



## O Allah, make me ever-turning back to You

### First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Exalted in Might, the Accepting of repentance. He is the Best Responder to the supplications and guides to His path those who turn to Him alone. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

### As to what follows,

I urge you and myself, **O Servants of Allah**, to be aware that you are asked to obey Him the Most Exalted, in line with His orders: **“and fear a Day when you will be returned to Allah. Then every soul will be compensated for what it earned, and they will not be treated unjustly.”** (Al-Baqara: ٢٨١).

### Dear Muslims,

Allah, the Exalted is He, has ordered us to turn to Him in all our matters and to celebrate His remembrance at all times. Returning to Allah alone has, indeed, a great status which was attained by the Prophets and the Messengers, whom Allah the Almighty has commended in His holy Book. For instance, the Most Exalted has praised His Prophet and close friend Ibrahim (Abraham) pbuh, saying, **“indeed, Abraham was forbearing, grieving and [frequently] returning [to Allah].”** (Hood: ٧٥). For another, the Almighty says about His Prophet Dawood (David) pbuh, **“and he asked forgiveness of his Lord and fell down bowing [in prostration] and turned in repentance [to Allah].”** (Sad: ٢٤).

In another place in the holy Quran, Allah the Almighty mentions in the story of Shuaib that the latter said, **“and my success is not but through Allah. Upon him I have relied, and to Him I return.”** (Hood: ٨٨). In like manner, our Master Muhammad pbuh used to frequently turn to Allah the Almighty and rely on Him. Allah, the Most High, tells us a story about him as saying, **“that is Allah, my Lord; upon Him I have relied, and to Him I turn back.”** (Ash-Shura: ١٠).

Moreover, amongst the supplications that the Prophet pbuh recited often was: “My Lord, make me ever-grateful to You, ever-remembering of You, ever-obedient to You, ever-humble to You, ever-grieving and [frequently] returning to You.” That is to say, make me ever assured, humble and relying on You at all times.

Setting such a great example, Allah the Most Exalted enjoined upon His believing servants to follow in steps of the Prophets and Messengers in their returning to the Lord of the Worlds, for He says, “**and follow the way of those who turn back to Me [in repentance].**” (Luqman: ١٥). So, how can we attain such a great status of being ever-turning back to Allah, resembling the Prophets pbut?

### **O Servants of Allah,**

The answer to this question is that when the believer persistently returns to Allah the Almighty in repentance and relies on Him, they will attain the status of those who are ever-turners to Allah in repentance. In return, Allah the Most Forgiving, will reward them with His mercy and kindness, forgive them their mistakes and become delighted with their repentance. On this account, the Messenger of Allah pbuh said, “Allah the Almighty says: I am to my slave as he thinks of Me, (i.e. I am able to do for him what he thinks I can do for him), and I am with him as he remembers me. Verily, Allah is more delighted with the repentance of His slave than a person who lost his camel in a desert land and then finds it (unexpectedly); and if he comes one span nearer to Me, I go one cubit nearer to him; and if he comes one cubit nearer to Me, I go a distance of two outstretched arms nearer to him; and if he comes to Me walking, I go to him running.”

More to the point, turning to Allah and relying upon Him at times of prosperity as well as at times of adversity is a means of attaining the status of those who are ever-turners to Allah the Almighty alone. An illustration of this can be seen in this Aya: “**and when adversity touches man, he calls upon his Lord, turning to Him [alone].**” (Az-Zumar: ٨).

One other way that is conducive to help the believer to attain the status of those who return to Allah alone is by performing acts of worship, particularly prayer. To this, it was narrated that Abdullah Ibn Masood, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that a man committed a sin, so he came to the Prophet and informed him. Thereupon, Allah the Almighty revealed: **‘establish prayer at the two ends of the day and at the approach of the night. Indeed, good deeds do away with misdeeds. That is a reminder for those who remember’** (Hood: ١١٤).”

Amongst the other merits of prayer is that when the believer stands for prayer and turns to Allah the Most Exalted, He draws nearer to Him. The Messenger of Allah pbuh said in this regard, “When a man stands for prayer, Allah is in front of him.” Truly, prayer is a connection between the Servant and their Lord. For this reason, when the Prophet pbuh went through any difficulty, he used to establish prayer. During night prayer, he pbuh would invoke Allah saying, “O Allah! I surrender myself to You, and I depend upon You, and I believe in You, and I repent to You.” That is to say: I obey You and return to worshipping You, and strive to perform all that which may draw me closer to You.

**Dear Muslims,**

Please know that reciting the verses of the holy Quran and pondering upon their meanings are amongst the acts of obedience that are conducive to place peace in the heart and return the believer to their Lord. On this matter, it was narrated that Buraidah, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Prophet pbuh met him once and took him to the mosque where they heard a man reciting the Quran. Thereupon the Prophet pbuh said, “He is a believer and returner (to Allah).”

Furthermore, contemplation on the Creation of Allah the Almighty and reflecting on His perfect produce bring to the memory of the believer the Sovereignty of their Lord, the Most Exalted, and show them signs on His Great Status. The Exalted in Might says, **“it is He who shows you His signs and sends down to you from the sky, provision. But none will remember except he who turns back [in repentance].”** (Ghafir: ١٣). So, pondering upon these signs will

definitely make the believer exalt Allah the Almighty, turn back to Him at all times, draw nearer to Him and hasten to attain His satisfaction.

