

To the Army of Difficulty in Somalia

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In the name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

All praise is due to Allah, and may prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah and upon his family, companions and allies.

To my brothers the Mujahideen and Murabiteen, the army of difficulty in Somalia the beloved: peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.

I will not be devoting my talk to bewailing a bygone past, or regretting a lost possession, even if it was gold, or grieving over something missing which cannot be brought back by grief and sorrow: "...so that you not grieve over what escaped you nor over that which befell you. And Allah is well aware of all that you do." (3:153)

Don't grieve over what has been lost

Here you have grieved, but to what benefit?

Crying and sobbing has no place in a battle in which the infidels have combined all their powers, recruited all their troops, and called out to each other, advising themselves thus: "And their chiefs went out quickly [saying], 'Go on, and remain devoted to your gods, for this is certainly a thing plotted [against you].'" (38:6)

And they became enraged as they watched a seedling of life begin to flourish, come alive and shine in that barren, barefaced desert, and it was then that "they said, 'Swear a mutual oath by Allah that we shall attack him and his people at night, and that we shall then say to his heir: we were not present at the slaughter of his people, and we are telling the truth.'" (27:49)

And they came out with their massive armies "recklessly and to be seen by the people, and to hinder from the path of Allah, and Allah encompasses all that they do." (8:47) Their hearts were full of arrogance, their chests overflowed with fury, their noses were turned up in pride, and their minds were lost in satanic whispers: "And when Satan beautified to them their [evil] deeds, and said, 'No one among men can overcome you today, while I am with you.'" (8:48) Allah permitting, they will soon discover – as their predecessors and allies have discovered – that their plots are passing fantasies and their forces are empty, powerless assemblages: "But when the two forces came in sight of each other, he turned on his heels [in flight], and said, 'I am innocent of you; I see what you see not; [and] I fear Allah, for Allah is strict in punishment.'" (8:48)

It is not for the people of tyranny and oppression to be resolute against the champions of doctrine, faith and conviction, and their plotting shall backfire and be a curse for them: "But the plotting of evil will afflict only its [plotters]. Are they waiting for what happened to the first ones? And no change will you find in Allah's way [of dealing], and no diversion will you find in

Allah's way." (35:43)

And their tyranny will be the source of their doom: "That, and whoever punishes as he was punished, and then is [again] oppressed, Allah will help him, and Allah is Most Pardoning, Most Forgiving." (22:60)

Allah has decreed that oppression fells its people

And that the tables are turned on the tyrant

One verse of Allah's Noble Book is sufficient to console us over our tragedy, bandage our wounds, whet our appetites and make our feet firm: "And lose not heart, nor fall into despair, for you must gain mastery if you are [truly] believers. If a wound has touched you, be sure a similar wound has touched the [other] people. And those are the days [of varying fortunes] We give to people by turns, that Allah may know those that believe, and that He may take for Himself from your ranks witnesses [martyrs]. And Allah does not like those that do wrong." (3:139-140)

And another verse encourages us to continue on our path, pours into our hearts the concept of fostering perseverance, motivates us to make ourselves – despite the wounds and disasters – the pursuers instead of the pursued, and shakes from us the dust of weakness, frailty and impotence: "And do not lose heart in seeking the enemies. If you are hurting, they are hurting as you hurt: but you hope from Allah what they hope not. And Allah is all-Knowing, Wise." (4:104)

So O lions of Somalia and champions of the deserts and jungles, O groups of the army of difficulty: resolution and perseverance, for by Allah, this is merely a distress which will vanish and a darkness which will pass, to be followed by nothing less than certain victory, pure consolidation and good outcomes. I tell you what the Prophet of Allah Moses (peace and prayers be upon him and our Prophet) told his people after they had been shaken by trials and Pharaoh and his legions had inflicted on them all manner of punishment and torture and had slaughtered their sons and left their women alive: "Said Moses to his people, 'Pray for help from Allah, and be patient, for the earth is Allah's, to give as a heritage to such of his servants as He pleases; and the end is for the righteous.'" (7:128)

And what was the outcome of their patience after the severity of their trial? "And We made a people who were oppressed inheritors of the East and West of the land upon which We sent down Our blessings. And the good [promise] of your Lord was fulfilled for the Children of Israel because they had patience, and We destroyed what Pharaoh and his people had built." (7:137)

And the favor of Allah came to them from where they least expected it and His mercy enveloped them and He aided them with His victory after they said, "We will be overtaken" (26:61), and they became the inheritors and He destroyed their enemy in a blink of an eye. "And We wished to bestow our favor on those who were being oppressed in the land and make them leaders and make them inheritors, and establish them in the land, and show Pharaoh, Haman and their troops what they had been fearing from them." (28:5-6)

