

First khutbah

My brothers and sisters, a conversation that took place, even before man set foot on this earth, was between Allah ﷻ and Iblees. After Allah ﷻ commanded Iblees to make sujood to Adam عليه السلام, Iblees disobeyed and full of arrogance, he blamed his kufr upon Allah ﷻ. He said:

قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأُزَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ٣٩

[Iblees] said, "My Lord, because You have put me in error, I will surely make [disobedience] attractive to them on earth, and I will mislead them all" al-Hijr (The Rock, Stoneland, Rock City) 15:39

إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلَصِينَ ٤٠

"Except, among them, Your chosen servants" al-Hijr (The Rock, Stoneland, Rock City)

15:40

Therefore from the very beginning my brothers and sisters, a message was made clear and since has been repeated in the Qur'an. What's the message?

Persistence. Don't give up.

My brothers and sisters, the decree is that we are all to be trialed. We are going to be tested from different directions and the best of those who were tested is the best of our role models صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. A'isha رضي الله عنها narrates to us, towards the end of his life صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ as reported by Imam Muslim رَجَمَهُ الْإِسْلَامُ in Sahih, Abdullah bin Shahqeeq رَجَمَهُ الْإِسْلَامُ asked that:

“Did the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ever pray the night prayer sitting down?” So she said:

نَعَمْ، بَعْدَمَا حَاطَمَهُ النَّاسُ

“Yes, he did pray sitting down, after the people had tired him out”

Meaning, the question is about the night prayer of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and the answer she gave رضي الله عنها is that, “He never gave up the night prayer” صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, but towards the end of his life صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, he became weak. He was in his 60s, but despite the fact that he was older صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, he continued to help the poor and the needy and by night he was too tired to stand and pray in a normal manner, so he used to sit and pray صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

What's the message here?

You will get tired. Things will wear you down, but like him صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, don't give up. In fact, we have a promise and words of encouragement from him صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ as reported by Muslim رَجَمَهُ الْإِسْلَامُ in his Sahih, that he says صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَنْ يَمَلَّ اللهُ حَتَّى تَمَلُّوا

“Allah will not get tired until you get tired Allah”

Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى will not stop until you stop. Meaning, Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى will continue to support you. Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى will continue to reward you, as long as you keep going. This is because Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى wants to prove or wants us to prove our positions and our rankings and this can only be proven if we establish our stamina and remove laziness and we don't give up. This is because giving up has no station with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. He also says صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ as a report collected by at - Tabarani رَحِمَهُ اللهُ with a chain which is hasan by Al - Albani رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, he said صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ :

صَنَانِعُ الْمَعْرُوفِ تَقِي مَصَارِعَ السُّوءِ

“The one who does good, shields off and wrestles with evil”

وَصَدَقَةُ السِّرِّ تُطْفِئُ غَضَبَ الرَّبِّ،

“And a charity that is given in secrecy puts out the anger of Allah”

وَصَلَةُ الرَّحِمِ تَزِيدُ فِي الْعُمُرِ

“And keeping ties with your relatives increases your lifespan”

In this hadith my brothers and sisters, the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ has command for us striving in goodness, striving with your wealth and not giving up with your loved ones. A message of persistence and a promise of resource.

My brothers and sisters, in life you might get to a stage where you think nothing is working for you, but as long as you continue to work towards a solution, you are storing for yourself a relief from Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. One of the Salaf, he said in words of encouragement:

إِنْ تَعَبْتَ فِي الْبِرِّ

“If you get tired in doing good deeds, then remember”

فَإِنَّ التَّعَبَ يَزُولُ ، وَالْبِرَّ يَبْقَى

“The tiredness will eventually disappear, but the righteousness and the rewards will remain”

Khutbah: Persistence

Ustadh Ariff Olla

01/09/2023



In fact my brothers and sisters, the one who is persistent can never be described as failing. Abdullah Ibn Abbas رضي الله عنه , he said:

صاحب المعروف

“The one who does good and continues doing good”

لا يقع

“This person will never fall”

فإن وقع وجد متكناً

“But if he does fall, he will always find something to lean on”

My brothers and sisters, whatever your test, Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى wants you to keep striving and He has promised His Mercy that is never far away from those people who keep going. Yaqub عليه السلام saying to his children after being tested over and over:

وَلَا تَيْأَسُوا مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ

“Do not give up from the mercy of Allah”

إِنَّهُ لَا يَيْأَسُ مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْكَافِرُونَ

“There is no one who gives up from the mercy of Allah except for those people who disbelieve”

My brother and sisters, tests are inevitable. Difficulties will surround you, but realize that Shaytaan’s kufr came when he wasn’t persistent and when he wasn’t persistent in the obedience of Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** and he showed displeasure to the qadr of Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**. So his feeling of entitlement led to disobedience and this is how he wants to take you, by making you think that everything is pointless and by giving up, but unimaginable gardens underneath which rivers flow, the people are described as being beautiful and happy and tiredless is prepared for those people who submit themselves in the dunya and they don’t give up. Hence Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** commands us:

وَأَعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ ٩٩

“And worship your Lord until there comes to you the certainty (death)” al-Hijr (The Rock, Stoneland, Rock City) 15:99

Second khutbah

My brothers and sisters, Imam Ahmad رَحِمَهُ اللهُ was asked:

“When will we taste the flavour of relaxation”, and his answer رَحِمَهُ اللهُ:

عِنْدُ أَوَّلِ قَدَمٍ يَضَعُهَا فِي الْجَنَّةِ

“When he places his first step in Jannah, persistence, not giving up”, listen to the words of Masrooq رَحِمَهُ اللهُ:

مَا مِنْ بَيْتٍ خَيْرٌ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ مِنْ لَحْدٍ،

“There is no house which is better for a Believer than his grave”

قَدْ اسْتَرَّاحَ مِنْ هُمُومِ الدُّنْيَا،

“And only then will he be secured from the punishment and the tests of Allah”

The following are words of wisdom from Rabee bin Khaytham رَجْمَهُ اللَّهُ which fulfils the purpose of the Believer and had the people of the dunya known this, they would be content with the decree of Allah سُبْحَانَہُ and they would continue in servitude towards Him, he said:

مَا مِنْ غَائِبٍ

“There is nothing that a Believer hasn't got yet”

يَنْتَظِرُهُ الْمُؤْمِنُ

“And he is hoping and he is waiting to receive”

خَيْرٌ لَهُ مِنَ الْمَوْتِ

“Better than death”, there is nothing that a Believer is waiting for as a solution, that the solution is better than death.

Meaning my brothers and sisters, the Believer continues and he continues and he strives and when death finally comes to him, he is taken while he is striving; this is the best solution for everyone irrespective of what tests they are facing.

Khutbah: Persistence

Ustadh Ariff Olla

01/09/2023



My brothers and sisters, you could feel alone. You could feel that no one understands you. You could feel that relief is beyond reach, but remember my brothers and sisters, Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى hasn't created you to fail. He hasn't tested you so that you would give up, without this in our aqeedah, the heavens and the earth will seem pointless, so always remember my brothers and sisters that Jannah is your destination, not ad-dunya which is cursed, but the Jannah that you want, isn't cheap.

As you learn and benefit from Ustadh Ariff Olla's jumu'ah sermons from which are these notes- don't keep it to yourself! Share & teach these notes - please do not edit or manipulate this content.

"One who guides to something good has a reward similar to that of its doer"- Saheeh Muslim vol.3, no.4665.