



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

[4-6-35 – B – Al Ash-Sheikh]

المسجد النبوي

## The Truth about the Present Life

His Eminence Sheikh Hussein ibn Abdul-Aziz Al Ash-Sheikh, may Allah preserve him, delivered the Friday *khutbah* entitled, “The Truth about the Present Life”, in which he talked about the present life and its true nature, through some reflections on a few verses from *Surah* Ash-Shu‘ara’, showing that it is a passing, transient life, and that we should do righteous deeds for the hereafter before it is too late.

### Part One

Praise be to Allah, Who has made the present life a transitory abode and the hereafter a permanent abode. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, Who has no partners in the hereafter or in the present life, and I bear witness that our prophet, Muhammad, is His servant and messenger, the chosen prophet and favoured messenger. O Allah! Bestow Your prayers, peace, and blessings upon him and upon his family and pious Companions.

﴿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!

People today, who live in a world full of successive changes and developments and face its temptations and seductive amusements, are in dire need of deeply contemplating the verses in which Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says:

﴿Think! (even) if We do let them enjoy for years, and afterwards comes to them that (punishment) which they had been promised, all that with which they used to enjoy shall not avail them.﴾ (Ash-Shu‘ara’: 205-207)



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These are indeed great verses. Umar ibn Abdul-Aziz used to recite these verses whenever he entered the House of Caliphate and follow them with these lines of poetry:

*Your day, O beguiled, is spent in negligence and heedlessness,  
And your night in sleep, while death is inevitable.  
You delight in what fades away and rejoice at false hopes,  
As a sleeping man delights in pleasures in his dreams.  
And you seek that which you will soon abhor,  
Such is the life of animals in this world.*

O Muslims!

People need to reflect deeply on these Qur'anic verses to realise that no matter how much one may delight in the best forms of pleasures and ornaments of this life, these will be of no avail to him when he meets his Lord, Majesty and Glory be to Him. On that day, no ruler will benefit by his authority, no rich man will benefit by his wealth, no strong man will make use of his power, and no worldly delight will be of value to anyone who enjoyed it in his life. Maymun ibn Mihran once visited Al-Hasan Al-Basri to seek his advice and said to him, "O Abu Sa'id! I feel that my heart has become heedless and hard. Will you give me some advice to soften my heart." Do you think he flooded him with advice? Not in the least! He simply recited the same great verses to him:

﴿Think! (even) if We do let them enjoy for years, and afterwards comes to them that (punishment) which they had been promised, all that with which they used to enjoy shall not avail them.﴾ (Ash-Shu'ara': 205-207)

Our Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, once slept on a straw mat which left marks on his side. Someone said to him, "O Messenger of Allah! Shall we spread out a soft bedding for you?" The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, gave a reply that showed the truth about this worldly life. He said, "What have I to do with this present world? I am like a traveller who sat under a tree for its shade then went away and left it" (Reported by At-Tirmidhi who classified it as *hasan sahih* (good and authenticated)).

Reminding us of the truth about this life, which many of us are oblivious of, one poet rightly said:

*Where is the property they once had?  
Where are the dominions they owned on every horizon?  
Crowns have been taken away from them,  
And those treasure chests are now empty.  
Their homes, after they left,  
Are now all dead and silent;*



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*There is no one there who can hear or understand,  
Nor a living person to utter a sound.  
Life is but a false shadow,  
That will soon wither away.  
Man has no provision in it,  
Except the fear of Allah.*

Fellow Muslims!

In our contemporary life, where the waves of trials collide and many people give precedence to worldly affairs over the hereafter, people are in dire need of revising their own position. They need to think deeply about what Allah, the Truth, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says in the above verses.

Reflecting the viewpoint of the righteous predecessors of the Muslim *Ummah*, who knew the true nature of this life, Ibn Rajab Al-Hanbali, may Allah have mercy on his soul, said, "When death comes in its appointed time, the joys of life disappear as if they had never existed and one is left only with their consequences." Then he recited the above great Qur'anic verses.

One of the righteous predecessors of this *Ummah* recited these verses, in which Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says:

﴿Think! (even) if We do let them enjoy for years, and afterwards comes to them that (punishment) which they had been promised, all that with which they used to enjoy shall not avail them.﴾ (Ash-Shu'ara': 205-207)

Then he started to cry and said, "When death comes, the pleasures and delights a person has been enjoying will be of no avail."

Harun Ar-Rashid once built a palace and called his intimates to it. Abul-'Atahiyah the poet, who was one of them, chanted:

*Live in safety as long as you wish,  
In the comfort of lofty palaces;  
You are served whatever you desire,  
In the evenings and in the mornings;  
But when the soul chokes out of breath,  
'Cos of the rattle in the chest,  
Only then will you know for certain,  
That you have only been under a big delusion!*



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In his illuminating commentary on the aforementioned Qur'anic verses, Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on his soul, aptly said, "If one were to spend all his life from beginning to end in pure joys and delights, all that would only be like a summer cloud that soon cleared up, or like a dream which had no sooner started than it came to an end."

Therefore, fellow Muslims, these facts which we know full well and which our hearts do not deny – for they can only be denied by the obstinate who turn away from the truth – must make us observe the commands of Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, and turn to Him, Glorified be He, in total submission and humility. We must know that people will suffer destruction, loss and deep regret if they give in to this transient world and waste their lives enjoying forbidden pleasures and various delights, forgetting all about the hereafter and turning away from showing obedience to their Lord.

Contemplate this great *surah*. Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says:

﴿By *Al-'Asr* (the time). Verily! Man is in loss, except those who believe (in Islamic Monotheism) and do righteous good deeds, and recommend one another to the truth [i.e. order one another to perform all kinds of good deeds (*Al-Ma'ruf*) which Allah has ordained, and abstain from all kinds of sins and evil deeds (*Al-Munkar*) which Allah has forbidden], and recommend one another to patience (for the sufferings, harms, and injuries which one may encounter in Allah's Cause during preaching His religion of Islamic Monotheism or *Jihad*).﴾ (Al-'Asr: 1-3)

Ash-Shafi'i, may Allah have mercy on his soul, said, "If people reflected on this *surah*, it would be enough for them as admonishment, warning, and guidance to all good."

Blessed are those who invest their time in learning more about their Lord and seeking to earn His good pleasure, those who engage in this profitable trade and reap the fruit that will remain forever:

﴿O you who believe! Shall I guide you to a trade that will save you from a painful torment? That you believe in Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him) and that you strive hard and fight in the Cause of Allah with your wealth and your lives: that will be better for you, if you but know!﴾ (As-Saff: 10-11)



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Fellow Muslims!

Those who spend their time in total negligence and heedlessness, fail to work for the hereafter, and neglect the reason for which Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, has created them will be doomed to total loss and destruction:

﴿O you who believe! Let not your properties or your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah. And whosoever does that, then they are the losers.﴾ (Al-Munafiqun: 9)

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said in a *hadith* reported by Al-Bukhari, "Every one of my *Ummah* will enter Paradise except those who refuse". It was said, "O Messenger of Allah! Who refuses to enter Paradise?" He said, "Whoever obeys me will enter Paradise, and whoever disobeys me has in fact refused [to enter it]."

Therefore, make use of your life by hastening to perform religious duties, avoiding prohibited acts, and striving hard to attain all that is good and desirable. Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says:

﴿Who has created death and life, that He may test you which of you is best in deed ...﴾ (Al-Mulk: 2)

Doing good deeds is a responsibility that falls on all servants of Allah in this world. It is a responsibility that needs effort, struggle, patience, and endurance. Allah says:

﴿As for those who strive hard in Us (Our Cause), We will surely guide them to Our Paths (i.e. Allah's Religion – Islamic Monotheism). And verily, Allah is with the *Muhsinun* (good doers).﴾ (Al-Ankabut: 69)

Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on his soul, said:

"The perfectly-guided among people are those who fulfil *jihad* the most [i.e. who strive the hardest in the cause of Allah]. The best types of *jihad* are *jihad an-nafs* (striving against one's lower self), *jihad al-hawa* (striving against one's desires), *jihad ash-Shaytan* (striving against Satan), and *jihad ad-dunya* (striving against this world's temptations). Whoever engages in these four types of *jihad* in the cause of Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, will be guided by Allah to the paths of His good pleasure, which lead to His Paradise. Conversely, whoever abandons this



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*jihad* will miss guidance commensurate with the types of *jihad* he has given up.”

Therefore, O believers, fear Allah and act upon the advice and admonitions included in these Qur’anic verses, and you will attain success, safety, and great profit.

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



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## Part Two

I praise my Lord and thank Him. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, Who has no partners, and I bear witness that our prophet, Muhammad, is His servant and messenger. O Allah! Bestow Your prayers, peace, and blessings upon him, his family, and his Companions.

O Muslims!

Let us abide by the commandment of Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, to us, which is also His commandment to earlier and later nations:

﴿... And verily, We have recommended to the people of the Scripture before you, and to you (O Muslims) that you (all) fear Allah. ...﴾ (An-Nisa': 131)

O Muslims!

