



Prayer at its appointed time.

The First Sermon

All praises are due to Allah, the One who alone is worthy of being worshipped, to whom the believers submit in bowing and prostration. I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, alone, without partner, and I bear witness that our master and prophet Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His messenger. O Allah, bestow your blessings, peace, and mercy upon him, his family, his companions, and all those who follow them with excellence until the Day of Judgment.

As for what follows: I advise you and myself to fear Allah, to have Taqwa of your Lord, and to safeguard your acts of worship. As Allah says: **يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي**

خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

(O mankind, worship your Lord who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous)

[Qur'an: 2:21].

O Believers: Our Prophet went out one day with some of his companions while they were waiting for the prayer. He

said, in admiration of their good deed, **مَا يُجِلِّسُكُمْ هَاهُنَا؟**

'What keeps you here?' They said, 'O Messenger of Allah, we are waiting for the prayer.' He remained silent

for a while, then lifted his head and said, أَتَدْرُونَ مَا يَقُولُ

رَبِّكُمْ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ؟

'Do you know what your Lord, the Almighty, says?'
They said, 'Allah and His Messenger know best.' He said,

فَإِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يَقُولُ: مَنْ صَلَّى الصَّلَاةَ لَوَقْتِهَا، وَحَافِظًا
عَلَيْهَا، وَلَمْ يُضَيِّعْهَا اسْتِخْفَافًا بِحَقِّهَا، فَلَهُ عَلَيَّ عَهْدٌ أَنْ أُدْخِلَهُ
الْجَنَّةَ

'Indeed, your Lord, the Almighty, says: "Whoever performs the prayer at its appointed time, guards it, and does not neglect it deliberately, for him is a covenant with Me that I will admit him into Paradise."'

[Ahmad]

These are the prayer times, O servants of Allah, and what do you know about the prayer times? Our Lord, the Possessor of Majesty, has specified them when He sent Gabriel peace be upon him to our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and he prayed with him by the Kaaba twice, at the beginning and at the end of its appointed time. Then he said,

يَا مُحَمَّدُ، هَذَا وَقْتُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ، الْوَقْتُ فِيمَا بَيْنَ هَذَيْنِ

'O Muhammad, this is the time of the prophets before you; the time is between these two.' [Abu Dawud]

Allah Almighty commanded to preserve these times, saying, إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَوْقُوتًا

"Indeed, prayer has been decreed upon the believers a decree of specified times." [Qur'an: 4:103]

That is, the prayers each have a specific appointed time; it is not permissible to perform it earlier or delay it except in cases of combining prayers for ease or due to an excuse such as sleeping or forgetting. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

لَيْسَ فِي النَّوْمِ تَفْرِيطٌ، إِنَّمَا التَّفْرِيطُ فِي الْيَقْظَةِ، فَإِذَا نَسِيَ
أَحَدُكُمْ صَلَاةً أَوْ نَامَ عَنْهَا، فَلْيُصَلِّهَا إِذَا ذَكَرَهَا

"There is no negligence in sleep; the negligence is only in wakefulness. So if one of you forgets a prayer or sleeps through its time, then let him pray it when he remembers." [Abu Dawud]

And Allah made adherence to it one of the dearest deeds to Him. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was asked, "Which deed is most beloved to Allah?"

whereupon he said, الصَّلَاةُ عَلَى وَقْتِهَا

"Performing the prayer at its appointed time."

[Muslim]

Whenever the time of a prayer approached, he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would direct his attention to it, dedicating himself to establishing it, and nothing would distract him from it. He acted upon the saying of

Allah: أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِدُلُوكِ الشَّمْسِ إِلَى غَسَقِ اللَّيْلِ وَقُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ إِنَّ قُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ كَانَ مَشْهُودًا

Establish prayer at the decline of the sun [from its meridian] until the darkness of the night and [also] the

Qur'an of dawn. Indeed, the recitation of dawn is ever witnessed. [Qur'an: 17:78]

So, the first prayer in terms of timing at the beginning of the day is the Fajr prayer, witnessed by the angels who alternate, and it is performed by the successful believers. Their souls yearn to meet their Lord and to communicate with their Creator, starting their day with it, recalling the

saying of their caller to prayer: **الصَّلَاةُ خَيْرٌ مِنَ النَّوْمِ**

"Prayer is better than sleep." [Abu Dawud]

So, congratulations to the one who preserves the Fajr prayer, **بِالنُّورِ التَّامِّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ**

