

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL  
BEING THE FOURTH SERMON FOR THE MONTH OF JUMAADA AL-AKHIRAH,  
DATED: 23RD JUMAADAL AL-AKHIRAH, 1445AH (5TH JAN., 2024CE)  
TITLED: THE OBLIGATION OF RECTIFYING AND PURIFYING THE SOUL

### THE FIRST SERMON

All praises belong to Allah Who created souls and made them appropriate. He inspired them to understand what is sinful and what is pious. And He has ordained success for those who purified their souls, and humiliation and failure for those who corrupted their own and followed their desires. He is the One Who says in His precise Revelation: (قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا) **“Indeed, he who purifies it (his soul) has prospered, and he who has trampled them has failed...”** We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of our souls and the bad consequence of our deeds. Whoever is guided by Allah, no one can mislead him, and whoever He lets go astray, none can guide him. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah alone. He has no partner, in truth and with certainty. I bear witness also that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger, may Allah bless him and his family and companions and grant them abundant peace.

Thereafter...

I enjoin you - servants of Allah- to fear Allah and hold yourselves accountable, ( يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَانْتِظِرُوا نَفْسَكُمْ ) ( مَا قَدَّمْتُ لِعِدِّ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ ) **“O you who believe! Fear Allah and keep your duty to Him. And let every person look to what he has sent forth for the morrow, and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is All-Aware of what you do.”** (Al-Hashr : 18).

Allah Ta’alaa created man, taught him sense of expression, gave him intellect and a tongue, guided him to the two ways (good and evil), and showed him the two paths. He either is thankful or he is ungrateful. He tested him with the enmity of the soul and the Shaytaan, He decreed for him success or failure, and made his return to be either to Paradise or to Hell. He legislated for him the Laws (Sharee’ah), revealed the Books, and sent the Messengers as bearers of good tidings and as warners. Among the people are those who answered the messengers and were purified, ( وَمَنْ تَزَكَّى فَإِنَّمَا يَتَزَكَّى لِنَفْسِهِ ) **“And whoever purifies himself, he purifies it only for himself.”** ...” (Faatir: 18), and among them were those who turned away, refused, and reneged, ( مَنْ نَكَثَ فَإِنَّمَا يَنْكُثُ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ ) **“...and whoever reneges only reneges against himself”** (Al-Fath: 10), and so for this and that reason, the topic of our sermon today revolves around **“THE OBLIGATION OF RECTIFYING AND PURIFYING THE SOUL.”**

Servants of Allah! Dear listeners! Know that the soul is inclined to enmity and evil, lying between extremism and connecting to the Lord, the Knower of the Unseen. The soul, by its nature, is inclined toward desires and pleasures, lazy about acts of obedience (worship) and doing of good deeds. The soul is the vehicle and access point of the Shaytaan, his means and his instrument. It is with it that obedience to him is accomplished, and it is his evidence and excuse. ( وَقَالَ الشَّيْطَانُ لَمَّا قُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَعَدَكُمْ وَعَدَّ الْحَقُّ وَوَعَدْتُمْ فَأَخْلَفْتُمْ وَمَا كَانَ لِي عَلَيْكُمْ مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ إِلَّا أَنْ ) (دَعَوْتُمْ فَأَسْتَجَبْتُ لِي فَلَا تَلُومُونِي وَلُومُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ ) **“And Shaitan (Satan) will say when the matter has been decided: "Verily, Allah promised you a promise of truth. And I too promised you, but I betrayed you. I had no authority over you except that I called you, so you responded to me. So blame me not, but blame yourselves. I cannot help you, nor can you help me. I deny your former act in associating me (Satan) as a partner with Allah (by obeying me in the life of the world). Verily, there is a painful torment for the Zalimun (polytheists**

and wrong-doers, etc.).” (Ibrahim: 22). It commands evil and is inclined to desire. The Almighty said: ( إِنَّ النَّفْسَ ) وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ ) “Verily, the (human) self is inclined to evil” (Yuusuf : 53) And the Almighty said: ( رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسَ عَنِ الْهَوَى \* فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَى ) “But as for him who feared standing before his Lord, and restrained himself from impure evil desires, and lusts. Verily, Paradise will be his abode.” (An-Nazi’aat: 40-41).

