

Doors of grace, Worship of Allah

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27 Rabee Al-Awal 1434

08 Feb 2013

In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

Dear beloved, can I guide you to the gates of goodness? The answer to this question is the title of this talk on this blessed day. This was also the same question that the messenger ppbu asked his companion Muaad (معاذ). The messenger ppbu loved Muaad and had told him so many times in the past. Muad asked the messenger ppbu a question each and every Muslim today needs it. Listen to the question and you should know the answer. Muad said to the messenger ppbu: "Tell me about a deed (something I do) which will bring me into paradise and take me away from hellfire". Do we need an answer to this question? Very much so. Is it not because of paradise that all the faithful do pray, and they do weep? Is it not for paradise that many go for *Jihad*, and many donate their *zakah*, and the pilgrims go for their *Hajj*, and many spend their riches, and the monotheists believe in the oneness of Allah? Is it not that they do all that in order to be rewarded with paradise and in order to be protected from hellfire? The answer is: Yes. Listen to the messenger's reply, he said: "You have asked something tremendous. Yet it is so easy for whom Allah wishes to make it easy for". Dear brother and sister, Learn and find out the path to paradise, the path of saving yourself from hellfire, in few concise words from the messenger himself.

The messenger ppbu said:

- 1) Worship Allah, the one and only with no partners.
- 2) Do your prayers and give your donation (Zakah), and fast Ramadan, and go to the old mosque for pilgrimage (Hajj).

Then the messenger ppbu said to Muad: can I guide you to the gates of goodness? Muad said yes. The messenger ppbu said: "Fasting is a protection from sins, and donations (sadaqa) wipe off sins just as water puts out fire, and a man's prayer in the heart of the night (middle of night) ...". The messenger ppbu started reciting those verses from the Quran: **"Who forsake their beds to pray unto their Lord in fear and**

expectation, and spend of that We have bestowed on them. (16) No soul knows what is kept hidden for them of joy, as a reward for what they used to do. (17) ” 32:16-17. Then the messenger ppbu went on to say: Shall I tell you about the head of the whole thing and its main column and the peak of its highest point? Muaad said: “Yes, O messenger of Allah”. The messenger ppbu said: the head of all matters is Islam, and its main column is prayer and the peak of its highest level is Jihad. The messenger ppbu said shall tell you how to get control of all that? The messenger ppbu pointed at Muaad’s tong and said: “hold on to that”. Muaad getting astonished asked: “is it that we are questioned and we get held responsible for mere words we say?” The messenger ppbu said: Muaad, many people are pushed into hellfire just because of their tongs.

Those few words told by the messenger ppbu will need many Fridays to talk about. The messenger ppbu was given eloquence. His words were few, concise and to the point. Back to Muaad original question: “Tell me about a deed (something I do) which will bring me into paradise and takes me away from hellfire”. The messenger ppbu said: Worship Allah, the one and only with no partners. Yes, my brothers Worshipping Allah is the first practical step on to the road of salvation from hellfire and the road to paradise. Linguistically, in Arabic the word worship (*Ebadah*) also gives a meaning of a road, which is prepared for walking and travelling (*muabbud* معبد). Worship also is a word referring to everything Allah likes and approves of, deeds and words, public or private, like praying, fasting, donating, hajj, spreading the word of Allah, putting your faith in Allah, having hope in Allah, seeking help from Allah, God fearing and many more. Worship is not a side-line part along the path, indeed, it is the first call of the message of every prophet. Allah says: **“We sent Noah unto his people (saying): Warn your people before the painful doom come unto them. (1) He said: O my people! Lo! I am a plain warner unto you (2) (Bidding you): worship Allah and keep your duty unto Him and obey me, (3)” 71:1-3.** That was the first word: worship Allah. Allah also says: **“And unto (the tribe of) A'ad (We sent) their brother, Hud. He said: O my people! Serve Allah. You have no other God other than Him.” 7:65.** Allah also said: **“And We sent no messenger before you but We inspired him, (saying): There is no God except Me (Allah), so worship Me.” 21:25.**

Dear beloved brother and sister, we were created only for this purpose. We must not make this worldly life our target and make worship a means of reaching this target. NO, worship is the target, and we must employ this life and all of what is in this life to reach this target of worship. You must employ your money, your wife, your mother and daughters, and your mind and brain, and your family name and your position or job, all for this purpose, the purpose of singling Allah with worship. Even if we lived for a thousand year, but we do not fulfil this target then there will be no happiness for us, not in this life and not the life after. There will be no enforcement or victory for us and no establishment. Worshipping is the first step for victory and establishment in this life, and it is the first step on the road for entering paradise and salvation from hell fire, with His permission alone.

