



Goodly Souls

The First Sermon

All praises are due to Allah who created souls and perfected them, and promised success to the best and purest among them. 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 the servant of Allah and His messenger, who is blessed in life and in death. O Allah, send Your blessings, peace, and blessings upon him, his family, companions, and followers.

To Continue: I advise you, O servants of Allah, and myself to have Taqwa of Allah, for it is Tawqā that is the defining attribute of goodly souls, and underpins its noble qualities, beautiful speech, and righteous deeds. It is the way to attain unto true felicity and true happiness in this life and the next and the ultimate success when meeting our

Lord. 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, have tawqā of Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and have taqwa of Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do. (Surah Al-Hashr, ٥٩:١٨).

O Worshipers: The concept of the goodness of souls is mentioned throughout the Qur'an, as it is the essence of such goodness that beautifies everything it touches and elevates it. It is the goodness in our souls that is accepted

by Allah and which enables us to be raised to the highest levels in spiritual ranks. For the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ طَيِّبٌ لَا يَقْبَلُ إِلَّا طَيِّبًا

Indeed, Allah is Good and only accepts that which is good (Sahih Muslim).

This means good deeds from pure and good souls, which entails that we should strive to free our souls/hearts from malice or envy, seeking the happiness of others just as much as we seek our own. About such souls, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

لَيْسَ بِالطَّعَّانِ، وَلَا اللَّعَّانِ، وَلَا الْفَاحِشِ، وَلَا الْبَذِيءِ

They do not indulge in slander or defamation, nor do they take pleasure in harming others. (Jami' at-Tirmidhi).

These souls live in tranquility, bliss, and peace, fulfilling the saying of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): طَيِّبُ النَّفْسِ مِنَ النَّعِيمِ

"A content soul is a blessing" (Jami' at-Tirmidhi).

O Servants of Allah: Indeed, the owners of goodly souls, find that their goodness is evidence of their strength and endurance. You recognize them in prosperity by their goodness, and in adversity their virtues shine. They are people of honor, courage, and chivalry, akin to the example of a bee, which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) compared the believers to:

كَمَثَلِ النَّحْلَةِ، أَكَلَتْ طَيِّبًا، وَوَضَعَتْ طَيِّبًا

"Like the example of the bee: it eats clean [food] and produces clean [honey]" [Ahmad]

They are those who rush to offer their great efforts and assist those in need with their wealth and selves, regardless of their colors, religions, or races. They strive to uphold the reputation of their homeland, displaying its virtues and preserving its gains. They are more beloved to them than their own homes, and those who reside there are like their own families. They do not heed the rumors of detractors or haters. They are true to their commitments and are faithful to their promises being: **وَالْمُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا**

Trustworthy when they make promises. (Surah Al-Baqarah, ٢:١٧٧)

They are given glad tidings by the testimony of our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) when he said they were the best of people, stating:

خَيْرُ النَّاسِ الْمُوفُونَ الْمُطِيبُونَ

The best of people are those who are trustworthy and have good manners (Sunan Ibn Majah).

So, O you who cherish noble values: Meet people with a smile and greet them with the noblest greeting, for it is a:

تَحِيَّةٌ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ مُبَارَكَةٌ طَيِّبَةٌ

Blessed and goodly greeting from Allah (Surah al-Noor: ٢٤:٦١)

And demonstrate kindness with the best of speech:

وَأَطِيبُوا الْكَلَامَ

Select the best and purest of speech (Mu'jam al-Awsat)

As Allah says: **إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ**

"To Him ascends good speech" (Surah Fatir, ٣٥:١٠).
So we should seek the good in our sustenance, and earn it with excellence in our deeds. As Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ كُلُوا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا

"O mankind, eat from whatever is on earth [that is] lawful and good" (Surah Al-Baqarah, ٢:١٦٨).
And spend from it in goodness [in the way of Allah]:

