

Khutbah - Ramadan: Knocking at His door

Ustadh Ariff Olla

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First khutbah

My brothers and sisters, what would you do if a person came to your house and they knocked on your door, would you open the door or would you wait to see who that person is and what he wants? We all have our own habits, so some of us will frantically go to the door and open it straight away.

Now imagine my brothers and sisters, you are the person that is knocking and the person on the other side has the ability to give you whatever you want, so you want his attention and you knock on his door. The person on the other side possesses a lot of wealth and you need some wealth, so you are knocking on his door. You wanted health and the person on the other side of the door knew all the cures, so you need his attention. You wanted peace so you have come to this door and you have knocked on it, because from him comes all peace and he has a solution for all of your troubles.

So you are knocking on this door, would you knock again?

My brother and sisters for some people the door will open with each knock because the one behind the door is familiar with the one who is knocking. He is used to them knocking, he knows that this person has come to the door with sincere intentions so he opens the door right away, but for most of us, we don't have that guarantee - so would you knock again?

You come in the morning and you knock four times. You come again in the afternoon and you knock 12 times. You come again in the late evening or the late afternoon, early evening, you knock eight times and now you have waited all day, and you are desperate and you don't know if you've received an answer. So now the knocking intensifies:

وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ عَجُولًا ۝۱۱

"and man is ever hasty" al-Isra` (Children of Israel, The Israelites) 17:11

وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ قَتُورًا ۝۱۰۰

"And ever has man been stingy" al-Isra` (Children of Israel, The Israelites) 17:100

“Man is hasty”, because he fears that the door will never open for him, so now he shows weakness وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ قَتُورًا and man is desperate, man is weak. So he begins to knock and because he is even more desperate now he calls out to the owner, ‘oh so-and-so, I need your help!’ ‘Oh so and so, I need your help!’ ‘Oh so and so, please open the door!’ or, ‘so and so, guide me! Guide me!’ It now reaches 20 knocks. 22 knocks. 24 knocks. 30 knocks, until it reaches 40 separate knocks throughout the day and the night and you are calling out to the owner. You are asking for his attention. You are showing desperation - does the door open?

My brothers and sisters, Ibn al Qayyim رَحِمَهُ اللهُ said:

فَمَا أَسْرَعَ الْإِجَابَةَ

“There is nothing faster as a response”

وَأَعْجَلَ فَتْحَ الْبَابِ

“and there is nothing that will open the door for you quicker”

لِمَنْ يَقْرَعُهُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ أَرْبَعِينَ مَرَّةً .

“than a person who knocks on the door 40 times, day and night”

40 times knocking on the door asking, Him, supplicating to Him calling out His name. 17 obligatory units my brothers and sisters. 12 rawatib and 11 qiyam al layl. 40 times you knock on the door.

The noble companion Abdullah bin Masood رضى الله عنه said:

مَا دُمْتَ فِي صَلَاةٍ

“You remain in the position of the salat”

فَأَنْتَ تَقْرَعُ بَابَ الْمَلِكِ ،

“As long as you continue knocking on the door of the King”

With every praise you are knocking. You are knocking with every dua. You are knocking with every ruku and every sujood you are knocking. My brothers and sisters with every standing and recitation you continue to be knocking. The companion رضي الله عنه he said:

وَمَنْ يَقْرَعُ بَابَ الْمَلِكِ

“Whoever knocks on the door of the King”

يُفْتَحُ لَهُ

“It will open for him”

But our state is different to the worshippers of the old my brothers and sisters. Our state is different to the worshippers of the old.

Abu Imran al Jawni رحمه الله one of the ulema of the Salaf, it is said that when he used to hear the adhan:

تَغَيَّرَ لَوْنُهُ، وَفَاضَتْ عَيْنَاهُ.

“His face used to change and his eyes used to shed tears” just at the thought of knocking on the door of the King, his whole demeanour had changed and it brought tears to the eyes and Allah تَعَالَى knows best what is happening in his heart.

Mansoor bin Zaadaan رَحِمَهُ اللهُ he once was crying and then he began to weep with a loud voice, so they asked him رَحِمَهُ اللهُ:

رَحِمَكَ اللهُ مَا شَأْنُكَ؟

“May Allah have mercy on you, what’s wrong with you? Why are you crying like this?”

So he said:

وَأَيُّ شَيْءٍ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ شَأْنِي؟

“Is there anything greater than what I have to do now?”

أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَقُومَ بَيْنَ يَدَيْ

“I want to stand in front of the One”

مَنْ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ ،

“I have to stand in front of the One who does not get tired and He does not sleep”

فلعله أن يعرض عني

“it could be that He ends up rejecting me”

Bear in mind my brother and sisters, these people didn't knock the door with their fingertips like we do.

Ibn az-Zubayr رَحِمَهُ اللهُ was described as being a trunk of a tree when he used to stand in front of Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى because he didn't move. Imam Abu Haneefah رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, he had a nickname al-Watad, meaning they used to call him, “a pole” because he used to stand in Salah like a lamppost, upright سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى and not moving in the slightest. Now experience the khushoo of the Salaf my brothers and sisters in this in this statement from Kahlaf bin Ayub Allah رَحِمَهُ اللهُ they asked him:

ألا تؤذيك الذبابة في صلاتك ؟

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“Don't flies bother you when you are praying, why don't you just usher them away whilst you are praying?”

His response my brothers and sisters is something which is missing in every single one of our lives, not just our salat. His response is something which is missing in every single one of our lives, not just in our salat. He said:

“I do not want to usher away these flies”

لَا أَعُوذُ نَفْسِي ذَلِكَ فَأُفْسِدُ عَلَيَّ ، صَلَاتِي

“I don't want to get into a bad habit, so that my salat in the forthcoming years will become spoiled, because I've become habitual to something which is not part of the salat”.

So they said to him:

“How can you remain patient when these flies continue to bother you in your salat?”

His answer my brothers and sisters, his answer is from a person who knows that he is knocking a door. He says رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ:

فأنا قائم بين يدي ربي

“I am standing in front of my Lord”

أفأتحرك لذبابة

“Shall I move because of a fly?”

Listen to the words of ameer al Mumineen, al Farooq, Umar al Khattab رضى الله عنه , a man who used to stand in the front saff and they used to hear him weeping in the back sufoof of the masjid, because this man knew that he was knocking in front of Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى He said رضى الله عنه:

إذا رأيت الرجل يضيع من الصلاة

“If you see a man, he loses his salat”

فهو والله لغيرها أشد تضييعًا

“By Allah, without the salat, he is even more lost”

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My brother and sisters, words from your Messenger صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, is reported by Al Bayhaqi and classed as saheeh by Shaykh al Albani رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, that he said صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ خَيْرَ أَعْمَالِكُمُ الصَّلَاةُ

“Know, understand, the best of your deeds, the best actions that you could ever perform, is the salat”

My brothers and sisters from 24 hours, Allah سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى doesn't want much from you. In fact my brother and sisters your entire life is between two salat. Your entire life is in between two salawats and the Son of Adam doesn't die except between two salats; the one that he has performed and the one that he is waiting to perform. Allah سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has commanded us my brother and sisters to submit to Him and to establish the salat because to Him you will return:

وَأْمُرْنَا لِنُسَلِّمَ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

“And we have been commanded to submit to the Lord of the worlds” al-An`am (Cattle, Livestock) 6:71

وَأَنْ أَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَاتَّقُوا وَهُوَ الَّذِي إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ

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"And to establish prayer and fear Him." And it is He to whom you will be gathered"

al-An`am (Cattle, Livestock) 6:72

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Second khutbah

My brothers and sisters, everyday there is a call to prayer, but it's only responded to by those people who have high ambitions. As for those people who are satisfied with the dust of the life of this dunya, they ignore this call; the call of eman, the call of success is only heard by those who have an attentive ear, a heart that accepts and a soul that is alive.

My brothers and sisters, some people knock, but they don't knock enough. Some people don't knock at all and some people die without knocking. How my brothers and sisters, when the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, as salaatu noor. Salat is a proof, there is a position underneath the arsh of ar Rahman, on a day where there is no shade except for His. For a person who is connected to the salat, his heart remains connected to the masjid, salvation, the Day of Judgement, salat is eman and without salat, there is no eman. He says صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in sahih Muslim:

إِنَّ بَيْنَ الرَّجُلِ وَبَيْنَ الشَّرْكِ وَالْكَفْرِ تَرْكُ الصَّلَاةِ

“Verily, between a man and idolatry and unbelief is abandoning the prayer”

My brothers and sisters, if you remember Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى properly, Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى will remember you. If you preserve Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى properly, Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى will preserve you. He will give you comfort in the dunya. He will give you security and palaces in the akhira. He will respond to you whenever you ask Him, because He is ar Rahman. And ar Rahman loves for His door to be knocked unlike the creation and He loves to open it.

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"One who guides to something good has a reward similar to that of its doer"- Saheeh Muslim vol.3, no.4665.