What is most feared for the Muslim *Ummah*, as individuals, communities, and states, is that they may be complacent about this worldly life, giving it precedence over the hereafter and being preoccupied with it at the expense of defending Islam and fulfilling and advocating its duties and rights. Allah says:

﴿O you who believe! What is the matter with you, that when you are asked to march forth in the Cause of Allah (i.e. *Jihad*) you cling heavily to the earth? Are you pleased with the life of this world rather than the Hereafter? But little is the enjoyment of the life of this world as compared with the Hereafter.﴾ (At-Tawbah: 38)

Our Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, warned the *Ummah* against the deplorable condition and the state of humiliation and deterioration it is now in, which is obvious to everyone. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him said, "When you enter into the '*inah* transaction (a type of usurious transaction), hold the tails of oxen (to plough the land), are content only with farming (so that ploughing and farming are your main concern), and give up *jihad* (striving in the cause of Allah), Allah will make disgrace prevail over you and will not remove it until you return to your religion" (Reported by Abu-Dawud in his *Sunan* and classified as *sahih* (authenticated) by a group of *hadith* scholars).

All Muslims should know that they will not attain success, power, glory, and happiness in any given matter, however significant their worldly means may be, except



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through steadfastness in the religion of Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, and reverence for His Book by learning it, teaching it, ruling in accordance with its laws, and referring to it as their source of legislation and constitution, while at the same time adhering to the *Sunnah* of Allah's Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, in what we desire and in what we hate, and in times of prosperity as well as in times of hardship.

Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, has commanded us to do a glorious deed with which our souls are purified and our deeds are set right, namely, to invoke His peace and blessings upon the Noble Prophet.

O Allah! Bestow Your peace, prayers, and blessings upon our master and beloved prophet, Muhammad. O Allah! Be pleased with the Rightly-Guided Caliphs and Imams, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali, along with all Your Prophet's family and Companions, and those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment.

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. O Allah! Subdue polytheism and the polytheists. O Allah! Subdue polytheism and the polytheists. O Allah! Take revenge on those who show enmity to this religion. O Allah! Take revenge on those who show enmity to this religion. O Allah! Make Your religion prevail and reign supreme everywhere.

O Allah! Make those who harbour evil intentions against Muslims and Muslim lands busy with their own problems. O Allah! Make them busy with their own problems. O Allah! Make them busy with their own problems. O Allah! Let their plots rebound against them. O Allah! Let their plots rebound against them; You are Powerful over all things.

O Allah! Protect Muslims everywhere. O Allah! Protect Muslims everywhere. O Allah! Alleviate their sufferings. O Allah! Relieve their distress. O Allah! Spare their blood. O Allah! Help them achieve unity and agreement. O Allah! Help them achieve unity and agreement. O Allah! Help them achieve unity and agreement.

O Allah! O Owner of Majesty and Honour! Make good our condition and the condition of Muslims everywhere. O Allah! Make good our condition and the condition of Muslims everywhere. O Allah! Make good our condition and the condition of Muslims everywhere.

O Allah! Cure our sick and the sick among all the Muslims. O Allah! Cure our sick and the sick among all the Muslims. O Allah! Cure our sick and the sick among all the Muslims. O Allah! Relieve the distress of the distressed among us. O Allah! Alleviate the sufferings of those who are suffering among us, O Owner of Majesty and Honour!





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O Allah! Forgive the sins of all Muslims, men and women, and the sins of all believers, men and women, dead and alive.

O Allah! Protect and grant success to our ruler, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and his two Deputies. O Allah! Guide them all to what You love and accept. O Allah! Guide them all to what You love and accept. O Allah! Guide them all to what You love and accept and to what serves the good of Islam and Muslims.

O Allah! Protect our country and all Muslim countries. O Allah! Make our country and all Muslim countries prosperous, peaceful, safe, and secure, O Ever-Living! O Self-Subsisting!

O Allah! Save Muslims from the raging fire of trials and turmoil. O Allah! Save Muslims from the raging fire of trials and turmoil. O Allah! Save Muslims from the raging fire of trials and turmoil. O Allah! Facilitate their affairs in the right way. O Allah! Facilitate their affairs in the right way. O Allah! Grant immediate safety and security to our brothers in Syria, to our brothers in Egypt, to our brothers in Tunisia, to our brothers in Libya, to our brothers in Yemen, to our brothers in Palestine, to our brothers in Afghanistan, to our brothers in Burma, and to all our brothers, fellow Muslims, and beloved ones all over the world, O Owner of Majesty and Honour!

O Allah! We ask you to grant all Muslims safety, security, and protection, O Owner of Majesty and Honour!

O Allah! 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.

O Allah! You are the Free of all wants and needs, the All-Praiseworthy! O Allah! Grant us rain. O Allah! Grant us rain. O Allah! Grant us rain. O Allah! Send down rain upon our lands and upon all Muslim lands. O Allah! Send down rain upon our lands and upon all Muslim lands. O Allah! Send down rain upon our lands and upon all Muslim lands.

The last of our call is “Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds”.