

Hadhrat Urwah Bin Zubayr (rahmatullāhi alayhi) and his Gratitude & Patience

Hadhrat Urwah Bin Zubayr (rahmatullāhi alayhi) was born in the blessed city of Madinah. He was the nephew of Sayyidah A'ishah (radhiallāhu anhā) and the grandson of Hadhrat Abu Bakr (radhiallāhu anhu). Hadhrat Urwah (rahmatullāhi alayhi) loved learning, teaching and spending his days in prayer. But more than anything, he was famous for his deep love for Allāh and his immense gratefulness.

One day, Hadhrat Urwah (rahmatullāhi alayhi) set out on a long journey to visit the leader of the muslims in Damascus. He brought his beloved young son along for company. The journey was long and difficult. While travelling, two great misfortunes happened all at once. Firstly, Hadhrat Urwah (rahmatullāhi alayhi) developed a serious infection in his leg called gangrene. Back then, there were no modern medicines or painkillers. To save his life, doctors had to amputate his leg at the knee. Hadhrat Urwah (rahmatullāhi alayhi) stayed calm, turned his heart to Allāh and bore the painful operation without crying. On that exact same trip, his dear young son was accidentally kicked by a horse and he passed away.

Losing a leg and losing a child on the same trip would break almost anyone's spirit. When people gathered to comfort Hadhrat Urwah (rahmatullāhi alayhi), they expected him to be crushed by sorrow. Instead, Hadhrat Urwah (rahmatullāhi alayhi) looked up, smiled through his grief and made a very beautiful prayer that people still talk about today:

“O Allāh! You gave me four limbs, and you took only one, leaving me with three. You gave me seven sons, and you took only one, leaving me with six. You tested me with a trial but you also blessed me with long health. All praise belongs to you for what you took, and all praise belongs to you for what you left with me.”

(Adapted from: Islaah Ka Aasaan Nuskah)

Moral

From this story we can learn that we should count what we have, not what we have lost. When something goes wrong, it is easy to only focus on what broke or went missing. Hadhrat Urwah (rahmatullāhi alayhi) teaches us to look at all the wonderful blessings we still have left. Similarly, we should try to say ‘Alhamdulillah’ in every situation. Whether we win or lose, Allāh is always caring for us. We should not only be grateful in times when Allāh has given us happiness. Rather we should be grateful even during hard times as this brings us closer to him and fills our hearts with peace.