



Allah is always close and answers the one who calls upon Him

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, who is exalted in His majesty. The One **who responds to the desperate one whenever he calls upon Him**. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely One who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Muhammad is the slave of Allah and His Messenger, may the peace and blessings upon him and upon whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you, O slaves of Allah and myself, with the taqwa of Allah, as Allah says:

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

And have taqwa of Allah that you may succeed.

[Qur'an: ٢:١٨٩]

O Believers: Allah says in the Quran:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ

And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the supplication of the caller when he calls upon Me.

[Qur'an: ٢:١٨٦]

In this noble verse our Lord informs us of His closeness to us and He promises us that He answers those who sincerely call upon Him. So, in this verse we can see how supplicating to Allah is from the greatest forms of worship, being from the

most noble of acts, as it opens a door of closeness and intimate proximity with the Divine. For this reason, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

لَيْسَ شَيْءٌ أَكْرَمَ عَلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى مِنْ الدُّعَاءِ

Nothing is more honorable before Allah than the act of supplication. [Tirmidhi]

For this reason, we can say that any person given to sincere supplication is a person who Allah has blessed. For Allah would never have facilitated such supplication as a means for such a person, except that He wishes to grant him that which he asks for, whether it be decreed in this life, or stored up for him in the next. The power of such dua was alluded to by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) when he mentioned how sincere supplication can alter the course of the Divine decree itself, as he was reported to have said:

لَا يَرُدُّ الْقَضَاءَ إِلَّا الدُّعَاءُ

Nothing but supplication averts the decree. [Tirmidhi]

Slaves of Allah: There are factors and means that help ensure our supplications are answered, these include persistence in doing alot of such supplication. For this would be consistent with emulating the way of the Prophets (peace and blessings of Allah be upon them all), whom the Qur'an praises by

stating: **إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَيَدْعُونَنَا رَغَبًا وَرَهَبًا**

Indeed, they used to hasten to good deeds and supplicate Us in hope and fear, and they were to Us humbly submissive. [Qur'an: ٢١:٩٠]

Likewise, if we make much repetition in our supplication, then this would be in emulation of our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who often used to make supplication by repeating that same supplication three times. Also, from the means that enable our duas to be answered is that we call upon Allah with hearts full of reverence and awe of Him, in Arabic this is called Khashyah. This also entails that we always have within our hearts a good opinion of Allah, and that we be certain that He will respond in the best of ways to whatever it is we ask. For the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

ادْعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَنْتُمْ مُوقِنُونَ بِالْإِجَابَةِ

Supplicate to Allah whilst you are assured of being answered. [Tirmidhi]

Finally, from the best of means to aid our supplications in being answered is that we join our supplications with the doing of good deeds. For Allah says:

فَاسْتَجَابَ لَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ أَنِّي لَا أُضِيعُ عَمَلَ عَامِلٍ مِنْكُمْ

And their Lord responded to them, "Never will I allow to be lost the work of [any] worker among you..." [Qur'an:

٣:١٩٥]

O Allah, enable us to be of those who make much sincere supplication of you, with hearts full of your love, and at all times throughout our days and nights. We ask for you acceptance in this supplication of ours, O Lord of all of creation. I say this and seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most-forgiving.

Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, the One, and may peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and companions, and whomsoever follows them in the best of ways.

O Believers: Allah says in the Quran:

وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ الضُّرُّ دَعَانَا لِجَنْبِهِ أَوْ قَاعِدًا أَوْ قَائِمًا

And when affliction touches man, he calls upon Us, whether lying on his side or sitting or standing.

[Qur'an: ١٠:١٢]

Brothers and sisters, currently humanity at large, as a whole, is in a state of affliction with the current pandemic. It has engulfed all parts of the world, and it serves as a reminder to us all that we have really have no recourse except through a sincere turning to Allah. This is the time for sincere supplication, for sincere dua, done with hearts that have resolved to turn back to the One who created them. If we can do this, if we can enable and activate that heart of sincerity, sincerely turning to its Creator – then we will find an opening of closeness in the midst of such difficulty. And we will find that Allah will facilitate us to do that which is good, for good begets good. We will also find hope for the good tidings for this pandemic to be raised, and for the ultimate wellbeing of an Ummah connected to the Divine.

O Allah: Raise from us this pandemic and heal all of those afflicted by it. Heal us from all illness, be it inward and outward, and ultimately heal us from the illness and sickness of being turned away from You. Turn us to a life lived for You. Make us from those whom You love, those whose supplication is always answered, for indeed You are the All-

Hearing, All-Seeing and All-Knowing, the One who answers those who call, whenever they call upon You sincerely. And send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Muhammad. O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family, his companions, all of them.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates. and guide them to all that is good and what pleases You. O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on those martyred for Your sake, and grant their families with patience and a great reward.

And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us. Please continue sending Your blessings and bounties upon this nation the UAE, and upon all the Muslims and the entire Ummah wheresoever they may be. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah: aid us, help us, and bless us. O Allah: bless us in this life with that which is good and in the next life that which is good, and save us from the hellfire. Believers: remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. So, let us align ourselves towards Him sincerely, and align our hearts. So, stand up for prayer.