

SERIES OF SPEECHES OF AL-MASJID AN-NABAWI

1

# AT-TAWHĪD (MONOTHEISM)

FROM THE SERMONS OF  
THE PROPHETIC MOSQUE



**AUTHORED BY**

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مترجم بالإنجليزية



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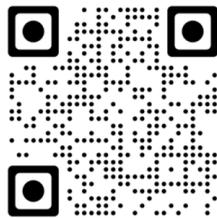
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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST COMPASSIONATE, THE MOST MERCIFUL.

## INTRODUCTION

**All praise is due to Allah, and may peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his companions all together.**

**To proceed:**

Verily, *tawhīd* (i.e., monotheism) is the first obligation upon the servants. For its sake, Allah has created the jinn and mankind, and with it, He sent His prophets, revealed His scriptures, and made Paradise the reward for its people. Due to its great importance, the greatest ones invited to it were the creation.

Due to the importance of this origin, I delivered sermons relating to it in The Prophetic Mosque, then organized them in this book and I titled it *At-Tawhīd (Monotheism) From the Sermons of the Prophetic Mosque*. They reached (a total of) fourteen sermons.

I ask Allah to make this work purely for His Generous Face and a benefit for others.

**May Allah's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and all his companions.**

Dr. Abdul Muhsin Ibn Muhammad Al-Qassim  
Imam and Preacher of the Prophetic Mosque

## THE IMPORTANCE OF *TAWHĪD* (I.E., MONOTHEISM)<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise him, seek his assistance, and seek his forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves, and from our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, then there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, then there is no one who can guide him. I testify that there is no deity worthy of being worshipped except Allah, alone, without any partners, and I testify that our prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger. May Allah’s abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions)! For with piety, the minds and hearts become bright, and shortcomings and sins are wiped away.

### **O Muslims!**

Allah has certainly graced us with a religion in line with the natural disposition and sound minds, appropriate for every time and place, and one that combines between knowledge, worship, speech, action, and faith. Allah does not accept a religion from the creation other than it.

﴿وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ﴾

*“Whoever seeks a way other than Islam then it will never be accepted from him and in the Hereafter, he will be among the losers.” [3:85]*

In this religion (i.e., Islam), there is a phrase, that whoever says sincerely from the bottom of his heart and acts upon the things it entails while in search of Allah’s Face, then he shall enter Paradise with no account nor punishment—that is *lā ilāha illā Allāh* (“there is no deity worthy of being worshipped except Allah”). It is the purest of speech, best of deeds, and the highest rank of faith. Whoever says it truthfully, elevates to the highest status in the religion. Uttering it isn’t sufficient to enter the fold of Islam or even remain in it. In addition to that, it’s mandatory for the Muslim to know

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of Dhul Hijjah 1422H in the Prophet’s Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

its meaning and act upon what it entails, such as the negation of polytheism and affirmation of monotheism to Allah, while believing what it entails to be true.

The Muslim is true to his belief and creed and submissive to Allah in His judgement, commandment, legislation, and decree. He can't fulfill his needs except with Allah and he doesn't request the lifting of his calamities except from Him, The Glorified. Allah, The Exalted, said...

﴿وَإِنْ يَمْسَسْكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ وَإِنْ يَمْسَسْكَ بِخَيْرٍ فَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ﴾

*“If Allah touches you with harm, none can undo it except Him. And if He touches you with good, then He is Most Capable of everything.” [6:17]*

Supplicating to Him alone is an honorable worship; it's from the most virtuous forms of worship. He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“There is nothing more honorable to Allah than supplicating to Him.”** Reported by Ahmad. Ibn 'Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, says, “The most virtuous worship is supplication (to Allah).”

If adversities befall you and routes and passageways are closed in your face, then call out to Allah, for He gives to whoever asks Him, and He protects whoever seeks assistance from Him. He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“If you ask, then ask Allah, and if you seek assistance then seek assistance from Allah. Know that if all the people were to come together to benefit you with something, they wouldn't be able to benefit you except with that which was decreed by Allah, and if they to come together to harm you with something, they wouldn't be able to harm you with anything except with that which was decreed by Allah.”** Reported by At-Tirmidhi.

Don't look down upon asking your Lord for small things. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Ask Allah for everything, even for a sandal strap; if Allah doesn't decree it, then it surely won't happen.”** Reported by Abu Ya'la'. As for the dead and absent, then he doesn't own any benefit for himself nor harm, let alone for other than him. The dead needs someone to pray for him just as the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, commanded us to do when we visit the graves of the Muslims: to ask for Allah's mercy to be upon them and pray for them—not for benefits to be sought from them.

Our Lord, The Glorified, is characterized with hearing and sight, and

something that slanders his Lordship is degrading his right to be worshipped by placing mediators between you and Him when supplicating and asking Him, and He is the one who said...

﴿أَدْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ﴾

*“Call upon Me; I will respond to you.” [40:60]*

Something that nullifies the word of sincerity is the spillage of blood (i.e., sacrificial slaughtering of animals) for other than Allah.

\* ﴿قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾

﴿لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ﴾

*“Say, ‘Indeed my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my life, and my death are all for Allah—Lord of all worlds. He has no partner. That is what I was ordered (to do), and I am the first to submit.’ [6:162-163]*

Circumambulating the ancient house (i.e., the Ka’bah) is an act of worship that involves humility and submission to the house’s Lord.

﴿وَلِيَطَّوَّفُوا بِالْبَيْتِ الْعَتِيقِ﴾

*“...and circumambulate the ancient house.” [22:29]*

Circumambulating for other than Allah, such as shrines and graves, mandates the deprivation of entering Paradise.

Swearing on Allah sincerely at times when it’s needed is a way of magnifying the Lord of all worlds and swearing on other than Him is belittling the honor of *Al-Bāri* (“The Originator Who brings His creation into existence”), Dignified and Elevated is He. For that reason, the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon, him says, **“He who swears on other than Allah has surely disbelieved and associated a partner with him.”** Reported by At-Tirmidhi.

Whoever uses talismans for the purpose of preventing the evil eye, or so that good may come his way, then the chosen one, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, has prayed against him that Allah doesn’t make what he sought from it a reality, and that he gets the opposite of what he intended. He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever hangs a talisman, then may Allah not complete it for him.”** Reported by Ahmad. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, withheld accepting a pledge from someone who hung up talismans. Uqbah ibn Āmir al-Juhani,

may Allah be pleased with him, says, “A group of ten men approached the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. He accepted pledges from nine of them and withheld from one, so they said, ‘O Messenger of Allah! You accepted the pledge of nine of them and left out this person?’ He said, **‘There is a talisman on him.’** So, he reached his hand into his pocket and cut it then accepted his pledge and said, **‘Whoever hangs a talisman has surely associated a partner (with Allah).’**” Reported by Ahmad.

During hard and sorrowful times, rely on *Al-Wāḥid* (“The One”), *Al-Dayyān* (“The Compensator [for His servants’ actions with either reward or punishment]”). What an excellent respondent He is. He who attaches his soul to Allah, relies on Him for his needs, and leaves all his affairs up to Him, [will find that He] suffices all his requests and facilitates every hardship for him. Whoever becomes attached to other than Him or rests on his own knowledge, logic, and talismans, and relies on his own capabilities and power, then Allah will decree that he is attached to them and will forsake him. He (i.e., Shaykh Sulaymān ibn ‘Abdullah ibn Muhammad ibn ‘Abdul-Wahhāb) says in *Taysīr al-‘Azīz al-Ḥamīd*, “This is known from the texts (i.e., the Quran and Hadith) and experience.”

Among the things that destroy one’s religion is visiting sorcerers and magicians and inquiring soothsayers and fortune-tellers. Allah, The Mighty and Majestic, said...

﴿وَمَا يُعَلِّمَانِ مِنْ أَحَدٍ حَتَّى يَقُولَا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ فِتْنَةٌ فَلَا تَكْفُرْ﴾

“Neither of these two (angels) taught anyone (such things) till they had said, ‘We are only a test, so don’t disbelieve (by learning this magic from us).’” [2:102]

And in the prophet’s statement, **“Whoever visits a soothsayer or fortune-teller and believes in what he told him, then he has certainly disbelieved in that which was revealed to Muhammad.”** Reported by Ahmad.

Whoever asks magicians to plot evil against others, then it will return and backfire on him. He, The Exalted, said...

﴿وَلَا يَجِيءُ الْمَكْرُ السَّيِّئُ إِلَّا بِأَهْلِهِ﴾

“...but evil plotting only backfires on the one who plots.” [35:43]

And people [indulged in] oppression are not utilized to fend off [other]

people of oppression, rather the magician's multitudes are fended off with the light of the Quran—not with magic such as his [own].

﴿وَنُنزِّلُ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ مَا هُوَ شِفَاءٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ﴾

*“And We send down of the Quran that which is a healing and a mercy to those who believe (in Islamic Monotheism and act on it).” [17:82]*

So, safeguard and maintain—O Muslim—your creed. For it's the most valuable thing you'll own and the most honorable thing you'll treasure. Associating partners with Allah extinguishes the light of the natural disposition and is the reason for suffering and the enemies' empowerment.

### **I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿فَاسْتَمْسِكْ بِالَّذِي أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ \*

وَإِنَّهُ لَذِكْرٌ لَّكَ وَلِقَوْمِكَ وَسَوْفَ تُسْأَلُونَ﴾

*“So, hold firmly to what has been revealed to you, (O Prophet). You are truly on the straight path. And indeed this (i.e., the Quran) is a reminder for and your people and you will be questioned (about it).” [43:43-44]*

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to him is all gratitude for his success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

**To proceed:**

**O Muslims!**

The second pillar (of Islam) after the two testimonies (of faith) is the prayer. It's the first thing that a person will be held accountable for on the Day of Resurrection. Therefore, don't be negligent in establishing it in congregation with the Muslims and don't allow laziness to be of influence in your obedience to the Lord of all worlds. Also, don't belittle the dignified rewards Allah has prepared for those who safeguard it. Goodness is granted to a servant based on his connection with his Lord and his avoidance of sins and burdens, for verily, they make performing righteous deeds difficult.

Inviting to Allah is a means of showing confidence in Allah's way and emulating the prophets and messengers. It is the best and most honorable speech. Feel for the ailment and use the appropriate treatment for it. Know the situation of those invited and know their necessities. Furthermore, [learn to] cope with people's grievances and don't make it so they must cope with yours.

Repent and seek Allah's forgiveness abundantly, for the idea is to finish off strong—not to start off weak. The sign that indicates the acceptance of a good deed is that you follow up one good deed with another. Qatādah, may Allah have mercy on him, said, "This Quran directs you to your illnesses and their cures. As for your illness, they're [your] sins: as for your cure, then it's seeking Allah's forgiveness." It is also the means of entering the gardens [of Paradise], an increase in strength, exuberance, and pushing aside hardships. Abū al-Minhāl, may Allah have mercy on him, said, "A servant couldn't have a better neighbor in his grave than [his record] of seeking Allah's forgiveness."

Know that Allah has commanded you to send peace and blessings upon his prophet...

## **ADHERING TO TAWHĪD (I.E., MONOTHEISM)<sup>1</sup>**

All praise belongs to Allah, the only one with supreme perfection, longevity, honor, and authority Who is characterized with the best names and attributes, and He is free from all resemblances and similitudes, and I praise him for what he has served and commissioned.

I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of being worshipped except Allah, alone without any partners, the knower of [all] secrets and private conversations.

And I bear witness that our Prophet Muhammad is his servant and messenger, who was dispatched with the clear way and the *sharī'ah*. May Allah's everlasting peace and blessings be upon him, his pious family, and companions, to the Day of Resurrection and Compensation.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions)! Prepare for a day when all secrets will be revealed, and the hiding places of the hearts and consciences will be made apparent.

### **O Muslims!**

The people were once one nation, [unified] upon the truth that Allah instilled within them from the natural disposition and his covenant of guidance and clarity to them. But, as time passed, the signs of *ḥanīfiyyah* (i.e., the way of true monotheism which is singling out Allah in His Lordship, His right to be worshipped, and His names and attributes) dissipated and certain qualities began to show in them that polluted their creed and clouded its purity and clarity. As a result, they fell victim to *shirk* (i.e., polytheism and associating partners with Allah) and directed various types of worship to other than Allah. Therefore, their unity was torn apart, and their word differed. Because of this, Allah sent prophets as reporters of glad tidings and admonishers, so that people would not have an excuse in front of Allah after them. Our prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was sent to a nation whose people were ignorant, living

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday, the 24th of Dhul Qa'dah 1419H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

in *al-jahiliyyah* (“pre-Islamic era of ignorance”), and blind in the times of misguidance. Polytheism was the core of their ways, and idols were their leaders and gods. So, he invited them to the straight way that was established by evidence, clarified by signs, and confirmed by clear proofs.

*Al-‘aqīdah* (“creed”)—O servants of Allah—is addressed to the believers so their faith may be increased, just as Allah, The Exalted, said...

﴿يٰٓاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا ءَامِنُوْا بِاللّٰهِ وَرَسُوْلِهِۦ ۗ وَالْكِتٰبِ الَّذِى نَزَّلَ عَلٰى رَسُوْلِهِۦ  
وَالْكِتٰبِ الَّذِى اَنْزَلَ مِنْ قَبْلُ﴾

*“O you who believe! Believe in Allah, and His, and the Book that He has sent down to His messenger, and the scripture which He sent down to those before (him).” [4:136]*

(It is addressed to the believers) so they can also be contempt with fulfilling their religion and cautious of falling short in it. As a matter of fact, Allah addressed his prophets and messengers to renounce polytheism and to distance themselves from it and its people—and they are far from ever doing that. Allah, The Exalted and Majestic, said...

﴿وَإِذْ بَوَّأْنَا لِإِبْرٰهِيْمَ مَكَانَ الْبَيْتِ أَن لَّا تُشْرِكْ بِي شَيْئًا وَطَهِّرْ بَيْتِيَ لِلطَّٰلِفِيْنَ وَالْقٰئِمِيْنَ وَالرُّكَّعِ السُّجُوْدِ﴾

*“And (remember) when We showed Abraham the site of the House (i.e., the Ka bah in Makkah) (saying): ‘Don’t associate anything (in worship) with Me, and purify My House for those who circle it, stand up (for prayer), and bow and prostrate themselves.’ [22:26]*

He, the Mighty and Majestic, said to the finest of his creation, Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him...

﴿وَادْعُ إِلَى رَبِّكَ ۖ وَلَا تَكُوْنَنَّ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِيْنَ﴾

*“And invite (all the people) to (believe in) your Lord and don’t be of those who associate partners with Allah.” [28:87]*

He also said to him...

﴿فَلَا تَدْعُ مَعَ اللّٰهِ إِلٰهًا ءٰخَرَ فَتَكُوْنَنَّ مِنَ الْمُعٰذِبِيْنَ﴾

*“So do not ever call upon any other god besides Allah, or you will be one of the punished.” [26:213]*

*Al-‘aqidah* is also addressed to the people of misguidance so they can tread the path of guidance. Allah, Noble is His Significance, said...

﴿قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِءَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَقُولُوا اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ﴾

“Say, ‘O People of the Book! Let us come to common terms: that we will worship none except Allah, associate nothing with Him, nor take one another as lords instead of Allah.’ But if they turn away, then say, ‘Bear witness that we have submitted to Allah alone.’” [3:64]

There is no surprise in that—O Muslims—as singling out Allah in worship is the foundation of our religion and the basis of everything. The *Qiblah* (i.e., the direction the Muslims face when praying) was erected upon it, and the religion was founded on it. It is the first commandment in Allah’s book, and the prohibition of polytheism is the first prohibition in His book. Allah, The Exalted said...

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ أَعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١﴾ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ فِرَاشًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِءَ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَّكُمْ ﴿٢﴾ فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾

“O mankind! Worship your Lord, Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become pious. (He is the One) Who has made the earth a resting place for you, and the sky as a canopy, and sent down rain from the sky causing fruits to grow as a provision for you. So don’t set up equals to Allah (in worship) while you know (that He Alone has the right to be worshipped).” [2:21-22]

Entering the fold of Islam is invalid except by declaring Allah’s oneness in worship, and it is the last thing that a Muslim will depart with from the worldly life. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, says, **“Encourage those on the verge of death to say, ‘lā ilāha illā Allah (“there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah”).”** Reported by Muslim. Falling victim to its opposite (i.e., polytheism) is more severe than killing [your own] children. Abdullah ibn Mas‘ud, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “I asked Allah’s messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, ‘What is the greatest sin according to Allah?’ He replied, **‘To set**

**up an equal to Allah even though He created you.’** I asked, ‘And then?’ He said, **‘To kill your child out of fear of him eating with you [i.e., out of fear of poverty and dwindling of wealth/provision].’**” Agreed upon i.e., reported by Bukhari and Muslim. For this reason, the prohibition of polytheism is emphasized in the Quran, and the commandment of monotheism is mentioned frequently. Allah has repeatedly expressed so and set parables for it.

The commandment of worshipping Allah (alone) is the initial call of the messengers. Al-Khalīl (i.e., Abraham), peace be upon him, started with it when he invited his father.

﴿إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبِيهِ يَا أَبَتِ لِمَ تَعْبُدُ مَا لَا يَسْمَعُ وَلَا يُبْصِرُ وَلَا يُغْنِي عَنْكَ شَيْئًا﴾

“(Remember) when he (Abraham) said to his father, ‘O my father! Why do you worship something that can’t hear nor see nor benefit you in any way?’” [19:42]

Our Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, invited people to monotheism for as long as ten years before the mandating of religious obligations, to constantly emphasize its importance.

He also instructed preachers to ensure that the commandment of monotheism is the first thing they invite others to. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said to Mu’adh, may Allah be pleased with him, **“You are going to meet a population from the People of the Book (i.e., Jews and Christians), so invite them to testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that I am Allah’s messenger.”** Agreed upon.

The leader of all monotheists, Abraham, peace be upon him, prayed to his Lord, when he said...

﴿وَأَجْنِبْنِي وَتَبِئَتِي أَنْ تَعْبُدَ الْأَصْنَامَ﴾

“And keep me and my children away from worshipping idols.” [14:35]

Ibrāhīm at-Taymī, [may Allah have mercy on him], said, “(If this is his prayer, then) who is safe from being tested (in faith) after Abraham?!”

The Prophets also bequeathed their children with steadfastness on the correct religion and pure creed until death.

﴿وَوَصَّىٰ بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ بَنِيهِ وَيَعْقُوبَ يَبْنَئِي إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمْ الدِّينَ فَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾

*“This was the advice of Abraham—as well as Jacob—to his children, (saying), ‘Indeed, Allah has chosen for you this way; so, do not die except as Muslims (fully submitting to Allah).’ [2:132]*

The prophets asked their offspring about it while on the deathbed.

﴿أَمْ كُنْتُمْ شُهَدَاءَ إِذْ حَضَرَ يَعْقُوبَ الْمَوْتُ إِذْ قَالَ لِبَنِيهِ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن بَعْدِي ۗ

قَالُوا نَعْبُدُ إِلَهَكَ وَإِلَهَ آبَائِكَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾

*“Or did you witness when death befell Jacob? He asked his children, ‘Who will you worship after my passing?’ They replied, ‘We will (continue to) worship your God, the God of your forefathers—Abraham, Ishmael, and Isaac—the One God. And to Him we all submit.’ [2:133]*

### **O Muslims!**

Guidance is the most noble of all needs, and to achieve it is the most honorable of all favors. Having a sound belief system is the safest shelter in times of adversity.

﴿الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ الْأَمْنُ وَهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ﴾

*“Only those who believe and don’t confuse their belief with falsehood will be granted security and are rightly guided.” [6:82]*

Relying on Allah alone is the way when trials and tribulations become widespread. Allah, The Honored and The Exalted, said...

﴿وَدَا التُّونِ إِذْ ذَهَبَ مُغَضَّبًا فَظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ نَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ فَنَادَىٰ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ

سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ \* فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْعَمِّ وَكَذَٰلِكَ نُجِي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ﴾

*“And (remember) when the Man of the Whale (i.e., Jonah) stormed off in a rage, thinking We would not punish him. Then in the darkness he cried out, ‘There is no god worthy of worship except You. Glory be to You! I have certainly done wrong.’ So, We answered his prayer and rescued him from anguish. And like such do We save the (true) believers.” [21:87-88]*

The purity of the creed rectifies intentions, restrains desires, blesses actions, and perpetuates one’s mention. Where is the biography of Abū Jahl in comparison to Abū Bakr and the genealogy of Bilal in comparison to Abū Lahab?! The loss of religion can’t ever be ransomed not even with gold.

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَمَاتُوا وَهُمْ كُفَّارٌ فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْ أَحَدِهِمْ مِلءُ الْأَرْضِ ذَهَبًا وَلَوْ افْتَدَى بِهِ﴾

*“Indeed, those who disbelieved and died as disbelievers will never get anything accepted from any one of them, even if they were to offer a ransom of enough gold to fill the whole world.” [3:91]*

### **O Muslims!**

Allah’s ancient house was constructed for the purpose of monotheism, of which generations perform pilgrimage to in succession—one after another, and the Muslims compete with one another to reach its courtyard, for faith exists in its vicinity, as well as safety and tranquility in its courtyard.

﴿وَإِذْ بَوَّأْنَا لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ مَكَانَ الْبَيْتِ أَنْ لَا تُشْرِكْ بِي شَيْئًا﴾

*“And (remember) when We showed Abraham the site of the House (i.e., the Ka’bah in Makkah) (saying): ‘Don’t associate anything (in worship) with Me.’” [22:26]*

In the motto (chanted) during Hajj is the negation of polytheism. *“labbayka lā sharīka laka* (“O Allah, At Your service! You, alone, without any partners).” The greatest prayer on the Day of ‘Arafah is a veneration of monotheism. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“The best prayer is the prayer made on the Day of ‘Arafah, and the best thing me or any of the Prophets before me said is, ‘There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone, without any partners. To Him belongs the dominion, to Him is all praise, and He is Capable of all things.’”** Reported by at-Tirmidhi.

True monotheism is the core of all the divine messages and the foundation of the religion. It is the reality that we must proudly protect [with a sense of honor] and safeguard it from every flaw. Allah, The Exalted said...

﴿وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنْ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ﴾

*“We surely sent a messenger to every community, saying, “Worship Allah and avoid false gods.” [16:36]*

### **O servants of Allah!**

The chosen one, may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him, established his call by the word of sincerity and religion, and Abraham, peace

be upon him, made it last amongst his offspring. Those able to speak never uttered anything more praiseworthy than *lā ilāha illā Allah*. Acting by it is the price [that earns one] Paradise. If it were to be weighed with the heavens and earth it would outweigh them all. Ibn ‘Uyaynah, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “Allah hasn’t blessed a single servant of His with a blessing greater than informing them about [the meaning of] *lā ilāha illā Allah*.”

That considered, merely uttering it is of no benefit except for the one who knows what it entails—in both the negative and affirmative—and fulfills its conditions with knowledge and certainty of its meanings, as well as sincerity and being true to acting upon it: with love, obedience, acceptance of what it entails, and renunciation of anything worshipped besides Allah.

### **O Muslims!**

Monotheism and polytheism are complete opposites; they don’t overlap. They’re like night and day; wherever polytheism exists, faith is negated.

Your Lord certainly honored you and guarded you from your heart and face’s humility towards other than Him. He calls you to advance towards Him, so direct your face towards Him alone, and don’t avert your glance (from Him). Don’t call upon other than the Lord of the earth and heavens. Where is the one who calls upon The Ever Living, Who never dies, in comparison to someone who calls upon the dead and attaches himself to the rotted and decayed bones in the graves?!

### **O Muslim!**

Beware of offering sacrificial slaughters to other than Allah, for it is a type of worship in of itself and offering it to other than Him is an act of polytheism. Allah is your Lord Who created you, and He provided you with the animal that you slaughter, so don’t sacrifice it except to the one Who created you and it.

﴿فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَحْزِرْ﴾

“So, pray to your Lord and sacrifice (to Him alone).” [108:2]

Don’t swear except on Allah, The Mighty and Majestic. Allah is the one Who allowed you to speak, so thank him alone and don’t swear on other than him—not a prophet, nor saint, nor blessing, nor on the life of a creation. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said,

**“Whoever swears on other than Allah has surely disbelieved and committed an act of polytheism.”** Reported by at-Tirmidhi.

Rings, strings, and talismans are all created inanimate objects and you yourself are a living creation. So, remain distant of ever lowering your dignity after Allah has honored and raised you. Don't seek refuge in inanimate objects by wearing them [around your necks] or wrist claiming that it fends off evil, brings about good fortune, and wards off the evil eye. Allah, The Exalted, said...

﴿وَإِن يَمَسُّكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ وَإِن يُرِدْكَ بِخَيْرٍ فَلَا رَادَّ لِفَضْلِهِ﴾

*“And if Allah touches you with harm, there is none who can remove it but Him, and if He intends any good for you, there is none who can repel His Favor.” [10:107]*

The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever hangs a talisman has surely associated a partner (with Allah).”** Reported by Ahmad. Attach yourself to Him alone and leave all your affairs up to Him.

### **O Muslims!**

Some people are clueless of the wisdom they were created for. Whims and desires have been hurled at them and trials and ailments have overpowered them. Some of them have been tested through sorcerers, magicians, and liars by their false claims of knowing the unseen and foreseeing the future. They didn't benefit anything from them except misguidance and squandering of wealth in the way of falsehood. Allah clarified that truth in his statement...

﴿قُلْ لَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الْغَيْبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ﴾

*“Say, ‘No one in the heavens and the earth has knowledge of the unseen except Allah.’” [27:65]*

The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever visits a soothsayer or fortune-teller and believes in what he told him, then he has certainly disbelieved in that which was revealed to Muhammad.”** Reported by Ahmad.

Some [other] people are tested through horoscopes, zodiacs, luck, spiritualism, and palm reading. As a result, they're faced with projections

and dissatisfaction with the divine decree. He, The Noble and Exalted, said...

﴿أَمْ عِنْدَهُمُ الْغَيْبُ فَهُمْ يَكْتُبُونَ﴾

“Or that they possess (knowledge of the) unseen, and they write it down?” [52:41]

### **O servants of Allah!**

Sincerity is the crown of all actions. So, whoever associates partners with Allah, then He (i.e., Allah) is The Most Prosperous, [and doesn't need an act of worship of which partners are associated with him during it]. He is also not pleased with disbelief [as an option] for his servants. So, woe to those who show off! They didn't get anything from this worldly life, nor work for the hereafter. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“The one who boasts about receiving something he didn't is like the one who wears two false articles of clothing [i.e., he wears them, but they are not actually his, for example: they're borrowed or were left in his possession].”** Agreed upon.

The hopes of those who show off are lost, and their efforts are destroyed. They're obsessed with this worldly life, and they didn't find a reward for themselves in the hereafter. So, beware of showing off and yearning to be heard, because the first people that Hellfire will be kindled with on the Day of Resurrection are those who used to show off with their deeds.

### **I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ﴾

“And they weren't commanded (to do anything) except to worship Allah Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him), establish the prayer, and give zakāt,(charity): and that is the right religion.” [98:5]

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah, the one Who, by His grace, the guided became guided, and by His justice, the mislead became astray.

I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, Alone, without any partners. Glorified is Allah, the Lord of the throne, (and He is) far from what they (the disbelievers) ascribe to Him.

I also bear witness that our Prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger, and his honest and trustworthy friend. May Allah's peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and the companions who stuck to his guidance and treaded upon it.

### **To proceed: O Muslims!**

Faith is not a mixed merchandise, nor is it just a matter of claims nor nicknames. It is merely the truth: a sound belief system and correct action. It is loyalty and disavowal (i.e., loving what Allah loves and hating what Allah hates), outward and internal, as well as an effort for nobility and renouncing harm.

The actualization of monotheism requires a consistent and diligent awakening of the heart, that rejects every dangerous occurrence that negatively impacts the (value) of worshipping Allah (alone).

Whoever falls victim to the abyss of major polytheism (i.e., directing worship to other than Allah or even some of it), such as requesting from the dead the removal of (his) poverty or illness or the bringing of good fortune—like wealth or children—or he seeks help from those buried in shrines, or circumambulates, slaughters, or swears an oath to them, then he has surely violated (Allah's) respected (right to) lordship, belittled (His right) to (all) worship, had a bad suspicion about the Lord of all beings, committed the greatest sin according to Allah, forbade his admission to paradise, and destined himself to Hell forever. Allah says...

