

These things will inevitably happen, because the All-Knowing, All-Aware has told us of it, and it happened as He foretold. When it happens, people respond in one of two ways, either impatience or patience. The one who is impatient suffers two calamities: the loss of what he loves, which is the calamity that he has been stricken with, and loss of something greater than that, which is the reward for obeying Allah's command to be patient. Thus he incurs loss and deprivation of reward and whatever he has of faith decreases. He misses out on patience, acceptance and gratitude, and he becomes resentful, which is indicative of a lack of faith.

As for the one whom Allah enables to be patient when calamities occur, he controls himself and stops himself developing any resentment that could be reflected in his words or deeds. He seeks reward for it from Allah, and he knows that the reward he will attain for his patience is greater than the calamity that has befallen him. In his case, the calamity turns into a blessing, because it becomes a means of attaining something better and more beneficial for him than what he lost. So he obeys the command of Allah and earns reward. Hence Allah (ﷻ) says: ﴿but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere﴾ that is, give them the glad tidings that they will be rewarded without measure.

Those who are patient are those who attain these great glad tidings and immense gifts. Then Allah describes them thus: ﴿who say, when afflicted with calamity﴾ – calamity is anything that causes mental anguish or physical harm, or both, such as the things mentioned above. ﴿To Allah we belong﴾ that is, Allah owns us and we are under His control; we have no control over our own selves and property at all. If we are tested with regard to some of it, then the Most Merciful has decreed something concerning His slaves and their property as He wills, so there should be no objection to Him. Rather it is part of being a true slave of Allah (‘*uboodiyah*) to realise that the calamity has been decreed by the Sovereign, the Most Wise, Who is more merciful to him than he is to himself. This gives him a sense of contentment and