



## "So He followed a path"

### The First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah the Lordly, the Bestower, who has revealed upon His slave the Book and encouraged His servants to take the means. 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 him), is the perfect 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: **وَاتَّقُوا يَوْمًا تُرْجَعُونَ فِيهِ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّى**

**كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ**

**And fear a Day when you will be returned to Allah .**

**Then every soul will be compensated for what it earned, and they will not be treated unjustly.**

[Qur'an: ٢: ٢٨١]

**O Muslims:**

Allah, glorified be He, says in Surah al-Kahf about Dhul-Qarnayn:

إِنَّا مَكَّنَّا لَهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَآتَيْنَاهُ مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ سَبَبًا\* فَاتَّبَعَ سَبَبًا

**Indeed We established him upon the earth, and We gave him to everything a way. So he followed a way.**

[Qur'an: ١٨: ٨٤-٨٥]

In these noble verses Allah indicates how He had bestowed various means upon Dhul-Qarnayn such as those of knowledge and wisdom; that of numerous tools and the ability to use them; being the means to practically achieve any goal he set out for. So Dhul-Qarnayn expended the blessings he was given and invested them in the best of ways, by helping others, making things easy for them and entering joy and contentment into their hearts. And so his way was one of significance, determination, of diligence and perseverance, a way through which he was able to transfer his refined knowledge of civilization to the people who most needed it. About this, Allah says:

ثُمَّ اتَّبَعَ سَبَبًا\* حَتَّىٰ إِذَا بَلَغَ بَيْنَ السَّدَّيْنِ وَجَدَ مِنْ دُونِهِمَا قَوْمًا  
لَا يَكَادُونَ يَفْقَهُونَ قَوْلًا\* قَالُوا يَا ذَا الْقَرْنَيْنِ إِنَّ يَأْجُوجَ وَمَأْجُوجَ

مُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَهَلْ نَجْعَلُ لَكَ خَرْجًا عَلَىٰ أَنْ تَجْعَلَ بَيْنَنَا  
وَبَيْنَهُمْ سَدًّا

Then he followed a way. Until, when he reached [a pass] between two mountains, he found beside them a people who could hardly understand [his] speech.

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: ٩٢-٩٤]

So Dhul-Qarnayn turned them towards the use of proper means that enabled them to construct and produce something great, as he said to them:

مَا مَكَّنِّي فِيهِ رَبِّي خَيْرٌ فَأَعِينُونِي بِقُوَّةٍ أَجْعَلْ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَهُمْ رَدْمًا

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 rampart (defensive wall serving as a barrier).

[Qur'an: ١٨: ٩٥]

So he gathered the means of his strength and his knowledge with the means of their strength; such that everyone participated in the great feat of building the rampart, all resulting through their combined efforts. And Allah blessed them therein and accepted this of

them, such that they attained joy and tranquility for themselves and for their homeland, for generations to come after them. Allah praised the strength of the dam-like structure that they built saying:

فَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا أَنْ يَظْهَرُوهُ وَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا لَهُ نَقْبًا

**Thus were they made powerless to scale it or to dig through it.** [Qur'an: ١٨: ٩٧]

Indeed success in any endeavor is a result of hard work and devoted effort, through which one harnesses the means and resources at one's disposal. And so it was with the guidance of the Prophets and Messengers, who gave everything they had in serving mankind and seeking to uplift them. Look to the example of the Prophet Nuh (peace and blessings be upon him), who was directed by Allah to build a ship:

وَاصْنَعِ الْفُلْكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَوَحْيِنَا

**And construct the ship under Our observation and Our inspiration** [Qur'an: ١١: ٣٧]

So the Prophet Nuh (peace and blessings be upon him) strived in building an immense ship and carried on board it pairs of all animals, and then voyaged with them in the ship on waves the size of mountains. As

Allah says: فَأَنْجَيْنَاهُ وَمَنْ مَعَهُ فِي الْفُلِّ الْمَشْحُونِ

**So We saved him and those with him in the laden ship.** [Qur'an: ٢٦: ١١٩]

So their being saved was in the realm of cause and effect, a direct fruit of the striving that preceded that. Ultimately though, it was through the divine mandated success bestowed upon by Allah. In similar manner is when Allah ordered the Prophet Ibrahim (peace and blessings be upon him) to build the Sacred House, he used his son, Ishmael (peace and blessings be upon him) in implementing this noble task:

فَجَعَلَ إِسْمَاعِيلُ يَأْتِي بِالْحِجَارَةِ وَإِبْرَاهِيمُ يَبْنِي

“...Then they raised the foundations of the House (i.e. the Ka’ba). Ishmael brought the stones and Abraham was building...” [Sahih al-Bukhari]

So these two, father and son, also expended whatever means they were given in performing a tremendous task, which Allah has eternalized forever by describing in His Qur’an: **وَإِذْ يَرْفَعُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ الْقَوَاعِدَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ وَإِسْمَاعِيلُ**

**رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ**

And [mention] when Abraham was raising the foundations of the House and [with him] Ishmael, [saying], "Our Lord, accept [this] from us. Indeed You are the Hearing, the Knowing. [Qur’an:٢:١٢٧]

Similarly, let us recall when Allah revealed to Moses (peace and blessings be upon him) that a slave from amongst His slaves could be found in a place where the two seas meet, who possessed more knowledge than Moses (peace and blessings be upon him). On being

aware of this, Moses (peace and blessings be upon him) said to the young boy assisting and serving him:

لَا أَبْرَحُ حَتَّىٰ أَبْلُغَ مَجْمَعَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ أَوْ أَمْضِيَ حُقُبًا

**And [mention] when Moses said to his servant, "I will not cease [traveling] until I reach the junction of the two seas or continue for a long period."**

[Qur'an: 18: 60]

### **O Worshippers:**

The life of our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) is full of instances of his striving and giving of himself and the taking of means. This teaches us the importance of how to spend our own energies in spreading knowledge, to allow for the formation and the actualization of the potential of humanity, all of which is borne witness to by the testimony of the blessed city he inhabited, Madina al-Munawwarah. Upon arrival, he (along with the companions) first took to the building of its Mosque around which the civilization of that city would flourish and take root. He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) thus demonstrated and orientated his companions towards the way of collaborating in the joining of mutual means (material or otherwise) alongside a trust upon Allah, for the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

اِحْرَصْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ وَلَا تَعْجِزْ

**Be avid towards what benefits you and seek help from Allah, and do not give up. [Muslim]**

So let not a person despair in his hopes if they have placed their trust on Allah and have taken the proper means. As the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) encouraged his companions (may Allah be pleased with them) to strive and give their utmost and to not rely or depend upon others. So he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

لَأَنْ يَأْخُذَ أَحَدُكُمْ أَحْبَلًا، فَيَأْخُذَ حُزْمَةً مِنْ حَطْبٍ، فَيَبِيعَ،  
فَيُكْفِيَ اللَّهُ بِهِ وَجْهَهُ، خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَنْ يَسْأَلَ النَّاسَ، أَعْطِيَ أَمْ مُنِعَ

**“No doubt, one had better take a rope (and cut) and tie a bundle of wood and sell it whereby Allah will keep his face away (from Hell-fire) rather than ask others who may give him or not.” [Bukhari]**

In this blessed Hadith is advice from the Prophet that indicates the value of work and production. For indeed in this is a tremendous role in the progress of any society and its prosperity. Look at the example of Abdul Rahman ibn Awf (may Allah be pleased with him) who as a Muhajir (emigrant to Medina) when approached and offered half of his wealth by Sa'd ibn Rabi'a (may Allah be pleased with him) who was from the Ansar, i.e. the inhabitants of Medina who were called 'helpers' by the help they offered the Prophet and the emigrants, found Abdul Rahman respond to him by saying: “May Allah bless you in your wealth,

[just] guide me to the market”. Abdul Rahman ibn Awf (may Allah be pleased with him) took the way of just trade and went onto to become a wealthy merchant in turn.

So O Allah bless us to also take the path of success in all of our affairs, a path leading to bliss and contentment in this world and the next. And may He 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, Lord of all the Worlds. 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, Allah says: **هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ ذُلُولًا فَامْشُوا فِي مَنَاكِبِهَا وَكُلُوا مِن رِّزْقِهِ وَإِلَيْهِ النُّشُورُ**

**It is He who made the earth tame for you - so walk among its slopes and eat of His provision - and to Him is the resurrection. [Qur'an: ٦٧: ١٥]**

In other words, He is the one who has facilitated the earth and blessed therein much good, that we in turn may invest in this good. So from the early morning onwards we find people of varying backgrounds all going forth in seeking their daily provision. Spending forth of whatever they have of themselves. Through this whole communities and supported and elevated and the homeland as a whole attains prosperity. So they are in contentment and attain the perpetual bliss of the next. And this is the goodly life of those who take the means, who give of themselves, the path of ultimate success.

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.**