﴿إِنَّهُ مَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَهُ النَّارُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ﴾

*“Whoever associates others with Allah (in worship) will surely be forbidden Paradise by Allah. Their home will be the Fire. And the wrongdoers will have no helpers.” [5:72]*

So, tread the path of truth, and pursue the method of guidance, and work hard to safeguard your creed, for no one can provide salvation from Allah's punishment except Allah Himself. Likewise, that which is with Allah, (i.e., His reward), can only be earned through sincerity to Him, alone, and through what He legislated for his servants to worship Him with.

Monotheism is the gateway to hope amidst the darkness in life, and you'll never attain what you want until you single out *Al-Wāḥid* (The One) and *Al-Aḥad* (The Only One (i.e., He is unique and singular in all aspects; He has no similitudes/equals) in all your speech and actions. He is the one Who will resurrect you and hold you accountable for your actions:

﴿أَلَا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَصِيرُ الْأُمُورُ﴾

*“Surely, all matters will come back to Allah (for judgement).” [42:53]*

Know that Allah has commanded you to send peace and blessings upon his prophet...

## THE FRUITS OF TAWHĪD (I.E., MONOTHEISM)<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise Him, seek His assistance, and seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, there is no one who can guide him. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions)! Fearing Allah is the path of guidance, while opposing it is the path of misery.

### **O Muslims!**

Allah is alone in His Oneness: Allah has distinguished Himself from partners, likes, and peers, and He has commanded His servants to worship Him alone and in various ways. Monotheism is the gatherer of all good deeds, and no good deed is accepted by Allah unless it is accompanied by it. Allah has made it the cornerstone, foundation, and first pillar of Islam. A little bit of work with monotheism is multiplied, and without it, even mountains of good deeds are in vain.

It is the messengers' first and ultimate call, and it is for this reason that they were sent. Allah mentions...

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ﴾

*“We never sent a Messenger before you except that We revealed to him ‘There is no god except Me, therefore, worship Me.’” [21:25]*

Every verse in Allah's book is either explicit or indicative of it, or about its obligations, rewards, or in opposition of it, and the first command in Allah's book is to mandate it. Allah mentions...

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of Jumādā II 1434H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ﴾

“O mankind, worship your Lord.” [2:21]

(The meaning of the verse is): worship Him alone.

In every prayer, the Muslim pledges to his Lord that he will perform according to it.

﴿إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ﴾

“You alone we worship...”

(The meaning of the verse is): we don't worship anyone besides you.

﴿وإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ﴾

“From You alone we assistance...”

It's Allah's right over His servants; to be worshipped alone, and it is the first of the duties that a Muslim owes to Allah. He, peace and blessings be upon him, said to Mu'adh, **“The very first thing to which you should call them is the worship of Allah.”** Agreed upon. The first question a servant will be asked in his grave is, **“Who is your Lord?”** i.e., who is your deity?

Because of the importance of monotheism and the fact that the only way to please Allah is to worship Him alone, the leader of monotheists, Abraham, peace be upon him, prayed to Allah to keep his offspring steadfast on monotheism.

﴿رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمِينَ لَكَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُسْلِمَةً لَكَ﴾

“Our Lord, make us both submissive to You, and of our descendants a submissive nation to You.” [2:128]

Joseph, peace be upon him, asked his Lord...

﴿تَوَفَّنِي مُسْلِمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ﴾

“Cause me to die a Muslim and join me with the righteous.” [12:101]

Among the supplications of our prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him (is); **“O Controller of the hearts make my heart steadfast in Your religion.”** Reported by Ahmad.

It is the commandment of the messengers.

﴿وَوَصَّىٰ بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ بَنِيهِ وَيَعْقُوبُ يَبْنَئِي إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمْ الدِّينَ فَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾

*“And this was the legacy that Ibrahim left to his sons, and so did Jacob; “Oh my sons! Allah hath chosen the Faith for you; then die not except as Muslims.” [2:132]*

The messengers’ approach was to teach monotheism to their children and to question them about it even while they were on the verge of death. Allah declares...

﴿أَمْ كُنْتُمْ شُهَدَاءَ إِذْ حَضَرَ يَعْقُوبَ الْمَوْتُ إِذْ قَالَ لِبَنِيهِ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن بَعْدِي﴾

﴿قَالُوا نَعْبُدُ إِلَهَكَ وَإِلَهَ آبَائِكَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾

*“Were you present when death visited Jacob, and when he said to his sons, ‘What (God) will you worship after me?’ They replied, ‘We will worship your God, the God of your fathers—Abraham, Ishmael, and Isaac—the only One God, and to Him do we submit ourselves.’” [2:133]*

The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, used to teach his young companions to be attached to Allah alone and not associate partners with Him.

He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said to Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, **“O young boy! I will teach you a statement: Be mindful of Allah and He will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him before you. When you ask, ask Allah, and when you seek aid, seek Allah’s aid.”** Reported by Tirmidhi.

Allah has commanded us not to die except upon monotheism. Allah reveals...

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ ؕ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾

*“O you have believed! Be pious to Allah with His true piety, and definitely do not die except as Muslims.” [3:102].*

By worshipping Allah Alone, a person feels at ease, his heart is comforted, and he is freed from the slavery of the creation.

﴿فَمَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ أَن يَهْدِيَهُ يَشْرَحْ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ﴾

*“Whoever Allah wants to guide, He expands his chest to (embrace) Islam.” [6:125]*

With monotheism, worries are released, and distress is removed. Allah proclaims...

﴿فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ﴾

“But in the darkness, he cried, ‘There is no god except You. Glory to You! I was among the wrongdoers.’” [21:87]

Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “Nothing can repel the world’s adversities like monotheism.”

It removes evil and purifies the heart. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“There are three things in a Muslims heart that are never mixed with deception and hypocrisy: doing good deeds with sincerity that is due to Almighty Allah, advice to *wulāt al-amr* (i.e., the rulers), and adhering to the Muslim congregation, because their prayers protect them from behind.”** Reported by Ahmad.

It is the cause of a good life. Actually, there is no happiness in this world without it. Allah mentions...

﴿مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِمَّنْ ذَكَرُوا أَوْ أَنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيٰوةً طَيِّبَةً﴾

“For whosoever does a righteous deed, be they believing men or women, We shall grant them a good life.” [16:97]

It is the foundation of life that souls require.

﴿فَمَنْ اتَّبَعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا يَضِلُّ وَلَا يَشْقَىٰ﴾

“Whoever follows My guidance will neither go astray nor suffer.” [20:123]

Monotheism is the bond that unifies the Muslims, Arabs and non-Arabs, east and west. Allah mentions...

﴿إِنَّ هٰذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُون﴾

“This is your nation—one single nation—and I am your Lord, so worship me.” [21:92]

The word of monotheism *lā ilāha illā Allah* is a pure and noble word. Its roots are stable, and its branches reach the sky. It is Allah’s supreme word and with it, Allah spoke directly to Musa, peace be upon him.

﴿إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدْنِي﴾

“Indeed, I am Allah. There is no deity except Me, so worship Me.”  
[20:14]

In terms of faith, there is no higher branch than it. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Iman (faith) has seventy-something branches—or sixty-something branches—the best of which is the declaration: ‘None has the right to be worshipped but Allah.’”** Reported by Muslim.

It is the purest speech and the heaviest thing on the scale; it is the equivalent of a slave being set free, and it is a daily shield from Satan. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“He who says these words a hundred times in a day: ‘lā ilāha illā Allah, waḥdahu lā sharīka lahu, lahu al-mulku wa lahu al-ḥamdu, wa huwa ʿalá kulli shayʿin qadīr’** (“there is no god worthy of worship except Allah, alone. He has no partner: to Him belongs all sovereignty and to Him belongs all praise, and He is capable of all things”), He will be rewarded with the reward of freeing ten slaves, one-hundred good deeds will be written for him, one-hundred bad deeds will be wiped away from him, and they will serve as his shield from Satan during that day of his until he enters the evening. No one will bring better than what he brought except someone who did more than that.” Agreed upon.

No mouths have been fragranced with (it) nor have (any) lips uttered better than *lā ilāha illa Allah*. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“The best supplication that me and the prophets before me said is, ‘lā ilāha illā Allah, waḥdahu lā sharīka lahu, lahu al-mulku wa lahu al-ḥamdu, wa huwa ʿalá kulli shayʿin qadīr’** (“there is no god worthy of worship except Allah, alone. He has no partner: to Him belongs all sovereignty and to Him belongs all praise, and He is capable of all things”).” Reported by Tirmidhi.

It is an immortal word for which Allah promises that there will always be people who say it and invite others to believe in it. Allah, The Glorified, announces...

﴿وَجَعَلَهَا كَلِمَةً بَاقِيَةً فِي عَقْبِهِ﴾

“And he left it as a Word to remain among those who came after

him.” [43:28]

It is the speech that stands firm. Whoever adheres to it, Allah will establish him in this world and the hereafter, as He proclaims...

﴿يُثَبِّتُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِالْقَوْلِ الثَّابِتِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ﴾

*“Allah will establish in strength those who believe, with the word that stands firm, in this world and in the hereafter.” [14:27]*

The most perfect creation is the one who is most perfect in servitude to Allah. To the extent that monotheism is achieved in servitude to Allah will the servant’s excellence and perfection be enhanced. Allah the Glorified and Exalted, defends the monotheist in his religious and worldly affairs. The one who has the most faith in Allah’s forgiveness is the (true) monotheist, as Allah says in a *Hadīth Qudsi*, “O son of Adam! If you come to Me with an earth-full of sins, then meet Me—not associating anything with Me—I will certainly grant you an amount equal to it in forgiveness.” Reported by Tirmidhi. Ibn Rajab, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “Monotheism is the greatest of all means. Whoever loses it, loses forgiveness, and whoever comes with it, came with all means of (earning Allah’s) forgiveness.

The devil, on the other hand, has no access to the monotheist...

﴿إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَهُ سُلْطٰنٌ عَلَى الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ﴾

*“Verily, he (the devil) has no power over those who believe and put their trust only in their Lord.” [16:99]*

The more monotheistic a person is, the more of Allah’s protection he receives. Allah states...

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُدَافِعُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا﴾

*“Verily Allah will defend (from ill) those who believe.” [22:38]*

Whoever fulfills monotheism, Allah will protect him from major sins and immoralities. The Almighty says about Yusuf, peace be upon him...

﴿كَذٰلِكَ لِنُصْرِفَ عَنْهُ السُّوٓءَ وَالْفَحْشَآءَ ۗ إِنَّهُ مِنۢ مُّخْلِصِيۡنَا ۗ﴾

*“Thus (did We order) that We might turn away from him (all) evil and shameful deeds: for he was one of Our servants, sincere and purified.” [12:24]*

Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “The weaker a person's heart is in monotheism and the greater in polytheism, the more immoral he will be.” Bestowed upon the monotheist is peace and serenity in his life and is safe in it to the degree of his faith.

﴿الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ الْأَمْنُ وَهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ﴾

*“It is those who believe and confuse not their beliefs with wrong—they are (truly) in security, for they are on (right) guidance.” [6:82]*

The supplications of the monotheists benefit the deceased, and no prayers at funerals are accepted by Allah except their prayers. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Not a single Muslim man dies, then forty men who don’t associate any partners with Allah stand to perform his funeral except that Allah permits their intercession on his behalf.”** Reported by Muslim.

When the monotheist approaches his death, Allah gives him the glad tidings of Paradise. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said **“Whoever’s last words are *lā ilāha illā Allah* (“there is none worthy of worship except Allah”) will enter Paradise.”** Reported by Abu Dawud.

Just as Allah honors the monotheist in this world, He honors him in the hereafter, elevates his rank, and rewards him with the best reward of those who perform righteous actions. Whoever dies upon monotheism will go to Paradise—immediately or eventually—and if he is sentenced to Hell, because of his sins, will not remain there indefinitely.

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Anyone who dies worshipping none along with Allah will enter Paradise.”** Agreed upon.

None will benefit from the intercession of The Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, in the hereafter except the monotheists. Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “O Allah’s Messenger! Who will be the most fortunate person, who will gain your intercession on the Day of Resurrection?” Allah’s Messenger replied, **“The most fortunate person who will have my intercession on the Day of Resurrection will be the one who said sincerely from the bottom of his heart, ‘None has the right to be worshiped except Allah.’”** Reported by Bukhari.

The person who achieves monotheism has the option of entering through any of the eight gates of Paradise. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, stated, **“If anyone amongst you performs the ablution, and then completes the ablution well and then says, ‘I testify that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger’, the eight gates of Paradise would be opened for him and he may enter by whichever of them he wishes.”** Reported by Muslim.

Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “The stronger a person’s faith in monotheism is, the more complete Allah’s forgiveness will be for him, and whoever meets Allah, without having associated anything with Him at all, He (Allah) will forgive all his sins.”

Seventy thousand people from the monotheistic faith will enter paradise without being judged.

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“They are those who neither practice charm, nor take omens, nor do they cauterize, and they repose their trust in their Lord.”** Agreed upon.

### **To proceed: O Muslims:**

Monotheism is the most valuable asset a Muslim has. Whoever Allah guides to it should hold fast to it and protect it from anything that contradicts, undermines, or defames it. Whoever supplicates to someone other than Allah, circumambulates a grave, or makes a sacrifice for someone other than Allah loses the light of monotheism and its virtues and not a single obedience (of his) is accepted (by Allah), and is subjected to the divine warning and threat of eternal punishment in Hellfire.

### **I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ﴾

﴿فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا﴾

*“Say, ‘I am only a man like you, (but) it has been revealed to me that your God is only One God’. So, whoever hopes for the meeting with their Lord, let them do good deeds and associate none in the worship of their Lord.” [18:110]*

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to him is all gratitude for his success and grace. I bare witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bare witness that Muhammad is his servant and messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

### **O Muslims:**

Monotheism is a great blessing from Allah, which He bestows on whoever of His servants He chooses, and the Muslim must strive to achieve it in himself, his offspring, those closest amongst his family, and all people. One way of showing gratitude for the blessing of monotheism is to call (people) to it, as well as warning against any evil that contradicts its origin and perfection.

Among the means of steadfastness on monotheism is supplication to God for steadfastness, avoidance of innovations, suspicions, and desires, a great deal of obedience, knowledge of Islamic sciences, and questioning grand and intellectual scholars about what is complicated in it.

Know that Allah has commanded you to send peace and blessings upon his prophet...

## THE VIRTUE OF THE DECLARATION OF MONOTHEISM (I.E., *LĀ ILĀHA ILLĀ ALLĀH*)<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise Him, seek His assistance, and seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, there is no one who can guide him. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—as He deserves to be feared and grasp hold on to Islam by *al-Urwat al-Wuthqá* (i.e., faith, the straight path, everything that necessitates Allah's pleasure).

### **O Muslims:**

The dignity of creation is found in obedience to Allah and being bound to worshipping Him. That is the wisdom behind the mandate and creation, and it brings triumph and success in this life and the hereafter.

﴿وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا﴾

*“And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, he has indeed achieved a great victory.” [33:71]*

Happiness, joy, pleasure, having a good time, and bliss are found in knowing Allah, His Oneness, and believing in Him.

The best speech and the most beloved to Allah is that which praises and glorifies Him, and the best praise for Allah is the declaration of monotheism; a statement upon which the earth and heavens were established, and all beings were created for its sake, and with it, Allah revealed His books and sent His Messengers. Allah, the Glorified and Exalted mentions...

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of Jumādā I 1438H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُون﴾

*“And We sent not before you any messenger except that We revealed to him that, ‘There is no deity (worthy of worship) except Me, so worship Me.’” [21:25]*

And the messengers warned their people with the message of monotheism as stated in the noble Quran:

﴿أَنْ أُنذِرُوا أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاتَّقُون﴾

*“Warn that there is no deity except Me; so, fear Me.” [16:2]*

Allah Himself, as well as the best of His creation, bore witness to it.

﴿شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُو الْعِلْمِ قَائِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

*“Allah witnesses that there is no deity except Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge [that He is] maintaining [creation] in justice. There is no deity except Him, the Exalted in Might, the Wise.” [3:18]*

Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “This is the most noble testimony, the greatest, the most just, and the most honest, given by the most noble witness, for the most noble of what is being witnessed.”

All laws are based on this declaration and the entire Islamic religion is among its rights, and the all-inclusive reward is for implementing it, and the whole punishment is for negating or neglecting it. It is a declaration of high status, with abundant virtues, because it is the absolute pinnacle of Islam, its first pillar and great foundation. It is the foundation of all the pillars. It is the pillar of faith in Allah and its most important aspect. Faith is not valid without it, and it is not correct unless it is established upon it.

It is upon it that the religion was founded and the *qiblah* was erected. It is the absolute right of Allah over all His servants, the word of Islam, and the key to the abode of peace. Due to it, people were divided into the wretched and the happy, the accepted and the rejected distinguishing between disbelief and Islam. No speaker has ever uttered a better word than it, and nobody has ever performed a better action than what it entails. It is the expression of piety by which Allah has marked those who are close to Him.

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“The dearest phrases to Allah are four: *subhānAllah* (“Glorified is Allah”), *alḥamdulillah* (“praise be to Allah”), *lā ilāha illā Allah* (“there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah), and *Allahu akbar* (“Allah is The Greatest”).”** Reported by Muslim.

﴿وَالزَّمَهُمْ كَلِمَةَ التَّقْوَى﴾

“*And He (Allah) imposed upon them the word of piety*” (48:26).

It is *al-Urwat al-Wuthqá* (i.e., faith, the straight path, everything that necessitates Allah’s pleasure) that whoever holds on to will be saved.

﴿فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انفِصَامَ لَهَا﴾

“*So, whoever renounces false gods and believes in Allah has certainly grasped al-Urwat al-Wuthqá (i.e., faith, the straight path, everything that necessitates Allah’s pleasure)—the grip that doesn’t fail.*” [2:256]

Exaltedness is its attribute, and perpetuity accompanies it. Allah, the Glorified, said...

﴿وَكَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ هِيَ الْعُلْيَا﴾

“*...while the word of Allah is exalted.*” [9:40]

A good word: Allah sets forth its parable in the Quran. He said...

﴿أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ أَصْلُهَا ثَابِتٌ وَفَرْعُهَا فِي السَّمَاءِ﴾

“*Have you not considered how Allah sets forth a parable of a good word (being) like a good tree, whose root is firm and whose branches are in heaven.*” [14:24]

With it, the heart is comfortable.

﴿فَمَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَهْدِيَهُ، يَشْرَحْ صَدْرَهُ، لِلْإِسْلَامِ﴾

“*Whomsoever Allah desires to guide, He expands his chest to (embrace) Islam.*” [6:125]

Ibn Jurayj [interpreted the verse and] said, “(He i.e., Allah, expands his chest to Islam) with *lā ilāha illā Allah*.”

﴿يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ \* إِلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ﴾

*“The Day on which neither wealth will be of any use, nor children, except him who comes before Allah with a pure heart.” [26:88-89]*

Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with them both, stated, “The pure heart is the one that bears witness that none has the right to be worshiped but Allah alone.”

It’s the true call that contains no falsehood, the correct speech that contains no distortions, and the testimony of truth that contains no lie, and it is the ideal that Allah chose for himself apart from His creation, and it is the word that remains in Ibrahim’s aftermath.

﴿وَجَعَلَهَا كَلِمَةً بَاقِيَةً فِي عَقْبِهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ﴾

*“And he left it as a Word to endure among those who came after him, that they may turn back (to Allah).” [43:28]*

Ibn Kathīr, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “The meaning (of the word mentioned in the verse is) *lā ilāha illā Allah*. He left this word as an example to be followed by those of his progeny who were guided by Allah.”

The declaration of *lā ilāha illā Allah* is Allah’s greatest favor on the creation, as He mentions...

﴿وَأَسْبَغَ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَهُ ظَهْرًا وَبَاطِنًا﴾

*“And has made his bounties flow to you in exceeding measure, (both) seen and unseen.” [31:20]*

Sufyan ibn Uyaynah, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “Allah has not bestowed upon the creation a greater blessing than the knowledge that none has the right to be worshiped but Allah Alone.”

A word that encompasses the entire world and all that exists inside it. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“To say, ‘subhānAllah, alḥamdulillah, lā ilāha illā Allah, and Allahu akbar’ is dearer to me than anything over which the sun rises.”** Reported by Muslim.

It is the first duty upon the servants (of Allah) to learn it and implement it, as Allah says...

﴿فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ﴾

*“So, know that there is no deity (worthy of worship) except Allah.”*

[47:19]

Shaykh al-Islam (i.e., Ibn Taymiyyah), may Allah have mercy on him said, “The predecessors and leading scholars are unanimously agreed that the first thing that is commanded to the servants is: the two testimonies: ‘to bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is His Messenger.’” It is also the last duty, as the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever’s last words are *lā ilāha illā Allah* (“there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah”) will enter Paradise.”** Reported by Abu Dawud.

The one who knows and lives/acts by it (i.e., *lā ilāha illā Allah*) is the real steadfast one. Allah revealed...

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا﴾

*“Verily, those who say, Allah is our Lord, and then remain steadfast (and follow the straight path).” [41:30]*

Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with them both, said, “It means (they remain steadfast) in their belief that none has the right to be worshiped but Allah.”

﴿فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ﴾

*“They will have no fear nor grieve” (41:30).*

When this declaration (i.e., *lā ilāha illā Allah*) [rests] truly [in someone], the heart is cleansed from everything besides Allah., and anyone who genuinely believes in it will not love anything other than Allah, nor hope for anything other than Him, nor fear anyone other than Him, nor rely on anyone other than Him, and there will be no trace of his desires left.

It is also a protection of wealth and life of the one who professes it. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“He who professes ‘*lā ilāha illā Allah*’ (“there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah”), and denies everything worshipped besides Allah, his property and blood become inviolable, and it is up Allah to call him to account.”** Reported by Muslim.

(The declaration of monotheism) is the first message by which others are called to Islam. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him,

began his call with it, and his companions pledged allegiance to him based on it. He sent preachers to various regions with it [to spread the very first message of monotheism]. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said to Mu'adh, may Allah be pleased with him, when he sent him to Yemen, **“You are going to a people who are people of the book. So, call them to bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that I am the Messenger of Allah.”** Agreed upon.

The declaration of monotheism is a fair profession, upon which all creation unites. Without it, division and disagreement (take an upper hand). Allah says...

﴿قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا﴾

*“Say, ‘O People of the Book! Come to common terms as between us and you: That we worship none but Allah that we associate no partners with him.’” [3:64]*

Whoever says it truthfully will prosper. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, stated **“O people! Say, ‘There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah’ and you will be successful.”** Reported by Ahmed.

The one who adheres to it reaches the highest branch of faith. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Faith has over seventy-something branches, the most excellent of which is the profession that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah.”** Reported by Muslim. The verse that contains it, is the greatest verse in the Quran, and it is included in *sayyid al-istighfār* (i.e., the best prayer for seeking forgiveness).

It is also the most rewarding and most multiplied of deeds. **“If one says one-hundred times in one day, ‘There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone, without any partners. To Him belongs the dominion, to Him is all praise, and He is Capable of all things’, he will get the reward of freeing ten slaves, one-hundred good deeds will be written in his account, one-hundred bad deeds will be wiped off or erased from his account. On that day, he will be protected from Satan from the morning till evening, and nobody will be superior to him except one who has done more than that which he has done.”** Agreed

upon.

**“If one says ten times ‘There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone, without any partners. To Him belongs the dominion, to Him is all praise, and He is Capable of all things’, he will get the reward of having freed four slaves from the children of Ishamel, peace be upon him.”** Reported by Muslim.

It's the best form of charity without the expense of wealth. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Every utterance of *lā ilāha illā Allāh* is an act of charity.”** Reported by Muslim. It is a salvation for the servant in his grave and he will be upon it when he is questioned. The messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah, said, **“When the Muslim is questioned in the grave, he will bear witness that none is worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is His messenger. That is Allah’s statement... ”**

﴿يَشْفِيكَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِالْقَوْلِ الثَّابِتِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَيُضِلُّ اللَّهُ الظَّالِمِينَ  
وَيَفْعَلُ اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ﴾

**“Thus, through a firm word, Allah grants firmness to the believers both in this world and in the Hereafter.’ [14:27].”** Agreed upon.

The records of sins are frivolous—by the grace of Allah—due to the weight of this declaration. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“A man will be brought before Allah on the day of judgment when ninety-nine scrolls will be laid out for him: each scroll is as far as the eye can see. Then, a card will be picked from the scrolls, and on it is: ‘I bear witness that none is worthy of worship except Allah, and I testify that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.’ The scrolls will be put on one side [of the scale], and the card on [the other] side; the scrolls will be light, and the card will be heavy.”** Reported by Ahmad.

**“If the seven heavens and the seven earths were placed on one side of the scale and *lā ilāha illā Allāh* was placed on the other side, the scale would tip to the side with *lā ilāha illā Allāh*! If the seven heavens and the seven earths were an opaque ring, it would be broken by the weight of *lā ilāha illā Allāh*.”** Reported by Ahmad.

Its people are intercessors: they’ve taken a covenant with Allah, the

Most Compassionate, as Allah affirms...

﴿لَا يَمْلِكُونَ الشَّفَعَةَ إِلَّا مَنِ اتَّخَذَ عِنْدَ الرَّحْمَنِ عَهْدًا﴾

“No one has the right to intercede except for him who has taken a covenant with the Most Compassionate.” [19:87]

The most fortunate person who will have the intercession of the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is the one who is sincere and truthful in his declaration of faith. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said **“The most fortunate person who will have my intercession on the Day of Resurrection will be the one who said sincerely from the bottom of his heart ‘lā ilāha illā Allah.’”** Reported by Bukhari.

Paradise is the reward for the one who says it truthfully, sincerely from his heart, with certainty without doubt, and acting upon it while keeping away from all that contradicts it. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“There is not a single person who says, ‘lā ilāha illā Allah’ then dies upon that, except that he will enter Paradise.”** Agreed upon. The eight gates of Paradise are opened for the one who says it, and he may enter from whichever one he wishes. Rather, he who is truthful and acts in accordance with it, will never be touched by the Hellfire. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“There is no one who testifies sincerely that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah and Muhammad is His messenger, except that Allah, will save him from the Hell-fire.”** Agreed upon. Allah will cast out of Hell whoever declared it and had [even] an atom's weight of faith in his heart. Allah says [in a *ḥadīth qudsi*]: **“By My Power, My Majesty, My Supremacy, and by My Greatness, I will take out of Hell whoever said, ‘lā ilāha illā Allah.’”** Reported by al-Bukhari.

Due to the importance of the declaration of monotheism in every moment of a slave's life, The *Shariah* came to encourage adherence to it in all his states and affairs, for **“Whoever says in the morning, ‘There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone, without any partners. To Him belongs the dominion, to Him is all praise, and He is Capable of all things’, will have a reward equal to freeing a slave among the children of Ishmael, ten good deeds will be written for him, ten bad deeds will be**

erased from his record, his status will be raised by ten degrees, and he will be under (Allah's) protection from Satan during that day of his until he enters the evening. Whoever says it as he enters the evening, he will have (a reward) just like it until he enters the morning." Reported by Abu Dawud. If someone sincerely recites it after having performed ablution, the eight doors of Paradise will be opened for them, as the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, "There is not a single one of you who performs ablution and perfects it then recites: '*ash`hadu an lā ilāha illā Allah waḥdahu lā sharīka lahu wa ash`hadu anna Muhammadan `abduhu wa rasūluhu*' except that all eight gates of Paradise will be opened for him." Reported by Muslim.

It's the opening and closing of the *adhān* (i.e., the call to prayer). He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, "When the *mu'adhdhin* (i.e., the one who calls to prayer) says 'Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest', and someone among you repeats after him saying 'Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest', then the *mu'adhdhin* says, 'I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah', and he repeats after him saying, 'I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah', then the *mu'adhdhin* says, 'I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's messenger', and he repeats after him saying, 'I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's messenger', then the *mu'adhdhin* says, 'Come to prayer', he says after him, 'There is no might and no power except with Allah', then the *mu'adhdhin* says, 'Come to salvation', he says after him, 'There is no might and no power except with Allah', and then the *mu'adhdhin* says, 'Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest,' he repeats after him saying, 'Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest', then the *mu'adhdhin* says, '*lā ilāha illā Allah*', and he repeats after him saying from deep down within his heart, '*lā ilāha illā Allah*' then he will enter Paradise." Reported by Muslim. "Whoever says when he hears the *mu'adhdhin*, 'I bear witness that none has the right to be worshiped but Allah, alone with no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger. I am content with Allah as my Lord, Muhammad as my Prophet, and Islam as my religion,' then his sins will be forgiven." Reported by Muslim.

