

The Mercy and Bounty of Allah Almighty.

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 17 August 2007. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from Allah.

Allah says in the words of the Prophet (pbuh): 'I have prepared for my righteous slaves what no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and the mind of no man has imagined.'

Abu Hurayrah relates the Prophet SAW as saying:

"Then Allah would finish judging among His bondsmen; but a man who will be the last to enter Paradise will remain facing Hell and will say:

'O my Lord! turn my face away from Hell, for its air has poisoned me and its blaze has burnt me.'

He will then call to Allah as long as Allah would wish that he should call to Him. Then Allah, Blessed and Exalted, would say:

'If I did that, perhaps you would ask for more than that.'

He would say [to Allah]: 'I would not ask You more than this', and he would give his Lord covenants and agreements as Allah wished, and so He would turn his face away from the Fire.

When he turns towards Paradise and sees it, he will remain silent as long as Allah wishes him to remain so. Then he will say [to Allah]:

'O my Lord! Bring me forward to the gate of Paradise.

Allah would say to him:

'Did you not give covenants and agreements that you would not ask for anything besides what I had given you. Woe to you! O son of Adam, how treacherous you are!'

He would say[to Allah]:

'O my Lord!' and would continue calling to Allah until [Allah] would say to him:

'If I grant you that, perhaps you will ask for more'. He will reply:

'No, by Your greatness', and he will give His Lord promises and covenants as Allah had wished. [Allah] would then bring him to the gate of Paradise, and when he would stand at the gate of Paradise, it would lay open before him, and he would see the bounty and the joy that is in it.

He would remain quiet as Allah would desire him to remain silent. He would then say:

'O my Lord, admit me to Paradise.' Allah, Blessed and Exalted, would say:

'Did you not give covenants and agreements that you would not ask for anything more than what I had granted you? Woe to you! son of Adam, how treacherous you are!' And he would say:

'O my Lord, I do not wish to be the most miserable of Your creatures.' He would continue calling upon Allah till Allah, Blessed and Exalted, would laugh. When Allah would laugh at him, He would say:

'Enter Paradise'. When he would enter, Allah would say:

'State your wish.' He would express his wishes until Allah would remind him (the desire of) such and such (things). When his desires would be exhausted Allah would say: 'That is for you and, besides it, the like of it also.' [Sahih Muslim]

This great blessing that you have just heard of is for the last man to enter paradise! So just imagine what Allah has prepared for those who do good, who are obedient and busy striving to do good.

Allah the Most High says:

"So no soul knows what is hidden for them of that which will refresh the eyes; a reward for what they did. Is he then who is a believer like him who is a transgressor? They are not equal. As for those who believe and do good - the gardens are their abiding-place; an entertainment for what they did. And as for those who are disobedient, their abode will be the Fire. Every time they desire to come out of it, they will be turned back into it, and it will be said to them, "Taste the agony of Hell which you used to disbelieve in." [Sajdah 32:17-20]

- How generous you are to your servants O Merciful one!
- Lord, forgive us and have mercy on us.
- Look at how merciful Allah is to us all and how great His bounty is.

By contemplating Allah's mercy do we not feel embarrassed when we fall short and does this not call us to return from being excessive [in this material world] to becoming closer to what is with Allah? So why do we turn away from it and instead turn to our desires?

Allah is He who through His love for us showers His mercy. He nourishes us through His bounties.

"He descends to the lowest portion of the sky every night, calling: Is there anyone wishing to ask forgiveness so I can forgive him? Is there anyone wishing to turn back and repent, so I can accept his repentance? Is there anyone with a need, so I can fulfil it."

Yet we wake in the morning heedless to all this. He (the Almighty) who is rich, who is our Master and is without needs, call us! If He wills He can get angry and show His wrath, but from amongst His names is the name 'The Merciful'- and this name comes before his attribute of anger and His attribute of forgiveness precedes His attribute of revenge.

Have you not heard the verse, where Allah the Merciful says:

"And if the people of the towns had believed and guarded (against evil) We would certainly have opened up for them blessings from the heaven and the earth, but they rejected, so We overtook them for what they had earned. Did the people of the present communities guarantee that our retribution will not come to them in the night as they sleep? Did the people of today's communities guarantee that our retribution will not come to them in the daytime while they play? What! do they then feel secure from Allah's plan? But none feels secure from Allah's plan except the people who shall perish. Is it not clear to those who inherit the earth after its (former) residents that if We please We would afflict them on account of their faults and set a seal on their hearts, so that they would not listen to words of guidance. [A'raf 7:96-100]

Pardon us Allah and make us from the people that you love and are close to You. Amin