

Khutbah: Worried? Afraid? Call upon Allah!

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أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

“A-ūthubillāhi minash shayṭānir rajīm. Bismillāhir Raḥmānir Raḥīm
Alhamdu lil Lāhi nahmaduhu wanasta’eenahu, wanastagh-firuhū, wanatūbu ilayhi,
wana’ūthu Billāhi min shurūri an-fusinā, wamin sayyi āti a’ mālinā. May- Yahdil-lahu
fa huwal muhtad, wa may- yudlill falantajidā lahu walīyan murshidā. Wa ash-hadu an
Lā-ilāha ill-Allah, wahdahū lā sharīkalah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhū
warasūluh”

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)

Bismillāhir Raḥmānir Raḥīm! Yā Ay-yuhal-lathīna ‘āmanut taqul-lāha, ḥaqqā tuqātihī walātāmū tun-na, il-lā wa-antum Muslimūn.”

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’maalakum 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:

يٰٓأَيُّهَا 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 nafsini waahidati(n) wa khalaqa minha zawjaha wabath-thamin huma rijaalan katheeran wanisaa-aa. Wat-taqul-Laahal lathee tasaa-aloona 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,

In response to many requests, I shall in the coming days, insha-Allāh, be offering much shorter khutbahs for those who have to lead the *jumu'ah* prayers during their lunch break.

A student once asked his teacher:

“Please teach me some higher wisdom.”

His teacher replied:

“You will not gain any higher wisdom unless you can answer this question correctly. Imagine that you are walking through a field, and suddenly you are attacked by several dogs. What will you do?”

The student quickly replied: “I will pick up a stick and some stones and defend myself.”

The teacher smiled, shaking his head.

“No. You can defend yourself against one or two dogs, but the others are sure to get you. The right answer is: You call upon the Shepherd. The dogs will only obey the Shepherd. He will blow his whistle and call off the attack.”

My dear brothers and sisters, too often we are like this student. We try to deal with life's problems on our own, until we are overwhelmed by them. All too often, in moments of stress, we forget Allah. The right answer, and this is the key to higher wisdom, is that at all times of distress and danger, you call upon Allah. Allah is

رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا

“Rabbus samāwāti wal ard(i) wamā bayna humā”

“Lord of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them”

Allah will call off the attack of those wild dogs of problems around you. Just call on Allah. He's waiting for your call!

Allah will help you overcome all of the challenges in your life if you just call on Him.

“And wherever you are, call upon Allah, or call upon Rahmān. By whatever Name you call upon Him (it is well). To Allah belong the most Beautiful Names. Do not be too loud in your prayers, nor too soft, but find a way in between...”
(Al-Isra' 17:110)

So often, people who find themselves in mortal danger, suddenly turn to Allah for help. It may be a plane going through turbulence, or a mechanical failure where the pilot warns everyone to adopt the 'brace' position. When the danger of death seems imminent, many people will pray passionately for Allah's mercy. And when the danger has passed, some of them may experience a lasting change that brings them closer to Allah. Yet others simply brush off the whole incident as something rather trivial.

The Holy Quran gives us this example in Sura An-'Am 6:63

قُلْ مَنْ يُنَجِّكُمْ مِنَ ظُلُمَاتِ الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ تَدْعُونَهُ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً لَّيِّنَ أَنْجَحَنَا مِنْ هَذِهِ
لَنُكُونَنَّ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ ﴿٦٣﴾

Say: "Who is it that delivers you from the dark recesses of land and sea, when you call upon Him in humility and silent terror: 'If He only delivers us from these (dangers), (we vow) we shall truly show our gratitude'?"

Disbelievers thank their “lucky stars” for their good fortune. Believers don’t believe in luck; only in Allah’s Decree and Destiny (Qadā and Qadr). Nothing happens by chance. You and I didn’t get here by chance. The cosmos wasn’t created by a random collision of energy and matter. It was divinely decreed:

“*Kun! Faya kūn!*”

“Be! And it is!”

Within the limits of what Allah has decreed, Allah has allowed us to exercise some limited freedom of choice. Those choices do not cancel out Allah’s Will. Allah’s Will is irresistible. Nothing happens, good or bad, without Allah’s permission. But the choices we make will have consequences for us and for others. That’s why we have to take responsibility. We are only tenants on planet earth. Our Generous Landlord will finally hold us to account. How did we care for His property? I pray that, when the final reckoning is due, Allah will judge that you and I have been diligent in caring for others and for our natural environment. Please say, “Ameen!”

Dear brothers and sisters, remember to call on Allah first, every time those wild dogs of the world’s problems try to attack you. Allah is our shepherd. Only Allah can call off the attacks and help us smoothly through life’s ups and downs.

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,

There's a beautiful verse in Sura Al Baqara (2:186)

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ
فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

“And when My servants ask you (O Muhammad) concerning Me, I am indeed close to them. I answer the prayer of every suppliant who calls on Me. Let them also then, with a will, answer My call, and believe in Me, so that they may walk in the Right Way.”

This is such a comforting, reassuring verse. Allah tells Muhammad ﷺ that he answers every caller who calls on Allah. But here's the key: We must also be willing to answer Allah's call, to believe in Allah, so that we may be rightly guided. It's not a one way relationship. It's a transactional affair. Calling on Allah for help has its obligations. We also have to believe and have true faith and trust in Allah, to be rightly guided. We should also do everything we can to please Allah and to live by what he has commanded.

So, to sum up, my dear sisters and brothers, remember to call on Allah for help in all our problems, big and small. Remember also to answer Allah's call, to believe and have complete trust in Allah, and to constantly seek Allah's Good Pleasure. This will guarantee Allah's help and guidance at all times.

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. Aqemus salaah!

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Jazak Allah khair. – Editors)