When a Muslim stands for prayers, he begins with monotheism. Prayers

are not valid without *tashahhud* (i.e., bearing witness that none is worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is His Messenger). Before ending prayer, a Muslim supplicates to Allah, appealing to Him with it (i.e., *lā ilāha illā Allah*) saying, **“O Allah, forgive my past and future sins, my secret and open sins, my transgression, and that of which You have better knowledge of than I. Indeed, You are *Al-Muqaddim* (the One Who puts forward) and You are *Al-Mu’akhhir* (the One Who puts back). There is no deity worthy of worship except You.”** Reported by Muslim. At the end of his prayer or just after it, he says, **“There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone, without any partners. To Him belongs the dominion, to Him is all praise, and He is Capable of all things.”** Agreed upon. With it (i.e., *lā ilāha illā Allah*), he concludes his glorification to Allah and praising and magnifying of Him. As a result, **“...his sins are forgiven even if they were like the foam of the sea.”** Reported by Muslim.

During the rituals of pilgrimage, he accompanies it (i.e., *lā ilāha illā Allah*). When the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, ascended mounts Aş-Şafā and Al-Marwah, he would face the *qiblah*, then he would declare Allah’s oneness and magnify Allah. Reported by Muslim. Similarly, in *Muzdalifah*, the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, arrived at *al-Mash’ar*. He ascended it, praised Allah, declared His oneness, magnified Him, and announced *tahlil*, (i.e., saying *lā ilāha illā Allah*). Reported by an-Nisā’i. When the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, used to return from an expedition, Hajj or ‘Umrah, and on every rising terrain he would magnify Allah, then would say, **“There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone, without any partners. To Him belongs the dominion, to Him is all praise, and He is Capable of all things.”** Agreed upon.

It is desirable to say it plentifully throughout the seasons of goodness, such as the ten days of *Dhul-Hijjah*. The commencement of sermons is begun with monotheism as well as when he mingled with people. If someone sits in a gathering where his speech was excessive then says before getting up from that gathering, **“Glory is to You O Allah and praise, I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except You, I seek Your forgiveness, and I repent to You’ then whatever occurred in that sitting will be forgiven.”** Reported by Tirmidhi. **“Whoever wakes up at**

**night—and says it—then supplicates to Allah, his supplication will be answered. If he performs ablution and prays to Allah, his prayer will be accepted.”** Reported by Bukhari. In times of worry and grief, he says, **“No deity has the right to be worshiped except Allah, The Magnificent, The Gentle. None has the right to be worshiped but Allah the Lord of the Mighty Throne. No deity has the right to be worshiped except Allah, The Lord of the heavens, The Lord of the earth, and The Lord of the Honorable Throne.”** Agreed upon.

Praising Allah with it before supplicating him is a means for prayers to be answered. Allah mentions...

﴿وَذَا الثُّورِ إِذْ ذَهَبَ مُغْلَبًا فَقَطَّ أَنْ لَنْ نَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ

أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ \* فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْعَمِّ

*“Mention the man of the whale [Jonah], when he went off in anger and thought that We would not be able to grasp him, and he ended up calling out within the darkness of the night, the sea, and the whales interior, ‘There is no deity except You; Exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers. So, We responded to him and saved him from the distress.’”* [21:87-88]

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“No Muslim man supplicated with it for anything, ever, except that Allah answered him.”** Reported by Tirmidhi.

It’s the expiation for swearing on other than Allah. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever swears saying in his oath, ‘By Al-Lāt and Al-Uzza [idols of the Arabs before Islam]’ should instead say, ‘lā ilāha illā Allah.’”** Agreed upon.

It is desirable to encourage a dying person to say, *“lā ilāha illā Allah.”* The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Encourage those who are at the verge of death to recite ‘lā ilāha illā Allah.’”** Reported by Muslim.

People of other religions are to be called to it, even during their last moments of life. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said to his uncle who was on the verge of death, **“O uncle! Say, ‘lā ilāha illā Allah.’ I will be a witness for you in front of Allah by means of it.”** Agreed Upon.

### **To proceed: O Muslims!**

Honor is found in monotheism. Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “We are a people whom Allah has honored with the way of Islam.” The testimony of monotheism is its title and guide. A statement is of no value if it’s opposed in action. Whoever does not utter it will miss out on the pleasures of this world and the hereafter. The Muslims’ strength and weakness is based on their actualization of this declaration in both speech and actions, for it is their weighing scale by which Allah will measure them, and by which the people will measure them. If the declaration of monotheism is strong with them, Allah will be pleased with them and they will be honored and elevated, but if they are weak, they will be distanced from Allah and weakened.

### **I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لِذَنْبِكَ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ۗ﴾

﴿وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مُتَقَلَّبَكُمْ وَمَثْوَاكُمْ﴾

“So, know that there is no deity (worthy of worship) except Allah, and ask forgiveness for your sin and for (the sin of) believing men and believing women. Allah knows your movements and resting places.” [47:19]

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

Knowledge of the declaration of monotheism, acting upon it, staying away from what opposes it or contradicts it, are all conditions for fulfilling its requirements mentioned in the texts (the Quran and Sunnah). Its meaning is truthfully negating the ascription of divinity to any other than Allah, and affirming it for Allah alone, and this is what the disbelievers of Quraysh denied. Allah said...

﴿إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ﴾

*“Indeed, when it was said to them, ‘There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah,’ they were arrogant.” [37:35]*

Their affirmation of Allah's Lordship alone, did not benefit them.

The more knowledgeable about its meaning and the more upright one is, the heavier his scale will be. People differ in their belief based on the extent to which the conditions of monotheism are fulfilled. The soul and secret of the axiom of monotheism is singling out Allah in worship. Therefore, anyone who associates a creation with Allah's right and Lordship, then that is in opposition to (the true meaning of) *lā ilāha illā Allah*.

The happy one is he who safeguards his monotheism, dies on it, and isn't tainted by anything that could invalidate, defame, or degrade it. It is the wish of Allah's sincere servants.

﴿تَوَفَّنِي مُسْلِمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ﴾

*“Cause me to die a Muslim and join me with the righteous.” [12:101]*

Know that Allah has commanded you to send peace and blessings upon his prophet...

## THE MOST BELOVED DEED IN THE SIGHT OF ALLAH<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise him, seek his assistance, and seek his forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves, and from our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, then there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, then there is no one who can guide him. I testify that there is no deity worthy of being worshipped except Allah, alone, without any partners, and I testify that our prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions) and hold on to Islam with *al-Urwat al-Wuthqá* (i.e., faith, the straight path, everything that necessitates Allah's pleasure).

### **O Muslims!**

Allah created His servants and made everything in the heavens and the earth exploitable for them and bestowed upon them both apparent and hidden blessings, so they may single Him out in worship, Glorified is He. After Adam, peace be upon him, humanity worshiped Allah alone for ten centuries, then Satan beautified idol worship for some of Allah's creation and as a result they worshipped them.

Because of this, Allah sent messengers with divine scriptures to call the people back to Monotheism. Out of his mercy to His creation, He made their dispositions to fit the purpose for which they were created. That's because every child is born in accordance with the nature of Allah's Oneness in worship, and that He is the only deity to be worshiped, not anything or anyone other than Him. Allah states...

﴿فَطَرَتُ اللَّهُ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا﴾

“...Allah's natural disposition which He instilled in all people.” [30:30]

Satan seeks to corrupt the nature of Allah's servants to deprive them of

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of Shawwāl 1431H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

their Lord's pleasure with them, as well as the eternal bliss prepared for them in the Paradise of Eden. He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“My Lord commanded me to teach you something you didn't know that He taught me in this day of mine. [He, said], ‘I surely created My servants as true monotheists, but devils came to them, and turned them away from their religion. They forbid what I made lawful for them, and they commanded them to associate partners with Me for which I haven't revealed any authority.’”** Reported by Muslim.

*Iblīs* (i.e., Satan) invites the creation to commit the greatest sin, that Allah can be disobeyed with. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was asked, “What is the greatest sin?” He said, **“To set up an equal unto Allah though He Alone created you.”** Agreed upon. Many people worshipped other than Allah, as Allah mentions...

﴿وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ﴾

*“But most people do not believe.” [40:59]*

One of the consequences of a loss of faith, is that every deed done—no matter how righteous—is not rewarded due to the loss of the religion's fundamental. Aishah, may Allah be pleased with her, said, “O Messenger of Allah! The son of *Jud'an* established ties of relationship and fed the poor in the pre-Islamic times ignorance. Would that be of any avail to him?” He said, **“It will be of no avail to him as he did not ever say, ‘O my Lord, pardon my sins on the Day of Recompense.’”** Reported by Muslim.

This sin (i.e., associating partners with Allah) earns Allah's wrath, humiliation, and misery to those who do it, Allah mentions...

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا الْعِجْلَ سَيَنَالُهُمْ غَضَبٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وذلَّةٌ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا﴾

*“Indeed, those who took the calf [for worship] will obtain anger from their Lord and humiliation in the life of this world.” [7:152]*

The doer of that sin (i.e., the polytheist) sways between worry and sorrow. Allah says...

﴿وَمَن يُرِدْ أَن يُضِلَّهُ يَجْعَلْ صَدْرَهُ ضَيِّقًا حَرَجًا كَأَنَّمَا يَصَّعَّدُ فِي السَّمَاءِ﴾

*“And whoever He wants to misguide—He makes his breast tight and constricted as though he were climbing into the sky.” [6:12]*

It also prevents him from entering Paradise and he will be forever in

Hellfire, as Allah says...

﴿إِنَّهُ مَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَهُ النَّارُ﴾

*“Whoever joins other gods with Allah—Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode.” [5:72]*

So, the servants don’t fall into the trap of Satan, angering their Lord, and suffering in the Fire, Allah sent to every nation a messenger warning them against the call of Satan, commanding them to worship none but Allah, The Most Compassionate. Allah sent down the scriptures and invited to it in most verses of the Quran. The entire Quran leads to it. Its first command In Allah’s book is the commandment of monotheism. Allah says...

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ آعِبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ﴾

*“O mankind worship your Lord, the One Who created you.” [2:21]*

(The verse) means to single out your Lord. The first prohibition that the reciter of the Quran recites is the prohibition of its opposite: (the opposite of singling out Allah is associating partners with Him i.e., shirk/polytheism).

﴿فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾

*“So do not attribute to Allah equals while you know [that there is nothing similar to Him].” [2:22]*

The Quranic chapter titled *al-Ikhlāṣ* (“*The Sincerity*”) equals one-third of the Quran because it embodies monotheism and the greatest verse in the Allah’s book also embodies His oneness: that is *Āyat al-Kursī* (2:256).

The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, after his appointment as the Messenger of Allah, spent ten years calling people towards monotheism—He wouldn’t call to anything other than it. Then, laws were revealed to him gradually. He continued his call to monotheism and to Allah’s legislation until the time of his death. He used to say every morning and evening, **“We have entered a new day upon the natural religion of Islam, upon the statement of sincerity, upon the religion of our Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and upon the path of our father Ibrahim. He was upright [in worshipping Allah], and a Muslim. He was not of those who worship others besides Allah.”** Reported by Ahmad. He [also] used to start his day

with monotheism by reciting during the two [optional] units of the dawn prayer the chapter titled *Al-Kāfirūn* (“The Disbelievers”) and would conclude it with the chapter titled *Al-Ikhlāṣ* (“The Sincerity”). He would recite in his prayers whether it is a one-unit prayer or two, these two chapters.

He also advised his people to do the same. A bedouin came to the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and said: “O Messenger of Allah! Direct me to a deed by which I may be entitled to enter Paradise.” The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, replied, **“Worship Allah, and never associate anything with Him, establish prayer, give the charity that has been enjoined upon you, and fast (the month of) Ramadan.”** Agreed upon. He used to command his companions to pledge allegiance to him that they will worship Allah alone. ‘Awf bin Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, said, **“Nine or eight of us were with the messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and he said, ‘Will you not pledge to the Messenger of Allah?’ We said, ‘We pledge to you O messenger of Allah but on what shall we pledge to you?’ He said, ‘That you will worship Allah and not associate anything with him, and [offer] the five daily prayers.’”** Reported by Muslim.

Whenever he sent preachers to the regions, he would command them to begin their call with monotheism, *Tawheed*. He sent Mu‘adh, may Allah be pleased with him, to Yemen, then said to him, **“You are going to meet a group of people from the People of the Book (i.e., Jews and/or Christians), so let the first thing to which you invite them be to testify that there is none worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is Allah’s Messenger.”** Agreed upon. Whenever a delegation came to the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, he would teach them monotheism. A delegation from the tribe of Abd al-Qays visited the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, he asked them, **“Do you know what faith in Allah is?”** They replied, “Allah and His messenger know best.” The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Faith is to bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is His messenger...”** Agreed upon.

The messengers were afraid that their children would follow Satan by worshipping idols. Abraham, peace be upon him, Allah’s friend, said...

﴿وَأَجْنِبْنِي وَبَنِيَّ أَنْ نَعْبُدَ الْأَصْنَامَ﴾

“Secure and keep me and my sons away from worshipping idols.”  
[14:35]

The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, had the same fear for his nation. He said, **“My greatest fear for you is from minor polytheism.”** He was asked about it: [What is it?]: So, he replied, **“Ar-Riyā’ (“Showing off good deeds”).”** Reported by Ahmad.

Monotheism is the right of Allah upon the slaves. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said to Mu`adh, may Allah be pleased with him, **“O Mu`adh! Do you know what the right of Allah upon His slaves is?”** I (Mu`adh) said, “Allah and His Messenger know best.” He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, replied, **“Allah's right upon His slaves is that they should worship Him Alone and associate nothing with Him.”** Agreed upon.

Monotheism brings a slave closer to paradise and keeps him away from hellfire. A bedouin came to the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and said, “O Messenger of Allah! Tell me what would bring me closer to Paradise and what would keep me far away from hellfire.” The prophet paused [for a moment] then looked at his companions and said, **“He is fortunate”** or **“He is guided.”** Then, the Prophet said, **“What did you say?”** So, he repeated his question. Then, the Prophet said to him, **“Worship Allah Alone and do not associate anything with Him, establish prayer, give charity and keep good family ties.”** Agreed upon.

There is no joy in this world and in the hereafter without *tawhīd*. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Say, ‘lā ilāha illā Allah’ you will succeed.”** Reported by Ahmad. Whoever’s end is upon the testimony (of faith) will enter paradise. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever’s last words are lā ilāha illā Allah (“there is none worthy of worship except Allah”) will enter Paradise.”** Reported by Abu Dawud. Whosoever dies upon it, is rescued from the Hellfire. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever meets Allah without associating anything in worship with Him will go to Paradise and whoever meets Allah associating partners with Him will enter the Hellfire.”** Reported by Muslim.

The monotheists’ deeds vary in virtue by the degree of sincerity and by

the faith in their hearts. The most valuable possession of a Muslim is his belief in the Oneness of his Lord. It is the most crucial thing he must safeguard against anything that attempts to discredit, annul, or invalidate it. Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said “Monotheism is the nicest, righteous, cleanest, and purest thing. The smallest thing can tarnish, pollute, and harm its image. It's like the whitest garment; even the smallest stain can ruin it, and like an extremely clear mirror, the slightest thing affects it.”

Allah has revealed to the messengers that if the slightest polytheism results from them, all their deeds will be worthless. [If that's the case with them], then how [must it be] with those other than them [who are surely inferior]?! Allah mentions...

﴿وَلَقَدْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ لَئِنْ أَشْرَكَتَ لَيَحْبَطَنَّ عَمَلُكَ وَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ﴾

*“And it was already revealed to you and to those before you that if you should associate [anything] with Allah, your work would surely become worthless, and you would surely be among the losers.” [39:65]*

Abraham, peace be upon him, feared polytheism. He supplicated to Allah while constructing the *Ka bah*...

﴿وَأَجْنُبْنِي وَبَنِيَّ أَنْ نَعْبُدَ الْأَصْنَامَ﴾

*“Secure and keep me and my sons away from worshipping idols.” [14:35]*

If Abraham, peace be upon him, was afraid of polytheism, then others should be more fearful.

The messengers' approach was to teach children the origins of their religion and to question them about it on a regular basis. The Prophet Ya qūb, peace be upon him, at the time of his death, asked his sons about their belief in monotheism...

﴿أَمْ كُنْتُمْ شُهَدَاءَ إِذْ حَضَرَ يَعْقُوبَ الْمَوْتُ إِذْ قَالَ لِبَنِيهِ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ بَعْدِي﴾

﴿قَالُوا نَعْبُدُ إِلَهَكَ وَإِلَهَ آبَائِكَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾

*“Or were you witnesses when death came to Jacob! He said to his children: 'What will you worship after me?' They replied: 'We will worship your God and the God of your forefathers, Abraham, Ishmael, and Isaac,*

*the One God. To Him, we are submissive.” [2:133]*

Our beloved Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, asked a young girl, **“Where is Allah?”** She replied, “In the heaven.” Reported by Muslim.

One of the grounds for religious steadfastness is studying the sound books authored about belief and adhering to circles of scholars. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“I have left with you what if you hold on to, you will never get lost: Allah’s book and my sunnah.”** Reported by al-Hākim. The Shaykh Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhāb, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “The most important thing you should acquire is the knowledge of monotheism—even before the knowledge of worship, even prayer.” Supplicating Allah for religious steadfastness is the methodology of the prophets. Yusuf, peace be upon him, said...

﴿تَوَفَّنِي مُسْلِمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ﴾

*“Cause me to die a Muslim and join me with the righteous.” [12:101]*

Exalting the Oneness of the Creator, realizing its importance, and avoiding suspicions are among the causes of guidance.

**I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لِذَنْبِكَ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ

وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مُتَقَلَّبَكُمْ وَمَثْوَاكُمْ﴾

*“So, know that there is no deity (worthy of worship) except Allah, and ask forgiveness for your sin and for (the sin of) believing men and believing women. Allah knows your movements and resting places.” [47:19]*

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

### **O Muslims:**

Monotheism is the greatest thing that purifies the soul, and it can be attained only by rejecting all that is worshiped besides Allah, which is the meaning of the testimony. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“He who professes *lā ilāha illā Allah* and disbelieves in everything worshipped besides Allah, his property and blood become inviolable, and it is for Allah to call him to account.”**

Reported by Muslim.

If a person fulfills monotheism, his distress is relieved, he gains the pleasure of his Lord, his deeds are accepted, his rewards are multiplied, his life is good, his sins are forgiven, and he enters Paradise without judgment and punishment. There is no greater blessing than the blessing of religion and steadfastness upon it.

Know that Allah has commanded you to send peace and blessings upon His prophet...

## ALLAH'S GREATNESS<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise him, seek his assistance, and seek his forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves, and from our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, then there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, then there is no one who can guide him. I testify that there is no deity worthy of being worshipped except Allah, alone, without any partners, and I testify that our prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions) and hold on to Islam with *al-Urwat al-Wuthqá* (i.e., faith, the straight path, everything that necessitates Allah's pleasure).

### **O Muslims:**

Allah brought the servants into existence out of nothing and blessed them with His favors. And relieved them from mishaps and agonies. [People with] sound dispositions love someone who blesses them and treats them well. The need of people to know their Lord is greater than their need for food, water and to breathe. There is no happiness in this world and the hereafter except with knowledge of Allah, His love and the correct way to worship Him. Those who are more knowledgeable about Allah have greater faith and glorification of Allah than others.

Obedience of the heart is greater, more, and lasts longer than obedience of the body. It is always mandatory. Bodily actions are meant for the purification of the heart. Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, says "A servant's status to Allah will be that of His status to the servant [i.e., if a person sees Allah of high status, then Allah will see him of high status]." When a person knows Allah, his soul will be at ease with Him and his heart will find peace towards Allah. A person who has more knowledge of Allah and His attributes, his reliance on Allah will be better, stronger, and he will be more complete in his obedience to Him: magnifying Allah and

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of Jumadá I 1432H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

worshipping Him with all His Names and Attributes.

Allah has the most beautiful names: His names are all praises and glorifications. Allah possesses the highest attributes: His attributes are perfect. The Prophet, peace be upon him, would say when bowing (to Allah): “Glory be to the One who has omnipotence, sovereignty, magnificence, and might.” Reported by Nasā’ī. The absolute perfection in all things belongs to none except Him. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, used to say, **“I am not capable of enumerating praise of you. You are as You have praised Yourself.”** Reported by Muslim.

All those in the heavens and the earth glorify Allah [freeing him] from all imperfections and deficiencies, Allah mentions...

﴿سَبَّحَ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

*“Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth glorifies Allah, and He is The Almighty, The All-Wise.” [57:1]*

They all prostrate to Him. Allah, the Exalted says...

﴿وَلِلَّهِ يَسْجُدُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنَ دَابَّةٍ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَهُمْ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ﴾

*“Everything in the heavens and earth among the animals and angels, prostrate to Allah alone, and they do not become arrogant.” [16:49]*

To Allah alone belongs the creation and the command. He perfected everything: He made and originated everything He created. Allah decreed the fates of the creatures fifty thousand years before creating the heavens and the earth. The [only] rule is His and no one participates with Him in that. His judgment is irreversible, and no one can rule after His rule. Allah is Ever-Living and does not die. All the creation is under His sovereignty and His grasp: He brings them death, gives them life, makes them laugh, causes them to cry, grants them affluence, makes them poor, and shapes them in the wombs as He likes. Allah conveys...

﴿مَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ إِلَّا هُوَ آخِذٌ بِنَاصِيَتِهَا﴾

*“There is not a moving creature, but He holds it by its forelock.” [11:56]*

He disposes them the way He wills. The hearts of the servants are between His Two Fingers. He turns them however He wills. Their forelocks

are in His Hand. The bridles of all affairs are connected to His Judgment and decree.

Allah's decree is undisputed. No dominant can prevail over Him. If the nations gathered to harm you, they could not harm you unless Allah has decreed it for you. Furthermore, if the nations gathered to benefit you, they could not benefit you unless Allah has decreed it for you. There's no repellent for His punishment when it arrives, and no one can remove it when it appears besides Him. There's no repellent for His punishment when it arrives, and no one can remove it when it appears besides Him.

He creates what He wills and does what He wants.

﴿لَا يُسْأَلُ عَمَّا يَفْعَلُ﴾

*"He is not questioned about what he does." [21:23]*

The creation are the ones who are questioned. Allah is self-subsisting, not in need of any of His creation, and dominant over them. He possesses the keys of the unseen world, and nobody knows about them except Him. He has even kept all His knowledge hidden from the angels: they do not have the knowledge about who will die tomorrow nor what will happen in the universe before it occurs.

Allah is The King. He manages the affairs of His slaves. He commands and He forbids, He gives, and He prevents, He raises and lowers. His commands are always in succession with the succession of time. All His commands are executed in accordance with His Want and Will. Whatever Allah wills is inevitable, and what He does not will never occur.

Allah affirms...

﴿يَسْأَلُهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ هُوَ فِي شَأْنٍ﴾

*"Whosoever is in the heavens and on earth asks Him. Every day He is (engaged) in some affair [such as giving honor or disgrace to some, life, or death to some, etc.]." [55:29]*

Among His affairs is dispelling someone's worries, restoring someone's ruin, enriches someone who is poor and responding to an invocation as Allah mentions...

﴿وَمَا كُنَّا عَنِ الْخَلْقِ غَافِلِينَ﴾

*“And We are never unaware of the creation.” [23:17]*

His knowledge encompasses everything. He knows what happened in the past, what is happening now, and what did not happen. Not an atom nor anything bigger moves without His permission and nor does a leaf fall but He knows it. Nothing is kept secret from Allah; both hidden and unhidden are equal to Him. Almighty Allah affirms...

﴿سَوَاءٌ مِّنْكُمْ مَّنْ أَسْرَ الْقَوْلَ وَمَنْ جَهَرَ بِهِ وَمَنْ هُوَ مُسْتَخْفٍ بِاللَّيْلِ وَسَارِبٌ بِالنَّهَارِ﴾

*“It is the same to Him whether any of you speaks secretly or openly, whether one hides in the darkness of night or goes about in broad daylight.” [13:10]*

He hears the sounds of the creatures while He is on His Throne. ‘Aishah, may Allah be pleased with her, said, “Praise be to Allah Whose hearing encompasses all sounds. The pleading woman Khawlah came to the Messenger of Allah, may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him, complaining about her husband, but I could not hear what she was saying while being in the corner of the same house. Then Allah, Glorified and Exalted, revealed the verse...

﴿قَدْ سَمِعَ اللَّهُ قَوْلَ الَّتِي تُجَادِلُكَ فِي زَوْجِهَا وَتَشْتَكِي إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ يَسْمَعُ تَخَاوَرُكُمْ إِنَّا اللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ﴾

*“Certainly, has Allah heard the speech of the one who argues with you concerning her husband and directs her complaint to Allah. And Allah hears your dialogue. Indeed, Allah is All-Hearing and All-Seeing.” [58:1]*

Reported by Ahmad. All the deeds of the servants can never be hidden from Allah even in the darkness of the night. Allah states...

﴿الَّذِي يَرْنُكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ \* وَتَقَلُّبَكَ فِي السَّجِدِينَ﴾

*“He sees you when you stand up [to pray] and [also sees] your turning over among those who prostrate themselves.” [26:219]*

He, from over the seven heavens, sees the crawling of a single black ant on a firm rock in the darkest night.

His treasures are full in the heavens and the earth. He is open-handed, giving generously as He pleases: **“His Hand gives continuously by day**

**and night.”** He gives in abundance with great generosity. He gives generously before being asked and after. He comes down **“every night to the worldly Heaven when the last third of the night remains, saying, ‘Is there anyone who will call upon Me so that I may answer? Is there anyone to ask Me, so that I may grant him his request?’”** As for the one who does not ask Him, then He gets angry with him.

Allah opened the doors of his favors wide open for His creation. He exploited for His creation seas, flowing rivers, and provided them with sustenance. Indeed, He is the One who directs their sustenance to them. He even provides sustenance to ants in the low ground, the birds in the air and the fish in the water. Allah mentions...

﴿وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ رِزْقُهَا﴾

*“There is no moving creature on earth, but its sustenance is dependent on Allah.” [11:6]*

His provision reaches everyone, He is the One who nourishes the child in the womb of his mother and fosters those who grow strong in His Kingdom. Allah is generous, He loves giving and generosity. When He's asked, He gives. The Almighty is displeased with His slaves when they ask other than Allah for their needs. All good comes from Allah alone. Allah declares...

﴿وَمَا بِكُمْ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ فَمِنَ اللَّهِ﴾

*“And whatever favor is [bestowed] on you it is from Allah.” [16:53]*

His sustenance never ends. **“Do you see what He has spent since He created the heavens and the earth? Yet, all that has not decreased what is in His Right Hand.”** Reported by Muslim. If all human beings came together to request Allah for something and granted them all their requests, it wouldn't decrease anything from His Kingdom. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon Him, tells from that which he narrated from Allah, Blessed and Exalted is He, **“O My slaves, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to stand in one place and make a request of Me, and were I to give everyone what he requested, that would not decrease what I have, Except the amount of water that a needle decreases when dipped in the sea.”** Reported by

Muslim.

Being rewarded for deeds multiplies it. One good deed to Him is worth its tenfold up to seven-hundred times up to many more times. A small action done by a person in the time of obedience increases it, for the Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. Fasting three days of every month is like fasting for a lifetime and whenever a person spends his wealth searching for Allah's pleasure, He, The Merciful, returns it to him multiplied many times over. He increases in generosity above expectation. He gave the people of Paradise things which have never been seen by any eye, or heard by any ear, or imagined by any human being, and when a person leaves something for the sake of Allah, He, replaces it with something better.

Allah is not in need of any of His creation: everything is always in need of Him. Allah proclaims...

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ﴾

*“O people, it is you who stand in need of Allah; as for Allah, He is Self-Sufficient, immensely praiseworthy.” [35:15]*

His slaves can neither do something good to benefit Him nor something bad to harm Him. Allah is indeed the Most High, the Great, and the *Kursi* is the place of His Two Feet. His *Kursi* extends over the heavens and the earth, the seven heavens in comparison to the *Kursi* is like seven *dirhams* (i.e., silver coins) thrown into a shield and the *Kursi* in comparison to the Throne is like a metal ring thrown in a desert. Allah's Throne is His greatest creation. Under the Throne lies a sea. His Throne is being carried by angels whose distance between the lobes of their ears and their shoulders is a journey of seven hundred years. Our Lord (Allah) rose over the Mighty Throne in a manner that befits His Majesty and Greatness. Allah is not in need of the Throne or anything else.