Dear servants of Allah! The soul is in need of care, supervision, refinement, purification, and follow-up. That is why the Prophet - may Allah bless him and grant him peace - said to Hussein ibn al-Mundhir: “Say: **Oh Allah, inspire me with guidance, and protect me from the evil of my soul**”, and in the Khutubatul-Hajjah, he would say “...And we seek refuge in Allah from the evils of our souls.”

The way to get rid of the evils of the soul is to purify it, care for it, and commitment to it. Allah has sworn in His Book eleven successive oaths in praise of the one who purifies the soul, and disapprove of the one who violates it. Allah Ta’alaa says: ( وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا \* وَالْقَمَرِ إِذَا تَلَاهَا \* وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا جَلَّاهَا \* وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَاهَا \* وَالسَّمَاءِ وَمَا بَنَاهَا \* وَالْأَرْضِ ) “And by the sun in its brightness, \* And by the moon as it follows it (the sun), \*And by the day as it shows up (the sun's) brightness; \* And by the night as it conceals it (the sun). And by the heaven and Him Who built it. And by the earth Him Who spread it. And by a soul and He Who perfected it in proportion. And so He inspired in it what is bad for it and what is good for it. Indeed he succeeds who purifies his ownself (i.e. obeys and performs all that Allah ordered, by following the true Faith of Islamic Monotheism and by doing righteous good deeds). And indeed he fails who corrupts his ownself . (Ash-Shams: 1-10).

Allah reminds the believers of the conferment of the greatest blessings, saying: ( لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ ) “Indeed, Allah has done the believers a ‘great’ favour by raising a messenger from among them—reciting to them His revelations, purifying them, and teaching them the Book and wisdom. For indeed they had previously been clearly astray.” (Al Imran: 164). He also says: ( هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ ) “He is the One Who raised for the illiterate ‘people’ a messenger from among themselves—reciting to them His revelations, purifying them, and teaching them the Book and wisdom, for indeed they had previously been clearly astray.” (Al-Jumu’ah: 2). Allah, the Almighty told us that purifying oneself is a means of success and being victorious with Paradise. He (Allah) says: ( قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّى \* وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ ) (فَصَلِّ) “Successful indeed are those who purify themselves, and remember the Name of their Lord, and pray.” [Al-A’la :14-15)

Dear Servants of Allah, the purification of souls cannot be achieved except by doing good deeds; to worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you do not see Him, then He sees you. It cannot be achieved except by going against desires and adhering to piety. It cannot be achieved except by disobeying the desires, and by being committed to taqwa (piety). And it cannot be achieved except by disobeying the soul that is commands evil, and abandoning its pleasures and desires. So whoever feeds the soul with what it desires is like someone who feeds fire with splits of firewood, so whoever succeeds in suppressing it attains what he hopes for and his soul firmly. Be he who submits to it, it will throw him into the paths of destruction and destruction.

*The soul is like a child: if you neglect it, it will grow up loving breastfeeding, and if you wean it, it will be weaned So strive against the soul and the devils and disobey them, even if they appear sincere to you, still hold them in contempt.*

