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Thawbān (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Allah brought the corners of the earth together for me, so I saw its eastern and western parts. The dominion of my Ummah will definitely reach as far as what was brought together for me (all parts of the world). I have been granted the two treasures, the red and the white. I asked my Lord not to destroy my Ummah due to a common drought nor to afflict them with an enemy from other than themselves who would annihilate them. My Lord said: 'O Muhammad, when I pass a decree, it is not retracted. I have granted that I will not destroy your Ummah by a common drought, nor will I release against them an enemy from other than themselves, who will annihilate them - even if the people from the surrounding regions join forces against them - until they themselves kill and capture each other.'" Al-Burqāni narrated this Hadīth in his Sahīh with this addition: "I only fear for my Ummah the misguiding leaders. If the sword falls upon them, it will not be lifted until the Day of Resurrection. The Hour will not be established until a community from my Ummah join the polytheists and until large groups from my Ummah worship idols. There will be in my Ummah thirty impostors, each of them claiming to be a prophet. I am the seal of the prophets; there will be no prophet after me. A group from my Ummah will continue to uphold the truth and be victorious, regardless of those who let them down (did not support them), until the command of Allah, Exalted and Glorified, comes."

[Authentic hadith] [Narrated by Ibn Majah - Narrated by Abu Daoud - Narrated by Ahmad - Narrated by Muslim]

This great Hadīth addresses important themes and facts. The Prophet says that Allah brought the corners of the earth together for him, so he could see the kingdom of his Ummah from east to west. This is a true historical fact; Muslims did expand from the Far West to the Far East. The Prophet also said that he was given two treasures. This too is a true historical fact, because Muslims conquered the land of Persia and Rome and obtained their gold and silver. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) asked Allah, the Almighty, not to destroy Muslims by a common drought nor to afflict them with an enemy from the

unbelievers who would control their lands and eradicate their populations. Allah fulfilled the first and second requests, on condition that the Muslims avoid internal disputes. If they diverge and fight among themselves, an enemy from the disbelievers will take control over them. This actually happened when the Muslims divided. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) feared that Muslims would be inflicted with misguiding leaders and scholars, who would lead people astray and further said that if a civil war erupts between Muslims, it will persist until the Day of Resurrection. This has indeed taken place. A civil war started when 'Uthmān was killed, and it is still going on. The Prophet also said that some Muslims will join the lands and religions of the polytheists, and that groups of Muslims will leave the fold of Islam. This happened when some Muslims worshiped tombs, trees, and stones. In addition, the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) spoke of pseudo-prophets who will emerge, even though prophecy ended with him. He finally gave glad tidings of a group of Muslims who will uphold Islam, despite these crises and tribulations. This group despite being a minority, will not be frustrated by the schemes of its enemies and opponents.

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