Allah the Most Gracious has mentioned such signs in His holy Book, and accentuated that only those who turn to Him frequently will see them. The Almighty says, **“have they not looked at the heaven above them - how We structured it and adorned it and [how] it has no rifts? And the earth - We spread it out and cast therein firmly set mountains and made grow therein [something] of every beautiful kind, giving insight and a reminder for every servant who turns [to Allah].”** (Qaf: ٦-٨). This means, for every believer who is humbly devoted to Allah and rely on Him alone.

With this in mind, we seek Allah’s favour to make us amongst His servants who are ever returning back to Him, ever humble to Him and ever turning back to Him in repentance.

May Allah guide us all to obey Him and obey His Messenger Muhammad pbuh and obey those He have commanded us to obey in line with His orders: **“O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.”** (An-Nisaa: ٥٩).

May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh.

I say this and ask Allah for forgiveness for me and you, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

## **Second Sermon**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. He is an ally to the righteous. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you, **O Servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Most High and Exalted.

## **O Worshipers,**

Please be aware that turning back to Allah the Most Merciful in repentance frequently brings to the believer ample of great benefits. One such benefit is that it is a means of guidance to the straight path. Allah the Most Exalted says, “**and guides to Himself whoever turns back [to Him].**” (Ar-Raad: ٢٧). Another merit of turning back to Allah is that it is a cause for remembering His great bounties, attaining farsightedness and protection from heedlessness. To this, Allah the Almighty says, “**but none will remember except he who turns back [in repentance].**” (Ghafir: ١٢).

Furthermore, turning back to Allah frequently imparts happiness into the heart of the believer. The Messenger of Allah pbuh has illustrated this as he said, “It is from the happiness of the servant (of Allah) to live a long-term life and Allah grants him (the blessing of) turning back to Him (in repentance).” In addition to this, Allah the Almighty gives good tidings to those who turn to Him frequently of attaining His mercy. The Most Exalted says, “**but those who have avoided Taghut, lest they worship it, and turned back to Allah - for them are good tidings.**” (Az-Zumar: ١٧).

Yet, the ultimate reward for the returners to Allah the Almighty is that they will be admitted to His Paradise in peace and reside therein perpetually. This is Allah’s promise to them, for He says, “**and Paradise will be brought near to the righteous, not far. [It will be said], ‘This is what you were promised - for every returner [to Allah] and keeper [of His covenant] who feared the Most Merciful unseen and came with a heart returning [in repentance]. Enter it in peace. This is the Day of Eternity’.**” (Qaf: ٣١-٣٤).

Let us, therefore, draw nearer to Allah the Almighty by performing acts of worship and turn back to Him in repentance that He may engulf us with His mercy and endow upon us the blessing of entering His Paradise.

That is said, please bear in mind that you are instructed to invoke peace and blessings on the Prophet pbuh. Allah, the Most Sublime, says, “**indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to**

**confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.”**

(Al-Ahzab: ٥٦).

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all of the noble Companions.

O Allah, we implore to You to grant us a sincere repentance and make us ever return back to You.

O Allah, may we ask You to increase us in faith, assurance, cooperation, success, consolidation and harmony. O Allah, may You also forgive us and our parents and bless us in our offspring. Our Lord, please continue blessing us with happiness with our families and in our homeland, and make us amongst those who are dutiful for their parents and kind to their kith and kin.

May Allah grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we also seek Your favour to grant him continued health and care. May Allah also ensure success to his Vice-President, trustworthy Crown Prince and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, please forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, living and dead. We pray to Allah to show mercy on late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the late UAE Sheikhs. O Lord, grant them abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction.

O Allah, please admit them to Paradise, being given bounties therein without account. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whoever has done a favour to us.

O Allah, we implore to You to continue blessing us with Your bounties, endow upon us Your favours and make us rejoice peace of mind and wellbeing. O Allah, please accept our good deeds and accept our prayers.

We pray to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, to continue blessing the UAE with stability and welfare and increase it in bounties, knowledge, civilisation, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with happiness and security.

May Allah have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of

the prophets. May Allah make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You are ever responding to the supplications.

O Allah, please grant the best reward for the families of the martyrs and offer them patience and solace. May Allah grant victory to the soldiers of the Arab Coalition who gathered to restore the rights to their owners. O Allah, please protect them by Your protection and grant them Your victory. O Lord, please guide the Yemeni people to everything that is good. O Allah, make them rally for the word of truth and legitimacy, and bless them with welfare and stability, O the Most Generous.

O Lord, we beseech You to bless all of the Muslim countries and the whole world with stability and peace.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to send us wealthy rain and make us not amongst those who are despondent. O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us with a wealthy, healthy and sufficient rain! O Allah, give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth.

Our Lord, 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, admit us to Your Paradise with the righteous. Indeed, You are Exalted in Might and Forgiving.

**O Servants of Allah,** Remember Allah and He will remember you. Be grateful of His benevolence and He will increase His blessings to you.

Please stand up for prayer.