



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



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[9-3-35 – B - Ath-Thubaiti]

المسجد النبوي

Reflecting on Allah's Ways in the Universe: Lessons and Morals

His Eminence Sheikh Abdul-Bari ibn Awad Ath-Thubaity, may Allah preserve him, delivered the Friday *Khutbah* entitled, "Reflecting on Allah's Ways in the Universe: Lessons and Morals", in which he talked about the ways of Allah in the Universe and the importance of studying them carefully. He referred to many of the ways of Allah, Exalted be He, in the universe, which do not change with the lapse of time or with the change of people's conditions, for Allah's ways are always in effect in the manner He wants them to be. Sheikh Ath-Thubaity also highlighted the lessons and morals that can be drawn from the ways of Allah, Exalted be He.

Part One

Praise be to Allah. Praise be to Allah, Who has favoured His servants with bountiful favours. I praise Him, exalted be He, and thank Him, for He has proclaimed that He will give more to those who give thanks to Him. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, Who has no partners; He governs the universe and the whole creation through an orderly system and established laws. I bear witness that our master and our prophet, Muhammad, is His servant and messenger, who called to the path of truth and filled in all gaps in faith. I ask Allah to bestow His peace and blessings upon him, his family, and his Companions perpetually and bountifully.

O Muslims!

I advise you and advise myself to fear Allah. Allah, Exalted be He, says:



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﴿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)

Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, has ways which apply to everything in existence. Allah, Might and Majesty be to Him, has created the universe in truth according to a perfect design, and has subjected it to perfect laws, such that it is free from any flaws or defects. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿Verily, We have created all things with *Qadar* (Divine Preordainments of all things before their creation as written in the Book of Decrees – *Al-Lauh Al-Mahfuz*).﴾ (Al-Qamar: 49)

It is necessary to know the ways of Allah, which are worthy of studying and understanding. Knowledge of these ways is part of the knowledge of religion. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿... And We have sent down to you the Book (the Qur'an) as an exposition of everything, a guidance, a mercy, and glad tidings for those who have submitted themselves (to Allah as Muslims).﴾ (An-Nahl: 89)

This world is based on a number of laws; those who get to know these laws can predict the results if their causes are available.

One of the most important and useful branches of knowledge is the knowledge of the ways of Allah, which adds to man's understanding and ability to make use of all the resources that are subjected to him. This will enable man to maintain and develop the



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earth in accordance with Allah's laws and will broaden his perception. Learning the ways of Allah reveals the wisdom behind events. It is a religious requirement that is meant to enable the Muslim community to gain power in all walks of life and safeguard their religion and their homelands. Conversely, overlooking the ways of Allah is one of the causes of backwardness which have caused Muslims to lag behind other nations. The people of understanding are indeed to be blamed if they underestimate the importance of these ways and fail to draw the lessons and morals included in them.

Allah says to those who disbelieve in our prophet, Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him:

**«Has not the news reached you of those who disbelieved aforetime?
And so they tasted the evil result of their disbelief, and theirs will
be a painful torment. That was because there came to them their
Messengers with clear proofs (signs), but they said: "Shall mere men
guide us?" So they disbelieved and turned away (from the truth),
and Allah was not in need (of them). And Allah is Rich (Free of all
needs), Worthy of all praise.» (At-Taghabun: 5-6)**

Studying the ways of Allah provides us with many lessons and morals, as we observe how such ways take effect in the life of nations, peoples, and states. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

**«And indeed, We destroyed generations before you when they did
wrong, while their Messengers came to them with clear proofs, but
they were not such as to believe! Thus do We requite the people
who are *Mujrimun* (disbelievers, polytheists, sinners, criminals).
Then We made you successors after them, generations after
generations in the land, that We might see how you would work.»
(Yunus: 13-14)**



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The Qur'an refers people to the ways of Allah, which constitute the immutable and general rule that governs the process of life by virtue of Allah's command. This rule never fails to apply at any one moment and leaves no room for things to happen haphazardly. The future is governed by the same rules that applied to the past, and the events of the past have a bearing on what will happen in the future. The Noble Qur'an narrates the stories of previous nations and the afflictions that befell them on account of their evil deeds so that we may draw lessons and avoid their actions and thus be saved from the same evil consequences that they suffered.

