

The Resting Place of Allah the Almighty's Gaze, The Heart


 الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُمْ بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ.
 وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
 أَلَا وَإِنَّ فِي الْجَسَدِ مُضْغَةً إِذَا صَلَحَتْ صَلَحَ الْجَسَدُ كُلُّهُ، وَإِذَا
 فَسَدَتْ فَسَدَ الْجَسَدُ كُلُّهُ، أَلَا وَهِيَ الْقَلْبُ.

Honorable Muslims!

One day, after explaining certain matters concerning what is halal and haram to his companions, our Prophet (saw) gave the following admonition: **“Surely, there is a piece of flesh in the body which, if it is sound, the whole body is sound; and if it is corrupt, the whole body is corrupt. Indeed, that piece of flesh is the heart.”**ⁱ

Esteemed Muslims!

When people believe sincerely in Allah and His Messenger and fill their hearts with the remembrance of Allah the Almighty, they attain true peace. Indeed, as our Almighty Lord declares in the verse recited at the beginning of this Friday’s khutbah: **“... those who believe and whose hearts find comfort in the remembrance of Allah. Surely in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find comfort.”**ⁱⁱ The heart of one who recites, listens to, learns, and teaches the Qur’an, and reflects its mercy-filled message in every moment and aspect of life, becomes a vessel of divine grace. When servants free their hearts from what is fleeting and bind them to what is eternal, when they polish them with the truths of Islam and purify them from sins through repentance and seeking forgiveness, they attain

happiness in both this world and the Hereafter. Allah the Almighty draws our attention to this truth, stating, “... the Day when neither wealth nor children will be of any benefit. Only those who come before Allah with a pure heart will be saved”.ⁱⁱⁱ

Dear Muslims!

Our beloved Prophet (saw) advised a companion who complained of a hardened heart to soften it by giving to those in need and by showing kindness to orphans.^{iv} Indeed, with every good deed we perform, a reflection of beauty is cast upon our hearts. Showing a smiling face to our spouse and children, honoring our parents, respecting our neighbors’ rights, caring for the elderly, visiting the sick, and protecting orphans—all of these soften the heart and bring serenity to the soul. Our duty is to strive to adorn our hearts, which are mirrors of Allah’s mercy, with acts of goodness. It is to refrain from wounding or offending anyone’s heart and to keep our own hearts free from heedlessness that soils them, from evils that corrode them, and from sins that darken them. It is to keep them alive through prayer, remembrance of Allah, the Qur’an, and acts of charity and virtue. Let us remember that when we illuminate our hearts with the light of Islam, we become servants pleasing to Allah.

I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with the following supplication of the Messenger of Allah (saw): **“O Allah, who turns hearts from state to state, make my heart steadfast upon Your religion.”**^v

ⁱ Bukhari, Iman, 39.

ⁱⁱ Ra’d, 13/28.

ⁱⁱⁱ Shu’ara, 26/88,89.

^{iv} Ibn Hanbal, II, 387.

^v Tirmidhi, Da’awat, 89.