

DAY 12

ANSWER: Cave of Thawr

SŪRAH AT-TAWBAH: VERSE 40

If you do not help him, then, Allah has already helped him when the disbelievers expelled him, the second of the two, when they were in the cave, and he was saying to his companion, "Do not grieve. Allah is surely with us." So, Allah sent down His tranquillity on him and strengthened him with troops you did not see, and rendered the word of the disbelievers low. And the word of Allah is the highest. And Allah is Mighty, Wise. [40]

COMMENTARY

In the (third) **verse (40)**, by citing the event of the Hijrah of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, it has been stressed that the Rasūl of Allah has no need to depend on any human help and support. Allah can help him directly through unseen factors - as it happened at the time of Hijrah when his own people had forced him to leave his homeland. On this journey, the only companion he had was Sayyidnā Abū Bakr raḍī'allāhu 'anhu, the true one. Enemy foot soldiers and riders were looking for them in hot pursuit. The place to hide he had found was no fortified fortress. It was just a cave and the enemy search party had reached close to its edges. Inside it, the companion of the cave, Sayyidnā Abū Bakr raḍī'allāhu 'anhu was worried, not for his own safety, but about his master. He was in fear lest the enemy outside were to harm the Holy Prophet ﷺ. But, the master himself was sitting calm like a mountain at peace. Not simply that he was himself cool and collected, he was telling his companion, Sayyidnā Abū Bakr: (*'lā taḥzan innallāha ma'anā: Do not grieve. Allah is with us*).

What has been said here is composed of a couple of words, easy and effortless as they sound. But, let those listening place the blueprint of conditions prevailing before their eyes, cross their hearts and ask: Can someone dependent on mere material means be that tranquil? Every honest person would say that it was just not possible. The reason for this was no other but that which the Qur'ān has given in the next sentence: **So, Allah sent down His tranquillity on him and strengthened him with troops you did not see...**

These troops could be troops of angels, and of the elemental forces of the entire universe too - for they are, so to say, a virtual army of Allah. When this happened, the ultimate came to be. The word of disbelievers was rendered low and the word of Allah remained the highest.

COMMENTARY – TAFSĪR IBN KATHĪR

Allah supports His Prophet

Allah said, **(If you help him not)**, if you do not support His Prophet ﷺ, then it does not matter, for Allah

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will help, support, suffice and protect him, just as He did, **(when the disbelievers drove him out, the second of the two;)** During the year of the Hijrah, the idolators tried to kill, imprison or expel the Prophet ﷺ, who escaped with his friend and Companion, Abu Bakr bin Abi Quhafah radī'allāhu 'anhu, to the cave of Thawr. They remained in the cave for three days so that the pagans who were sent in their pursuit, returned (to Makkah), and they proceed to Al-Madinah. While in the cave, Abu Bakr radī'allāhu 'anhu was afraid the pagans might discover them for fear that some harm might touch the Messenger ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ kept reassuring him and strengthening his resolve, saying, *(O Abu Bakr! What do you think about two, with Allah as their third)*

Imam Ahmad recorded from Anas that Abu Bakr radī'allāhu 'anhu said to him, *"I said to the Prophet when we were in the cave, 'If any of them looks down at his feet, he will see us.' He said, (O Abu Bakr! What do you think about two with Allah as their third)"* This is recorded in the Two Sahihs. This is why Allah said, **(Then Allah sent down His Sakinah upon him)** sent His aid and triumph to His Messenger, or they say it refers to Abu Bakr radī'allāhu 'anhu,

(and strengthened him with forces which you saw not), the angels,

(and made the word of those who disbelieved the lowermost, while the Word of Allah that became the uppermost;) Ibn `Abbas commented, *"The word of those who disbelieved", is Shirk, while, 'The Word of Allah' is 'La ilaha illallah."* It is recorded in the Two Sahihs that Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari said, *"The Messenger of Allah was asked about a man who fights because of courage, or out of rage for his honor, or to show off. Whom among them is in the cause of Allah' The Prophet said, (He who fights so that Allah's Word is superior, then he fights in Allah's cause.)"*

Allah said next, **(and Allah is All-Mighty)**, in His revenge and taking retribution, He is the Most Formidable and those who seek refuge with Him and take shelter by adhering to what He instructs are never made to suffer injustice,

(All-Wise), in His statements and actions.

This concludes the commentary for Day 12.