

(Khutbah) The Turner of Hearts

By Arshad Gamiet

*“A-ūthubillāhi minash shayṭānir rajīm. Bismillāhir Rahmānir Rahīm
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-Allāh, wahdahū lā sharīkalah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhū
warasūluh”*

All Praise is due to Allāh, 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 Allāh is indeed guided; and anyone who has been left astray, will find no one to guide him. I bear witness that there is no All but Allāh, the Only One without any partner; and I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ, peace and blessings on him, is His servant, and His messenger.

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

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

*“Yā Ay-yuhal-lathīna āmanut taqul-lāha, waqūlū qawlan sadīdā. Yuslih-lakum
a’mālakum wayaghfir lakum thunūbakum, wamay yu’-til-lāha waRasūlahū, faqad
fāza fawzan athīmā.”*

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

In the opening verse of Sura An-Nisaa’, Allāh says:

*“Yā ay-yhan nāsut-taqū Rabbukumul lathī khalaqakum min nafsin wāhidati(n) wa
khalaqa minhā zawjahā wabath-thamin humā rijālan kathīran wanisā-ā. Wat-taqul-
Lāhal lathī tasā-alūna bihīwalarhām. Innal Lāha kāna ‘alaykum raqībā.”*

“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 Allāh, through Whom you demand your mutual (rights) and (show reverence

towards) the wombs (that bore you): for surely, Allāh always watches over you.”

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

If we follow the latest news every day it can become rather depressing. But remember that there is so much good news out there as well, but the good news doesn't attract the same interest as the bad news. We all need some balance in our lives, so I hope this khutbah will restore some of that balance.

It's always inspiring to hear of people who have come to Islam in the most unusual ways. I watched an interview with Joram van Klaveren, who was the deputy leader of the anti-Islam Dutch Freedom Party, alongside Geert Wilders, who wants to ban the Qur'ān and deport all Muslims from the Netherlands.

It was a fascinating interview. Joram decided to write a thoroughly researched academic book in which he would prove that the Qur'ān is wrong. He spent 2 years on this project but gradually found that his ideas about Islam didn't match what he found in his research. It became more puzzling as he gathered more information. He eventually became so confused that he stopped his work and put his books back on the shelves. He couldn't sleep, and prayed to God clear his mind and to give him a sign. As he was praying one night, a book fell off the bookshelf. He picked it up. It was a translation of the Qur'ān. When he turned it over, his eyes fell on this verse in Sura Hajj verse 46:

“Have they not travelled throughout the land so their hearts may reason, and their ears may listen? Indeed, **it is not the eyes that are blind, but it is the hearts in the chests that grow blind.**”

Joram van Klaveren says that these words really struck him. When he read these words, he knew that he was searching for the Truth, but didn't expect to find it here in the Qur'ān. He was searching for the Truth with a capital “T” and now that he found it, he was experiencing what psychologists call cognitive dissonance. His heart knew the truth but his brain was struggling to catch up. He then prayed the most heartfelt prayer and went back to sleep. That night, he felt such calm and a peace that he had never felt before. Next morning he woke up knowing that Islam is the religion for him. He asked his wife what she thought of him taking *Shahādah*. She replied, “I could see this was coming. What took you so long?” She was very loving and supportive.

This is just one of so many examples of how Allah can turn hearts from hatred into love. Allah is *muqallibul qulūb*, “the Turner of hearts.” **Those whom Allah loves, He turns their hearts towards Islam.** Remember the story of the second

Caliph Sayyidna ‘Umar ibn al Khattab, *Radiyallāhu anhum*. He went, sword in hand, to kill Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. On his way, Umar heard his sister reciting the opening verses of Sura TāHā:

“TāHā/ We have not sent down The Qur’ān to cause you distress / but only as a warner to those who fear Allah / A revelation from Him Who created the earth and the heavens on high. / Allah Most Gracious is firmly established on the throne [of authority]. / To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and on earth, and all between them, and all beneath the soil. / If you pronounce the word aloud, it is no matter: for truly He knows what is secret and what is yet more hidden. / Allah, there is no god but He! To Him belong the most Beautiful Names..”