﴿... Then take admonition, O you with eyes (to see).﴾ (Al-Hashr: 2)

Allah has devoted one third of the Qur'an to the narration of stories so that Muslims may infer the ways of Allah, Might and Majesty be to Him, from them. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿... So relate the stories, perhaps they may reflect.﴾ (Al-A'raf: 176)

Constant contemplation on the Qur'an provides us with insights into the ways of Allah in the universe, in the human self, and in dealing with the disobedient slaves and the disbelievers. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿... I will show you My *Ayat* (torments, proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.). So ask Me not to hasten (them).﴾
(Al-Anbiya': 37)

History is the clearest arena in which the ways of Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, are most manifest and concrete. The Noble Qur'an stresses the importance of benefiting from the events of history. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿Many similar ways (and mishaps of life) were faced by nations (believers and disbelievers) that have passed away before you (as you have faced in the battle of Uhud), so travel through the earth,



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and see what was the end of those who disbelieved (in the Oneness of Allah, and disobeyed Him and His Messengers).﴾ (Al ‘Imran: 137)

Those who are familiar with history and with Allah’s ways in determining its events and have heart to understand or give ear while they are heedful will learn from the mistakes of former generations and draw lessons from them. The happy ones are those who learn from others. The past will continue to repeat itself in the present in one way or another; similarly, the present will re-enact itself in the future in one way or another.

There are certain ways and practices which lead to the truth and to the straight path. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿Allah wishes to make clear (what is lawful and what is unlawful) to you, and to show you the ways of those before you, and accept your repentance, and Allah is All-Knower, All-Wise.﴾ (An-Nisa’: 26)

There are also wrong ways and practices which lead to falsehood and to the path of destruction. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿Have you not seen those who have changed the Blessings of Allah into disbelief (by denying Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and his Message of Islam), and caused their people to dwell in the house of destruction?﴾ (Ibrahim: 28)

The Noble Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “...**Whoever introduces an evil practice in Islam will shoulder its sin and the sins of all those who will follow it, without having their burden diminished in the least**” (Reported by Muslim).

Allah’s ways are characterised by immutability. They neither change nor alter. Allah, Exalted be He, says:



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﴿... So no change will you find in Allah's *Sunnah* (way of dealing),
and no turning off will you find in Allah's *Sunnah* (way of dealing).﴾
(Fatir: 43)

The ways of Allah do not allow an idle or negligent person to get what he wants without exerting an effort or performing some action. The ways of Allah in this world do not distinguish between believers and non-believers in terms of reward for actions; those who work will be rewarded for what they do, and those who stay idle will receive no reward. This prompts the believer to actively engage in work in order to stay in harmony with Allah's ways in this life and thus achieve success.

Allah's ways apply to all people without exception. They tell us, for example, that man's change of state to the better or to the worse comes only as a result of the effort he makes and his conduct. Allah's ways bear fruit for whoever acts upon them, fulfils their requirements, and observes them, even though he may not be a believer. For a non-believer, however, they are confined to this present life only. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿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.﴾ (Hud: 15-16)

Those who oppose Allah's ways and lead a life based on whims and desires must know that Allah's ways do not favour anyone. The fact that we are Muslims is no guarantee that we will be exempted from punishment for what we do. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿It will not be in accordance with your desires (Muslims), nor those of the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), whosoever works evil, will have the recompense thereof ...﴾ (An-Nisa': 123)



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Allah, Exalted be He, also says:

﴿And indeed, We have destroyed your likes, then is there any that will remember (or receive admonition)?﴾ (Al-Qamar: 51)

The best of people after the prophets are the Companions of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him. Despite this, they underwent severe misfortunes during the battle of Uhud for the mistakes they committed. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿And whatever of misfortune befalls you, it is because of what your hands have earned. And He pardons much.﴾ (Ash-Shura : 30)

This clearly shows that there is no affinity whatsoever between Allah and any of His creation. The only criterion in this respect is obedience to Allah and fear of Him.

One of Allah's ways is that deviation from the straight path set by Allah causes scarcity of resources and leads to Allah's punishment. Those who toil and exert effort will have the earth's treasures made available to them, while those who idle around and wait for results without doing anything will be afflicted by drought and will suffer aridity and deprivation.

Allah's ways also include gradual progress in deeds and in changing oneself and one's way of life. Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, said:

The first thing that was revealed [of the Qur'an] was a *surah* from Al-Mufassal (i.e. any *surah* beginning from *Surat Qaf* to the end of the Qur'an), in which there was mention of Paradise and Hellfire. When the people embraced Islam, the verses regarding what is lawful and unlawful were revealed. If the first thing to be revealed had been, 'Do not drink alcohol', people would have said, "We will never leave alcoholic drinks," and if it had been, "Do not commit *zina* (illegal



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sexual intercourse)”, they would have said, “We will never give up *zina.*”

Umar ibn Abdul-Aziz had a son called Abdul-Malik, who once reproached his father for not hastening to remove all the corruption and grievances that could still be found in society. He said to him, “O father! Why don’t you implement the rulings immediately? By Allah, I would not care if you and I were boiled to death so long as we seek to establish the truth.” The wise father said to him, “Do not deal with matters hastily, my son! For Allah Himself disparaged alcohol twice in the Qur’an and declared it forbidden only in the third time. I fear that if I forced people to follow the truth in its entirety, they would give it up in its entirety, which would only cause trials and tribulations.”

Among the ways of Allah is that there will always be a party of the believers that will continue to hold fast to Allah’s religion until the Day of Judgement and will not commit any violations in religion; even if they may be regarded as worthless in people’s sight, they will be weighty in their balance in the hereafter.

Testing the believers is also among the ways of Allah. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿Do people think that they will be left alone because they say: “We believe,” and will not be tested. And We indeed tested those who were before them. And 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, (although Allah knows all that before putting them to test).﴾ (Al-‘Ankabut: 2-3)

The believers will not be granted power and authority in the land unless they are tested by Allah. Testing serves as a means of examination, refinement, purification, and advancement. People are not generally given power and authority in the land merely because they are the descendants of a believing people; rather, they are given this



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privilege because they are true believers themselves. Allah, Exalted be He, said to Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham), peace be upon him:

﴿... “Verily, I am going to make you an Imam (a leader) for mankind (to follow you)”...﴾ (Al-Baqarah: 124)

Ibrahim, peace be upon him, wished that this covenant (of Allah) would cover his offspring as well, so he said:

﴿... “And of my offspring (to make leaders).”...﴾ (Al-Baqarah: 124)

Allah, Glorified be He, then said to Ibrahim:

﴿... “My Covenant (Prophethood) includes not *Zalimun* (polytheists and wrong-doers)”...﴾ (Al-Baqarah: 124)

This tells us that Muslims cannot be granted power and authority in the land unless they are steadfast in following Allah’s straight path.

One of the ways of Allah is the mutual repelling between truth and falsehood. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

﴿... And if Allah did not check one set of people by means of another, the earth would indeed be full of mischief...﴾ (Al-Baqarah: 251)

Allah repels the followers of falsehood through the followers of truth. Among the ways of Allah is the law that if falsehood wins a round, truth will win many rounds, and that Allah does not set His enemies on His obedient followers.

﴿... And never will Allah grant to the disbelievers a way (to triumph) over the believers.﴾ (An-Nisa’: 141)

Truth will ultimately prevail, no matter how long this may take. Allah, Exalted be He, says:



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﴿... thus does Allah (by parables) show forth truth and falsehood. Then, as for the foam it passes away as scum upon the banks, while that which is for the good of mankind remains in the earth. Thus Allah sets forth parables (for the truth and falsehood, i.e. belief and disbelief).﴾ (Ar-Ra‘d: 17)

Among the ways of Allah is that, the more the disbelievers transgress in their disbelief, the more Allah opens for them the gates of everything so that they may gradually increase in sinfulness and shoulder their whole share of sins on the Day of Resurrection:

﴿And let not the disbelievers think that Our postponing of their punishment is good for them. We postpone the punishment only so that they may increase in sinfulness. And for them is a disgracing torment.﴾ (Al ‘Imran: 178)

May Allah bless you and me with the Great Qur’an and make us benefit from its verses and wise words. I have said what you have heard and I ask forgiveness of Allah for myself, for you, and for all Muslims for every sin we have committed. Ask Allah for forgiveness. He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.



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Part Two

Praise be to Allah, Who has perfected everything He has created and then guided it aright. I praise Him, Glorified be He, and thank Him for the blessing of guidance and piety. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, Who has no partners, and Who says:

﴿And verily, I am indeed Forgiving to him who repents, believes (in My Oneness, and associates none in worship with Me) and does righteous good deeds, and then remains constant in doing them (till his death).﴾ (Ta Ha: 82)

I also bear witness that our master and prophet Muhammad is His servant and His messenger, who made clear all signs that lead to the path of guidance. May Allah bestow His peace and blessings upon him and upon his family, his Companions, all those who have been rightly guided.

O Muslims!

I advise you and advise myself to fear Allah. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

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

Among Allah’s ways is that fear of Allah is the means to attain supremacy and glory, while disobedience to Allah and innovations in religion lead to humiliation; that the unity of the Muslim *ummah* leads to victory, while dissension leads to defeat and evil consequences; and that seeking knowledge is the way to success and prosperity. A nation that seeks knowledge and has wealth, industry, and awareness will be strong, advanced,



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and prosperous, while a nation which lives in ignorance, superstition, and total dependence on others will suffer backwardness, humiliation, and destruction.

By reflecting on the ways of Allah, we realize that the Muslim *ummah* is required to raise a generation of Muslims who are characterized by strong faith and firm belief, who think wisely and act courageously, who arm themselves with science and knowledge, who reject division and deviation, and who help one another in piety, righteousness, and establishing Allah's religion.

Among the ways of Allah is that great objectives cannot be realized by mere hopes but by acting according to Allah's universal and religious laws. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

«Verily! Allah will not change the good condition of a people as long as they do not change their state of goodness themselves (by committing sins and by being ungrateful and disobedient to Allah) ...» (Ar-Ra'd: 11)

O Servants of Allah!

Ask Allah to bestow His blessing on the Messenger of Guidance as Allah has ordered you to do so in His Book. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

«Allah sends His *Salat* (Graces, Honours, Blessings, Mercy) on the Prophet (Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him) and also His angels too (ask Allah to bless and forgive him). O you who believe! Send your *Salat* on (ask Allah to bless) him (Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him), and (you should) greet (salute) him with the Islamic way of greeting (salutation, i.e. *As-Salamu 'Alaikum*).» (Al-Ahzab: 56)



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O Allah! Send your prayers on Muhammad, his wives, and his offspring as you have sent them on the family of Ibrahim, and send your blessings on Muhammad, his wives, and his offspring, as you have sent them on the family of Ibrahim. O Allah! Be pleased with the four Rightly-Guided Caliphs, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali, along with their honourable families and the Prophet's Companions, and also be pleased with us together with them, by Your forgiveness and generosity, O Most Generous of all the generous!

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 disbelief and disbelievers, and destroy Your enemies, the enemies of Your religion. O Allah! Make this country of ours and all other Muslim countries safe and secure.

O Allah! Grant victory to Your religion, Your Book, the *Sunnah* of Your Prophet, and Your believing servants. O Allah! Grant victory to those who support Your religion and forsake those who have forsaken Islam and Muslims.

