



From the Character of the People of Paradise

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah who commanded us to goodly character and who has made this the means by which we can journey towards Heaven. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except You, the uniquely One, who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. So, 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 slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah as Allah says: **يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ**

نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah.

Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do. Qur'an: ٥٩: ١٨]

O Believers: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon

him) said: **أَهْلُ الْجَنَّةِ ثَلَاثَةٌ - وَمِنْهُمْ - وَعَفِيفٌ مُتَعَفِّفٌ**

The people of Paradise are three – and amongst them he mentioned - a contented man who refrains from what is unlawful [Sahih Muslim].

So, contentment with the halal and abstinence from the haram is a path by which one journeys to Paradise. This is because it forbids the soul from its ephemeral desires, and prevents the soul from that which is not permissible for it, as Allah, the

Exalted, says: وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسَ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ * فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىٰ

But as for he who feared the position of his Lord and prevented the soul from [unlawful] inclination, then indeed, Paradise will be [his] refuge. [Qur'an: ٧٩:٤٠-٤١]

About the status and importance of such abstention and self-control, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to supplicate and seek this from Allah, so he would say: اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالتُّقَىٰ وَالْعَفَافَ وَالْغِنَىٰ

"O Allah, I ask You for guidance, piety, self-control and self-sufficiency." [Sahih Muslim]

And he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) commanded us to embody such abstinence and enjoined and exhorted us to gain it. So, when Heraclius asked Abu Sufyan about the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), Heraclius said: **"What does he command you towards?"** Abu Sufyan responded by saying to Heraclius: **"He commands us to pray, tell the truth, chastity, and uphold the ties of kinship."** [Sahih Muslim and Bukhari]. So, such abstinence and self-control is a religious obligation and a moral principle, representing behavior that helps build strong societies and civilizations. For through it the people's spiritual difficulties and societal problems become alleviated, allowing for virtue to be preserved and spread in their communities. This is achieved through the believer controlling his desires, and seeking the help of Allah in this. From amongst the most important forms of abstinence is that a person abstains from the wealth of another, so he does not look to what is not his right to look to. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:



وَمَنْ يَسْتَعْفِفْ يُعِفَّهُ اللَّهُ، وَمَنْ يَسْتَغْنِ يُغْنِهِ اللَّهُ

Whoever abstains from seeking the wealth of others, Allah will provide for him. And whoever is self-sufficient, Allah will free him from need from all besides.

[Sahih Muslim and Bukhari].

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) praised a group from the Sahaba (may Allah be pleased with him) with regards to their self-sufficiency and their not seeking help from others, as Allah says: **يَحْسِبُهُمُ الْجَاهِلُ أَغْنِيَاءَ مِنَ التَّعَفُّفِ**

An ignorant [person] would think them self-sufficient because of their restraint, but you will know them by their [characteristic] sign. They do not ask people persistently [or at all]. [Qur'an: ٢:٢٧٣]

From such restraint and abstention is the returning of rights to the people to whom it belongs, and returning trusts to their people, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **أَرْبَعٌ إِذَا كُنَّ فِيكَ؛ فَلَا عَلَيْكَ مَا فَاتَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا: حِفْظُ**

أَمَانَةٍ، وَصِدْقُ حَدِيثٍ، وَحَسَنُ خَلِيقَةٍ، وَعِفَّةٌ فِي طَعْمَةٍ

Four attributes if they are with you, then you need not worry about what you missed in this world: The fulfilling of trusts, truthfulness in speech, goodly character and restraint with food. [Musnad Ahmad]

What is meant by restraint with food is sufficing oneself with the halal and pure over the haram and impure. So, O Allah, beautify us with this attribute of restraint and abstinence in all of our affairs and states. 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 in the beginning and the end, Who has exhorted us to Taqwa, abstinence and restraint. 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 Believers: A man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and said: **O Prophet of Allah! Teach me an action which will enable me to enter Paradise.** So, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

كُفَّ لِسَانَكَ إِلَّا مِنَ الْخَيْرِ

Restrain your tongue from everything except what is good.

[Al-Adab Al-Mufrad]

So the believer who hopes for entering Paradise should refrain his tongue from the haram and not speak anything but good, and distance himself from uttering that which offends modesty and decency, avoiding mentioning people in that which they dislike to be mentioned with or which they are not. So, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلِمَ النَّاسُ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ



"The Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand the people are safe" [Sunan al-Nasa'i]

So, let us instill these noble attributes in ourselves and in our children and let us habituate our characters towards this.

And with this we ask that You, O Allah, 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.

