

A Word of Advice before the Advent of Rajab Month

Friday Khutbah¹ 20th of April 2012 by,

Sheikh Mohammad Said Ramadan Al-Bouti

Translated by Nusaiba al-Daly

All praise is due to Allah, praise that complies with His blessings and compensates His abundance. Our Lord, for You is all praise as befits the majesty of Your countenance and the might of Your authority.

O Allah, I cannot sufficiently enumerate praises upon You; You are as you have praised Yourself. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone and He has no partner, and I bear witness that our Master² Muhammad is His slave and Messenger and His sincere and intimate friend, the best Prophet that Allah sent to the entire world as a herald of glad tidings and admonition. O Allah, pray upon, give peace and give blessings upon our Master Muhammad and upon the family of our Master Muhammad, prayers and peace that last inseparably until the Day of Judgment. I advise you and my sinning self to have fearful awareness of Allah the Exalted.

To proceed, O slaves of Allah:

The effective, well-established existence of Islam is only achieved through a deeply rooted faith planted in the heart, to bear the fruits of the good conduct legislated and ordered by Allah, Mighty and Majestic, and to guard the principles and values as well. This is one of Allah's, Glorified and Exalted, ways of dealing in His universe. There is not a reality obvious to the eyes without having its unseen deep roots.

What makes the lofty mountain to resist the fierce winds and earthquakes? What makes it steadfast like that? It is the mountain's unseen cone-shaped roots that go deep inside the earth. This is the reason behind regarding the mountain as stable and steadfast. What makes the bushy

¹ . Friday Khutbah(sermon) It was given on 29th of Jumad Al-'Awal1433(HJ), 20th of April 2012

². Arabic: Sayed, which only applies to human beings

shadowing tree to grow and bear its delicious fruits? They are its roots that intertwined deep inside the soil.

What makes the dwellers of the overcrowded great high building to feel safe and secure? It is the solid sub structure lies beneath the surface that makes it strong and stable. Yes, that is one of Allah's, the Lord of the worlds, ways of dealings. Every surface is built on hidden deep roots.

I mention this to you as an introduction to what I want to say to each one of you, and also myself. Whoever wants to know the steadiness of Islam in his outward behavior, he has to look deep inside his heart to find the roots of Islam reflected on his behavior and actions. If he finds its deep-rootedness in his heart, he must praise Allah, Mighty and Majestic, because his Islam is a real one, because it combines between the appearance and essence. However, if he looks for the roots of Islam and only finds that his heart is filled with caprices, desires, foolishness, and fanaticism then he must know that he is entirely distant from Islam as ordered by Allah, Exalted and Majestic. His Islam is like a tree has been put on the surface of the earth without having deep roots. What is the end of such a shallow tree except to be stroked from the right and left by the winds?? Islam is similar to that.

One of us may ask, brothers: What is the essence should we have to preserve our Islam? How can we get these deep roots in our hearts to give our Islam its real acts and vivid spirit?

The answer, as briefly as I can say: The way for that is achieved through two steps: firstly the Muslim should really know his Creator. The one, who has not yet known his Creator, is not a sincere Muslim. For whom he is sincere? In fact, he is sincere for his desires, foolish acts and delights. Hence, the first step for him is to know his Lord, by His attributes, by His overflowing bounties, by His continuous messages of love. He can know Him through all that. So, when he knows Him well, feelings of tender love emerge towards that God (Allah), the Exalted One.

I repeat a part of what I said yesterday. Whosoever associates Allah's granted bounties to His Supreme Self, he must lovingly adore Him; because the man receives in every single minutes a new blessing. So how will be the man's feelings when he is thoughtful to associate these blessings to its

Benefactor, and these messages of love to its Sender? There is no doubt that the innate feelings of love will revive in his heart, o slaves of Allah!

Let me tell you something else: There are only three factors of love in the man's life. The first one is beauty. Do you know another entity in the universe is more beautiful than the Creator of beauty? The second factor is benevolence. Is there another entity in the universe that is more benevolent to you than Him? The third one is greatness. Does the man get amazed with the greatness of a creature in the presence of that Creator Who perfectly creates everything? These are the factors of love that are combined exclusively in the Supreme Self of Allah, Glorified and Exalted.

Therefore, when you associate the blessings of Allah to Him, you adore Him. I do not want to count now these blessings. Do we enough time to count His blessings? Moreover, Allah has granted you kinds of beauty that either delight your eyes, your mouth, your nose, or ears. All of them are types of beauty which Allah makes you to enjoy. All of you know that.

That is why when you know Allah through His attributes, His Grace, and His bounties, you must love Him. At then, your love for Him will dismiss all the worldly matters. You will abandon your love for money, yourself, fanaticism and desires. Your heart will become as a sacred vessel for only one love: your love to Allah. The secret of this noble love will dominate your heart to be reflected on your behavior. At that time, you will submit inwardly and outwardly to the order of Allah Glorified and Exalted. You will say to Him as our master Mūsā (Moses), Peace be upon him, has said **"and I hastened to You, O my Lord, that You might be pleased."**³ **[Surat Tāhā,20:84]**

Hence, your submission to Allah together with your guard of values and principles will stem from your longing heart to your Creator and Lord, Glorified and Exalted. This is the answer for the question, o worshippers of Allah.