As Umar read these words, his heart melted. Allah came between Umar and his heart. He went to Rasūl Allāh ﷺ and recited his *shahādah!*

I’m sure that some of you will have seen so many interesting and inspiring examples on YouTube and social media, where people share their own experiences of coming to Islam.

Remember, it’s not our clever debates and our intellectual gymnastics that bring people to Islam. **Allah chooses whom He wills for His religion.** So many non-Muslims have studied Islam and the colleges and universities of the world are full of Islamic Studies experts who know more about Islam than many Muslims will ever know. That knowledge earns them doctorates and professorships, but it will be of no use in the afterlife if it hasn’t moved their hearts, and if the light of *imān* hasn’t been lit inside their hearts.

So you and I must be thankful to Allah, that with the little we know about Islam, Allah has lit the light of *imān* in our hearts, that we are here attending *jumu’ah* instead of doing something far less important. Right now, although we cannot see them with our eyes, Allah’s angels are surrounding us with their wings, protecting us and praying for Allah’s blessings on all of us.

I pray that Allah will keep us all in His beautiful religion and continue to strengthen our *imān* and our *taqwa* until the end of our days. Please say: *Āmīn!*

Muhammadin-nabeey-yil Ummiy-yee, wa-‘alaa aalihee, wasah-bihee, aj-ma’een.

Ammaa ba’ad:

“Innallāha wa malaaiikata yusallūna alan nabi. Yá ay yuhal latheena ámanu sallú alayhi wasalli mú tas leema. Allahumma salli alá Muhammad, wa ala áli Muhammad, kama salayta ala Ibrahim, wa ala ali Ibrahim. Allahumma barik ala Muhammad, kama barakta ala Ibrahim, wa ala ali ibrahim. Fil ála meen, innaka hameedun majeed.”

Second Khutbah:

“*Soob’ hanallahi wal hamdu lillah, wala hawla wala quwwata illah billah yu althi yual theem*”

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

My dear sisters and brothers,

Allah is *muqallibul qulūb*, the Turner of Hearts. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad sws taught us a simple prayer that we should recite often:

“*Ya muqallibul qulūb, thabbit qalbī alā dīnik.*” (repeat)

“O Turner of the hearts, please turn my heart towards Your religion.” (repeat)

Never take your faith for granted! Your heart and my heart is a fragile thing. It can turn from good to bad and from bad to good in an instant! The only way that you and I can ensure that our hearts are close to Allah by *Dhikrullāh*: the constant, loving remembrance of Allah. Throughout the day, in every quiet moment, we should be soothing our hearts with these simple words: *Subhānallāh, Alhamdulillah, Allāhu Akbar!* Glory to Allah, Praise to Allah, Allah is greatest. *La ilaha illallah!* There is no one worthy of worship except for Allah!

Day in and day out, our lips must be constantly moistened by remembering Allah. Dhikrullah is the key to avoiding distractions and forgetting Allah.

What can we learn from today’s khutbah?

1. Our spiritual heart is easily turned from bad to good or vice versa.
2. The only way to stay close to Allah is by remember Allah at all times.
3. Allah can turn the hearts of those who sincerely seek the Truth
4. Those who hate us now can become our beloved brothers and sisters tomorrow. Never give up that possibility.
5. Pray for those you love, but also pray for those who hate you. Ask Allah to guide them back to their *fitrah*, back to their primordial innocent state. Allah will surely answer our prayers.

Please say, Ameen!

Brothers and sisters, to conclude our khutbah:

InnaAllaha, Yamuru bil adel, wal ihsaan, wa eetaa-i zil qurba; wa yanha anil fuhshaa-i, wal munkari walbaghi; ya-idzukhum lallakum tathak-karoon. (Sura 16:90),

“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.”

Fadth kuroonee adth kurkum, wash kuroolee walaa tak furoon [2:152].

(Allah says), “and remember Me: I will remember you. Be grateful to Me, and do not reject faith.”

wala thikrul-Laahi akbar, Wal-Laahu ya’lamu maa tasna’oon.” [29:45].

“and without doubt, Remembrance of Allah is the Greatest Thing in life, and Allah knows the deeds that you do.”

Ameen. Aqemus salaah