He encompasses all things with His knowledge, and nothing encompasses Him. No vision can grasp Him, but He grasps all vision. His power covers all His creation, and they are weak in the sight of Allah even if they seem to be mighty in the sight of the creation. Allah will fold the heavens on the Day of Judgment and then take them in His right hand and say, **“I am the King! Where are the mighty ones? Where are the arrogant ones?” Then, He will fold the earths and take them in His left**

[hand] and say **“I’m the King. Where are the mighty ones? Where are the arrogant ones?”** Reported by Muslim. And He will put **“the heavens on one finger, the earths on one finger, water and soil on one finger, and all other creatures on one finger. Then, He will shake them then say, “I am the King. I am the King.”** Agreed upon. When He speaks with the revelation the skies will start trembling, the inhabitants of the heavens are astounded and the first one to wake up will be the angel, Gabriel. The heavens will fear Him. Allah mentions...

﴿تَكَادُ السَّمَوَاتُ يَتَفَطَّرْنَ مِنْ فَوْقِهِنَّ﴾

*“The heavens are almost split apart from above them.” [42:5]*

[One of the scholars of the past named] Aḍ-Ḍaḥḥāk said (interpreting this verse), “The skies are almost split apart out of fear from Allah.”

**“Allah is *Al-Qayyum* (“The All-Sustaining”). Allah does not sleep, and it is not befitting that He should sleep. He lowers the [scales of] justice and raises them. The deed done during the night is taken up to Him before the deed done during the day, and the deed done during the day is taken up to Him before the deed done during the night. His Veil is Light, and if He were to remove it, the glory of his Face would burn everything of His creation, as far as His gaze reaches.”** Reported by Muslim.

He conducts every affair...

﴿مِنَ السَّمَاءِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ يَعْرُجُ إِلَيْهِ فِي يَوْمٍ كَانَ مِقْدَارُهُ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ مِمَّا تَعُدُّونَ﴾

*“...from the heavens to the earth, then it all ascends to Him on a Day whose length is a thousand years by your calculations.” [32:5]*

﴿وَلَوْ أَنَّ فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْ شَجَرَةٍ أَقْلَمٌ وَالْبَحْرُ يَمُدُّهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ سَبْعَةُ أَبْحُرٍ مَا نَفِدَتْ كَلِمَاتُ اللَّهِ

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ﴾

*“If all the trees on earth were pens and the ocean [were ink], refilled by seven other oceans, the Words of Allah would not be exhausted. Surely Allah is Almighty, All-Wise.” [31:27]*

[Allah is] The All-Powerful, He isn’t incapable of anything. When He wants something, He says “Be,” and it is. Allah’s command is executed in the blink of an eye—faster, even. Allah has armies whom no one knows

about except Him Alone. He capsized the village of the people of Lot, and He turned it upside down. When the children of Israel refused to abide by the Torah, Allah raised a mountain over their heads as if it was a canopy and they thought it was going to fall on them. When Allah showed (Himself) to the mountain, He leveled it to dust and when Moses saw that, he fell [in prostration] astonished.

When the time of the earth expires, He will shake it vigorously, level it completely, and blow up the mountains explosively. With (just) one sound of the trumpet blown by the angel Isrāfil, all the creation will be horrified, and with the second, they will fall unconscious, and after the third blow, they will all be resurrected for The Gathering. When Allah descends for the final judgment, the heaven will split asunder for His descension in honor and fear of Him.

Allah the Glorified, is above what the describers portray Him with and (above) what those who praise Him commend Him with. None is equal nor like Him, none is comparable nor identical to Him. Since the messengers knew their Lord, they increased their devoutness, humbleness, and obedience to Him. David, peace be upon him, used to fast for one day and break his fast on the other. Our prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, used to offer prayer at night for such a long duration that his feet used to crack. Abraham, peace be upon him, was forbearing, tender-hearted, and oft returning to Allah. He who treads the way of the prophets, attains [true] happiness and prosperity.

### **I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ وَالْأَرْضُ جَمِيعًا قَبْضَتُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَالسَّمَاوَاتُ مَطْوِيَّاتٌ بِيَمِينِهِ﴾

﴿سُبْحٰنَهُ وَتَعٰلٰى عَمَّا يُشْرِكُوْنَ﴾

*“They have not valued Allah with His true value. But on the Day of Resurrection, the entire earth will be in His grip, and the heavens shall be rolled up upon in His Right. Exaltations to Him! Exalted high is He above all that they associate!” [39:67]*

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

### **O Muslims:**

No one loves to be praised more than Allah, which is why Allah has praised Himself. The basis of what makes certain people better than others is knowing Allah, loving Him, and praising Him. When a person knows Allah, he loves and magnifies Him. The more the person knows Allah, the more obedient he becomes to Him.

Sins weaken the magnification for Allah and His reverence. When the dignity of Allah and His admiration are firmly established in the heart of the slave, one will not have the audacity to disobey Allah. Every single sin committed by a person is due to the lack of knowledge about Allah.

Praising Allah becomes greater with obedience to Him. The greatest act of worship by which a slave becomes closer to His Lord is by worshipping Allah Alone, No one shall be invoked besides Him, nor shall anyone be asked for blessings besides Him, nor shall a single act of worship be directed to other than Him, alone.

Anyone who associates partners with Allah in worship, has indeed not valued Allah with His true value and has committed an aggression against himself by falling into polytheism. The one who has been guided by Allah to magnify Him and worship Him alone without associating Him with partners has the obligation to call others towards singling out Allah and magnifying Him.

Know that Allah commanded you to send peace and blessings upon His prophet...

## MAGNIFYING ALLAH<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise Him, seek His assistance, and seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever he misguides, there is no one who can guide him. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### To proceed:

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions) and hold on to Islam with *al-Urwat al-Wuthqá* (i.e., faith, the straight path, everything that necessitates Allah's pleasure).

### O Muslims!

The honor of knowledge is based on the honor of that which is known, and the most honorable knowledge is knowledge about Allah. The necessity of knowing Him, Glory and Magnificence be to Him, is above all necessities. In fact, it is the basis of all necessities.

Allah has instilled in the disposition of his servants their love for Him, and the heart was created for that.

﴿فَظَرَّتْ اللَّهُ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ﴾

“...Allah's natural disposition which He instilled in all people. There shall be no change in Allah's creation.” [30:30]

It is *al-Hanīfiyyah* (i.e., the true way of monotheism) that every delivered child is born upon. The devils and demons are eager to distort the creation's natural disposition. Allah said in a *Hadīth Qudsī* (i.e., a statement of Allah narrated by Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him that is other than the Quran), **“I created all my servants to be *Hunāfā'* (i.e., upon true monotheistic belief), but devils came to them and drifted them away from their religion.”** Reported by Muslim. Every

<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of Jumādā I 1437H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Muslim is ordered (by Allah) to abide by his natural disposition so those astray can return to their original state and so those who believed can be increased in their faith. Allah established his signs as a proof for His (right to) lordship and worship. If the water of the sea were ink, and other seas were summoned (by Allah) to supply it (with refills), it would not be sufficient for Allah's words and signs indicating it.

The messengers were sent (by Allah) for the establishment of the natural disposition and its completion, and monotheism in respect to lordship, by exclusively singling out Allah in His actions is amongst the greatest of what they brought. (Therefore), it is a fundamental from the fundamentals of faith, and one of the types of monotheism that Allah created the servants for. (Furthermore), it is an indication of his oneness in worship; and with it, Allah proved the singling of himself in worship. In associating partners with Allah exists the grimmest type of polytheism, and no one errs in divinity except the one who doesn't give it its due right.

Allah is perfect in his essence, attributes, and actions. Amongst his attributes, Great is His significance, is His right to lordship. No partners are associated with him in it, the same way he has no partner in his right to worship Allah, The Exalted, said...

﴿قُلْ أَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ أَبْغَىٰ رَبًّا وَهُوَ رَبُّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ﴾

*"Should I seek a lord other than Allah while He is the Lord of everything?" [6:164]*

He, The Exalted, is One in the act of creation, ownership, provision, and control. He is *Al-Khāliq* (i.e., The Creator, Who created everything all by himself): there's no creator with Him, and The Inventor of the heavens and earth. He created, proportioned, and perfected everything he created [and their designs], and He is *Al-Khallāq* (i.e., The Creator, Who can create anything), The All-Knowing. Just as he started the creation He will bring them back, and it is the easiest thing for him. Everyone other than Allah doesn't deserve to be worshipped: Allah alone is the one who deserves that, because He is The Creator.

﴿أَفَمَنْ يَخْلُقُ كَمَنْ لَا يَخْلُقُ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ﴾

*"Is the One Who creates equal to those who can't? Will you not then remember?" [16:17]*

He, The Exalted, is The King, and the dominion belongs to him alone.

﴿ذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ ۗ وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ مَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِن قِطْمِيرٍ﴾

*“That is Allah—your Lord. He possesses supreme ownership and those whom you invoke besides Him don’t even own the skin of a date pit.”*  
[35:13]

And He is The Owner of His creation: To Him belongs everything in the heavens and the earth, and all the creation submits to Him, glorifies Him, and prostrates to Him.

He is The Master, without any partners, and everyone are His servants.

﴿إِن كُلُّ مَن فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضِ اِلَّا عٰتِي الرَّحْمٰنِ عَبْدًا﴾

*“There is no one in the heavens and the earth except that He will come to The Beneficent as a slave.”* [19:93]

To Him belongs the ultimate and everlasting ownership: He is The Owner of the world and Day of Recompense, and in the hereafter, He will become apparent (by revealing His Face), and then say...

﴿لِمَنِ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ﴾

*“To whom does all authority belong on this Day?”* [40:16]  
And he replies to Himself with His statement...

﴿بِاللهِ الْوٰحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ﴾

*“To Allah—The One, The Irresistible!”* [40:16]

He, The Glorified, is One in the controlling of His creation’s affairs and His kingdom. The order is entirely in His Hand, alone.

﴿اَلَا لَهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالْاَمْرُ﴾

*“Behold! To Him belongs the creation and the command.”* [7:54]

He commands and prohibits, creates, and provides...

﴿يُكَوِّرُ اللَّيْلَ عَلَى النَّهَارِ وَيُكَوِّرُ النَّهَارَ عَلَى اللَّيْلِ ۗ وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ﴾

*“He makes the night to go in the day and makes the day to go in the night. And He has subjected the sun and the moon.”* [39:5]

﴿يُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَيِّتِ وَيُخْرِجُ الْمَيِّتَ مِنَ الْحَيِّ وَيُحْيِي الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا﴾

*“He brings out the living from the dead and brings out the dead from the living. And He revives the earth after its death.” [30:19]*

The entire creation is under His Power and Will. The hearts of the servants and their forelocks are in His Hand. The bridles of all affairs are tied to His Decree and Predetermination, established upon each soul based on what it earns. The heaven and earth stand by his command.

﴿يُمْسِكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ أَنْ تَزُولَا﴾

*“(Allah) grasps the heavens and the earth lest they be removed (from their places)...” [35:41]*

Everyone in the heavens and the earth ask him.

﴿كُلُّ يَوْمٍ هُوَ فِي شَأْنٍ﴾

*“Every day He is (engaged) in some affair!” [55:29]*

Amongst his actions, is that He forgives a sin, guides the misguided, relieves sorrow, resets fractures, makes the poor rich, and responds to a prayer. He, The Exalted said...

﴿وَمَا كُنَّا عَنْ الْخَلْقِ غَافِلِينَ﴾

*“We are never unaware of the creation.” [32:17]*

His commands are in succession and His Will is in effect. Not a single speck in the world moves except by His permission. Whatever he wills, is, and whatever He doesn't will, isn't. He creates what He wills, and He does whatever He wants. His command is decreed and predestined. No one can prevent what he gives, and no one can give what he prevents. Nothing succeeds His rule, and nothing can repel his favor. Nothing can deflect what He wants, and there is no change to His words. He predetermined the fate of the creation 50,000 thousand years before the creation of the heavens and the earth. If all the creation were to come together to make something happen that He didn't write down [in the preserved tablets], they wouldn't be able to do so, and if they came together to prevent something from happening, they [too] wouldn't be able to do so. If the people came together to harm someone, and Allah doesn't want him to be harmed, they wouldn't

be able to harm him, and if they came together to benefit him, but Allah doesn't allow him to benefit, they wouldn't be able to benefit him. He guides who He wills out of his favor and leads astray who He wills out of His justice. If He wants something [to happen], He [simply] says "be", and it is.

﴿لَا يُسْأَلُ عَمَّا يَفْعَلُ وَهُمْ يُسْأَلُونَ﴾

*"He cannot be questioned about what He does, and (rather) they will be questioned."* [21:23]

His speech is the best speech, and there is no beginning to His words, nor an end.

﴿وَلَوْ أَنَّ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْ شَجَرَةٍ أَقْلَمٌ وَالْبَحْرُ يَمُدُّهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ سَبْعَةُ أَبْحُرٍ مَا نَفِدَتْ كَلِمَاتُ اللَّهِ﴾

*"And if all the trees on the earth were pens and the ocean (were its ink) with seven seas behind it to add to its (supply), Allah's words would not run out."* [31:27]

His knowledge, The Exalted, encompasses everything. He knows what happened, what will happen, what didn't happen, and what won't happen. He knows what the creation does and what they will do. He knows what's in the land and the sea. Not a leaf falls except that He knows of it.

﴿لَا يَعْزُبُ عَنْهُ﴾

*"Nothing escapes Him..."* [34:3]

Which means, nothing is absent from Him.

﴿مِمَّنْقَالٌ ذَرَّةً فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ﴾

*"...(not even) a single speck in the heavens and the earth..."* [34:3]

He knows that which is invisible and visible to us. He knows what the souls whisper [to themselves] and what the secrets that the hearts contain. He also knows what women carry in their wombs. No one possesses knowledge of the keys to the unseen except Him. All the creation's knowledge is like a droplet compared to His ocean-wide knowledge: their knowledge is only because of Allah's will. Once, a bird pecked [its beak] into the ocean. So, Al-Khadir said to Moses, may Allah's peace be upon both, **"My knowledge and your knowledge has not decreased Allah's**

**knowledge except as much as this bird decreased the water of the ocean with its beak.”** Agreed upon.

His hearing encompasses all sounds. They don't vary to Him, nor do they resemble one another. [Once], a woman complained to the Prophet, may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him, about her husband while 'Aishah, may Allah be pleased with her, was in the house. Yet, some of the woman's speech was inaudible to her, but Allah from above seven heavens heard her speech and sent down...

﴿قَدْ سَمِعَ اللَّهُ قَوْلَ الَّتِي تُجَادِلُكَ فِي زَوْجِهَا وَتَشْتَكِي إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ يَسْمَعُ تَحَاوُرَكُمَا﴾

*“Indeed, Allah has heard the statement of the one who disputes with you concerning her husband and complains to Allah.” [58:1]*

His vision also encompasses all seen things. The servants' actions in the darkness of the night are not invisible to Him. He sees and hears all their actions.

And because the creation is His creation, the rule belongs to him alone. He, The Exalted, said...

﴿إِن الْحُكْمُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ﴾

*“The command (or the judgement) is for none but Allah.” [12:40]*

His laws, boundaries, and legislations are the best laws: nothing can be better than them in legislation.

﴿وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الْحَاكِمِينَ﴾

*“And He is the Best of judges.” [7:87]*

He rules, and there is nothing that succeeds his ruling.

﴿وَلَا يَظْلِمُ رَبُّكَ أَحَدًا﴾

*“And your Lord doesn't wrong anyone.” [18:49]*

There is no one more merciful than Him. He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy and the best of them: He is more merciful than a mother is to her child. His mercy has encompassed everything. He, The Exalted, has 100 mercies. He sent down (only) one for the creation to show mercy with to one another and kept to himself ninety-nine.

He is Generous: there is no one more generous than Him. He loves

compassion and giving to His creation. He provides for them from above and below them. His favor is great. His treasures never run out.

﴿قُلْ مَنْ يَرْزُقُكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ﴾

“Say, ‘Who gives you provision from the heavens and the earth?’”  
[34:24]

His Hand is full, no cost diminishes It, and It is **“always giving by night and day.”** The Prophet, may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him, **“Haven’t you seen that which He has given since the creation of the heavens and the earth? Surely, nothing in His Hand is decreased.”** Agreed upon. He answers his servants’ prayers. He, The Exalted, said...

﴿وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ﴾

“And when My servants ask you about Me, then (tell them) I am indeed near (to them with My Knowledge). I respond to the invocations of the supplicant when he calls upon Me (without any mediator or intercessor).”  
[2:186]

Nothing is too much for Him to give. If the servants, the first and last of them, mankind, and jinn-kind were to stand in one place and ask Him, then He gave them what each of them asked for, that wouldn’t decrease anything that is with Him except what a needle would decrease if it were dipped into the ocean.

He, The Exalted, took it upon Himself to look after the provision of every creation, from man and jinn, [both] the Muslims among them and disbelievers.

﴿وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ رِزْقُهَا﴾

“And there is no living creature (that moves) in this earth except that its provision is upon Allah.” [11:6]

He is the best of all providers. He opened the doors of goodness to His servants. He exploited oceans, caused rivers to flow, yielded provision, and gave his servants many bounties without them ever asking for them. [On top of that], everything they asked Him for, He gave them. He offers His servants [the chance] to ask Him. He says every night, **“Who shall ask Me so I can give him?”** Agreed upon. Everything good is from Him.

﴿وَمَا بِكُمْ مِّن تَعْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ﴾

*“And whatever of blessings and good things you have, it is from Allah.”*  
[16:53]

He delivered to every creation his provision. He provided for the fetus in the womb of its mother, the ants in their sand hills, the birds in the air of the sky, and the fish in the depths of water.

﴿وَكَايْنٍ مِّن دَابَّةٍ لَا تَحْمِلُ رِزْقَهَا اللَّهُ يَرْزُقُهَا وَإِيَّاكُمْ﴾

*“And how plenty are the (moving) living creatures that can’t provide for themselves?! Allah provides for them and for you.”* [29:60]

(He is) near and answers. He becomes angry with he who doesn’t ask Him, and the deprived is the one who desires other than his Lord. No one is more patient with an insult he hears than Allah. They associate partners with Him, claim He has a son, yet He gives them good health and provides for them.

He, out of His favor and generosity, granted success to the people who obey Him, and rewarded them after His granting of His success. He is The Grateful: He rewards for a little and gives generously for many. One good deed to Him is multiplied tenfold up to many multiples, and He prepared for His servants in Paradise that which no eye has seen, nor any ear has heard, nor has anyone imagined in his mind. With that, He still asks to see if they’re pleased, **“Are you pleased?” So, they will reply, “How can we not be pleased while you’ve given us what you’ve never given anyone else from the creation?” So, He will say, “He shall give you something better than that.” They asked [again], “O Lord! What can be better than that?” So, He will say, “I make me pleasure with you permissible so I never become upset with you after that.”** Agreed upon.

He is Rich in of His own essence, Self-Sufficient. The creation goes to Him for their necessities. A Perfect Master: there is no emptiness to Him.

﴿لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ \* وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ﴾

*“He begets not, nor was He begotten. And there is none co-equal or comparable to Him.”* [112:3-4]

﴿مَا اتَّخَذَ صَاحِبَةً وَلَا وَلَدًا﴾

“And He hasn’t taken a wife nor a son.” [72:3]

﴿وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ شَرِيكٌ فِي الْمُلْكِ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ وَلِيٌّ مِنَ الذَّلِيلِ﴾

“And He has no partner in (His) Dominion, nor He is low to have a Wali (helper, protector, or supporter).” [17:111]

﴿وَمَا كَانَ مَعَهُ مِنْ إِلَهٍ﴾

“And there is not a single deity alongside Him.” [23:91]

He is never obeyed except by His favor, nor disobeyed expect with His knowledge. He is not in need of His creation: He stands by Himself, and everything stands because of Him and is needy of Him.

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمْ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ﴾

“O mankind! It is you who need Allah and Allah is Rich (i.e., free of all needs), Worthy of all praise.” [35:15]

The obedience of the obedient doesn’t benefit Him, nor does the disobedience of the disobedient harm Him. If both man and jinn were to be upon the most pious man’s heart, that wouldn’t increase his possession at all: and if they were to be upon the most wicked man’s heart, that wouldn’t decrease His possession at all. The servants could never be of His benefit to benefit Him, nor of His harm to harm Him.

He is The Ever-Living, The All-Sustaining, He is not swept by drowsiness nor sleep. He lowers justice and raises it. **“The actions of the night are raised to Him before the actions of the day and the actions of the day (are raised) before the actions of the night. His screen is light. If He were to unveil it, the Glory of His Face would burn that which His sight reaches.”**

He is Great, Magnificent, Compelling, Strong. Might is His *Izār* (i.e., a piece of clothing wrapped and fastened at the waist to form a lower garment), and His Authority is His *Ridā’* (i.e., a piece of clothing that is wrapped over and around the shoulders to form an upper garment). He is Strong, and He has no helper. He is Elevated, and there is no equivalent to Him. Everything will perish except His Face. He encompasses everything: no one encompasses Him.

﴿لَا تُدْرِكُهُ الْأَبْصَارُ وَهُوَ يُدْرِكُ الْأَبْصَارَ﴾

*“No vision perceives Him, and He perceives all visions.” [6:103]*

﴿وَالْأَرْضُ جَمِيعًا قَبْضَتُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَالسَّمَوَاتُ مَطْوِيَّاتٌ بِيَمِينِهِ﴾

*“The whole earth will be grasped by His Fist and the heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand.” [39:67]*

His intercession is not sought from anyone of His creation, and no one intercedes on His behalf except with His permission. His *Kursi* i.e., the place of His two feet, exceeds beyond the heavens and the earth, and **“the chair is nothing compared to the throne except like a metal ring thrown in the desert wasteland.”**

The thrown is the grandest of all creations. Those who carry it are angels: the distance between the earlobe of one of them and his shoulder is distance covered by a traveler in 700 years.

Allah is ascended above His thrown in a way that best fits His Glory and Majesty and He is in no need of the thrown and everything beneath it.

﴿تَكَادُ السَّمَوَاتُ يَتَفَطَّرْنَ مِنْ فَوْقِهِنَّ﴾

*“The heavens are almost split apart from above them.” [42:5]*

Meaning, they split apart out of fear from Allah’s greatness. When He speaks with the revelation the skies begin to tremble and shake because of Him, and the inhabitants of the skies are astounded and fall to Allah in prostration.

He is The First: there is no one before Him, and The Last: there is no one after Him. He is The Highest: there is nothing above Him, and The Nearest: there is nothing closer than Him. He is capable of all things and possess all strength. Nothing in the heaven and earth escapes His capability. His order is instant. Rather, He is closer. He has armies that no one knows of except Him. When the worldly affair is over, He shakes the earth, demolishes it, moves the mountains, and causes them to burst. With just one blow, the creation is frightened, and with another they’re struck, and with a third, they are resurrected for the gathering place.

He is Glorified, Holy, far from every flaw and deficiency. He has the highest perfection, and the most radiant beauty and excellence. He has no equal nor similitude, no namesake nor resemblance.

﴿لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ﴾

“There is nothing like Him and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.”  
[42:11]

**To proceed:**

**O Muslims!**

Is it not obligatory upon us to love our Lord whose attributes and actions are these? To praise and commend Him, and make our worship sincerely for Him?

Whoever knows Allah draws nearer, submits, and humbles (himself) to Him. He becomes comfortable and at ease with Him, and hopes for His reward, fears His punishment, leaves his needs up to Him, and trusts Him.

Whoever commends Allah, and is plentiful in praising Him, He will be raised. So, there is no one he loves to praise more than Allah. Because of that, He commended Himself. Whoever loves Allah and worships Him, then Allah will love him back, be pleased with him, and admit him into paradise.

**I seek refuge in Allah from Satan the outcast.**

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبُّكُمْ فَأَعْبُدُوهُ هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ﴾

“Surely, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him (Alone). This is the Straight Path.” [3:51]

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

### **O Muslims!**

Whoever associates with Allah other than Him from the creations, then he has belittled The Lord of the worlds and has thought bad of Him and has made someone other than Him equal to Him.

Polytheism (i.e., associating partners with Allah) nullifies all deeds and Allah doesn't forgive the polytheist, will never admit him into Paradise, and he will be in Hellfire forever. Polytheism is the worst thing to have ever afflicted the natural disposition, the worst corruption on earth, the origin of every test, and the gatherer of all illnesses. Its harm is massive, and its hazard is disastrous.

Sins are a severe calamity. They topple on a servant until he perishes, and it separates a person from his heart. The smaller a sin is seen the more serious it is in the eyes of Allah. So, don't look at how small the sin is but look at the greatness of the one you sinned against.

Know that Allah has ordered you all to send peace and blessings upon His Prophet...

## THE SERVANT'S KNOWLEDGE OF ALLAH<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise him, seek his assistance, and seek his forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves, and from our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, then there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, then there is no one who can guide him. I testify that there is no deity worthy of being worshipped except Allah, alone, without any partners, and I testify that our prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah –O Servants of Allah– the way He should be feared, for bliss is (only) in following the guidance (of Islam) and misery is in the approval of (ones) desires.

### **O Muslims!**

Allah created the creation to obey and submit to Him. Complete happiness lies in having the knowledge and faith in Allah. The servant's knowledge of Allah is the main foundation, which is obligatory upon every human being. It is the first thing in which the human will be questioned in his grave. Allah created the creation out of nothing, showered them with blessings and guaranteed them their sustenance. Allah says...

﴿وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ رِزْقُهَا﴾

*“And there is no living creature (that moves) in this earth except that its provision is upon Allah.” [11:6]*

He created the worlds after they were once nothing. Allah affirms...

﴿هَلْ أَتَى عَلَى الْإِنْسَانِ حِينٌ مِّنَ الدَّهْرِ لَمْ يَكُنْ شَيْئًا مَّذْكُورًا﴾

*“Has there not been over man a period of time, when he was nothing to be mentioned?” [76:1].*

Allah is inimitable in creation, sustenance, and management. Allah declares...

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of Safar 1426H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

﴿أَلَا لَهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالْأَمْرُ تَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾

*“Is it not His to create and to govern? Blessed be Allah, the Lord of the worlds!” [7:54]*

He is Unique in His Oneness, characterized by greatness and might. The bridles of all affairs lie in His hand. (He is) Strong, Powerful, and Superior, above His servants. He is not pleased to see His servants worshiping anyone other than Him. Allah says,

﴿إِنْ تَكْفُرُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَنِّي وَعَنْكُمْ وَلَا يَرْضَىٰ لِعِبَادِهِ الْكُفْرَ وَإِنْ تَشْكُرُوا يَرْضَهُ لَكُمْ﴾

*“If you disbelieve, know well that Allah has no need of you. Yet, He does not like disbelief for His servants. But if you are thankful, your thankfulness will please Him.” [39:7]*

Allah has placed in every creation a sign proving His Oneness. To increase the attachment of the heart with its Lord, there are two signs that constantly pass by us, reminding us of the oneness of Allah: a night that envelops and a day that as it appears. Both of which quickly pursue each other. Allah affirms...

﴿يُعِشِي اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ يَطْلُبُهُ حَثِيثًا﴾

*“He causes the night to cover the day and then the day swiftly pursues the night.” [7:54]*

The sun and the moon traveling in a precise path dazzles those who use their brains. One rises while the other sets; an organized course that doesn't skip ahead nor does it fall behind. Allah states...

﴿لَا الشَّمْسُ يَنْبَغِي لَهَا أَنْ تُدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ وَلَا اللَّيْلُ سَابِقُ النَّهَارِ وَكُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ﴾

*“Neither does it lie in the sun's power to overtake the moon, nor can the night outstrip the day. All glide along, each in its own orbit.” [36:40]*

A land which carries us and a sky that shades us. Both are indispensable for us. It is indeed a perfect creation and management from Allah, The Great Inventor. Allah says...

﴿هَذَا خَلْقُ اللَّهِ فَأَرُونِي مَاذَا خَلَقَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِ﴾

*“Such is Allah's creation. Show me, then, what any others, apart from*

*Allah, have created.” [31:11]*

A Muslim is honored to be a slave of The Controller of this great universe. Allah declares...

