

Khutbah: Show mercy to enjoy mercy

Arshad Gamiet
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أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

"A-úthubillaahi minash shaytaanir rajeem. Bismillaahir Rahmanir Raheem Alhamdu lil Lahi nahmaduhu wanasta'eenahu, wanastagh-firuhu, wanatoobu ilayhi, wana'oothu Billaahi min shuroori an-fusinaa, wamin sayyi aati a'maalinaa. May-Yahdillahu fa huwal muhtad, wa may- yudlill falantajidaa lahu waliyan murshida. Wa ash-hadu an Laailaaha ill-Allah, wahdahoo laa shareekalah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhoo warasooluh"

All Praise is due to Allah, We praise Him and we seek help from Him. We ask forgiveness from Him. We repent to Him; and we seek refuge in Him from our own evils and our own bad deeds. Anyone who is guided by Allah is indeed guided; and anyone who has been left astray, will find no one to guide him. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, the Only One without any partner; and I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ, peace and blessings on him, is His servant, and His messenger.

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ)

Bismillaahir Rahmanir Raheem! Ya Ay-yuhal-latheena 'aamanut taqul-laaha, haqqa tuqaatihee walatamu tun-na, il-la waantum Muslimoon."

O You who believe, - Be aware of Allah, with correct awareness, an awe-inspired awareness, and die not except as Muslims.

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا)

Ya Ay-yuhal-latheena 'aamanut taqul-laaha, waqooloo qawlan sadeedaa. Yuslih-lakum a'malakum wayaghfir lakum thunoobakum, wamay yu-til-laaha warasoolahu, faqad faaza fawzan atheemaa."

O You who believe, - Be aware of Allah, and speak a straightforward word. He will forgive your sins and repair your deeds. And whoever takes Allah and His Prophet as a guide, has already achieved a mighty victory.

In the opening verse of Sura An-Nisaa', Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا
كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً ۗ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا ﴿١﴾

"Ya ay-yhan naasut-taqoo Rabbukumul lathee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidati(n) wa khalaqa minha zawjaha wabath-thamin huma rijaalan katheeran wanisaa-aa. Wat-taqul-Laahal lathee tasaa-aloon bihee walarhaam. Innal Laaha kaana 'alaykum raqeebaa."

"O mankind! Show reverence towards your Guardian-Lord Who created you from a single person, created, of like nature, his mate and from the two of them scattered (like seeds) countless men and women. Be conscious of Allah, through Whom ye demand your mutual (rights) and (show reverence towards) the wombs (that bore you): for surely, Allah always watches over you."

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Events in Afghanistan are unfolding rapidly. The whole world is waiting to see what happens next. Will there be more bloodshed, revenge, and waves of refugees fleeing for safety? Or will there be a different outcome, one that stops the violence and brings a new era of peace and reconciliation in that troubled land?

Fourteen and a half centuries ago, our beloved Prophet Muhammad sws entered the gates of Makkah as a conqueror. But he entered without violence. He forgave his enemies. He conquered their hearts instead.

With his 10,000 well-armed men, he could easily have hunted down them down and punished them. They had killed, tortured, and oppressed so many of his followers for so many years. There could have been a bloodbath in Makka. But Rasool Allah sws wasn't a man of revenge.

"Wama arsal naaka illa rahmatul lil aalameen." says the Holy Quran (21:107)

"And We have not sent you (O Muhammad) except as a Mercy to all the worlds."

The people of Makka waited in fear and trepidation for what might come. They all knew the Arab tradition of tribal justice, and they expected the worst. But the Prophet sws announced a general amnesty, saying that he forgave those who had harmed him and his people, just as Joseph (Nabi Yusuf) forgave his brothers. The response was incredible. Not only was there a collective sigh of relief, but people were so grateful for mercy that the entire population of the city abandoned idol worship and became Muslims.

Those who nowadays have the power to take revenge might well consider this wonderful example from history.

In recent times, Nelson Mandela showed mercy when he became President of South Africa after 27 years in prison. He forgave his oppressors and he invited them to confess their sins at a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This became a model for the peace accord in Northern Ireland, where Mandela's advisers played a big part. Nelson Mandela admired Prophet Muhammad. He loved the Muslims and appointed a Muslim as his first Minister of Justice.

We can only hope that in Afghanistan and elsewhere, Muslims and other leaders around the world can win over the hearts and minds of their enemies by being merciful. Our world today has seen enough of violence and revenge.

Let us all pray for peace and reconciliation. Let us turn to Heaven and ask Allah to help those who have lost their homes and loved ones in wars, fires, floods, and droughts in so many parts of the world. We can also do our bit by giving clothes medicines, food and other essentials to the charities working in the field.