Dearly beloved, Allah has said about worship: **“I created the jinn and humankind only that they mill worship Me.”** 51:56. Allah also knows if not all the creation worship Him it will not affect Him. He will not benefit by obedience and will not lose by disobedience. On the contrary, all that who is in the heavens and the earth praises Allah, and they do not feel arrogant or too big to worship Him. Allah says: **“The seven heavens and the earth and all that is therein praise Him, and there is not a thing but chant His praise; but you do not understand their praise. Lo! He is ever Clement, Forgiving.”** 17:44. Allah also says: **“Have you not seen that unto Allah kneel down in adoration whosoever is in the heavens and whosoever is in the earth, and the sun, and the moon, and the stars, and the hills, and the trees, and the beasts, and many of mankind, while there are many unto whom the doom is justly due. He whom Allah scorns, there is none to give him honour. Lo! Allah does what He will.”** 22:18. Dear brothers, we must not get board of the case of oneness of Allah and worship of Allah. Islam is a faith from which rules and regulations are extracted. Those rules control all aspects of life, and Allah does not accept the laws of people unless their faith is correct. So, the first step again is that your worship will not be accepted unless if you have sincere intention to Allah, and you were a follower to that of the messenger ppbu.

To be sincere in intentions but not following the messenger's teachings then Allah will not accept your deeds from you. Moreover, if you follow the messenger deeds but without the pure and sincere intention to Allah then Allah will not accept from you either. Allah says: **“And they are ordered nothing other than to worship Allah, keeping religion purely intended for Him,..”** 98:5. Ebn Abbas said: “let it be known that the religion of Allah is built upon two roots. The first, is to worship Allah alone with no partners. The second is to worship Him with what He regulated for us through the guidance of His messenger”. Those two rules are the true meaning of our testimony call that “there is no other God but Allah, and that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah”. It is with the first part of the testimony we define who is to be worshipped which is Allah, and with the second part of the testimony we define the path which leads to the one to be worshipped or how. All other routes and paths to Allah are blocked except through Muhammad ppbu. All of you who have faith in one God Allah, you should kneel down and give thanks to Allah who guided you to believe in His oneness and singularity. It is the greatest and most honoured mercy can be bestowed upon a living being. Every human is born on the natural mercy of Islam, but his/her parents turn him or her into Judaism, or Christianity or Magian (fire worshipper). We (or most of us) were reared into homes, which believe in the oneness of Allah. Thanks be to Allah it is His mercy upon us from start to finish.

Give thanks to Allah that He created you as a believer, believing into Him as one God. In addition, ask Him that He may keep you on this faith. Many people do not appreciate this mercy its true value, when it is the greatest mercy. For some, may be spending last night without supper, or without something they badly wished for, is a big problem. In fact, it is not such a problem when Allah Has bestowed upon you the mercy of believing in Him as one God. Just look round you with those we live amongst and you shall know the benefit of Islam. All they only know is the superficial outside image of this life, and they are absolutely unaware of the life after. No matter how long this life goes on, it is still short, and no matter how great this life becomes, it is still despicable and lousy, and no matter how long you live for, you will for certain one-day leave, and no matter how long your age is going to be, you will one day go into the grave. If you keep in mind the mercy Allah Has given you then you

will live contented, accepted by Allah, secure and reassured, happy and thankful, remembering Allah and grateful to Him.

Allah says: In the name of Allah most gracious most merciful: “ **They make it a favour unto you (Muhammad) that they have surrendered (unto Him) or became Muslims. Say: Deem not your Islam is a favour unto me; but Allah does confer a favour on you, in as much as He has led you to the Faith, if ye are earnest.**” 49:17.

Second Khutba:

All thanks be to the Almighty, the One and only, and I testify that there is no other god but Allah, who has no partners. He alone shall inherit the heavens and the earth and all that is between them. I also testify that Muhammed is His slave and messenger ppbu.

Dear beloved in Allah, you need to know that Allah has not imposed upon us the worship just to cause us misery or hardship, nor He did in order for us to curse and complain. He imposed worship upon us in order to have us prepared and conditioned for the day when we stand before Him. That moment is a tremendous moment. Have you ever thought of a time when you will have to meet a minister? Or a president or a king in this life, in order so you will be honoured with something? You probably will never forget such an occasion for as long as you live. Then think if it was the king of all kings and the mighty and creator of all the heavens and the earth. Allah, the most Gracious the most Merciful has imposed worship upon us in order to bestow upon us the honour of standing before Him.

Worship is important for us and not for Allah. The messenger ppbu in speaking for Allah in hadith-Qudsi said: “O my slaves, if all of you from the first to the last, all your man kind and Jin kind, were all as God fearing as the most God fearing one of you, then that shall add nothing to my wealth or possession. O my slaves, if all of you from the first to the last, all your man kind and Jin kind, were all as sinful as the most sinful one of you all, then that shall take away nothing from my wealth or possession.” This means that Allah the Almighty is not in need of our worship, deeds and actions. He will not be affected badly by the sins of sinners, nor will the deeds of obedience will benefit Him. You people are the ones who are in need for Allah, and

Allah is not the one who needs you. If He so wishes He can make you all go away and He can bring new creation, and that is not hard for Allah to do. Worshipping Allah, cleanses our hearts, purifies our souls and clears our chest. Worship removes and clears the sins of sinners.