



Wisdom at the time of crisis

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PEN ABDUL

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I begin with the Name of Allaah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful.

Umar (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: "Beware of fitnah, for a word at the time of fitnah could be as devastating as the sword."

There's the truth and there's speaking the truth with wisdom because the aim is to see a meaningful change. Do not shy away from speaking the truth and standing for it but always employ wisdom.

If the aim is to see a changed person, then sincerely advice the wrongdoer with the honest truth without the material eye (fear of losing a favor or wanting a favor) and mincing of words. But if the aim is to condemn without wanting the person's reformation, you become blame worthy.

If you have a stubborn child that is wayward, you will sincerely desire his reformation and hope to see him change his ways and become a better person. In the same vein, if you have a bad government, do all you can within the ambit of the law with all sincerity to advice the leader.

None of us will function well without sincere advisers whose advice we will heed. If anyone of us have any opportunity to advice those in the position of power, let us do it without attaching any ethno-religious sentiment. That will enable him to make a just decision especially at the time of crisis.

Ethno-religious sentiments might be real and are real but at the time of crisis, what the leaders need is a wholistic approach to issues to calm the situation. Hence, bringing ethnic or religious card on the table will numb any leader's enthusiasm to respond effectively. We want peace and stability.

I believe that once genuine policies are put in place to alleviate the impoverishment of the people and educate them and ensure the security of lives and properties, we will live peacefully and harmoniously.

May Allaah bless those that are working tirelessly to ensure that we have peace and stability in our country.

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