InnAllaha wamalaaika tahu yusallúna alannabi. Yá ay yuhal latheena ámanu sallúalayhi wasallimú tasleema. Allahumma salli alá Muhammad, wa ala áli Muhammad, kamasalayta ala Ibrahim, wa ala ali Ibrahim. Allahumma barik ala Muhammad, kamabarakta ala Ibrahim, wa ala aliibrahim. Fil álameen, innaka hameedun majeed.

"Allah and His angels send greetings on the Prophet. O you who have faith, send your greetings on him, and salute him with a worthy salutation.

O Allah, send Your greetings on Muhammad and his family, just as you sent greetings on Abraham and his family. O Allah, send your blessings on Muhammad and his family, just as you sent blessings on Abraham and his family. In both worlds, You are Praiseworthy and Exalted."

Second Khutbah:

Sub' hanallahi walhamdulillah, wala hawla wala quwwata illah billah yualthiyu altheem

Glory to Allah! Praise to Allah! There is no power and no strength except from Allah!

My dear respected sisters and brothers,

Allah is "Muqallibul quloob," "The Turner of hearts," so let us turn our pleas to heaven, as Prophet Muhammad sws taught us in one of his favourite du'ahs':

"Ya Muqallibul quloob. Thabbit qalbee ala deenik."

"O Turner of hearts, (please) turn my heart towards Your religion."

The power of mercy was clearly shown in many examples during the lifetime of our beloved Prophet Muhammad sws.

When the people of Taif chased him out of their city, abusing him and stoning him till the blood flowed, the Angel of Mountains offered to crush the city and destroy its people. But Allah's Praised One resisted, saying that he wasn't the Prophet of revenge. He was the Prophet of mercy. Perhaps their children will become Muslim one day. And they did.

Another example. Hind, the widow of Abu Sufyan, offered to free Wahshi ibn Harb, an Abyssinian slave, if he would kill Hamza, the brave warrior and an uncle of Prophet Muhammad sws. Wahshi was a skilled javelin thrower. He used that skill to deadly effect in the Battle of Uhud when he killed Hamza *Radiyallahu Anhum*. Prophet Muhammad sws suffered indescribable pain and grief. Even so, after the battle, he forgave his uncle's killer, and invited him to Islam.

It is said that Wahshi at first did not respond to the invitations. He was now a free man, but killing Hamza was a heavy price for his freedom. He was so overcome with guilt and remorse. He felt that what he had done was unforgivable. His sin was beyond redemption. He felt that the hellfire was all that was he deserved. Then he heard this verse from Sura Az-Zumar (Quran 39:53)

❁ قُلْ يَاعِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ

الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴿٥٣﴾

"Say (on My behalf), "O servants of Mine who have acted recklessly against their own selves, do not despair of Allah's mercy. Surely, Allah will forgive all sins. Surely, He is the One who is the Most-Forgiving, the All-Merciful."

On hearing this, Wahshi found a glimmer of hope in his dark clouds of despair. Surely, if Allah would forgive him, then all was not lost? He made his way to Prophet Muhammad sws, where he declared his *shahadah*. For the rest of his life, he was one of the foremost soldiers in the ranks of the Muslims.

My dear sisters and brothers, let us learn to be more merciful in all our relationships. Let us be merciful to husbands and wives, parents and children, friends, and neighbours. We have our "*Uswatul hasanah*" the best example in Prophet Muhammad sws.

Finally, let us reflect on these two beautiful Hadith:

"Allah will reward gentleness what He will not reward for harshness" (Hadith Muslim 2593)

"Be merciful to those on earth and He Who is above the heavens will be merciful to you."

Brothers and sisters, to conclude our khutbah:

"Surely Allah commands justice, good deeds and generosity to others and to relatives; and He forbids all shameful deeds, and injustice and rebellion: He instructs you, so that you may be reminded."

Allah says: "and remember Me: I will remember you. Be grateful to Me, and do not reject faith." "and without doubt, Remembrance of Allah is the Greatest Thing in life, and Allah knows the deeds that you do."

InnaAllaha, Yamuru biladel, wa lihsaan, waeetaa-izilqurba; wayanha anil fuhshaa-i, walmunkariwalbaghi; ya-idzukhum lallakum tathak-karoon. (Sura 16:90),

*Fadthkuroonee adthkurkum, wash kuroolee walaa takfuroon [2:152].
walathikrul-Laahi akbar, Wal-Laahu ya'lamu maa tasna'oon." [29:45].*

Ameen. Aqeemus salaah!

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