



Your Lord is Vast in Forgiveness

The First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah. Who stretches out His forgiveness at night, such that sinners of the day can repent, and Who stretches out His forgiveness in the day, such that wrongdoers of night can do the same. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love and 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 servanthood unto Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe.

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: **وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ**

عَرْضُهَا السَّمَوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ

And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous [Qur'an: ٣:١٣٣]

O Muslims:

Allah calls upon his dutiful servants by saying:

يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ
إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Say, "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah . Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. [Qur'an:

٣٩:٥٣]

Similarly, Allah says in a Hadith Qudsi (a ‘Sacred Narration’ that is directly attributed to Allah) that:

يَا عِبَادِيَ إِنَّكُمْ تَخْطِئُونَ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ، وَأَنَا أَعْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ
جَمِيعًا، فَاسْتَغْفِرُونِي أَعْفِرْ لَكُمْ

O My servants, you commit sins by day and by night, and I forgive all sins, so seek forgiveness from Me and I shall forgive you. [Muslim]

So there is none greater that we can call upon, and none more generous in their bestowal. He, the Most High, says: إِنَّ رَبَّكَ وَاسِعُ الْمَغْفِرَةِ

Indeed, your Lord is vast in forgiveness. [Qur'an:

٥٣:٣٢]

So what are the means in availing forgiveness?

O Believers:

Belief and faith in Allah and testifying to the Truth of His Messengers are from the primary means of availing forgiveness. Allah, the Exalted, says:

سَابِقُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا كَعَرْضِ السَّمَاءِ
وَالْأَرْضِ أُعِدَّتْ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ ذَلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ
مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ

Race toward forgiveness from your Lord and a Garden whose width is like the width of the heavens and earth, prepared for those who believed in Allah and His messengers. That is the bounty of Allah which He gives to whom He wills, and Allah is the possessor of great bounty. [Qur'an: ٥٧:٢١]

So the believers are those who are forgiven by their Lord. Pardoning them and drawing them closer to Him. The Prophet (peace be upon him) is reported to have said:

يُدْنِي الْمُؤْمِنُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ؛ حَتَّىٰ يَضَعَ
عَلَيْهِ كَنَفَهُ فَيَقْرُرُهُ بِذُنُوبِهِ، فَيَقُولُ: هَلْ تَعْرِفُ؟ فَيَقُولُ: أَيُّ رَبِّ
أَعْرِفُ. قَالَ: فَإِنِّي قَدْ سَتَرْتُهَا عَلَيْكَ فِي الدُّنْيَا، وَإِنِّي أَغْفِرُهَا
لَكَ الْيَوْمَ. فَيُعْطَىٰ صَحِيفَةً حَسَنَاتِهِ

A believer will be brought to his Lord, the Exalted and Glorious, on the Day of Resurrection and He

would place upon him His veil (of Light) and make him confess his faults and say: Do you recognize (your faults)? He would say: My Lord, I do recognize (them). He (the Lord) would say: I concealed them for you in the world. And today I forgive them. And he would then be given the Book containing (the account of his) good deeds. [Bukhari and Muslim]

From the means of availing forgiveness is the doing of good, and righteous actions, as Allah says:

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُكَفِّرَنَّ عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ
وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَحْسَنَ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

And those who believe and do righteous deeds - We will surely remove from them their misdeeds and will surely reward them according to the best of what they used to do. [Qur'an: ٢٩:٧]

So may Allah, exalted be His name, reward those who believe and do good deeds with the best of rewards, and may He forgive and remove their wrong deeds. Allah, the Most glorious says:

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ

Allah has promised those who believe and do righteous deeds [that] for them there is forgiveness and great reward. [Qur'an: ٥:٩]

Likewise is the role for those who perfect their Wudu and guard their prayers, for these devotional acts are from the greatest of means of drawing near to Allah. Through them Allah wipes away sins, and raises their ranks. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

لَا يَتَوَضَّأُ رَجُلٌ فَيُحْسِنُ وُضوءَهُ، ثُمَّ يُصَلِّي الصَّلَاةَ إِلَّا غُفِرَ لَهُ
مَا بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ الصَّلَاةِ الَّتِي تَلِيهَا

