



The Environment is a Trust and a Responsibility

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, who has made for us the Earth and beautified it for us and whoever views it. As Allah says: **Did they not look at the earth how much We have produced therein from every noble kind?** [Qur'an: ٢٦:٠٧]. 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, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. O Allah, send Your 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, for verily Allah says:

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 Believers: Allah says: **وَآيَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَرْضُ الْمَيْتَةُ أَحْيَيْنَاهَا وَأَخْرَجْنَا**

مِنْهَا حَبًّا فَمِنْهُ يَأْكُلُونَ* وَجَعَلْنَا فِيهَا جَنَّاتٍ مِنْ نَخِيلٍ وَأَعْنَابٍ وَفَجَّرْنَا

فِيهَا مِنَ الْعُيُونِ* لِيَأْكُلُوا مِنْ ثَمَرِهِ وَمَا عَمِلَتْهُ أَيْدِيهِمْ أَفَلَا يَشْكُرُونَ

And a sign for them is the dead earth. We have brought it to life and brought forth from it grain, and from it they eat.

And We placed therein gardens of palm trees and grapevines and caused to burst forth therefrom some springs - That they may eat of His fruit. And their hands have not produced it, so will they not be grateful?



[Qur'an: ۳۶:۳۳-۳۵]

There is in the Qur'an instruction whereby Allah points His slaves to gaze and reflects upon what He has originated from the environment from His wisdom and His careful planning. This involves human beings seeing what Allah has prepared for them with regards to the various needs of their lives, all of this done so that they can attain felicity therein. As Allah says:

صَنَعَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَتَقَنَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ إِنَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَفْعَلُونَ

[This is] the work of Allah, who has perfected all things.

Indeed, He is acquainted with that which you do.

[Qur'an: ۲۷:۸۸]

Allah has bequeathed unto human beings the responsibility of maintaining, developing and cultivating the Earth. This includes the safeguarding and preservation of the environment, and developing its resources. As Allah says:

هُوَ أَنشَأَكُم مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ وَاسْتَعْمَرَكُمْ فِيهَا

He has produced You from the earth and

settled you in it. [Qur'an: ۱۱:۶۱]

In other words, He has facilitated for you the ability to develop what you require therein from buildings and infrastructure, but He has also tasked you with the maintenance and preservation of the natural environment and its wildlife alongside this. This means that human beings are tasked with maintaining the balance of environment, which includes a role in preserving the forests, such as planting and looking after its trees and the wildlife connected with it, and preserving the seas, and looking after all the marine life connected with it. This is actually a religious obligation in addition to being a civic duty, for Muslims understand that we have been made caretakers of the environment as a trust and responsibility. From such



responsibility, the first thing we are tasked to maintain with regards to the environment its water, for Allah says:

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ

We made from water every living thing.

[Qur'an: ٢١:٣٠]

Water is the secret of life, it is the source of all growth and one of the fundamental elements that make up the environment and the cosmos. It is also one of the fundamental elements that makes us and is integral to our bodily composition. We need water to survive, we also need it to irrigate and cultivate our crops and food, and we need it for a multitude of different tasks throughout our lives. Because of this, the need to preserve the water supply for ourselves and future generations entails that we instill a culture which is aware of this responsibility and strives to prevent our water supply from ever being damaged or destroyed.

Likewise, an essential component is the air supply, we need to strive to preserve its purity and its preservation from toxic pollutants. This also entails we abstain from burning agricultural waste and other items that emit fumes that cause damage to the environment. All of this comes under the Prophetic (peace and

blessings of Allah be upon him) command: لَا ضَرَرَ وَلَا ضِرَارَ

Let there be no harm and harm caused. [Ibn Majah]

So, all of us are responsible to ensure there is no harm that comes to us or to the future generations. This is a collective responsibility and entails that we remove the harm and hardships that afflict our fellow human beings, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

كَانَ عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ عُصْنٌ شَجَرَةٍ يُؤْذِي النَّاسَ فَأَمَاطَهَا رَجُلٌ، فَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ



There was a [thorny] branch of a tree on the road that was harming people, so a man pulled it up and removed it, and he was entered into Paradise [because of this]. [Ibn Majah]
O Allah make us from those who meet the responsibility and blessing of the environment with gratitude and make us of those who strive to preserve it, entailing it is used in the best of ways. I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness, indeed He is the most forgiving, most Merciful.

Second Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah the One. And may peace and blessings be upon our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and upon all of his companions. I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah.

O Believers: Allah the exalted says:

وَالْأَنْعَامَ خَلَقَهَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا دِفْءٌ وَمَنَافِعٌ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ

And the grazing livestock He has created for you; in them is warmth and [numerous] benefits, and from them you eat.

[Qur'an: ١٦:٥]

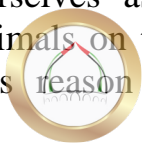
So, livestock are among the blessings of Allah upon us, and an important component of the environment. Likewise, the plant life and vegetation around us is a blessing too, which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) desired us

to cultivate further by stating: مَنْ كَانَتْ لَهُ أَرْضٌ فَلْيَزْرَعْهَا

Whoever has land, let him cultivate it.

[Bukhari and Muslim]

Indeed, in preserving all these discussed aspects of our environment is benefit that accrues to all of creation. To ourselves as human beings first and foremost, but also to animals on the land, birds in the sky, and fish in the seas. For this reason we say that anyone involved in such work of



preserving the environment is engaged in a work of perpetual charity, and can be hopeful of ultimate reward from our merciful Lord.

And with this we ask You Allah that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Sayyiduna 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 them intercession for their people, and grant their families 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 upon us 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. Let us align ourselves towards Him sincerely, and align our hearts. So, stand up for prayer.

