



The General Presidency for the Affairs of
the Grand Holy Mosque and the Prophet's Holy Mosque

Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University
College of Languages and Translation

[20-5-35 – B – Al-Budair]

المسجد النبوي

Thoughts on Good Company

His Eminence Sheikh Salah Al-Budair, may Allah preserve him, delivered the Friday *khutbah* entitled, “Thoughts on Good Company”, in which he talked about the company that one keeps and the importance of proper selection of friends, for a man is usually of the same religion as that of his close friend. He referred to many sayings attributed to the righteous predecessors concerning good and bad company.

Part One

Praise be to Allah. Praise be Allah, Who guides those who seek His guidance, safeguards those who fear Him, and protects those who seek His good pleasure. All praise is infinitely due to Him. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, Who has no partners, a testimony with which we hope to attain success and salvation; and I bear witness that our prophet and master, Muhammad, is His servant and messenger, His prophet and chosen one, His confidant and ally, and His favoured one with whom He was most pleased. May Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him and upon his family and Companions as long as people hope for Allah’s forgiveness and mercy.

O Muslims!

Fear Allah, for fear of Allah is the best of all gains and obedience to Him is the most honourable source of pride.

﴿O you who believe! Fear Allah (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him



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always], and die not except in a state of Islam [as Muslims (with complete submission to Allah)].﴾ (Al ‘Imran: 102)

O Muslims!

People are of different breeds, diverse types, and various natures and instincts. Each person leans towards those who are similar to him, inclines to those who are close to him in nature, and seeks the company of those who resemble him. Opposites cannot meet and equals do not part. Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “**Souls are like recruited troops; those who are of similar qualities are inclined to each other, but those who have dissimilar qualities, differ**” (Reported by Muslim).

Showing one’s affection to people is a form of generous giving, declaring one’s love for one’s brothers is a sign of good grace, and confining such love and affection to those who fear Allah is a mark of common sense. A truly sensible person is one who keeps company with the virtuous and spends time with honourable people; he does not make friends with strangers until he probes their inner nature and examines their deeds, for each individual is judged by the company he keeps and is marked by the traits of his friends. Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “**A man is of the same religion as that of his closest friend; so each one of you should consider whom he makes friends with**” (Reported by Abu-Dawud and At-Tirmidhi). The meaning of this *hadith* is that each one should think carefully about those he keeps company with; if he approves of their religion and moral character, then he can make friends with them. Otherwise, he should keep away from them, for characters are contagious of one another and bad company is bound to send one astray. Some of the best verses written on this are the following:

*Put people to the test if you seek their company,
Ponder on their affairs and dig deep into their character.*



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*Should you come upon a trustworthy, pious person,
Then with delight and reassurance hold fast to him.*

Al-Qarafi said, “Not everybody deserves to be a companion, a friend, or a confidant.”

*Keep company with men of faith to earn their friendship,
For one's character is acquired from one's company,
Like the wind that passes by, carrying anything on its way,
Be it foul-smelling or sweet-smelling.
Do not sit with the depraved,
For the traits of the foolish are infectious.
Keep company with the good, and you will emerge safe;
But if you keep company with the evil you will certainly regret it.*

Abu Hatim said, “Whoever keeps company with vicious people will never be safe, just as a person who treads the paths of evil will invite suspicion.” A Bedouin once said, “Keeping company with the despicable and the depraved downgrades one's esteem, lowers one's status, impairs one's speech, and causes humiliation.” Sharik ibn Abdullah said, “People used to say, ‘Do not travel with a disobedient person, for he may betray you for a meal or a drink.’”

Al-Khattab ibn Al-Mu'alla once advised his son saying, “Beware of keeping company with the evil, for they betray those who accompany them and cause grief to those who are truthful to them. Getting close to them is more contagious than mange, and rejecting them is a sign of common sense.” It was also said, “Good company is like shiny light while bad company is like contagious mange.”

Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “**The similitude of good company and bad**



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company is that of a musk seller and a blacksmith. The musk seller would either give you some musk for free, or you would buy some from him, or at least you would smell its pleasant scent. As for the blacksmith, he would either burn your clothes or you would smell the repugnant odour [emanating from his work]” (Agreed upon).

Therefore, avoid those who doubt the truth, reject those who are given to disobedience, keep away from those who are into immorality, and shun foolish people who neglect their duties. Such bad company has often given rise to numerous punishments, taken away many blessings, caused a lot of disasters, and led to countless afflictions.

