

Friday, 15th June 2007

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَرِّهِ أَنْفُسِنَا
وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

Praise be to **اللَّهِ**.

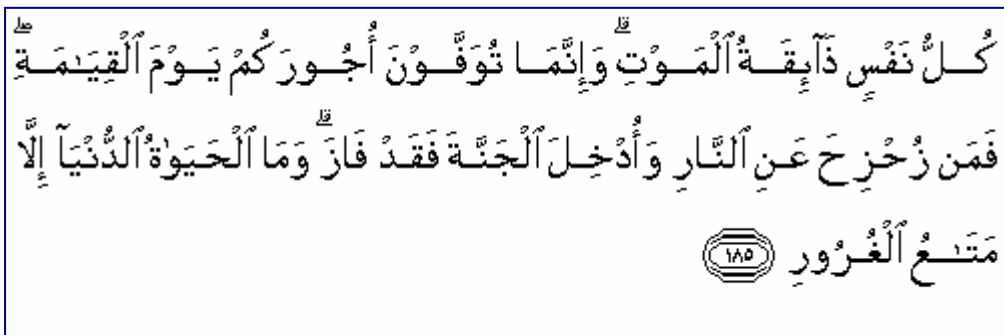
We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness in ourselves and from our bad deeds. Whomever God guides to the truth no one will lead astray, and whomever He leads astray, no one will ever guide.

I testify that there is no God but **اللَّهِ** to whom there is no partner

and I testify that Muhammad **ﷺ** is his servant and messenger

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنْفِقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ يَوْمٌ لَا بَيْعَ فِيهِ وَلَا خُلَّةٌ وَلَا شَفِيعَةٌ ۗ وَالْكَافِرُونَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ ﴿٢٥٤﴾

"O you who believe! Spend out of (the bounties) We have provided you, before the Day comes when no bargaining (will avail), nor friendship nor intercession. Those who reject faith, they are the transgressors" (S2, A254)



Allah(SWT) tells us in the Holy Quran that:

“Every soul shall taste death: And only on the Day of Judgment shall we be paid our full recompense. Whosoever is removed from the Fire and is made to enter paradise, indeed is triumphant, and the life of this world is nothing more than a provision of vanities” (S3, A185)

Earlier this week, one of our sisters sadly passed away suddenly at Wythenshawe hospital. Her departure has been sudden and unexpected, and in times like this, one can only ask Allah(SWT) to grant her forgiveness, to ease on her the heavy burden of the grave, the heavy burden of the day of resurrection, the heavy burden of the day of gathering and the heavy burden of the day of judgement.

We ask Allah(SWT) to grant her family patience to cope with her loss. It is also our duty to remind her family and our community that the work of our sister in this world has now ended, but she can still increase the balance of her good deeds by setting up a “Sadaqua Jariya”, and for her children to keep close to Allah and to pray for her.

Brothers and sisters, there is nothing more terrifying in this life than death.

The Prophet^(SAAWS) said:

﴿لَمْ يَلَقَ ابْنُ آدَمَ شَيْئًا قَطُّ أَشَدَّ عَلَيْهِ مِنَ الْمَوْتِ، ثُمَّ إِنَّ الْمَوْتَ لَأَهْوَنَ لِمَا بَعْدَهُ﴾ (أحمد)

The son of Adam has not come across anything that is more distressing than death. But what comes after is even more distressing.

No matter how distressing these events are, we need to remind ourselves that each and everyone of us is heading towards an inevitable end.

كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ ﴿٢٦﴾ وَيَبْقَىٰ وَجْهَ رَبِّكَ ذُو الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ ﴿٢٧﴾

“All that is on earth will perish, And there will endure for ever the your Lord, the Lord of glory and honor” (S55, A26-7)

We ask Allah(SWT) for mercy on all our deceased, we ask Allah(SWT) for their forgiveness and we ask Allah(SWT) to guide us and to guide the children of our deceased to keep close to Allah and to better ourselves as Muslims so that our prayers can be accepted. If ever there is a need to get back on the straight path, it is the death of a close person for whom you want to seek Allah’s forgiveness. Let us remind ourselves and the families of our deceased.

Let us also remind ourselves that this week it was a close relative, but next week it may well be us.

Umar(RAA) used to say: “the angle of death has passed over us to claim others, but one day, he will pass over others to claim us. Judge yourselves before you are judged, and weigh your deeds before they are weighed upon you”

Let us also remind ourselves that death can be sudden. Death has no respect for age, gender, status, health or wealth. When our appointed time comes, it will not be advanced or delayed even one second.

