

Sūrat al-Baqarah Verse 250

وَلَمَّا بَرَزُوا لِجَالُوتَ وَجُنُودِهِ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ
الْكَافِرِينَ

2:250 - And when they went out against Jalut and his forces they said: Our Lord, pour down upon us patience, and make our steps firm and assist us against the unbelieving people.

Questions for Reflection

- 1) What three things do the people pray for?
- 2) Why do they ask for a 'pouring' of patience?
- 3) What does making steps firm include? (not running away, not being scared, moving forward. connect with the following prayer of the Prophet (s) - يَا مُقَلِّبَ الْقُلُوبِ ثَبِّتْ قَلْبِي عَلَى دِينِكَ - O Turner of the hearts, make my heart firm on Your religion)

Commentary

Now the two armies came face to face with each other. The small group with Talut that had trust in Allah to help them against their enemies gets ready to fight Jalut and his army. The word 'barazu' means to appear and to be ready. Here it refers to the moment when Jalut and his army appeared in the battlefield. Their strength was evident. Instead of panicking, Talut's army turned to Allah, as believers do when they face apparent difficulties and tests.

Note how supplication and action go together. They were ready to fight but also prayed for help.

The people prayed for three things;

- 1) They ask for patience to the utmost degree, a complete pouring the way water is poured out from a bowl. Nothings remains in the bowl. Note the following four points that reveal the depth of this first supplication:
 - a) Starting with Rabbana – our Lord, one who nurtures, sustains, looks after, cares for. Many supplications in the Quran start with that word.
 - b) Afrigh – pour out on us, rather than grant us.
 - c) Alayna – on or over us. Coming from above.
 - d) Sabran – with a tanwin, showing indefinite. That is used for emphasis.
 They ask for patience because that is a necessary prerequisite for success.
- 2) They ask that their feet be steady. The first supplication had to with the inner aspect of the human being while this supplication is regarding the outer aspect. They want to be physically firm and steadfast, a fruit of the patience given to them.
- 3) They ask for victory against their enemies. That is the main goal of their actions and is the desired result of patience and steadfastness in the face of the enemy.

The supplications show their faith and the sincerity of their intention. They were fighting a people who disbelieved in Allah. It was not just personal motivation. They had been singled out by the enemies for their faith in Allah and His prophets.

Some Lessons

- 1) When facing challenges in life believers always turn to Allah and seek help.
- 2) Supplication is the key to success when it is accompanied by efforts and determination.
- 3) Stability of heart and body come from Allah. It is a form of tranquility that is the fruit of faith.

Connecting verses

- 1) Similar supplication of believers: 3:146-147. Discuss the qualities of these people described in verse 146.
- 2) Equipping the self to face threats: 2:286

Connecting Topics

- 1) Importance of turning to Allah and supplicating
<http://www.shiavault.com/books/the-role-of-the-ahl-al-bayt-in-building-the-virtuous-community-book-eight-the-system-of-devotional-acts-of-the-virtuous-/chapters/13-supplication>
- 2) Rabbana Supplications in the Quran
<https://quranwbw.com/duas>
- 2) Being firm and stable in the face of difficulty
<http://www.shiavault.com/books/secrets-of-success/chapters/12-firm-determination>