

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا لَقِيْتُمْ فِئَةً فَاثْبُتُوا وَاذْكُرُوا اللّٰهَ كَثِيْرًا

لَعَلَّكُمْ تَفْلِحُوْنَ ﴿٤٥﴾

*Al-Anfal (The Spoils of War) 8:45*

### **O You Who Believe!**

- When you meet a force.
- Be firm.
- And call Allah in remembrance much (and often).
- That you may prosper.

## **Commentary**

Allamah Taba Tabai (AR)

This is about the war booty and the khums on it. We relate the story of those through whom God has humiliated the enemies of Islam with the help of deception. In the way the Sunnah of the liars was established between the people of the Pharaoh. The verses and signs of God are an obstacle for them.

God says, “ O you who believe. When you meet [an enemy] force, be steadfast against them and remember God continuously [both with the tongue and the mind] so that you may be successful.”

O believers, be steadfast when you a meet a group [of your enemies], remember God continuously and you may be the ones with a good hereafter.

Raghib says that this steadfastness is in the sense of “ deserting the battle field” and in another sense it means forbearing for God has said, “ God is with those who forbear [when they face adversity].

In such cases man should not be shy of his duties nor be lethargic in fulfilling them. He should not be hasty in doing things that need no haste. Steadfastness in the best sense is forbearance. The word “Riah” means strength but it also means respect and wealth.

Raghib says that this word in this verse means “ the power to overcome’. It is always active as a wind uprooting trees and overcoming the enemy. So here the verse tells the Mumin not to lose his strength but to overcome the enemy like a strong wind.

Raghib says that the word “Batar” here is boastfulness that decreases the recognition of the truth and spends its strength elsewhere. God has connected this “Batar” with mankind in the sense that it hinders them from admitting the truth and this takes them closer to Tarab {waywardness} that prevents mankind from the real truth in the end.

“ Waraih” here means pomposity.

God says to be firm against the enemy and the opposite is desertion.

God says,” And remember your God “ both in your hearts and orally. It is also true that the inner intentions of man may be different from what he professes orally. He should therefore call out to God in the same way that a poor man calls out to Him to help him in his predicament, or a patient calls out to him to be cured.

And those who come out to fight the enemy meet them and prepare themselves to fight. This just destroys their self and it is nothing but bloodshed. It portrays the weakness of the body and the mind.

The thing that puts the fear into them changes their thoughts and takes their determination towards success in the fight that he participates. Overcoming the enemy means to scare them and this idea emanates the remembrance of God and is compatible with his trend of thoughts.

To remember God is to remember the graces bestowed upon him for they manifest His glory. Indeed He is their God, their sustainer and life and death are in His control. He is the one who has they power to help him. He is the friend and the protector. Man has promised to help him for god has said; “ If you help God then God will help you and keep you steadfast. God does not waste the efforts of those who do well.” In case of ware, He says “ overcome the enemy, raise the flag of Islam and create a conducive atmosphere for the spread of Islam.”

The other side of this philosophy is to merge oneself in His grace by sacrificing one’s life in His path and thereby join His chosen ones. Does it not contain those meanings that takes man truly towards the truth and glory?

Continuous remembrance rejuvenates the effort to attain piety. This keeps man from destroying his self [his soul] with the love of this treacherous world and its ornate evil and from following the Satan.

Mir Ahmed Ali (AR) and Aqa Mahdi Puya (AR)

These verses describe the virtues the believers must cultivate and own. If they disobey Allah and His prophet there will be humiliation and failure.

Ayatullah Sayyid Kamal Faqih Imani and a Group of Muslim Scholars

Now that Allah (SWT) has commanded the Muslims to be steadfast in the battlefield, He says:

*“ O you who have Faith! when you encounter a host (in battle ) , then stand firm,...”*

That is, whenever you face with a group of infidels in war, stand firm for fighting against them, and do not escape. And, it is evident that believers generally do not fight save against hostile infidels.

Then the holy verse implies that, at the time of war, Muslims should seek help from Allah, the Mighty, so that not only they become victorious and successful in the present world, but also they become prosperous in the coming world. The verse continues saying:

*“...and remember Allah much, that you may be prosperous.”*

Some commentators say that this part of the verse means that you should remember the promises of Allah, which He has given you about triumph, in order that your steadfastness might be increased.