

## Speech by Shaykh Abdul Ahad Mbakke 2: Korite 1971/1972<sup>1</sup>

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Korite of 'āma Aḍsashin or Baḍsashin<sup>2</sup> (1971 or 1972).

Fellow disciples, near and far, locals or foreigners, I ask for your forgiveness for my apparent or hidden offenses.

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I thank you very much. I would like to remind you about a common concern that needs to be discussed. It is about the current difficult situation of the world. We need to address it. If you have wealth that belongs to you, then you should use it to solve the problems you encounter, for this is the reason why [God] gave you the wealth. Now, there are two things that we hold and own. They constitute our wealth, and we should use them to solve our problems. What is this wealth? One aspect of it is patience (forbearance, perseverance, endurance). The reason why patience is wealth for us is that Allah told our guide, the Prophet, peace be upon him, the following:

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“So be patient. Indeed, the promise of Allah is truth. And let them not disquiet you who are not certain [in faith].”<sup>3</sup> Allah also said: “So be patient, [Muhammad], as were those with determination among the messengers.”<sup>4</sup> Allah also spoke to those who followed the Prophet in the following terms: “O you who have believed, persevere and endure and remain stationed, and fear Allah so that you may be successful.”<sup>5</sup> If Allah has given us steadfastness as a form of wealth, we should expect Him to present us with a situation that requires us to mobilize it. What do I mean by this? Allah said:

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<sup>1</sup> *Korite* in Wolof or *‘Īd al-Fiṭr* in Arabic is the holiday marking the end of fasting the month of Ramadan.

<sup>2</sup> This is based on the Murid calendar using the Arabic alphanumeric system.

<sup>3</sup> Q 30:60, Sahih International translation.

<sup>4</sup> Q 46:35, Sahih International translation.

<sup>5</sup> Q 3:200, Sahih International translation.

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“And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits...”<sup>6</sup> You know that we are experiencing a similar situation today. Allah’s current acts always conform with His past words. He did just as He promised. We are experiencing part of His promise now. However, He already offers us a solution, which He explains as follows: “...but give good tidings to the patient<sup>7</sup> who, when disaster strikes them, say, ‘indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return.’ Those are the ones upon whom are placed blessings from their Lord and mercy. And it is those who are the [rightly] guided.”<sup>8</sup>

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Therefore, you all know that the only solution to the current predicament is patience. Being patient is incompatible with complaints for the latter are a sign of helplessness and not of steadfastness. A second form of wealth that God gave to us is trust in Allah. He said: “Then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him].”<sup>9</sup> He also said: “And rely upon Allah; and sufficient is Allah as Disposer of affairs.”<sup>10</sup> He added: “And upon Allah, let the believers rely.”<sup>11</sup> What all of this points to is that God will decree certain things for which trusting in Him will be the only solution.

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Allah said the following: “Do the people think that they will be left to say: ‘we believe’, and not be tried? But We have certainly tried those before them, and Allah will surely make evident those who

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<sup>6</sup> Q 2:155, Sahih International translation.

<sup>7</sup> Q 2:155, Sahih International translation.

<sup>8</sup> Q 2:156-157, Sahih International translation.

<sup>9</sup> Q 3:159, Sahih International translation.

<sup>10</sup> Q 33:3 & 33:48, Sahih International translation.

<sup>11</sup> Q 3:160 & 58:10, Sahih International translation.

are truthful, and He will surely make evident the liars.”<sup>12</sup> “Is not Allah most knowing of what is within the breasts of all creatures? And Allah will surely make evident those who believe, and He will surely make evident the hypocrites.”<sup>13</sup> Now that we are facing what looks like misery and hardship, trust in Allah is the only way out. Those who put their trust in God do not ask: “What will Allah make of us?” They should trust God and be ready to embrace any outcome He decides for us. Indeed, if you pay close attention, Allah always does what is best for us.

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“And whoever strives only strives for [the benefit of] himself. Indeed, Allah is free from the needs of the world. And those who believe and do righteous deeds, We will surely remove from them their misdeeds and will surely reward them according to the best of what they used to do.”<sup>14</sup> Allah also said the following: “And those who believe and do righteous deeds, We will surely admit them among the righteous [into Paradise].”<sup>15</sup> He [rhetorically] asked, “Is not Allah most knowing of what is within the breasts of all creatures?”<sup>16</sup> Let us then put our trust in Allah in the most sincere way possible and rid our hearts from all sin.

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If we do that, we will be successful. To encourage us to be resolute in our patience and sincere faith in Allah, He said: “And whoever submits his face to Allah while he is a doer of good, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold.”<sup>17</sup> This is also why Allah said the following: “So, Allah gave them the reward of this world and the good reward of the Hereafter. And Allah loves the doers of

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<sup>12</sup> Q 29:2-3, Sahih International translation.

<sup>13</sup> Q 29:10-11, Sahih International translation.

<sup>14</sup> Q 29:6-7, Sahih International translation.

<sup>15</sup> Q 29:9, Sahih International translation.

<sup>16</sup> Q 29:10, Sahih International translation.

<sup>17</sup> Q 33:22, Sahih International translation.

good.”<sup>18</sup> And in the same vein, He said: “We called to him, O Abraham, you have fulfilled the vision. Indeed, We thus reward the doers of good.”<sup>19</sup> In short, now that we are facing challenges, let us use the resources that God has given to us to solve them and be grateful. Thank you very much. I ask for your forgiveness.

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<sup>18</sup> Q 3:148, Sahih International translation.

<sup>19</sup> Q 37:104-105, Sahih International translation.