

The Solution

Fuel hikes, power cuts, civil unrest, soaring food prices, water shortages, crime and violence have become the order of the day. These crises have created an environment of uneasiness, tension, fear and anxiety.

The general response to these problems is to blame the economy, crime, corruption and politicians. However, a Muslim, whilst remaining aware and alert to the 'on the ground' realities in his community, should be more aware that the Supreme Controller of everything - Almighty Allah is in charge. The Believer assesses the unfolding of all events based on the principle of consequences of deeds, action and reaction. Honest reflection informs us that man is not truly grateful to his Creator - *"Verily man is ungrateful to His Creator."* (Surah Aadiyaat - Verse 6)

There is a prevalence of disobedience, vice, ingratitude, pride, arrogance, dereliction of duty, usurpation of rights, oppression, extravagance, waste, and a host of societal ills that have now become the order of the day.

The remedy lies in realisation, repentance, reformation and rectification. The qualities of humility, simplicity, patience and gratitude must be developed. *"Verily Allah will not change the condition of a nation until they change themselves."* (Surah Ra'd - Verse 11)

Individual and collective repentance should be done vigorously. This will draw Allah Ta'ala's mercy and save us from punishments and calamities. The method of repentance is to truly regret over the sins committed, seek forgiveness with humility, firmly pledge not to commit sins in future and to seek ways of reformation.

"...Seek forgiveness from your Lord, indeed He is Most-Forgiving. He will cause the heavens to rain upon you in abundance and will help you with prosperity and progeny, and cause gardens to grow for you, and cause rivers to flow for you." (Surah Nooh - Verses 10 to 12)

It is recommended that every Muslim should recite Istighfar throughout the day and throughout the night, as much as possible.

In these trying times we ask Allah Ta'ala to grant us guidance, make us obedient and bring about peace and stability in our land.