Dear Servants of Allah! Strive to purify souls before the sudden calamity and sorrowful regret. (يَوْمَ تَجِدُ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا ) “The Day every soul will find what it has done of good present [before it] and what it has done of evil, it will wish that between itself and that [evil] was a great distance.” (Al Imran: 30). Strive to purify the souls before you say: ( اِحْسَرْتَا عَلَى مَا فَرَطْتُمَا فِي جَنبِ اللَّهِ وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَمِنَ ) (السَّاجِرِينَ \* أَوْ تَقُولَ لَوْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ هَدَانِي لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ \* أَوْ تَقُولَ حِينَ تَرَى الْعَذَابَ لَوْ أَنَّ لِي كَرَّةً فَأَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ) “Lest a soul should say, "Oh, [how great is] my regret over what I neglected in regard to Allāh and that I was among the mockers." Or [lest] it say, "If only Allāh had guided me, I would have been among the righteous." Or [lest] it say when it sees the punishment, "If only I had another turn so I could be among the doers of good." (Al-Zumar: 56-58)

Strive to purify the souls before the mouth is sealed so that it would not be able to speak, and limbs stand as witnesses and adversaries, as Allah the Almighty says: (الْيَوْمَ نَخْتِمُ عَلَى أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَتُكَلِّمُنَا أَيْدِيهِمْ وَتَشْهَدُ أَرْجُلُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا ) (يَكْسِبُونَ) “That Day, We will seal over their mouths, and their hands will speak to Us, and their feet will testify about what they used to earn.” [Yasin: 65], and He (Allah) says: ( وَحَتَّى إِذَا مَا ) (جَاءُوهَا شَهِدَ عَلَيْهِمْ سَمْعُهُمْ وَأَبْصَارُهُمْ وَجُلُودُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ \* وَقَالُوا لَجُلُودُهُمْ لِمَ شَهِدْتُمْ عَلَيْنَا قَالُوا أَنْطَقَنَا اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَنْطَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ خَلَقَكُمْ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ \* وَمَا كُنْتُمْ تَسْتَتِرُونَ أَنْ يَشْهَدَ عَلَيْكُمْ سَمْعُكُمْ وَلَا أَبْصَارُكُمْ وَلَا جُلُودُكُمْ وَلَكِنْ ظَنَنْتُمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَعْلَمُ كَثِيرًا مِمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ ) ( \* وَذَلِكُمْ ظَنُّكُمُ الَّذِي ظَنَنْتُمْ بِرَبِّكُمْ أَرْدَاكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ \* فَإِنْ يَصْبِرُوا فَالنَّارُ مَثْوًى لَهُمْ وَإِنْ يَسْتَعْتِبُوا فَمَا هُمْ مِنَ الْمُعْتَبِينَ ) [mention, O Muḥammad], the Day when the enemies of Allāh will be gathered to the Fire while they are [driven], assembled in rows. Until, when they reach it, their hearing and their eyes and their skins will testify against them of what they used to do. And they will say to their skins, "Why have you testified against us?" They will say, "We were made to speak by Allāh, who has made everything speak; and He created you the first time, and to Him you are returned. And you were not covering [i.e., protecting] yourselves, lest your hearing testify against you or your sight or your skins, but you assumed that Allāh does not know much of what you do. And that was your assumption which you assumed about your Lord. It has brought you to ruin, and you have become among the losers." So [even] if they are patient, the Fire is a residence for them; and if they ask to appease [Allāh], they will not be of those who are allowed to appease.” [Fussilat: 19-24].

Strive to purify the souls before a day when ( يَفِرُّ الْمَرْءُ مِنْ أَخِيهِ \* وَأُمِّهِ وَأَبِيهِ \* وَصَاحِبَتِهِ وَبَنِيهِ \* لِكُلِّ امْرِئٍ مِنْهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ شَأْنٌ ) (يُغْنِيهِ) “On the Day a man will flee from his brother. And his mother and his father. And his wife and his children. For every man, that Day, will be a matter adequate for him.” (Suratul-‘Abbasa :34-37).

Dear Servants of Allah! The wise man is the one who takes account of himself and strives for that which is after death. And the helpless man is the one who follows his own whims then indulges in wishful thinking about Allah.”. So hold your souls accountable before you are held accountable, and weigh them before they are weighed. For it will be easier in the reckoning tomorrow if you hold yourselves accountable today and adorn yourself for greater appearance before Allah. (يَوْمَئِذٍ تُعْرَضُونَ لَا تَخْفَى مِنْكُمْ خَافِيَةٌ) “That Day, you will be exhibited [for judgement]; not hidden among you is anything concealed.” (Al-Haqqah: 18).

