

Dear Brothers and Sisters

We are sometimes faced with calamities which makes us fear for the safety of ourselves and our families. Once such incident took place in New Zealand last Friday which shook the whole world. We seek guidance from Quran and Sunnah.

Baqarah 153-157

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ
وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَنْ يُقْتَلُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتٌ بَلْ أحيَاءٌ وَلَكِنَّ لَّا
تَشْعُرُونَ^(2:153) وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ
الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ^(2:155) الَّذِينَ إِذَا
أَصَابَتْهُمْ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ^(2:156) أُولَئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ
صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ^(2:157)

O you who believe! Seek help in patience and As-Salât (the prayer). Truly! Allâh is with As-Sâbirun (the patient.) (153) And say not of those who are killed in the Way of Allâh, "They are dead." Nay, they are living, but you perceive (it) not. (154) And certainly, We shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits, but give glad tidings to As-Sâbirun (the patient) (155) Who, when afflicted with calamity, say: "Truly! To Allâh we belong and truly, to Him we shall return." (156)

They are those on whom are the Salawât (i.e. who are blessed and will be forgiven) from their Lord, and (they are those who) receive His Mercy, and it is they who are the guided-ones. (157)

These ayahs are talking about many points

1. Sabr and Salah

Allah SWT is asking us for patience because He only knows the wisdom of what happens. Reminding us that daily prayer will help us be patient and steadfast.

إِنَّمَا يُوفَّى الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ (39:10)

Those who are patient shall receive their reward in full, without reckoning. (Zumar:10)

إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ مَّيِّتُونَ (39:30)

Verily, you (O Muhammad SAW) will die and verily, they (too) will die. (Zumar: 30)

No One Knows Where they will Die. The brothers, sisters, and children who died did not know that last Friday will be their last.

وَمَا تَدْرِي نَفْسٌ بِأَيِّ أَرْضٍ تَمُوتُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ (31:34)

No person knows what he will earn tomorrow, and no person knows in what land he will die. (Luqman:34)

أَيْنَمَا تَكُونُوا يُدْرِكُكُمُ الْمَوْتُ وَلَوْ كُنْتُمْ فِي بُرُوجٍ مُّشِيدَةٍ

"Wheresoever you may be, death will overtake you even if you are in fortresses built up strong and high!" (Nisa: 78)

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ (29:57)

Everyone shall taste the death. Then unto Us you shall be returned. (Ankabut: 57)

2. Shahadah

The people who died are Shaheed in the real sense. They were killed unjustly. They have two characteristics different from common people who die on their bed. Firstly, they should be buried without giving them a ritual bath. However, the prayer of the Janazah shall be offered on them and they shall also be given a proper kafn (burial shroud). Secondly, They will deserve a great reward in the Hereafter and it is hoped that Allah Almighty shall forgive their sins and admit them to Jannah. It is also stated in some of the traditions that the body of such a person remains in the grave protected from contamination or dissolution.

3. Test from Allah - is part of life

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ
وَالثَّمَرَاتِ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ

And certainly, We shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, Lives, and fruits, but give glad tidings to As-Sâbirun (the patient) (155)

4. What to Say **إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ**

"Truly! To Allâh we belong and truly, to Him we shall return."

We all know to say this. basically , we are leaving over matters to Allah SWT. We came from Him and to Him we return. This can be said for any loss not just loss of life.

5. The Promise of Reward

أُولَئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ

They are those on whom are the **Salawât (i.e. who are blessed and will be forgiven)** from their Lord, and (they are those who) **receive His Mercy**, and it is they who are the **guided-ones**.

Guidance From the Prophet PBUH

Narrated by Abu Yahya Suhaib ibn Sinan (RAA) that Prophet (PBUH) said, It is a strange thing for a believer, everything is good for him and not to anyone else other than the believer; whenever good reaches him, he is thankful; hence he is rewarded; and whenever he is hit by a calamity, he is patient and steadfast; hence he is rewarded. (Muslim)

Narrated by Anas (RAA) that Prophet (PBUH) said, The level of reward depends upon the gravity of the test, and when Allah Almighty likes a group of people, He tests them; whoever accepts happily, it is to his credit that he will be rewarded; and whoever is disappointed and is unhappy, it is to his credit and he is to be punished. (Tirmidhi)

Narrated by Abu Hurairah (RAA) that Prophet (PBUH) said, The test from Allah continues to stay with the believing male and female in himself (herself), in his/her child and in his/her wealth till he/she meets Allah Almighty and has no sins. (Tirmidhi)

Now - What should be do? We again seek guidance from scriptures.

Al-Anfal (The Spoils of War) - 8:60

وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَّا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِّن قُوَّةٍ وَمِن رِّبَاطِ الْخَيْلِ تُرْهِبُونَ بِهِ
عَدُوَّ اللَّهِ وَعَدُوَّكُمْ وَآخَرِينَ مِن دُونِهِمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَهُمُ اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُهُمْ وَمَا
تُنْفِقُوا مِن شَيْءٍ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ يُوَفَّ إِلَيْكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تُظْلَمُونَ

Hence, make ready against them whatever force and war mounts you are able to muster, so that you might deter thereby the enemies of God, who are your enemies as well, and others besides them of whom you may be unaware, [but] of whom God is aware; and whatever you may expend in God's cause shall be repaid to you in full, and you shall not be wronged. - 8:60

These ayahs are telling us to do whatever you can to protect yourself. Some ideas are being discussed such as having armed guards or people taking turns. There also some people can stay guard and make another salah. We find the reference for this in the Quran.

