

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

هو ان الدنيا

This Lower World

Friday Sermon at Annoor Jami Mosque

Zawiya Fellowship

Cambridge, Ontario

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خطبة للشيخ محمد العقيلي

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الزاوية العقيلية العمرية

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يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ

First Sermon:

All praises are due to Allah the Most Supreme and Magnificent, our Creator, Lord, Cherisher and maintainer of all creations, and thanks are due to Him for guiding us to the Straight Path, for we would not have found it had He not guided us thus. Praise be to Him Who made life in this Dunya world, a short passage, a corridor to the permanent abode of the hereafter, Aakhira.

We seek refuge in the Divinity of Allah SwT, asking by His Constant All-Operating Divine Attributes to protect us against any evil that may spur as a result of any of our actions, deeds, words, thoughts or intentions. Whomever Allah guides, no one can lead astray, and whomever Allah let to stray, no one can guide.

I bear witness that there is no divinity or godhead except that of Allah, sole in His Sovereignty and Lordship, He has no partners or associate, and I testify that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, and the Seal of His Prophets. May Allah shower His eternal blessings and peace upon him and upon his family and companions, and those who follow in their footsteps until the Day of Judgment.

I seek refuge in Allah, the Most Exalted Most Magnificent Lord of Divine Grace, from the accursed satan and his followers, and we begin in the Holy Name of Allah where no harm can touch or affect any action or deed or thought or intention that begins with His Name, the Most Merciful and Compassionate, and surely there is no will or power except that of Allah, the Most Magnificent the Supreme.

Our Lord Who controls the changes of the hearts, make our hearts hold strongly to Your Path, following the religion of Islam, for we believe and adhere to the religion You revealed to Abraham, Ismael, Isaac, Jacob, the tribes, Moses, Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, David

and Solomon, the Prophets, and the Quran You revealed to our Master Muhammad upon all of whom be peace.

The Days of Allah we encounter in this life will never come back except on the Day of Judgment. Whatever happens here is sealed on that same day. On the Day of Judgment, when we die, these days are brought back, and the pages or our records are reopened and examined. They are brought back for reckoning. This is called the Minor Day of Judgment, and the servant is then told: "**Read your records for yourself. It is sufficient that you reckon your own actions today.**" (*Quran 17:14*)

Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp says: "**When one of you dies, that will be his Day of Judgment. [O people], adore and worship Allah as though you see Him, and ask for His forgiveness continuously every hour**".

The daylight pass and its night pass, each page of one's records of that day is then sealed and kept by the Malaa'ika angels. Eventually, when one dies, these pages are reopened and eventually bound together as a book on the Day of Resurrection where one will have to carry his book of records that may very well determined his or her final destiny thereafter. Allah SwT says: "**Whoever is then given his book of records to carry in his right hand, his reckoning will be light, and he will return to his family most happy**". Our Lord SwT also says: "**The grand horror [of the Day of Resurrection] is far from causing them to grieve, and the heavenly malā'ika angels who stand at their welcome, will say [to them]: This is the Day you were promised**". (*Quran 21:103*)

Our Lord SwT says: "**But the one who is given his book of records to carry behind his back, he will plead earnestly and cry for his own perdition, but yet, he will only arrive at a blazing fire**". (*Quran 84:10-12*)

Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp says: **"Allah the Most Supreme protects His believing servant against the dangers of the Dunya-world, for He loves him, as you protect your sick person by putting him on a special diet in fear for his own wellbeing"**.

Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp says: **"On the Day of Judgment, the one who will be most rigorously treated is a servant who shattered his own benefits in the hereafter for the sake of pleasing someone else [in this world]"**. Such one will suffer more regret for his losses. He will be most miserable then when he realizes how stupid and dull minded he was. Had he wasted his benefits in this life because of his own indulges, he would have committed wrong, and would have to stand up for his own judgment, but to waste his permanent benefits for someone else's benefit, the his sin is certainly greater. That is to serve evil hoping to receive some benefits.

