



## The Gates of Paradise

### First Khutba

All praises are due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds. He has made Paradise a reward for the obedient, and He has opened its gates for the worshippers to enter thereby wherein He has designated a gate specifically for those who fast. I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah alone, without any partners, and I bear witness that our master and Prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger of Allah who shall be the first to knock on the gates of Paradise. O Allah, bestow your blessings and grant peace upon him, his family, his companions, and those who follow them in the best of ways till the Last Day.

**To continue:** I advise you, servants of Allah, to have taqwa of Allah, your Lord. For it is the desired aim and the fruit of our fasting, that through which our deeds are accepted, our ranks are determined, and the means by which our Creator is pleased with us. It is on the basis of Taqwa that Allah will save souls from the fires of perdition and enter His servants through the gates of His Jannat or Gardens for you as He says: **هَذَا ذِكْرٌ وَإِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ لَحُسْنَ**

**مَابٍ \* جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتَحَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ**

**This is a reminder. And indeed, for those of taqwa is a good place of return - Gardens of perpetual residence, whose doors will be opened to them. [Quran: 38:49-50]**

O you who fast, we congratulate you on being in this blessed month, in partaking in this grand opportunity, the blessed month of Ramadan, during which Allah opens the doors or gates of Paradise with its greatness and vastness, wherein He opens these gates through facilitation of His obedience and worship as a path whereby we gain permission to enter these doors or gates. For the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

إِذَا جَاءَ رَمَضَانُ؛ فَتُحْتَفَتُ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ

**When Ramadan comes, the gates of Paradise are opened. [Bukhari and Muslim]**

And what do you know about the gates of Paradise? They are eight gates, the distance between each two gates is as

far as: مَسِيرَةٌ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً، وَلِيَأْتِيَنَّ عَلَيْهَا يَوْمٌ وَهُوَ كَطِيزٍ مِنَ الرَّحَامِ

**A journey of forty years, and there will come a day when it will be crowded with people. [Muslim]**

So, O you who yearn for Paradise and its delights, rejoice, for you are in a blessed month, in which the gates of Paradise are opened before you, and the means of entering it are made easy and facilitated for you. This also means we need to get to work, there has to be tangible change and actions and behaviour that we demonstrate in this month. We should strive to preserve praying our prayers at their appointed times, with their obligatory and voluntary acts, and strive for reverential humility (khushu') and

submission in them. As the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الصَّلَاةِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الصَّلَاةِ

**Whoever is of the people of prayer will be called from the gate of Prayer. [Bukhari and Muslim]**

Likewise, we should strive to complete our fasting with excellence and adhere to good manners during it, so that we may be called to enter Jannat "from the gate of Rayyan." For the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

إِنَّ فِي الْجَنَّةِ بَابًا يُقَالُ لَهُ الرَّيَّانُ، يَدْخُلُ مِنْهُ الصَّائِمُونَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، لَا يَدْخُلُ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ غَيْرِهِمْ، يُقَالُ: أَيْنَ الصَّائِمُونَ؟ فَيَقُومُونَ لَا يَدْخُلُ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ غَيْرِهِمْ

**Indeed, in Paradise, there is a gate called Rayyan, through which those who fast will enter on the Day of Resurrection. No one will enter it except them. It will be said, 'Where are those who fast?' So, they will stand up, and no one will enter it except them. [Bukhari and Muslim]**

Similarly, we should increase our giving of charity, for by it, our scales on the Day of Judgment will be made heavy, and a door or gate to the Gardens of Paradise of our Lord will be opened for us. As our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

وَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الصَّدَقَةِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الصَّدَقَةِ

**And whoever is of the people of charity will be called from the gate of charity. [Bukhari and Muslim]**

O servants of Allah, it is important that in this blessed month we do not neglect the remembrance (dhikr) of Allah. For it is a shield for us from the Fire and is a gate from the gates of Paradise. As Qays ibn Sa'd (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates: **أَلَا أَدُلُّكَ عَلَى بَابٍ مِنْ أَبْوَابِ الْجَنَّةِ؟** **قُلْتُ: بَلَى. قَالَ: «لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ»**

**The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked me, 'Shall I not guide you to a gate of the gates of Paradise?' I said, 'Certainly.' He said, 'La hawla wa la quwwata illa billah' (There is no power nor strength except by Allah). [Tirmidhi]**

And the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also explained the virtue of remembrance (dhikr) after completing ablution. So in praising meticulousness in the ablution, he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **مَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَتَوَضَّأُ فَيَسْبِغُ الْوُضُوءَ ثُمَّ يَقُولُ: أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ؛ إِلَّا فَتُحِتَ لَهُ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ الثَّمَانِيَّةِ، يَدْخُلُ مِنْ أَيِّهَا شَاءَ**

