



The Humanitarian Spirit of Giving

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah who has given us the blessings of Ramadan, which is a month of generosity, of giving and spiritual beauty. O Allah, our Lord, to You belongs all praise. We believe in You, Your Angels, Your Divine Books, Your Messengers, in the Last Day, and in Your Divine decree, both its good and the apparent bad. We testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except You, the uniquely One, who has no partners in His one-ness. We are content with You as our Lord, Islam as our religion, and our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad, as our Prophet. O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon him and upon his family, his companions and 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:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous [Qur'an: ٢:١٨٣]

O You who are Fasting: Allah tells us: **إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنْفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً يَرْجُونَ تِجَارَةً لَنْ تَبُورَ* لِيُوفِّيَهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ وَيَزِيدَهُمْ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ إِنَّهُ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ**



Indeed, those who recite the Book of Allah and establish prayer and spend [in His cause] out of what We have provided them, secretly and publicly, [can] expect a profit that will never perish - That He may give them in full their rewards and increase for them of His bounty. Indeed, He is Forgiving and Appreciative.

[Qur'an: ٣٥:٢٩-٣٠]

Allah increases the reward of those who give of themselves, as He says in the Quran: **وَمَا فَهُوَ يُخْلِفُهُ وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ**

أَنْفَقْتُمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ

But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers. [Qur'an:

٣٤:٣٩]

Indeed, the month of Ramadan epitomizes the humanitarian spirit of giving, for in it the believer hastens towards the worship of His Lord and to honor his fellow creation. Hence, they find Allah in turn facilitating their affairs, and bestowing on them His acceptance and facilitation for the path towards Jannah. One of the early righteous scholars said – amongst the most beloved things for a person to do in Ramadan is for them to increase in the spirit of giving, for in this is the emulation of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). For he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was described as being the most generous of people (أَجْوَدَ النَّاسِ) which the scholars have interpreted to be indicating that his entire life was involved in generosity from the beginning to the end. And yet, despite this life full of generosity, he is described as



being his most generous in Ramadan: كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَحْوَدَ النَّاسِ بِالْخَيْرِ وَكَانَ أَحْوَدَ مَا يَكُونُ فِي رَمَضَانَ

The Messenger of Allah was the most generous of men, and he was most generous as he could possibly be in Ramadan. [Bukhari and Muslim]

Our Lord has encouraged us to engage in this spirit of giving and generosity by encouraging us to spend of ourselves stating: وَأَنْفَقُوا مِمَّا جَعَلَكُمْ مُسْتَخْلِفِينَ فِيهِ فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَأَنْفَقُوا لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ

And spend out of that in which He has made you successors. For those who have believed among you and spent, there will be a great reward. [Qur'an: ٥٧:٧]

So, whoever persists and is consistent in tasking themselves to embody this spirit of giving of themselves, they shall be on the path of emulating the best of creation, and they shall find their spirit itself becomes a means or a key by which goodness is opened up in their lives and the lives of those whom they love. The reward that Allah promises is not just in the next life, but in this one too, so such people find that Allah preserves for them their blessings and increases them in their bounty. In this manner the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) spoke the truth when he said:

إِنَّ لِلَّهِ قَوْمًا يَخْتَصُّهُمْ بِالنَّعْمِ لِمَنَافِعِ الْعِبَادِ، وَيُقَرِّهَا فِيهِمْ مَا بَدَلُوهَا

Indeed, Allah has select people whom He chooses for the blessings of benefitting His slaves, and establishes these blessings in them for what they have given of themselves.



[Qadaa al-Hawaaij of Ibn Abi Dunya]

O Allah aid us in our fasts and recitation of Qu'ran, and bless us with the spirit of giving of ourselves, to spend for Your sake, and bless us with devotion to You, and accept all of us for Your obedience and bless us with obedience towards Your Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and obedience towards those whom You have ordered us to show obedience towards, in accordance with Your saying:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ

O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. [Qur'an:

٤:٥٩]

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 uniquely 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, so have Taqwa of Him.

O Fasting Believers: Allah says in His manifest Book:

وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good.

[Qur'an: ٢:١٩٥]

Amongst those who embodied this understanding in our recent times was Sheikh Zayed (May Allah give peace to his soul). He served as an example, and a role model in caring for people, doing righteous deeds and this spirit of giving. Amongst the good deeds which he paid particular concern

towards was the institution of the Waqf or charitable endowments. For as an institution it was a central element of providing goodness and charity to the Muslim world, and as a form of ongoing charity its reward endures and represents a type of sustainable benefit. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

إِنَّ مِمَّا يَلْحَقُ الْمُؤْمِنَ مِنْ عَمَلِهِ وَحَسَنَاتِهِ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهِ: عِلْمًا عَلَّمَهُ
وَنَشْرَهُ، وَوَلَدًا صَالِحًا تَرَكَهُ، وَمُصْحَفًا وَرَّثَهُ، أَوْ مَسْجِدًا بَنَاهُ، أَوْ
بَيْتًا لِابْنِ السَّبِيلِ بَنَاهُ، أَوْ نَهْرًا أَجْرَاهُ، أَوْ صَدَقَةً أَخْرَجَهَا مِنْ مَالِهِ
فِي صِحَّتِهِ وَحَيَاتِهِ، يَلْحَقُهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَوْتِهِ

Among the actions and good deeds for which a believer will continue to receive reward after his death are knowledge which he taught and spread, a righteous child whom he left behind, or a copy of the Qur'an which he left as a legacy, or a mosque which he built, or a house which he built for a traveller, or a stream which he caused to flow, or a form of charity which he gave from his property whilst he was alive and well, for which he will continue to receive reward after his death. [Ibn Majah]

So here we are on the anniversary of the passing of Sheikh Zayed, may God give peace to his soul. By remembering his contribution to humanity, we can derive values from his high morals. He put forward many projects of goodness and charitable initiatives to benefit others. The current leadership of the nation has sought to emulate in his example and continue in his footsteps by establishing initiatives such as the "One Billion Meals Endowment" which is the largest food aid fund (or) endowment in the world, supporting millions of



families in providing them food aid. The project aims to provide a food safety net for the world's most impoverished populations, especially in countries struggling with food insecurity. This project is especially operative in this month, helping providing food to many families with which to break their fasts, spreading goodness in this world to those who need it. May Allah bless projects such as these, and allow us to always be part of the spread of goodness to whatever capacity He has given us. Let us start in our homes, spreading goodness with those we love, and then let us spread them in our communities, before spreading this goodness wider and wider, encompassing the entire nation of the Prophet.

And with this, O Allah, we ask that You send your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, 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. And send your blessings upon the righteous and rightly guided Khulafa: Sayyiduna Abu Bakr, Sayyiduna Umar, Sayyiduna Uthman and Sayyiduna Ali, and upon all of the companions and those of the righteous who come after them, may Allah be pleased with them all.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that which is good and what pleases You. O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed 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 all of the believers, the living and the dead. Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Be grateful for your blessings and you will be increased therein. So, stand up for prayer.