So after severity, there is only comfort, and after difficulty, there is nothing but ease, and after hardship, there is nothing but relief: "So verily, with every difficulty, there is relief. Verily, with every difficulty there is relief." (94:5-6)

If difficulty becomes severe, then hope for ease, for

Allah's decree is that difficulty is followed by ease

Allah will bring relief, for He

Orders His creation every day

What you see will not last, and you will see

Relief from what time insisted on

So when time brings difficulty, be firm

And patient, for the key to firmness is patience

How many a long-held worry was lifted

And another's difficult straits eased

There are only two parties, and they have no third: the party of truth which fights under its banner and for it, and the party of unbelief which aids its darkness and spreads its misguidance. And what a difference there is between the mirage and the water. "Those who believe fight in the way of Allah, and those who reject faith fight in the way of the false god. So fight against the friends of Satan; feeble indeed is the plotting of Satan." (4:76)

So rejoice, O guardians of Tawheed, and be hopeful, and shed the feelings of despair, blow away the clouds of despondency and repel the illnesses of impotence. And know that Allah is with you, surrounding you with His protection, defending you with His strength, and helping you with His help. As for the Abyssinian rabble, it suffices them that their ally is Satan. And their eyes have been blinded, so they haven't learned from what their brothers – nay, masters – are suffering in Afghanistan, Iraq, Chechnya, Algeria and elsewhere. "Do they not travel through the earth, and see how the end of those before them was? Allah brought utter destruction on them, and the same [will be] for the unbelievers. That is because Allah is the Protector of those who believe, and because the unbelievers have no protector." (47:10-11)

Isn't Allah, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords in whose hand is supreme power over everything and who protects and from whom there is no protection, the One who is defending you? What, therefore, can these lowly ones do to you? "Verily, Allah defends those who believe. Verily, Allah does not love every unfaithful, ungrateful one." (22:38)

And accept the good news of your Prophet (peace be upon him), and be certain of its truth. Said he, "Give this Ummah the good news of eminence, religion, superiority, victory and establishment in the land."

So reaching this noble goal – i.e., establishment in the land, victory over the occupiers, and superiority and eminence in religion – is a certain thing, but for who? For whoever takes the straight path, relies on the Strong and Merciful and grasps the surest handhold, however long the march and difficult the situation: "O you who believe! If you help Allah, He will help you, and plant your feet firmly." (47:7)

And in order for you to guarantee a good outcome – Allah permitting – and protect the route of the caravan of truth and safeguard the Muslim group from wasting its efforts and going astray, you must grasp the devotion of Jihad and hold tightly to it. And I bring attention to the word “devotion,” for by Allah, Jihad is not a “choice,” as some have degraded it by adding this ugly word to it and saying (and what a terrible thing they say) “the choice of Jihad” and “the choice of resistance,” thus dirtying its face and fiddling with its meaning. Jihad is a prescribed, obligatory devotion made compulsory by the Lord of Lords, He Who sent down the Book from above the seven heavens: “Fighting is prescribed for you, and you dislike it.” (2:216)

We will not be like those who cut up the Quran, lest we become like those who “distort the [rules of the] words after their placing. They say, ‘If you are given this, take it, but if not, beware!’” (5:41) nor like those about whom Allah said, “Have you not seen those who were told, ‘Hold back your hands [from fighting] and establish regular prayers and pay regular alms,’ [but] when [at length] the order for fighting was issued to them, a group of them feared men as much as – or even more than – they feared Allah. They said, ‘Our Lord! Why have you ordered us to fight? Would that you had granted us respite for a little while.’ Say: little is the enjoyment of this world, and the hereafter is the best for those who do right; and you will not be wronged in the very least.” (4:77)

There is no choice of prayer, no choice of Hajj, no choice of fasting, and also no choice of Jihad. There is only “we have heard and obeyed” and “we believe in it, the whole of it is from our Lord.” And let your slogan be the slogan of the Emigrants and Helpers, who understood that there is no life for the believer, no standing for his religion, and no establishment for his Lord’s Law without Jihad, so declare it as a pledge which is not retracted and which is not said just anytime:

We are those who pledged to Muhammad

To perform Jihad for as long as we remain

So make every effort in carrying out this great act of worship out of devotion to your Lord and perseverance in difficulty, and to preserve unity between you, and continue on your pristine path, be resolute against the advance of your enemies, and be harsh with the apostates and their helpers. “O you who believe! Fight the unbelievers who are near to you and let them find harshness in you; and know that Allah is with those who fear Him.” (9:123)