أَفَأَمِنُوا أَنْ تَأْتِيَهُمْ غَشِيَةٌ مِّنْ عَذَابِ اللَّهِ أَوَّ
تَأْتِيَهُمُ السَّاعَةُ بَغْتَةً وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ ﴿١٠٧﴾

“Do they then feel secure from the coming of the wrath of Allah. Or of the coming of the (final) hour all of a sudden, while they are not aware” (S12, A107)

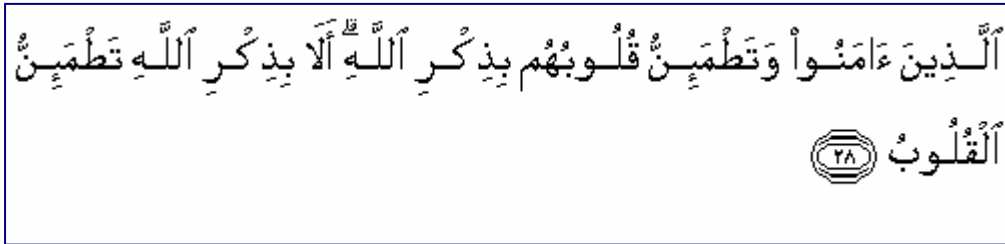
Let us again remind ourselves of death. A scholar said; whosoever keeps reminding himself of death will gain the benefit of three things:- hastiness to Tawbah, a content heart and vigor in worship. And whosoever forgets the reminder of death will suffer the punishment of three things:- delaying Tawbah, lack of content and laziness in worship.

Let us ISA keep reminding ourselves of death, and reminding ourselves that this life is no more than a transient existence, and that the hereafter is what we are all striving for.

It is probably enough for a khutbah to just remind the Muslims of the truth of death.

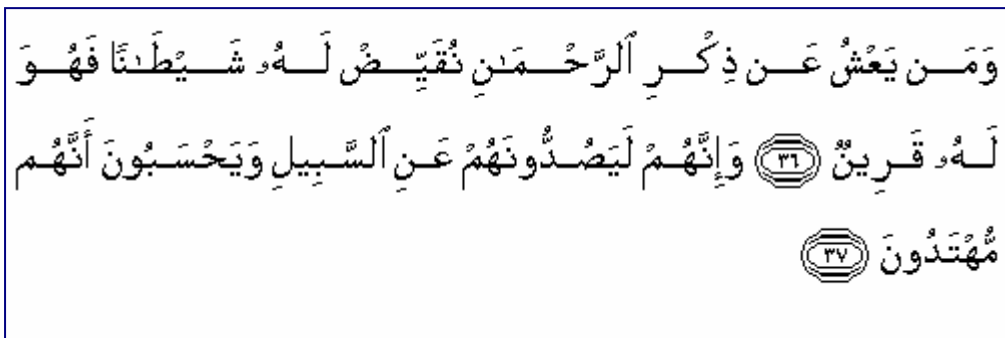
However, we carry on. In the previous khutbah, we looked at how spirituality is invoked by the remembrance of Allah, and how ordinary everyday activity can be turned into a spiritual one by the remembrance of Allah(SWT)

We ended with the aya:



"Those who believe, and whose hearts find security in the remembrance of Allah: for indeed it is in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find tranquility and peace" (S13, A28)

There is no doubt about the positive benefits of keeping Allah close to our hearts. However, I came across the following aya which again put the fear of Allah in my heart. This aya yet again was a big eye opener for me. We probably have read the aya many times and not realized its grave importance. In the previous aya, we learn the benefit of remembering Allah, in the following aya, we learn of the devastating impact of NOT remembering Allah:



"And whosoever turns away from the remembrance of Ar-Rahman, We appoint for him a satan who becomes his intimate companion. And surely they turn them from the path of Allah, and yet they assume that they are rightly guided" (S43, A36-7)

Let us contrast these two ayas:

أَلَا يَذْكُرُ اللَّهُ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ ﴿٢٨﴾

and

وَمَنْ يَعْشُ عَنْ ذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَنِ نُقَيِّضْ لَهُ شَيْطَانًا

“for indeed it is in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find tranquility and peace”

And

“whosoever turns away from the remembrance of Ar-Rahman, We appoint for him a satan”

The second aya is enough to scare the living daylight out of any Muslim. It seems that there is really no choice. There is no safety except in the remembrance of Allah.

There is a very serious warning here. Allah is reminding us that if we chose to turn away from Allah, there is a satan waiting for each and everyone of us. By turning away from the remembrance of Allah, we are in effect putting our hands in the hands of satan, and we accept him as our intimate companion.

There is really no third choice. We need to ask ourselves very seriously, do we really want satan as our close companion. If not, then we must keep close to Allah, and we must keep the remembrance of Allah close to our hearts.

