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| **دولة الإمـارات العـربية المتحـدة** |  | الجمعة: 15 جمادى الأولى 1444هـ |
| الهيئة العامة للشؤون الإسلامية والأوقاف | **الموافق**: 9/12/2022م |

**Merciful Hearts**

**First Khutbah**

All praises are due to Allah, the Lord of the unseen. He is the One who has placed mercy in the hearts. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely One, who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon him and upon whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

**To Continue**: I advise you, O slaves of Allah and myself, with the Taqwa of Allah, for verily Allah says:

**يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ‌وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ**

**O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do. [Qur'an: 59:18]**

**O Believers:** The Messenger of Allah (peace and Allah be upon him) said: **إِنَّ ‌فِي ‌الْجَسَدِ ‌مُضْغَةً، إِذَا صَلَحَتْ صَلَحَ الْجَسَدُ كُلُّهُ، وَإِذَا فَسَدَتْ فَسَدَ الْجَسَدُ كُلُّهُ، أَلَا وَهِيَ الْقَلْبُ**

**In the body there is a piece of flesh, the whole body is sound if it is sound, and the whole body is corrupt if it is corrupt. It is the heart. [Bukhari and Muslim]**

The heart is that which moves the body, orientates and directs it. It is also the place for reflection, contemplation, admonition and remembrance. Hence Allah says: **إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَذِكْرَى لِمَن كَانَ لَهُ قَلْبٌ**

**Indeed, in that is a reminder for whoever has a heart or who listens while he is attentive [with this heart].**

**[Qur'an: 50:37]**

Given the above verse, we can understand that it is the spiritual hear that is primary instrument that is able to discern and "hear" the signs of its Lord, which then enables submission to the words of its Creator. As Allah says: **إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَتْ ‌قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا**

**The believers are only those who, when Allah is mentioned, their hearts become fearful, and when His verses are recited to them, it increases them in faith. [Qur'an: 8:2]**

So, the heart is that which commands to faith and attains unto contentment through the remembrance of Allah. As Allah says: **الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ ‌قُلُوبُهُمْ بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ**

**Those who have believed and whose hearts are assured by the remembrance of Allah. Unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allah hearts are assured. [Qur'an: 13:28]**

So how great is a heart that has Taqwa of its Lord and which fulfills its obligations and which esteems the sacred symbols and rites that Allah has set into place. As Allah says: **وَمَنْ يُعَظِّمْ شَعَائِرَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّهَا مِنْ تَقْوَى ‌الْقُلُوبِ**

**That [is so]. And whoever honors the symbols of Allah - indeed, it is from the piety of hearts.**

**[Qur'an: 22:32]**

So, such a sound heart is one that is empathetically attuned to others, and gives good to those around it. As Allah says: **لَوْ أَنْفَقْتَ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا مَا أَلَّفْتَ بَيْنَ ‌قُلُوبِهِمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ أَلَّفَ بَيْنَهُمْ**

**And [He] brought together their hearts. If you had spent all that is in the earth, you could not have brought their hearts together; but Allah brought them together. [Qur'an: 8:63]**

So what is more beautiful that a gentle heart, that shows this gentleness and mercy to those who are weak and needy. Such as being merciful to the orphans and the poor. This is the heart that benefits the one who possesses it, as Allah says: **يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ\* إِلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ ‌بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ**

**The Day when there will not benefit [anyone] wealth or children. But only one who comes to Allah with a sound heart. [Qur'an: 26:88-89]**

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

**‌أَصْحَابُ ‌الْجَنَّةِ ثَلَاثَةٌ** -وَمِنْهُمْ- **رَجُلٌ ‌رَحِيمٌ رَقِيقُ الْقَلْبِ**

**The inmates of Paradise are three –** amongst them he mentioned **- the person who is merciful and kind hearted.[Sahih ibn Hibban]**

One of the righteous scholars of this Ummah by the name of Dhul Nun al Misri is reported to have said: "From the signs of the people of Paradise is that they have merciful hearts and good character." So, O Allah give us merciful hearts and good character and accept all of us for Your obedience and bless us with obedience towards Your Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and obedience towards those whom You have ordered us to show obedience towards, in accordance with Your saying:

**يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ**

**O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.** **[Qur'an: 4:59]**

I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness, indeed He is the most forgiving, most Merciful.

**Second Khutbah**

All praises are due to Allah the One. And may peace and blessings be upon our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and upon all of his companions. I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah.

**O Believers**: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was the most merciful of people, hence many of the companions used to define him by the attribute of being merciful (Rahiman). Similarly, Abdullah ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) described the hearts of the Sahaba (the companions of the Prophet) by saying: "They are the companions of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). They were the best of this Ummah. He made their hearts righteous, so they embodied this in their character. One of the great scholars of this Ummah, Fakhruddin al-Razi is reported to have said that the completion of felicity for human beings lies in two things: "Honoring the commands of Allah and showing gentleness to the creation of Allah."

Indeed, generous souls, merciful hearts, those brimming with goodness and striving for all righteousness, ensure that those possessing them are always involved in efforts of service for the help of others. These are the people who bring smiles on the faces and happiness to the hearts of those around them. They are those deserved of our greetings of honor and appreciation. This is something that is asked of us as parents and teachers, both male and female, that they raise the new generation with such understanding, that they too love to be of service to others. For this is a standard by which we judge human civilizations being something our religion encourages us to do, and which good character demands of us.

And with this we ask You O Allah that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad.

O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family, his companions, all of them.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that which is good and what pleases You.

O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy.

We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on those martyred for Your sake, and grant them intercession for their people, and grant their families patience and a great reward. And have mercy, our Lord, upon all of the believers, the living and the dead. Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Be grateful for your blessings and you will be increased therein. So, stand up for prayer.