

Khutbah: The Hidden Gems

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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 waRasūl-Allāh ahu, 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:

يٰۤاَيُّهَا 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,

How often do we not look for something that's right there in front of our eyes, but somehow we just can't see it? As we grow older, this problem becomes a familiar experience: looking for our keys, looking for our phone or other everyday items. But at a deeper level, we often look but don't see what may be right there in front of us, hidden in plain sight. Our eyes pass over the surface of things, but the essence is not visible to us. It's the difference between *basar*, sight, and *baṣīrah*, inner sight or insight into the true nature of things. Baṣīrah is Allah's gift to very few people. Those whom Allah has blessed with wisdom are able to discern things clearly with the eye of the heart. Such people are truly the hidden gems of our *Ummah*.

Let's take an example.

Once the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was sitting with some of his Sahābah (Companions) when he said as was revealed to him:

A man from Jannah (Paradise) will enter now.

Soon a man from Ansār entered. The next day and the day after that, for three days in a row the same man joined them after Rasūl-Allāh said that a man from Jannah will enter now.

Abdullah bin Amr ul Aas (RA) was there among the Sahābah on all three days. He became curious, so he went up to the man and said,

“I’ve had a disagreement with my father and I promised that I will not go back home for three days. Will you let me stay with you for three days?”

The man agreed to have him stay as a guest for three days.

Abdullah was a pious man. He fasted regularly and could recite the whole Quran during three nights in his prayers. He reasoned, surely the man must be praying all night and fasting every day, that is why he has been chosen among the people of Paradise. At night he expected his host to stand in prayer the whole night, but the host only offered the *fard* prayers and went to sleep. In the morning, Abdullah bin Amr ul Aas (RA) expected him to fast, but the host had breakfast after the Fajr prayers. Abdullah bin Amr ul Aas(RA) thought that his host might not be feeling well that day. Maybe next day he would do as Abdullah was expecting.

To his amazement, the host followed the same routine on all three days and nights. He didn’t fast, nor did he pray all night. On the third day, Abdullah confessed. Abdullah didn’t have any argument with his father. He only needed an excuse to stay with this man so that he could see what was so special about him that made him one of the people of Al-Jannah.

The man told him there was nothing special about him. He always did as Abdullah had seen for himself. Disappointed, Abdullah started to leave. The man called him back and said there was nothing unique about himself except for one thing. When he went to bed each night, he made sure that there was no feeling of hatred or jealousy in his heart towards any Muslim.

Abdullah replied: “Nothing made you reach that rank except this. And not all of us are able to do so.”

This hadith was narrated in Musnad Ahmed, but the name of the man was obscured.

Let us reflect on this beautiful story. It’s beautiful in its simplicity. This man didn’t fast every day nor did he spend all night in prayer. He did all the basic duties of a Muslim. But he also regularly did something quite exceptional: Before going to bed at night, he would purify his heart by removing all feelings of resentment, anger, jealousy, malice, all negative feelings towards his fellow Muslims. That’s it! That was his nightly habit. He went to sleep every night with a purified heart, a “*qalb salīm.*” Let’s remember what the Quran says about those who have a pure heart:

يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ ﴿٨٨﴾ إِلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ ﴿٨٩﴾

“The day when neither wealth nor children will benefit anyone, except those who come to Allah with a sound heart.” (Quran: 26:88-89)

My dear sisters and brothers, you and I can become like one of Allah’s hidden gems amongst the people. Even if we don’t fast every day, even if we cannot complete reading the Quran in three consecutive nights of prayer, we can certainly work hard to purify our hearts. We can and we must remove all that resentment, anger, hatred and jealousy towards others. These negative emotions only harm us and prevent us from reaching Allah’s Garden.

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,

Glass glitters. So does a diamond. When a diamond is lying in a heap of glittering glass, it’s hard to see it for what it is. Here’s another example of someone who was a real gem hidden in plain sight:

Our Lady A’isha Radiyāllahu ‘anhuma tells us about a black Abyssinian woman who used to clean Masjid al Nabawi every day. This woman used to sing a poem that drew the attention of Lady A’isha. While she was going about her

cleaning duties in the Prophet's mosque, in a melodious and evocative voice she would sing these words:

“The day of the scarf was one of the Wonders of my Lord. It was the day that saved me from the shores of disbelief (from kufr). “The day of the scarf was one of the Wonders of my Lord. It was the day that saved me from the shores of disbelief (from kufr).”

Lady A'isha asked her about this song, so she told her story. It went something like this:

“I was a young slave who worked for a wealthy family in Yemen. My job was to care for one of the daughters in the family, who always wore her favourite red scarf. One day my mistress fell asleep with her favourite red scarf lying next to her. Suddenly a large bird swooped down. It mistook the scarf for meat, so it snatched up the scarf and flew away. When my mistress woke up she was very distressed to see that her scarf was gone. The whole family and the neighbours got to hear about this, and suspicion fell on me. They searched me, they stripped me naked and humiliated me. Just then, as all this was going on, the bird flew over us and dropped the scarf right before our eyes. I was proved innocent. My owners apologised and set me free. I heard about a Prophet in Madinah, so I decided to travel there to offer my service to him. That's how I arrived here.”

Shaykh Yasir Qadhi tells us that this lady died one night while our Nabi sws was still asleep. The Sahāba didn't want to disturb him, so they did the janāzah and buried her immediately. When Rasūl-Allāh heard the news the next morning, he was upset that he wasn't able to lead the janāzah prayers. So he did another janāzah prayer for her.

Just think: how important was this woman, a cleaner that most people overlooked? She was so important to the Prophet of Islam that he led a second janāzah prayer for her? She was truly a diamond, a gem hidden in plain sight!

Think about her story. The bird could have dropped the scarf immediately it realised that it wasn't meat, or it may have dropped it somewhere else, out of sight, then this story would have ended differently. But Allah allowed the bird to drop the scarf right in front of the girl's accusers. This was clear, incontestable evidence in the court of public opinion, and immediately led to the girl's innocence being proved. More importantly, the girl's owners set her free. A moment of public shame and humiliation was followed by freedom from slavery, and service to Islam. And here we are, over fourteen hundred years later, learning and taking inspiration from this extraordinary true story. Truly, Allah works in the most mysterious ways, and Allah has power over everything!

“Innama al’usri yusra. Innama al’usri yusra” (Quran 94:5)

“After hardship comes relief. Truly, after every hardship comes relief.”

My dear sisters and brothers, let us be aware that there are many such hidden ones that may be right in front of our eyes. Only Allah knows who they are, and I pray that Allah will help us to purify our innermost hearts so that we can become like those hidden gems amongst the people. Please say: “Amīn!”

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. Aqemus salaah!

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Jazak Allah khair. – Editors)