﴿قُلْ إِنِّي هَدَنِي رَبِّي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ﴾

*“Say As for me, my Lord has guided me to a straight path.” [6:161]*

A Muslim does not worship except the Lord of this universe and does not associate Him with anyone in any forms of worship. He takes refuge in Him during calamities and fears Him (both) secretly and openly. Allah states...

﴿وَإِن يَمَسُّسُكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ﴾

*“If Allah touches you with an affliction none can remove it except Him.” [10:107]*

A Muslim does not fear that the dead could harm him, nor does he expect kindness from him.

Fearing Allah alone is the command of reasoning, a safety in the heart and comfort for the soul. Whoever fears his Lord, no one will be able to terrify him; rather he will have a steady heart and will be at ease. Blessed is a soul who does not feel comfortable except with Allah. Allah says...

﴿فَلَا تَخَافُوهُمْ وَخَافُوا مِنِّي إِن كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ﴾

*“So, do not fear them; but fear Me, if you are believers.” [3:175]*

Abu Sulayman Al-Dārāni, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “Fear (of Allah) has never left a heart except that it was destroyed.”

The closest slaves to Allah are those who fear Allah the most. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“I am the most knowledgeable about Allah and the most God-fearing among them.”** Agreed upon. It is one of the requirements and obligations of faith, so whoever fears his Lord alone, the gates of Heaven are opened for him. Allah confirms...

﴿وَلِمَن خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ جَنَّاتٌ﴾

*“But for him who feared the standing of his Lord are two gardens.” [55:46]*

The people of knowledge said, "Allah does not combine two fears for his servant, so whoever fears him in this world will be safe on the Day of Resurrection and whoever is safe in this world and does not fear his Lord, He (Allah) will instill him with fear in the Hereafter." Be aware of your Lord and fear your Creator; you will be the happiest creation with Allah.

Do not expect from other than Allah the fulfillment of something you desire or safety from something dreadful such as, the removal of a disease, the healing of an ailment, or the requesting sustenance or the bringing of wellness. Let your hope be in Allah alone because the creation is bound to be weak, unable to bring benefit to themselves and repel harm, and they are even more unable to do that for others. No one has ever put their hope in other than Allah except that he disappointed him.

Therefore, don't attach your ambitions and hopes to other than Allah. If you do so, you will not gain anything but humiliation. Always hope for Allah's unlimited generosity and bounty. Hoping for that which is with Allah is a type of worship. In the heart's humbleness to Allah exists the one's pride, elevation in rank, and the fulfillment of wishes.

The soul's comfort is found in leaving its affairs up to its creator (Allah). Its attachment to its creator is increased when it remembers that The Lord is All-Knowing of its condition, Most Merciful with its matter, Omnipotent of relieving its harm. So, then why adhere to a creation who is unable to relieve harm and incapable to grant?! Your Lord suffices you in all your affairs and He takes it upon Himself to attend to them when you present your needs to Him and hand Him the reins of your affairs. Allah says...

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ﴾

*"Whoever puts his trust in Allah, then He will suffice for him." [65:3]*

The happy person is the one who yearns for the mercy of Allah, fears His punishment and is submissive while worshiping Him. These are the praiseworthy practices that the prophets' homes were characterized with. Allah says...

﴿إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُسْرِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَيَدْعُونَنَا رِعَبًا وَرَهَبًا وَكَانُوا لَنَا خَلِيعِينَ﴾

*"Indeed, they used to hasten to perform good deeds, and pray to Us with hope and fear; and used to weep before Us." [21:90]*

The messengers, peace be upon them, used to hasten in pursuit of that which is with Allah. Allah said to His Prophet, Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him...

﴿وَالِى رَّبِّكَ فَأَرْعَبْ﴾

*“And to your Lord direct [your] longing.” [94:8]*

The longing for Allah’s mercy and fear, which is piety, decreases according to the sins a person commits and it increases with the increase in faith. Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “When Allah wants something good for His slave, He guides him to exert his effort as much as possible in longing and fearing for Allah, for they are the two elements of success. So, based on the degree of fear and hope in the heart, success will be achieved.”

Fearing the creation is humiliation and disgrace. Whoever fears his creator lives with honor, enjoys a joyful life, and enlightens his insight thus becoming mindful. Allah says...

﴿سَيَذَكَّرُ مَنْ يَخْشَى﴾

*“He who fears [Allah] shall heed it.” [87:10]*

Likewise, is he who learns from exhortations and lessons. Allah reveals...

﴿إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَعِبْرَةً لِّمَنْ يَخْشَى﴾

*“Surely there is in this [event] a lesson for the God-fearing.” [79:26]*

And The Quran will be a means of happiness and a reminder for him. Allah expresses...

﴿مَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ لِتَشْقَى \* إِلَّا تَذَكْرَةً لِّمَنْ يَخْشَى﴾

*“We have not revealed the Quran to you [O Prophet] to cause you distress, but only as a reminder for those who fear [Allah].” [20:2-3]*

It also necessitates Allah’s forgiveness and His many favors. Allah states...

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ﴾

*“Verily! Those who fear their Lord, though they do not see Him, theirs*

*will be forgiveness and a great reward [i.e., Paradise].” [67:12]*

So, place your Lord in front of your eyes, and don't feel safe from His plan and the coming of His punishment. Do not fear other than Allah from interruption of sustenance, delay in recovery or solutions to misery. Allah affirms...

﴿فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَاخْشَوْنِي وَلَا تَمَنَّيْ عَلَيَّكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ﴾

*“So do not fear them, but fear Me, that I may complete My blessing on you and so that you may be guided.” [2:150]*

The servant is weak in of himself and is in a constant need of the assistance of His Lord, The Strong. By seeking His assistance, Majestic and Exalted is He, you are not in need of seeking assistance from the creation. Whoever strives to achieve a desired goal and does not seek Allah's help in obtaining it, all the paths leading to the goal will be closed and difficult for the individual. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said to Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with them both, **“O young man, I shall teach you some words [of advice]: Be mindful of Allah and Allah will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him in front of you. If you ask, then ask Allah [alone]; and if you seek help, then seek help from Allah [alone]”** Reported by Tirmidhi.

Seeking Allah's help is the epicenter of the religion (of Islam). Allah declares...

﴿إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ﴾

*“You [alone] we worship, and You [Alone] we ask for help [in all matters].” [1:5]*

All the prophets, peace be upon them, commanded their people to seek Allah's help, as Allah says about Moses, peace be upon him...

﴿قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ اسْتَغِيثُوا بِاللَّهِ وَأَصْبِرُوا﴾

*“Musa said to His people, ‘Seek Allah's help and be patient.’” [7:128]*

Shaykh al-Islam, may Allah have mercy on him, said “The religion (of Islam) is such that no assistance should be sought except from Allah.”

The completeness of the servant's affluence lies in his attachment to his

Lord. Among the favors of Allah over His servants is that whoever clings to Him, He provides aid for him. Sustenance is eased through Allah's obedience and assistance, and it increases with reliance and surrendering to Him. Allah says...

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا \* وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ﴾

*“And whoever fears Allah - He will make for him a way out. And will provide for him from where he does not expect.” [65:2-3]*

Life is full of failures and displeasures. He, the Glorified, said...

﴿لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي كَبَدٍ﴾

*“Indeed, We have created mankind in (constant) struggle.” [90:4]*

Every creature has enemies from the *jinn* and mankind with Satan, may Allah curse him, at the forefront. Allah affirms...

﴿إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا﴾

*“Surely Satan is an enemy for you. So, take him as an enemy.” [35:6]*

A slave can never have enough of seeking protection through Allah's honor, refuge from Him alone, and shelter under His protection from evil. Allah is described as having supreme authority and honor. He who seeks shelter in him will not be harmed by anyone and no harm will be closer to the servant, even if the causes for harm are near. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said **“Whoever stays at a place, he should say, “I seek refuge in the Perfect Words of Allah from the evil of what He created; nothing will do him any harm until he moves from that place.”** Reported by Muslim.

Al-Qurtubi, may Allah have mercy on him, said “Since I heard this news, I practiced it [regularly] and nothing harmed me until I left it and a scorpion stung me in a place known as *al-Mahdiyyah* during the night, so I thought about my actions, when suddenly I [realized that] I forgot to seek refuge [in Allah] with these words.”

The creation is prone to harm and his life can never be good and taking refuge in Him. Harms and benefits are all in Allah's Hand. Whoever seeks to harm you, their wish will not be fulfilled, unless Allah wills it. The

Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“If the nation were to gather together to harm you with anything, they would not harm you except with what Allah had already prescribed against you.”**

Reported by Tirmidhi. Allah commanded His Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, to seek refuge in the Creator of the dawn from the evil of all creation, from the evil of the darkening nights and the evil of the envier. He Who can remove this darkness from the universe, is also able to remove the fears of the seeker of refuge. Whosoever seeks Allah's protection and refuge in Him in every matter is indeed in a strong fortress, well protected from evil and cunning people. Our Only Protector in hard times is Almighty Allah.

There is no refuge from Allah's punishment except through Allah Himself. The one who seeks help from Allah uses the most specific supplication. It has always been the practice of Prophets peace be upon them and righteous people to seek Allah's help when facing a plot or striving against the course of difficult times. Allah says...

﴿إِذْ تَسْتَغِيثُونَ رَبَّكُمْ فَاسْتَجَابَ لَكُمْ أَنِّي مُمِدُّكُمْ بِأَلْفٍ مِّنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُرَدِّفِينَ﴾

*“When you were calling your Lord for help, so He responded to you [saying] I am going to support you with one thousand of the angels, one following the other.” [8:9]*

Allah, The Glorified, says...

﴿أَمَّن يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ﴾

*“Who is it Who heeds the prayers of the distressed when he calls out to Him?” [27:62]*

Whoever calls the dead, his call is not heard, and his needs are not taken care of. Allah affirms...

﴿وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ مَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِن قِطْمِيرٍ﴾

﴿إِن تَدْعُوهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُوا دُعَاءَكُمْ وَلَوْ سَمِعُوا مَا اسْتَجَابُوا لَكُمْ﴾

*“But those [idols] you invoke besides Him do not possess even the skin of a date pit. If you call upon them, they cannot hear your calls. And if they were to hear, they could not respond to you.” [35:13-14]*

If hardships befall you or distress becomes severe for you, then seek help from the All-Knower of the Unseen. Allah says...

﴿إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَنْ يَقُولَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ﴾

*“Whenever He wills a thing, He just commands it ‘Be’ and it is.”*  
[36:82]

Singling out Allah in [His creation of] the servants’ actions is purity in belief, joy that spreads within society, and tranquility in the souls.

### **I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ \* الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ فِرَاشًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَكُمْ ۗ فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾

*“O mankind, worship your Lord Who has created you as well as those before you so that you may be pious. The One Who has made the earth a resting-place for you, and the sky a canopy, and sent down water from the sky wherewith He brought forth fruits for your sustenance. Do not, then, set up equals to Allah when you know.”* [2:21-22]

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

The doors of happiness and goodness are opened with the heart's attachment to Allah. The doors of evil are closed with repentance and seeking forgiveness. A heart's health is attained by abandoning sins and the pleasures of the world are attained through the heart's attraction to Allah out of love for Him, fear from Him, and hope for His favors. The fear of Allah keeps you away from disobeying Him and having hope in Him will lead you to His obedience. His love will guide you directly to Him. Therefore, perform all your deeds sincerely for Allah in the best ways possible, both outwardly and internally with certainty that God is The Administer of all secrets and intentions, The All-Seeing and All-Knowing of what is hidden.

Know that Allah has commanded you to send peace and blessings upon his prophet...

## **THE MUSLIM'S *ʿAQĪDAH* (I.E., CREED)<sup>1</sup>**

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise Him, seek His assistance, and seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, there is no one who can guide him. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions) and hold on to Islam with *al-Urwat al-Wuthqá* (i.e., faith, the straight path, everything that necessitates Allah's pleasure) for whoever fears his Lord is saved, and whoever believes in Him will never receive any harm, and whoever has hope in Him will be blessed with that which was hoped for.

### **O Muslims:**

Surely, Islam is of utmost perfection. It's a religion inclusive of all beneficial things to mankind. It includes acts of worship, transactions, limitations, and punishments that allow one to thrive, groups as well, and protects society from chaos and turmoil. [It also has] what deters human souls and keeps them in check, so they don't commit atrocities and perform bad deeds. It raises mankind above wickedness and indecent character. There is no happiness for anyone in life except when he adheres to his religion. Good deeds are magnified, and their rewards become plenty when faith and sincerity is increased. The reward of actions is void when partners are associated (with Allah).

Surely, there were people among Quraysh who used to worship, perform hajj (pilgrimage) and umrah (lesser pilgrimage), give charity, maintain ties of kinship, honor the guest, and used to admit that Allah alone is one in creating and disposing. They used to sincerely worship Allah during adversity but take mediators between them and Allah whom they would call

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of Dhul Hijjah 1421H in the Prophet's Mosque peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

upon, offer sacrificial slaughters to them, make oaths to them, and seek sustenance from them, so they can intercede for them, claiming that they are closer to them than Allah. So, Allah sent Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allah be upon him], to revive for them the religion of their father Abraham, peace be upon him, and inform them that worship is the mere right of Allah, and that this action of theirs has spoiled all their worship. Then, he fought them so supplicating, slaughtering, making oaths, seeking sustenance, and all other types of worship are directed to Allah alone.

Requesting the cure of a sick one, forgiveness of sins, and other things that no one can do except Allah, shouldn't be requested except from Allah, glory be to Him. Graves and shrines are not pursued to supplicate and pray at. Graves are homes of the deceased: it's either bliss for them or hell.

One of the gravest sins is seeking help from them. Seeking help from a creation, which he can't do, is like a drowning person seeking help from a drowning person. No one ever had complete hope in a creation except that he was left disappointed with him. So, turn to Allah for He provides with or without a reason, without you expecting, and He is sufficient as a helper and supporter.

The expiration of associating partners with Allah is [true] monotheism (i.e., to single out Allah and declare His oneness in His lordship, worship, His beautiful names, and His perfect attributes). Good deeds remove bad deeds. Whoever has hope in other than his Lord that he fulfills his need and shifted the attachment of his heart to other than his creator, then he is living in a dream and is seeking the impossible.

Seeking the prevention of harm from other than Allah by the means of incantations or talismans is a connection [of oneself] to other than Allah. He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Surely, incantations, talismans, and love spells are association of partners with Allah.”** Reported by Ahmad. A talisman is an inanimate object: it doesn't repel a single thing from Allah's order, nor is it safe from flaws, nor can it prevent adversities, nor does it make aspirations come true. Whoever hangs it around the necks of children, women, or others, then Allah will decree that they entrust them, and He will abandon them. So, attach yourself to Allah, leave your needs up to Him, seek refuge in Him, and dedicate yourself to Allah, it will suffice your necessity and your chest will be at ease.

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ﴾

“Whoever puts his trust in Allah, then He will suffice him.” [65:3]

If Allah suffices His servant who entrusts Him, and guards Him, then no enemy will pursue him. Don’t make your trust in Allah a weakness nor your weakness a way of showing your trust in Allah.

Going to magicians and fortune tellers and believing in their superstitions, asking them about unseen events and the future, and requesting them to do *aş-şarf* (a type of magic practiced to split people apart) or *al-’atf* (a type of magic practiced to bring people together), or even being satisfied with it, [all of that] is a strike at belief, deficiency in trusting (Allah), tearing apart the written (fate), and dissatisfaction with the predestined. He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever visits a soothsayer or fortune-teller and believed in what he told him, then he has certainly disbelieved in that which was revealed to Muhammad.”** Reported by Ahmad.

Allah’s provision cannot be dragged by the commitment of one committed nor can it be repelled by a hater’s hate. Al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “When I knew that my provision would not be consumed by other than me, my heart was at rest.” Going to tricksters doesn’t speed the arrival of provision nor does it delay one’s lifespan. Al-Qurtubī, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “It is mandatory upon one who is capable of doing so, such as the advisor, and others to condemn them from magic and trickery as well as those whom they go to a harsh commandment.”

Safeguard your vows, even if you’re truthful, in magnification of the right of your Lord, and don’t swear except by a name from Allah’s names, or an attribute from His attributes. Don’t swear by other than Him, the Glorified and Exalted, such as (swearing by the Ka’bah i.e., the mosque in Makkah), or the Prophet, or promises, or saints.

And be certain with Allah’s divine decree, His creation and control, and be patient with His tests and rule. Submit to His command because this world is flooded with hardships and troubles and is naturally full of burdens and terrors. So, believe in the predestined event because believing in them is a pillar among the pillars of this religion. Not everything that is wished for is reached. Doors are opened and hopes are actualized by begging during

supplicating and facing entirely towards Allah.

It is upon the believer for his fear (from Allah and His punishment) and hope (in Allah and His reward) to be equal: if either one supersedes the other then the person will perish. If one's fear supersedes his hope, then he will fall victim to despair, and if one's hope supersedes his fear, then he falls victim to feeling a type of safety from Allah's plan. The fear (from Allah) that is commended is the one that keeps you away from His prohibitions.

If you don't find a sweetness in your heart when doing righteous actions, then accuse it, for Allah is Grateful. In this world there is a paradise that whoever doesn't enter, won't enter the paradise of the hereafter. The deprived one is he whose heart is veiled from his Lord, and the captive is the one who is held captive by his whims. Establishing prayer in Allah's houses with the Muslim congregations increases faith, illuminates the face, and keeps (one) away from prohibitions. Allah, the Exalted, said...

﴿وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ﴾

*“And establish prayer; establishing prayer prohibits (i.e., prevents) obscenity and evil deeds.” [29:45]*

Permissible food and drink are a sign of pure faith, a good way, and a means for prayers being responded to. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“O Sa'd! Purify your food, your prayer will be answered.”** By avoiding transactions containing interest or impermissible dealings you raise yourself and your souls purifies.

Make your interactions with others based on love and hate for Allah's sake. So, whoever searches for Allah's pleasure but is met with the people's anger, then Allah is sufficient for him over the people's anger.

Be cautious of oppression because oppression is multiplied darkness in the hereafter, and the prayer of the oppressed is answered, and his requests are made true. So, don't deprive others of their rights and don't fight against them. Oppression is not separate from abandoning a good deed nor doing a bad one. Allah, the Exalted, said...

﴿وَمَنْ يَظْلِمِ مِّنْكُمْ نَذِقْهُ عَذَابًا كَبِيرًا﴾

*“Whoever of you acts unjustly, then We will give Him a taste of a large*

*punishment.” [25:19]*

The intellectual one is he who busies himself with his own flaws instead of the flaws of others and diligently establishes obedience to his Lord. He who treads [a path] to Allah must have a motive that drives and elevates him as well as knowledge that provides him with insight and guides him. So, set out for Allah while witnessing [His] blessings and watching out for the soul’s flaws. Beware of threatening the Muslims’ honor by backbiting and slandering them. He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Surely, your blood, wealth, and honor are impermissible [and scared] amongst yourselves, like the sacredness of this day, month, and land of yours.”** Agreed upon.

Don’t let envy and desires be the cause of slandering because envy is the grimmest evil. A person is naturally inclined to love being higher than those other than him, but ridicule is directed to the one who acts upon his discontent with fate, or uprises to belittle the envied. So, hate that disparagement about yourselves, and with that, practice being pious because whoever is pious and remains patient, Allah makes that piety of benefit to him. Adorn yourself with elevated character. Be persistent in worship because an abundance of worship deflects [one from] showing off and seeking Allah’s assistance prevents [one from] arrogance. By enjoining good and condemning evil, trials are deflected as well as by avoiding minor and major sins. For surely, they degrade the heart and body, remove blessings, and form grudges. Satan beautifies the sin to a person, makes him forget its punishment, and points out [Allah’s] vast mercy, to make him fall in sin one after another, which weakens his journey to Allah and the abode of the afterlife. He sets up snares for a person and hopes for disasters. So, don’t follow his footsteps, don’t be late in fighting him, and perform plenty of good deeds for among the signs of a deed’s acceptance is doing another good deed after it.

### **I seek refuge in Allah from Satan the outcast.**

﴿وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَن سَبِيلِهِ  
ذَٰلِكُمْ وَصَّلَكُم بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ﴾

*“Indeed, that is My Path—perfectly straight. So, follow it and do not follow other ways, for they will separate you from His Way. This is what He has commanded you, so perhaps you will be conscious of Allah.” [6:153]*

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

### **To proceed: O Muslims!**

Surely, with life comes death, and surely, with this worldly life comes an afterlife. There is a recompense for everything and above everything there is an overseer. For every good deed, there is reward, and for every sin, there is punishment. Surely, every time-limit is prescribed. It's necessary that a peer is buried with you while he is alive, and you are buried with him while you're dead. If he's honorable, he will honor you, and if he's wicked, he will treat you poorly. Then, he will not be gathered but with you, and you won't be resurrected but with him. You will not be questioned but about him, so don't let him be but a righteous one. If he's righteous, you won't feel comfortable but with him: if he's bad, then you won't feel lonely but when around him. He is your actions!

So, perform many righteous deeds, be steadfast on your religion, and endure its strengthening. Avoid its prohibitions, fulfill its commandments, and hold on to your original religion and establish its requirements. Arm yourself with knowledge, faith, and righteous deeds, learn from lessons of calamities, and ponder the Quran for they are all truthful reports. Remember Allah throughout your entire life for there is no void in his remembrance nor expiration. Be plentiful in seeking forgiveness for [your] shortcomings and thank Allah for success.

Finally, send peace and blessings upon the best of Allah's creations, Muhammad, the son of Abdullah. For surely, Allah ordered you to send peace and blessings upon His Prophet...

## THINKING GOOD OF ALLAH<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise him, seek his assistance, and seek his forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves, and from our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, then there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, then there is no one who can guide him. I testify that there is no deity worthy of being worshipped except Allah, alone, without any partners, and I testify that our prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions) and hold on to Islam with *al-Urwat al-Wuthqá* (i.e., faith, the straight path, everything that necessitates Allah's pleasure).

Monotheism is Allah's right over His servants. He sent His messengers and revealed His books with the message of monotheism. Its true meaning is singling out Allah in worship. Worship is a collective term for everything which Allah loves and is pleased with from both inward and outward speech and actions. The heart has its own servitude, and its servitude is greater than that of the other parts of the body. The admittance of the actions of the heart as a part of faith is more adequate than the actions of the other parts of the body; For the establishment of faith in the heart immediately with knowledge is the main objective (of Islam). Outward actions are complementary to the heart, and they are never correct and accepted unless through actions of the heart. It is the soul and core of worship. If the outward deeds were devoid of it (i.e., the hearts actions), it would be like a dead body without a soul. The goodness of the whole body lies in the goodness of the heart. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“There is a piece of flesh in the body if it becomes good the whole body becomes good but if it gets spoiled the whole body gets spoiled and that is the heart.”** Agreed upon.

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of Rabī' II 1439H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

The servants and their deeds are distinguished by the righteousness of their hearts and that is where the Lord looks at His servants. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Allah does not look at your bodies, nor at your appearances, but He looks at your hearts and actions.”** Reported by Muslim.

Among the most emphasized actions of the heart is to have a good thought regarding Allah. It is one of the obligations of Islam and one of the rights and duties of monotheism. Its comprehensive meaning is every thought befitting the perfection of Allah’s Essence, His Names and Attributes. It is a branch that stems from (one’s) knowledge about Allah and knowing who He is. Its basis is knowing the vastness of Allah’s mercy, honor, kindness, power, knowledge, and good decisions. If that is known, then it will result in the servant thinking positively about his Lord and it must. Also, it may arise from witnessing some of Allah’s names and attributes.

Whoever upholds in his heart the truths of Allah’s names and attributes, he will indeed have a good thought that suits all His names and attributes, because every attribute has a unique way to be used in worship and a sense of assumption specific to it.

Allah’s Perfection, Majesty, Beauty, and Favors over His creation, requires a good thought of Him. For that, Allah commanded His slaves...

﴿وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ﴾

*“And do good. Indeed, Allah loves the doers of good.” [2:195]*

Sufyan Ath-Thawri, may Allah have mercy on him, said “Think good of Allah.” Our beloved messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, emphasized on thinking good of Allah before leaving this world because of its great status. Jābir ibn ‘Abdullāh, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that he heard the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, three days before he had died, say **“Let none of you die except that he thinks good of Allah.”** Reported by Muslim.

Allah has praised His humble servants for their good assumptions about Him and immediately gave them glad tidings by easing the act of worship and making it a means of assistance for them. Allah states...

﴿وَأَسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ وَإِنَّهَا لَكَبِيرَةٌ إِلَّا عَلَى الْخَاشِعِينَ \*

الَّذِينَ يَظُنُّونَ أَنَّهُمْ مُلْقُوا رَبَّهُمْ وَأَنَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ﴾

*“And seek assistance through patience and prayer, and most surely it is a challenging thing except for the humble ones, who know that they shall meet their Lord and that they shall return to Him.” [2:45-46]*

The messengers, peace be upon them, attained an elevated position in their knowledge about Allah, they entrusted their affairs to Him out of good thoughts of their Lord. Abraham, peace be upon him, left his wife Hagar and her son at the sacred house in Makkah. There was no one there at that time and there was no water at all. Then Ibrahim peace be upon him while departing from Makkah, Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, followed him saying, “O Abraham! Where are you going? Are you leaving us in this valley where there is no person whose company we may enjoy, nor is there anything?” She repeated that to him many times, but he did not look back at her. Then, she asked him, “Has Allah ordered you to do so?” He said, “Yes.” She said, “Then He will not neglect us.” Reported by Bukhari. The reward for her good thoughts of Allah was great. Blessed water sprung from the ground, and the house (i.e., The Ka‘bah) was constructed. So, her story lasted forever and Ismael, peace be upon him, became a Prophet of Allah from whose offspring came the final prophet and the leader of all messengers.

Jacob, peace be upon him, lost His two sons, so he remained patient and surrendered all His matters to Allah and exclaimed...

﴿إِنَّمَا أَشْكُوا بَنِي وَحُزْنِي إِلَى اللَّهِ﴾

*“I complain of my anguish and of my sorrow to Allah.” [12:86]*

His heart remained filled with thinking good of Allah and that He is the best Protector, and then said...

﴿عَسَى اللَّهُ أَنْ يَأْتِيَنِي بِهِمْ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

*“Maybe Allah will bring them [back] all to me [in the end]. For He is indeed All-Knowing, All-Wise.” [12:83]*

Jacob, peace be upon him, had commanded his children to think good of Allah and said...

﴿يَبْنَئِي أَذْهَبُوا فَتَحَسَّسُوا مِنْ يُوسُفَ وَأَخِيهِ وَلَا تَأْبَسُوا مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ

﴿إِنَّهُ لَا يَأْتِسُّ مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

*“O my sons, go and search for Yusuf and his brother, and do not lose hope in the mercy of Allah; indeed, none lose hope in the mercy of Allah except the disbelieving people.” [12:87]*

The children of Israel had been afflicted with a torment they couldn't handle torment, through this great trial the good faith in Allah had been the only hope and solution. Moses, peace be upon him, said to his people...

﴿أَسْتَعِينُوا بِاللَّهِ وَأَصْبِرُوا إِنَّ الْأَرْضَ لِلَّهِ يُورِثُهَا مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ﴾

*“Seek the help of Allah and patiently endure; indeed, the Owner of the earth is Allah—He appoints as its successor whomever He wills; and the final triumph is for the pious.” [7:128]*

The situation became extremely difficult for Moses and those with him. The sea was in front of them, and Pharaoh and his army was behind them. At that time...

﴿قَالَ أَصْحَابُ مُوسَى إِنَّا لَمُدْرَكُونَ﴾

*“Moses' companions cried out, ‘We're doomed!’” [26:61]*

The answer from the prophet *Al-Kalim* (i.e., Moses, the one whom Allah spoke to directly), peace be upon him, is a witness for his great confidence and good thoughts for His Lord, The All-Capable.

﴿قَالَ كَلَّا إِنَّ مَعِيَ رَبِّي سَيَهْدِينِ﴾

*“He said, ‘No! Indeed, with me is my Lord. He will guide me.’” [26:62]*

As a result, the revelation came with an unexpected message...