The Abyssinian rabble didn’t enter your land and occupy your country through conferences, negotiations, accords or talks. No, they declared a blatant war against you, for which they readied armies and came together to wage it and sought help in it from partners. So don’t let your enemies be better versed in Allah’s ways than you, for they have understood that armed truth is only confronted by armed falsehood. And it is not for them – after sacrificing to get to where they are today the heads of their soldiers and treasures of their storehouses – to abandon all that willingly and in submission and hand leadership over to you through mere dialogue, meetings or negotiations. So it’s blood and destruction, and know that existence in this world is for the strong, so stick to strength, combat and slaughter of the people of unbelief and misguidance. And fight a guerrilla war, for it is the most durable of battles and the least in losses, most crushing, and most appropriate for the weak and few.

Carry out against them raid after raid, lay ambushes for them, shake the earth beneath them with bombs and mines, destroy their bases and fortresses with martyrdom operations and car bombs, cut their supply routes, frighten with them those behind them, disturb their security,

and make their life miserable, for the blood of one of them is the blood of a dog.

Light a fire and make a volcano erupt under the feet of the invading occupiers regardless of their creed and their cover, and whether they invaded your country on the back of tanks and with the power of iron and fire, as Nazarene Ethiopia did, or came to you under the cloak of international legitimacy, Security Council resolutions, peacekeeping forces, or the African Union. There is only unbelief and a codified, coated occupation with which they kill jealousy and protect themselves from the intifada, so don't be deceived by their slogans and don't let Satan lure you into their traps. And seek protection in Allah: He is your Protector, and the best of protectors and best of helpers.

My brother Mujahideen in Somalia: beware of those who climb over the scattered limbs of the people of sacrifice. Beware of the bandits and robbers of efforts, those who satisfy themselves with what they were not given; the sharp-tongued impuders who sit on the fence, and whenever the balance swings in someone's favor, they run towards its people and swear to them that they are with them; "Wavering between [this and] that, [belonging] neither to these nor those." (4:143) "Those who await your [fate], so if you gain a victory from Allah, they say, 'Weren't we with you?' whereas if the unbelievers gain a victory, they say [to them], 'Didn't we surround you and guard you from the believers?'" (4:141)

Those who, every time their condition is exposed and their affair becomes clear, make excuses, and their excuse is always, "They swear by Allah, 'We only wanted kindness and reconciliation!'" (4:62)

They are the most dangerous group for the Jihad and Mujahideen, and they are their affliction in all arenas of modern Jihad. How many a banner they have toppled, and how many a fruit they have stolen, and how many a methodology they have perverted, and how many a Jihad they have wasted. They are the discouragers of resolves, slow to go forth, quick on the day of booty, those who blur the issues, those who are strangers to Jihad and not from its people, and by Allah, the likes of these, however much they camouflage themselves with equanimity and pretend to be concerned about the greater interest, "If they had gone out with you, they would only have provided you with corruption, and would gone back and forth between you [with evil talk] seeking sedition among you, and there are among you those who would have listened to them. And Allah knows the wrongdoers." (9:47)

So take the advice of your Lord regarding them and their like: "So if Allah brings you back to a party of them, and they ask your permission to go out, say: you shall never go out with me, nor fight an enemy with me. You preferred to sit the first time, so [now] sit with those who stay behind." (9:83).

And their identifying mark is fickleness and inconsistency. Thus, sometimes they come in the dress of wisdom, and at other times they wear the clothes of rationality. At times they ride on the back of political sophistication, while at other times – and this is most often the case – they feign moderation, centrism and balance, although it's nothing but cowardice, feebleness and love of this world.

The cowards consider impotence to be smart

And that is the deception of lowly nature

So beware of them.

My patient brother Mujahideen in Somalia: protect the clarity of your banner and the purity of your path, and state at every turn the truth about your objectives, for the peace of mind of you and your supporters. And declare with a frankness that resonates that the goal of your fight and the purpose of your Jihad is the expulsion of the occupier and his helpers and the establishment of an Islamic state in the land of Somalia which rules by Shari'ah and rejects false gods, and only obeys the Lord of Lords. These are two inseparable things: i.e., expelling the occupier and establishing the state of Islam. And it is through this that Allah's help comes down, His aid reaches you, the hearts of your supporters are reassured, and the path is severed in front of those who climb over your sacrifices.