**None of you performs ablution and perfects it, then says: 'I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah' except that the eight gates of Paradise are opened for him, and he can enter through whichever he pleases. [Muslim]**

Indeed, this month is the arena for us to strive, and in the Hereafter is the outcome of the race, wherein the ones who precede towards the gates of Paradise are the winners, and the successful ones are those who enter them and thereby

recognize their own status therein. As Allah, the Almighty, says: **وَيُدْخِلُهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ عَرَفَهَا لَهُمْ**

**And He will admit them to Paradise, which He has made known to them [Quran: 7:43].**

About this knowing and recognition, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

**وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ بِيَدِهِ؛ لَأَحَدُهُمْ بِمَسْكَنِهِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ أَدُلُّ  
بِمَنْزِلِهِ كَانَ فِي الدُّنْيَا**

**By Him in Whose Hands the life of Muhammad is, each and everyone of the believers will recognize their dwelling in Paradise [as being] better than they recognize their dwelling in this world. [Bukhari]**

So, let us prepare ourselves for that day, and store up our deeds for salvation on it, for indeed our deeds are preserved for us. **وَإِنَّمَا تُوفَّوْنَ أَجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَمَنْ زُحِرَ**

**عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعُ  
الْغُرُورِ**

**Every soul will taste death, and you will only be given your [full] compensation on the Day of Resurrection. So he who is drawn away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has attained [his desire]. And what is the life of this world except the enjoyment of delusion. [Quran: 3:185].**

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.

## Second Khutba

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 people of the fast: The middle gate of Paradise, so the most accessible is not far from you, rather it is very close to you, and it is through practising righteousness to our parents. Have you not heard the saying of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him):

الْوَالِدُ أَوْسَطُ أَبْوَابِ الْجَنَّةِ، فَإِنْ شِئْتَ فَأَضِعْ ذَلِكَ الْبَابَ أَوْ  
احْفَظْهُ

**The parent is the middle gate of Paradise, so if you wish, then neglect that door, or protect it. [Tirmidhi]**

Why shouldn't we preserve this gate and strive for it in serving our parents? Allah, the Exalted, has facilitated this path for many of us and promised us abundant rewards in it. So those amongst us who have parents, either one or both of them, let them seize the opportunity with their righteousness before their gate is closed to them. And whoever may have lost their parents or one of them, let them be that righteous child who continues to supplicate for them, who gives charity on their behalf, maintains the ties of kinship that can only be reached through them, and visits the loved ones of their parents, for all of this is still in

the category of honouring our parents, and opens this gate of Paradise for us.

Similarly the wife who is keen on obeying her Lord, protecting herself, and being a good partner in life for her husband, should help him in obeying his Lord and raising their children. For it will be said to her on the Day of

Judgment: **ادْخُلِي الْجَنَّةَ مِنْ أَيِّ أَبْوَابِ الْجَنَّةِ شِئْتَ**

**Enter Paradise from whichever gate you wish. [Ahmad]**

And this goodly character goes both ways, so the husband who fulfills his responsibilities towards his wife and children, fulfilling his duties towards them with commitment, then he has the glad tidings for the honor of entering gardens of perpetual bliss. **جَنَّاتٌ عَدْنٌ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَنْ**

**صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ \* سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ فَنِعْمَ عُقْبَى الدَّارِ**

**Gardens of perpetual residence; they will enter them with whoever were righteous among their fathers, their spouses, and their descendants. And the angels will enter upon them from every gate, [saying], 'Peace be upon you for what you patiently endured. And excellent is the final home. [Quran 13:23-24].**

So strive, O servants of Allah, to seize the opportunity of Ramadan in obedience to the Most Merciful, so that the gates of Paradise are opened for you and that you attain favor and felicity. Strive in devotion and obedience to your Lord, maintaining the bonds of your families, ensure the righteousness of your children, and maintaining the ties of kinship, for that is a gate open to Paradise for you. O Allah,

bestow upon us Your pleasure and admit us to Paradise with Your Prophet and chosen Messenger. O Allah, make us among those who are successful in Ramadan in performing righteous deeds, doing good, and avoiding evil, so that you open the gates of Paradise for us and save us from the Hellfire, O Most Generous, O Bestower. O Allah, grant us entry into Paradise, O Allah, grant us entry into Paradise, O Allah, grant us entry into Paradise,

O Allah, accept our fasting, our prayers, and our righteous deeds. O Allah, You know that there are beloved ones to us who were with us in the past Ramadan, fasting as we fasted, standing in prayer as we stood, supplicating to You as we did, and they are now with You having departed from this world. So, shower Your mercy upon them, and open the gates of Paradise for them.

And with this we ask You O Allah 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. **And the remembrance of Allah is greater, and Allah knows what you do. (Quran 29:45).** So, stand up for prayer.