



Indeed Allah loves those who repent

The First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah Who accepts repentance from His slaves and forgives them from His nobility and grace. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love, adoration and worship, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Sayyid, 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: يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا

قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا * يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ

يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا

O you who have believed, fear Allah and speak words of appropriate justice. He will [then] amend for you your deeds and forgive you your sins. And

whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger has certainly attained a great attainment.

[Qur'an: ٣٣:٧٠-٧١]

O Muslims: Allah says in His blessed book:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

Indeed, Allah loves those who are constantly repentant and loves those who purify themselves.

[Qur'an: ٢:٢٢٢]

So repentance to Allah is the means to His closeness. For He loves those who have undertaken the path of repentance, bringing them ever closer to His presence, such that they themselves rejoice with their repentance. As the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

لِلَّهِ أَشَدُّ فَرَحًا بِتَوْبَةِ عَبْدِهِ حِينَ يَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ أَحَدِكُمْ كَانَ عَلَى رَاحِلَتِهِ بِأَرْضِ فَلَاحٍ، فَانْقَلَبَتْ مِنْهُ وَعَلَيْهَا طَعَامُهُ وَشَرَابُهُ، فَأَيْسَ مِنْهَا، فَاتَى شَجْرَةً فَاضْطَجَعَ فِي ظِلِّهَا... فَبَيْنَا هُوَ كَذَلِكَ؛ إِذَا هُوَ بِهَا قَائِمَةً عِنْدَهُ، فَأَخَذَ بِخَطَامِهَا ثُمَّ قَالَ مِنْ شِدَّةِ الْفَرَحِ: اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ عَبْدِي وَأَنَا رَبُّكَ. أَخْطَأَ مِنْ شِدَّةِ الْفَرَحِ

Allah is more pleased with the repentance of a servant as he turns towards Him for repentance than if one amongst you were upon a camel in an arid desert and it was to move away whilst carrying all of the rider's provision of food and drink. Having lost all hope (to find the camel) the person

finally lays down (out of fatigue and despondency) in the shade and whilst in this condition (i.e. expecting to die of thirst and starvation) he suddenly finds the camel (with the provision) standing before him! So he takes hold of the camel's nose-string (to retain it) and then says out of limitless joy: "O Allah: You are my servant and I am Your Lord!" He commits this mistake because of the state of extreme joy he is in.

[Bukhari and Muslim]

How could Allah, the Most-Compassionate, not rejoice at the repentance of one of His slaves. How could He not include him in His forgiveness and mercy? When He is the One who has decreed mercy upon His own

Self, as He says: كَتَبَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ الرَّحْمَةَ أَنَّهُ مَنِ عَمِلَ
 مِنْكُمْ سُوءًا بِجَهَالَةٍ ثُمَّ تَابَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَنَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Your Lord has decreed upon Himself mercy: that any of you who does wrong out of ignorance and then repents after that and corrects himself - indeed, He is Forgiving and Merciful. [Qur'an: ٦:٥٤]

Allah is more Merciful to those who repent, than even their own fathers and mothers. For it is narrated on the authority of Umar ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) upon seeing a mother hugging her baby child, and attaching the baby to her stomach, said to his companions:

أَتُرُونَ هَذِهِ طَارِحَةً وَلَدَهَا فِي النَّارِ؟

Do you think this lady could throw her son into the fire? They responded by saying: **No**

So he (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

لِلَّهِ أَرْحَمُ بِعِبَادِهِ مِنْ هَذِهِ بَوْلِدِهَا

Allah is more compassionate to His slaves than this lady is to her son. [Bukhari]

One of the righteous brought to his mind this Hadith when he saw a mother push her boy out of her house because of a mistake he had done. So the boy went a distance not too far away, and did not spend any significant time there, except that he came back to his mom, distressed and accepting of his mistake, seeking her forgiveness and acceptance. And as soon as she saw him in this state, she grabbed him, kissed him and started to cry tears of compassion. She then reproached him with the tender grace and love that only a mother could give, then she forgave him, and it was as if the mistake had never happened. The man thought to himself, if this is the mercy and compassion of a mother for her child, then what about the mercy of Allah – whose mercy is greater and more vast; encompassing all of creation, for He says:

وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ

My mercy encompasses all things [Qur'an: ۷: ۱۵۶]

And when Allah – in all of His majesty and grandeur – accepts the repentance of those who repent, then surely those who are His slaves (i.e. creation like you and me), should be more accepting of those who repent, rejoicing and honouring those who have taken that immense step.

O Slaves of Allah:

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and his companions used to rejoice whenever someone used to repent. So when Allah accepted the repentance of Ka’b ibn Malik and his two companions, after the Earth itself seemed constricted for them, despite its vastness. It was when they realized there was no refuge from Allah, except by turning to Him. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) rejoiced with them and the companions (may Allah be pleased with them) congratulated them in turn. Ka’b says: “When the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) informed the people of the repentance of Allah upon us, they came towards us, giving us the glad tidings...I turned towards the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and the people received me in groups after group, giving me glad tidings of my repentance (being accepted). This happened until I entered the Sacred Mosque, so when I said my ‘Salaams’ to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), he said to me – whilst his face was shining with delight: **أَبَشِّرْ بِخَيْرِ يَوْمٍ مَرَّ عَلَيْكَ مِنْذُ وَلَدَتِكَ أُمَّكَ**

Rejoice – at the best day you have come across since your mother bore you! [Bukhari and Muslim]

So those who repent are often in need of those who encourage them and give them the good tidings of their reformation. To take them by their hands to strengthen their own sense of trust in themselves and to remind them of the mercy of Allah, of His love. It was in this manner that Abdullah ibn Masud accepted one of those who repented in his company when he embraced the person and said, "Welcome to the one who Allah loves."