"He will have a complete light on the Day of Resurrection," [Abu Dawud]

and how fortunate is he to be : **فِي ذِمَّةِ اللَّهِ**

"under the protection of Allah"[Muslim]

Being safeguarded throughout his day, blessed in his mornings, becoming from those described as:

نَشِيطًا طَيِّبَ النَّفْسِ، وَإِلَّا أَصْبَحَ خَبِيثَ النَّفْسِ كَسَلَانَ

"energetic and joyful in spirit, otherwise, [not] becoming morally corrupt like a lazy person." [Bukhari and Muslim]

Then, the believer performs the Dhuhr, Asr, and Maghrib prayers when hearing the call of the Most Merciful, the invitation of success and forgiveness, as a means of remembering Allah and a notification of the prayer time. He does not delay it from its time but hastens to it, pondering its meanings, and delights in its performance, between standing, bowing, prostrating, and showing his

submission, renewing his connection with his Lord, seeking His favor and mercy, and preparing for the strength of his soul and the tranquility of his heart, and for fulfilling the responsibilities of his life. Then, he concludes his day with the Isha prayer, expressing gratitude to the Lord of the heavens and the earth, seeking His forgiveness and mercy.

For **الصَّلَاةُ الْمَكْتُوبَةُ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ الَّتِي بَعْدَهَا، كَفَّارَةٌ لِمَا بَيْنَهُمَا**

"the obligatory prayer to the obligatory prayer is an expiation for what is between them." [Ahmad]

And **لَا يَزَالُ أَحَدُكُمْ فِي صَلَاةٍ مَا دَامَ يَنْتَظِرُ الصَّلَاةَ**

"one of you remains in prayer as long as he is waiting for the prayer," [Ahmad]

Wherein the angels invoke Allah for him:

مَا دَامَ فِي مُصَلَّاهُ: اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْهُ

"as long as he remains in his prayer: O Allah, forgive him; O Allah, have mercy on him." [Bukhari and Muslim]

We ask Allah to make us among:

الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَوَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ

"those who guard their prayers. " [Qur'an: 23:9]

O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you." I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek forgiveness from Allah for He is the most forgiving and the most merciful.

The Second Sermon

All praises be to Allah who has ordained prayer as a connection and a means of supplication, and made it a light and salvation for the believers. And may peace and blessings be upon his Prophet and chosen one, our master Muhammad, and upon his family, companions, and those who follow his guidance until the Last Day.

O you who preserve your prayers: Indeed, in our adherence to prayers at their appointed times lies evidence of our recognition of its status, our reverence for its importance, and our nurturing of our children to love it and maintain it. For Umar (may Allah be pleased with him)

said: **إِنَّ أَهَمَّ أَمْرِكُمْ عِنْدِي الصَّلَاةُ، مَنْ حَفِظَهَا وَحَافِظَ عَلَيْهَا؛**

حَفِظَ دِينَهُ، وَمَنْ ضَيَّعَهَا؛ فَهُوَ لِمَا سِوَاهَا أَضْيَعُ

"The most important matter to me among your matters is prayer. Whoever preserves and guards it, guards his religion, and whoever neglects it, will be neglectful of everything else." [Muwatta Imam Malik]

So, congratulations and goodly tidings to those who are keen on their connection with their Lord through prayer; blessed are they loving that which Allah loves, and it is a sign of His love for you, His joy in meeting you, that He bestows the love of prayer in your heart – for it is the key that grants you entry into His Paradise, about which He

says: **أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْوَارِثُونَ* الَّذِينَ يَرِثُونَ الْفِرْدَوْسَ هُمْ فِيهَا**

خَالِدُونَ

"They are the inheritors who will inherit Al-Firdaus, where they will abide eternally." [Qur'an: 23:10-11]

And woe to those who are negligent in their prayers, wasting their times. Brothers and sisters, Ramadan is before us, a gift from our Lord and an opportunity to renew our prayers with our Creator, to turn back to our Lord, and to adhere to the times of our prayers, cooperating with one another. How blessed is the husband who wakes up his wife, and the wife wakes up her husband, and they who wake up their children for prayer so that they do not neglect it or delay it from its time. Indeed, prayer is the best of actions we can perform and it is an elevated and accepted deed with Him.

And with this we ask You to send Your blessings upon our Master and Prophet Muhammad, his family, and all his companions. And be pleased with 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 Sheikh 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.

وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ

And the remembrance of Allah is greater, and Allah knows what you do. (Quran 29:45).

So, stand up for prayer.