



On the virtues of performing righteous acts in secret

First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Knower of the unseen. He knows of that within the heart. 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 pure blessed 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 Almighty in line with His orders: **“and if they had believed and feared Allah, then the reward from Allah would have been [far] better, if they only knew.”** (Al-Baqara: ١٠٣).

Dear Muslims,

Undoubtedly, Allah the Almighty is All-Knowing and acquainted with all that is happening in the heavens and earth. In His holy Book, the Most Exalted says, **“indeed, Allah is Knower of the unseen [aspects] of the heavens and earth. Indeed, He is Knowing of that within the breasts.”** (Fater: ٣٨). Allah knows all that His servants do, whether in public or in secret, for He says, **“indeed, from Allah nothing is hidden in the earth nor in the heaven.”** (Al Imran: ٥).

Allah, the Most High, has enjoined upon His servants to perform righteous deeds and hasten to do acts of kindness, both secretly and in the open. The good deed that is done secretly is described as the act that is done in the back since its doer refrains to disclose it. It is like when one hides something behind his back in order to conceal it from the eyes of others. Doing good unseen is something that Allah the Almighty likes and, thus, multiplies the reward He grants for such deed. The Most Gracious says, **“if you disclose your charitable expenditures, they are good; but if you conceal them**

and give them to the poor, it is better for you, and He will remove from you some of your misdeeds [thereby]. And Allah, with what you do, is [fully] Acquainted.” (Al-Baqara: ٢٧١).

In this noble Aya there is an indication to the fact that unrevealing the charitable acts is better than disclosing them, except in the case that through disclosure, one would set example for others to emulate. This is because when someone performs an act of kindness in the way of Allah without disclosing it, it would be more sincere since its doer would not be expecting any praise or gratitude from the others in return for their kindness. For this reason, the Prophets pbuh ensured that part of their deeds be done secretly; unseen and unknown to others.

For instance, Allah the Almighty tells us about His Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) pbuh: **“then he went to his family and came with a fat [roasted] calf.”** (Adh-Dhariyat: ٢٦). That is to say: he sneaked quickly and returned to his family without letting them know that which he has done. For another, it was narrated that Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, said, “I noticed the Messenger of Allah pbuh was missing from his bed one night, and when I sought him, I found him when he was prostrating with his feet held upright, and he was saying, ‘I seek refuge in Your pleasure from Your anger, and in Your pardon from Your punishment. I cannot count Your praises. You are as You have praised Yourself.’”

More to the point, Islam has urged Muslims to do plenty of righteous deeds without letting people knowing about them. In this regard, Al Zubair Ibn Al Awwam, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “Whoever among you is able to carry out a hidden good deed, he should do it.” This means to do a righteous deed without others knowledge.

This brings us to advise one another about the deeds that Islam has commanded us to do secretly.

O Believers,

Amongst the acts that Allah, the Most Exalted, has commended us to do in secret is giving alms and spending for charity. Truly, the one who spends for the sake of Allah in a hidden manner will see themselves drawing closer to their Lord and Allah will shade them

under the shade of His throne on the Day of Resurrection. On this account, the Messenger of Allah pbuh said, “Seven people will be shaded by Allah under His shade on the day when there will be no shade except His.” One of them he mentioned, “is a person who practices charity so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given (i.e. nobody knows how much he has given in charity).”

Following such glorious guidance, the righteous ancestors strived to spend in charity secretly so that no one will ever know about their kind acts. A good example on this is the story of a young man who used to visit Abdullah Ibn Al Awwam often and assist him with his needs and also listen to Hadith from him. Once, Ibn Al Mubarak returned (from a travel) and did not see the young man. When he asked about him, he was told that he has been jailed for not paying a debt of ten thousand dirhams. Ibn Al Mubarak went to the creditor and paid out the amount and took oath from him (the creditor), that he would not inform anyone of this act as long as he was alive. So, the young man was released and he did not know about this until Ibn Al Mubarak had passed away.

O Servants of Allah,

Another righteous act that is conducive to earn the Muslim the love of Allah the Almighty is to love others for the sake of Allah. The Messenger of Allah pbuh emphasised this when he said, “When two men love each other for Allah’s sake secretly, the better of them is the one who has the strongest love for his companion.” In this sense, if one person loves another one he will, surely, talk about him respectfully whether in his presence or when is absent. In fact, this is one of the rights of a person on their friends. The Messenger of Allah pbuh said, “The believer owes six duties toward his fellow believer, and of them he mentioned: to be sincere to him, whether he is absent or present.”

