

## THE TEMPORARY JOY OF THIS WORLD

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ  
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.  
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،  
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَأَيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Earthly life is temporary. It is a place for us to gather as much provision as possible for the eternal life in the hereafter. Life in this world is like a stopover for a traveler before he reaches his final destination.

A *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Bukhari mentioned that one day Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) put his hands on both shoulders of a companion named Abdullah bin Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) while saying:

كُنْ فِي الدُّنْيَا كَأَنَّكَ غَرِيبٌ أَوْ عَابِرُ سَبِيلٍ

Which means: “Be in this world as though you were a stranger or a wayfarer.”

In fact, Allah the Almighty has warned us about the nature of life in this world in the Quran in Chapter 40 (Surah Ghaafir), verse (*ayat*) 39:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
الْقَرَارِ دَارُ هِيَ الْآخِرَةَ وَإِنَّ مَتَعُ الدُّنْيَا الْحَيَاةُ هَذِهِ إِنَّمَا يَنْقُومُ

Which means: "O my people! This life of the present is nothing but (temporary) convenience: It is the Hereafter that is the Home that will last.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Allah the Almighty has also warned us to be wary of the deception of the worldly life as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 35 (Surah Faathir), verse (ayat) 5:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّبَكُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّبَكُمُ بِاللَّهِ الْغُرُورُ

Which means: O men! Certainly the promise of Allah is true. Let not then this present life deceive you, nor let the Chief Deceiver (Satan) deceive you about Allah.

However, the majority of human beings give priority to this temporary life as opposed to the life in the Hereafter. All their lives are devoted to seeking pleasure and enjoyment because they consider life in the hereafter as an empty illusion. Allah the Almighty explains this in the Quran in Chapter 76 (Surah al-Insan), verse (ayat) 27.

إِنَّ هَتُولَاءِ مُحِبُّونَ الْعَاجِلَةَ وَيَذَرُونَ وَرَاءَهُمْ يَوْمًا ثَقِيلًا ﴿٢٧﴾

Which means: As to these, they love the fleeting life, and put away behind them a Day (that will be) hard.

Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) reminded us that seeking the enjoyment of this world more than that of the hereafter will be in vain as mentioned in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi:

مَنْ كَانَتْ الْآخِرَةُ هَمَّهُ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ غِنَاهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ وَجَمَعَ لَهُ شَمْلَهُ وَأَتَتْهُ الدُّنْيَا وَهِيَ رَاغِمَةٌ  
وَمَنْ كَانَتْ الدُّنْيَا هَمَّهُ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ فَقْرَهُ بَيْنَ عَيْنَيْهِ وَفَرَّقَ عَلَيْهِ شَمْلَهُ وَلَمْ يَأْتِهِ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَا  
قُدِّرَ لَهُ

Which means: "Whoever makes the Hereafter his goal, Allah makes his heart rich, and organizes his affairs, and this world will come running after him. And whoever makes this world his goal, Allah puts poverty right before his eyes, and disorganizes his affairs, and this world does not come to him, except what has been decreed for him."

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Therefore, let us readjust our purpose of life and make full use of this temporary world by increasing our worship to Allah the Almighty such as inviting family members and relatives to perform congregational prayers at mosques; attending religious talks; helping parents, visiting them and caring about them; doing good to others, especially neighbors; giving assistance to those who are in need (like poor people, orphans, disadvantaged single mothers, etc.); obeying all Allah's commands and staying away from all His prohibitions.

Islam does not forbid us from enjoying the pleasures of life in this world but not to the extent of forgetting our duties to pray at the mosques or to prepare ourselves for the eternal life in the hereafter. Let us reflect on the lesson of Allah the Almighty's words in the Quran in Chapter 28 (Surah Al-Qasas), verse (ayat)77:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَأَتَّبِعْ فِي مَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ ۗ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا ۗ وَأَحْسِنَ  
كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ ۗ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفَسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ ﴿٧٧﴾

Which means: *But seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter; and [yet], do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to you. And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, Allah does not like corrupters."*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ  
الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ  
اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ،  
فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.