



Taking the means

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, the Most Noble, the Most Beneficent. He is the One who has encouraged us to take the means in our lives. And I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely One who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Muhammad is the slave of Allah and His Messenger, may the peace and blessings upon him and upon whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you, O slaves of Allah and myself, with the Taqwa of Allah, as Allah says:

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

And fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is acquainted with what you do. [Qur'an: ٥٩:١٨]

O Believers: It is known with regards to the Prophets and Messengers, and about the Scholars and the Wise that they all take the means that have been facilitated for them by their Creator. Accordingly, they strive with whatever is in their capabilities for the benefit of their communities and societies. Illustrative of this is when Allah commanded Sayyidina Nuh (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), to take the means for his safety and salvation from the oncoming flood, so He said:

فَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِ أَنْ اصْنَعْ الْفُلْكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَوَحَيْنَا

So We inspired to him, "Construct the ship under Our observation, and Our inspiration [Qur'an: ٢٣:٢٧]
 So, the saving of those with Nuh (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) from the flood was a result of the fruit of the divinely granted success given on account of his taking the means to construct the ship. This was the way of putting in his effort in whilst relying on Allah. In similar manner, we find the story of Dhul Qarnayn, about whom Allah says:

إِنَّا مَكَّنَّا لَهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَآتَيْنَاهُ مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ سَبَبًا * فَاتَّبَعَ سَبَبًا

Indeed, We established him upon the earth, and We gave him to everything a way. [Qur'an: ١٨:٨٤]
 So Dhul Qarnayn invested himself in means, this is what is meant by his taking a 'way'. An example of this was when he sought the help of others in building a dam (as protection against Gog and Magog), saying:

فَاعِينُونِي بِقُوَّةٍ أَجْعَلْ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَهُمْ رَدْمًا

So assist me with strength; I will make between you and them a dam. [Qur'an: ١٨:٩٥]

In this instance he joined between taking the means of his own strength and knowledge alongside utilizing the strength of others. So, each skill was utilized and collectively the people were able to protect themselves, ensuring the safety of their community.

In similar spirit the Messenger of Allah (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) encouraged his companions to take the means at their disposal, whether it be material or spiritual. A famous instance of this is when a man asked the Prophet: "O Messenger of Allah,

should I set my camel free and let it go forth purely relying on Allah or should I tie it up and rely upon Allah?" He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) responded: "**Tie it and rely upon Allah** [Tirmidhi]." Elsewhere, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to another man:

اٰخِرُصَ عَلٰى مَا يَنْفَعُكَ، وَاسْتَعِزْ بِاللّٰهِ وَلَا تَعْجِزْ

Strive for that which will benefit you, seek the help of Allah, and do not feel helpless. [Sahih Muslim]

In other words do not feel helpless and incapacitated with regards to taking the means of ensuring peace, security, salvation and success. We ask Allah for this success in all of our affairs, and peace, wellbeing, and happiness in this world and the hereafter. I say this and seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most-forgiving.

Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, the One, and may peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and companions, and whomsoever follows them in the best of ways.

O Believers: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) guided and orientated us to how to heal from a plague, which was to take the means of medication. An instance of this is when he was asked: "O Messenger of Allah, should we take medication? He responded by saying: "**Yes, servants of Allah, make use of medical treatment** [Abu Dawud]."

So, from the means of recovery, healing and treatment is that we adhere to implementing the instructions of the Ministry of Health and Prevention, and the other official bodies. We should observe the precautionary measures, as this is a religious requirement and a national duty.

And with this, let us send our prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Muhammad. O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family, his companions, all of them.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates. and guide them to all that is good and what pleases You. O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on the martyrs, and grant their families with patience and a great reward. And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us. And continue perpetuating blessings and bounties upon the UAE. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah, bless us, bless us, bless us. O Allah: Give us in this life that which is beautiful and in the next life that which is beautiful, and save us from the fire. Remember Allah and He will remember you, Stand up for prayer.