



## And they were to us devout worshippers

### The First Sermon

Verily, all praise is due to Allah; we praise Him, seek His help, and ask for His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of our own souls and from our bad deeds. Whomsoever Allah guides, none can mislead; and whomsoever He leaves astray, none can guide. I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, who is alone without any partner, and I bear witness that Sayyiduna Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and His servant. O Allah, send your peace and blessings upon him, his family, and all his companions, and upon all of those who follow them in goodness until the Day of Judgment.

**To Proceed:** I advise you, O servants of Allah, and myself, to have Taqwa of Allah. **يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ**

**وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ**

**O people, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous (Qur'an: ٢:٢١).**

Through worship, you will achieve the commendable outcome and the promised Paradise, as Allah says:

**تِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي نُورِثُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا مَنْ كَانَ تَقِيًّا**

**That is Paradise, which We give as inheritance to those of Our servants who were fearing Allah (Qur'an: ١٩:٦٣)**

**O Worshippers:** One of the rights of Allah upon His servants, which none other deserves, is the sincere devotion of worship to Him, seeking His pleasure and showing gratitude for His blessings. In this, worshippers find their comfort, and believers achieve their happiness. Thus, they constantly utter in every prayer: **إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ**

**You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help**  
(Qur'an: ١:٥).

Indeed, all creation acknowledges and fulfills this covenant:

**إِنَّ كُلَّ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا آتِيَ الرَّحْمَنَ عَبْدًا**

**There is none in the heavens and earth but comes to the Most Merciful as a servant** (Qur'an: ١٩:٩٣).

So worshipping Allah is an honor for every worshipper, an honor that Allah bestowed upon our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), referring to him as a servant when he was in the most esteemed of ranks, as

Allah says: **سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ**

**Glory to Him who took His servant by night** (Qur'an: ١٧:١).

The believers are also called by the title of servants in many verses, wherein they are urged to strive and are invited to attain unto the mercy of their Lord:

**قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ**

**Say: O My servants who have transgressed against themselves, do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful** (Qur'an: ٣٩:٥٣).

So one who truly understands what servitude to Allah is, will relish its pleasure, and one who performs such servitude correctly tastes its sweetness, wherein it manifests its beautiful effects upon them. For Allah the Almighty said:

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا

**And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth humbly (Qur'an: ٢٥:٦٣).**

When they worshiped their Lord, their morals were adorned, their qualities were praised, their souls were at peace, and their hearts were content. This is one of the greatest fruits of worship.

**Servants of Allah:** Worship means exalting the command of Allah, acting in ways that please Allah, and showing kindness to His creation. For Allah the Almighty said:

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ

الْخَيْرَاتِ وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ وَكَانُوا لَنَا عَابِدِينَ

**And We inspired them to do good deeds, establish prayer, and give zakah. And they were to Us worshippers (Qur'an: ٢١:٧٣).**

Worship is an indivisible whole, a concept with no hypocrisy in it. Its fields are many, and its forms are numerous. So it is not confined to prayer, zakah, hajj, and fasting but includes all of our life's activities. Likewise, reflecting on what Allah has created in the earth and the heavens is among the greatest of acts of worship. Let us consider the saying of Allah the

Almighty: وَالْأَرْضَ مَدَدْنَاهَا وَأَلْقَيْنَا فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ

كُلِّ زَوْجٍ بَهِيجٍ \* تَبْصِرَةً وَذِكْرَى لِكُلِّ عَبْدٍ مُنِيبٍ

**And the earth We have spread out, and cast therein firmly set mountains, and made grow therein of every beautiful kind \* An insight and a reminder for every servant who turns to Allah (Qur'an: ٥٠:٧-٨).**

Likewise, nurturing the family and caring for it, and spending on it, are noble acts of worship. Indeed, the greatest expenditure we can have is that: **لَلَّذِي أَنْفَقْتَهُ عَلَىٰ أَهْلِكَ**

**In reward is what you spend on your family.  
(Sahih Muslim)**

Seeking knowledge is a type of worship that leads a person to progress in this world and to success in the hereafter. For the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

**مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا؛ سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ**

**Whoever follows a path to seek knowledge, Allah will make the path to Paradise easy for him. (Sahih Muslim)**

Similarly, treating people with high values and morals in their interactions, regardless of their race, nationalities, beliefs, and colors, is a form of worship that elevates an individual to a high rank in a lofty Paradise, bringing them close to the status of the Prophets in the highest places of honor. For the Seal of the Messengers (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **إِنَّ مِنْ أَحَبِّكُمْ إِلَيَّ وَأَقْرَبِكُمْ مِنِّي مَجْلِسًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ؛ أَحْسَنِكُمْ**

**أَخْلَاقًا**

**Indeed, the most beloved of you to me and the closest to me in the assembly on the Day of Judgment are those of you who are best in character. (Sunan Tirmidhi)**

O Allah, help us to be of those: **عَلَى ذِكْرِكَ وَشُكْرِكَ، وَحُسْنِ عِبَادَتِكَ**

**Who remember You, thank You, and worship You in the best manner. (Abu Dawud)**

And grant us success in acting upon Your saying: **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 ask Allah's forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most-forgiving and most-merciful.

## **Second Sermon**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all the worlds, who bestows abundant rewards upon the worshippers. And peace and blessings be upon the Seal of the Prophets, and upon his family, companions, and followers.

**O you who strive to worship your Lord:** Loving your homeland and cultivating its land is also worship of our Creator and fulfillment of the will of our Lord. For Allah

Almighty said: **هُوَ أَنشَأَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ وَاسْتَعْمَرَكُمْ فِيهَا**

**(He) established you on the earth and asked you to develop it (Qur'an: ١١:٦١).**

Therefore, it is incumbent upon a person to worship their Lord by striving for the advancement of their country by working diligently, fulfilling their duties with honesty, precision, dedication, and striving to achieve the highest levels of quality and completing work in the best and most perfect manner, seeking the pleasure and love of Allah Almighty. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ إِذَا عَمِلَ أَحَدُكُمْ عَمَلًا أَنْ يُتَّقِنَهُ

**Allah loves that when one of you does something, they do it well. (Musnad Abi Yala)**

As a means of our slavehood, every person entrusted with a responsibility should strive to make their intention an act of worship to their Lord, a means to draw closer to their Creator, and to provide for themselves and their family. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once saw a man from his companions who was active and diligent. The companions said: “O Messenger of Allah, if only this were in the way of Allah?” The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah

be upon him) replied: **إِنْ كَانَ خَرَجَ يَسْعَى عَلَى وُلْدِهِ صِغَارًا؛**

**فَهُوَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ، وَإِنْ كَانَ خَرَجَ يَسْعَى عَلَى أَبْوَيْنِ شَيْخَيْنِ كَبِيرَيْنِ؛**

**فَهُوَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ، وَإِنْ كَانَ يَسْعَى عَلَى نَفْسِهِ يُعْقَمُهَا؛ فَهُوَ فِي سَبِيلِ**

**اللَّهِ**

**If he went out striving to support his young children, he is in the way of Allah. If he went out striving to support his elderly parents, he is in the way of Allah. If he went out striving to support himself to keep chaste, he is in the way of Allah. (Mu’jam al-Kabir li Ṭabarāni)**

See how the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) corrected the understanding of worship for his blessed companions and for us. Based on this, should not every employee in their job and every worker in their work feel that they are in worship of their Lord, accountable for any negligence in it, any delay in its performance, or any deceit to avoid it, such as presenting false medical certificates and the like? If one feels this, they will be sincere and trustworthy in

their work, seeking thereby the pleasure of their Lord, the benefit of their community, and the advancement of their country.

O Allah, help us to remember You, thank You, and worship You excellently. O Allah, bestow Your peace and blessings upon our leader and Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, the Trustworthy, and upon his family and all his companions. And be pleased, O Allah, with the Rightly Guided Caliphs, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali, and with all the noble companions. O Allah, make us Your worshippers, obedient to You, beneficial to others in all aspects of life, seeking Your noble face.

O Allah, grant the UAE perpetual peace, stability, progress, and prosperity. Encompass the world with Your mercy and peace. And guide the President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, his deputies, his brothers the rulers of the Emirates, and his faithful Crown Prince to what You love and are pleased with.

O Allah, have mercy upon Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Rashid, the founding leaders, Sheikh Maktoum, and Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed. Admit them, by Your grace, into Your spacious gardens and include the martyrs of the nation in Your mercy and forgiveness.

O Allah, have mercy on all Muslims and believers, the living and the dead.

O worshippers of Allah, remember the Great and Glorious Allah, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings, and He will increase you. And establish the prayer.