Umar ibn al-Khattab - may Allah be pleased with him - entered a wall one day alone with himself subjecting himself account, and Anas ibn Malik - May Allah be pleased with him – was watching him from where he could not see him, so he heard him saying: “O Umar, the Commander of the Faithful, shameful, shameful. By Allah, O Son of Al-Khattab, you either fear Allah (in your deeds) or Allah will punish you.”

O You Muslims! A quick, in-depth look at the condition of Muslims today enables one to realize the urgent need and the extent of need to re-educate, purify, and build our souls, and to establish it on the fear of Allah and (seeking) His pleasure, and that the need for this has become - and has always been - more severe than the need for food, drink, and clothing. This is for several reasons, including:

**First:** the abundance of temptations, inducements, and all kinds of desires and suspicions; Without doubt, the Muslim's need today for building (himself) is greater than that of his brother in the days of the salaf, and the effort - of course - must be greater. Because of the corruption of the time and the people, the weakness of enabling structures, and non-availability of supporting hands, which indicates the importance of tazkiyah (soul purification).

**Secondly:** Due to the many incidents of backsliding, declining, and regressing- even among some who work for Islam- which leads us to be apprehensive of such fates.

**Third:** Because responsibility is personal, and because responsibility is individual and a person is held accountable for himself and not for others, there must be a response and a preparation (for that response). (يَوْمَ ) (تَأْتِي كُلُّ نَفْسٍ تُجَادِلُ عَنْ نَفْسِهَا) **“On the Day when every soul will come disputing [i.e., pleading] for itself.”** (An-Nahl: 111).

**Fourth:** Not knowing what we are heading towards; Is it affliction or empowerment? In both cases, we are in dire need of building ourselves to be steadfast in both cases.

**Fifth:** Because we want to build others, whoever is unable to build himself will be unable to build others. Purification of the soul is divided into two main parts: At-tahliyyah (beautification) and At-takhliyyah (evacuation). At-takhliyyah (Evacuation) means purifying the soul of its diseases and immoral characters. As for At-tahliyyah (beautification): it is filling it (the soul) with virtuous morals and using these virtuous morals to replace bad characters after it has been evacuated from it.

May Allah bless you and I with the Great Qur'an, and benefit you and I with the verses and the wise remembrance it contains.

I say what you hear and I ask Allah, the Almighty and Majestic to forgive me, you, and all Muslims for every sin, so seek His forgiveness. Indeed, He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

## THE SECOND SERMON

All praises are due to Allah, Lord of the people, then blessings and peace be upon the best of His creation, our Master Muhammad, and upon all his family and companions.

Thereafter, dear servants of Allah, fear Allah, and magnify His command, and be thankful for His favour, and guard His obligations and shun transgressing against His command.

Dear Honorable servants of Allah, verily, the righteousness of souls and striving to purify them with faith and good deeds, purifying them from the filth of polytheism and sin, and elevating them to the levels of perfection of faith, and the ladder of moral and behavioral transcendence are among the most important things that educators should strive to achieve, and what reformers should pay attention to its importance. Among the means of purifying the soul are:

1. Commitment to the Book of Allah in recitation, memorization, and contemplation. Allah, the Exalted says: (يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَشِفَاءٌ لِمَا فِي الصُّدُورِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ) **“O mankind, there has come to you instruction from your Lord and healing for what is in the breasts and guidance and mercy for the believers”** (Yunus: 57) and Allah Almighty says: (وَنُنَزِّلُ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ مَا هُوَ شِفَاءٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَلَا يَزِيدُ الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا خَسَارًا) **“And We send down of the Qur'an that which is healing and mercy for the believers, but it does not increase the wrongdoers except in loss.”** (Al-Isra: 82)

