



The Approval of Allah

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah who has clarified for us the means by which we can attain unto His pleasure, facilitating for them the way by which we can enter into Paradise. 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. And we testify that our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad is the slave of Allah and His Messenger who said: ذَاقَ طَعْمَ الْإِيمَانِ مَنْ رَضِيَ

بِاللَّهِ رَبًّا، وَبِالْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا، وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ رَسُولًا

He has found the taste of faith (iman) who is content with Allah as his Lord, with Islam as his religion and with Muhammad as his Prophet. [Sahih Muslim]

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: لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا

الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَأَزْوَاجٌ مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ



For those who fear Allah will be gardens in the presence of their Lord beneath which rivers flow, wherein they abide eternally, and purified spouses and approval from Allah. [Qur'an: ٣: ١٥]

O You striving unto the approval of Allah:

You are striving unto a great recompense, and a great station, for there is nothing greater than the pleasure of Allah. Whoever attains unto that has attained unto everything, and whoever loses out on it has lost out on everything, as Allah says:

وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

But approval from Allah is greater. It is that which is the great attainment. [Qur'an: ٩:٧٢]

In other words, here Allah is telling us His pleasure is that which is greater than any other attainment, showing that whoever attains unto the pleasure of Allah has attained the highest of spiritual ranks. This makes our seeking of such approval or pleasure as being the loftiest of things we can aim for, and something we should hasten and strive for, as was demonstrated by the example of the Prophet Moses (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who hastened

to attain unto it as the Qur'an notes: **وَعَجَلْتُ إِلَيْكَ رَبِّ**

لِتَرْضَى And I hastened to You, my Lord, that You be pleased. [Qur'an: ٢٠:٨٤]

Similarly, the Prophet Suleyman (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) made supplication to His creator that Allah facilitate for Him a path to His approval. As Allah



says: رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ

My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to do righteousness of which You approve.

[Qur'an: ٢٧:١٩]

Similarly, our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be

upon him) used to say: اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الرِّضَا بَعْدَ الْقَضَاءِ

I ask You for Your pleasure after Your decree [Al-Nasa'i]

So how do we attain unto the approval of Allah?

We attain unto it through striving in our devotion, through the beauty in our worship, for Allah has praised those who attain unto it as follows:

تَرَاهُمْ رُكَّعًا سُجَّدًا يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانًا

You see them bowing and prostrating [in prayer], seeking bounty from Allah and [His] pleasure. [Qur'an:

٤٨:٢٩]

So, they attained unto the approval and pleasure of Allah when they committed themselves to His worship, following His commands and abstaining from His prohibitions. Hence, they attained His pleasure by being pleased with

Him and His decree, as Allah says: رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا

عنه Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with

Him. [Qur'an: ٩:١٠٠]



Allah enjoins on those He is pleased with, the state of their being pleased with Him, and as an expression of this is the state of *Khashya* or reverential awe of Allah, for He says

when describing such believers: جَزَاؤُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ
عَدْنٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ
عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ رَبَّهُ

Their reward with Allah will be gardens of perpetual residence beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever, Allah being pleased with them and they with Him. That is for whoever has feared his Lord.

[Qur'an: ٩٨:٨]

Another sign that one is on their way to attaining the pleasure or approval of Allah is when one adorns oneself with beautiful or righteous character, so such a person is truthful in their character and in their actions and dealings.

As Allah says: هَذَا يَوْمٌ يَنْفَعُ الصَّادِقِينَ صِدْقُهُمْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ
تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا
عَنْهُ ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

Allah will say, "This is the Day when the truthful will benefit from their truthfulness." For them are gardens [in Paradise] beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever, Allah being pleased with them, and they with Him. That is the great attainment. [Qur'an:

٥:١١٩]



O Allah bless us with Your approval and pleasure. 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 You seeking the pleasure of your Lord:

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

said: **مَنْ رَضِيَ فَلَهُ الرِّضَا** Those who gladly accept [Allah's decree] receive Allah's pleasure. [Tirmidhi]

So, whoever is content and grateful for whatever Allah has gifted them, then Allah is content with them and they are content with Him. It is this contentment that stirs a person



on in their devotion, and in this manner all goodness lies in the seed of contentment with Allah. Hasan al-Basri, a leading scholar of the *tabiun*, said: **ارْضَ عَنِ اللَّهِ؛ يَرْضَ اللَّهُ**

عَنْكَ Be content with Allah, and Allah will be content with you.

Hence, a believer should be someone who seeks the pleasure of Allah in every good deed they do. In this manner he will benefit himself in the best of ways and be able to benefit others. As the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **إِنَّ الْعَبْدَ لَيَلْتَمِسُ مَرْضَاةَ اللَّهِ**

A servant seeks to please Allah [through righteous deeds]

فَلَا يَزَالُ كَذَلِكَ، فَيَقُولُ اللَّهُ لِحَبْرِيْلَ:

The servant keeps on doing so, until Allah says to

Gabriel: ... إِنَّ فُلَانًا يَلْتَمِسُ أَنْ يُرْضِيَنِي، أَلَا وَإِنَّ رَحْمَتِي عَلَيْهِ...

ثُمَّ تَهْبِطُ لَهُ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ، فَذَلِكَ قَوْلُ اللَّهِ:

My servant so and so seeks to please me, therefore my mercy had descended on him... after which it comes down to him on the earth. This is the saying of Allah:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَيَجْعَلُ لَهُمُ الرَّحْمَنُ وُدًّا

Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - the Most Merciful will appoint for them affection. [Qur'an: ١٩: ٩٦]

In other words when a person dedicates themselves to Allah, Allah will put affection into the hearts of those who similarly are dedicated to Allah. Such a person will also



find their way facilitated for them to go to Paradise, attaining the ultimate approval of Allah therein.

And with this 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.