An-Nisa (The Women) 4:102

وَإِذَا كُنْتَ فِيهِمْ فَأَقَمْتَ لَهُمُ الصَّلَاةَ فَلْتَقُمْ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنْهُمْ مَّعَكَ
وَلْيَأْخُذُوا أَسْلِحَتَهُمْ فَإِذَا سَجَدُوا فَلْيَكُونُوا مِن وَرَائِكُمْ وَلْتَأْتِ طَائِفَةٌ
أُخْرَى لَمْ يُصَلُّوا فَلْيُصَلُّوا مَعَكَ وَلْيَأْخُذُوا حِذْرَهُمْ وَأَسْلِحَتَهُمْ وَدَّ
الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْ تَغْفُلُونَ عَنْ أَسْلِحَتِكُمْ وَأَمْتِعَتِكُمْ فَيَمِيلُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ
مَّيْلَةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِنْ كَانَ بِكُمْ أَدَىٰ مِّن مَّطَرٍ أَوْ كُنْتُمْ
مَّرْضَىٰ أَنْ تَضَعُوا أَسْلِحَتَكُمْ وَخُذُوا حِذْرَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ أَعَدَّ لِلْكَافِرِينَ
عَذَابًا مُّهِينًا

4:102 Thus, when thou art among the believers] and about to lead them in prayer, let [only] part of them stand up with thee, retaining their arms. Then, after they have finished their prayer, let them provide you cover while another group, who have not yet prayed, shall come forward and pray with thee, being fully prepared against danger and retaining their arms: (for) those who are bent on denying the truth would love to see you oblivious of your arms and your equipment, so that they might fall upon you in a surprise attack. But it shall not be wrong for you to lay down your arms [while you pray] if you are troubled by rain or if you are

ill; but [always] be fully prepared against danger.
Verily, God has readied shameful suffering for all
who deny the truth!

What else to do:

1. Have faith in Allah

Al-Jinn (The Jinn) - 72:13

وَأَنَّا لَمَّا سَمِعْنَا الْهُدَىٰ آمَنَّا بِهِ فَمَن يُؤْمِن بِرَبِّهِ فَلَا يَخَافُ
بَخْسًا وَلَا رَهَقًا

72:13 Hence, as soon as we heard this [call to His] guidance, we came to believe in it: and he who believes in his Sustainer need never have fear of loss or injustice.

2. Be Steadfast and Persevere

Fussilat (Explained in Detail) - 41:30

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ
أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ

41:30 [But,] behold, as for those who say, "Our Sustainer is God," and then steadfastly pursue the right way - upon them do angels often descend, [saying:] "Fear not and grieve not, but receive the glad tiding of that paradise which has been promised to you!

3. Do Good

Ta-Ha - 20:112

وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِنَ الصَّالِحَاتِ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَا يَخَافُ ظُلْمًا وَلَا هَضْمًا

20:112 whereas anyone who will have done [whatever he could] of righteous deeds, and was a believer, need have no fear of being wronged or deprived [of aught of his merit].

4. Have Taqwa" Self-consciousness, self-control, self-restraint, and obedience to Allah.

Al-A'raf (The Heights) - 7:35

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ إِمَّا يَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَقُصُّونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِي فَمَنْ اتَّقَى وَأَصْلَحَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

7:35 O CHILDREN of Adam! Whenever there come unto you apostles of your own, conveying My messages unto you, then all who are conscious of Me and live righteously - no fear need they have, and neither shall they grieve;

5. Be Friend of Allah

Yunus (Jonah) - 10:62

أَلَا إِنَّ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

10:62 Oh, verily, they who are close to God - no fear need they have, and neither shall they grieve:

6. Make Dua:

Al-A'raf (The Heights) - 7:56

وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا وَادْعُوهُ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا
إِنَّ رَحْمَتَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ مِّنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

7:56 hence, do not spread corruption on earth after it has been so well ordered. And call unto Him with fear and longing: verily, God's grace is ever near unto the doers of good!

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْهَمِّ وَالْحُزْنِ، وَالْعَجْزِ وَالْكَسَلِ
وَالْبُخْلِ وَالْجُبْنِ، وَضَلْعِ الدَّيْنِ وَغَلَبَةِ الرِّجَالِ

O Allah, I seek refuge in you from grief and sadness, from weakness and from laziness, from miserliness and from cowardice, from being overcome by debt and overpowered by men (i.e. others). (Al-Bukhari)

Urdu Poet Jauhar said,

Qatal e Hussain Asal Mein Marg e Yazeed Hai

Islam Zinda Hota Hai Har Karbala Ke Baad

The martyrdom of Hussain (RA) is actually the death of Yazeed. Islam is reborn after every Karbala.

Many instances in history where a calamity becomes a blessing. The rise of Mongols resulted in some becoming Muslims. The crusades and then fall of Cordova and Baghdad, led to rise of Ottomans, Safavids and Mongols.

We see outpouring of sympathy for Muslims around the world.

Interfaith vigils all around the world, the speech of

NZ PM, visit of Trudeau to a mosque in Canada,
Recitation of Quran in NZ Parliament, wear a Hijab
day in NZ, Condolence messages by world
leaders, and so on.

Duas - O Allah!

Forgive living and deceased, present and absent, young and old, males and females.

To whomsoever you give life, keep him faithful, and whomsoever you take in death, take as a believer.

Forgive the deceased brothers and sisters and show them your mercy. You are the forgiving and merciful.