﴿فَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَضْرِبْ بِعَصَاكَ الْبَحْرَ فَانفَلَقَ فَكَانَ كُلُّ فِرْقٍ كَالطَّوْدِ الْعَظِيمِ \* وَأَزَلَّمْنَا ثُمَّ  
الْآخِرِينَ \* وَأَنْجَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ وَمَنْ مَعَهُ وَأَجْمَعِينَ \* ثُمَّ أَغْرَقْنَا الْآخِرِينَ﴾

*“So, We sent the divine revelation to Moses: ‘Strike the sea with your staff.’ Thereupon the sea parted; so, each part was like a huge mountain. We brought the others [the Pharaoh and his host] close to the same spot. And We saved Moses and all those who were with him. Then We drowned the others in the sea.” [26:63-66]*

The greatest of creation in servitude to Allah and thought good of Him is our Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. His people hurt him, so he

remained confident in Allah's promise and His support for the religion of Islam. The angel in charge of the mountains said to him, **“O Muhammad! If you wish, I will bring together *al-akhshabayn* (i.e., two large mountains that stand opposite to each other at the outskirts of Makkah) to crush them in between.”** Allah's messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, replied, **“No. I hope that Allah will let them beget children who will worship Allah Alone and not associate partners with Him.”** Agreed upon. During the most difficult and darkest of times, our Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, never lost hope in Allah and always thought good of Him. He was expelled from Makkah then took refuge in a cave when the disbelievers had followed Him. When they were around him, he said to his companion Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, reassuring him...

﴿لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا﴾

*“Do not worry. Allah is with us.” [9:40]*

Abu Bakr may Allah be pleased with him, said, “While we were in the cave, I said to the Prophet, ‘If one of them were to look down at his feet, then he would see us under his feet.’ In which he replied, **“O Abu Bakr! What do you think about two, the third of whom is Allah?”** Agreed upon.

Despite the harm, anguish and fighting that our Prophet, peace be upon him, faced from every direction, he was confident that this religion, Allah's religion (Islam) would reach the horizons throughout the ages.

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, **“This matter [Islam] will certainly reach every place touched by the night and day. Allah will not leave a house or residence, but that Allah will Cause it to enter this religion, by which the honorable will be honored, and the disgraceful will be disgraced. Be it by the honor of the honorable or the belittlement of the belittled.”** Reported by Ahmad. A bedouin took the [Prophet's] sword while he was asleep, unsheathed it and pointed it at the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. He said, **“I woke up and saw it in his hand. He said, ‘Who will protect you from me now?’ So, I said, ‘Allah, Allah, Allah.’”** So, he sat down and didn't strike me.” Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim. In another wording reported by Ahmad, “The sword fell from his hand.”

The Companions of the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) were the most certain creation in their good faith in Allah after the prophets, Allah clearly mentions their strong faith in the Quran...

﴿الَّذِينَ قَالَ لَهُمُ النَّاسُ إِنَّ النَّاسَ قَدَّ جَمَعُوا لَكُمْ فَآخَسَوْهُمْ  
فَزَادَهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَقَالُوا حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ﴾

*“Those to whom [at the time of the expedition of Badr al-Sughrâ] people said, People have assembled against you, so fear them. But this [threat of danger] increased their faith and they said, Allah is Sufficient for us, and He is an excellent Disposer of affairs.” [3:173]*

Ibn Ad- Daghinnah, came to Abu Bakr to convince him to perform his prayers secretly so that he can protect him from the harm of Quraysh, but the reply of Abu Bakr to him was great, “I release you from your pact to protect me, and I am pleased with the protection from Allah” Reported by Bukhari. Umar ibn al-Khattab may Allah be pleased with him said, “The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, ordered us to give charity and at the time I had some wealth. I said to myself, ‘Today I will outdo Abu Bakr, if ever there were a day to outdo him.’ I went with half of my wealth to the Prophet, and he said, **‘What have you left for your family?’** I said, ‘The same amount.’ Then, Abu Bakr came with everything he had. The Prophet said, **‘O Abu Bakr, what have you left for your family?’** Abu Bakr said, ‘Allah and his messenger.’ I said, ‘By Allah, I will never do better than Abu Bakr.’” Reported by Abu Dawud.

One time, the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, came to Khadijah, the lady of all women in the world, when the revelation was first revealed, and said, **“I fear that something may happen to me.”** She assuredly replied, “It can't be. Be happy. I swear by Allah that He would never humiliate you. By Allah, you join ties of kinship, you speak the truth, you bear people's burden, you help the destitute, you entertain guests, and you help against the trials which affect people” Agreed upon.

This was the path of the predecessors of Islam. Sufyan Ath-Thawri, may Allah have mercy on him said, “I would not like that the account for my good and bad deeds be given to my parents for judgment. Allah is better for me than my parents.” Among the supplications of Saeed bin Jubayr, one of the scholars of the past is, “O Allah, I ask You for sincere trust in you and a good thought about You.”

Among the jinns, are those who are righteous and sincere, thinking good of Allah, being certain in the power of Allah and His vast knowledge. Some of what they said is...

﴿وَأَنَّا ظَنَنَّا أَن لَّن نُّعْجِزَ اللَّهَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَن نُّعْجِزَهُ هَرَبًا﴾

*“And we have become certain that we will never cause failure to Allah upon earth, nor can we escape Him by flight.” [72:12]*

Among the servants of Allah who, if he swears by Him, will make him righteous, not simply to make an oath, but because of having good thoughts regarding Allah. The believer is as such that he always thinks good of His Lord. This is clear, mostly when he calls Allah and talks to him with confidence that He is near and never disappoints the one who calls Him.

Among the means of repentance being accepted is that the one repenting says positive thoughts about His Lord, as mentioned in a *Hadith Qudsi* to which Allah says, **“My servant committed a sin, and then remembered that he has a Lord Who forgives sins and takes to account (the sinner) for the sin. O servant, do what you like. I have granted you forgiveness.”** Agreed upon.

In hardship and difficulty, good thoughts in Allah become clear, and bad thoughts are revealed. In the Battle of Uhud, the people of faith were steadfast, and others thought wrongly of Allah—the thought of ignorance during the pre-Islamic era. In the Battle of Al-Ahzab there were many thoughts about Allah. Allah states about one group...

﴿هُنَالِكَ ابْتُلِيَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَزُلْزِلُوا زِلْزَالًا شَدِيدًا \*﴾

﴿وَإِذْ يَقُولُ الْمُنَافِقُونَ وَالَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ مَّا وَعَدَنَا اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ إِلَّا غُرُورًا﴾

*“There the believers were put to the test and were violently shaken. And [remember] when the hypocrites and those with sickness in their hearts said, Allah and His Messenger have promised us nothing but delusion.” [33:11-12]*

As for the companions of Allah’s messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon Him, they were certain that this hardship is a test from Allah which will be followed by victory and relief. Allah says about them...

﴿وَلَمَّا رَأَى الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الْأَحْزَابَ قَالُوا هَذَا مَا وَعَدَنَا اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَصَدَقَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ﴾

﴿وَمَا زَادَهُمْ إِلَّا إِيمَانًا وَتَسْلِيمًا﴾

*“As for the true believers, when they saw the invading confederates, they cried out ‘This is what Allah and His Messenger had promised us, and what Allah and His Messenger said was absolutely true.’ This only increased their faith and submission.” [33:22]*

The only way out of distress, anguish and worries is thinking good of Allah. As for the three who were left behind during the event of Al-Ahzab, the distress that had befallen them had not been lifted except through their good thoughts of Allah.

﴿وَعَلَى الثَّلَاثَةِ الَّذِينَ خُلِفُوا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا ضَاقَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَرْضُ بِمَا رَحُبَتْ وَضَاقَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ أَنفُسُهُمْ وَظَنُّوا أَن  
لَا مَلْجَأَ مِنَ اللَّهِ إِلَّا إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ تَابَ عَلَيْهِمْ لِيَتُوبُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾

*“And He also relented towards the three whose cases had been deferred. When the earth, for all its spaciousness, became constrained to them, and their own beings became a burden to them, and they realized that there was no refuge for them from Allah except in Him; He relented towards them that they may turn back to Him. Surely, it is Allah Who is Much Forgiving, Ever Merciful.” [9:118]*

Allah is All-Strong, The Capable, The Powerful. There is no victory for His slaves and His beloved ones without Him. It is from certainty to be confident in His victory. Allah affirms...

﴿إِن يَنْصُرْكُمُ اللَّهُ فَلَا غَالِبَ لَكُمْ وَإِن يَخْذُلْكُمْ فَمَن ذَا الَّذِي يَنْصُرُكُم مِّنْ بَعْدِهِ﴾

*“If Allah helps you, none can overcome you: If He forsakes you, who is there, after that, that can help you?” [3:160]*

The Most Merciful, The Extremely Merciful. The one who believes in Him, performs good deeds and hopes for His Mercy will indeed attain it. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, **“When Allah completed the creation, He decreed ...that it be written in His book [which is said to be Al-Lawḥ Al-Mahfūz i.e., The Preserved Tablets or it could be a separate book especially for this matter], which is (located) with Him above His throne: ‘Verily, my Mercy precedes my Anger.’”** Agreed upon. Whoever suffers from poverty, his good thought of Allah is an expansion and relief. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever suffers from poverty, and he beseeches the people for it, his poverty shall not end. And whoever**

**suffers from poverty, and he beseeches Allah for it, Allah will send provisions to him, sooner or later.”** Reported by Tirmidhi. Zubayr ibn al-Awwam, may Allah be pleased with him, said to his son Abdullah “My son, should you find yourself unable to pay any portion of my debt then beseech my Master for His help.” By Allah, I did not understand what he meant, and I asked, “Father, who is your Master?” He said: “Allah.” By Allah! I would never encounter a difficulty in paying off hi debt except that I would call out, “O Master of Az-Zubayr! Discharge his debt, and so He would discharge it.” Reported by Bukhari.

He, the Glorified, is endless in His forgiveness and giving. whoever thinks good of Him, whether it is His riches, generosity, or forgiveness, indeed Allah will give him what he asks. Our Lord, The Glorified comes down every night to the nearest Heaven during the last third of the night and says, **“Is there anyone to invoke Me, so that I may respond to invocation? Is there anyone to ask Me, so that I may grant him his request? Is there anyone seeking My forgiveness, so that I may forgive him?”** Agreed upon.

Allah’s Two Hands are Full, and **“its quantity is not affected by the continuous spending, day and night.”**

Allah is the One Who accepts repentance, He is happy with the repentance of the slaves. Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, stretches out His Hand during the night so that the people Who commit sins in the day can repent, and He stretches out His Hand during the day so that the people Who commit sins in the night can repent.

The time when the slave is in most need of thinking good about Allah is when his lifespan is up, gives farewell to his worldly life, and proceeds to His Lord.

The Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Let none of you die except that he thinks good of Allah.”** Reported by Muslim.

In this worship (i.e., thinking good of Allah), there is obedience to the command of Allah. The fulfillment of his servitude and for the servant from His Lord is that which he thought of Him. The Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said in a *Hadith Qudsi* where Allah states, **“I am as My servant thinks I am. I am with him when he makes mention of Me.”** Agreed upon.

Ibn Mas’ud, may Allah be pleased with him said, “No servant of Allah

thinks good of Allah, except that He, then gives him according to what he thought, because good is in His Hand.” When a slave is blessed with good thought of Allah, then, indeed Allah has already opened for him a great door of goodness in this religion of Islam. Ibn Mas’ud, may Allah be pleased with him, said “I swear upon He whom there is no deity worthy of worship except Him. There is no better gift given to a believer than thinking good of Allah.”

The actions of people are according to their good thoughts of their Lord. The believer thought good of Allah, so he did good, and the disbeliever thought ill of Allah, so he did bad. In this worship is the betterment of (one’s) Islam and perfection of (one’s) faith. It is one’s path to paradise. It’s a heartfelt worship that inherits trust and confidence in Allah. Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “Your trust in Allah matches the degree of your good thoughts about Him and your hope in Him.” Therefore, some scholars explain trusting Allah with thinking good of Allah. Thinking good of Allah calls you to put your trust in Him, because it is not conceivable to put your trust in the one whom you think badly of, nor with the one for whom you do not hope.

Among the effects of this worship is tranquility of the heart, turning to Allah and repenting to Him. Nothing can give more comfort to the heart after faith in Allah, therein is what calls a person to be optimistic. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“There are no infections nor an evil omen, and I like optimism.”** Agreed upon. Al-Halīmī, may Allah have mercy on him said, “Pessimism is to think bad of Allah and optimism is to think good of Allah.”

Thinking good of Allah leads a person towards generosity, courage, strength, and repentance. Abu Abdullah as-Saji, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “Whoever trusts Allah has gained his provision and it is the best provision with the best preparation.” Salamah ibn Dinar, may Allah have mercy on him, was asked, “O, Abu Hazim! What is your wealth?” He replied, “Trust in Allah, and despair of that which is in the hands of the people.”

He who has good thought about Allah becomes generous and spends his wealth generously While being certain in Allah’s words...

﴿وَمَا أَنْفَقْتُمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ فَهُوَ يُخْلِفُهُ﴾

*“Whatever thing you spend [in His cause]—He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers.” [34:39]*

Sulayman ad-Dārāni, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “Whoever trusts Allah for his sustenance, He increases his good manners, grants him wisdom, makes him generous in spending and decreases the whispers of the devil in his prayers.”

Such a person is straightforwardly hopeful in what is with Allah, trusting His promise, performing good deeds seeking His favors.

﴿وَمَا يَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَلَنْ يُكْفَرُوهُ﴾

*“And whatever good they do; nothing will be rejected of them.” [3:115]*

Allah treats His slaves according to their thoughts regarding Him. The type of ones’ reward is based on the type of ones’ action. The one with good thoughts concerning Allah will be rewarded with glad tidings while the one with negative thoughts will be in great regret among the losers, awaiting punishment. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, mentioned the statement of Allah in a *Hadith Qudsi*, **“I am just as My slave believes me to be, so let him think of me what he wills. If he thinks good of me, it will be his, and if he thinks bad of me, it will be his.”** Reported by Ahmad. If a servant keeps good thought regarding Allah, Allah will never disappoint him and on the day of Judgment Allah will give those who had good thoughts about Him their records in their right hands and they will happily say to others...

﴿هَآؤُمْ أَقْرَأُوا كِتَابِيَّ \* إِنِّي ظَنَنْتُ أَنِّي مُلْكٌ حِسَابِيَّ \* فَهُوَ فِي عَيْشَةٍ رَاضِيَةٍ \* فِي جَنَّةٍ عَالِيَةٍ﴾

*“Here! read my Record! Surely, I did believe that I shall meet my Account!’ He will live a pleasant life, in a lofty Paradise.” [69:19-22]*

### **To proceed, O Muslims:**

Allah is the Greatest, Most Powerful and Most Generous, when He wants something, He says to it, “Be” and it is. He promises to protect His book (i.e., the Quran)

and to support His religion (i.e., Islam). He has the good ending for those who are pious. He gives sustenance to whom He pleases without account and relieves the sufferings of those who seek refuge in Him.

Whoever increases his knowledge about Allah, his certainty in Allah

will increase, in contrast whoever thinks ill of Allah is, it's due to his ignorance of the perfection of Allah's names and attributes, and that is one of the characteristics of the people of ignorance. Allah says...

﴿يُظُنُّونَ بِاللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ ظَنَّ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ﴾

*“And they thought wrongly of Allah—the thought of ignorance.” [3:154]*

Among the fruits of believing in Allah's names and attributes is thinking good of Allah, relying on Him, and entrusting all matters to Him.

**I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿فَمَا ظَنُّكُمْ بِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾

*“What do you think of the Lord of the whole universe?” [37:87]*

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

### **O Muslims!**

The reality of thinking good of Allah is apparent in good deeds, it is relatively beneficial with kindness. Those who have good thoughts regarding their Lord are more obedient to Him. The more a person thinks good of his Lord, the better the better his actions become—and they must (get better). When the action of man becomes evil, his thoughts are also evil. Thinking good of Allah should lead a person towards obedience and a believer should not involve himself in sins just because he thinks good of his Lord. A good thought is beneficial only if it is accompanied with good deeds. Having a good thought about Allah and indulging in sins at the same time may not protect a person from Allah's punishment. The intention of a believer is reflected in his actions. If the good thought regarding Allah decreases in the heart of a person, he will somehow indulge himself in sins as an effect.

## NULLIFIERS OF *TAWHĪD* (I.E., MONOTHEISM)<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise him, seek his assistance, and seek his forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves, and from our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, then there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, then there is no one who can guide him. I testify that there is no deity worthy of being worshipped except Allah, alone, without any partners, and I testify that our prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger. May Allah’s abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### To proceed:

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions). He who fears His Lord will be saved, and he who neglects the remembrance of His Lord will fall.

### O Muslims!

The prosperity of the servant is in the perfection of his servitude to Allah. The reality of servitude is done with sincerity of work for Allah Alone and following the guidance of Muhammad peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. If a servant does an act in which he is not sincere to Allah, his work is for nothing. Allah says...

﴿وَقَدِمْنَا إِلَىٰ مَا عَمِلُوا مِنْ عَمَلٍ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ هَبَاءً مَّنثُورًا﴾

*“And We shall turn to whatever deeds they did (in this life), and We shall make such deeds as floating dust scattered about.” [25:23]*

If the servant is sincere in his work to Allah and does not follow the guidance of the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his work will be rejected. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“If anybody introduces a practice that is not from our way (of Islam), it is to be rejected.”** Reported by Muslim. And if the deed is in line with the Prophet’s guidance, with sincerity, it will be accepted and appreciated by Allah. Allah says...

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of Dhul Qa’dah 1426H in the Prophet’s Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلًا﴾

“As to those who believe and work righteous deeds, they have, for their abodes, the Gardens of Paradise.” [18:107]

Islam is based on negation and affirmation. A person’s Islam is not correct without them: disavowal all deities together and their people and affirmation of servitude to Allah alone. Allah says...

﴿فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انفصامَ لَهَا

وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ﴾

“The Right Way stands clearly distinguished from the wrong. Hence, he who rejects the evil ones and believes in Allah has indeed taken hold of al-Urwat al-Wuthqá (i.e., faith, the straight path, everything that necessitates Allah’s pleasure). And Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.” [2:256]

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“He who professes *lā ilāha illā Allah* and disbelieves in everything worshipped besides Allah, his property and blood become inviolable, and it is for Allah to call him to account.”** Agreed upon.

The greatest command in Islam is the command of monotheism and the greatest prohibition is its opposite. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was asked, “What is the greatest sin?” He replied, **“Attributing a partner to Allah, though He Alone has created you.”** Agreed upon. The call of all the messengers is unanimous to worship Allah Alone without associating any partners with Him. They also warned their people against all forms of polytheism and falling into its boundaries. Allah says...

﴿وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ﴾

“We sent a Messenger to every nation, saying: ‘Worship Allah and avoid the idols.’” [16:36]

Whoever consistently worships Allah the way He commands, He himself, as well as his wealth, offspring, and house will be safe. Also, he will be safe in his grave and on the Day of Gathering and Account. Allah, The Glorified, says...

﴿الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ الْأَمْنُ وَهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ﴾

*“Those who believe and confuse not their beliefs with wrong (i.e., polytheism)—are [truly] in security and are upon guidance.” [6:82]*

True monotheism purifies from sins, eradicates mistakes, and prevents (one from) entering the fire (of Hell). The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Allah has decreed that it is forbidden for Hellfire to everlastingly hold the one who testifies that no one is worthy of worship except Allah while searching for Allah’s Face.”** Agreed upon. Those who fulfill the obligatory and desirable monotheism will enter Paradise without being held accountable. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, has told us about their description. **“They are those who neither practice charm, nor take omens, nor do they cauterize, but they repose their trust in their Lord”** Agreed upon. Their hearts are attached to Allah and their hearts have entrusted to Him all their affairs.

The consequence of polytheism is extremely harmful. It causes all efforts to be in vain and angers Allah. He, The Exalted, says...

﴿وَلَقَدْ أَوْحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكَ لَئِن أَشْرَكْتَ لَيَحْبَطَنَّ عَمَلُكَ

وَلَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ﴾

*“Certainly, it has been revealed to you and to those [who have been] before you that if you ascribe a partner to Allah your works shall fail, and you shall surely be among the losers.” [39:65]*

The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Whoever dies while invoking other than Allah as an equal to Allah, will enter Hell [Fire].”** Reported by Bukhari. He will be in the hellfire forever, as Allah says...

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ ۖ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ مَنْ يَشَاءُ﴾

*“Indeed, Allah does not forgive association with Him, but He forgives what is less than that for whom He wills.” [4:116]*

Since the consequence of polytheism is complete destruction in this life and the hereafter, Abraham, peace be upon him, invoked Allah to protect him from polytheism. He, the Exalted, said...

﴿وَأَجْنِبْنِي وَبَنِيَّ أَنْ نَعْبُدَ الْأَصْنَامَ﴾

*“And keep me and my sons away from worshipping the idols.” [14:35]*

Ibrāhīm al-Taymi said, “Who is safe from polytheism after Abraham?!”

The best of what the preacher can call to is the declaration of monotheism and what it necessitates. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said Mu’adh ibn Jabal, may Allah be pleased with him, **“You are going to meet people from the people of the book (i.e., Jews and/or Christians), so let the first thing to which you invite them to be the testimony that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah.”** Agreed upon.

Whoever has invoked other than Allah has indeed been unjust to himself. Allah says...

﴿وَلَا تَدْعُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَلَا يَضُرُّكَ فَإِنْ فَعَلْتَ فَإِنَّكَ إِذَا مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ﴾

*“And do not call besides Allah on that which can neither benefit you nor harm you, for if you do then surely you will in that case be of the unjust.” [10:106]*

Whoever kneels at an idol or submits to a grave hoping for its benefit has asked for something impossible like someone who misunderstood a mirage for water. Allah says...

﴿وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّن يَدْعُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَنْ لَا يَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُمْ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَهُمْ عَنِ دُعَائِهِمْ غَفِلُونَ \* وَإِذَا حُشِرَ النَّاسُ كَانُوا لَهُمْ أَعْدَاءً وَكَانُوا بِعِبَادَتِهِمْ كَافِرِينَ﴾

*“Who is farther strayed from the right path than he who calls upon others than Allah that cannot answer his call till the Day of Resurrection, the while they are not even conscious that callers are calling upon them? When all human beings will be gathered together those who had been called upon will become the enemies to their votaries and will disown their worship.” [46:5-6]*

Invoking the dead for help and asking them to fulfill one’s needs is a call that is not heard and distress that is not relieved of. Allah says...

﴿وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ مَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِنْ قِطْمِيرٍ \* إِنْ تَدْعُوهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُوا دُعَاءَكُمْ وَلَوْ سَمِعُوا مَا اسْتَجَابُوا لَكُمْ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكْفُرُونَ بِشِرْكِكُمْ وَلَا يُنَبِّئُكَ مِثْلُ خَبِيرٍ﴾

*“But those [idols] you invoke besides Him do not possess even the skin of a date pit. If you call upon them, they cannot hear your calls. And if they were to hear, they could not respond to you. Then, on the Day of Resurrection, they will disapprove of your polytheism, and no one can inform you (O Prophet) like the All-Knowledgable.” [35:13-14]*

Exaggeration in the love for the dead and the pious ones causes people to become disbelievers and abandon their religion. The chosen one, peace and blessings be upon him warned us from such behavior with his statement, **“Beware of exaggeration in religious matters for those who came before you were doomed because of exaggeration in religious matters.”** Reported by Nasā’ī. The vilest of creation is he who sits at graves and called upon them for help besides Allah. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said to Umm Salamah, may Allah be pleased with her, **“Those are the people who, whenever a pious man dies amongst them, make a place of worship at his grave and then they make those pictures in it. Those are the worst creatures in the Sight of Allah.”** Agreed upon.

Magic extinguishes the light of faith and destroys (one’s Islam). Allah says...

﴿وَلَقَدْ عَلِمُوا لَمَنِ اشْتَرَاهُ مَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ خَلْقٍ﴾

*“...but the Children of Israel certainly knew that whoever purchased the magic would not have in the Hereafter any share...” [2:102]*

Consulting soothsayers is an act of corruption in Islam and lack of reasoning. Allah says...

﴿قُلْ لَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الْغَيْبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ﴾

*“No one in the heavens nor on earth know the unseen except Allah.” [27:65]*

The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever visits a soothsayer or fortune-teller and believed in what he told him, then he has certainly disbelieved in that which was revealed to Muhammad.”** Reported by Ahmad.

The wearing of amulets—such as rings, threads, shells, and the like—does not bring any benefit to the one who wears it except that it weakens his

trust in Allah. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, saw a man wearing a brass ring on his hand and said, **“How pitiful. What is this is?”** The man said, “It’s to protect me from weakness.” He said, **“Get rid of it, for it will only increase your weakness. If you die with it on, you will never succeed.”** Reported by Ahmad. Wearing an amulet is (a form of) associating partners with Allah. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever hangs up an amulet has indeed associated a partner with Allah.”** Reported by Ahmad. Whoever hangs up something (as an amulet) will be entrusted to it, and it will destroy him. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Whoever hangs up something (as an amulet) will be entrusted to it.”** Reported by Tirmidhi.

Blessings should never be sought from stones and trees, nor through them. They are merely among the creation of Allah; they can neither cause any harm nor benefit to anyone.

The spillage of blood through sacrificial slaughter of animals should not be made but for Allah, alone. Whoever sacrifices an animal for other than Allah falls into the filths of polytheism. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Allah curses the one who offers a sacrifice to anyone other than Allah.”** Reported by Muslim.

A vow is an act of worship that should not be made for other than Allah Alone. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Whoever has made a vow to obey Allah, He should obey Him and whoever has made a vow to disobey Allah, He should not disobey Him.”** Reported by Bukhari.

Whoever seeks refuge in Allah, He will protect him, and whoever resorts to something else, other than Allah, He will let him down. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“When anyone lands at a place, and then says, ‘I seek refuge in the Perfect Word of Allah from the evil of what He has created’ nothing would harm him until He leaves from his place.”** Reported by Muslim.

If the calamities and tragedies of time befall you, do not seek help from other than Allah, do not invoke other than Him, do not submit to the dead in his grave or the remains of his body in his tomb. Submit your request to the One in the heaven, it is there where prayers are answered.

﴿أَمَّنْ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَّرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ﴾

*“Is not He [Allah] Who responds to the distressed one, when he calls on Him.” [27:62]*

There is no escape from tests...

﴿أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا ءَامَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ﴾

*“Do the people think that they will be left to say, ‘We believe’ and they will not be tried?” [29:2]*

...and if a calamity befalls you, face it with consent and submission to the will of Allah. Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, says...

﴿وَمَنْ يُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ يَهْدِ قَلْبَهُ﴾

*“And whoever believes in Allah – He will guide his heart.” [64:11]*

‘Alqamah, “He is a person who, when a misfortune befalls him, knows that it is from Allah, therefore he submits himself to the will of Allah.”

Do not be angry with whatever calamity is written in your destiny as your anger will not remove it and beware of regretting the lack of caution before fate takes place and avoid the word (i.e., saying “if only I did such thing, or that thing etc.”) because it is from Satan. The Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Strive for what benefits you, seek help from Allah, and do not give up. If anything afflicts you, do not say, ‘If only I had done such and such things, such and such would have happened.’ Rather, say, ‘Allah decrees and what He wills He does,’ for (saying) ‘If only’ provides an opening for the work of the devil.”** Reported by Muslim.

Entrust all your affairs to Allah, for nothing will come to you of this world except that which has been written for you...

﴿قُلْ لَنْ يُصِيبَنَا إِلَّا مَا كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَنَا﴾

*“Say Nothing will happen to us except what Allah has decreed for us.” [9:51]*

Ubādat Ibn Samit may Allah be pleased with him said to his son, “O my son! You will never enjoy the taste of faith until you believe in the divine decree and know that what has come to you could not miss you and that what has missed you could not come to you.”

Relying on the causes with the heart and the limbs is an insult to the concept of monotheism, and the disruption of the cause is failure. Therefore,

it is obligatory to employ the permissible causes with the heart's attachment to Allah Alone.

By relying on Him, difficult things will be eased, provisions will unfold, and distress will be relieved.

To always feel safe from Allah's plan (for punishment) is arrogance. Allah says...

﴿أَفَأَمِنُوا مَكْرَ اللَّهِ فَلَا يَأْمَنُ مَكْرَ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ﴾

*“Did they then feel secure against the plan of Allah? No one can feel secure from the Plan of Allah, except those [doomed] to ruin!” [7:99]*

Losing hope in Allah's delete mercy is a despair. Allah says...

