

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَ نَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَ نَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ  
شُرُورِ 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.

All Praise be to الله .

We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness within ourselves and from our own bad deeds. Whom-so-ever God guides to the truth no one can lead astray, and whom-so-ever He leaves misguided, no one has the power to guide.

I testify that there is no God but الله to whom there is no partner and I testify that Muhammad ﷺ is his servant and messenger

وَتُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٣١﴾

*"And seek Tawbah and return unto Allah altogether, O believers, so that you may be successful" (An-Noor, 24:31)*



Dear brothers and sisters, Allah(SWT) tells us in the Holy Quran:

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

***“You were the best of people evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah” (Al-Imran, 3:110)***

Brothers and sisters, this ayah is one of the iconic ayahs that defines for us one of the main purposes of the Muslim. One might even call it a mission statement. I am confident when I say that we are all familiar with this ayah. On the one hand, it gives us a sense of purpose and to some extent, on the other hand it also gives us a sense of pride. In this day and age, as a Muslim, it is comforting when one reads: you were the best of people.

There is however a slight issue with the translation and with the understanding of this ayah. In the Arabic language, the term “kuntom” can be translated as “you were” as is the case in this translation, and probably in most if not all translations of this ayah. It gives a sense of “past tense” as “you were”. However, scholars have defined a more accurate meaning to “kuntom” that is in keeping with the message of the ayah. The most accurate meaning of “kuntom” in the context of the run of the ayah is **“you became”** rather than **“you were”**. This is considered to be more accurate because the “ummah” did not exist before Islam, and it was through the teachings of Islam and the adherence of the Muslims to these teachings that such a nation “came to be”.

You see brothers and sisters, once we appreciate the true understanding of the ayah, it starts to become a little bit more daunting. As Muslims, should we truly want to become “the best of people evolved for mankind” we have to fulfil the following three criteria: we have to enjoin what is right, we have to forbid what is wrong and we have to believe in Allah. This is our purpose in this life brothers and sisters. This should be our purpose when it comes to dealing with the rest of humanity.

In previous khutbahs, we addressed issues relating to our Iman, to our acts of worship, to our behaviour etc. This ayah puts it all in context for us:

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

***“You became the best of people evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah” (Al-Imran, 3:110)***

Some scholars when talking about the ummah of Islam, address the ummah by saying: “The ummah of enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong”. When we look at Muslims now, can we confidently claim that we are such an “ummah”.

The prophet(SAAWS) told the sahabah:

كَيْفَ بِكُمْ إِذَا لَمْ تَأْمُرُوا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَلَمْ تَنْهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ

*How would you be should you become of those who do not enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong.*

What do you think the response of the sahabah was? The sahabah were shocked. They could not perceive that as Muslims, their role could be anything less or anything else. They asked the Prophet(SAAWS) is this truly possible. Can this happen to an ummah raised on the teachings of Islam?

قَالُوا أَوْ كَائِنَ ذَلِكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ

The Prophet(SAAWS) responded, and this is where it starts to become distressing for us. He said:

قَالَ وَأَشَدُّ مِنْهُ سَيَكُونُ

The Prophet(SAAWS) said: *it will become even more serious.* The Sahabah already had difficulty accepting that there will be a time where Muslims will not enjoin what is right and will not forbid what is wrong and now they are being told that there is something even worse. So they asked:

قَالُوا وَمَا أَشَدُّ مِنْهُ

What can be more serious than that? This is brothers and sisters where it starts to become depressing because the Prophet(SAAWS) has predicted this for us such a long time ago. He said:

قَالَ كَيْفَ بِكُمْ إِذَا أَمَرْتُمْ بِالْمُنْكَرِ وَنَهَيْتُمْ عَنِ الْمَعْرُوفِ

*How would you be should you become of those who enjoin what is wrong and forbid what is right.*

Brothers and sisters, are we getting a sense where this is going. We started with the iconic ayah:

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

***“You became the best of people evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah” (Al-Imran, 3:110)***

This is ayah 110 from Surat Al-Imran. This ayah was preceded by other ayahs that we are also very familiar with:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ ۖ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

*“O you who believe! Be mindful of your duty to Allah in the most truthful manner that is deserving of Allah {Haqqa Tuqatihi}, and die not except in a state of Islam” (Al-Imran, 3:102)*

This is ayah 102 from Surat Al-Imran. The following ayah is also an ayah that we are familiar with:

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۚ وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِّنْهَا ۚ كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ءَايَاتِهِ ۚ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ

*“And hold fast, all together by the guidance of Allah and do not disunite. and remember Allah's favour upon you; for you were enemies and He joined your hearts in harmony so that by His Grace, you became brothers; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire, and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah make his signs clear to you: that you may be guided” (Al-Imran, 3:103)*

This brothers and sisters was ayah 103. Both of these ayahs are familiar to us, and they lead us to the next ayah. This is what we read in ayah 104:

وَلَتَكُن مِّنكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ۚ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

*“Let there arise out of you a nation inviting unto all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong; they are indeed the ones who are successful” (Al-Imran, 3:104)*

You see brothers and sisters, in this sequence, once we gain Iman, once we are dutiful to Allah as is deserving of Allah, once we have Islam in every aspect of our lives, once we hold fast altogether unto the guidance of Allah and once we unite as one heart, then the command to us is very clear: make this world a better place for all of mankind.

