



Those who spend the night in the company of their Lord prostrating and standing in prayer

The First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah. Who has blessed those who fast and pray with His acceptance. Who has bestowed upon them His forgiveness and mercy. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love and adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), is the perfect example of servanthood unto Allah, and His sent Messenger unto the entire universe.

To Continue: I advise you, dutiful servants of Allah, and myself, to adhere to a heartfelt consciousness (Taqwa) of Allah. For He, the Most Gloriously

Transcendent, states: **إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ * آخِذِينَ**

مَا آتَاهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَبْلَ ذَلِكَ مُحْسِنِينَ * كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ

اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ * وَبِالْأَسْحَارِ هُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ

Indeed, the righteous will be among gardens and springs, Accepting what their Lord has given them.

Indeed, they were before that doers of good. They

used to sleep but little of the night, And in the hours before dawn they would ask forgiveness,

[Qur'an: ٥١: ١٥-١٨]

O Muslims:

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

مَنْ قَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا؛ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

Whoever ‘stands’ (i.e. prays during the night) in the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith and seeking reward from Allah, will have all of his previous sins forgiven. [Bukhari and Muslim]

Here the word ‘qama’ or ‘stands’ is indicative of one who stands up in the night in Ramadan praying, calling upon their Lord in a state of true sincerity, whilst being certain and hopeful of the bounty of such an act. It is this that brings about the reward with the Lord of all being, which is that Allah will forgive him his sins, and increase his goodness, raising his rank. In this regard, the Prophet instituted for us his way of the prayer of Tarawih, such that it became one of the great outward rites in Ramadan. It is narrated on the authority of the Mother of the Believers, Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) that: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) prayed the [Tarawih] prayer in the Masjid and there were a group of people who prayed with him. Until it was the third or fourth night when the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not come out to the people. So when the morning came he said: “I saw what you were doing and nothing

but the fear that it (i.e. the extra prayer) might be enjoined as obligatory upon you, stopped me from coming to you.” And that happened in the month of Ramadan [Bukhari]. Later it was Sayyidina Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) who joined the people to pray the prayer of Tarawih behind the one who most knew the Qur’an, best in his recitation, who was Ubai bin Ka’b [Bukhari: ٢٠١٠]. The Sahaba used to be avid to complete the prayer of Tarawih with the Imam, to hear the Qur’an being recited, to contemplate upon the words of the Most Merciful. This was in order they can make true the promise of the Messenger of Allah who said: **مَنْ قَامَ مَعَ الْإِمَامِ حَتَّى يَنْصَرِفَ؛ كُتِبَ لَهُ قِيَامُ لَيْلَةٍ:**

"Whoever prays Qiyam with the Imam until he finishes, Allah will record for him the Qiyam of a (whole) night." [Abu Dawud and al-Tirmidhi]

So they intend to obtain the reward of having prayed the whole night.

O You who Fast in the Day and Pray in the Night:

Indeed praying in the night is a great door from the doors by which we can enter into goodness, that Allah has opened for His slaves in Ramadan. It is something that those who have Taqwa avidly adhere to, something that sincere believers invest their time in. For the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said to Muadh ibn Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him):

أَلَا أَدُلُّكَ عَلَىٰ أَبْوَابِ الْخَيْرِ؟ الصَّوْمُ جَنَّةٌ، وَالصَّدَقَةُ تُطْفِئُ
 الْخَطِيئَةَ، وَقِيَامُ الرَّجُلِ فِي جَوْفِ اللَّيْلِ يَكْفِّرُ الْخَطَايَا». ثُمَّ قَرَأَ
 قَوْلَهُ تَعَالَى: (تَتَجَافَىٰ جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا
 وَطَمَعًا وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ)

Shall I not guide you towards the means of goodness? Fasting is a shield; charity extinguishes sin (as water extinguishes fire) ; and the praying of a man in the depths of the night remove his faults.” Then he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) recited: “[Those] who forsake their beds, to invoke their Lord in fear and hope, and they spend (charity in Allah’s cause) out of what We have bestowed on them.”[Qur’an: ٣٢:١٦]

So the believer who stands up for prayer in the night, directing his heart to his Lord, doing the Ruku and Sajdah, praising Allah and worshipping Him, obedient to Allah. About them Allah says:

وَالَّذِينَ يَبِيتُونَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَقِيَامًا

And those who spend [part of] the night to their Lord prostrating and standing [in prayer]

[Qur’an: ٢٥:٦٤]

They intimately call upon him with their words. Praising Him for the blessings they have bestowed upon them. Thanking Him for His grace and bounties, asking Him for the persevering of His generosity.

