Khutbah 3: Death Can Come at Any Moment

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First Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Innal hamda lillah,
nahmaduhu wa nasta‘eenuhu wa nastaghfiruhu,
wa na‘oodhu billahi min shuroori anfusina
wa min sayyi’aati a‘maalina.

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Man yah-dihi-llahu falaa mudilla lah,
wa man yud-lil falaa haadiya lah.

مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wa ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah,
wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Yaa ay-yuhal-ladheena aamanut-taqul-laha haqqa tu-qaa-tihi
wa laa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoon.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Yaa ayyuhan-naasu-ttaqu rabbakumul-ladhee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidah,

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،

▶ Listen to pronunciation

wa khalaqa minhaa zawjahaa,
wa baththa minhumaa rijaalan katheeran wa nisaa’aa.

وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا، وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wattaqullahal-ladhee tasaa’aloona bihi wal-arhaam.
Innallaha kaana ‘alaykum raqeebaa.

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Yaa ayyuhalladheena aamanu-ttaqullaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedaa.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Yuslih lakum a‘maalakum wa yaghfir lakum dhunoobakum.

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wa man yuti‘illaha wa rasoolahu faqad faaza fawzan ‘azeemaa.

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Ammaa ba‘d.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Fa inna asdaqal hadeethi kitaabullah,

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ،

▶ Listen to pronunciation

wa khayral hadyi hadyu Muhammadin sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam,

وَخَيْرَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **wa sharral umoori muh-dathaa-tuhaa,**
> **wa kulla muh-dathatin bid‘ah,**
> **wa kulla bid‘atin dalaalah,**
> **wa kulla dalaalatin fin-naar.**
>
> وَشَرَّ الْأُمُورِ مُحْدَثَاتُهَا، وَكُلَّ مُحْدَثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ، وَكُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ، وَكُلَّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

First Khutbah

My dear brothers in Islam,

I advise myself first, and then all of you, to have taqwa of Allah.

Fear Allah, be aware of Allah, and remember that one day we will stand before Him and answer for how we lived our lives.

Today's khutbah is about something that every single person here will experience.

Something that no amount of money can prevent.

Something that no doctor can stop when its appointed time arrives.

Death.

My dear brothers in Islam, we all know that we are going to die.

We have attended funerals.

We have buried family members, friends and people we knew.

We have heard about people dying suddenly, sometimes at a very young age.

And yet, many of us continue living as though death is something that will happen to everyone except ourselves.

We make plans for tomorrow, next month and next year.

We plan our holidays, our businesses, our homes and our retirement.

But how often do we plan for our meeting with Allah?

Allah says in Surah Ali Imran, (verse 185):

“Every soul will taste death”

These are only a few words, but they carry a message that nobody can escape.

Every soul.

Not just the elderly.

Not just the sick.

Not just those who are already weak.

Every soul.

The rich and the poor.

The young and the old.

The strong and the weak.

Every one of us sitting here today.

And My dear brothers in Islam, although we know death is certain, none of us knows when it will arrive.

Allah tells us in Surah Luqman, (verse 34), that no soul knows what it will earn tomorrow, or where it will die.

Think about that.

You do not even know what tomorrow will bring, yet many of us live as though we have another twenty or thirty years ahead of us.

A young man may be thinking about getting married.

A father may be planning his children's future.

A businessman may be preparing for his next investment.

Someone may have just purchased a new house.

But before any of those plans are completed, death may arrive.

My dear brothers in Islam, death does not wait until we finish our plans.

It does not wait until our children grow up.

It does not wait until we pay off our debts.

It does not wait until we retire.

And it certainly does not wait until we decide that we are ready to become better Muslims.

Allah says in Surah An-Nisa, (verse 78):

“Death will overtake you no matter where you may be, even inside high towers.”

There is no place we can hide from death.

We can take care of our health, eat properly, exercise and seek medical treatment, and these are good things to do.

But none of them can make us live beyond the time Allah has written for us.

When that time arrives, our life in this world is over.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Think about the last funeral you attended.

Perhaps it was someone you knew personally.

