

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، أَنْزَلَ الْقُرْآنَ هُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ، أَحْمَدُهُ  
سُبْحَانَهُ وَأَشْكُرُهُ، وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ وَأَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ  
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ،  
الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالدُّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَالصِّرَاطِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ  
وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. He sent down the Qur'an as a guidance and mercy to the believers. I thank the Almighty, repent to Him and ask Him for forgiveness. I bear witness that there is no deity but Him, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, to whom Qur'an was revealed and asked to lead to the right path. May the peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him, his pure family, his companions and all those who will follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

**Similitudes in Qur'an:** Donkey, Stone, Grain, Wind, Water, Garden, Olive Oil, Figs, Light, Tree, Satan, Dog – (Language Evokes Imagery - Association)

" إِنَّ مِنَ الشَّجَرِ شَجْرَةً لَا يَسْقُطُ وَرْفُهَا وَإِنَّهَا مِثْلُ الْمُسْلِمِ فَحَدَّثُونِي مَا هِيَ فَوَقَعَ النَّاسُ فِي شَجَرِ الْبَوَادِي . قَالَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَوَقَعَ فِي نَفْسِي أَنَّهَا النَّخْلَةُ فَاسْتَحْيَيْتُ ثُمَّ قَالُوا حَدِّثْنَا مَا هِيَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ " هِيَ النَّخْلَةُ . قَالَ فَذَكَرْتُ ذَلِكَ لِعُمَرَ قَالَ لِأَنَّ تَكُونُ قُلْتَ هِيَ النَّخْلَةُ أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِنْ كَذَا وَكَذَا . "

“There is a tree amongst trees, the leaves of which do not wither and that is like a Muslim; tell me which that (tree) can be? The people began to think of the trees of the forest. Abdullah ibn Umar رضي الله عنه said: I thought that it could be the date-palm tree, but I felt hesitant (to say that). They (the Companions) then said: Allah's Messenger, (kindly) tell us which that can be? Thereupon he said: It is the date-palm tree.” (Muslim)

- Interactive means to teach, stimulate intellect-opportunity to exercise knowledge
- **The date-palm tree is extremely strong and steadfast in the face of strong winds and hurricanes – it will bend but not break**

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُشْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكَاذِبِينَ

“Do the people think that they will be left to say, "We believe" and they will not be tried? But We have certainly tried those before them, and Allah will surely make evident those who are truthful, and He will surely make evident the liars.” (29:2-3)

- The troubling times now and ahead for the Muslims should not scare or weaken us, as it is a golden opportunity to unite together to prove our faith to Allah

## The Believer and the Palm Tree

مُصْعَبِ بْنِ سَعْدٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، قَالَ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَيُّ النَّاسِ أَشَدُّ بَلَاءً قَالَ " الْأَنْبِيَاءُ ثُمَّ الْأَمْثَلُ فالأَمْثَلُ فَيَبْتَلَى الرَّجُلُ عَلَى حَسَبِ دِينِهِ فَإِنْ كَانَ دِينُهُ صُلْبًا اشْتَدَّ بَلَاؤُهُ وَإِنْ كَانَ فِي دِينِهِ رِقَّةٌ ابْتُلِيَ عَلَى حَسَبِ دِينِهِ فَمَا يَبْرَحُ الْبَلَاءُ بِالْعَبْدِ حَتَّى يَتْرَكَهُ يَمْشِي عَلَى الْأَرْضِ مَا عَلَيْهِ خَطِيئَةٌ "

“Which of the people is tried most severely?” He said: “The Prophets, then those nearest to them, then those nearest to them. A man is tried according to his religion; if he is firm in his religion, then his trials are more severe, and if he is frail in his religion, then he is tried according to the strength of his religion. The servant shall continue to be tried until he is left walking upon the earth without any sins.” (Tirmidhi)

- **The palm tree can withstand great abuse – flourishes in the desert**
- **The palm tree is beneficial to all whether the tree is alive or dead**
- **The roots go deep below the burning sands to find moisture**

The Prophet ﷺ said: “The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people and the most beloved deed to Allah is to make another believer happy or to relieve him from distress or to pay back a loan on his behalf or to remove his hunger. Indeed, for me to walk with a brother and see to his needs is more beloved to me than to perform the spiritual seclusion in this mosque for an entire month...” (Al-Mu’jam al-Kabir - Tabrani)

## The Believer and the Palm Tree

- The believer is also beneficial like the palm tree to others after his death; the Prophet ﷺ said:

إِذَا مَاتَ الْإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَمَلُهُ إِلَّا مِنْ ثَلَاثَةٍ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ وَعِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ وَوَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ "

“When a man dies all his good deeds come to an end except three: On-going charity, beneficial knowledge and a righteous son who prays for him.”(Muslim)

- **The palm tree is pleasing to look at and produces succulent dates; the older the palm tree the sweeter its fruits**
- **The palm tree is evergreen – group of palm trees form an oasis and shelter**
- **When stones are thrown at the palm tree, it sends down its finest part; its fruit. Likewise, when abuse is hurled against a believer, he responds in the best of ways.**

مثل المؤمنين في توادهم وتراحمهم وتعاطفهم، مثل الجسد إذا اشتكى منه عضو تداعى له سائر الجسد بالسهر والحمى

"The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever". (Muslim)

**Similitudes in Qur'an:** Donkey, Stone, Grain, Wind, Water, Garden, Olive Oil, Figs, Light, Tree, Satan, Dog – **What are you? How are you recognised?**