Brothers and sisters, this is our collective purpose as Muslims in this life. This is why the sahabah were shocked when the Prophet(SAAWS) asked them: How would you be should

you become of those who do not enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong. The sahabah knew, understood and applied this ayah as a command from Allah(SWT).

وَلَتَكُنَّ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ  
وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

**“Let there arise out of you a nation inviting unto all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong; they are indeed the ones who are successful” (Al-Imran, 3:104)**

It was shocking for them that one would consider otherwise. They were even more shocked when the Prophet(SAAWS) said: How would you be should you become of those who enjoin what is wrong and forbid what is right. The sahabah asked again, can this truly happen?

قَالُوا أَوْ كَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ

The Prophet(SAAWS) responded, and this is where it gets distressing and depressing for us. He said:

قَالَ وَأَشَدُّ مِنْهُ سَيَكُونُ

The Prophet(SAAWS) said: *it will become even more serious.*

قَالُوا وَمَا أَشَدُّ مِنْهُ

The sahabah asked again; what can be more serious than that?

This brothers and sisters is a moment for us to reflect. What can be worst than enjoining what is wrong and forbidding what is right. Can there indeed be anything worse.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَ لَكُمْ

2<sup>nd</sup> Khutbah:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ثُمَّ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَرِّهِ  
أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا . أَمَا بَعْدُ :

Brothers and sisters, what can be worse than enjoining what is wrong and forbidding what is right? This is what the Prophet(SAAWS) said:

قَالَ كَيْفَ بِكُمْ إِذَا أَصْبَحَ الْمَعْرُوفُ مُنْكَرًا وَالْمُنْكَرُ مَعْرُوفًا

*How would you be when what is right becomes accepted as wrong and what is wrong becomes accepted as right.*

This hadeeth brothers and sisters takes us through a series of steps that other nations have gone through before us. For people to end up accepting that which is right as wrong and that which is wrong as right is a natural progression for people if they lose their fear of Allah. It is a natural progression if they walk away from the teachings of Allah and is a natural progression if their unity is taken apart. This is what we read in Surat Al-Maa'ida, ayah 78 and 79:

لُعِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عَلَى لِسَانِ دَاوُدَ وَعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ ذَلِكَ بِمَا عَصَوْا وَكَانُوا يَعْتَدُونَ

*“Cursed were those who have disbelieved from the Children of Israel by the words of David and of Jesus son of Mary: that is by being disobedient and persisted in transgression” (Al-Maa’ida, 5:78)*

كَانُوا لَا يَتَنَاهَوْنَ عَنْ مُنْكَرٍ فَعَلُوهُ لَبِئْسَ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ

*“They did not forbid each other on a wrong doing which they committed: vile indeed were the deeds which they did” (Al-Maa’ida, 5:79)*

Brothers and sisters, scholars have divided the Muslim Ummah into two types:

أُمَّةُ الْإِسْتِجَابَةِ  
أُمَّةُ التَّبْلِيغِ

The nation of answering the call of the message and the nation of carrying the message. In our current state, we are definitely not the nation of answering the call. We have grown over the years to accept what is wrong as being right and what is right as being wrong.

Brothers and sisters, can we not see how societies are changing their rules to suit the whims and desires of people. We now live in times where everything goes. If one claims to believe in a creator he or she is branded as ignorant and blinkered. If a young man or woman claim that they will stay chaste until marriage, there is something wrong with them. If one claims that the natural family unit as ordained by Allah(SWT) is a married man and woman living together, they are branded as non-progressive and living in the dark ages. This, brothers and sisters, and many more examples of what the Prophet(SAAWS) has predicted for us. He predicted a time where the right will be wrong and the wrong will be right and we the Muslims cannot do anything about it.

Brothers and sisters, as Muslim, if we want to be the Ummah of enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, we need to go back to our basics. We need to go back to our faith and our Iman. We need to go back to our “Taqwa” of Allah as is deserving of Allah(SWT). We need to go back to our sense of unity and to hold altogether unto the teachings of Allah. ISA, and with Allah’s guidance we can then answer the call:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلّٰهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ

***“O you who believe! Answer the call to Allah and to the Messenger, when He calls you to that which will enliven you” (Al-Anfaal, 8:24)***