

that they had no power or strength of their own. It also increased them in patience, because they were few and their enemies were numerous. Hence Allah (ﷻ) says:

«When they crossed the river, he» that is Ṭâloot «and those who believed with him», namely the ones who had obeyed the command of Allah and had not drunk from the river, which was forbidden, they realised how few they were and how numerous their enemies were. They said – that is, many of them said – «We do not have the strength to face Jâloot and his troops today» because they are so numerous and so well equipped.

«But those who were certain that they would meet Allah», who were people of steadfast faith and deep certainty; they sought to reassure the rest of them, calm them down and instruct them to be steadfast.

«How often has a small group overcome a mighty host by Allah's leave» that is, by His will, for all matters rest with Him. The one who has real honour is the one who is honoured by Allah, and the one who is really humiliated is the one who is humiliated by Allah; hence large numbers are to no avail if He forsakes you, and small numbers do not matter if He helps you.

«And Allah is with those who are steadfast» by giving them support and help. The best means of attaining the help of Allah is being patient and steadfast for the sake of Allah. This exhortation had a great impact on their hearts, hence when Jâloot and his troops came out to fight, «they said», all of them: «Our Lord, bestow on us steadfastness» that is, strengthen our hearts, bestow patience on us and make us steadfast, so that we will not be shaken or flee; «and grant us victory over the disbelieving people». Hence we know that Jâloot and his troops were disbelievers. Allah answered their supplication, because they fulfilled the conditions of receiving a response, and He granted victory to them.

«Thus they defeated them by Allah's leave; and Dâwood» (ﷺ), who was with the troops of Ṭâloot, «slew Jâloot». He killed the king of