

## THE DANGER OF BEING OBSESSED WITH THIS WORLD

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَىٰ الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَىٰ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،  
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

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 forgiven in this world and in the Hereafter.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Human life is like a long journey. This world is a temporary place of residence and the real destination is the hereafter. Islam teaches us to treat this world as the bridge to get to the hereafter, and to not make it as the goal of life.

Various parables are given for life in this world because of its temporary nature. Among them is that this life is like a playground or an entertainment center as mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 6 (Surah Al-An'am), verse (*ayat*) 32:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَعِبٌ وَلَهْوٌ وَلَدَارُ الْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لِلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ  
أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

Which means: *What is the life of this world but play and amusement? But best is the home in the hereafter, for those who are righteous. Will ye not then understand?*

This verse reminds us to not be deceived by this world because it is not eternal and everything in it will perish. Greedy people who are pursuing the pleasures of this world or are being obsessed with this world's affair are being deceived because the game will end and the world will soon perish.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Our spouse, children, domesticated animals and wealth are just some of the world's adornment. We have been reminded by Allah the Almighty to not be among the losers who are deceived by this world as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 63 (Surah Al-Munafiqun), verse (*ayat*) 9:

يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا لَا تُلْهِكُمْ اَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا اَوْلَادُكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللّٰهِ ۗ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذٰلِكَ فَاُولٰٓئِكَ هُمُ  
الْخٰسِرُوْنَ ﴿٩﴾

Which means: *O ye who believe! Let not your riches or your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah. If any act thus, the loss is their own.*

The obsession with this world and the fear of death, referred to by Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him [pbuh]) as '*al-wahn*', is causing Muslims to be weak. As a result, Muslims today are being attacked by the enemy of Islam from all directions. The Muslims are weak because they are preoccupied with pursuing the world up to the point of completely ignoring the hereafter. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Ahmad:

مَنْ أَحَبَّ دُنْيَاهُ أَضَرَ بِآخِرَتِهِ وَمَنْ أَحَبَّ آخِرَتَهُ أَضَرَ بِدُنْيَاهُ فَاتَّبِرُوا مَا بَيَقَىٰ عَلَىٰ مَا يَبْقَىٰ

Which means: *Whoever loves his worldly life, will suffer in his Hereafter and whoever loves his Hereafter, will suffer in his worldly life. Therefore, choose that which is everlasting over that which is temporary.*

People who are obsessed with this world will be occupied with accumulating wealth, buying luxury and branded items, entertaining to extravagance, beautifying homes, buying expensive vehicles and eating delicious food. They seem to be unaware that the world's property is merely a loan (from Allah the Almighty).

Abdullah bin Mas'ud said, "The world is the guest and the wealth is a loan. Every guest will definitely go and every loan must be returned. "

**Dear Brother and Sister,**

Among the characteristics of people who are affected by the obsession for this world are those lazy to worship and if they do, they will do it very fast because they want it to be done quickly; the miserly (because they are afraid of losing their wealth if they give charity); the liars (because they are not afraid of the threat of Allah the Almighty to those who lie); the treacherous ones; the cowards; those ashamed of the truth; and those who shy away from enjoining what is good and forbidding what is evil (*amar makruf nahi mungkar*).

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Muslim:

الدُّنْيَا سِجْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِ وَجَنَّةُ الْكَافِرِ

Which means: *"This world is a prison for the believers and Paradise for the disbelievers."*

The believers treat this world as if it were a prison. That is, every believer who understands the reality of this world will limit himself from sinning even though the sin offers pleasure. Meanwhile, the unbelievers will do whatever gives them pleasure

regardless of the sin. In this respect this world seems to be heaven for unbelievers. Consequently, they will die and be thrown into the hellfire in the Hereafter.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us reflect on the fact that this world is temporary and it is a loan from Allah the Almighty. Regard this world as a place to accumulate many good deeds as a preparation for an eternal life in the Hereafter. Hopefully Allah the Almighty will grant us a place in Heaven. Let us constantly be reminded by the verse in the Quran in Chapter 29 (Surah Al-Ankabut), verse (*ayat*) 64:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
وَمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَهُوٌّ وَلَعِبٌ وَإِنَّ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ لَهِيَ الْحَيَوَانُ لَوْ كَانُوا  
يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾

Which means: *What is the life of this world but amusement and play? Verily the home in the Hereafter, that is life indeed, if they but knew.*

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، وَلِسَانِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.