﴿قَالَ وَمَنْ يَقْنَطُ مِنْ رَحْمَةِ رَبِّهِ إِلَّا الضَّالُّونَ﴾

*“And who despairs of the mercy of his Lord except for those astray?” [15:56]*

Hope in Allah's mercy and fearing His punishment simultaneously while loving Him delete God is the means to keep a balanced relation with Him.

It is necessary to know that polytheism has hidden doors that Satan strives for the servants (of Allah) to enter through. The Messenger of Allah peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, “The thing I fear most for you is the hidden polytheism.” When he was asked about hidden polytheism, he replied, “It's showing off (of good deeds).” Reported by Ahmad. Showing off is a disease affecting those who perform good deeds. It spoils the deeds and angers Almighty Allah. It is more fearful to the righteous than the *Dajjal* (“Antichrist”). The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Shall I not tell you of that which I fear more for you than Dajjal?”** We said, “Yes.” He replied, **“Hidden polytheism: when a man stands to pray and makes it look good because he sees a man watching him.”** Reported by Ibn Majah.

A good deed is never meant for the adornment of this world. It is for Allah and is rewarded by Him alone. Whoever directs his heart with his righteous deed to the adornment of life, his work will be lost, and he will be a loser in the Hereafter. Allah says...

﴿مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا وَزِينَتَهَا نُوفِّ إِلَيْهِمْ أَعْمَلَهُمْ فِيهَا وَهُمْ فِيهَا لَا يُبْخَسُونَ﴾ \*

أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ لَيْسَ لَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ إِلَّا النَّارُ وَحَبِطَ مَا صَنَعُوا فِيهَا وَبِطُلٌ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٥﴾

*“Whosoever desires the life of the world and its glitter; to them We shall pay in full [the wages of] their deeds therein, and they will have no diminution therein. They are those for whom there is nothing in the Hereafter but Fire; and vain are the deeds they did therein. And of no effect is that which they used to do.” [11:15-16]*

There is no one more beloved to a Muslim than Allah, nor is there anyone more noble in his heart than Him, the Exalted. He is The Most Magnificent in his heart, and The Most Great to his soul. The who truly loves Him doesn't swear by anything other than Him. Swearing on other than Him, such as the *Ka bah*, the Prophet, a promise, or a saint, is a form of polytheism. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Whoever swears on something other than Allah has committed an act of disbelief or polytheism.”** Reported by Tirmidhi.

A lot of swearing denies the glorification of Allah in the hearts: so, keep your oath (i.e., solely for Allah), even if you are honest, as Allah says...

﴿وَأَحْفَظُوا أَيْمَانَكُمْ﴾

*“But keep to your oaths.” [5:89]*

Beware of it in your lying, for it is a false oath which is one of the biggest sins. Among the actions of glorifying Allah is to be pleased with the one who swears by Him—even if the listener is aware of the swearer's lie. The prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Do not make oaths by your forefathers. Whoever makes an oath by Allah, let him fulfil his oath, and if an oath is sworn for a person by Allah, let him accept it. Whoever is not content with Allah has nothing to do with Allah.”** Reported by ibn Majah.

Among the acts of venerating and honoring Allah is not to reject a person asking for something in the name of Allah. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“If anyone seeks protection in Allah's name, grant him protection; if anyone begs in Allah's name, give him something; if anyone gives you an invitation, accept it.”** Reported by Abu Dawud.

Criticizing time and its changing conditions - whether hot or cold—is a

harm (targeted at) the Lord of all worlds. The prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said that Allah says, **“The son of Adam injures me by cursing time, whereas I am time. Authority is in my hand. I alternate the night and the day.”** Reported by Bukhari.

For the sake of the religion (of Islam), the heavens and the earth have been established, Paradise and Hell have been prepared. Mockery of Islam or its rulings or its people who adhere to it expels the person from Islam. Allah says...

﴿وَلَيْنَ سَأَلْتَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ إِنَّمَا كُنَّا نَخُوضُ وَنَلْعَبُ ۗ قُلْ أَبِاللَّهِ وَعَآيَاتِهِ ۗ وَرَسُولِهِ ۗ كُنْتُمْ تَسْتَهْزِءُونَ \*  
لَا تَعْتَذِرُوا قَدْ كَفَرْتُمْ بَعْدَ إِيمَانِكُمْ﴾

*“If you question them, they will say: ‘We were only plunging and playing.’ Say: ‘Were you mocking Allah, His verses, and His Messenger? Do not make excuses. You have disbelieved after you believed.’” [9:65-66]*

Never think bod of Allah by thinking that you deserve more than you have been given, or that you despise a blessing in the hands of another person that Allah has granted him, for that is the thought of pre-Islamic ignorance, and everything is in Allah’s hands. Allah says...

﴿يُظُنُّونَ بِاللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ ظَنَّ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ يَقُولُونَ هَل لَّنَا مِنَ الْأَمْرِ مِن شَيْءٍ ۗ  
قُلْ إِنَّ الْأَمْرَ كُلَّهُ لِلَّهِ﴾

*“And they thought wrongly of Allah—the thought of ignorance. They said, ‘Have we any part in the affair?’ Say, ‘Indeed the affair belongs solely to Allah.’” [3:154]*

Image-making is a major sin, its owner is promised Hell. Allah’s Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“Every image-maker will enter Hell. For every image that he made, a soul will be given to it, and it (i.e., the image) will punish him in Hell.”** Agreed upon.

Value your Lord the way He should be valued, for He is the Greatest in His dominion, Elevated above His throne, and Wise in His legislations. Perform the five daily prayers that Allah has enjoined upon you on time. Beware of neglecting them, for they are the (main pillars) of Islam. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“The covenant that stands between us and them is the prayer; whoever**

**abandons it, he has certainly disbelieved.”** Reported by Tirmidhi. Turn to Allah in all your circumstances. In return, all your deeds will be rectified.

**I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ \*  
لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ۗ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ﴾

*“Say, Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds. He has no partner. And of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims.” [6:162-163]*

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

### O Muslims!

Islam is the most valuable thing you own, so protect your religion by keeping away from trials (that challenge your faith and lead you to your desires), for it seizes the heart and fills it with doubts and evils. Allah's Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Whoever looks into them, they will take him (away).”** Reported by Bukhari.

Lowering your gaze from (looking at) impermissible women is purification for the soul, obedience to Allah and elevation in ranks. Allah says...

﴿قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ذَٰلِكَ أَزْكَىٰ لَهُمْ﴾

*“Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: that is purer for them.” [24:30]*

The ornament of a woman is in her covering, her beauty is in her veil and her adornment is in her adherence to her religion. The women of the companions of the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, are examples to follow in *hijab*, covering and modesty. Allah says...

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلْبَابِهِنَّ﴾

ذَٰلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ فَلَا يُؤْذَيْنَ﴾

*“O Prophet! Tell thy wives and thy daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks close round them [when they go abroad] That will be better, that so they may be recognized and not annoyed.” [33:59]*

Listening to music is among the sins that darken the heart and prevent one from listening to the Quran. The Prophet said, **“From among my followers there will be some people who will consider illegal sexual**

**intercourse, the wearing of silk, the drinking of alcoholic drinks and the use of musical instruments, as lawful.”** Reported by Bukhari. The best thing that a servant hears is the Quran; the words of, The Lord of the worlds, in which there is light, guidance and healing.

*Halal* wealth (i.e., wealth earned through permissible means) is good for one’s religion, strength in one’s body, guidance for one’s children, a blessing in one’s provision, a means for accepted prayers, and an emulation of the prophets. Allah says...

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا الرُّسُلُ كُلُّوا مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَأَعْمَلُوا صَالِحًا﴾

*“O you Messengers! Eat of the things which are clean, good and pure and [thus] do good works.” [23:51]*

*Haram* Wealth (i.e., wealth earned through impermissible means) erases blessings, causes a lot of harm, its owner lives in guilt and his prayers are rejected.

Finally, know that Allah ordered you to send peace and blessings upon His prophet...

## ALLAH'S MOST BEAUTIFUL NAMES<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise him, seek his assistance, and seek his forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves, and from our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, then there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, then there is no one who can guide him. I testify that there is no deity worthy of being worshipped except Allah, alone, without any partners, and I testify that our prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions), for he who fears his Lord will be saved, and he who neglects Him will fall.

### **O Muslims!**

Having knowledge about Allah is one of the pillars of faith, as a matter of fact it is the source and the foundation of faith, and whatever comes after, follows the source. Having a conscious knowledge of Allah's Names and Attributes is better and indeed the most necessary knowledge the heart should acquire; the souls could attain, and the mind should comprehend. Ibn al-Qayyim said "The purest thing a person can acquire in this world is a conscious knowledge of Almighty Allah and His affection."

The whole Quran calls the people to search in the names, attributes, and actions of Allah. Shaykh al-Islam said, "The Noble Quran mentions the names, attributes and actions of Allah more than the mentioning of foods, drinks." Allah, the Merciful loves the person who loves to mention His attributes. The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, gave glad tidings to the one who would frequently recite *Sūrat Al-Ikhlāṣ* ("Chapter: *The Sincerity*") that Allah loves him. He said, **"Ask him for what reason does he do that?"** So, they asked him, and he answered, "Because it is the attribute of The Most Compassionate and I love to recite it." The Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **"Tell him that Allah loves him."** Agreed upon.

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Shawwāl 1426H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Allah's names are the most beautiful names, and His attributes are the most perfect.

﴿لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ﴾

“Nothing is like Him. And He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.” [42:11].

It is an obligation upon every Muslim to have a conscious knowledge about Allah's attributes and their respective meanings.

Our Lord, the Exalted and Glorified, is the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful. His mercy encompasses everything, and His mercy is His vastest attribute. He, peace and blessings be upon him, said, **“Allah, the Almighty, has one hundred mercies, of which He sent down one mercy among mankind, jinn, animals, and vermin. It is by this mercy that they show compassion towards each other and are merciful to each other; and it is by this mercy that the wild animal is affectionate towards its offspring, And He (Allah) postponed ninety-nine mercies, of which He will express mercy with to His servants on the Day of Resurrection.”** Agreed upon. No one exists except that he swings in Allah's Mercy. Every favor you see comes from Allah's Mercy and every affliction turned away (from you) is from the effects of Allah's mercy. Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “The written phrase, ‘My Mercy has preceded My Anger’ is like a promise from Allah for His creation. If it was not for Him, the creation would have been in a different situation.” The one who is closer to Allah is indeed more favorable for Allah's Mercy.

He, the Glorified, is *Al-Malik* (“The King”). He manages the affairs of His creation the way He wills. Nothing can move or stay idle without His knowledge and His wants. He is the One Who commands and prohibits. He honors and humiliates without any reluctance and justification. There is nothing that can render Allah incapable of honoring or humiliating whomever He wills. Entrust to Allah, The King, all your affairs. Indeed, all the reins lie in the hands of Allah. Trust Allah in all your affairs you will surely find Him closer to you.

He is *Al-Quddūs* (“The Holy”): free of flaws, described with perfect attributes. No deity is invoked along with Him nor is any saint called upon along with Him.

He is *As-Salām* (“The All-Perfect”): free of imperfections, deficiencies,

and error. All creation glorifies Allah beyond that...

﴿يُسَبِّحُ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ﴾

*“Whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is on the earth glorifies Allah.” [62:1]*

He is *Al-Mu'min* (“The Granter of Security”). It is He who secures His creation from all kinds of injustices and oppressions. Allah will never deprive them from their rights. Take provision along with you for the best provision is piety; All the good deeds are well protected, and their rewards are multiplied.

He is *Al-Muhaymin* (“The Overseer”). He is fully aware of all what they conceal in their hearts and what they keep hidden. He knows all, you will never feel secure from the plan of Allah if you disobey Him.

He is *Ash-Shahīd* (“The All-Witnessing”) over the speech and deeds of His slaves. Allah says...

﴿وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ﴾

*“Allah is not unaware of what you do.” [2:74].*

He is *Al-ʿAzīz* (“The All-Mighty”). He cannot be outpowered: His Might overpowers everything. All those who thought to be powerful succumbed to His might. All the hardships become easy for Him due to His power. When Allah decrees some order in heaven, His angels flutter their wings, in surrender to His commands like the sound of a chain hitting a smooth rock. Whoever approaches Allah through obedience is indeed honored. Allah says...

﴿مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعِزَّةَ فَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ جَمِيعًا﴾

*“Whoever desires honor, then to Allah belongs all honor.” [35:10]*

Whosoever rebels against Allah with his sins will be disgraced. Do not look at the sin, instead look at the One against whom you are sinning.

He is *Al-ʿAlī* (“The Exalted”), *Al-Aʿlā* (“The Most-High”).

﴿إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ وَالْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ﴾

*“To Him do good words go up, and righteous action uplifts them.” [35:10]*

He is *Al-Jabbār* (“The Compeller”). He made His creation surrender to Him and none can prevent Him from executing His will.

﴿إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَنْ يَقُولَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ﴾

“Verily, His command, when He intends [to evolve] a thing, is [only] that He says to it, ‘Be’ and it is.” [36:82]

He said to the sky and the earth...

﴿أَتَيْنَا طَوْعًا أَوْ كَرْهًا قَالَتَا أَتَيْنَا طَائِعِينَ﴾

“Come willingly or unwillingly. They both said, ‘We have come willingly.’” [41:11]

He is *Al-Kabīr* (“The Greatest”). Everything is beneath Him. Nothing is greater nor larger than Him.

﴿وَالْأَرْضُ جَمِيعًا قَبْضَتُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَالسَّمَاوَاتُ مَطْوِيَّاتٌ بِيَمِينِهِ﴾

“The earth all together shall be His handful on the Day of Resurrection, and the heavens shall be rolled up in His right hand.” [39:67]

**“Allah will put the heavens on one finger, the earths on one finger, the mountains and the trees on one finger, the water and dust on one finger and all other creatures on one finger.”** Agreed upon.

He is *Al-Mutakabbir* (“The Supreme”). None deserves to be supreme except Him, Alone. None is worthy of such attributes except Allah, Alone. Anyone who is arrogant from His creation will end up in the Hellfire. It is obligatory upon the slave to be humble, submissive towards his Lord and modest towards His slaves.

He is *Al-Khāliq* (“The Creator”): He brought into being all that exists. He invented the universe. Those who ponder His invention are amazed. He is also *Al-Khallāq* (“The Creator”): He perfected His creation without any imperfection and flaws.

﴿فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ﴾

“So blessed is Allah, the best of creators.” [23:14].

He is *Al-Bāri*’ (“The Originator”). He brought the creation into existence out of nothing; stars, sun, moon, and creatures all over the horizon.

﴿كُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ﴾

*“Each in its orbit.” [21:33]*

Those who ponder and reflect are amazed by His creation.

He is *Al-Muṣawwir* (“The Designer”). He designed His creation with different shapes and characteristics the way He wanted.

﴿فَمِنْهُمْ مَّن يَمْشِي عَلَىٰ بَطْنِهِۦ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّن يَمْشِي عَلَىٰ رِجْلَيْنِ

وَمِنْهُمْ مَّن يَمْشِي عَلَىٰ أَرْبَعٍ﴾

*“Among them are some that creep upon their bellies, and among them are some that walk on two feet, and among them are some that walk on four.” [24:45]*

He created humans in the best form as He declares...

﴿لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ﴾

*“Indeed, We created humans in the best form.” [95:4]*

He is *Al-Muṣawwir* (“The Designer”) and has made the production of pictures unlawful to His creation. He has also guaranteed a punishment for those who create pictures. “Allah’s messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, cursed the person who makes pictures.” Reported by Bukhari. He, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, also said, **“All Image-makers will be in Hell.”** Agreed upon.

He is *Al-Ghafūr* (“The All-Forgiving”), He wipes out the sins of His slaves who turn to Him whole-heartedly even if their sins have reached the maximum threshold. He had forgiven the sorcerers of pharaoh, their rebellion, their sorcery, and their fight against their Prophet peace be upon him Because of one prostration they made to Allah with sincere repentance. Allah says...

﴿وَإِنِّي لَغَفَّارٌ لِّمَن تَابَ وَءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا ثُمَّ اهْتَدَىٰ﴾

*“But I am truly Most Forgiving to whoever repents, believes, and does good, then persists on (true) guidance.” [20:82]*

He is *Al-Qahhār* (“The Subduer”). The whole creation is in His grip and under His dominion. He gives death to whomever He chooses whenever He wills. No matter how hard a person may try to complete an achievement,

nothing in the universe will take place without Allah's will.

He is *Al-Fattāh* ("The Opener"). He opens the doors of sustenance, mercy and means for His slaves. He also removes obstacles in their affairs and conditions.

He is *Al-Razzāq* ("The Provider"). He provides sustenance for His slaves from the heavens and the earth. Allah says...

﴿قُلْ مَنْ يَرْزُقُكُمْ مِّنَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ قُلِ اللَّهُ﴾

"Say, 'Who gives you the sustenance from the heavens and the earth?' Say, 'Allah.'" [34:24]

His sustenance reaches everything, there is no living creature on earth but is dependent on Allah for its sustenance. He provides sustenance to the embryos in the wombs of their mothers, to the beasts in the wastelands, to the birds in the highest nests and to the fish in depths of the seas.

He is *Al-Wahhāb* ("The Giver"). He gives whoever He wills what He wills. In His hands are the treasures of the heavens and earths. He granted the Prophets peace be upon them righteous offspring after they became extremely old.

Solomon, peace be upon him, asked his Lord, Allah, The Giver, to grant him a kingdom no one after him will have, to which, Allah granted him many signs and miracles, such as the wind, the jinn and flowing molten copper subjected to his command.

He is *Al-'Alīm* ("The All-Knowing"). He knows all that is hidden and what is kept secret. There are no words nor actions carried out by His slaves that could be kept hidden from Him. Allah says...

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ﴾

"Indeed, Allah has full knowledge of all things." [8:75]

He is *As-Samī'* ("The All-Hearing"). He hears all what is being said secretly and openly, what is announced and what is hidden. If you speak out loud, He hears it and if you speak secretly to your companion, He knows of it. He the Almighty even knows what you keep secret within your heart and mind.

He is *Al-Baṣīr* ("The All-Seeing"). He sees the secret of the affairs even if they are minuscule; not an atom's weight escapes him even if it is hidden. He sees in the darkness of the night, all that is under the soil, and He sees

through the murky waters in the depth of the oceans.

He is *Az-Zāhir* (“The Most-High”), *Al-Bāṭin* (“The Most-Near”). The footfalls of ants on the deaf rock in the darkest of nights are not hidden from Him. If you do something openly He sees it and if you do it privately, even in the most center part of your home, He still sees you. Allah says...

﴿إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَبِالْمُرْصَادِ﴾

“Your Lord is Ever Watchful (over them).” [89:14]

The one who knows that Allah is watching him will be ashamed to know that Allah is watching him committing a sin.

He is *Al-Ḥakīm* (“The All-Wise”). There is no deficiency or error in His judgment and legislation. No one has the right to revise His nor belittle them or open them for debate as Allah says...

﴿وَاللَّهُ يَحْكُمُ لَا مُعَقَّبَ لِحُكْمِهِ﴾

“[Where] Allah commands, there is none to put back His command.” [13:41]

Rather, it is obligatory upon everyone to acknowledge, comply and obey His rulings. He says...

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَحْكُمُ مَا يُرِيدُ﴾

“Verily, Allah decrees what He wants.” [5:1]

It is not suitable for His slaves to comply to any other legislation than Allah’s, which is pure and free from imperfection. It should be known that whoever makes fun of the religion and legislation of Allah, He, the Almighty will indeed disgrace him.

He is *Al-Laṭīf* (“The Most-Gentle”). He is kind to His slaves. He leads their sustenance to them while they do not realize it.

He is *Al-Khabīr* (“The All-Aware”) about the affairs of the slaves. Nothing is hidden from Him, He knows the essence of all matters. Allah says...

﴿فَسْأَلْ بِهِ خَبِيرًا﴾

“So ask about Him someone Who knows.” [25:59]

He is *Al-Ḥalīm* (“The Most Forbearing”). He does not hasten the punishment of His servants for their sins.

He does not withhold His bounties and favors from them because of their sins. They disobey Him but still He provides them with their sustenance. They sin but He grants them time to repent. They sin openly but He covers them up. Do not be misled by the generosity of Allah and His tolerance upon you as His punishment may fall on you. Allah says...

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا الْإِنْسَانُ مَا عَزَّكَ رَبِّكَ الْكَرِيمُ﴾

“O mankind, what has deceived you concerning your Lord, the Generous” (82:6).

He is *Al-ʿAzīm* (“The Magnificent”). When Allah reveals something, the heavens would intensely shiver and tremble out of fear of Allah. And when the inhabitants of the heavens hear what Allah has revealed, they are in shock and fall in prostration to Him.

He is *Ash-Shakūr* (“The Most Appreciative”). He rewards a lot for a small amount of work, and forgives many wrongdoings, so do not belittle any good deed, even if it is small, as rewards for the good deeds are always multiplied. Allah says...

﴿وَمَنْ يَقْتِرْفْ حَسَنَةً نَّزِدْ لَهُ فِيهَا حُسْنًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ﴾

“Whoever performs a good deed, We shall enhance its goodness for him. Indeed, Allah is all-forgiving, all-appreciative.” [42:23]

He is *Al-Hafīz* (“The Preserver”). He records the deeds of the servants and their sayings. Allah says...

﴿لَا يَضِلُّ رَبِّي وَلَا يَنْسَى﴾

“My Lord never errs, nor forgets.” [20:52]

He protects His servants from misfortune and affliction. He protected Jonah, peace be upon him, while he was in the belly of the whale within depths of the oceans. He protected Moses, peace be upon him, when he was a newborn in the sea. Trust Allah in protection of yourself and your children. No polytheistic incantations, amulets, or soothsayers.

He is *Al-Qawī* (“The All-Strong”). Nothing can render Allah incapable, He’s Strong when He seizes. Ibn Jarir, may Allah have mercy on him, said

“When Allah Seizes something in His Grip, He destroys it.” Allah commanded Gabriel, peace be upon him, to overturn a village engaged in obscene practices (Lot’s people). Gabriel, peace be upon him, rose above the village by the tip of his wing, then turned it over along with its inhabitants and made them an example to be considered through the coming centuries. Allah says...

﴿وَأَنكُمْ لَتَمُرُّونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مُّصْبِحِينَ \* وَبِاللَّيْلِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ﴾

“And surely you pass by [the ruin of] them in the morning, and at night. Do you still not understand?” [37:137-138]

And whoever ponders the strength of the One Whom he is disobeying will leave His disobedience.

He is *Ash-Shāfi* (“The Healer”). He Heals from diseases and ailments. Allah mentions Abraham in the Quran...

﴿وَإِذَا مَرَضْتُ فَهُوَ يَشْفِينِ﴾

“And when I am ill, it is He Who cures me.” [26:80]

Medications are merely a means for cure. The heart should not depend on them.

He is *Al-Mannān* (“The Beneficent”). He grants His slaves with His favors before they even ask for them. He is *Al-Muhsin* (“The Benevolent”). He abundantly bestowed the people with his kindness and grace.

He is *Al-Karīm* (“The Most Generous”). He gives generously, and there is no veil between Him and His creation. So, ask your Lord, the Most Generous, if He opens sustenance to His servant, no one can prevent Him. Allah says...

﴿مَا يَفْتَحُ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا مُمْسِكَ لَهَا﴾

“Whatever mercy Allah opens up for people, none can withhold it.” [35:2]

He is *Al-Hayī* (“The Shy”). **“If His slave asks Him a favor by raising his hands to Him, He is shy to leave him empty handed.”** Reported by Abu Dawud.

He is *Ar-Raqīb* (“The Watchful”). He does not neglect His creation, nor does He lose them.

﴿وَمَا كُنَّا عَنِ الْخَلْقِ غَافِلِينَ﴾

“*And We are never unaware of the creation.*” [23:17]

He is aware of what their conscience stores. Al-Hasan Al-Basri, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “May Allah have mercy on a servant who, whenever he commits himself to a task for the sake of Allah, he continues with it and if the task is for someone else, he delays it.” Make a pause at every task, if it is for Allah, then move ahead with it. If it is for other than Allah, then postpone it.

He is *Al-Wadūd* (“The Most Loving”). He shows love for his servants with His blessings by avoiding sins. Whoever leaves something for His sake, He gives him more (in return).

He loves His slaves dearly, He loves among them those Who repent sincerely, trust Him completely and are always patient.

He is *Al-Majīd* (“The Glorious”). He possesses all glory, commendation, and generous praise. There is no glory but His glory. Every glory for others is a gift and favor from Him.

He is *Al-Hamīd* (“The Praiseworthy”). He deserves to be praised for his actions. He is praised in both times of prosperity and adversity. His praise is among His best actions. The Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **“‘Alhamdulillah’ fills the scales, and both ‘subhanallah’ and ‘alhamdulillah’ fill that which is between heaven and earth.”** Reported by Muslim.

He is *Al-Ḥayy* (“the Ever-Living), *Al-Qayyūm* (“The Self-Subsisting). He says the affairs of all His creation. Allah declares...

﴿يَسْأَلُهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ هُوَ فِي شَأْنٍ﴾

“*All those in the heavens and the earth are dependent on Him. Every day he is (engaged) in some affair.*” [55:29]

He is *Al-Aḥad* (“The Unique”). He has always been One; no one has ever been with Him. He alone, possesses all the perfections without any partners.

He is *Aṣ-Ṣamad* (“The Self-Sufficient”). All the creation depends on Him for their needs, submit to Him their complaints, and turn to Him to end their misfortune.

He is *As-Sayyid* (“The Master”). He is the only refuge in times of adversity and distress.

He is *Al-Qadīr* (“The Capable”). He has complete power, ability, and complete sovereignty over everything. He said to the burning fire...

﴿كُونِي بَرْدًا وَسَلَامًا عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ﴾

“O fire! Be cool and peaceful for Abraham.” [21:69]

The command had been as He ordered. The fire became cool and peaceful. He had commanded a sea full of waves to be a dry road for Moses, peace be upon him, then, the sea came back to its perfect condition.

He is *Al-Barr* (“The Source of Goodness”). He treats His servants with kindness and sets their affairs straight. He is Kind to the obedient by multiplying their rewards and Benevolent to the one who has sinned and transgressed. Allah states...

﴿إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْبَرُّ الرَّحِيمُ﴾

“Surely, He alone is the Most Beneficent, the Ever Merciful.” (52:28).

He is *At-Tawwāb* (“The Acceptor of Repentance”). He does not reject the one who repents, whoever comes to him in the night or the day, He accepts him and loves him. Allah says...

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ﴾

“Surely, Allah loves those who are most repenting.” [2:222]

He is *Al-‘Afuww* (The All-Pardoning). No matter how transgressing a slave has been against himself by sinning, after forgiving, Allah forgives and pardons His servant.

He is *Ar-Ra’ūf* (“The Most-Kind”). He gives them their sustenance in abundance even if they disobey Him, out of compassion for them.

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِالنَّاسِ لَرَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ﴾

“Indeed Allah, to the people, is Kind and Merciful.” [22:65].

He is *Al-Ghanī* (“The Wealthy”). He has no need for His creation, His hand is full, and is not bothered with it no matter how much He gives.

He gives generously day and night. The Messenger of Allah peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said in a *Hadith Qudsi*, “**Allah says, ‘O My**

**slaves, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the *jinn* of you to stand in one place and make a request of Me, and were I to give everyone what he requested, that would not decrease what I have, any more than what a needle decreases of the sea if put into it.”** Reported by Muslim.

**To proceed: O Muslims!**

With His beautiful names, Allah is invoked, and with (both His beautiful names) and His lofty attributes, He is praised. Allah loves those who invoke Him and praise Him.

Those who are perfect in worshiping Allah are those who worship Him with His names and attributes. Allah's names are countless; among them are ninety-nine names, whoever memorizes them with comprehension and acts accordingly enters paradise.

**I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا وَذَرُوا الَّذِينَ يُلْحِدُونَ فِي أَسْمَائِهِ سَيُجْزَوْنَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾

*“And [all] the Most Beautiful Names belong to Allah, so call on Him by them, and leave [the company] of those who practice deviation concerning His names. They will be recompensed for what they used to do.” [7:180]*

May Allah bless me and you with the Magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

### **O Muslims!**

The key to the call of the messengers, peace be upon them, and the essence of their message is to know Allah with his names, attributes and actions. Knowing Allah and what He deserves of the Most Beautiful Names and Sublime Attributes necessitates reverence, admiration, fear, and love for Him, while having full confidence and satisfaction with His decree. The more a person is knowledgeable about Allah, the more adoration, appreciation and love he will have for Him in His heart.

