



Ways to earn a house in Paradise

First sermon

All praise is due to Allah as many times as the number of His Creation, in accordance with His good pleasure and equal to the weight of His Throne. All praise is due to Allah Who prepared for the obedient gardens [in Paradise] beneath which rivers flow. Therein, He has built for them houses as accommodation from Allah for the righteous. At their sight, the souls will be pleased and the eyes dazzled.

I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his pure blessed family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

As to what follows,

I urge you, **O servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him the Most Exalted in line with His orders: **“but those who have feared their Lord - for them are chambers, above them chambers built high, beneath which rivers flow. [This is] the promise of Allah . Allah does not fail in [His] promise.”** (Az-Zumar: 20).

Dear Muslims,

Allah the Almighty has prepared for the true believers a gracious recompense on the Day of Judgment. The Most Exalted says, **“Allah has promised the believing men and believing women gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they abide eternally, and pleasant dwellings in gardens of perpetual residence; but approval from Allah is greater. It is that which is the great attainment.”** (At-Tawba: 72). In this Aya, Allah, the Most Merciful, gives glad tidings for the believing men and women of attaining a great attainment and earning abundant bounties in the Hereafter. He is telling them that they will rejoice perpetually in Paradise wherein they will find for themselves good houses with strong structures. Their walls are built with gold bricks and silver bricks. Its mortar

(between the two bricks) is musk of a strong fragrance, its pebbles are pearls and rubies, and its earth is saffron. Whoever enters it shall live and shall not suffer, and shall feel joy and shall not die, nor shall their clothes wear out, nor shall their youth come to an end.

Allah the Almighty further describes the dwellings of the true believers in another place in the holy Quran. He says, **“in an elevated garden, wherein they will hear no unsuitable speech. Within it is a flowing spring. Within it are couches raised high, and cups put in place, and cushions lined up, and carpets spread around.”** (Al-Ghashiya: 10-16). In like manner, the Messenger of Allah pbuh described the houses of Paradise and the blessings inside them. He pbuh said, “Two gardens, the utensils and the contents of which are of silver, and two other gardens, the utensils and contents of which are of gold.” Indeed, the houses of Paradise that are prepared for the believers are full of all that which pleases the heart and at the sight of which the eyes dazzle.

O Believers,

Truly, the breath-taking houses that Allah has promised for the righteous believers in the Hereafter are so gracious, and only those who work sincerely towards attaining them will achieve such goal. Allah, the Most Gracious, has ornamented the houses of Paradise and described them to His Servants to encourage them to work hard to attain them. So, how can one earn a house in Paradise? The answer to this question is that the means of earning one are many. The first and foremost of them is to believe in Allah the Almighty and show persistence in performing good deeds.

In many places in the holy Quran, Allah, the Most Exalted, has shown such keys towards earning great recompense on the Day of Resurrection. For instances, the Almighty says, **“but they who believe and do righteous deeds - those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally.”** (Al-Baqara: 82). For another, He says, **“and they will be in the upper chambers [of Paradise], safe [and secure].”** (Sabaa: 37).

Examples of the righteous people who attained such gracious recompense for their righteousness are many. One of them is that of Sayida Khadija, may Allah be pleased with her, for whom Allah the

Almighty has built a house in Paradise because she believed in her Lord and strived in doing good acts for the sake of her Creator's satisfactions and supporting her husband, the Messenger of Allah pbuh. An illustration of this can be seen in the following Hadith: Gabriel came to the Prophet pbuh and said, "O Allah's Messenger pbuh! This is Khadija coming to you with a dish having meat soup (or some food or drink). When she reaches you, greet her on behalf of her Lord (i.e. Allah) and on my behalf, and give her the glad tidings of having a Qasab palace in Paradise wherein there will be neither any noise nor any fatigue (trouble). This means, a house made of pearls.

O Who aspire to earn a house in Paradise,

Please also know that building a mosque is amongst the great actions that is conducive to grant us a house in Paradise. It was narrated in this regard that the Messenger of Allah pbuh said, "Whoever built a mosque, Allah would build for him a similar place in Paradise." Indeed, mosques are the houses of Allah on earth and the Most Beneficent honours whoever honour His houses and contribute in their construction and upkeep. Moreover, the Almighty prepares a house in Paradise for each mosque goer who is steadfast on offering prayer in congregation. This was accentuated by the Prophet pbuh as he said, "Allah will prepare for him who goes to the mosque (every) morning and in the afternoon (for the congregational prayer) an honourable place in Paradise with good hospitality for (what he has done) every morning and afternoon goings."

More to the point, whoever maintains Nawafil prayer (extra prayers besides the obligatory ones), Allah, by His Grace, has prepared for him/her a house in Paradise. On this account, the Prophet pbuh said, "If any Muslim servant (of Allah) prays for the sake of Allah twelve rakaas (of Sunan) every day, voluntarily above the obligatory ones, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise."