Champions of the army of difficulty in Somalia: you must depend completely on Allah (the Glorious and Exalted), for He is the one who has power over everything, and honor is for Him, His Messenger and the believers. And beware of expecting help from the East or West, or rejoicing in the aid of this state or that, or being deceived by the lies of the leaders of unbelief who hide in themselves what they don't reveal to you. And beware of overconfidence in those who were led by their interests to claim to stand at your side and adopt your cause, for by Allah, the hatred and animosity they carry towards you is almost as much of that of the Abyssinian trespassers, and as soon as what motivated them to back you disappears or is replaced, they will turn hostile to you, bare their fangs and reveal their true selves. Then you will go and look for others, and so on and so forth, and in this way efforts will be wasted, unity will be torn apart, and animosities will spread, and your condition will be like he who seeks refuge from heat in fire. "The parable of those who take protectors other than Allah is that of the spider, who takes for itself a house; and truly, the flimsiest of houses is the spider's house, if they but knew." (29:41)

So don't take from among them intimates from whom you seek advice in your affairs, reveal your secrets, and tie them to your cause, for them to whisper to you as they like and lead you wherever they want and dictate to you whatever they wish, for you to follow them in all that with interpretations and claims of balancing and stabilizing, and so waste your Jihad and the fruits of your efforts in these tunnels. "O you who believe! Take not others as intimates: they will not fail to corrupt you. They wish for you severe harm; hatred and animosity has already appeared from their mouths, and what their hearts conceal is worse. We have made plain to you the signs, if you comprehend." (3:118)

Perseverant Murabit brothers in Somalia: you must observe patience and encourage it, and don't be enfeebled by the great number of sacrifices, nor the continuous disasters, nor the fewness or absence of helpers, nor the length of the path, because victory comes with patience. And increase your prayers and beseeching of your Lord, and ask the weak and impoverished to do the same, for that is one of the greatest causes of victory, as the Chosen One (peace be upon him) said, "Allah gives victory to this Ummah through its weak ones: through their supplications, prayers and devotion."

I also ask my Muslim brothers to stand with their brothers and go forth to fight at their side, because all the things which make Jihad an individual duty are present in their battle against the Abyssinian occupiers and their apostate lackeys: meeting of ranks, clashing of armies and mobilization by the commanders who have appealed to the Muslims for help, aroused the fighters and sought the assistance of the Mujahideen after their land was invaded by a devious infidel enemy who took it over and ruled its people. So go forth and go forth quickly, lightly or heavily, in groups or individually, with self, wealth, prayers, garments and encouragement: "O you who believe! What is the matter with you, that, when you are asked to go forth in the cause

of Allah, you cling heavily to the earth? Do you prefer the life of this world to the hereafter? But little is the comfort of this life as compared with the hereafter. Unless you go forth, He will punish you with a painful punishment, and put others in your place. But Him you would not harm in the least, for Allah has power over all things.” (9:38-39)

So for whoever Afghanistan was too far away, or had the way to Iraq closed for him, or the doors to Algeria locked in front of him, or was unable to reach the land of Chechnya or had the path to Palestine shut in his face, here is Somalia, just beginning with an enemy occupier, so let him show Allah what He loves to see in him, and let him demonstrate the truth of his loyalty to Allah, His Messenger and the believers, and hurry with the lightness of a bird without making excuses or procrastinating.

And I make a special request of the Mujahideen on the information frontline, who are carrying out an act of worship which is among the most honorable of devotions and loftiest of acts of obedience: incitement to fighting, which the Lord of Honor entrusted to His Prophet (peace be upon him) and commanded him to perform, due to its great rank and importance.

He told him, “O Prophet! Rouse the believers to the fight.” (8:65) And He also told him, “So fight in Allah’s Cause – you are held responsible only for yourself – and rouse the believers. It may be that Allah will restrain the might of the unbelievers. And Allah is strongest in might and strongest in punishment.” (4:84)

It is a request to them to adopt the cause of their brothers the Mujahideen in Somalia (or rather, their own cause, because the believer is to the believer like a building, one part of which supports the other), by spreading their news, broadcasting their sacrifices, following their developments, and bringing them to the Muslims through every legitimate means, whether text, sound or video, and encouraging them to stand at their side and provide them with every backing in order for the cause of Jihad in Somalia to remain alive and active, lest it be forgotten with time and neglected like other modern Islamic causes have been. How many a concern your releases have awakened, and how much hope they have revived, and how much resolution has been renewed by them, and how many men they have mobilized, and how many an enemy they have disappointed. May Allah bless you lions of the front, for by Allah, the fruits of your combined efforts – sound, video and text – are more severe for the infidels and their lackeys than the falling of rockets and missiles on their heads. So make your intentions sincere, purify your hearts, excel in your work, continue the march, and don’t tire or become bored, lest Islam be attacked from your flank (may Allah protect you from that).

Anas (Allah was pleased with him) related that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, “Perform Jihad against the polytheists with your wealth, selves and tongues.”

And praise is for Allah, first and last.