

## Presence of the Heart in Prayer

### First Khutbah:

All praise is due to Allah, who has made prayer a source of comfort for the hearts of believers and a means of tranquillity for the souls of the devoted worshippers. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah. And I bear witness that our Prophet, Muhammad, is the Messenger of Allah, May Allah's peace, blessings, and mercy be upon him, his family, his companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment.

**As for what follows:** I enjoin you, O servants of Allah, and myself, to have Taqwa of Allah. He, the Most High, says:

﴿وَأَنْ أَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَاتَّقُواهُ وَهُوَ الَّذِي إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ﴾ (١)

"And establish prayer and fear Him; and it is He to whom you will be gathered." (Al-An'am: ٧٢)

### O Worshippers!

Each of us, at some point in our prayers, has experienced a moment of clarity—a fleeting instant in which we detach from the world and its distractions, our hearts connect with our Lord, and we sense His greatness. In that moment, a profound joy overwhelms the soul, tranquillity fills the heart, and a deep peace takes hold of our entire being, making us wish that this state would never end.

Do you know the secret behind this, O servants of Allah? It is the **presence of the heart** and the **awareness of nearness to Allah**. This is the theme of our *khutba* today. So let us strive to elevate our prayer so it may become



for us what it were for our beloved Prophet ﷺ - a source of delight for his eyes and comfort for his heart. فِرَّةٌ

عَيْنِهِ فِيهَا (٢). وَرَاحَةٌ قَلْبِهِ

The Prophet ﷺ would say to his muezzin: "Establish the prayer, give us comfort through it." أَقِمْ

الصَّلَاةَ، أَرْخَنَا بِهَا (٣)

Let our prayer transform from mere physical movements into a spiritual journey. The actions and words of prayer gain greater reward when the heart is present within them. Through this, we experience the true joy of prayer and taste the sweetness of standing before Allah.

**O worshipper**, you who long for a prayer that fills your heart with light, know that the call to prayer is an invitation from Allah to you. So, respond to it eagerly, repeat its words, and reflect upon their meanings: "*Allahu Akbar*"—Feel that He is greater than everything and mightier than anything. Disconnect from creation and turn your attention to the Creator, who calls you with the words: "*Come to prayer... Come to success.*" **«حَيَّ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ»** ... **«حَيَّ عَلَى الْفَلَاحِ»**

This was the way of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. when he heard the call to prayer, would rise quickly (i.e. to perform ablution). **«إِذَا سَمِعَ الْأَذَانَ، وَثَبَّ»** (٤).

And likewise, the one whose heart is attached to Allah hastens to perform ablution for prayer, feeling that he is washing away his sins and cleansing both his heart and body. As the Prophet ﷺ said:

**«مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الْوُضُوءَ، خَرَجَتْ خَطَايَاهُ مِنْ جَسَدِهِ، حَتَّى تَخْرُجَ مِنْ تَحْتِ أَظْفَارِهِ»** (٥)

**"Whoever performs ablution and does it well, his sins leave his body, even from beneath his fingernails."**

Once you have completed your ablution, prepare your heart to stand before your Lord, saying:



"I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, alone, with no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger. O Allah, make me among those who repent and among those who purify themselves." **اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي مِنَ التَّوَّابِينَ، وَاجْعَلْنِي مِنَ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ»،**

For whoever says this, "the gates of Paradise will be opened for him, and he may enter through whichever one he wishes."

«فُتِحَتْ لَهُ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَدْخُلُ مِنْ أَيِّهَا شَاءَ» (٦).

What a magnificent encounter you are preparing for through ablution, remembrance, applying perfume, and wearing your finest clothes, in obedience to Allah's command: ﴿يَا بَنِي آدَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ﴾ (٧) "O children of Adam, take your adornment at every place of worship." (Surah Al-A'raf: ٣١)

And be mindful not to harm others with unpleasant smell, for "the angels are harmed by what harms the sons of Adam."

«فَإِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ تَتَأَذَى مِمَّا يَتَأَذَى مِنْهُ بَنُو آدَمَ» (٨).

It is only fitting that you recognize and grasp the greatness of this sacred encounter, just as the righteous and pious did before you.

*Ali ibn Al-Husayn* (may Allah be pleased with them both) would experience a visible change in his state whenever he performed ablution. When asked about it, he replied: "Do you not realize before whom I am about to stand? And whom I am about to converse with?"