Whoever knows the names and attributes of Allah knows with certainty that the misfortunes and trials that befall him hold many benefits that his knowledge cannot comprehend.

Allah loves those who uphold His Names and Attributes. As He is Generous, He loves the Generous from among His servants, He is Forbearing, He loves those who are tolerant, He is All-Knowing, He loves the scholars, He is appreciative, He loves those who are grateful.

Know that Allah has commanded you to send peace and blessings upon his prophet...

## ALLAH'S NAME *AL-HAKĪM* (THE ALL-WISE)<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise Him, seek His assistance, and seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, there is no one who can guide him. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared (by obeying his commandments and avoiding his prohibitions) and hold on to Islam with *al- Urwat al-Wuthqá* (i.e., faith, the straight path, everything that necessitates Allah's pleasure).

### **O Muslims!**

The natural dispositions witness that the universe has a Lord perfect in His essence and attributes, described with perfect, sublime, and beautiful attributes. To him belongs every praise, commendation, and laudation. Among [the ways of] magnifying Allah's greatness is affirming the attributes [that indicate] His perfection and His sublime adjectives.

There is a name among Allah's perfect names that appears in Allah's book more than ninety times. It appears connected (i.e., mentioned) with might, knowledge, awareness, vastness, repentance, and praise. There is not a single movement in the world nor a single rest except that its meaning exists within it. Among His names, The Glorified and Exalted, is *Al-Hakīm* i.e., The Most-Wise, [which means that] He places things in their [respective] places and positions them in their appropriate positions, in His order and creation. His Wisdom is supreme, making the minds incapable from ever comprehending its [true] essence and the tongues [of man] become fatigued from expressing it. Everything in the world glorified Him, The Exalted, with His Wisdom. He, the Exalted, said...

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of Shawwal 1441H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

﴿سَبَّحَ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

“Everything in the heavens and the earth and He is Al- ‘Azīz (The All-Mighty) Al-Ḥakīm (The All-Wise).” [57:1]

He, The Glorified and Exalted, is Wise; worshipped in the heavens and the earth.

﴿وَهُوَ الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاءِ إِلَهٌ وَفِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَهٌ وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْعَلِيمُ﴾

“He is the (only) deity (to be worshipped) in the heaven and the (only) deity (to be worshipped) in the earth and He is Al-Ḥakīm (The All-Wise) and Al- ‘Alīm (The All-Knowing).” [43:84]

He praised Himself because He is All-Wise. He said...

﴿الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْخَبِيرُ﴾

“All praise is due to Allah, the One Who, to Him, belongs everything in the heavens and the earth. And to Him is all praise in the Hereafter and He is Al-Ḥakīm (The All-Wise), Al-Khabīr (The All-Aware).” [34:1]

Allah commended His own essence [saying] that He possesses supreme authority and concluded the verse [saying] that He is All-Wise.

﴿وَلَهُ الْكِبْرِيَاءُ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

“And His (Alone) is the Majesty in the heavens and the earth, and He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.” [45:37]

He, The Glorified, has armies (angels) in the heavens and the earth He exploits them as He wills.

﴿وَلِلَّهِ جُنُودُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا﴾

“To Allah belongs the hosts of the heavens and the earth, and Allah is the All-Knowing, All-Wise.” [48:4]

Our Lord called upon Moses, peace be upon him, and informed him about His essence and told him He is Wise.

﴿يَمُوسَىٰ إِنَّهُ أَنَا اللَّهُ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

“O Moses! Verily it is I, Allah, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.” [27:9]

Allah praised His own book [informing] that it's from a Wise Lord who puts things in their due places and positions them in their due positions. As a result, it was a coherent book. Allah, The Glorified, said...

﴿كَتَبَ أَحْكَمَتْ آيَاتُهُ ثُمَّ فُصِّلَتْ مِنْ لَدُنْ حَكِيمٍ خَبِيرٍ﴾

*“(This is) a Book, the Verses whereof are perfected (in every sphere of knowledge), and then explained in detail from One (Allah) Who is All-Wise Well-Aware (of all things).” [11:1]*

With His Wisdom, The Glorified, He opens provision to the people and withholds it.

﴿مَا يَفْتَحِ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا مُمْسِكَ لَهَا  
وَمَا يُمْسِكُ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

*“Whatever mercy Allah opens up for people, none can withhold it. And whatever He withholds, none but Him can release it. For He is the All-Mighty, All-Wise.” [35:2]*

Angels admit their incapability and shortcoming in knowledge. They recognized Allah's knowledge and submitted to His command.

﴿قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

*“They (the angels) said: ‘Glory be to You; we have no knowledge except what you have taught us. Verily, it is You, the All-Knower, the All-Wise.’” [2:32]*

The carriers of the thrown and those around it pray for the believers that they receive forgiveness and blissful gardens, and they concluded their prayers with His name The All-Wise.

﴿رَبَّنَا وَأَدْخِلْهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ الَّتِي وَعَدْتَهُمْ وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ  
إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

*“Our Lord! Admit them into the Gardens of Eden which You have promised them, along with the righteous among their parents, spouses, and descendants. You (alone) are truly the All-Mighty, All-Wise.” [40:8]*

The revelation is what was revealed to the messengers from The Wise.

﴿كَذَٰلِكَ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكَ اللَّهُ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

“Like such, you (O Muhammad) are sent revelation, just like those before you, by Allah—the All-Mighty, All-Wise.” [42:3]

The Prophets used to pray to Allah that He makes their hopes and wishes come true with His name *Al-Ḥakīm*. Abraham, [peace be upon him] prayed to Allah using His name *Al-Ḥakīm* [asking] that He sends a prophet to us who will teach us the Quran and the religion.

﴿رَبَّنَا وَأَبْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْنَهُمْ آيَاتِكَ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ ۗ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

“Our Lord! Send from among them a messenger who will recite to them Your revelations, teach them the Book (i.e., the Quran) and wisdom (i.e., the Sunnah), and purify them. Indeed, You (alone) are the All-Mighty, All-Wise.” [2:129]

Abraham also abandoned his hometown, migrated to Allah, and said, “My Lord is Wise.”

﴿وَقَالَ إِنِّي مُهَاجِرٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّي إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

“He (i.e., Abraham) said: ‘I will emigrate for the sake of my Lord. Verily, He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.’” [29:26]

Abraham lived long but no child was born to him. So, the angels gave glad tidings to his wife of a child despite her being old and infertile. She was surprised from that, so the angels said to her, “Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.”

﴿قَالُوا كَذَٰلِكَ قَالَ رَبُّكَ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْعَلِيمُ﴾

“They replied, ‘Such has your Lord said. He is truly the All-Wise, All-Knowing.’” [51:30]

Jacob, peace be upon him, with his patience and waiting for relief after losing his son Joseph and his brother, affirmed Allah’s knowledge in the best time for the relief that he’d hoped for and was certain in Allah’s wisdom in preparing the means in relieving his sorrow. So, he turned to Allah with his hope and prayer using His name The All-Wise.

﴿فَصَبْرٌ جَمِيلٌ عَسَى اللَّهُ أَنْ يَأْتِيَنِي بِهِمْ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

*“So (for, there is only) beautiful patience! I trust Allah will return them all to me. Surely, He is the All-Knowing, All-Wise.” [12:83]*

After relieving the distress from the loss of Joseph, peace be upon him, and after a long time of trials and adversities he faced, he vocalized Allah’s grace and favor and affirmed Allah’s wisdom in that.

﴿وَقَدْ أَحْسَنَ بِي إِذْ أَخْرَجَنِي مِنَ السِّجْنِ وَجَاءَ بِكُمْ مِنَ الْبَدْوِ

مِنْ بَعْدِ أَنْ تَرَعَّ الشَّيْطَانُ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَ إِخْوَتِي إِنَّ رَبِّي لَطِيفٌ لِمَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

*“He was indeed good to me, when He took me out of the prison, and brought you (all here) out of the bedouin-life, after Satan had sown enmity between me and my brothers. Certainly, my Lord is the Most Kind to whom He wills. Truly, Only He is the All-Knowing, All-Wise.” [12:100]*

His name the All-Wise includes His wisdom in His creation and His commandment of both His religious wants (i.e., his commandments and legislations He wants for His servants) and worldly wants (i.e., the events he wants and decrees to happen in the world). Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “With might comes complete power, and with wisdom comes complete knowledge. With these two characteristics, Allah, The Glorified, rules with what he wills, orders, and prohibits, and rewards and punishes. These two characteristics are the source of the creation and command.

With His wisdom, The Glorified and Exalted, He created all the creations with the best order, and arranged them in the best arrangement. He perfected the management and proportion and gave every creation its appropriate design. Allah, The Exalted, said...

﴿أَعْطَى كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلْقَهُ ثُمَّ هَدَى﴾

*“(the One Who) gave everything its form, then guided it.” [20:50]*

Allah challenged the creation to find an imperfection and something of no use.

﴿فَارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ هَلْ تَرَى مِنْ فُطُورٍ \*﴾

﴿ثُمَّ ارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ كَرَّتَيْنِ يَنْقَلِبْ إِلَيْكَ الْبَصَرُ خَاسِئًا وَهُوَ حَسِيرٌ﴾

*“Then look again: ‘Can you see any rifts? Then look again and again—your sight will return frustrated and weary.’” [67:3-4]*

If all the minds of the creation were to come together to produce something equal to the creation of the Most Compassionate or even comes close to the beauty, order, and perfection that he put in the creations they would be incapable. For that, Allah ordered the creation to suffice [themselves] with pondering the wisdoms that Allah put in His creation and to look at some of the beauty and perfection that exists with them.

﴿قُلْ أَنْظَرُوا مَاذَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ﴾

*“Say: ‘Behold all that is in the heavens and the earth.’” [10:101]*

With His wisdom, The Glorified and Exalted, He informed His servants about His pure essence, Islam, and His commandments and prohibitions. With it, He also revealed His book and made it clear in it that He will accept our repentance and that there is no good in worldly matters except with the religion. Some of the predecessors said, “If His order and legislation did not consist of except His great wisdom that is the basis of [all] good and the most joyful pleasure it would be sufficient.”

He, Glory be to Him, is Wise in His order of the world. He tests His servants with displeasures to refine them and raise their ranks. The servant is ordered to have faith and be pleased with the Allah’s decrees and take the means necessary to prevent them from happening: [in doing such], He prevents Allah’s decrees with Allah’s decrees [because his mere taking of those means was also decreed by Allah]. That which he has no capability in preventing, such as the death of a loved one and so on, then it is upon him to be pleased, submit, and testify to Allah’s wisdom in His judgement, His justice in His verdict, His wisdom in that happening to him. (Likewise, it is upon him to testify) that whatever came his way, was never going to miss him, and that whatever missed him, was never going to come his way, and that that necessitates Allah’s justice and wisdom.

Allah, Mighty and Majestic is He, could sometimes make His wisdoms apparent to His servants. [For example], He informed that that the wisdom behind the revelation of the Quran was to consolidate the believers and that it’s a guidance and glad tidings for them. He said...

﴿قُلْ نَزَّلَهُ رُوحُ الْقُدُسِ مِنْ رَبِّكَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيُثَبِّتَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَهُدًى وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ﴾

“Say, ‘The spirit (i.e., Gabriel) has brought it down from your Lord with the truth to reassure the believers, and as a guide and good news for those who submit (to Allah).’” [16:102]

Also, He sent the messengers [and the wisdom behind that is] so not a single excuse remains with a person that he was ignorant of the religion.

﴿رُسُلًا مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ لِئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى اللَّهِ حُجَّةٌ بَعْدَ الرُّسُلِ﴾

“Messengers as bearers of good news as well as of warning in order that mankind should have no plea against Allah after the (coming of) Messengers.”

He informed that the wisdom behind testing people is so He can know the truthfulness of the believers and their patience. He said...

﴿أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا ءَامَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ \*﴾

﴿وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكٰذِبِينَ﴾

“Do people think that they will be left alone because they say, ‘We believe’ and will not be tested. We indeed tested those who were before them. Allah will certainly make (it) known (the truth of) those who are true and will certainly make (it) known (the falsehood of) those who are liars.” [29:2-3]

Because of a wisdom from Him, The Glorified, He concealed knowledge of the unseen from His creation and specified it for Himself. He said...

﴿عَلِيمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْخَبِيرُ﴾

“All-Knower of the unseen and the seen. He is the All-Wise, Well-Aware (of all things).” [6:73]

### **To proceed: O Muslims!**

Allah alone possesses the ability to create and command. He does in His world whatever He wills, and in His legislation, He rules with what He wants. There is no question about it, and there is no statement that defames it. Allah said...

﴿لَا يُسْئَلُ عَمَّا يَفْعَلُ وَهُمْ يُسْئَلُونَ﴾

*“He is not questioned about what He does, while they will be questioned.” [21:23]*

The servant is ordered to worship [Him] according to the meanings included in Allah's name: The All-Wise. If he was certain of Allah's wisdom in everything, he would experience delight in Allah's marvelous creation and His perfect making and he would ponder upon it. He would magnify Allah's legislation, be fearful of Him, The Exalted, shy away from his sins, and submit to His commandments and prohibitions. His joy would strengthen upon knowing that Allah guided him to this religion because of a wisdom He wanted for him, and that the Shariah came from an All-Wise to make people happy. If he was tested, he would be pleased with Allah's fate and decree and would give in to that fact that whatever Allah decrees for him consists of good.

﴿وَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ﴾

*“Perhaps you dislike something while it is good for you.” [2:216]*

He would also be certain in the fit that behind all of that is a wisdom he does not comprehend and that he fluctuates in Allah's favors for better or worse. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Amazing is the state of the believer! Everything that happens to him is good, and that isn't the case for anyone except the believer: if something good happens to him, he thanks [Allah] resulting in good for him, and if something bad happens to him, he remains patient, resulting in good for him.”** Reported by Muslim.

So be content in life with what Allah created and wanted religiously (i.e., his commandments and legislations He wants for His servants) and worldly (i.e., the events he wants and decrees to happen in the world) and leave your affairs up to The All-Wise, and as a result, He will give you more than what you hope for.

**I seek refuge in Allah from Satan the outcast.**

﴿شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُو الْعِلْمِ قَائِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ﴾

﴿لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

*“Allah bears witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Himself, and the angels, and those having knowledge (i.e., they also bear witness); (always) maintaining His creation in justice. None has the right to be worshipped except Him, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.” [3:18]*

May Allah bless me and you with the magnificent Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

### **O Muslims!**

Allah informed His servants with the greater meanings of his creation and command as opposed to their finer points, details, and what is concealed from the servants from the meanings of Allah's wisdom in His making, creativity, order, legislation, fate, and decree. It is sufficient for them to know that they include an exemplary wisdom, even if they don't know its details and that it is from the unseen knowledge that only Allah is aware of.

Know that Allah ordered you to send peace and blessings upon His prophet...

## THE LORD'S WRATH<sup>1</sup>

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise Him, seek His assistance, and seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and our bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, there is no one who can misguide him, and whoever He misguides, there is no one who can guide him. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, alone without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his companions.

### **To proceed:**

Fear Allah—O servants of Allah—the way he should be feared for he who fears his Lord is saved, and he who turns away from His remembrance has fallen.

### **O Muslims!**

Allah has made known to His creation that which came in His book and that which His messenger spoke of, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. He, The Exalted, possesses the ultimate example in His names and attributes. Pondering His attributes and worshipping through them is the way to His love and His Paradise, the path to dealing with Him and its fruits such as fear, hope, love, trust, and so on.

The *'Aqīdah* (creed) of this nation's predecessors is to affirm what was proclaimed by the Quran and the Sunnah relating to His names and attributes. Among Allah's attributes that necessitates fear caused by knowing and loving Him which brings one closer to Him and fear of His severe punishments, The Glorified and Exalted—is (His) wrath. Allah becomes angry and becomes pleased, but not like anyone else. Every one of His attributes has its effect on the creation. Among the effects of Allah's wrath is the general tests and punishments in this worldly life. Allah, The Exalted, said...

﴿وَمَنْ يَحْلِلْ عَلَيْهِ غَضَبِي فَقَدْ هَوَى﴾

*“And whoever My wrath befalls is certainly doomed.” [20:81]*

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered on Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of Dhul Qa 'dah 1440H in the Prophet's Mosque, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Which means, he has perished. Sufyān Bin 'Uyaynah, may Allah have mercy on him, said, "Allah's wrath is the one disease that has no cure."

Allah's anger could result in all a servant's actions being void. He, The Glorified, said...

﴿ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ اتَّبَعُوا مَا أَسْحَطَ اللَّهُ وَكَرَهُوا رِضْوَانَهُ فَأَحْبَطَ أَعْمَلَهُمْ﴾

*"That is because they followed that which angered Allah and hated that which pleased Him. So, He invalidated their deeds."* [47:28]

If Allah is angry with a nation, He seeks revenge on them. He said...

﴿فَلَمَّا آسَفُونَا﴾

*"So, when they angered Us..."* [43:55]

﴿أَنْتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ﴾

*"...We punished them."* [43:55]

Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said, "Punishment only comes to be because of the attribute of His wrath and Hellfire was not ignited except by His wrath."

He punishes nations with it and mentioned to us their account so we can beware of the sin they fell into. He, The Mighty and Majestic, said...

﴿ضُرِبَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الذِّلَّةُ أَيْنَ مَا تَفْتَفُوا إِلَّا بِحَبْلٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَحَبْلٍ مِنَ النَّاسِ وَبَاءُوا بِغَضَبٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ﴾

*"They will be stricken with disgrace wherever they go unless they are protected by a covenant with Allah or a treaty with the people. They have invited the displeasure of Allah."* [3:112]

One nation disbelieved in Allah's signs after they came to them so [in return] they earned wrath upon wrath. Allah's was angry with a nation, so He disfigured them. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **"Allah was angry with a tribe from the children of Israel, so he turned them into animals roaming the earth."** Reported by Muslim.

There was not a single prophet except that he warned his people from Allah's wrath. Moses, peace be upon him, said to his people...

﴿أَمْ أَرَدْتُمْ أَنْ يَحِلَّ عَلَيْكُمْ غَضَبٌ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ﴾

*"Or have you wished for wrath from your Lord to befall you."* [20:86]

Those who have sound dispositions fear it for themselves. Once, Zayd Bin ‘Amr Bin Nufayl set out before [the Prophet’s] prophethood to ask about religion. He met a Jewish scholar, so he asked him about his religion. So, he replied, “You can’t be a part of our religion until you take your share of Allah’s wrath.” Zayd said, “I’m not fleeing except from Allah’s wrath. I will never carry any share of Allah’s wrath. How can I do that?” Reported by Bukhari.

The Muslim flees to Allah in hope of His mercy and pleasure and fears His wrath and anger. Associating partners with Allah is the greatest thing that necessitates the Lord’s wrath and His punishment. He, The Exalted, said...

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا الْعِجْلَ سَيَنَالُهُمْ غَضَبٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَذَلَّةٌ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا﴾

*“Those who worshipped the calf will certainly be afflicted with Allah’s wrath as well as disgrace in the life of this world.” [7:152]*

Praying at graves or to them is a means of associating partners with Allah. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Allah’s wrath has intensified upon those who took their prophets’ graves as mosques.”** Reported by Malik. Whoever disputes Allah in His attributes is punished in contrary to his intention. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Allah’s wrath has intensified upon a person who names (himself) Malik al-Amlāk (i.e., The King of all things).”** Reported by Ahmad.

Allah is Generous. He loves for his servants to ask Him and becomes angry with he who is arrogant [thus doesn’t ask]. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“He who doesn’t ask Allah, then Allah becomes angry with him.”** Reported by Tirmidhi.

Allah doesn’t love disbelief and isn’t pleased with it. If a person commits it, He becomes angry with him. He, Mighty and Majestic is He, said...

﴿مَنْ شَرَحَ بِالْكَفْرِ صَدْرًا فَعَلَيْهِمْ غَضَبٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ﴾

*“Those who embrace disbelief wholeheartedly—they will be condemned by Allah and suffer a tremendous punishment.” [16:106]*

The correctness of a society relies on the correctness of their outward and inward [actions]. Whoever conceals evil and portrays himself as the opposite, then he has thought low of Allah and is met by His wrath. He, The Exalted, said...

﴿وَيُعَذِّبُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ وَالْمُشْرِكَاتِ الظَّالِمِينَ بِاللَّهِ ظَنَّ السَّوْءَ عَلَيْهِمْ دَائِرَةُ السَّوْءِ  
وَعَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَنَهُمْ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ جَهَنَّمَ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا﴾

*“And that He may punish the hypocritical men and women, and the polytheist men and women, who think evil thoughts about Allah: for them is a disgraceful torment. And the Anger of Allah is upon them, and He has cursed them and prepared Hell for them—and worst indeed is that destination.” [48:6]*

The messengers, peace be upon them, are the purest creation. Whoever harms them deserves the severest wrath from Allah. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Allah’s wrath has intensified upon a nation who caused the Prophet of Allah’s face to bleed.”** Reported by Bukhari. Amongst the most wicked of all creations is he who is killed by a prophet. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Allah’s wrath has intensified upon he who is killed by a prophet.”** Agreed upon.

He who angers Allah’s pious and righteous servants, then Allah becomes angry with him. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“If you angered them i.e., a group of the companions, then you’ve angered your Lord.”** Reported by Muslim.

To express distress (and displeasure with fate) during calamities doesn’t reject fate and the consequence of someone who does that is equal to his action. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Whoever becomes angry i.e., with fate, then for him shall be anger.”** Reported by Tirmidhi.

Turning away from Allah through speech or actions necessitates Allah’s punishment. He, The Glorified, said...

﴿وَالَّذِينَ يُحَاجُّونَ فِي اللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا اسْتُجِيبَ لَهُ حُجَّتُهُمْ دَاحِضَةً عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ  
وَعَلَيْهِمْ غَضَبٌ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ﴾

*“And those who dispute concerning Allah, after it has been accepted (by the people), their dispute is useless before their Lord and upon them is wrath, and for them will be a severe torment.” [42:16]*

Ibn ‘Abbās, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “They disputed with the believers after they answered to Allah and His messenger to turn them

away from guidance and were eager for *al-jāhiliyyah* (the pre-Islamic era of ignorance) to return.”

Whoever doesn't act upon what he knows then he is surely among those who earned Allah's wrath. They are those whom the believers were ordered to pray in every unit of prayer that Allah distances them (the believers) from their way.

Allah magnified the rights of both parents because of the greatness of their rank and made His pleasure based on their pleasure, and His anger based on their anger. Abdullah Bin Umar, may Allah be pleased with them both, said, “The Lord's pleasure is with the father's pleasure and the Lord's anger is with the father's anger.” Reported by Tirmidhi.

The Muslim blood is sacred. Whoever kills a Muslim earns Allah's wrath and His curse. He, The Mighty and Majestic, said...

﴿وَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمِدًا فَجَزَاءُؤُهُ جَهَنَّمُ خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَغَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَلَعَنَهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُ عَذَابًا عَظِيمًا﴾

*“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.” [4:93]*

The wealth of the Muslims is fortified. Whoever attacks the wealth of a Muslim person deserves severe punishment. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Whoever swears an oath in front of the judge i.e., intentionally, with the intention of taking a Muslim's wealth, and he knows he's lying, meets Allah while he's furiously angry.”** Agreed upon.

If a woman falsely claims that her husband slept with another woman then she remains in Allah's wrath. Allah, The Glorified, said...

﴿وَالْخَمِيْسَةَ أَنْ غَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهَا إِنْ كَانَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ﴾

*“And the fifth (testimony) should be that the Wrath of Allah be upon her if he (her husband) speaks the truth.” [24:9]*

Whoever assists an act of oppression, Allah becomes angry with him. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“Whoever assists a dispute out of oppression or supports an act of oppression, then he will remain in Allah's wrath until he stops.”** Reported by Ibn Mājah.

The tongue is the scale of the servants. A single word can lead to a servant's success or his ruin. He peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, **“It is likely that one of you says a word that Allah is angry with,**

**without thinking that it reaches the severity that it does, so Allah writes His wrath upon him until the day he meets Him.”** Reported by Tirmidhi.

Fleeing from the battleground when facing the enemy necessitates Allah's wrath. He, The Glorified, said...

﴿وَمَنْ يُؤَلِّمُ يَوْمَئِذٍ دُبْرَهُ إِلَّا مُتَحَرِّفًا لِقِتَالٍ أَوْ مُتَحَيِّرًا إِلَىٰ فِتْنَةٍ فَقَدْ بَاءَ بِغَضَبٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ  
وَمَا أُوْنُهُ جَهَنَّمَ وَيَتَّسَّ الْمَصِيرُ﴾

*“And whoever turns his back to them on such a day—unless it be a stratagem of war, or to retreat to a troop (of his own)—he indeed has drawn upon himself wrath from Allah. And his abode is Hell, and worst indeed is that destination!” [8:16]*

The right of Allah's blessings is to express gratitude. Ungratefulness and forgetting the one who blesses, his punishment is comes quickly. Allah, The Glorified, said...

﴿كُلُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ وَلَا تَطْغَوْا فِيهِ فَيَحِلَّ عَلَيْكُمْ غَضَبِي﴾

*“And eat from the good (lawful) things that We have provided you, and commit no transgression nor oppression therein, or else My Anger will justly befall you.” [20:81]*

Whoever does something that necessitates Allah's anger then it's required to hate him and it's impermissible to befriend him. Allah, The Exalted, said...

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَتَوَلَّوْا قَوْمًا غَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ﴾

*“O you who believe! Take not as friends the people who incurred the Wrath of Allah” [60:13]*

It is upon the servants to act for what comes after death and prepare for it for Allah's severest wrath upon the servants is at the gathering place (on Judgment Day). For this reason, prophets Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus will say in that great position, **“Today, my Lord is surely enraged like never before and no one after Him will be enraged like Him.”** Agreed upon.

**To proceed: O Muslims!**

Allah is strong and extremely powerful. He warned His servants from

His wrath. He, The Glorified, said...

﴿وَيُحَذِّرُكُمُ اللَّهُ نَفْسَهُ﴾

*“And Allah warns you from Himself.” [3:28]*

It is upon the servants to not be fooled by Allah’s tolerance with them. For Allah, if He becomes angry and permits the punishment then there is no return from what He decreed. If the servants commit sins and he was showered with blessings, then that is from Allah’s elicitation for them. He, The Glorified, said...

﴿وَأْمَلِي لَهُمْ إِنِّي كَيْدِي مَتِينٌ﴾

*“And I respite them; certainly, My Plan is strong.” [7:183]*

If the servants return to their Lord, then He opens the doors of repentance and goodness for them and is pleased with them.

### **I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.**

﴿أَفَمَنْ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانَ اللَّهِ كَمَنْ بَاءَ بِسَخَطٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَمَأْوِلُهُ جَهَنَّمُ وَيُسَّ الْمَصِيرُ﴾

*“Is the one who then follows the Allah’s pleasure like the one who brings Allah’s wrath upon himself? His abode is Hell, and worst, indeed is that destination!” [3:162]*

May Allah bless me and you with the great Quran.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praise belongs to Allah for his beneficence and to Him is all gratitude for His success and grace. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah to magnify his significance, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and Messenger. May Allah's abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions.

### O Muslims!

Obedience brings about the pleasure of The Most Compassionate and with it, a servant earns His mercy. He, The Exalted, said...

﴿وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَسَأَكْتُبُهَا لِلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ بِآيَاتِنَا يُؤْمِنُونَ﴾

*“But My mercy encompasses everything. I will ordain mercy for those who shun evil, pay alms-tax, and believe in Our revelations.” [7:156]*

Among the vastness of Allah's mercy is that it precedes His wrath. He, peace and blessings be upon him, said, **“Surely, Allah wrote before he created the creation, ‘Surely my mercy precedes my wrath.’ So, it is written with Him above the throne.”** Reported by Bukhari.

Seeking refuge from Allah's wrath prevents it with His permission, The Exalted. Among the supplications of the Prophet peace and blessings of Allah be upon him is, **“O Allah! I seek refuge in your pleasure from your wrath.”** Reported by Muslim. The clever Muslim hastens to earn Allah's pleasure and prevents himself from Allah's wrath.

Know that Allah ordered you to send peace and blessings upon His prophet...



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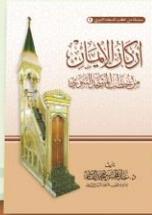
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