From beautiful character is that we do not remind the person who has sinned and repented of their sins. We do not blame them for what has happened, nor do we worry them with whatever may have preceded from their wrongdoings. This is in emulation of the character embodied by the likes of the Prophet Yusuf (may peace and blessings be upon him) when he said to his brothers:

لَا تَثْرِبَ عَلَيْكُمْ الْيَوْمَ يَغْفِرُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

He said, "No blame will there be upon you today. Allah will forgive you; and He is the most merciful of the merciful." [Qur'an: 12:92]

In other words, Prophet Yusuf (may peace and blessings be upon him) informed his brothers that he would not reprimand nor reproach them, nor would he remember their wrongdoings after that day, nor would he ever hurt their feelings by reminding them. This was

because he wanted to emphasize that Allah had already forgiven them, and had removed the traces of its effects, and that He was capable of exchanging and replacing them for that which is good. Instead what he emphasized was a commitment to uprightness and reform to happen from this moment onwards by engaging oneself in the doing of good, as Allah says:

إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا فَأُولَئِكَ يُبَدِّلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا

Except for those who repent, believe and do righteous work. For them Allah will replace their evil deeds with good. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful. [Qur'an: ٢٥:٧٠]

So once one truly repents, nothing remains of one's sins, hence there being no need to make mention them or think about their traces. The matter is as the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

التَّائِبُ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ كَمَنْ لَا ذَنْبَ لَهُ

The one who [truly] repents from sin is like one who had no sin. [Ibn Majah]

In this manner, those who repent can resume their lives, and strive to become distinguished in their societies. This requires us to stand by their side, and to help them heal and resolve the original reasons that caused them to sin in the first place with wisdom. We should also make much supplication for such people to

be aided in their reform, asking Allah to help them change. In this regard, Umar ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates: “If you see your brother slip and make a mistake, then support and reconcile him, and ask Allah that He turn to him and accept his repentance - do not become a support to Shaitan (in further pushing him away from Allah’s mercy).”

How many a society accepted those who repented in their midst and in turn were transformed into a community of righteousness, wherein Allah caused those very people to benefit others. We see so many examples of people like this in history, people whose names have been recorded to be remembered for time immemorial. Of these is the story of Fudayl ibn Iyyad (may Allah have mercy on him), he was a highway robber, and one engaged in a life of disobedience, transgressing against others and also his own soul. But all it took was a moment of sincere repentance, a moment of turning to Allah, when he heard the speech

of Allah: **أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَا**

نَزَلَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ

Has the time not come for those who have believed that their hearts should become humbly submissive at the remembrance of Allah and what has come down of the truth? [Qur’an: ٥٧: ١٦]

So he responded: “Yes indeed. O my Lord, yes it is time, and the time is now.” And with this sincere

intention, he repented to Allah and changed the entire course of his life until he became an example of knowledge, worship and good character. So the people began to love him (having previously feared him) and scholars thereafter have continually praised his example. Abdullah ibn Mubarak is reported to have said: “There is no one according to me, who is still alive on the face of this earth, than Fudayl ibn Iyyad.”

So may Allah make us a means of support for those who repent, to stand alongside them, in affirming their innate goodness, helping them to help themselves, and then to further help their families and society at large. And may He assist us all in the way of piety and obedience. Piety towards His trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), and may He bless us with the ability to be dutiful towards those He has commanded us to be dutiful towards, in accordance with His 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, adoration and worship, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Sayyid, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), 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 Muslims:

Indeed Allah can forgive all sins, and lest we forget, from those whom He can forgive and redeem are those who have fallen victim to the vicious addiction of drugs. They like all of us who have made mistakes, need to be reminded of the verse:

قُلْ 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. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful."

[Qur'an: ٣٩:٥٣]

We need to note that the one who is repentant and who is recovering from addiction is covered by the mercy and forgiveness of Allah.

In this regard the UAE has provided centers to cater and assist those who are recovering from addiction. These places help rehabilitate them, and help to ensure their later integration into their communities. But the larger role always remains that of the family and that of the community, for it is they who will ultimately help fortify (through their love and support) the recovering and repentant addict, from never revisiting the harmful behaviour and addictive patterns.

It is beautiful and pure companionship which allows for recovering and repentant former addicts to resume their lives again. To remain firm on the correct path, to allow for them to move forward, forgetting whatsoever may have happened in the past. This allows for the strengthening of their resolve to do and pursue a life of good, such that these people can go onto becoming productive and useful members of society, bringing about good. Becoming beloved and honourable members of their society and nation, raising in turns its honour and status (for a nation is only honoured through the honour of its citizens). So let us make a commitment to ensure that those who are repentant and recovering from addiction are always supported and encouraged by us, that we will always extend our

hands to help them, always being part of the solution, never part of the problem.

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 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. 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.**