مِنْ طَيِّبَاتِ مَا كَسَبْتُمْ

"[Spend] from the good things which you have earned"
(Surah Al-Baqarah, ٢:٢٦٧)

We should strive to be pure in our souls, without causing harm or injustice to anyone. Building our homes on goodness, for our Lord says:

وَالطَّيِّبَاتُ لِلطَّيِّبِينَ وَالطَّيِّبُونَ لِلطَّيِّبَاتِ

"And the good ones are for the good ones and the good ones are for the good ones" (Surah An-Nur, ٢٤:٢٦).
This entails we raise goodly children in society:

ذُرِّيَّةً طَيِّبَةً

"A good offspring" (Surah Al-Furqan, ٢٥:٧٤),
In a pure environment, armed with knowledge and adorned with good morals. It also entails we maintain ties with those we love and our relatives, for our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

إِذَا عَادَ الرَّجُلُ أَخَاهُ أَوْ زَارَهُ، قَالَ اللَّهُ لَهُ: طِبْتَ وَطَابَ مَمْشَاكَ،
وَتَبَوَّأْتَ مَنْزِلًا فِي الْجَنَّةِ

"When a man visits his brother or goes to see him, Allah says: 'You have done well and your footsteps have been blessed, and you have taken a place in Paradise'" (Sunan Ibn Majah).

O Allah, make us amongst the people of good souls, good intentions, good words, and good deeds.

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" (Surah An-Nisa, ٤:٥٩).

I say this and I seek forgiveness from Allah for me and for you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most forgiving and most merciful.

The Second Sermon

All praise is due to Allah who has promised the people of good souls a great reward and prepared for them a noble abode. And may peace and blessings be upon His Prophet and chosen one, as well as his family, companions, and those who follow his guidance.

O people of good souls: Allah has honored us with living in the United Arab Emirates, a goodly land for goodly souls. As our Lord says: وَالْبَلَدُ الطَّيِّبُ يَخْرُجُ نَبَاتُهُ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِ

"And the good land - its vegetation emerges by permission of its Lord" (Surah Al-A'raf, ٧:٥٨).

We live under wise leadership that values good souls, compassion, solidarity, and generosity, honoring its people in the greatest of ways and showing them the highest of appreciation. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to thank Allah for this blessing and to embody the values of good souls. Let us set an example with our positive and good thinking, our righteous and good words, and our noble and good conduct. The fruit of that is a good memory, good consequences, and a good life in this world. How could this

not be the case, when Allah says: **مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ**
أَوْ أَنشَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً

"Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life" (Surah An-Nahl, ١٦:٩٧).

And indeed, the reward for those who make their days good in their lives is that Allah has promised the good ones an eternity of goodness, as He says:

جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَمَسَاكِنَ طَيِّبَةً فِي جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

"Gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they abide eternally, and good homes in Gardens of Eternity.

But the greatest bliss is the approval of Allah. That is the great attainment" (Surah At-Tawbah, ٩:٧٢).

O Allah, make us among those who do good deeds in this world, eager for the goodness of our souls, preserving the purity of our hearts, benefiting others, and make us among

those whom the angels take in death as good souls, and grant us honorable dwellings in the Gardens of Bliss.

O Allah send Your blessings and peace upon our Master and Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, his family, and all his companions. O Allah be pleased with the rightly guided caliphs and all the noble companions. O Allah, bestow security, stability, prosperity, mercy, and peace upon the United Arab Emirates, and may the world be filled with Your mercy and peace.

O Allah, grant success to the President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, his deputies, his brothers, the rulers of the Emirates, and his Crown Prince, in what You love and are pleased with.

O Allah, have mercy on Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Rashid, the founding leaders, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, and admit them to Your vast Paradise with Your grace. Embrace the martyrs of the nation with Your mercy and forgiveness. O Allah, have mercy on the Muslim men and women, the believers, the living and the dead. O servants of Allah, remember your Great and Majestic Lord and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings, and He will increase you therein. And establish the prayer, so stand up to perform it.