﴿... and whoever takes *Shaitan* (Satan) as an intimate; then what a dreadful intimate he has!﴾ (An-Nisa’: 38)

As the poet said,

*And if you take a crow as a guide,
It will make you pass over dog carcasses.*

A man once asked a blind man to guide him, so the latter chanted the following verse:

*How can a blind man guide one endowed with eyesight!
Lost indeed are those who are guided by the blind!*

Those who seek the guidance of the misled, the disobedient, and the blind to the truth will bite at their hands on the Day of Judgement in bitter regret and deep remorse:

﴿And (remember) the Day when the *Zalim* (wrong-doer, oppressor, polytheist) will bite at his hands, he will say: “Oh! Would that I had taken a path with the Messenger (Muhammad, peace and blessings



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be upon him). Ah! Woe to me! Would that I had never taken so-and-so as a *Khalil* (an intimate friend)! He indeed led me astray from the Reminder (this Qur'an) after it had come to me. And *Shaitan* (Satan) is to man ever a deserter in the hour of need.﴾ (Al-Furqan: 27-29)

Successful indeed are those who understand the truth and follow it, and happy are those who seek to get closer to their Lord!



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Part Two

Praise be to Allah for His great favours, and all forms of gratitude are due to Him for His abundant bounties. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, Who has no partners, a testimony that we hope will keep us safe from His punishment; and I bear witness that our master and prophet, Muhammad, is His servant and messenger, the intercessor who will be granted permission by Allah to intercede on the Day of Reckoning. May Allah bestow His peace and blessings upon him and upon his family and Companions till the Day of Judgment.

O Muslims!

Fear Allah and be watchful of Him. Obey Him and never break His commands:

﴿O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him), he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise).﴾ (Al-Ahzab: 70-71)

O Muslims!

How excellent good company is, and what a beautiful adornment it is!

*By your life! A person's wealth is by no means a supply,
It is the trusted friends who make the true supply.*

Ibn As-Sammak was once asked, "Who is it amongst friends whose company is worthier of maintaining?" He said, "The one whose faith is strong, whose understanding is mature, who is not bored in your presence, and who does not forget about you in your absence. If you try to get closer to him, he lets you get close to him; if you keep away



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from him for any reason, he remains concerned about you; if you ask him for support, he supports you; and if you are in need of him, he comes to your help.” ‘Alqamah ibn Labid said in a piece of advice he gave to his son, “O son! If you ever need to have friends, then make friends with the one who adorns your character, who protects you if you do him a favour, who comes to your help when you are in need, and who praises you for your merits and covers your faults.”

O Muslims!

The best companions and friends are those whose sight reminds you of Allah, whose wisdom benefits you in your life, and whose advice and conduct help you in showing obedience to Allah.

﴿And keep yourself (O Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him) patiently with those who call on their Lord (i.e. your companions who remember their Lord with glorification, praising in prayers, etc., and other righteous deeds) morning and afternoon, seeking His Face; and let not your eyes overlook them, desiring the pomp and glitter of the life of the world; and obey not him whose heart We have made heedless of Our Remembrance, and follows his own lusts and whose affair (deeds) has been lost.﴾ (Al-Kahf: 28)

Remember the following verse revealed by Allah, the Protector, the Most Great in His Clear Book:

﴿Friends on that Day will be foes one to another except *Al-Muttaqun* (pious).﴾ (Az-Zukhruf: 67)

Ask Allah to bestow His peace and blessings on Prophet Ahmad, the guide and the intercessor for all mankind, for whoever invokes Allah to bless him once will be blessed for it by Allah ten times over.



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*To mankind he was sent as a mercy and was indeed merciful,
So ask Allah to bestow His peace and blessings upon him.*

O Allah! Bestow peace and blessings upon Your servant and messenger Muhammad. O Allah! Be pleased with the four Rightly-Guided Caliphs, whose way is to be followed, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali, along with all the Prophet's family and all his Companions, and with those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment, and also be pleased with us together with them, by Your grace, generosity, and benevolence, O Most Merciful of all the merciful!

O Allah! Grant power and glory to Islam and Muslims. O Allah! Grant power and glory to Islam and Muslims. O Allah! Grant power and glory to Islam and Muslims, subdue polytheism and the polytheists, and destroy the enemies of the religion. O Allah! Make this country and all other Muslim countries – and *all* other Muslim countries, and *all* other Muslim countries – safe, secure, and prosperous, O Most Merciful of all the merciful!

O Allah! Guide our imam and ruler, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, to what You love and accept, lead him to the way of righteousness and piety, and make good his retinue, O Most Generous! O Allah! Guide him and guide the Crown Prince to do that which gives power and glory to Islam and that which realizes the good of Muslims.

O Allah! Save us from rise in prices, plagues, usury, adultery, fornication, earthquakes, trials, and evil tribulations, apparent and hidden, in this country of ours and in all Muslim countries, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! We seek refuge in You from the stabs of enemies, from pestilence, from plagues, and from afflictions that strike our souls, our families, our property, or our children.



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O Allah! Grant victory, support, and assistance to our fellow Muslims in Palestine, Syria, and Burma, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Have mercy on our dead, cure the sick among us, relieve the distress of the afflicted among us, release our prisoners, and grant us victory over our enemies, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Answer our prayers. O Allah! Answer our prayers. O Allah! Answer our prayers and supplications. O All-Hearer! O Near! O Responsive!