This means respect his right to be mentioned in a noble way and protect him from injury. He should defend him when he is absent as the Prophet pbuh said, “Whoever defends the honour of his brother in his absence, will be entitled to Allah’s protection from the Fire.” So, those who possess such a good character will, by Allah’s favour,

attain His satisfaction and the appreciation of other people too. To this, Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “There are three whom I cannot pay back, even if I strived to do so, and of them he mentioned: A man who protected me in my absence.”

O Believers,

Amongst the other good deeds that Allah the Most Giving rewards generously is the supplication for others in their absence. For this righteous act, Allah the Almighty endows the reimbursement to both, the one who invokes Him and the one to whom he is invoking for. This was accentuated by the Messenger of Allah pbuh as he said, “The supplication of a man for his brother in his absence will be answered. By his head there is an angel who says Amin to his supplication, and every time he prays for his brother, he says: “Amin, and the same for you.”

The reason for this is that when one prays for someone else in his absence, his prayers would be more sincere and more loving, and thus more likely to be answered. This was part of the guidance of the Messenger of Allah pbuh for he has set a pattern to follow when he supplicated to Ibn Abbas in his absence and said, “O Allah! Make him (Ibn Abbas) a learned scholar in religion (Islam) and the (correct) interpretation of the Book.”

The companions of the Prophet pbuh, may Allah be pleased with them, followed in his footsteps, with a good example being the one of Abu Ad-Dardaa, may Allah be pleased with him. When he completed his night prayer, he would invoke Allah the Almighty for his fellow Muslims and say, “O Allah, please grant your forgiveness to so-and-so.” So, it was said to him, “If only you pray for yourself.” He said, “If the Muslim supplicates for his brother Muslim in his absence, the angels would say Amin to his supplication. And I like the angels saying this (for my supplications).”

It was also narrated that Abu Ad-Dardaa said, “A Muslim may be forgiven while he is asleep, and praised while he is awake.” He was asked, “How can this be possible?” He said, “A man establishes night prayer and supplicates for his brother Muslim, while he is asleep, and ask forgiveness for him. So, he is forgiven while asleep. And the other one (who supplicated) would be praised.”

Bearing this in mind, we seek Allah's grace to make amongst those who worship Him in secret and in the open. O Allah, may we ask You to provide for us in the Hereafter the best [reward] and extra.

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. 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 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,

Allah, the Exalted is He, has appointed His closest angels to pray for the true believers in their absence. The Almighty says, **“those [angels] who carry the Throne and those around it exalt [Allah] with praise of their Lord and believe in Him and ask forgiveness for those who have believed, [saying], ‘Our Lord, You have encompassed all things in mercy and knowledge, so forgive those who have repented and followed Your way and protect them from the punishment of Hellfire.’”** (Ghafir: ٧). Moreover, the Most Exalted has made His angels pbut say Amin after each supplication invoked by a Muslim for their brother Muslims in their absence.

Mankind are urged, therefore, to strive in invoking their Lord for their beloved ones. So one should supplicate for their parents in their absence whenever one offer prayer. They are also recommended to pray for their offspring, homeland and ruler and invoke Him to grant them all that which is good. The Muslim is further advised to always perform righteous deeds for the sake of Allah in secret, one that is between themselves and their Lord.

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).

On the same matter, the Prophet pbuh said, “For everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah.”

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 Lord, please make us amongst those who are rightful to 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 Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whoever has done a favour to us.

O Allah, may we ask You to guide us to all that may help us attain Your mercy and forgiveness and grant us rewards for our good deeds.

O Allah, we implore to You to protect us from every major sin and grant us the reward of every good deed. O Allah, we seek Your grace to make us amongst those who will win Your Paradise and save us from the Hellfire.

O Allah, we implore You at this instance not to let a sin un-forgiven, a distress unrelieved, a debt unpaid, an illness unhealed, a dead without mercy or a need unsatisfied, for You are the Most Generous and over all things Competent. Indeed, You are to prayers ever responding.

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 answer 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 Lord, please be by their side and 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.

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.

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.