Asking this also for the nation and its leadership, for its people and their families and asking this good for all of humanity everywhere. Hence their prayer is not just a mercy for them but a means of instilling character and morality in wider society. They know that supplication is closer to being answered in the night, because the prayers then are the best of prayers after the obligatory. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

أَفْضَلُ الصَّلَاةِ بَعْدَ الْفَرِيضَةِ: صَلَاةُ اللَّيْلِ

The most excellent prayer after what is prescribed is prayer during the night. [Sahih Muslim]

It is from the most beloved of deeds to Allah, as the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

أَحَبُّ الصَّلَاةِ إِلَى اللَّهِ: صَلَاةُ دَاوُدَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، كَانَ يَنَامُ نِصْفَ اللَّيْلِ، وَيَقُومُ ثُلُثَهُ

The most beloved prayer to Allah is the prayer of Dawud (peace and blessings be upon him). He used to sleep half the night, stand for one-third of it (in prayer), and sleep for one-sixth of it.

[Bukhari and Muslim]

So whoever stands up for prayer in the night, becomes someone who is tranquil in his heart, of purity of spirit. Whose heart is expansive, easy-going, whose face is illuminated. Hassan al-Basri (may Allah be pleased with him) was asked: “Why is that those who pray Tahajjud have the most pleasant faces to look

upon?” He responded: Because they sought solitude with The Most-Merciful (al-Rahman) so he clothed them with light from His lights. So the one who gets up in the night out of love for His lord and love for His creation, Allah makes for such a person a light in his face by which those who see him love him and by which he attains an evident honor. Beyond this he attains an increased rank and stature with Allah, being closer to Him, as the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **عَلَيْكُمْ بِقِيَامِ اللَّيْلِ، فَإِنَّهُ دَأْبُ الصَّالِحِينَ، وَمَنْهَاةٌ عَنِ الْإِثْمِ، وَإِنَّ قِيَامَ اللَّيْلِ قُرْبَةٌ إِلَى اللَّهِ، وَمَطْرَدَةٌ لِلدَّاءِ عَنِ الْجَسَدِ وَتَكْفِيرٌ لِلْسَّيِّئَاتِ**

Hold fast to Qiyam al-Lail, for it is the practice of the righteous before you, and indeed Qiyam al-Lail is a means of nearness to Allah, a means of prevention from sin, an expiation for bad deeds, and a barrier for the body against disease.

[Tirmidhi]

Similarly Allah draws near to the one who stands for prayer just as they draw near to Him. He increases their reward, raising in Jannat their ranks. Allah Himself says with regards to the reward for the Servants of the Merciful, those who stand up in the night in prayer, supplication and recitation of Qur'an:

أُولَئِكَ يُجْزَوْنَ الْغُرْفَةَ بِمَا صَبَرُوا وَيُلَقَّوْنَ فِيهَا تَحِيَّةً وَسَلَامًا*

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا حَسُنَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا

Those will be awarded the Chamber for what they patiently endured, and they will be received therein with greetings and [words of] peace. Abiding eternally therein. Good is the settlement and residence. [Qur'an: ٧٥-٧٦]

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: “Indeed in Paradise there are chambers, whose outside can be seen from their inside, and their inside can be seen from their outside.” A Man stood and said : “Who are they for, O Messenger of Allah?” He said:

لِمَنْ أَطَابَ الْكَلَامَ، وَأَطْعَمَ الطَّعَامَ، وَأَدَامَ الصِّيَامَ، وَصَلَّى بِاللَّيْلِ

وَالنَّاسُ نِيَامٌ

For those who speak well, feed others, fast regularly, and perform prayers during the night whilst the people sleep. [al-Tirmidhi]

So they are in Paradise in a place of care and well-being and in partaking of its blessings they are in bliss.

فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ مَّا أُخْفِيَ لَهُمْ مِنْ قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا

يَعْمَلُونَ

And no soul knows what has been hidden for them of comfort for eyes as reward for what they used to do. [Qur'an: ٣٢: ١٧]

O Allah make us from those who fast devoutly during the day and stand up for prayer in the night. Those whose prayers, fast, supplications and all manners of good and piety you accept. And assist us all in the way of piety and obedience. Piety towards Your trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), the ability to be dutiful towards those You have commanded us to be dutiful towards, in accordance with Your words: **O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.** [Qur'an: ٤:٥٩]

May Allah bless me and bless you with the Noble Qur'an and with the Way (Sunnah) of His Noble Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). I say this, and I seek forgiveness for me and for you, so seek His forgiveness, for He is the All-Forgiving and the All-Merciful.

The Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, Lord of all the Worlds. Who has made standing for prayer at night, the emblem of those who fast sincerely [during the day]. The mount by which the spiritual travelers draw closer to Allah. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love and adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon his name), is the perfect example of dutiful servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe. O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon him; his family; all of his companions; and whomsoever follows and seeks to emulate him in the best of ways till the Last Day. I advise you, O servants of Allah, and myself, with Taqwa of Allah (glorified be He).

O Worshippers:

Indeed the prayer of Tarawih has a great rank, and a noble station with Allah. So let us invest in ourselves by investing our time in the nights of Ramadan with prayer and recitation of the Qur'an, until we be written down with Allah as being from those of Dhakireen (who remember Allah much). For the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

مَنْ قَامَ بَعَشْرَ آيَاتٍ لَمْ يُكْتَبْ مِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ

If anyone prays at night reciting regularly ten verses, he will not be recorded among the negligent
[Abu Dawud]

Let us particularly take care to ensure we pray our prayer in congregation, encouraging our children [who have reached the age to pray] to do the same, so that they too can grow up upon the worship of Allah. That they be enveloped in His intimate care, and that they can be included in His grace and concern.

And with this, let us send our peace and blessings upon the one we have been commanded to send our peace and blessings upon, as Allah 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.** [Qur'an: ٣٣:٥٦]. So, O Allah, bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon our Master, our Prophet and upon his family and all of his companions. And may Allah be pleased with the Righteous Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali; and the noble companions of the Prophet, the Sahaba, may Allah be pleased with all of them. O Allah, we ask You for soundness in our faith, and trust in good character, and a true success that will be followed by eternal bliss. O Allah, we ask You for Your mercy, for true prosperity, for Your redemptive forgiveness and Your pleasure. O Allah, make us from those who are obedient, respectful, those who venerate their parents, honoring their mothers and their fathers, embodying

excellent character towards their families and wider societies.

O 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 seek Your favour in granting him continued good health and care. O Allah, we also ask You to grant success to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, we ask You to forgive all of the Muslims, both the men and women, the living and dead. O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to the mercy of their Lord. O Lord, grant them from your abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Allah, we ask you to admit them into Paradise, being given bounties therein without being taken to account. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whosoever may have a right upon us.

O Allah, we ask You, from your loving kindness, for the immensity of your forgiveness, for the reward of all righteousness, for the safety and protection from all sin. O Allah, we ask you for the ultimate success in attaining Paradise, and the ultimate respite in being saved from the Fire. O Allah, do not allow us to sin except that You forgive us, nor to have any worry except that you relieve us therein, nor for any debt to come upon us except that You see it compensated, nor

for there to be any sick amongst us except that You see them healed. Let there be no dead, except that You have covered them in Your mercy, and let there be no pressing need, amongst any of us, except that You see it met and fulfilled. O most Noble of the Noble, You are capable over all things, and You are the most generous in responding to those who call upon You.

We ask You, O Allah, the Lord of all domains, to continue blessing the UAE with stability, welfare, increase in its bounties, knowledge, civilization, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with safety and security. O Allah, have mercy on the honorable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the Prophets. O Allah, make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You are ever-responsive to those who call upon You. O Allah, grant to the people of Yemen that which is good, and unite them upon that which is True and Sacred, and provide for them all manners of prosperity, O most Noble of the Noble. O Allah, spread peace and security amongst all the Muslim nations, and the entirety of the world. O our Lord, we ask You for the best of this World, the best of the Hereafter, that You will protect us from the punishment of the Fire, and that You enter us into Your paradise with the righteous. Indeed You are the Most Generous and Most Forgiving.

O Servants of Allah: Remember Allah, the Majestic, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings and He will increase you therein. And establish the prayer. **So stand up for prayer.**