

USE OUR LIVES TO SEEK ALLAH'S PLEASURE

(ISLAMIC NEW YEAR)

JULY 14, 2023 25 ZULHIJAH 1444H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ 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،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ 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,

Among the precious blessings bestowed by Allah the Almighty on humans is the blessing of age and long life. The life that Allah the Almighty has given to humans is a test to see who among them is willing to do the best deeds in accordance with religious guidance. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 67 (*Surah Al-Mulk*) verse (*ayat*) 2:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ

Which means: “(Allah) who created death and life to test you [people] and reveal which of you does best—He is the Mighty, the Forgiving;”

It is human nature to desire wealth and a long life. The older a person gets, the greater his desire for wealth and a long life. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

يَكْبُرُ ابْنُ آدَمَ وَيَكْبُرُ مَعَهُ اثْنَانِ: حُبُّ الْمَالِ، وَطُولُ الْعُمُرِ

Which means: “The son of Adam (i.e. man) grows old and so also two (desires) grow old with him, i.e., love for wealth and (a wish for) a long life.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Indeed, life in this world is very short compared to eternal life in the hereafter. Every human being will die and some will reach old age. It is a matter that has been determined by Allah the Almighty as He has mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 16 (*Surah An-Nahl*) verse (*ayat*) 70:

وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ ثُمَّ يَنْوَفِّكُمْ بِهِ وَمِنْكُمْ مَنْ يُرَدُّ إِلَىٰ أَرْذَلِ الْعُمُرِ لِكَيْ لَا يَعْلَمَ بَعْدَ عِلْمٍ شَيْئًا إِنَّ
اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ قَدِيرٌ

Which means: *“It is Allah who has created you and in time will cause you to die. Some of you will be reduced, in old age, to a most abject state, so that, after having knowledge, they will know nothing at all: Allah is truly all knowing and all powerful.”*

Let us take advantage of every moment of our life by doing as many righteous deeds as possible to become the best human being in the sight of Allah the Almighty. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Ahmad:

أَنَّ رَجُلًا قَالَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَيُّ النَّاسِ خَيْرٌ قَالَ مَنْ طَالَ عُمُرُهُ وَحَسُنَ عَمَلُهُ قَالَ فَأَيُّ
النَّاسِ شَرٌّ قَالَ مَنْ طَالَ عُمُرُهُ وَسَاءَ عَمَلُهُ

Which means: *A man said: “O Messenger of Allah! Which of the people is the best?” He said: “He whose life is long and his deeds are good.” He said: “Then which of the people is the worst?” He said: “He whose life is long and his deeds are bad.”*

Allah the Almighty has determined the length of a person’s life even before he is born into the world, and no one knows when death will come to their doorstep. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 7 (*Surah Al-A’raf*) verse (*ayat*) 34

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ

Which means: “There is a time set for everyone: they cannot hasten it, nor, when it comes, will they be able to delay it for a single moment.”

People who do not do righteous deeds will regret in the afterlife. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 35 (*Surah Fatir*) verse (*ayat*) 37:

وَهُمْ يَصْطَرِحُونَ فِيهَا رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ أَوَلَمْ نُعَمِّرْكُم مَّا يَتَذَكَّرُ فِيهِ مَنْ تَذَكَّرَ وَجَاءَكُمُ النَّذِيرُ فَذُوقُوا فَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ نَصِيرٍ

Which means: “They will cry out loud in Hell, ‘Lord, let us out, and we will do righteous deeds, not what we did before!’- ‘Did We not give you a life long enough to take warning if you were going to? The warner came to you, now taste the punishment.’ The evildoers will have nobody to help them.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Prophet (PBUH) also ordered us all to take care of five blessings before the coming of five hardship, as mentioned in the *hadith* narrated by Imam al-Hakim:

اغْتَنِمِ خَمْسًا قَبْلَ خَمْسٍ: شَبَابَكَ قَبْلَ هَرَمِكَ، وَصِحَّتَكَ قَبْلَ سَقَمِكَ، وَغِنَاكَ قَبْلَ فُقْرِكَ، وَفَرَاغَكَ قَبْلَ شُغْلِكَ، وَحَيَاتَكَ قَبْلَ مَوْتِكَ

Which means: *“Take advantage of five before five: your youth before your old age, your health before your sickness, your wealth before your poverty, your free time before your busyness, and your life before your death.”*

Therefore, let us together increase our acts of worship and righteous deeds in preparation for us in the afterlife by regularly praying in congregation at the mosque, attending gatherings of knowledge, continuing to read the Quran every day, helping those in need, etc. Let us reflect upon the words of Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 4 (*Surah An-Nisa*) verse (*ayat*) 124:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِنَ الصَّالِحَاتِ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ
يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ وَلَا يُظْلَمُونَ نَقِيرًا

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ 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.