

Winter and its Blessings

by Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzan

A member of the Committee of Major Scholars, Saudi Arabia

We praise Allah the Exalted, the Most High, we send blessings and salutations upon Muhammad peace be upon him, his household and all of his companions.

Allah the Exalted, the Most High says:

﴿It is Allah Who alternates the Night and the Day: verily in these things is a lesson for those who have vision.﴾

Allah the Exalted, the Most High has made the alteration of night and day, seasons, and months, winters and summers as signs of His glory and exaltation through which the men of understanding and the believers infer His glory.

Likewise, the believers and men of understanding infer that Allah the Exalted, the Most High is able to change the conditions. They also use these signs as proof of remembrance and learning lessons from this cosmic alteration; in order that they change what is within their own souls and turn towards Allah in repentance.

Allah makes the summer hot and the winter cold so that servants of Allah learn lessons and receive admonition from the fierce heat or excessive cold then they turn towards Allah the Exalted, the Most High. This is just an example of the heat and cold that will be experienced in the hereafter so turn to Allah in repentance.

Moreover, the mildness of autumn and spring reminds us of the mildness, comfort, pleasure and delight of heaven. What happens in this life doesn't happen vainly. Instead, it's due to a great Divine Wisdom. Therefore, the faithful Muslim becomes aware while the disbeliever and hypocrite doesn't benefit from or avail from these lessons; as they don't believe in, or fear Allah the Exalted, the Most High. That is why you heard the Exalted, the Most High saying:



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ﷻ Therefore give admonition in case the admonition profits (the hearer). The admonition will be received by those who fear (Allah): But it will be avoided by those most unfortunate ones. Who will enter the Great Fire. In which they will then neither die nor live. ﷻ

Whoever does not learn lessons from these events, matters and changes, will eventually remember on the Day of Judgement when the admonition does not benefit him. Whereas the believers will take heed of this admonition in the life of this world while it is useful, so that they return towards Allah, the Exalted, the Most High.

In fact, heat, cold and other alterations is an admonition and benefit to them. Although, they may be arduous or a little harmful to the believers, their benefit is greater. Because of that, believers learn lessons and know their weaknesses and dependancy of Allah the Exalted, the Most High. You have gone through days of excessive cold and seen what has happened; this is not in vain but it is an admonition to you to hold yourselves accountable and return towards Allah the Exalted, the Most High, in Whose Hands are all affairs.

You have gone through such days of excessive cold and ice that harms trees and palms, then Allah the Exalted, the Most High turns these days into warmness and comfort. This is a sign of His Power, as He makes the universe cold and frosted; and then He makes it warm and comfortable.

ﷻ It is Allah Who alternates the Night and the Day: verily in these things is a lesson for those who have vision. ﷻ



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As you know, excessive cold, drought and death of trees, palms, plants, grasses and pastures are Allah`s Signs, in which He gives admonition to His servants.

﴿ **He is the One that sends down rain (even) after (men) have given up all hope, and scatters His Mercy (far and wide). And He is the Protector, Worthy of all Praise.** ﴾

﴿ **Do you not see the water which you drink? Do you bring it down (in rain) from the cloud or do We? Were it Our Will, We could make it salt (and unpalatable)...** ﴾

That is, it is so salty that it can`t be drunk. This is an admonition from Allah the Exalted, the Most High to His servants. Drought and what occurs as a result as well as high prices are all admonitions to the servants of Allah; to learn lessons and return towards their Lord the Exalted, the Most High, and this is the Mercy of Allah.

﴿ **If Allah were to enlarge the provision for His Servants, they would indeed transgress beyond all bounds through the earth; but He sends (it) down in due measure as He pleases. For He is with His Servants Well-acquainted, Watchful.** ﴾

Allah enlarges and withholds; enriches and impoverishes; and heals and causes illnesses. This is for the interests of believers so that they learn lessons, repent to their Lord, call on Allah with humility. Thus, this is a benefit for them. No one benefits from this but the believers.

﴿ **The admonition will be received by he who fears (Allah)** ﴾



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While the objector, hypocrite, disbeliever and he who joins gods with Allah will be treated differently by Allah the Exalted, the Most High.

﴿ **But it will be avoided by those most unfortunate ones** ﴾

Those most unfortunate ones do not learn lessons. There is hadith which states:

«A believer sees his sins as a mountain, fearing that it may fall on him, while a hypocrite sees his sins as flies that land on his nose then fly away.»

A hypocrite is like a camel that is tied by its owner then untied, but it does not know why its owner tied it, nor why he untied it because he has no faith, and there is no power nor strength except in Allah. We, as Muslims should all return and repent to Allah, and hold ourselves accountable. We should start with ourselves, our children and the people of our houses and implement the Islamic Shariah by performing the religious obligations and avoiding sins.

People nowadays are overwhelmed by great darkness of what is called civilisation, which is an evil that has made them negligent of the remembrance of Allah, lazy to obey Him, tricked by it to the point they breach the orders of Allah, except those whom Allah has given His Mercy.

Tawbah (repentance) has signs. Repentance is not merely the utterance of words spoken on the tongue. Repentance is a change. A change within yourself, within the people of your house, a change from disobedience to obedience, a change from evil to good. Otherwise, it is merely lip service and this does not benefit the individual.

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Those who turn to Allah with sincere repentance change their bad habits for good ones.

﴿Because Allah will never change the blessing which He has bestowed on a people until they change what is in their (own) souls: and verily Allah is He Who Hears and Knows (all things).﴾

﴿Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in their hearts.﴾

It is related to us. If we change from evil to good and from disobedience to obedience, Allah will change the misfortune, adversity, drought and high prices to ease and goodness; because rewards depend on the kind of deed. Otherwise, we will remain unchanged. There is no power nor strength except with Allah. May Allah grant us all sincere repentance, help us to turn to Him and reform ourselves, our children, our actions and conditions for indeed He is always near, ready to answer. We send blessings and salutations upon Muhammad peace be upon him, his household and all his companions.

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