

(Note: Wherever the word “you” or “your” is singular and refers to one human being, it is printed with an italic y, as in: you. Wherever such a word refers to God, the letter y is printed in capital, as in: You.)

For Fast 4 – August 25

Chapter 3

- 172 Those who responded to the call of Allah and the Messenger after the misfortune had befallen them — for such among them who do good and keep their duty is a great reward.
- 173 Those to whom people said: Surely men have gathered against you, so fear them; but this increased their faith, and they said: Allah is sufficient for us and He is an excellent Guardian.
- 174 So they returned with favour from Allah and (His) grace; no evil touched them, and they followed the pleasure of Allah. And Allah is the Lord of mighty grace.
- 175 It is the devil who only frightens his friends, but do not fear them, and fear Me, if you are believers.

Notes:

These verses refer to events on the day following the battle of Uhud when the Holy Prophet gathered a company of Muslims to pursue the Makkans, to show that Muslims were not demoralised by the reverse they suffered at Uhud.

But these verses can be taken in a general sense, when, after the cause of truth suffers a reverse, people are called upon to rally round the standard and reconsolidate themselves. When the misfortune befell Ahmadis in 1974 of being declared non-Muslim in Pakistan, there were those who responded to the "call of Allah and the Messenger" and adhered to the true cause. Adhering to this Jama'at is to respond to the call of Allah and the Messenger to defend Islam in this age.

And as stated in verse 173, it was certainly said to them in that great crisis that "*men have gathered against you, so fear them*", and that out of fear of the crowds that have gathered you should renounce and denounce the true Movement. But this threat of the crowds only increased their faith that they were right, because this is what is always said to those who adhere to right cause in the face of opposition.

V. 174 tells us that, far from being harmed, they gained favour from Allah spiritually, and in the end even materially.

People, some of them sincere well-wishers, told members of our Jama'at that they would suffer loss of life, property, jobs, position, respect, reputation etc. if they don't concede to the demands of the crowds. But Allah never frightens anyone with mere *material* loss as if material possessions are what matter and what one should try to retain at all costs. It is the devil who does so, as stated in verse 175.