

Days of Great Accomplishment

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 25th December 2009. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official

God (SW) gave the permission to His messenger (pbuh) to migrate to another land after the severity, cruelty, hostility and relentless war he (pbuh) faced from his own people in Makkah. They insulted, cursed and accused him of lying but after all of that he (pbuh) was still concerned over them and hoping that they become amongst the believers to the extent that God (SW) blamed him for his concern in the verse "Then perhaps you would kill yourself through grief over them, [O Muhammad], if they do not believe in this message, [and] out of sorrow" [Al-Kahf 18:6].

Yes Oh Muslims, this is the mentality of the Muslim who is calling to the way of God; always concerned and eager to guide people to Islam and truth.

The prophet (pbuh) then started his journey to Madina accompanied by his companion Abu Bakr as he was ordered by his Lord. This departure was in order to continue the journey of calling, spreading the message and guiding people to the truth. The prophet (pbuh) left Makkah while his people were following him in order to capture and kill him but God almighty ruined their plots, misguided them and blinded their vision so they did not catch him (pbuh). In the cave, Abu Bakr-the truthful- whispered in the prophet's ear: 'If only they had looked under their feet we would assuredly be seen' but the voice of the believer who is confident of his Lord's promise replied: "Do not grieve; indeed God is with us". As the certainty and assurance in God's promise replaced any fear! God says:

"If you do not aid the Prophet – God has already aided him when those who disbelieved had driven him out [of Makkah] as one of two, when they were in the cave and he said to his companion, "Do not grieve; indeed God is with us."

And God sent down his tranquillity upon him and supported him with angels you did not see and made the word of those who disbelieved the lowest, while the word of God – that is the highest. And God is Exalted in Might and Wise" [Al-Tawbah 9:40]

The latter part was revealed to the prophet (pbuh) after he had migrated to Madina during the time of the battle of Badr when Muslims were granted victory over their enemies. It was revealed to remind the prophet (pbuh), his companions and followers and his Ummah after him of that situation when God protected his prophet and supported him with angels that he did not see; and today (the day of Badr) He will grant you victory and support you with angels that you do not see. This indeed is a lesson to the prophet's Ummah after him:

- if you support God (SW) by having knowledge of him within your souls,
- if you reform your affairs following the prophetic way and
- if you cure your spiritual, cultural, psychological and social crises and illnesses by following Quran and authentic Sunnah then God will support you.

Oh Muslims, The passage of a year of someone's life is not something easy, indeed the passage of one day only is something dangerous. It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri said: 'Every day the sun raises it calls upon us, "Oh people! I am a new day; I am an observer of your actions. Take advantage of me for I will not return until the Day of Judgment' and it was also reported: 'Son of Adam, you are no more than a few days. Whenever a day passes, a part of you has gone'. This is if one day is passed so what about a whole year!

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You should, oh Muslim, account yourself on what you did the last twelve month. It was related:

“The capable one is the one who judges himself and works for what's after death, and the feeble one is the one who makes himself follow its desire and wishes upon God the wishes”.

So account yourself, go through your deeds and carefully check your records before you get accounted on the Day of Judgement over every small and big deed. God says “And the record [of deeds] will be placed [open], and you will see the criminals fearful of that within it, and they will say, "Oh, woe to us! What is this book that leaves nothing small or great except that it has enumerated it?" And they will find what they did present [before them]. And your Lord does injustice to no one” [Al-Kahf 18:49].

You just sealed your year with the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah- which are blessed days with the good deed during them is preferred to God than good deeds during any other time- and started your new year with the sacred month of Muharram which is full of good and bounties so take advantage of this.

Second khutba

Days are containers of events and human good or bad effort and time acquire its value from the events that take place during it. The month of Muharram is one of the sacred months which fighting is prohibited therein as God says: “They ask you about the sacred month – about fighting therein. Say, "Fighting therein is great [sin]" [Al-Baqarah 2:217]. Within the month of Muharram there is a great day which is the tenth day; a day which brings back memories that shall always be remembered. That is why God said to Mosa “and remind them of the days of God” [Ibrahim 14:5] meaning: the blessings of God upon them when He saved them from the people of Pharaoh.

God (SW) wanted the day of Ashura to be distinguished to remind people of the destruction for the wrongdoers and the glad tidings for the patient. This day was honoured throughout the centuries as Ibn Abbas (may God be pleased with them) said: ‘when the prophet (pbuh) came to Medina he f saw the Jews fasting on the day of Ashura. He asked them about that. They replied, "This is a good day, the day on which God rescued Bani Israel from their enemy. So, Moses fasted this day." The Prophet said, "We have more claim over Moses than you." So, the Prophet fasted on that day and ordered (the Muslims) to fast (on that day).’ [Bukhari]. The reason behind honouring this day and the expiation of sins by fasting it is the effect it has on the human life and for the memory of this Ummah to always recall the decisive events between truth and falsehood. The prophet (pbuh) realised this historical aspect indicating that the battle is the same in all times and that the destruction of the Pharaoh in the time of Mosa is indeed a glad tiding of the destruction of the Pharaoh of any time.

Oh Muslims, It was the practice of the prophet (pbuh) to fast the day of Ashura, the tenth day of Muharram. Abu Hurairah narrated that the prophet (pbuh) said:” The best fasting after

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Ramadan is the month of God Muharram, and the best prayer after the obligatory prayer is prayer at night" [Muslim]. Before he (pbuh) passed away, he said:" 'If I live until the next year, I will certainly fast on the ninth day [of Muharram]" [Muslim] and in another hadith "Fasting the day of Ashura, I hope will be an expiation of sins for the year before". So you can fast the tenth day only or fast the ninth day as well (as most hadiths stated). This is a great bounty from God as fasting one day only can expiate the sins of a whole year "and God is the possessor of great bounty" [Al-Baqarah 2:105].