There are brothers among us in a dire need to grasp well these clear concepts, if they were so. Allah knows that my words for them are out of pity and mercy. Those brothers are away from their real Lover. There are various embellishments of the worldly life have captured their hearts such

3. Interpretation of the meaning of the Noble Quran by Muhsin Khan and Taqi-ud-Din al-Hilali .

as fanaticism, arrogance, adoring money, grudge, and malice. It is a disease, and I ask Allah, Glorified and Exalted to protect me, you, and those brothers from it. Such disease makes them to excessively shed the blood of innocent and safe people!

How many times have I thought: what did they gain when they saw happy wives had lost their beloved husbands? What did the gain when they saw safe children had lost their parents, tasting bitterly the pain of orphanage?!! What was their real benefit? We might understand them if there were some sort of a high privilege can justify the caused agony for such innocent and secure people.

Nevertheless, I arouse the question again: What was the financial profit they win? It is said they addicted drugs so that they lost control on their behavior and as a result they resented their life. Furthermore, they became bloody and murderers. I have said, "No way! The humanity of man cannot be distorted to that horrible extent!".

I say: These brothers believe in Allah. If they were not so, they could say, "We are away from Allah and His religion". Rather, I do not say that, but I say they believe in Allah. However, how could they discard their Creator's words, violating things prohibited by Him? He says what can be translated as,

"And whoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell to abide therein, and the Wrath and the Curse of Allah are upon him, and a great punishment is prepared for him"⁴. [Surat An-Nisā',4:93]

How can the one bear Allah's threat and wrath in the previous verse, if he truly believes in Him?

In addition, the month of Rajab will soon commence. It is one of the inviolable months in which Allah, Glorified and Exalted, prohibits the start of any acts of fight even if there were reasons. However, the one can defend himself if he is attacked. Allah says what can be interpreted as,

"Surely the (right) (i.e. fixed) number of the months in the Providence of Allah is twelve months (ordained) in the Book of Allah

4. The Previous Source.

the day that He created the heavens and the earth. Four of them are prohibiting. (i.e., fighting is prohibited during them) That is the most upright religion. So do not do (any) injustice to yourselves during them; "5 [Surat At-Tawbah,9:36]

It means that no one is allowed to kill his fellow Muslim. The killing of a fellow Muslim is like killing oneself. By committing such murder, he truly wrongs himself. Allah Glorified and Exalted says what can be interpreted as,

"They ask you concerning fighting in the Sacred Months (i.e. 1st, 7th, 11th and 12th months of the Islamic calendar). Say, "Fighting therein is a great (transgression)"6 [Surat Al-Baqarah,2:217]

It means that one of the major sins is to kill a fellow in the humanity, whether he has a right in that or not. It is not allowed to start fighting in that Month. Allah says what can be interpreted as,

"O you who have believed, do not violate the rites of Allah or [the sanctity of] the sacred month"7. [Surat Al-Mā'idah,5:2]

There are many verses in this respect.

I pitifully say to these deceived brothers: You have been involved, but you still have the chance to fix your mistake. Rajab month is about to start in less than three days, so what you are going to do? Are you going to keep opposing Allah, Mighty and Majestic, carelessly taking His orders? I do not think so.

What do you win by casting away this divine warning? Nay, brothers! Come to Allah in repentance in this blessed month, the first of the inviolable ones! Come back to Him! If you seek provision, seek your provision from the Providence of Allah. I assure you that Allah will abundantly grant you happiness, rather than strangling you with that provision because of your sins. If you seek delights, He grants you the permissible ones that will enjoy you now and in the Hereafter.

⁵ Towards Understanding the Ever-glorious Qur'an, ,Mahmud Ghali, Cairo: Publishing House for Universities, 2001.

⁶ Interpretation of the meaning of the Noble Quran by Muhsin Khan and Taqi-ud-Din al-Hilali .

⁷ Sahih International.

As for those who are lighting the fire of war, recklessly thinking about the inviolable months, the innocents, the bloodshed of nobles; I say to them: Repent to Allah! Cling to the many strings that deliver you to the sincere penitence to Allah, Glorified and Exalted.

Be away from the innocents! Why do you share in killing them? Why do you ignite the fire of sedition, while being in your nearby or far countries? Why do you send money for that? Why do you send weapons? Why? What do you gain?

If my words do not affect your hearts, so I warn you! I warn you against the prayers that come out of the anguished and weeping hearts of widows and orphans. Listen to me well! You will hear the cries of the oppressed and victims calling Allah to save them.

O brothers, listen to this wise advice: you will not be able to topple a regime by your acts. You only shed the blood of the innocent children and mothers. You missed your way.

I ask Allah, Glorified and Exalted, to bestow on us a true return to His religion. O Allah bear witness that I pitifully say this to your misled servants and the rightly guided ones. I mercifully declare this, as You brought me up to be so. O Allah, the owner of Majesty and bounty, guide all of us to the right path.

I say this statement of mine and I seek the forgiveness of Allah, the Sublime.