Perhaps you were standing beside the grave as the body was lowered into the ground.

You watched the soil being placed over them.

And then everyone began to leave.

People returned to their homes.

They returned to their work.

They returned to their families.

Life continued.

But for the person in the grave, their life in this world had ended.

They would never return home again.

They would never see another sunrise in this world.

They would never have another opportunity to pray, give charity or ask Allah for forgiveness.

And one day, that person will be you and me.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught us something very important about this moment.

He said in Sahih al-Bukhari (Hadith 6514), that three things follow a person to the grave: their family, their wealth and their deeds.

Two return, and one remains.

Their family returns.

Their wealth returns.

But their deeds remain with them.

My dear brothers in Islam, think carefully about this hadith.

We spend so much of our lives working for money.

We spend years building our homes.

We worry about our possessions, our businesses and our future.

But when we are placed in our graves, none of these things will remain with us.

Our families may love us dearly.

They may cry for us.

They may pray for us.

But they cannot stay with us in the grave.

Our possessions cannot help us simply because we owned them.

What will matter is what we did with the life Allah gave us.

Did we establish our salah?

Did we give charity?

Did we treat our parents with kindness?

Did we earn our money honestly?

Did we keep away from haram?

Did we ask Allah for forgiveness?

And did we try to become better Muslims?

These are the questions we should be asking ourselves while we still have time to change.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One of the greatest tricks of Shaytan is to make us believe that we have plenty of time.

He does not always tell a person to reject Allah.

Sometimes he simply tells him to delay.

Pray later.

Repent later.

Stop that sin later.

Start reading Quran later.

Become a better Muslim later.

And we keep delaying until days become months, and months become years.

But what happens if death arrives before that later comes?

Imagine a person who has been neglecting his salah for years.

He knows that he should pray, but he keeps putting it off.

He tells himself that one day he will start praying properly.

Then one evening, he goes to sleep.

But he never wakes up.

My dear brothers in Islam, this is not something that only happens to other people.

It can happen to any of us.

The Messenger of Allah, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, advised us to remember death often.

He said in Jami at-Tirmidhi (Hadith 2307):

“Increase in remembrance of the severer of pleasures.”

Meaning death.

Why should we remember death?

Not so that we become frightened every minute of our lives.

Not so that we stop working, enjoying our families or appreciating the blessings Allah has given us.

But so that we remember what truly matters.

A person who remembers death becomes more careful with his time.

He becomes more careful about his sins.

He thinks twice before hurting someone.

He becomes quicker to ask for forgiveness.

And he understands that this world is not his final home.

My dear brothers in Islam,

There is something else we need to think about.

What if we died today, while someone was still waiting for us to make things right?

Perhaps we have hurt our parents.

Perhaps we have stopped speaking to a brother or sister over something small.

Perhaps we owe someone money.

Perhaps we have treated our wife or children badly.

Perhaps we have spoken badly about someone behind their back.

And we keep telling ourselves that one day we will make things right.

But what if that day never comes?

What if death reaches us while we are still carrying these wrongs?

My dear brothers in Islam, do not allow pride to stop you from apologising.

Do not allow anger to destroy family relationships.

And do not keep delaying the rights that other people have over you.

If you owe someone money, make an effort to repay it.

If you have wronged someone, try to make things right.

If your parents are alive, appreciate the opportunity to care for them.

And if you have fallen into sin, return to Allah before it is too late.

Because a day will come when our opportunity to act will end.

Allah warns us in Surah Al-Munafiqun, (verse 10), about a person who reaches the end of his life and wishes for just a little more time.

He wants another opportunity to give charity and become righteous.

But My dear brothers in Islam, the time to prepare is not when death reaches us.

The time to prepare is now.

May Allah forgive our sins.

May Allah help us use the time He has given us wisely.

May Allah allow us to correct our mistakes before death reaches us.

And may Allah grant us a good ending to our lives, Ameen.

End of First Khutbah — Forgiveness

> **Aqoolu qawlee haadhaa,**
> **wa astaghfirullaha lee wa lakum,**
> **wa li saa'i-ril muslimeena min kulli dhanb.**
> **Fastaghfirooh, innahu huwal ghafoorur raheem.**
>
> أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا، وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

Sit briefly between the two khutbahs.