O Worshipers,

Amongst the other means of earning a house in Paradise is good manners. Embracing good ethics is amongst the greatest deeds in rewards and it grants the believer a house in the highest places in Paradise. Our Master Muhammad said, "I guarantee a house in the

surroundings of Paradise for a man who avoids quarrelling even if he were in the right, a house in the middle of Paradise for a man who avoids lying even if he were joking, and a house in the upper part of Paradise for a man who made his character good.”

In this Hadith, the Prophet pbuh is guaranteeing a house in the lower part of Paradise for those who avoid arguments, a house in the middle of Paradise for those who are honest and truthful, and a house in the upper part of Paradise for those who embrace good manners, speak good word of mouth, are sincere in their actions and strive in performing acts of worship.

In another Hadith, the Prophet pbuh also advocated on other qualities that are conducive to leading the believer on the path of Paradise. He pbuh said, “In Paradise there are dwellings whose outside can be seen from the inside and their inside can be seen from outside. Allah the Almighty has prepared them for those who feed the hungry, and speak softly and gently, fast continuously and pray at night whilst the people are asleep.” Here, the phrase “whose outside can be seen from the inside and their inside can be seen from outside” means that one can see through it because its walls are transparent, or can guess what is inside it because of its sweet smell and bright lights.

Other acts that helps the Muslim to attain the satisfaction of Allah and earn a house in His Paradise include treating people in kindness, helping the weak and visiting the ill. This is because angels will invoke Allah for those who do such good deeds and supplicate to Him to grant them an abode in Paradise. The Messenger of Allah pbuh said in this regard, “Whoever visits the sick, or visits his brother in Allah (faith), a caller calls out: ‘May you have goodness and your livelihood be good, and may you dwell in an adobe in Paradise.’”

Furthermore, patience is another quality that causes the believer to win a house in Paradise. So, whoever endures the burdens of life and relies on Allah, the Most Exalted and Sublime, will, by His Will, earn a house in Paradise. The Most High says, “**and those who have believed and done righteous deeds - We will surely assign to them of Paradise [elevated] chambers beneath which rivers flow, wherein they abide eternally. Excellent is the reward of the**

[righteous] workers who have been patient and upon their Lord rely.” (Al-Ankaboot: 58-59).

That is to say: Allah will accommodate them in high places in the Paradise, underneath which rivers flow. Therein, they will dwell eternally as a recompense of their good deeds, patience and reliance upon their Lord in all of their affairs.

Bearing this in mind, let us supplicate to Allah, the Most Giving, to grant us Paradise and help us in all deeds and words that draw us closer to its dwellings.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to guide us all to obey You and obey Your Messenger Muhammad and obey those You have commanded us to obey in line with Your orders: **“O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.”** (An-Nisaa: 59).

May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh.

I say this and ask Allah for forgiveness for me and you, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Second Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, abundant, good and blessed praise as our Lord loves and is pleased with. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you, **O Servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Most Exalted and Sublime.

O Worshipers,

Please know that amongst the actions that bring the satisfaction of Allah and, thus, lead to Paradise is performing plenty acts of obedience, showing kindness towards others and doing plenty of righteous deeds. This way, one will, by Allah’s grace, be admitted to highest places in Paradise. Seeking such an honourable status, one should also show agility in supplicating to Allah, the Most Exalted,

sincerely and in devotion. The holy Quran tells us the story of the wife of Pharaoh who supplicated to her Lord to admit her into Paradise. About her, the Almighty says, **“when she said, ‘My Lord, build for me near You a house in Paradise’.”** (At-Tahreem: 11).

With His Wisdom and Mercy, Allah answered her supplications and built a house for her in Heaven. Let us, therefore, beseech Allah the Almighty to grant us a house in His Paradise.

That is said, please bear in mind that you are instructed to invoke peace and blessings on the Prophet pbuh. Allah, the Most Sublime, says, **“indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.”** (Al-Ahzab: 56).

On the same matter, the Prophet pbuh said, “For everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah.”

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all of the noble Companions.

May Allah have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the prophets. May Allah make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives. Indeed, You answer to the supplications.

O Allah, please grant the best reward for the families of the martyrs and offer them patience and solace. May Allah grant victory to the soldiers of the Arab Coalition who gathered to restore the rights to their owners. O Lord, please be by their side and guide the Yemeni people to everything that is good. O Allah, make them rally for the word of truth and legitimacy, and bless them with welfare and stability, O the Most Generous.

O Lord, we beseech You to bless all of the Muslim countries and the whole world with stability and peace.

O Allah, we seek Your grace to increase the UAE in delight and beauty and give the best of rewards and recompense to whoever

sowed the seeds of goodness and welfare in it. Indeed, You are the Most Merciful of the merciful.

May Allah grant success and continued health and care to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. May Allah also ensure success to his Vice-President, trustworthy Crown Prince and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, please forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, living and dead. May Allah have mercy on Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the Late UAE Sheikhs. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on them and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whoever has done a favour to us.

We pray to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, to continue blessing the UAE with stability and welfare and bless its provisions. O Allah, please continue blessing the UAE with safety and security.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to send us wealthy rain and make us not amongst those who are despondent. O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth.

Remember Allah and He will remember you. Be grateful of His benevolence and He will increase His blessings to you.

Please stand up for prayer.