

## **In the Name of Allah: The Most Compassionate, the Most Beneficent.**

### **Cooperating in Goodness**

#### **The First Khutbah:**

All praises are due to Allah, the Majestic and Noble, the Immense, the Graceful, who has encouraged us to cooperate, making it from noble Character. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love; nothing worthy of attaching our hearts upon in worshipful adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon his name), is the perfected example of dutiful servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created cosmos. O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon him; his family; all of his companions; and whomsoever follows and seeks to emulate him in the way of embodied spiritual conduct till the Last Day.

**To Continue:** I advise you, dutiful servants of Allah, and myself, to adhere to a heartfelt consciousness (Taqwa) of Allah, for He, the Most Gloriously Transcendent, states:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ مُحْسِنُونَ

**Indeed, Allah is with those who fear Him and those who are doers of good.** [Qur'an:

١٦:١٢٨]

#### **O You Who Believe:**

Allah has ordered to cooperate with each other in goodness, so Allah says:

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَى

**And cooperate in righteousness and piety** [Qur'an: ٥:٢]

Similarly, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) encouraged such cooperation stating:

وَاللَّهُ فِي عَوْنِ الْعَبْدِ مَا كَانَ الْعَبْدُ فِي عَوْنِ أَخِيهِ

**Allah will be in the aid of His dutiful servant as long as he is in aid of his brother.**

[Sahih Muslim: ٢٦٩٩]

Cooperation is the mutual putting forth of assistance to the other. This is from the best of ways to be, from the most praiseworthy of attributes, is from the character of the

Prophets and Messengers and the traits of those who are righteous and noble. By way of example, let us look to the Prophet Ibrahim (peace and blessings be upon him) and when Allah ordered him to build the Sacred House. He went straight to his son Ismail (peace and blessings be upon him) and said to him:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ أَمَرَنِي بِأَمْرٍ. قَالَ: فَاصْنَعْ مَا أَمَرَكَ رَبُّكَ. قَالَ: وَتُعِينِنِي؟ قَالَ: وَأُعِينُكَ. قَالَ: فَعِنْدَ ذَلِكَ رَفَعَا الْقَوَاعِدَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، فَجَعَلَ إِسْمَاعِيلُ يَأْتِي بِالْحِجَارَةِ، وَإِبْرَاهِيمُ يَبْنِي

**[Ibrahim said to his son Ismail:] ‘Allah has given me an order.’ Ismail said: ‘Do what your Lord has commanded you to do.’ Ibrahim asked: ‘Will you assist me?’ Ismail responded: ‘I will aid you.’ ...The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) then added: ‘Then they (i.e. Ibrahim and Ismail) raised the foundations of the House (i.e. the Ka‘bah). Ismail brought the stones and Ibrahim was building [the House]. [Sahih Bukhari: ٣٣٦٤]**

In this manner, Allah has mentioned in the Surah al-Kahf the best of examples of mutual cooperation in the story of Dhul-Qarnayn. He arrived at a people, they did not know him nor did he know them. Yet when they asked for his aid and his cooperation to bring about the good and to repel evil they found him forthright, as Allah says:

قَالُوا يَا ذَا الْقَرْنَيْنِ إِنَّ يَأْجُوجَ وَمَأْجُوجَ مُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَهَلْ نَجْعَلُ لَكَ خَرْجًا عَلَىٰ أَنْ تَجْعَلَ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَهُمْ سَدًّا

**They said, “O Dhul-Qarnayn, indeed Gog and Magog are [great] corrupters in the land. So may we assign for you an expenditure that you might make between us and them a barrier?”**

[Qur’an: ١٨:٩٤]

So he responded to them, and they mutually invested their energies, where he encouraged them to cooperate in achieving and building.

قَالَ مَا مَكْنِي فِيهِ رَبِّي خَيْرٌ فَأَعِينُونِي بِقُوَّةٍ أَجْعَلْ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَهُمْ رَدْمًا \* آتُونِي زُبَرَ الْحَدِيدِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا سَاوَىٰ بَيْنَ الصَّدَفَيْنِ قَالَ انْفُخُوا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَعَلَهُ نَارًا قَالَ آتُونِي أُفْرِغْ عَلَيْهِ قِطْرًا \* فَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا أَنْ يَظْهَرُوهُ وَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا لَهُ نَقْبًا

**He said, "That in which my Lord has established me is better [than what you offer], but assist me with strength; I will make between you and them a dam. Bring me sheets of iron" - until, when he had leveled [them] between the two mountain walls, he said, "Blow [with bellows]," until when he had made it [like] fire, he said, "Bring me, that I may pour over it molten copper." So Gog and Magog were unable to pass over it, nor were they able [to effect] in it any penetration.**

[Qur'an: ١٨:٩٥-٩٧]

### **O You Who have Faith:**

We will find in the books on the life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) pages full of illumination about mutual cooperation. For the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to constantly help his companions (may Allah be pleased with them all), assisting them in their labor and the building of structures, always helping them in whatever needs they may have had. Sayyidina Uthman ibn Affan (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates: "Indeed, I swear by Allah, we kept the companionship of the Prophet during both travel and during his stay and he used to console us with both the little and the lot." [Musnad Ahmad: ٥٠٤] The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) put forward for us several examples in how to interact with society in light of the best of ways, cooperation that brings about results in a manner that may not be attainable were we to remain isolated individuals. For example, when Sayyidina Salman (may Allah be pleased with him) had to plant three hundred palm trees, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said : "Aid your brother." Salman states: "So they aided me with the [planting of] trees: someone came with thirty saplings, someone else came with twenty, another came with fifteen, another with whatever is with them, until three hundred saplings were collected. The Prophet then commanded me to plant them and said: "If it is finished then come to me, I will be the one to plant them with my hand" Salman says: "So I dug the holes and I was helped in this with the companions, until when I finished, I came to him and informed him. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) then came with me, so we would present with the sapling and he would plant them in with his hands. [Musnad Ahmad: ٢٣٧٣٧]

So the Sahaba learnt from the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) this characteristic. From them was the community of Abu Musa al-Ashari (may Allah be pleased with him), who actualized mutual support amongst themselves. So whenever there would be a shortage or lack of food and provisions they would all gather and collect together what they had in one garment, then equally divide it amongst

themselves. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) praised them for this with his saying: “They are from me and I am from them.” [Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim]

### **O You Who Pray:**

The Prophet implanted into the hearts of his Sahaba this desire to help others in the good in all aspects of life. From these aspects is mutual help in work. So we see Abu Dhar al-Ghifari repeatedly asking the Messenger of Allah: “What is the best of deeds?” Until the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) responded by saying: “**Aid someone in their labor [when they are incapacitated]**” and the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) also said: “**A believer is the brother of another believer. He protects him against loss and defends him behind his back.**” [Bukhari in Al-Adab Al-Mufrad: ٢٣٩]. In these Hadith is an encouragement to help other people, to take on their responsibilities if they fall ill or are incapacitated, to perfect one’s care and concern. The phrase “**defend him behind his back**” means to literally defend and protect his honor in his absence, and to come to his aid as much as is in one’s capacity. All of this is from the understanding of mutual cooperation.

From such mutual cooperation is the exchange of expertise and knowledge and experience. In this regard, the Sahaba have put forth the best of examples too. For example we see Sayyidina Umar ibn al Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) say: “Me and my neighbour from the Ansar...used to take turns in our going to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), he would go one day, and I would go the next day. So the day I would go, I would bring him whatever information I could from revelation that had descended or the like from instruction, and when he would go, he would do the same.” [Sahih Bukhari: ٨٩]. So my neighbor whenever he would hear anything from the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) he would tell me about it and I would do the same to him. All of this being a practical demonstration of the saying of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him):

نَضَرَ اللَّهُ أَمْرًا سَمِعَ مِنَّا حَدِيثًا فَحَفِظَهُ حَتَّى يُبَلِّغَهُ

**May Allah illuminate a person who hears a tradition from us, memorizes it and passes it on to others.** [Sunan Abi Dawud ٣٦٦٠]

So this is all from the mutual cooperation in righteousness which the Prophet sowed amongst us, so that we may attain the Divine pleasure of our Lord.

O Allah, increase us in that which is good for our communities and all people. And assist us all in the way of piety and obedience. Piety towards Your trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), to be dutiful towards those

You have commanded us to be dutiful towards, in accordance with Your words: **O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.** [Qur'an: ٤:٥٩]

May Allah bless me and bless you with the Noble Qur'an and with the Way (Sunnah) of His Noble Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). I say this, and I seek forgiveness for me and for you, so seek His forgiveness, for He is the All-Forgiving and the All-Merciful.

### **The Second Khutbah:**

All praises are for Allah, I praise Him with a praise commensurate to His command, and I thank Him for He supports those who are grateful. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love; nothing worthy of attaching our hearts upon in worshipful adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon his name), is the perfected example of dutiful servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created cosmos. O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon him; his family; all of his companions; and whomsoever follows and seeks to emulate him in the way of embodied spiritual conduct till the Last Day.

I advise you, O servants of Allah, and myself, with Taqwa of Allah (glorified be He).

#### **O Worshippers:**

Indeed the mutual aid which Islam has exhorted us to, aims to combine our efforts, unite our visions, and integrate all of our energies and potentials, such that we become one family, each member helping the other. This is what the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادُّهِمْ وَتَرَاحُمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ؛ مَثَلُ الْجَسَدِ إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهْرِ وَالْحَمَى

**The similitude of believers in regard to their mutual love, affection, compassion is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever.**

[Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim]

So let us instill in the hearts of our sons and daughters the value of such cooperation with the entirety of humanity, because this would bring much good for individuals and the collective.

And with this, let us send our peace and blessings upon the one we have been commanded to send our peace and blessings upon, as Allah 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.** [Qur'an: ٣٣:٥٦]. So, O Allah, bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon our Master, our Prophet and upon his family and all of his companions.

And may Allah be pleased with the Righteous Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali ; and the noble companions of the Prophet, the Sahaba, May Allah be pleased with all of them. O Allah, we ask You for soundness in our faith, and trust in good character, and a true success that will be followed by eternal bliss. O Allah, we ask You for Your mercy, for true prosperity, for Your redemptive forgiveness and Your pleasure. O Allah, make us from those who are obedient, respectful, those who venerate their parents, honoring their mothers and their fathers, embodying excellent character towards their families and wider societies.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we seek Your favour in granting him continued good health and care. O Allah, we also ask You to grant success to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, we ask You to forgive all of the Muslims, both the men and women, the living and dead. O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed onto the mercy of their Lord. O Lord, grant them from your abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Allah, we ask you to admit them into Paradise, being given bounties therein without being taken to account. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whosoever may have a right upon us.

O Allah, we ask You, from and for your loving kindness, for the immensity of your forgiveness, for the reward of all righteousness, for the safety and protection from all sin. O Allah, we ask you for the ultimate success in attaining Paradise, and the ultimate relief in being saved from the Fire. O Allah, do not allow us to sin except that You forgive us, nor to have any worry except that you relieve us therein, nor for any debt to come upon us except that You see it compensated, nor for there to be any sick amongst

us except that You see them healed. Let there be no dead, except that You have covered them in Your mercy, and let there be no pressing need, amongst any of us, except that You see it met and fulfilled. O most Noble of the Noble, You are capable over all things, and You are the most generous in responding to those who call upon You.

We ask You, O Allah, the Lord of all domains, to continue blessing the UAE with stability, welfare, increase in its bounties, knowledge, civilization, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with safety and security. O 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. O Allah, make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You are ever-responsive to those who call upon You. O Allah, grant to the people of Yemen that which is good, and unite them upon that which is True and Sacred, and provide for them all manners of prosperity, O most Noble of the Noble.

O Allah, spread peace and security amongst all the Muslim nations, and the entirety of the world. O our Lord, we ask You for the best of this World, the best of the Hereafter, that You will protect us from the punishment of the Fire, and that You enter us into Your paradise with the righteous, You are the Most Generous and Most Forgiving.

**Servants of Allah:** Remember Allah, the Majestic, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessing, and He will increase you therein. And establish the prayer. Stand up for prayer.