Not a person is there who performed ablution, and did it well, then offered prayer, but his sins (which he committed) were not pardoned between the prayer that he offered and the next one. [Muslim]

Similarly when a person sits in the Mosque or the place of prayer, then the Angels supplicate forgiveness for him. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

إِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ تُصَلِّي عَلَى أَحَدِكُمْ مَا دَامَ فِي مَجْلِسِهِ، تَقُولُ:
اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْهُ

The angels invoke blessings on everyone among you so long as he is in a place of worship with these words: O Allah! pardon him, O Allah, have mercy upon him [Bukhari and Muslim]

Likewise someone who is avid in attending the Friday prayer and adheres to its various Sunnah, Allah will forgive such a person, for the Prophet said: مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ

فَأَحْسَنَ الْوُضُوءِ، ثُمَّ أَتَى الْجُمُعَةَ، فَدَنَا وَأَنْصَتَ وَاسْتَمَعَ؛ غُفِرَ
لَهُ مَا بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ الْجُمُعَةِ الْأُخْرَى، وَزِيَادَةُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ

Whoever performs ablution and performs ablution well, then comes to Friday (prayer) and sits near (the Imam), and keeps quiet and listens, he will be forgiven for what was between that and the previous Friday (of sins), and three days more.

[Muslim]

O You who seeks the forgiveness of Allah:

Indeed spending of one's wealth with the intent of goodness and virtue, is from the actions that Allah testifies that allows for sins to be forgiven, and increases ones reward with Allah. For He, most Glorified, says: **إِنْ تَقْرِضُوا اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا يُضَاعِفْهُ لَكُمْ**

وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ شَكُورٌ حَلِيمٌ

If you loan Allah a goodly loan, He will multiply it for you and forgive you. And Allah is Most

Appreciative and Forbearing. [Qur'an: ٦٤:١٧]

For Charity erases one's wrongdoings and lightens one's account.

Similarly, from the means of availing forgiveness is showing goodly behavior (Ihsan) to the people. For Allah forgives the person of Ihsan in his dealings with people, one who is easygoing and gentle in his words and deeds. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) is reported to have said:

غَفَرَ اللَّهُ لِرَجُلٍ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ، كَانَ سَهْلًا إِذَا بَاعَ، سَهْلًا إِذَا
اشْتَرَى، سَهْلًا إِذَا اقْتَضَى

Allah forgave a man who was before you: He was tolerant when selling, tolerant when purchasing, and tolerant when repaying. [Tirmidhi]

Likewise, the remembrance of Allah is from the greatest means of forgiveness, for the Messenger of Allah said: مَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَحَدٌ يَقُولُ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ؛ إِلَّا كُفِّرَتْ عَنْهُ خَطَايَاهُ وَلَوْ كَانَتْ مِثْلَ زَبَدِ الْبَحْرِ

There is not anyone upon the earth who says: ‘None has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and Allah is the Greatest, and there is no might nor power except by Allah, (Lā ilāha illallāh, wa Allāhu akbar, wa lā ḥawla wa lā quwwata illā billāh) except that his sins shall be pardoned, even if they were like the foam of the sea. [Tirmidhi]

And from the greatest of remembrance one can make of Allah that he can hope to attain forgiveness of Allah is: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْحَلِيمُ الْكَرِيمُ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ، الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

None has the right to be worshipped but Allah, the Forbearing, the Most Kind. Glory be to Allah, Lord

of the magnificent Throne; praise be to Allah, the Lord of all the worlds. [Tirmidhi]

So whoever increases in asking forgiveness from Allah, will attain forgiveness from Him. As He says:

وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

And ask forgiveness of Allah . Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful. [Qur'an: ٢:١٩٩]

Elsewhere He says: وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ سُوءًا أَوْ يَظْلِمْ نَفْسَهُ ثُمَّ

يَسْتَغْفِرِ اللَّهَ يَجِدِ اللَّهَ غُفُورًا رَحِيمًا

And whoever does a wrong or wrongs himself but then seeks forgiveness of Allah will find Allah

Forgiving and Merciful. [Qur'an: ٤:١١٠]

Our Prophet gave us the glad tidings that:

مَنْ قَالَ: أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ؛ غُفِرَ لَهُ

If anyone says: "I ask forgiveness of Allah than Whom there is no deity, the Living, the eternal, and I turn to Him in repentance," he will be forgiven.