Yes, O servant of Allah, in your prayer, you are conversing with Allah, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer, who says:

﴿الَّذِي يَرَاكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ \* وَتَقَلِّبُكَ فِي السَّاجِدِينَ﴾ (٩)

"Who sees you when you stand, and your movements among those who prostrate." (*Surah Ash-Shu'ara*:

٢١٨-٢١٩)

Where are those who are forgetful in their prayer? Have you not heard the words of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ:

«إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَنْصَرِفُ وَمَا كُتِبَ لَهُ إِلَّا عَشْرُ صَلَاتِهِ» (١٠)

"A man may finish his prayer, and only a tenth of it is recorded for him."

Do you not feel the greatness of Allah? Do you not realize that you are in direct conversation with Him? Have you not heard the saying of the Prophet ﷺ:

«إِنَّ أَحَدَكُمْ إِذَا صَلَّى يُنَاجِي رَبَّهُ» (١١).

"Indeed, when one of you prays, he is conversing with his Lord."

O servants of Allah, among the things that help a believer attain presence of heart in prayer is approaching it with calmness, dignity, and tranquillity.

«السَّكِينَةُ وَالْوَقَارُ» (١٢)

When beginning the prayer with the recitation of **Surah Al-Fatihah**, let one be mindful that Allah is listening and responding. For when the worshipper says:

- "All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds," Allah replies: "My servant has praised Me."

حَمِيدَنِي عَبْدِي

- When he says: "The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful," Allah says: "My servant has extolled Me."

أَتَى عَلَيَّ عَبْدِي،

- When he says: "Master of the Day of Judgment," Allah says: "My servant has glorified Me."

- When he says: **"You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help,"** Allah responds: **"This is between Me and My servant, and My servant shall have what he asks for."**

• هَذَا بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَ عَبْدِي، وَلِعَبْدِي مَا سَأَلَ

- And when he says: **"Guide us to the Straight Path—the path of those You have blessed, not of those who have incurred Your wrath, nor of those who have gone astray,"** Allah says: **"This is for My servant, and My servant shall have what he asks for."**

• هَذَا لِعَبْدِي وَلِعَبْدِي مَا سَأَلَ» (١٣)

- **O Allah,** make us among those who are reverent in prayer. خاشعين

Grant us success in obeying You completely and in following those whom You have commanded us to obey, as

You said, O Lord of the worlds:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ﴾ (١٤)

**"O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you."** (Surah

An-Nisa': ٥٩)

I say these words and seek forgiveness from Allah, for me and for you.

## The Second Sermon:

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. May peace and blessings be upon our trustworthy Prophet, Muhammad, and upon his family, companions, and those who follow them in righteousness.

**O believers!** When you bow in prayer, glorify your Lord and praise your Creator, saying: **(Glory be to my Great**

**Lord).** "«سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْعَظِيمِ» (١٥).

This is in response to the command of your Prophet ﷺ, who said:

"As for bowing, glorify your Lord in it." (١٦) «أَمَّا الرُّكُوعُ فَعَظِّمُوا فِيهِ الرَّبَّ»

And when you rise from bowing, praise Allah, your Lord, saying:

«اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا لَكَ الْحَمْدُ، مِلْءُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَمِلْءُ الْأَرْضِ، وَمِلْءُ مَا شِئْتَ مِنْ شَيْءٍ بَعْدُ» (١٧)

"O Allah, our Lord, to You is all praise, filling the heavens, filling the earth, and filling whatever You will beyond that." For indeed, He, Glorified and Exalted, hears your praise, accepts your glorification, responds to your supplications, and forgives your sins. Our Prophet ﷺ said:

«إِذَا قَالَ الْإِمَامُ: سَمِعَ اللَّهُ مِنْ حَمِيدِهِ، فَقُولُوا: اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا لَكَ الْحَمْدُ، فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ وَافَقَ قَوْلَهُ قَوْلَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ: غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ» (١٨).

"When the imam says, 'سَمِعَ اللَّهُ مِنْ حَمِيدِهِ' (Allah hears those who praise Him), then say, اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا لَكَ الْحَمْدُ, (O Allah, our Lord, to You belongs all praise), for whoever's words coincide with those of the angels will have their past sins forgiven."

So when you reach the greatest pillar of prayer and humble yourselves in prostration before Allah, be certain that you are in the most honoured position, a position where you are alone with your Lord, drawing near to your Creator, surrendering to His Majesty, and humbling yourselves before His Glorious Face, saying with both your tongues and hearts: «سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْأَعْلَى» (١٩)

(Glory is to my Lord, the Most High).