Second Khutbah — Arabic Opening

> **Alhamdulillahi rabbil 'aalameen, was-salaatu was-salaamu 'alaa ashrafil anbiyaa'i wal mursaleen, nabiyyinaa Muhammadin, wa 'alaa aalihi wa sahbihi ajma'een.**
>
> الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ، نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh. Ammaa ba'd.**
>
> أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

Second Khutbah

My dear brothers in Islam,

Again, I advise myself and all of you to have taqwa of Allah.

We have spoken about the certainty of death.

But knowing that we will die is not enough.

We need to prepare for it.

And the good news, My dear brothers in Islam, is that Allah has given us that opportunity.

We are still alive.

We can still pray.

We can still repent.

We can still give charity.

We can still ask for forgiveness.

And we can still change the way we live.

But we must not waste that opportunity.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, said in Sahih al-Bukhari (Hadith 6416):

“Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a traveler.”

Think about a traveller.

When a person is travelling, he knows that the place he is visiting is not his permanent home.

He may enjoy his journey, but he does not forget where he is going.

My dear brothers in Islam, that is how we should look at this world.

We live here.

We work here.

We raise our families here.

But we must never forget that our journey will eventually come to an end.

And our real concern should be what we are taking with us into the Hereafter.

So what can we do to prepare?

First, protect your salah.

Do not allow another day to pass while you continue deliberately neglecting your prayers.

Second, make tawbah.

If you have been committing sins, ask Allah for forgiveness and make a sincere effort to stop.

Do not believe that you have sinned too much to be forgiven.

Allah's mercy is greater than our sins.

Third, make things right with other people.

Be kind to your parents.

Treat your family properly.

Pay your debts.

And do not allow small arguments to destroy relationships that could have been repaired.

Fourth, do good while you still have the opportunity.

Give charity, even if it is a small amount.

Help someone who is struggling.

Teach your children something beneficial.

And do something that may continue bringing you reward even after you have passed away.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Imagine if we knew that today was our final Friday.

Would we still delay our prayers?

Would we still hold on to anger?

Would we still spend hours wasting time?

Or would we turn to Allah with sincere hearts and ask Him to forgive us?

The truth is, this could be our final Friday, and we simply do not know it.

So let us leave this masjid today with the intention to change something in our lives.

Not tomorrow.

Not next week.

Starting today.

May Allah forgive those who have passed away before us.

May Allah grant mercy to our parents, our families and all the Muslims who have returned to Him.

May Allah guide us to live in a way that pleases Him.

And may Allah grant us a good ending, protect us from the punishment of the grave and admit us into Jannah, Ameen.

Closing Dua

> **In-nal-laaha wa ma-laaa-e-ka-ta-hoo yu-sal-loo-na 'alan-na-bee,**
> **yaaa ay-yu-hal-la-thee-na aa-ma-noo sal-loo 'a-lay-hi wa sal-li-moo tas-lee-maa.**
>
> إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Allah humma Sali wa salam wa barik ala Muhammadin wa ala alley Muhammad**
>
> اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Allahummaghfir lil-muslimeena wal-muslimaat, wal-mu'mineena wal-mu'minaat, al-ahyaa'i minhum wal-amwaat.**
>
> اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

Rabbanaa zalamnaa anfusanaa, wa illam taghfir lanaa wa tarhamnaa, lanakoonanna minal-khaasireen.

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Rabbanaa aatinaa fid-dunyaa hasanah, wa fil-aakhirati hasanah, wa qinaa 'adhaaban-naar.

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Final Khutbah Closing

Ibaadallah,
innallaha ya’muru bil-‘adli
wal-ihsaani
wa eetaa’i dhil-qurbaa,
wa yanhaa ‘anil fahshaa’i wal-munkari wal-baghy.
Ya‘izukum la‘allakum tadhakkaroon.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ، وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wa akhiroo da3wanal humdoolilahi rubul Alameen.
Wa Aqimis-salaah.

وَآخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation