Allah), and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (for sacrifice). And We called to him: “O Ibrahim, you have fulfilled the vision,” indeed, we thus reward the doers of good. Indeed, this was the clear trial. Then We ransomed him with a great sacrifice.” (Al Quran 37:101-107)

The Fire Could Not Burn Ibrahim (A.S)

“Fie upon you, and upon the things that ye worship besides Allah! Have ye no sense?” They said, “Burn him and succour your gods, if ye do (anything at all)!” We said, “O Fire! Be cool and safe for Ibrahim!” (Al Quran 21:67-69)

The Ocean Could Not Drown Musa (A.S)

Musa (A.S) and his people could not be drowned in the sea. ***“We took the Children of Israel across the sea: Pharaoh and his hosts followed them in insolence and spite; until he (Pharaoh) was overwhelmed with water and was about to be drowned, he (Pharaoh) said: “I believe that there is no god except Him in Whom the Children of Israel believe and I am of those who submit (to Allah in Islam).” (Al Quran 10:90)***

The Whale Could Not Eat Yunus (A.S)

Yunus Zun-nun (A.S) The whale could not eat him. ***“And remember Zun-nun, when he departed in wrath: He imagined that We would not constrain him! Then he cried through the depths of darkness, “There is no god but thou: glory to thee: I was indeed of those who wronged (themselves)!” (Al Quran 21:87)***

Allah, Ta'ala, always protected his beloved Anbiya (prophets) and Ahl Al Iman (the people of faith). From here you can see that Allah's help came and safeguarded the Anbiya and Mumineen.

Nabi Mohamed (SAW) and Abu Bakr Sadique (R.A)

Our beloved Nabi (SAW) was in a cave with Abdu Bakr Siddique (R.A), they were surrounded by the enemies of Islam who wanted to catch and kill him. Abu Bakr Siddique (R.A) felt very worried and uneasy. Allah said, ***“If you do not give him (the prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him) succour, (it is no matter) for Allah did indeed give him succour, when the unbelievers drove him out: he had no more than one companion; they two were in the cave, and he said to his companion, “Have no fear, for Allah is with us:” then Allah sent down His peace upon him, and strengthened him with forces which ye saw not, and humbled to the depths the word of the Unbelievers. But the word of Allah is exalted to the heights: for Allah is Exalted in might, Wise.” (Al Quran 9:40)***

Musa and his father in law Shuaib

When Musa (A.S) had fled Egypt and met his future father in law Shuaib (A.S), Allah, Ta'ala, said: ***“So he watered (their flocks) for them; then he turned back to the shade, and said: “O my Lord! Truly am I in (desperate) need of any good that***

Thou dost send me!” Afterwards one of the (damsels) came (back) to him, walking bashfully. She said: “My father invites thee that he may reward thee for having watered (our flocks) for us. “So when he came to him and narrated the story, he said: “Fear thou not: (well) you have become safe from the unjust people.” (Al Quran 28:24-25)

Mariam (A.S) underneath the date palm tree

Mariam (A.S), in pain from childbirth, alone, wondering about the future. Allah, Ta'ala, said:

“So, she conceived him (Christ), and she retired with him to a remote place. And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm-tree: She cried (in her anguish): “Ah! Would that I had died before this! Would that I had been a thing forgotten and out of sight!” But (a voice) cried to her from beneath the (palm-tree): “Grieve not! For thy Lord hath provided a rivulet beneath thee; and shake the trunk of the tree, it will drop upon you fresh ripe dates.” (Al Quran 19:22-24)

Pandemics and Epidemics that have occurred throughout history

.....
Let me very briefly relate to you some of the pandemics that have happened throughout history.

It was in the early days of the Hijra calendar, around 20th year after Hijra (AH) during the caliphate of Umar Farook (R.A) in Madina.

- Abu Ubaidah was the governor of Sham in Damascus. Umar asked Abu Ubaidah to come to Medina. At that time Damascus was facing a plague, thousands of people were dying. Abu Ubaidah did not go to Medina because of the hadeeth that says not to leave a place where there is an epidemic. He stayed in Damascus and died due to the plague. Had he left to another place; this would have created unwarranted risk to any person who would come into contact with him.
- Umar Farook (R.A) sent Muadh ibn Jabal to govern Damascus. When he arrived in Damascus he also became infected by the plague and died.
- Then Umar sent Amr ibn al As, who arrived in Damascus as the governor. he was the one to introduce the method of isolation. He announced: “Oh people, plague is like fire it will spread unless you keep away from it and distance yourself.” The people practised this isolation policy and very soon the plague was gone.

