

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَفُورُ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

فَإِنَّ حَقَّ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ أَنْ يَعْْبُدُوهُ وَلَا يُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا

A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.) and young companion Muadh were travelling together. The Blessed Prophet shouted "**Muadh!**" and repeated it three times. With loyalty, love, and respect from his heart, Muadh replied every time saying, "At your beck and call, and at your pleasure, Messenger of Allah!" Our Prophet eventually asked the companion who was listening to him wonderingly: "**Do you know what right has Allah upon His servants?**" Muadh answered, "Allah and His Messenger know best." And the Prophet said: "**Verily the right of Allah over His servants is that they should worship Him, not associating anything with Him.**"

After a while, our Prophet asked, "**Do you know what rights have servants upon Allah?**" And then he delivered the following good news: "**That He would not torment them and put them in Paradise provided they worship Him and do not associate anything with Him.**"¹

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord Who created all creatures is unprecedented in grace and generosity. Innumerable are the blessings bestowed upon us by Him. From the breath we take to the water we drink, from the food we eat to the time we spend, everything is a favor from Him to us. Our mind, our heart, our love, our mercy, and our fondness of one another are all treats from Him to us.

Then, we could never thank Allah enough who blessed us our life, our family, our children, countless blessings, and in short, our existence. Would it suit a human being to

ignore all those blessings of the Lord, neglect human responsibilities and lead an aimless life?

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today, the region of Islam in particular and the world in general long for peace and quiet, mercy and compassion, safety and calm. It should not be forgotten that all these nice qualities are found in the eternal truths of the Quran, in the exemplary character of our Prophet (s.a.w.) that goes beyond the ages. All we have to do is to decorate our lives as believers with these beautiful traits, to present them to the family of humanity in a suitable, wise tone.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Almighty Lord said that he created death and life to test which of us is best in deed.² Then, our duty in this short world of test is to have a tongue that mentions and shows gratitude to Allah, a heart full of fondness, and a life spent on His path. Our duty is to always keep our afterlife, our actual home, in mind while building our temporary world. It is to live with the hope that our Almighty Lord will not ignore even the smallest effort to gain His favor, as long as we trust and rely on Him alone. As long as we live with our Lord, for our Lord saying, "**Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds.**"³

Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let's revisit our purpose of life. Let's try to lead a life in line with our purpose of existence. Let's try to return to our Lord with honor, so that we may always keep hope alive to hear this divine news when our life ends: "**O reassured soul! Return to your Lord, well-pleased and pleasing to Him! And enter among My righteous servants. And enter My Paradise.**"⁴

² Al-Mulk, 67/2.

³ Al-An'am, 6/162.

⁴ Al-Fajr, 89/27-30

¹ Bukhari, Cihâd, 46; Muslim, Îmân, 48.