

WORK IS A FORM OF WORSHIP
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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ 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 وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness towards Allah the Almighty by carrying out all His commands and abandoning all His prohibitions. May we be forgiven by Allah the Almighty in this world and the Hereafter.

Dear blessed brothers and sisters,

Most of us are employees, carrying out various types of jobs either to earn a living or to meet the many needs of human life. Every job that we do whether as a public servant, private sector employee, or self-employed as a trader, farmer, planter, fisherman, or livestock breeder can all be considered an act of worship in the sight of Allah the Almighty. The condition is that the work must be done with the right intention, in a lawful manner, and with full trustworthiness and responsibility.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 9 (surah at-Taubah) verse 105:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَقُلْ أَعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَسَتُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عِلْمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ
تَعْمَلُونَ ١٠٥

Which means: “Tell them, O Prophet, “Do as you will. Your deeds will be observed by Allah, His Messenger, and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the seen and unseen, then He will inform you of what you used to do.”

This sentence explains that every effort, action, and work we do is seen by Allah the Almighty. Therefore, working is not merely about earning a livelihood, but it is also a form of devotion to Allah the Almighty.

Likewise, there is the story of Prophet Syuaib choosing a worker who was strong and trustworthy, as mentioned by Allah the Almighty in chapter 28 (Surah al-Qasas) verse 26.

قَالَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا يَا أَبَتِ اسْتَجِرْهُ إِنَّ خَيْرَ مَنِ اسْتَجَرْتَ الْقَوِيُّ الْأَمِينُ

Which means: “One of the two daughters suggested, “O my dear father! Hire him. A strong, trustworthy person is definitely the best to hire.”

There are several conditions that we must fulfil to ensure that work is counted as worship:

First: Sincere intention for the sake of Allah the Almighty. Work should not be done merely for salary or profit, but to earn a livelihood in order to support our family in a way that is pleasing to Allah the Almighty.

Second: Ensuring that the work is lawful, and its implementation must fulfill the requirements of the job as long as it does not contradict Islamic law.

Third: Not involving in matters prohibited by Islamic law such as fraud, bribery, and oppression while carrying out the work.

Fourth: Carrying out the trust in every task with full responsibility, honesty, and diligence.

Fifth: Ensuring that the work does not cause neglect of obligations to Allah the Almighty such as prayer, zakat, and responsibilities toward the family.

In Islam, every type of work carried out by human beings is not something to be taken lightly. In fact, it can become a source of reward and a means of drawing closer to Allah the Almighty. The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bayhaqi:

مَنْ طَلَبَ الدُّنْيَا حَلَالًا اسْتَعْفَا عَنْ الْمَسْأَلَةِ ، وَسَعَى عَلَى أَهْلِهِ ، وَتَعَطَّفَا عَلَى جَارِهِ ، جَاءَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ
وَوَجْهُهُ كَالْقَمَرِ لَيْلَةَ الْبَدْرِ

Which means: *“Whoever seeks lawful sustenance in order to protect himself from begging, with the intention of fulfilling the needs of his family, and so that he may be able to help his neighbor, then surely he will come on the Day of Judgment with a radiant face like the full moon on a night of perfection.”*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Master the work that has been entrusted to you, carry it out with dedication, diligence, precision, without being calculative, and by honoring the entrusted working hours, so that the salary earned is lawful and blessed by Allah the Almighty. The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Tabarani:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يُحِبُّ إِذَا عَمِلَ أَحَدُكُمْ عَمَلًا أَنْ يُتْقِنَهُ

Which means: *"Indeed, Allah loves that when one of you does a deed, he perfects it (itqan)."*

This hadith explains that Allah the Almighty loves those who become skilled in their work. *Itqan* here means having sufficient expertise to successfully complete or carry out a task entrusted by their employer. Such a worker performs as perfectly as possible, accompanied by strong effort, so that the task is not delayed beyond the appointed time. This is the means of attaining reward and recompense from Allah the Almighty.

Avoid bad attitudes such as shirking responsibilities, being careless, procrastinating, and wasting time, let alone committing fraud in work, betrayal, breach of trust, accepting bribes, and neglecting obligations. Do not be like those who neglect their duties such as prayer, using being busy at work as an excuse. Work should never prevent us from fulfilling our responsibilities to Allah the Almighty

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Dear beloved brothers and sisters,

To conclude this blessed Friday sermon, we wish to emphasize several important points.

First: Make intention (*niat*) that the work we do is sincerely for the sake of Allah the Almighty.

Second: Ensure that the work we carry out is lawful and fulfills the requirements of the job, so that the income we receive from it is also lawful and blessed.

Third: Carry out our work and tasks with complete diligence and trustworthiness, for indeed it is an act of worship.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَلَقَدْ مَكَّنَّاكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَجَعَلْنَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا مَعِيشٌ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُونَ ١٠

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.