[Abu Dawud]

So ask much forgiveness from your Lord in the night and day, for yourself, and for your parents. For to specifically seek for them is from the guidance of the Prophets (peace be upon them all), as the Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) said:

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ

Our Lord, forgive me and my parents and the believers the Day the account is established. Qur'an:

١٤:٤١]

Indeed such supplication and asking for forgiveness shall eventually meet the parents with something of joy and glad tidings, as the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَتَرْفَعُ دَرَجَتَهُ فِي**

الْجَنَّةِ، فَيَقُولُ: أَنَّى هَذَا؟ فَيَقَالُ: بِاسْتِغْفَارِ وَلَدِكَ لَكَ

A man will be raised in status in Paradise and will say: 'Where did this come from?' And it will be said: 'From your son's praying for forgiveness for you.' [Ibn Majah]

So seek forgiveness for your parents and your family that preceded you in meeting their Lord, from your relatives, and whosoever did any goodness to you. For in that is benefit not only for them, but for you too.

O Allah. Forgive us all from whatever was before, and whatever may come after. Forgive for us, what was secret and what was disclosed. And assist us all in the way of piety and obedience. Piety towards Your trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), the ability 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 the majesty of His countenance, and the immensity of His authority. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love and 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 perfect example of dutiful servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe. 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 best of ways till the Last Day.

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

O Worshippers:

Indeed the month of Sha'ban is an immense month. In it, one's actions are raised to Allah. For Allah says: ذَاكَ

شَهْرٌ يُغْفَلُ النَّاسُ عَنْهُ بَيْنَ رَجَبٍ وَرَمَضَانَ، وَهُوَ شَهْرٌ تَرْفَعُ فِيهِ الْأَعْمَالُ إِلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، فَأَحِبُّ أَنْ يُرْفَعَ عَمَلِي وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ

That is a month to which people do not pay much attention, between Rajab and Ramadan. It is a month in which the deeds are taken up to the Lord of the worlds, and I like that my deeds be taken up when I am fasting. [Ibn Majah]

In it is a blessed and noble night, in which it is hoped that Allah will forgive His creation. This is for those who purify their hearts, and who do not hold rancor against others, and who leave aside their beds [in sincere supplication and worship therein]. For the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

يَطَّلِعُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ عَلَى خَلْقِهِ لَيْلَةَ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ، فَيَغْفِرُ لَجَمِيعِ خَلْقِهِ؛ إِلَّا لِمُشْرِكٍ أَوْ مُشَاحِنٍ

Allah gazes upon His creation on the night of the middle [fifteenth] of Sha'ban and forgives all of His creation except one worshipping other than Allah [a

mushrik] or one who harbors hatred [against another unfairly]. [Ibn Majah]

In other words, someone in a state of dispute with another, should strive to ensure that they forgive the other person. For their forgiveness from Allah is contingent on the degree to which they too can embody the ability to forgive another. As the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: مَا مِنْ مُسْلِمَيْنِ يَلْتَقِيَانِ

فِيَتَصَافِحَانِ إِلَّا غُفِرَ لَهُمَا قَبْلَ أَنْ يَفْتَرِقَا

No two Muslims meet each other and shake hands, except that Allah forgives them before they part.

[Tirmidhi and Abu Dawud]

So let us make the most of the month of Sha'ban, through prayer and remembrance, the recitation of the Qur'an, and through taking the means of ourselves being able to forgive others: by letting go of hatred, grudges and rancor from our hearts. It is through this that we can hope that our sins are forgiven, that our deeds may be accepted, and that our ranks may be realized with our Lord.

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 on to 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 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 respite 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 honorable 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. Indeed You are the Most Generous and Most Forgiving.

O Servants of Allah: Remember Allah, the Majestic, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings and He will increase you therein. And establish the prayer.

So stand up for prayer.