218 AH, Egypt:

- A large number of people died due to a plague. It was reported that most of the politicians, governors and ministers died.

228 AH, Azerbaijan:

- Millions of people died from a plague. It is reported that they did not have enough material to make shrouds to cover the dead bodies because the numbers were so many.

406 AH, Basra:

- A plague hit so badly that there were dead bodies in the streets for weeks and weeks. There was insufficient space in the graveyard to bury all the dead. If a whole family died, they would close off the house and leave the bodies until after the plague had passed.

448 AH, Egypt and Andalus, Spain:

- Imam al Zahabi mentions in Siyar Al A'lam Al Nubala, that a plague hit so badly that all the mosques remained closed without anybody praying in them.

749 AH, Messina, Sicily:

- the Bubonic plague arrived by way of the cargo on the ships. Al Maqrizi writes in his book 'Al-Sulouk' Azan was stopped, the monasteries and mosques were all closed for many months.

833 AH:

- Ibn Hajr Asqlani, the famous Muhadith, survived through 5 major epidemics during which he lost two of his three daughters. He researched the epidemics and wrote a 400-page book on the classification of plagues named 'Badl al_Ma'un fi Fawaid al-Ta'un'. In this book, he quotes a hadith. *"Plague was a punishment which Allah used to send on whom He wished, but Allah made it a blessing for the believers."*

980 AH:

- The famous, Muslim scholar Ibn Sina, "The Father of Early Modern Medicine" the genius physician, discovered some unusual viruses and diseases. He suspected diseases spread by microorganisms; to prevent contamination, he came up with the method of isolating people for 40 days. He called this method of treatment Arba'iniya ("the forty"). Ibn Sina went even further to say that microbial diseases could be contagious and that those who are infected should be quarantined. Traders from Venice heard about this successful method and took this knowledge back to contemporary Italy. They translated Ibn Sina's method of Quarantine into Italian, so the Arba'iniya ("the forty") became "Quarantina".

Very briefly I would like to bring to your attention some of the most recent plagues and viruses:

The plague of Athens, Greece.

- Killed an estimated 75,000 – 100,000 people. This plague (circa 430 BC) was believed to have entered Athens by the port through food and supplies.

The Spanish Influenza

- Killed between 17,000,000 and 50,000,000 people from January 1918 to December 1920. It was the deadliest pandemic in human history. It spread during World War I throughout the world.

The German measles

- Was first recognised in 1814 but became a predominant epidemic in the 1960s. In 1964 it affected approximately 1% of pregnancies.

The SARS Virus

- More recently in 2003, the SARS coronavirus killed almost 800 people as it spread worldwide.

The Ebola outbreak

- In West Africa from 2014 - 2016. This was the largest epidemic in West African history. The number of deaths was 11,325.

The Corona Virus (Covid 19)

- Now the most recent Corona virus pandemic is Covid 19. This virus was at first spread from animals to humans. The death rate to date is 200,000 people with a total of more than 2 million people infected worldwide.

My Dear Brothers, in times like this, we need to devote ourselves to the study of the Quran and Hadeeth and to becoming better Muslims and to contemplate the glory of Allah (SWT) the wonders in what He created. We need to imprint in our hearts the attributes of the righteous Mumineen that I have mentioned. The perfect Ibad ul Rahman.

I ask Allah to give us the Taufeeq to understand Islam and to have sabr (patience) to go through this difficult time and to protect humanity.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, it is times like this that Nabi Mohammed (SAW) taught us to say the following duas:

"Allahuma inni a'uzu bika minal jununi wal judhaami wal barsi wa sayi'il asqam."

"O Allah, I seek refuge in you against insanity, viruses, leprosy, and major illness."

"Allahuma inna nas'aluka al'afwa wal 'afiyata waqina al waba'a wal bala'a"

"O Allah, we seek your pardon and healing, and protect us from all calamities and afflictions."

"Wallahu khairun hafizan wahuwa arahamur rahimeen."

"Allah is the best protector. And he is the most merciful of all the merciful."

Bismillahillazi la yadurru ma'a Ismihi shay'un fil Arddi wala fil sama'i wahuwal Sami'ul 'Aleem."

"In the name of Allah with whose name nothing can bring harm on the earth or in the heaven and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing."

**Allah (SWT) says in Al Quran, "Nothing will happen to us except what Allah has decreed for us: He is our protector, and on Allah let the Believers put their trust."
(Al Quran 9:51)**

As Ramadan will be commencing from tonight I would like to wish you all a very happy Ramadan Mubarak



Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu