

Friday Khutbah – Friday 28/06/2013
Importance of High-mindedness – Reception of Ramadan

Strong determination and high-mindedness are two qualities which every Muslim needs in order to be able to carry out the requirements of the *Deen*.

Mindedness is described as being high or low. It is high-mindedness that motivates one to act. It was said: as a bird flies with its wing, a person flies with his mindedness – if he is high-minded and has a strong determination.

Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) praised His high-minded messengers and prophets in His book, and advised His Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) to follow their example. He says: “So, be patient (O Muhammad) as did the Messengers of strong will and be in no haste about them....” (Al-Ahqaf 35)

He also praised the high-minded believers who were steadfast and strong in the *Deen* of Allah. He says (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*): “Among the believers, there are men who came true to the covenant they had with Allah. Some of them died and some of them are (still) waiting, and they did not change (their commitment) in the least.” (Al-Ahzab 23.)

Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) commanded the believers to compete in noble causes. He says: “So hasten towards all that is good....” (Al-Baqarah 148.)

Our Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) used to urge his companions to be high-minded. He said (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*): “When you ask Allah to grant you *al-Jannah*, ask for *al-Firdus* the Highest. It is the highest and middle part of *al-Jannah*.” This means that one should not just ask any part of *al-Jannah* but the highest and the best part which is *al-Firdus* which is situated under the Throne of *Al-Rahman*.

High-mindedness is manifested in many areas such as in searching for the truth, in the worship of Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*), in seeking knowledge, in *Da'wah* and in *Jihad*.

One example for high-mindedness in *Ibadah* is the observance of *Salat al-Jama'ah* regularly at all times even in adverse conditions. In the *Hadith* reported by Abdullah Ibn Masoud, may Allah be pleased with him, he said: “You would see us and none would absent himself from it (i.e. *salat al-Jama'ah*) except a *Munafiq* who was well known for his *Nifaq*. A sick person would be brought to attend it assisted by two people who would bring him to the Mosque and help him stand in the row....”

Low-mindedness is a big problem which is facing Muslims as individuals and groups – especially in this time in which there are so many distractions and temptations. If we consider the state of many people even those who were known to be steadfast, you would find that they have become less motivated, less active and have given up some of the good deeds they used to do. The cause of this decline is weakness of determination and low-mindedness.

There are many causes for low-mindedness. Among these are:

- i) Laziness and love of comfort and desires.

- ii) Wasting of precious time in permissible things which one does not need.
- iii) Delaying of action. In the *Hadith*, the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) "...and the incapable one follows his desires and wishes that Allah will make his affairs good..." It is an illusion and deception of Shaytan to say I will change that or I will do that when I have a little more time. The fact of the matter is that you shall never have any more time. You have it and have always had it."

Among the things which help one to be high-minded - after the help of Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) are:

- i) Knowledge and insight in the *Deen* of Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*.) Knowledge raises one above trivial things and makes him aspire for noble causes.
- ii) Keeping company with righteous and high-minded people. One is always influenced by his companion. So, if you want to be high-minded keep company with high-minded people. The Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) said in the *Hadith*: "A person follows the religion (way) of his friend. So, let one of you see whom one takes as a friend."

 Second Part:

Servants of Allah! Appreciate the blessings of Allah upon you with the seasons of good which are repeated every year. Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) wishes you good with these seasons. He wishes to wipe out your sins, multiply your reward and raise you in ranks.

One of these seasons is the month of Ramadan which is fast approaching us.

If man prepares for his worldly affairs such as academic examinations, season of trade or agricultural season, and so, the student studies his subjects, the trader stocks his goods and the farmer prepares the land for cultivation, it is even more important that a Muslim should get ready for the seasons of *Aakhirah*, and prepare for *Ibadah*.

One of the ways to prepare for Ramadan is to make a strong intention to make the maximum benefit of the noble month. Ramadan is not a month of laziness and sleep, as some people think. It is rather a month of *Ibadah*, action and *Ijtihad*.

One of the ways to prepare for Ramadan is to free oneself from preoccupations and distractions, and focus on the worship of Allah by increasing in *Ibadah*, acts of obedience of Allah and righteous deeds including regular observance of the prayers on time and with the *Jama'ah* in the *Masjid*, attending the *Taraweeh* prayers, increasing in the reading of the Qur'an and generosity and spending *fi sabeel-il-lah*.

Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says in *surat al-layl*: "Indeed, the aims you strive for are diverse..." He (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) made an oath by the night when it covers, by the day when it appears and by He Who created the male and female that the aims you strive for i.e. your efforts – are diverse.

The confirmation of this *ayah* is very evident in the ways by which people receive Ramadan and the ways in which they act during Ramadan depending on the level of their *Iman* and certainty. Some people receive the month of Ramadan with annoyance especially when they have to fast for long hours as in our case during the summer

months. Some people receive Ramadan by storing up certain types of food which they especially stock for Ramadan.

As for the intelligent people they receive Ramadan with happiness, praising Allah and thanking Him for the blessing of Ramadan.

Some people instead of making use and benefitting from Ramadan, they waste its valuable days and nights in amusement and play and things which do not benefit them in his *Aakhirah*.

As for the intelligent they fill the days of Ramadan with good deeds that draw them closer to Allah.

Servants of Allah! It is easier in Ramadan to stimulate one's resolve to make extra efforts in *Ibadah* and acts of obedience. So, stimulate and strengthen your determination during Ramadan and train yourselves in this quality and get used to it so as to have it in the rest of the year.

We ask Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) to extend our lives until we witness Ramadan, to give us *Tawfiq* to fast it and to do *Qiyam* during its night and to accept our good deeds in it.

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