We mentioned in the previous khutbah that it does not take much to keep remembering Allah(SWT). We all now these words:

The Prophet(SAAWS) taught us few simple words that keep us in contact with our Lord. Simple words that are easy on the tongue yet very heavy in our balance on the day of judgement:

سبحان الله ، أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ، اللهُ أَكْبَرُ ، لا إله إلا الله

In addition to that, we all know surat Al-Fatiha:

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ①

Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ②

Most Gracious, Most Merciful

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ③

Master of the Day of Judgment

مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ④

You alone we worship, and you alone we ask for help

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ⑤

Guide us to the straight path

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ⑥

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ⑦

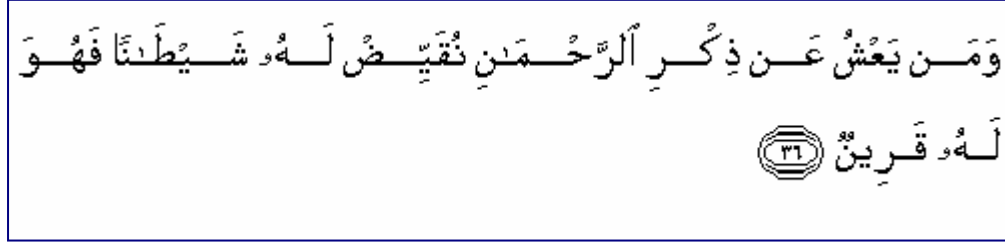
The path of those on whom You hast bestowed Your Grace, Not those who have earned Your anger nor of those who have gone astray.

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي ولكم

2nd Khutbah:

الحمد لله ثم الحمد لله. الحمد لله نستعينه ونستغفره ، ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا . أما بعد :

Brothers and sisters, let us remember that this worldly life is the prison of the believer and the paradise of the non-believer. The non-believer lives for this world but the believer lives for the hereafter.

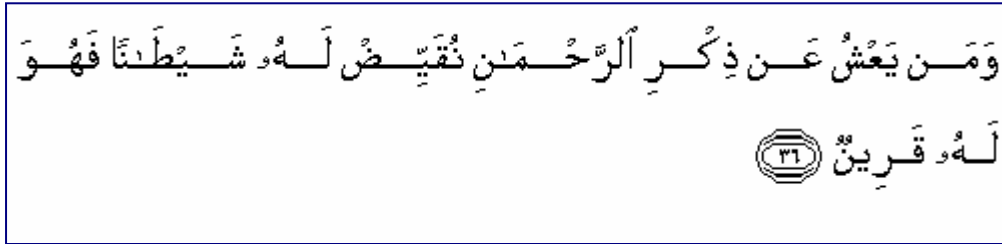


“And whosoever turns away from the remembrance of Ar-Rahman, We appoint for him a satan who becomes his intimate companion” (S43, A36)

Brothers and sisters, as we are now starting to enjoy summer, somehow our efforts to remember Allah start to dwindle. We start to get lazy. It becomes more difficult for us to come to evening prayers at the mosque. It becomes more difficult to attend for study circles and lectures. There is ample time to play, and little time to remember Allah.

Tennis and cricket are plenty on TV. More weekends are spent in the parks and getting the BBQs lit up. Somehow, summer is not very good for remembering Allah. Holidays are being planned. Dunya is becoming very much in focus, but the remembrance of Allah is not.

If there is one aya to remember for today, it is this one:



“And whosoever turns away from the remembrance of Ar-Rahman, We appoint for him a satan who becomes his intimate companion” (S43, A36)

We cannot afford to get lazy in the summer. Satan is waiting for us. Do we really want to take satan as our intimate companion when we are warned that satan is our sworn enemy. Of course not. If so, we need to keep the remembrance of Allah even closer to our hearts in the next few weeks than usual, since the distractions of the Dunya will become even more appealing and distracting.

From Abu Huraira(RAA): the satan of a disbeliever met the satan of a believer. The satan of the disbeliever was fat, rounded and well dressed, while the satan of the believer was thin, disheveled and naked. The satan of the disbeliever asked the satan of the believer, why are you so disheveled. He replied, I am with a man who remembers Allah when he eats, so I remain hungry. He remembers Allah when he drinks and I remain thirsty, and he remembers Allah when he dresses so I remain naked. The satan of the disbeliever said, as for me, I am with a man that does none of that, and for that I share with him his food, his drink and his cloths”

There you have it.

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَايَ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُم لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴾ (٤٠)

﴿ أَنْتَلُمَا أَوْحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ ۖ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَىٰ عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ ۗ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ ﴾ (٤٥)