

*Uddat al-Sabirin
wa
Dhakhirat al-Shakirin*

By Ibn al-Qayyim

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The Muslim College, London



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In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Beneficent

Praise be to Allah, the Most Patient, the Most Appreciative, the Most High, the Great, the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing, the All-knowing, the Most Powerful. His power is infinite and His Will, regarding His creatures, affects all their affairs. His call for the appointed day reaches the people in their graves. He has decreed the fate of the people and their life span, and He records all their actions and deeds. He apportions their livelihoods and their wealth. He created life and death for all so that He may see which of them is best in conduct. He is the Mighty, the All-Forgiving, the Overpowering, and the Most Powerful. All difficulties are easy for Him. He is the Protector, the Helper, and He is an excellent protector and an excellent helper. Everything, in the heavens and on the earth glorifies Him. To Him belongs all sovereignty and all praise, and He has power over everything.

"It is He who created you, some of you are unbelievers and some of you are believers. Allah sees that which you do. He created the heavens and the earth with truth, and shaped you, and made your shape beautiful. To Him is return.... He knows what you conceal and what you reveal. He is, surely, aware of what is in the hearts. (65/2-5)

I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah. He is the Alone, the only deity, and He is above having anything similar or equal to him, and He is free from having a partner or a helper. He is never inactive, as the heretics claim, and is beyond being similar to the creation; there is nothing like Him. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.

I also bear witness that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger; the best from His creation and the chosen one from among the created beings. He is Allah's trustee concerning the revelation and His envoy to His slaves. He is the most knowledgeable of all the people concerning Allah; he is the most fearful of Allah, the most sincere to his community, the most steadfast concerning Allah's commands, and the most grateful for Allah's bounties. He has the closest access to Him, is the highest in rank with Him, the greatest in honour and having the greatest means of intercession with Him.

Allah, the Almighty sent him as a caller to Paradise, an inviter to faith, working earnestly to achieve His pleasure, commanding what is good and prohibiting what is evil. He conveyed the message of His Lord, proclaimed what he was commanded, and suffered for the sake of Allah such hardships that no other human being ever will. He remained steadfast and grateful to Allah until he attained His appreciation. He remained firm in his endurance in such a lofty manner that no other can ever attain; he advanced in the rank of gratefulness, reaching a position higher than all other grateful people do. The result of this is that Allah, His angels, His Messengers and all believers offer their praises of him, so that he alone has been singled out to be granted the banner of praise. Adam and all other Messengers and Prophets will be under this banner. Allah shows His praise in the opening of His Book which He revealed to him, and He made it the beginning of the Torah and the Gospel, as reported in the *Hadeeth*. He made His praise the last words to be spoken by the people who were guided by Him to deserve His reward. The Almighty called his community 'the ones who praise the most' (*al-hammadun*) even before they came into existence because they engaged in His praise in prosperity and adversity, and in ease and hardship. He enabled his followers to enter the abode of reward, to enjoy recompense ahead of all other people. The closest person to his banner is the one who praises Allah and remembers Him much. The highest in rank is the one who exercises patience and often expresses thanks. May Allah, His angels, His Prophets and Messengers and all believers send their blessings and salutations upon him as he declared the oneness of Allah, taught it and called the people to it.

Allah, the Exalted made the quality of endurance similar to a horse that does not stumble, like a sword that does not fail, like a victorious fighter who is never defeated and like a fortified castle that defies destruction and damage. Endurance and triumph are, therefore, like brothers that do not part from one another.

"We are suckled by the breast of the same mother sharing among us on a dark night. We will never be separated."

Triumph is joined with endurance, relief with distress and ease with hardship. Endurance, unaided by equipment and an army of soldiers, is more helpful to the one who exercises it. It is as close to triumph as the head is to the body. Allah the Trustworthy and the Truthful, promises in His clear statement, which is found in the Book, that He will reward those who persevere patiently without measure. He has declared that He is with them with His guidance, dominant help, and a clear victory. He says (what means):

"Be patient and persevere, for Allah is with those who patiently persevere." (8/46)

Those who persevere with His divine company achieve the best in this world and in the Hereafter, and they gain the seen and unseen bounties of the Almighty.

The Almighty imbues leadership of the religion with endurance and firm belief. He says (what means):

"When they became steadfast and believed firmly in our message, We raised leaders among them guiding them according to Our command." (32/24)

He declares in an emphatic way that endurance is best for those who exercise it. He says (what means):

"If you persevere in endurance, this is surely best for those who persevere in endurance." (16/126)

Allah also announces that perseverance in endurance, together with consciousness of Allah, foils the stratagem of an enemy even if he has greater power. He says (what means):

"If you remain steadfast and are conscious of Allah their schemes will not harm you in the least. Allah is encompassing what they do." (3/120)

He relates to us about His truthful Prophet Yoosuf (peace be upon

