

Salaheddin Islamic Center
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مفهوم العبادة

The concept of Worship

Given by:

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First Khutbah

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَرِّهِ وَأَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا

فَإِنْ أَصْدَقُ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَأَحْسَنُ الْهُدَى هُدَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَشَرُّ الْأُمُورِ مُخَدَّنَاتُهَا وَكُلُّ مُخَدَّنَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ وَكُلُّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ وَكُلُّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ

As for what follows:

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ

Oh People!¹

Allah says in His Honorable Book:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

And I (Allah) created not the jinns and humans except they should worship Me (Alone) [51:56]

And Allah says:

وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا

Worship Allah and join none with Him in worship [4:36]

These evidences show the obligation of worship and that worship is the purpose of life. Muslims are instructed to live their lives in the worship of Allah and His obedience. Allah said:

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Say (O Muhammad): "Verily, my Salat (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinns and all that exists) [6:162]

And it comes in the Hadith of Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him):

أَنَّهُ كَانَ يَقُولُ إِذَا أَصْبَحَ " اللَّهُمَّ بِكَ أَصْبَحْنَا وَبِكَ أَمْسَيْنَا وَبِكَ نَحْيَا وَبِكَ نَمُوتُ وَإِلَيْكَ النُّشُورُ " . وَإِذَا أَمْسَى قَالَ " اللَّهُمَّ بِكَ أَمْسَيْنَا وَبِكَ نَحْيَا وَبِكَ نَمُوتُ وَإِلَيْكَ النُّشُورُ "

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to say in the morning: "O Allah! With Your Power we have come to the morning, with Your Power we come to the evening, with Your Power we live, and we die, and to You will we return" In the evening he would say: "O Allah! With Your Power, we have come to the

¹ This is from the Sunnah of the Prophet (ﷺ) as found in many Ahaadith. For more, see Shaikh Yahya ibn ali al-Hajoori's excellent work *Abkaam ul-Jumma wa bida'iha* (pg. 364)

evening, by You do we live, by You do we die, and to You is the return" [Saheeh Sunan Abi Dawood no. 5068]

Our life, death, and all our actions should be for Allah. How can we achieve this? By worshiping Allah. Worship has two understandings: One general and another specific.

Shaikh Ibn ul-'Uthaymeen rahimahullah said:

فالمفهوم العام: هي " التذلل لله محبة وتعظيما بفعل أو امره، واجتناب نواهيه على الوجه الذي جاءت به شرائعه والمفهوم الخاص: يعني تفصيلها. قال فيه شيخ الإسلام ابن تيمية: هي " اسم جامع لكل ما يحبه الله ويرضاه من الأقوال، والأعمال الظاهرة والباطنة كالخوف، والخشية، والتوكل، والصلاة، والزكاة، والصيام، وغير ذلك من شرائع الإسلام

"The general concept of worship is: submissiveness to Allah, love, and veneration for Him by performing His commands and avoiding the prohibitions upon the form which the Legislation has come. The specific concept, that is its detailed definition, is what Shaikhul Ibn Taymiyyah rahimahullah said: "It is a comprehensive term for everything Allah loves and is pleased with from statements and actions, apparent and hidden like fear, awe, Tawakul, prayer, Zakat, fasting, and other than that from the Legislation of Islam" [Majmoo' al-Fatawa wal-Rasaail (1/88)].

So speaking good words is worship, respecting one another is worship, prayer is worship, and cleaning the garbage from the floor is worship. Worship must contain two fundamental elements:

1. Utmost Love
2. Utmost Submissiveness

Imam Ibn al-Qayyim rahimahullah said:

وعبادة الرحمن غاية حبه مع ذل عابده هما قطبان

And the worship of ar-Rahman is with utmost Love for Him
With the submissiveness of the servant; both of these are poles/axes [Nooniyyah]

Shaikh Ibn ul-'Uthaymeen rahimahullah said: "So worship is based on two affairs: utmost love and utmost submissiveness. In it is love, seeking [Allah], and submissiveness, fear and fleeing [from punishment]. So this is Ihsan in worship of Allah" [Majmoo' al-Fatawa (6/118)]

So with that, a Muslim can make everything worship as long as he/she does it with the above foundations. Added to this, an act of worship must be sincere to Allah and it must be in accordance to the Sunnah of the Prophet (صلی الله علیه وسلم). Allah says:

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ

Who has created death and life, that He may test you which of you is best in deed. And He is the All-Mighty, the Oft-Forgiving [67:2]

With this being said, Islam teaches us that worship is only for Allah and nothing else can be worshiped alongside Allah. As I mentioned earlier, Allah says:

وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا

Worship Allah and join none with Him in worship [4:36]

Worshipping other than Allah is not only be worshipping idols, but anything besides Allah. This includes worshipping money or a smartphone or a celebrity or one's own desires. Allah says:

أَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ أَفَأَنْتَ تَكُونُ عَلَيْهِ وَكِيلًا

Have you (O Muhammad) seen him who has taken as his ilah (god) his own desire? Would you then be a Wakil (a disposer of his affairs or a watcher) over him? [25:43]

Hafidh Ibn Kathir rahimahullah said:

مهما استحسنت من شيء ورآه حسنا في هوى نفسه ، كان دينه ومذهبه

“Meaning, whatever he admires and sees as good in his own desires becomes his religion and his way” [Tafsir Ibn Kathir]

This is dangerous because worship only belongs to Allah and Islam requires that we live our lives for Allah. Today, we need to be very cautious that we do not worship our material belongings. You see many people today, elevating the status of their material possession until it becomes something they obey, sincerely love, and attach to their hearts. The Prophet (ﷺ) severely criticized people like this. From the Hadith of Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

تَعَسَّ عَبْدُ الدِّينَارِ وَالدَّرْهَمِ وَالْقَطِيفَةَ وَالْخَمِيسَةَ، إِنَّ أُعْطِيَ رَضِيَ، وَإِنْ لَمْ يُعْطَ لَمْ يَرْضَ

"Let the slave of Dinar and Dirham of Qatefah and Khamisa (i.e. money and luxurious clothes) perish for he is pleased if these things are given to him, and if not, he is displeased!" [Bukhari no. 2886]

In another version it says:

وَأَنْتَكَسَ وَإِذَا شَبِكَ فَلَا أَنْتَقَشَ

He is wretched and will be thrown (into Hell) on his face, and if he is pricked with a thorn may find no relief." [Saheeh Ibn Majah no. 3353]

Why was the Prophet (ﷺ) so severe against such a person? It is because they have given something of servitude and elements of worship to other than Allah.

Shaikh ul-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah rahimahullah said: "Worship is the combination of complete love and complete submissiveness. So a slave is one who loves and is submissive. Unlike one who loves the one who he is not submissive towards, but only as a means to something else he loves. Also it is unlike the one who is submissive to one whom he does not love like an oppression. So both these actions are not pure worship, even though everyone who loves for other than Allah or venerates for other than Allah, involves mixing [some parts] of worship [with other than Allah]" [Jami' ar-Rasaail (2/284)]

As Muslims we must beware and not worship anything besides Allah. If we stay away from this, we will be able to live for Allah and gain His pleasure.

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ

Oh People!

Islam teaches that we can worship Allah wherever we are and at any time. We do not need to be in the masjid to worship Allah as it comes in the Hadith:

وَجَعَلْتُ لِي الْأَرْضُ مَسَاجِدَ وَظُهُورًا أَيْنَمَا أَدْرَكْتَنِي الصَّلَاةُ تَمَسَّحْتُ وَصَلَّيْتُ وَكَانَ مِنْ قَبْلِي يَعْظُمُونَ ذَلِكَ إِنْ مَا
كَانُوا يَصَلُّونَ فِي كَنَائِسِهِمْ وَبِيَعِهِمْ

The Earth has been made for me places of worship and purification. Wherever prayer reaches me, I wipe [purify myself] and pray. Those before me used to think that this was too much: indeed, they

would only pray in their churches and synagogues [Graded Saheeh by Imam al-Albani Sifatus-Salah (pg. 150) and Saheeh li Ghairi by Imam al-Wadi'ee in ash-Shafaa'ah (pg. 92)]

Nor do we need to be in Makkah for our worship to be complete. It comes in the Hadith of Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

حَيْثُمَا كُنْتُمْ فَأَحْسِنْتُمْ عِبَادَةَ اللَّهِ فَأَبَشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ

"Wherever you are and you perfect your worship of Allah, then have the glad tidings of Paradise [Graded Saheeh by Imam al-Albani in as-Saheeha no. 3146]

Second Khutbah

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على نبينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

From the concept of worship of Allah is stay away from worshipping at the times and places where other than Allah is worship. Included in this are the festivals of the non-Muslims, such as Halloween, which is coming up next week. Allah says describing His true servants:

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا

And those who do not witness falsehood, and if they pass by some evil play or evil talk, they pass by it with dignity [25:72]

And it comes in the Hadith of Thabit ibn Dahhak (may Allah be pleased with him) that when he wanted to slaughter at Buwanah, the Prophet (ﷺ) asked:

هَلْ كَانَ فِيهَا وَتَنٌ مِنْ أَوْثَانِ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ يُعْبَدُ " . قَالُوا : لَا . قَالَ : " هَلْ كَانَ فِيهَا عِيدٌ مِنْ أَعْيَادِهِمْ " . قَالُوا : لَا

“The Prophet (ﷺ) asked: Did the place contain any idol worshipped in pre-Islamic times? They (the people) said: No. He asked: Was any pre-Islamic festival observed there? They replied: No” [Saheeh Abi Dawood no. 3313]

We learned from this that as Muslims we must avoid all non-Muslim celebrations and festivals: both their places, times, as well as participating in them. This is to protect ourselves from engaging in worship for other than Allah because these festivals are done for other than Him.

Returning to our earlier point, we should strive to make our lives for Allah. We can do this in a number of ways. Two easy ways are:

1. Making the permissible actions which we perform into acts of worship through a good intention. Things like eating, drinking, sleeping, and even exercising. As Muadh ibn Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him) said:

أَمَّا أَنَا فَأَقُومُ وَأَنَامُ، وَأَرْجُو فِي نَوْمِي مَا أَرْجُو فِي قَوْمِي.

I pray and sleep, and I hope that Allah will reward me for my sleep as well as for my prayers."
[Bukhari and Muslim]

2. Make the following supplication:

اللَّهُمَّ أَعِنِّي عَلَى ذِكْرِكَ وَشُكْرِكَ ، وَحُسْنِ عِبَادَتِكَ

"O Allah, help me to remember You, to thank You, and to worship You in the best of manners
[Saheeh Targheeb no. 1596]

Shaikh Ibn ul-'Uthaymeen rahimahullah said:

وحسن العبادة يكون بأمرين بالإخلاص لله عز وجل كل ما قوي الإخلاص كان أحسن وبالمتابعة لرسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم والله الموفق

"Worship in the best of manners is with two affairs: sincerity to Allah, the Exalted. Every time the sincerity strengthens, then it is better. And [second] following the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). Allah is the one who grants success [Sharh Riyaadh as-Saliheen (5/503)]

We ask Allah to aid us in His worship and make us all from His true servants.

قُومُوا إِلَى صَلَاتِكُمْ يَرْحَمُكُمُ اللَّهُ

Stand for you Prayer, may Allah have mercy upon you²

² This is how Abu Bakr as-Sideeq radiallahu anahu ended his first Khutbah as found in *Seerah Ibn Hisham* with a **Saheeh** chain.

-----End of the Khutbah-----