2. Remembrance of Allah in general term: (الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُمْ بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ، أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ) “Those who have believed and whose hearts are assured by the remembrance of Allāh. Unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allāh hearts are assured.” (Al-Ra’ad: 28). This is one of the greatest signs of love. Allah, the Exalted mentions the Beloved saying: (فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكَرُكُمْ وَأَشْكُرُوْلي وَلَا تَكْفُرُونَ) “**So remember Me; I will remember you. And thank Me, and never be ungrateful.**” (Al-Baqarah: 152)

3. Remembering death and the shortness of life: The one who is deeply immersed in the world and relates with it as if he will live forever therein would not remember death, rather is completely ignorant of it. If he were reminded of it, he would dislike it. Allah says: (قُلْ إِنَّ الْمَوْتَ الَّذِي تَفِرُونَ مِنْهُ فَإِنَّهُ مَلَأَقِيكُمْ ثُمَّ تُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ) “**Say, “The death you are running away from will inevitably come to you. Then you will be returned to the Knower of the seen and unseen, and He will inform you of what you used to do.”**” (Al-Jumu’ah: 8). The Messenger (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) said, ““Remember more often the destroyer of pleasures - death.” (Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi)

Honorable servants of Allah, it is unfortunate, we are living in the end times that the Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) had informed us about, in which there has been widespread disregard for death; wherein the hearts have become hardened in the killing of innocent souls; including children, and the aged. Of course, the continuous killing and destruction perpetrated by the corrupt Zionist is not hidden from every eye.

Be aware - may Allah have mercy on you - that murder has many harmful effects. Among them is that it incurs the wrath of Allah, the Almighty to the world. Is there anyone who considers and takes heed of what happened in Palestine years and decades ago, where security was lost, innocent blood was shed, honors were violated, homes were plundered, pregnant women’s stomachs were cut open, children were killed, and plundering and looting took place, division and disagreement, fear and turmoil occurred, but there was no trace of any nation that cares about their plight, but suddenly the world is now concerned about the suffering of Palestinians at the hands of the Zionists’ bombing and its violent aides, which - in the last three months- caused the Aqsa flood resistance that is known to this day. For how long will the injustice in our world be?

**Supplication:** O Allah, never allow a banner to be raised for the Jews in Jerusalem, and never allow them to achieve any goal in Gaza. O Allah, help the people of Jerusalem, the people of Gaza, and the people of Palestine. O Allah, strengthen them, O Allah strengthen their hearts. O Allah, spread tranquility in their hearts. O Allah, send them warmth, peace, security and safety. O Allah, accept their martyrs and heal the sick. O Allah, have mercy on the bereaved mothers and widows. O Allah, have mercy on the elderly who bow in (prayers), the suckling infants, and the young who prostrate. O Allah, deal with the aggressing Zionists and those who supported and helped them. O Allah scatter their togetherness, scatter their power, and divide their unity. O Allah, show us in them the effects and wonders of your power. O Allah, tear them apart in the most devastating manner, O Lord of the Worlds. O Allah, surround them in their numbers and destroy them as a swarm, and do not leave out anyone of them. O Allah, never allow a banner to be raised for the Jews in Jerusalem, and never allow them to achieve any goal in Gaza. O Allah, grant us happiness with the victory of our brothers over our enemy and their enemy. O Allah, we are in dire need of your mercy and help, eventhough we are unable to physically participate with them, then accept our prayers for their victory, O Allah, our Lord, we trust in You, and we hope for Your help, and we turn to Your door, so do not disappoint us. O Allah, grant us victory, O Allah grant us victory, O Allah grant us victory. O Allah, accept their martyrs, grant victory to their armies, heal their sick, heal their wounded, replace their fear with security, their hardship with ease, their distress with relief, and their patience with victory, O Mighty, O Powerful, O Possessor of enduring power, O Possessor of majesty and honor. May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon our Prophet, our Master Muhammad, his family and companions. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.