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**Sincerity in Deeds**

**Frist Khutbah**

All praises are due to Allah, Lord of all the Worlds. O Allah, You are our Lord, and to You is all praise. We believe in You, and in You Angels, Your Books, Your Prophets, in the Last Day (the Day of Judgment) and in Destiny, both its good and its apparent bad. 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 Sayyiduna Muhammad is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. So, O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon him and upon his family, his companions and whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

**To Continue**: I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah as Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ ‌تَتَّقُونَ

**O mankind, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous -** [Qur'an: 2:21]

**O Believers:** Sincerity is that a person intends with his actions and words the countenance of the Lord of the worlds, Allah alone, and desire nothing else but His pleasure. This is a directive that has been issues for all of those who seeks closeness to Him, whether they be the first of peoples or the last. As Allah says: وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ

**And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, [being] sincere to Him in religion** [Qur'an: 98:5]

Elsewhere He says as advice to the believers in the Qur'an:

وَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ

**And invoke Him, sincere to Him in religion.** [Qur'an: 7:29]

Sincerity is also the means by which our deeds are accepted by Allah as the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَقْبَلُ مِنَ الْعَمَلِ إِلَّا مَا كَانَ لَهُ خَالِصًا، وَابْتُغِيَ بِهِ وَجْهُهُ

**Allah does not accept any deed, except that which is purely for Him, and seeking His Face.** [Sunan an-Nasa'i]
Through sincerity a person attains unto redemption, salvation and deliverance from difficulties and trials, as we see in the story of the three worshippers who were trapped in the cave. A rock came and closed the door of the cave, trapping their means of escape. So, they turned to Allah and make supplication on account of intercession of the sincerity of their deeds of worship. So, they all mentioned their deeds of righteousness and then referenced their sincerity in these deeds with each of them saying:فَإِنْ كُنْتُ فَعَلْتُ ذَلِكَ ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِكَ؛ فَافْرُجْ عَنَّا مَا نَحْنُ فِيهِ. فَانْفَرَجَتِ الصَّخْرَةُ، فَخَرَجُوا يَمْشُونَ

**O Allah! If I did that sincerely for Your Sake only, please relieve us from the difficulty we are in. So, the rock shifted completely and they got out [of the cave] walking.**

[Bukhari and Muslim]

Actions which are done sincerely for Allah are also the means by which spiritual ranks are attained and people rise in these ranks and degrees, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

إِنَّكَ لَنْ ‌تَعْمَلَ ‌عَمَلًا تُرِيدُ بِهِ ‌وَجْهَ ‌اللَّهِ؛ إِلَّا ازْدَدْتَ بِهِ دَرَجَةً وَرِفْعَةً

**Whatever good deeds you will do for Allah's sake, they will increase you in rank] and raise you in ascendancy.**

[Bukhari and Muslim]

Indeed, the believer strives to make themselves sincere for Allah in all their affairs, so they seek the countenance of Allah in all their affairs. Not entering a matter except for Allah, and not exiting a matter except for Allah. They seek His countenance in all of their states, desiring nothing else but the pleasure of Allah in their deeds and their actions. This is why thy frequently utter the statement of sincerity, the Shahada, for Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) stated that no one will ever say sincerely, **“La ilaha il Allah (There is nothing worthy or worship/seeking except Allah)” except that the gates of heaven are opened for it so that it may come to the Throne, as long as he avoids major sins."** [Tirmidhi]

Also, from the greatest of deeds is sincerity in charity, for from those who will be under Allah's shade on the day where there will be no shade except His shade is the person of sincerity in their charity as the Hadith says:

رَجُلٌ تَصَدَّقَ بِصَدَقَةٍ فَأَخْفَاهَا حَتَّى لَا تَعْلَمَ شِمَالُهُ مَا تُنْفِقُ يَمِينُهُ

**A man who gives charity so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given.” (i.e. nobody knows how much he has given in charity).** [Bukhari and Muslim]

O Allah, bless us with devotion to You, 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, I praise Him with the best of praises, for He is the One who sends down His reward on those who listen to His speech and follow the best of it. 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, so have Taqwa of Him.

**O Believers:** From sincerity is that parents strive their utmost to ensure proper tarbiyyah and upbringing of their children, seeking the ultimate felicity for their family and the pleasure of Allah. As the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:‌إِنَّكَ ‌لَنْ ‌تُنْفِقَ نَفَقَةً تَبْتَغِي بِهَا وَجْهَ اللَّهِ؛ إِلَّا أُجِرْتَ عَلَيْهَا، حَتَّى مَا تَجْعَلُ فِي فَمِ ‌امْرَأَتِكَ

**You will be rewarded for whatever you spend for Allah's sake even if it were a morsel of food which you put in your wife's mouth.** [Bukhari]

Likewise, the wife in her taking care of her husband’s house, sensing her responsibility as its caretaker/homemaker is an expression of sincerity to her family. Or the case of an employee who diligently performs his duty at his work, with sincere intention to seek reward from his Creator. Or the doctor who is sincere in his profession sincerely wanting the best of health of their patients for the sake of Allah or the engineer, the teacher and the student, in each of these professions and others there is an expression of a human being who sincerely seeks Allah and there is an expression of one who is insincere. And we have been empowered to make that choice as to who we want to be and this choice of sincerity applies in all the affairs of our lives. So let us reflect on this and seek the good, for ourselves, for our families, our communities and nations, by sincerely wanting nothing but the pleasure of Allah alone.

And with this we ask that 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. And send your blessings upon the righteous and rightly guided Khulafa: Sayyiduna Abu Bakr, Sayyiduna Umar, Sayyiduna Uthman and Sayyiduna Ali, and upon all of the companions and those of the righteous who come after them, may Allah be pleased with them all.

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.