

REMEMBERING DEATH PURIFIES THE SOUL
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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُودُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ
سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ .

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ .

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Him in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Worldly preoccupations cause us to often neglect and forget about our responsibilities as servants of Allah the Almighty on earth. As we age, there are those of us whose hearts become harden; far from the light of revelation. Those who do not feel that they are noticed by God. Those who lost their souls as that of being servants of Allah. Thus, eventually living with immorality and wickedness.

Allah the Almighty mentions in surah al-Anbiya verse 1:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

أ ب ب ب

أَقْتَرَبَ لِلنَّاسِ حِسَابُهُمْ وَهُمْ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مُّعْرِضُونَ ﴿١﴾

Which means: *“The time of people’s judgment has drawn near, yet they are heedlessly turning away.”*

Thus, it becomes an obligation for us to tame our hearts and form a close relationship with Allah the Almighty. Remember, that one of the best ways to soften our souls, is to commemorate the dead. This was the message of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi:

أَكْثَرُوا ذِكْرَ هَازِمِ اللَّذَاتِ (يَعْني الْمَوْتِ)

Which means: *“Remember often the destroyer of pleasures: death.”*

In another hadith, the Prophet (pbuh) also advised that:

“The clever person is the one who subjugates his soul, and works for what is after death.”

Dear brothers and sisters,

This message of the Prophet (pbuh) shakes our conscience deeply; how submissive we are to the incitement of lust. This is due to our attitude of not caring about preparing for life after death.

Let us reflect that as we grow older, with more and more news of the deaths of those closest to us, that indeed our death is drawing near.

Sometimes we are so busy with work to the point of exhaustion, and we ignore obligatory demands such as performing congregational prayers in the mosques. Sometimes we are passionate about amassing wealth, but we do not spend it on tithes (*zakat*) and alms. Sometimes we try hard to gain popularity, we prioritize human views; but we ignore God's views.

Meanwhile, the Angel of Death approaches us every second. How many times does this angel pass in front of us? Remember that when our turn comes, our spirits will be snatched from our bodies not even a second late.

The door of repentance is closed when the soul reaches the throat. At this time, there is no use of having lots of money, big houses, large families, influential friends, except our good deeds that accompany us.

This is why it is important to remember death; for it will purify our souls, and motivate us to multiply good deeds. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi:

إِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِعَبْدٍ خَيْرًا اسْتَعْمَلَهُ . فَقِيلَ كَيْفَ يَسْتَعْمَلُهُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ . قَالَ يُؤَفِّقُهُ
لِعَمَلٍ صَالِحٍ قَبْلَ الْمَوْتِ

Which means: "When Allah wants good for a slave, He puts him in action." It was said: "How does he put him in action O Messenger Of Allah?" He said: "By making him meet up with the righteous deeds before death."

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 62 (surah Al-Jumu'ah) verse 8:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
قُلْ إِنَّ الْمَوْتَ الَّذِي تَفِرُّونَ مِنْهُ فَإِنَّهُ مُلَاقِيكُمْ ثُمَّ تُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عَالِمِ
الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٨﴾

Which means: Say, "The death you are running away from will inevitably come to you. Then you will be returned to the Knower of the seen and unseen, and He will inform you of what you used to do."

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ . وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ . وَتَقَبَّلَ اللَّهُ 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