

## Why some good people suffer, while some evil people prosper?

### BS Foad, MD 2017

**1-Our suffering may be because of our wrong behavior:** Whatever good happens to you is from Allah, but whatever evil happens to you it is from yourself." An-Nesa'a (Women) 4: 79

"Whatever misfortune happens to you is because of the things your hands have wrought, and for many a sin He grants forgiveness." Ash-Shura' (Consultation) 42: 30

"And indeed We will make them taste of the lighter chastisement before the greater chastisement that they may repent and return." As-Sajda (Prostration) 32: 21

### **2-We may be tested and tried by Allah to improve our faith and to remit our sins:**

"And We shall try you until We test those among you who strive their utmost and persevere in patience, and We shall try your reported mettle." Muhammad (Prophet Muhammad) 47: 31

"Did you think that you would enter heaven without Allah testing those of you who fought hard in His cause and remained steadfast?" Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 142

"Do people think that they will be left alone on just saying: "We believe", without being tested and tried? We have surely tested and tried those before them that Allah may know those who are true and those who are false." Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 2 & 3

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) told us that we are tested according to our faith: (The people tested most severely are the prophets, then the most righteous. A person is tested according to his faith: if his faith is strong he is tested more severely. Sometimes a person is tested so much that he walks on earth with no sin. If the person's faith is weak then he is tested according to his faith) Ahmad & Termedhi.

(Whatever afflicts the Muslim of illness, or tiredness, or worry, or sadness, or trouble or distress, even a thorn that pierces him, till Allah through it remits his sins) Ahmad, Bokhari & Muslim.

### **3-Those who do wrong and evil deeds may be given rope to hang themselves:**

"Let not those who reject faith believe that on giving them time it is good for them, on the contrary it is bad for them; We give them time only to let them increase in sin, and surely they will have a grievous chastisement." Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 178.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Allah gives time for the wrong-doer, but when He takes him there is no escape for him, then he recited: "Such is the chastisement of your Lord when He chastises communities in the midst of their wrong: grievous indeed and severe is His chastisement." Hud 11: 102. (narrated by Bokhari, Muslim & Termedhi). "Shall We treat those who believe and do righteous deeds the same as those who do mischief on earth? Shall We treat those who guard against evil the same as those who are rebellious?" S'aD 38: 28

**4-Those who wronged others will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment.** Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Seek forgiveness from your brother whom you wronged today, before a day comes when money will not help you: if you have good deeds, it will be taken from you according to the wrong you have done, and if you have no good deeds you will carry his bad deeds) Bokhari & Muslim

