



[16/12/1435 – A – Āl Ṭālib]

١٦-١٢-١٤٣٥-أ- آل طالب

A Pause for Meditation after Hajj

Khutbah Topic

His Eminence Sheikh Saleh Ibn Muhammad Āl Ṭālib –may Allah protect him– delivered this Friday Khutbah titled “**A Pause for Meditation after Hajj.**” He dealt with the code of conduct pilgrims will have to observe after performing hajj rituals. He equally exhorted his congregation to train themselves to regularly perform acts of worship proving obedience to Allah and to keep on doing pious deeds.

Part One

Praise be to Allah! Praise be to Allah for the completion of religious observances with ease. Expressions of gratitude are due to Him for perfecting religion and allocating favours. When He called His servants to perform hajj (pilgrimage) to His sanctified House, they massively responded to His call and came from the four corners of the world appealing for His forgiveness and seeking His benevolence. Unrelenting praise is therefore due to Him till it matches the number of pilgrims’ steps trodden on these sanctuaries, and gratitude is extended to Him until it pairs up with the overflow of tears shed by worshippers in awe of Him!

I bear witness that there is no deity except Allah, alone with no associate. He consented to make this Sanctified House a lighthouse for *tawheed* (monotheism) and a testimony that all creatures are His servants and therefore utterly dependent on Him for their subsistence. I also bear witness that Muhammad is the Servant, Messenger, and Select Creature of Allah. These Holy Sites were the cradle of his divine Message, these sanctified relics represent the inauguration of his call to Islam, and these locations witnessed the dawn of his prophethood. May Allah send His profuse *Salāt* (Graces, Honours, Mercy), Peace and Blessing upon his family and his Companions!

Now then, O Muslims, whether you are performing hajj or residing elsewhere in the rest of the world!

Do hold fast to *taqwa* vis-à-vis Allah (piety and fear of disobeying Him) and adhere to whatever pleases Him. Observance of *taqwa* is indeed the best advice ever provided, the noblest of provisions to be made (for the hereafter), and the unsurpassed deed to be



Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs
A Joint Project



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

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

performed cumulatively for one's future. It is through adhering to *taqwa* that further blessings can be made accessible, adversities can be neutralised, deeds and souls can be mended, and sins and misdeeds can be forgiven:

﴿O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allâh and fear Him, speak (always) the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allâh and His messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم), he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hellfire and will be admitted to Paradise.)﴾ [Al-Aḥzāb: 70-71]

O pilgrims to the Holy Mosque of Allah! O guests of the Al-Rahmān (the Compassionate)!

How lucky you really are! What great days you have been experiencing! What a blessed occasion you are celebrating these days! What resplendent landmarks have urged you to relent and then stand for meditation; so, you did stand in contemplation (on Mount *Arafah*)! How frequently such hallmarks have aroused your nostalgic attraction to the early exemplary generations of Muslims and moved you to tears!

You have, thank Allah, performed the fifth pillar of religion (i.e. hajj). Earlier, on this very holy site, Allah had once perfected religion:

﴿...This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islām as your religion...﴾ [Al-Mā'edah: 3]

It is in this location that Allah has bestowed upon you two blessings: the blessing of perfecting religion and that of perfecting your own religiosity. So, do acknowledge Allah's favours and appreciate the merits of such blessings.

These singular days have elapsed and delightful nights have passed, during which an influx of pilgrims swarmed into the Holy Sites, tears flooded, and the whole area reverberated with supplications, following those observing *Ihrām* (wearing the hajj special attire), those making *Talbiyah*¹, the humbleness of the pious (before Allah), the tears shed by those standing on *Mount Arafah* (during the 9th day of Thu-Al-Hijja), and the *hadi'y* (animal sacrifice) of those offering it to Allah (on the 10th day of Thu-l-Hijjah). All these rituals were covered by the forgiveness of the Most Compassionate.

¹ Those saying again and again: "*Labbayka Allāhumma Labbayk. Labbayka Lā Sharīka Laka Labbayk. Inna l-Ḥamda, Wa n-Ni'mata, Laka walMulk, Lā Sharīka Lak.*" ("I respond to Your Call, O Allah! I respond to Your Call. I respond to Your Call; there is no partner to You, I respond to Your Call. All praise and grace belong to You, and so does supreme authority. There is no partner to You.")



Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs
A Joint Project



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

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

You stood up on *Mount Arafah*, the *Arafah* of Allah; you visited *Muzdalifah*, performed circumambulation around the *Ancient Sanctuary of Allah*, and made *sa'y* (i.e. to and fro march) between (the small Mounts) *Safā* and *Marwah*. You moved from one holy site to another, tracing your itinerary between rituals and holy sanctuaries in quest for the awe-inspiring graces of the Lord. How many tears have been shed! How many supplications have been met with positive divine response! How many requests have been answered! How many faults have been forgiven! Indeed, you deserve congratulations for the completion of the hajj rituals! Rejoice at the divine promise of accepting your deeds, for Allah never breaches His promises.

O believers! Pilgrims to the Ancient House of Allah!

The accomplishment of hajj rituals is in itself a great blessing and its provider, Allah Almighty, deserves gratitude. So, profuse thanks are due to Allah for the visible and invisible blessings He bestowed upon us. Besides, let it be known to you –may Allah forgive my sins and yours– that the essence of thankfulness to Allah resides in obeying His commands, avoiding His prohibitions, showing Him constant gratitude, being on guard against whatever may cause afflictions to befall us or blessings to be retracted, and feeling bashful and humble vis-à-vis Allah whenever we remember His benevolence. Thus, gratitude manifests itself in words through gratefulness and praise, morally through showing adoration and submission, and physiologically through total compliance and obedience:

﴿So eat of the lawful and good food which Allâh has provided for you. And be grateful for the favour of Allah, if it is He Whom you worship.﴾ [Al-Nahl: 114]

Remember that the most substantial of Allah's commands is (untainted) *tawheed* and the most crucial of Allah's prohibitions is *shirk* (polytheism). Knowing that Allah has benevolently bestowed upon us the blessing of creation and livelihood, how can gratitude be shown to others and who can be worshipped except Him? In His glorious Holy Book, a verse reads:

﴿O Mankind! Remember the Grace of Allâh upon you! Is the any creator other than Allâh who provides for you from the sky (rain) and the earth? *Lâ ilâh illâ Huwa* (none has the right to be worshipped but he). How then are you turning away (from Him)?﴾ [Fâṭir: 3]

O honourable pilgrim!

The performance of hajj rituals has definitely enhanced your knowledge of Allah, reminded you of your accountability to Him, and revived in you the traits of His uncontested divinity (Glory Be to His Supreme Existence!). You have equally remembered that none is



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

worth worshipping except Allah, for He is the One and the Unique to whom the soul delivers itself subserviently and to Whom the believer orientates his/her inner self:

﴿Verily, I have turned my face towards Him Who has created the heavens and the earth Hanîfa (Islâmic Monotheism, i.e. worshipping none but Allâh alone), and I am not of Al-Mushrikûn.﴾ [Al-An'âm: 79]

Having established that, how can you accept the idea of diverting the duties incumbent upon you vis-à-vis Allah from Him to someone else, such as supplication, seeking assistance, searching the straight path, and consecrations (to Allah)? So, where is the positive impact of hajj on someone who, upon returning from pilgrimage, reverts to missing prayers (on time), refusing to pay *zakât*, dealing in usury and bribery, in total defiance of any divine command or proscription?

O Muslims! O scrupulous and pious worshippers!

Now that Allah Almighty has guided you towards winning His satisfaction and bestowed upon you the ease of exposure to His divine inspiration, do observe His commands and behave righteously. Each Muslim should beware of tainting his record after it has been cleansed of sins:

﴿And be not like her who undoes the thread which she has spun, after it has become strong, by taking your oaths as a means of deception among yourselves...﴾ [Al-Nahl: 92]

The best advice after observing *taqwa* is the one offered by Prophet Muhammad (May Allah's *Salât* and Peace be upon him) to Sufiyân –may Allah be pleased with him– when the latter said, “*O Messenger of Allah! Tell me something concerning Islam about which I will never ask anybody else.*” The Prophet said, “*Say ‘I have faith in Allah’, then adhere to the straight path.*” [Narrated by Imam Muslim]

Prophet Muhammad (May Allah's *Salât* and Peace be upon him) also said, “*The most appreciated deeds by Allah are those which persist in time however scanty they might be.*” [This *hadith* is agreed upon by *hadith* scholars]. In fact, he whose heart is in permanent contact with his Creator will receive from Him strength and constancy:

﴿...And whosoever puts his trust in Allâh, then He will suffice him...﴾ [Al-Talâq: 3]

Notwithstanding his adherence to the Straight Path, the Muslim is still vulnerable to error and neglectful behaviour. This is why Allah (Glory and Might be to Him) said:



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

﴿...Therefore take Straight Path to Him (with true faith – Islâmic monotheism) and obedience to Him, and seek forgiveness of Him...﴾
[Fuṣṣilat: 6]

This meaning is equally referred to in the authentic *hadith* reported by Imam Ahmed and Ibn Majah, in which Thawbān narrated that Prophet Muhammad (May Allah's *Salāt* and Peace be upon him) said, "**Hold fast to the Straight Path, though you can hardly attain it perfectly; and let it be known to you that the best of your deeds is prayer. Indeed, only a believer insists on preserving his wudhū (ablutions).**" In another version of this *hadith* reported by Imam Ahmed, "**Do your best to hit or approximate your target! Indeed, only a believer insists on preserving his wudhū (ablutions).**" In the two *Sahih* books (by Imam Muslim and Imam Bukhari), Prophet Muhammad (May Allah's *Salāt* and Peace be upon him) is reported to have said, "**Do your best to hit or approximate your target.**" Therefore, each person is supposed to hit the target, which is moral rectitude through following the Straight Path. But in case he fails to either hit or approximate the target, he will be considered as neglectful of his duties.

O honourable pilgrim!

How beautiful it would be if you returned home to join your family and homeland after hajj equipped with flawless morals, virtuous character, and commendable habits. You will adopt gallant behaviour with your spouse, children, and other family members. Your heart will be clean of any impure thoughts and you will be constantly in pursuit of truth, justice, and wise conduct. So, do stick to the Straight Path, carry on performing good deeds as the world where you reside is not eternal, and beware of hypocrisy. Many a great deed is minimised by the intention of its performer; and many a tiny deed is maximised by the intention of its performer. Let your hajj be the inauguration of a new age, a promising dawn, a rising sun, and rebirth for you:

﴿And worship your Lord until there comes unto you the certainty (i.e. death).﴾ [Al-Hijr: 99]

Commit yourself to *taqwa*, for it is the ultimate treasure and hope: ﴿It is neither their² meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is *taqwa* from you that reaches Him.﴾ [Al-Hajj: 37]

O servants of Allah! O Muslims wherever you are!

These blessed days have passed; nonetheless, a believer's life ever teems with virtue and benevolence. It is fertile soil for good deeds and obedience (to Allah Almighty). The longer a believer lives, the more credit he accumulates down the path of benevolence.

² In reference to the animals slaughtered as sacrifices on Eid day



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

Worshipping Allah is confined by neither time nor space, and the criterion for acceptance in this regard is the extent of integrity vis-à-vis Allah and pursuance of the guidance of His Messenger (May Allah's *Salat* and Peace be upon him). Allah's bounty is immense. You must realize that following a good deed with another is indeed a sign of acceptance (by Allah Almighty) and that changing for the better is a sign of acceptance of your hajj. Those whose records of deeds have been cleansed (by Almighty Allah) with forgiveness must never return to sinning, for a relapse is far worse than the initial ailment. Likewise, they must seek to increase their good deeds as this is a sign of acceptance as well.

May Allah Almighty accept your hajj and good endeavours, help you and us all relive these blessed days for many years to come and maintain for our Muslim *Ummah* its pride, dignity, righteousness and integrity!

May Allah bless you and me by the Great Qur'ān and the *sunnah* of the Master of all the messengers! May the Almighty benefit us with the verses and guidance they contain, and spare us the shame of tumbling from His Grace! I say this and I ask Almighty Allah to forgive me, you, and all Muslims for every sin and wrong-doing we have committed. Do ask Him for forgiveness and repent to Him, for our Lord is All-Forgiving and All-Merciful!



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

Part Two

All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the '*Alamin* (mankind, jinns and all that exists); the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful; the Only Owner (and the Only Ruling Judge) of the Day of Recompense (i.e. the Day of Resurrection). I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship but Allah alone, with no associate, the King, and the Manifest Truth. I also bear witness that Muhammad (May Allah's *Salat* and Peace be upon him) is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah send His *Salat* (Graces, Honours, and Mercy), Peace and Blessing upon him, his family and all his Companions!

Now then,

It is indeed worth-mentioning and praising that Almighty Allah has bestowed His care, protection, security and peace on the pilgrims to His Sacred House while the rest of the world is experiencing unrest in addition to the wars breaking out in various regions. Certainly, we are not immune to the envious and aggressors. However, Allah Almighty has bestowed on us His kindness, security, protection, well-being, and graces, inward and outward. He has made for this country a truthful guardianship capable of protecting it and its people.

﴿Have they not seen that We have made (Makkah) a secure sanctuary, and that men are being snatched away from all around them?﴾ [Al-Ankabūt: 67]

Therefore, all praise and all thanks are due to Allah (for the bounties and blessings He has bestowed on this holy land)!

O servants of Allah!

Your Lord (May He be Extolled) says:

﴿So when you have accomplished your *Manasik* [(i.e. *Ihrâm*, *Tawâf* of the Ka'bah and *As-Safâ* and *Al-Marwah*), stay at 'Arafât, Muzdalifah and Mina, *Ramy* of *Jamarât*, (stoning of the specified pillars in *Mina*) slaughtering of *Hady* (animal, etc.)]. Remember Allâh as you remember your forefathers or with a far more remembrance. But of mankind there are some who say: "Our Lord! Give us (Your Bounties) in this world!" and for such there will be no portion in the Hereafter. And of them there are some who say: "Our Lord! Give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire!" For them there will be allotted a share for what they have earned. And Allâh is Swift at reckoning.﴾ [Al-Baqarah: 200-202]



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

Therefore, you are called upon to observe the remembrance, praise, and supplication of Allah (May He be extolled). Prior to returning home every pilgrim must carry out the farewell *tawāf* (circumambulation of the *Ka'bah*) with no obligation to perform *sa'y* or shave one's head. It is worth-mentioning here that menstruating female pilgrims may not perform such *tawāf*. May Allah accept our hajj and yours!

This being said, do ask Allah Almighty to send His pure *Salats* and everlasting Peace on the most honourable of His creatures, Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of all His Prophets, on his good and pure family, and his magnanimous and auspicious Companions. O Allah! Be content with his rightly guided caliphs: Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman, and Ali and on all the Companions of Your Prophet and those who followed them in righteousness until the Day of Judgement!

O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims, fail atheism and atheists, destroy the enemies of (Your) religion and make this homeland secure and peaceful and all homelands of Muslims!

O Allah! Grant us security in our homeland, set right our Imams and leaders, support with the Truth our Imam and leader! O Allah! lead him to Your guidance and make his deeds gain Your contentment! O Allah! Grant him a righteous retinue! O Allah! Grant him and his Crown Prince success to accomplish what is in the best interest of the country and the people and lead them to the path of guidance and wisdom! O Allah! Reward them with blessings and merits for serving the Two Holy Mosques and taking care of the pilgrims and performers of *Umrah*! O Allah! Give from Your bounty all those who have assisted in serving the pilgrims!

O Allah! Do accept from the pilgrims their hajj and answer their supplications! O Allah! Make it a *Mabroor* (accepted) hajj, a rewarded effort, and a forgiven sin, and help the pilgrims return to their homelands safe and successful! O Allah! Do accept our hajj and theirs, help us persevere on the path of truth and guidance, and give us a good ending, O You, the Most Merciful!

O Allah! Shove away from us expensiveness, epidemics, usury, adultery, earthquakes, trials, and the worst ordeals whether implicit or explicit!

O Allah! Set right the conditions of Muslims! O Allah! Set right the conditions of Muslims everywhere! O Allah! Gather them around truth and guidance! O Allah! Stop their bloodshed, safeguard their security and well-being, set right their conditions and suppress their enemy! O Allah! Grant victory to the defenceless among Muslims everywhere! O Allah! Grant them victory in Palestine! O Allah! Gather them around truth, O Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Grant victory to Your Book, the *Sunnah* of Your Prophet and Your believing servants! O Allah! We leave the enemies of religion to You, for You are more than a match to them! O Allah! We leave the enemies of religion to You, for You are more than a match to them!



**Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs
A Joint Project**



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

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

﴿... Our Lord! Give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire!﴾ [Al-Baqarah: 201]

O Allah! Forgive our sins, pardon our shortcomings, make easy our affairs, and fulfill our hopes in accordance with Your pleasure! O Lord! Forgive us, our parents, our grandparents, their children and their wives, our children, those who have loved us and those we have loved for Your sake, and all those who have done good towards us, O You, Who hears our prayers! Our Lord, do accept our prayers, and forgive us! You are indeed Most Forgiving, Most Merciful!

Glorified be our Lord, the Lord of Honour and Power! You are free from what they wrongly attribute unto You! May peace be upon all the Messengers! And “praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds!”