O those who prostrate!

Seize this moment of closeness to the Lord of the heavens and the earth through supplication and sincere hope,

“And prostrate and draw near [to Allah]” (Qur’an (٢٠) ﴿وَأَقْرَبُ﴾) for our Lord, the Most High, says:

٩٦:١٩).

And our Prophet ﷺ said: «أَقْرَبُ مَا يَكُونُ الْعَبْدُ مِنْ رَبِّهِ وَهُوَ سَاجِدٌ، فَأَكْثِرُوا الدُّعَاءَ» (٢١)

“The closest a servant is to his Lord is while he is in prostration, so increase in supplication.”

At the conclusion of your prayer, direct your pure, blessed greetings to Allah, your Lord. Send peace upon your

Prophet, upon yourselves, and extend your greetings to all of Allah’s righteous servants.

Our Prophet ﷺ said: “The first deed for which a servant will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment is his prayer. If it is found to be perfect, he will be safe and successful; but if it is incomplete, he will be unfortunate and a loser. If any shortcoming is found in the obligatory Salat, Allah, the Exalted, will say:

‘Look and see if My servant has any voluntary prayers, so that the obligatory Salat may be made up by it.’

«إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ عَمَلِهِ صَلَاتُهُ، فَإِنْ صَلَحَتْ فَقَدْ أَفْلَحَ وَأَنْجَحَ، وَإِنْ فَسَدَتْ فَقَدْ خَابَ وَخَسِرَ، فَإِنْ انْتَقَصَ مِنْ فَرِيضَتِهِ شَيْءٌ، قَالَ الرَّبُّ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى: انظُرُوا هَلْ لِعِبْدِي مِنْ تَطَوُّعٍ. فَيَكْمَلُ بِهَا مَا انْتَقَصَ مِنَ الْفَرِيضَةِ» (٢٢).

O Allah, send Your blessings, peace, and grace upon our master and Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family, his companions, and those who follow them. Be pleased, O Allah, with Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali, and with all the noble companions.

O Allah, make us among those who truly believe in You, worship You sincerely, turn to You in repentance, remain humble in our prayers, establish them consistently, safeguard them diligently, and attain success in Paradise.

Make us dutiful to our parents and have mercy on them as they raised us when we were young, O Most Merciful of the merciful.

**O Allah**, grant the United Arab Emirates continued stability, progress, and prosperity. Bestow upon us well-being, bless us in our sustenance, our spouses, and our children.

**O Allah**, guide the President of the State, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, his deputies, his brothers, the rulers of the Emirates, and his trustworthy Crown Prince to what pleases You and earns Your satisfaction.

**O Allah**, have mercy on Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Rashid, and the founding leaders, and grant them entry into Your vast gardens by Your grace. Encompass the martyrs of the nation with Your mercy and forgiveness.

**O Allah**, have mercy on all Muslim men and women, believing men and women, both the living and the deceased.

**O Allah**, send down upon us the rain, and do not let us be among those who despair. **O Allah**, grant us rain, O Allah, grant us rain, O Allah, grant us rain.

﴿رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ﴾ (٢٣).

“Our Lord, grant us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and protect us from the torment of the Fire.” (Quran ٢:٢٠١)

Servants of Allah, remember Allah, the Almighty and the Glorious, and He will remember you. Be grateful for His blessings, and He will increase you in them.

(١)Al Anaam.٧٢

(٢)Ahmad: ١٢٢٩٣

(٣)Abu Dawod: ٤٩٨٥

(٤)Ahmad : ٢٥٤٣٥



(٥)Muslim: .٢٤٥

(٦)Muslim ٢٣٤

(٧)Al A'araf: ٣١

(٨)Muslim: ٥٦٤

(٩)Ash-Shu'ara: ٢١٨-٢١٩.

(١٠.)Abu Dawod :٧٩٦

(١١) Bukhari.: ٥٠٨

(١٢)Muslim ٦.٢

(١٣)Muslim: ٣٩٥

(١٤)An Nisa'.٥٩ :

(١٥)Muslim: .٧٧٢

(١٦)Muslim: ٤٧٩

(١٧)Muslim: .٤٧١

(١٨)agree upon.

(١٩)Muslim: .٧٧٢

(٢٠.)Al-Alaq. ١٩

(٢١)Muslim: ٤٨٢.

(٢٢)Abu Dawood: ٨٦٤, and Al-Tirmidhi: ٤١٣.

(٢٣)Quran ٢:٢٠١.