O Allah! Grant victory to those who strive in Your cause to make Your word reign supreme everywhere. O Allah! Guide their shots, gather them around a single word, unite their rows, and give them strength, O Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Make their hearts firm and strong, O All-Strong! O All- Mighty! O Most Strong!

O Allah! Make whoever harbours evil intentions towards us and towards Islam and Muslims preoccupied with his own problems and make his plotting the cause of his own destruction, O All-Hearer of Supplication! O Allah! Make whoever harbours evil intentions towards us and towards Islam and Muslims preoccupied with his own problems and make his plotting the cause of his own destruction, O All-Hearer of Supplication!



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O Allah! Spare Muslims' blood, and preserve Muslims everywhere, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! We ask You for guidance, piety, chastity, and freedom from want. O Allah! We ask You for Paradise and for every word or deed that brings us closer to it, and seek refuge in You from Hellfire and from every word or deed that brings us closer to it.

O Allah! Make good for us our religion, which safeguards our affairs; make good for us this world in which we live; and make good for us the Hereafter which will be our eternal abode. O Allah! Make our life an increase for us in all goodness and our death a respite for us from all evil, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! We ask you for Your pleasure and for Paradise, and we seek refuge in You from Your wrath and from Hellfire.

O Allah! Forgive the sins of all dead Muslims who testified to Your Oneness and to the message of Your Prophet, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Have mercy on our dead and forgive their sins, O Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Cure the sick among us, relieve our distress and the distress of all Muslims, and release our prisoners, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! We beseech You, O Allah! You are the Rich and the One Free from all needs, and we are the poor who are in need of Your favours. O Allah! Send down rain upon us and do not make us among the despairing. O Allah! Send down rain upon us and do not make us among the despairing. O Allah! Send down rain upon us. O Allah! Send down rain upon us. O Allah! Let the rain bring forth mercy with it and let it not cause torment, affliction, destruction, or flooding. O Allah! Let the rain bring forth mercy with it and let it not cause torment, affliction, destruction, or flooding. O Allah! Let the rain bring forth mercy with it and let it not cause torment, affliction, destruction, or flooding.

O Allah! Guide us to all that is good, O Lord of the Worlds!



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

O Allah! Guide our ruler to what You love and accept, and lead him to the way of goodness and piety. O Allah! Guide all Muslim rulers to act according to Your Book and rule according to Your *Shari'a*, O You Lord of the Worlds!

﴿... Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. If You forgive us not, and bestow not upon us Your Mercy, we shall certainly be of the losers.﴾ (Al-A'raf: 23)

﴿... Our Lord! Forgive us and our brethren who have preceded us in Faith, and put not in our hearts any hatred against those who have believed. Our Lord! You are indeed full of kindness, Most Merciful.﴾ (Al-Hashr: 10)

﴿Verily, Allah enjoins *Al-Adl* (i.e. justice and worshipping none but Allah Alone – Islamic Monotheism) and *Al-Ihsan* [i.e. to be patient in performing your duties to Allah, totally for Allah's sake and in accordance with the *Sunnah* (legal ways) of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) in a perfect manner], and giving (help) to kith and kin (i.e. all that Allah has ordered you to give them, e.g., wealth, visiting, looking after them, or any other kind of help, etc.); and forbids *Al-Fahsha'* (i.e. all evil deeds, e.g. illegal sexual acts, disobedience of parents, polytheism, to tell lies, to give false witness, to kill a life without right, etc.), and *Al-Munkar* (i.e. all that is prohibited by Islamic law: polytheism of every kind, disbelief and every kind of evil deeds, etc.), and *Al-Baghy* (i.e. all kinds of



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**oppression), He admonishes you, that you may take heed.﴾ (An-Nahl:
90)**

Remember Allah and He will remember you. Thank Him for His favours and He will give you more. Verily, remembrance of Allah is greater than all, and Allah knows what you do.