Some people who were advanced some material comforts in this life, instead of using such grace to please their Lord, they invest such trials for the pleasure of women, jewelry, clothing, perfumes, vacations and housing, among others. You must know that this dunya-world is infested with evil that has been disobedient to its Lord, Allah, the Most Supreme and Magnificent. The malicious nature of this dunya-world is that the eternal comfort of the hereafter, and to please one's Lord cannot be attained except by foregoing most of the comforts of this life herein. Therefore, consider this life a crossing, not as an establishment, and know that the root of every sin is love of this world, and perhaps a single craving may inherit its author long sufferings. Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp says: **"Love of this dunya-world is the root cause of every sin"**, and he further advises the unmarried: **"Protect yourselves from women by fasting and upholding regular salat prayers"**.

There is a **"seeker"** and a **"pursued"**, the "one who wants" and the "sought after". The seeker of the eternal comforts of the hereafter, the dunya-word will seek him all his life and until he consumes his

share in this life, while the seeker of the comforts and pleasures of this life, the hereafter will seek him gravely until he dies, and it will seize him by the neck.

Our Lord SwT says: "If you could only see when the malaa'ika angels come to take back the souls of those who deny the truth, slapping their faces and backs [saying]: **"Taste the sufferings of the blazing fire!"** **"This is the consequence of your own doing,"** and Allah is certainly never unjust to the created servants". Our Lord SwT further says: **"And as to those who revert and go back on their heels after they had recognized the true guidance, the devil has lured them to obey his dictates"**. That is because they say to those who hate what Allah revealed: **"We will only obey some of your suggestions** and in some areas only!" Allah surely knows what they conceal. Then what will happen to them when the angels come [at death] and pound their faces and backs? (*Quran 47:25-27*)

"Also because they followed evil which Allah condemns, and they did not care about what may win His blessings. Consequently, He defeated their exploits and made their actions worthless. Or do those whose hearts are sick, think that Allah would not eventually expose their aversion?" (*Quran 47:28-29*)

"Therefore, whoever wishes [merely the pleasures of] this fast fleeting immediate life, We will advance whatever We want to whoever We want, and then, We will assign hellfire where he will be despised and rejected. And whoever seeks [the everlasting blessed life in] the hereafter, and strives according to its requirements with faith, such ones, their efforts will be well recognized graciously. Thus, We extend Our grants to both of them [according to what they seek], and the grants of your Lord are never restricted to any [particular cast]. Look how We favor some of them [in worldly ranks] over one another [in this life]. Thus, the favors of the hereafter have more elevated ranks and more abounding grace". (*Quran 17:18-21*)

Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp says: "**Whoever love this world harms his permanent life in the hereafter**", and he sal-uwbp says: "**The Dunya-world is the home of the homeless in the hereafter, and only one who has no brains runs towards it**".

Anas bin Malik, may Allah be forever pleased with him narrated that Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp said: "*The best among you is not one who abandons his comforts in this life for the sake of his benefits in the hereafter, nor is the one who forgo his benefits in the hereafter for the sake of some gains in this dunya-world, rather, the best among you is the one who takes advantage of both, for life in this world is a necessary ride to the permanent life in the hereafter*". In fact, life in this world is not the whole story, but only a chapter in the book, it began before we were born, and continues forever after we die.

Uthman bin Affān, may Allah be forever pleased with him once said: "The dunya-world looks fresh-green and attractive, and a lot of common people lean towards it. Do not feel safe therein, and never trust it, for this dunya-world is not trustworthy, and you must understand that the danger of this life will only let go the one who let go of it". Therefore, be the children of the hereafter and not the children of this dunya-world, for children follow their mother.

Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp says: "The best amongst you are those who do not forget about death, and the strongest of you are those who are most ready for it. Among the signs of being intelligent is to alienate and withdraw from any attachment to the fast moving temporary abode of deception and pride, it is intelligent to attach one's aspirations to the abode of permanent life in the hereafter, it is good thinking to gather the needed provisions and get the required supplies for the dwellers of the cemeteries (the graveyards), and to get ready for the Day of Resurrection. "

In fact, the needed provisions for the residents of the graveyard are good deeds with true faith, and to be ready for the Day of Resurrection is to have lived in obedience to the Divine Commands and having true love for one's Lord and Cherisher, Allah the Most Supreme the Magnificent, and to love and obey Allah's Messenger upon whom be peace in this down world of deception and false pride.

Ibn Maymoon Al-Lakhmi narrated that Allah's Messenger, sal-uwbp was walking with his companions when he stopped at a trash dump and he said to the people: "Here is your dunya-world...! Come and take it". He then picked up a torn rag and a rotten decayed bone and said: "This is the dunya-world".

Al-Hassan Al-Basri, may Allah be pleased with him said: "This dunya is a dream in one's imagination, a declining shadow, a truly intelligent person will never be cheated by it".

Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him said: "The dunya-world will be brought in on the Day of Judgment in the form of an old ugly looking, gray haired hoary woman with dark blue skin, a deformed face and hollow cheeks, her fangs are protruded, and her features are totally deformed, thereat, she will stand before the people. There, the people will be asked, "Do you know this woman?" They will reply, "We seek refuge in the Divine Sovereign Lord form having ever known her" Then they will be told, "This is the Dunya-world you fought one another for its sake, you broke off relationship with your kins for its sake, you were lured and misled by your own pride and arrogance, and you grew envy and hatred towards one another because of it". The dunya-world will then be cast into hell, and from the deep hell, she cries out, "Where are my followers, my adherents and those who adopted their trends?" The command will then come, throw her followers, adherents and those who adopted her trends after it", and thus it will be.

O servants of Allah...! It is for this vanishing dunya-world, which pleasures and comforts are squandered and wasted, and what is left thereof will be inherited by others, for the sake of this most despicable dirty, filthy world, brothers fight each other and kill one another. Such was certainly the plight of the accursed damned Satan who threatened menacing: "**I will bring an end to his descendents except for a few;** like when a swarm of locust invades a farmland in a very large group and leaves nothing of its crops". He also said: "*You see this one whom You honored [and raised] above me, should you give me respite until the Day of Resurrection, I will take control of his descendants except for few.*" (Quran 17:62)

For this reason, among others, Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp said: "Whoever loves this dunya-world will be struck with three calamities: (1) Hard work that never ends, (2) hopes that can never be satisfied, and (3) greed that never stops ", and he sal-uwbp also said: "**None of you will be a believer until and unless he desires what I brought in**", that is unless he wants what I came with and desires only that... for what I brought in is from the Lord of all creation... What I came with is a Message to humanity from its Lord. Believing in the Sacred Holy Quranic revelation.

O servants of the Divine Sovereign Lord, Allah may enrich in this world the ones He loves and those He does not like. Our Lord SwT says: "**We extend Our grants to both of them [according to what they seek], and the grants of your Lord are never restricted to any [particular cast]**". (Quran 17:20)

Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp said: "*Whoever make the hereafter his only concern and sole worry, Allah will protect him from any worries about this dunya-world; and whoever, only the branches of worldly concerns and worries overtakes him, Allah will not care which of its wilderness he will meet his final destiny*".

It is also narrated that Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp narrated a Sacred Holy Tradition where Allah SwT addressed the dunya-world: "**O dunya, be bitter, always annoyed, be tight handed, hard to get towards My deputies-servants to drive them to love to meet Me and be with Me**". Therefore, it is certainly a blessing to experience hard times in this life, and it indicates that the servant is close to his Lord, and that he is going through a necessary treatment. In fact, this world is an abode of complying with the Divine Commands and the stage of fulfilling the required religious obligations, while the hereafter is the abode of welcome and honor. This world is the abode of offering good deeds, and the hereafter is the abode of hope and aspirations. This world is the abode of hardships and difficulties, the abode of prolonged labour, and the hereafter is the abode of eternal bliss, comfort and happiness.

Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp says: "**The dunya-world is a prison for the believer and a heaven for one who refuses to accept the truth**". It means that by comparison to suffering in the hereafter for rejecting the truth, this world is like heaven, while when the pious believer compares what awaiting him of eternal bliss in the hereafter, this life in the eye of the believer looks like a temporary jail. Here in this world, the believer is forbidden to indulge in many extraordinary pleasures and comforts, and he is forbidden all desires that are unlawful, for the believer in this life is restrained and has limited excesses to what is lawful, and forbidden from what is abhorred and unlawful. Here in this world, the believer is required to perform hard duties, but when he dies, he is relieved from such responsibilities, and he will come to enjoy what Allah SwT has prepared for him of blissful life, extreme comfort, and freedom from any shortage.

O people! Do not become slaves of this dunya-world; it will only cause you extreme prolonged sufferings in the hereafter. Store your precious capital with the trustworthy one. Befriend the pious ones, the God-fearing ones and not the sick minded ones.

Our Lord SwT says: "**You find those whose hearts are sick rush to win their alliance** [for protection]. They say [to themselves]: "We only fear possible setback or reversal of fortunes!" And yet, perhaps Allah may soon grant victory [to the believers], or cause a decisive event that will flare up their regret and remorse for what they concealed in their hearts. (52)



Second Sermon:

Masrouq once visited the mother of the believers Aisha, may Allah be forever pleased with her, who called for some food to serve him. She said: "Whenever food is put before me, I can never satisfy my hunger and I feel like crying, and I cry". Masrouq asked, "Why is that?" She replied: "[When food is placed before me], I remember the circumstances under which **Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp departed from this dunya-world, he never ate his fill twice per day, and his meal consisted mainly of bread and oil**".

Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp says: "**What you love [in this life] can blind and deafen your heart**", where one does not see or differentiate between right and wrong, and only looks, hears and feels affected by what he or she are attracted to.

Almustawrid bin Shaddaad was among a group of people traveling along with Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp. On the road, we passed by a dead sheep thrown to the roadside, and he commented, "You see this, you see how its owners easily threw it away?" The companions said, "*Because it is worthless..!*" He replied: "I swear by Him Who owns my life, this entire dunya-world is of much less importance for Allah than this dead sheep is for its owners".

Ubada bin Al-Saamit narrated that Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp said: "The dunya-world will be brought in prior to throwing it to hell,

the Mala'ika angels will be told, "Take out of it what belongs to Allah, and throw the rest to hell-fire".

Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp also said: "**Whoever loves his dunya-world harms his benefits in the hereafter, and whoever loves his future life of the hereafter may harm his interests in this dunya-world**, therefore, give preference to the everlasting over the temporary".

Masrouq narrated that Omar Bin Al-Khattāb said: "**This dunya-world by comparison to the hereafter is no more than like a light exited jump of a scared rabbit**".

Abu Ja'far narrated that Allah's Messenger sal-uwbp said: "What amazing wonders when someone who believes in the fact of the eternal life in the hereafter, and yet still vie to strengthen his establishment in the temporary abode of deception".

Allah, the Most Supreme and Magnificent says: "Say [to them]: "Should we inform you about the greatest losers in deeds?" Such are the ones whose endeavors in the present life are gone astray, while thinking that they are doing something good". (*Quran 18:13-104*)

"These [people] only love the present fleeting life, and they intentionally ignore the [sure coming of a] Day, which is hard to bear". (*Quran 76:27*)

"And what you are provided with here is nothing but an ephemeral pleasure in this life and its glitter, and what Allah has is better and more lasting. Don't you understand!" (*Quran 28:60*)

He [asks the people on the Day of Judgment]: "How many years did you stay on earth?" They said: "We remained there one day or less than a day. Ask those who were counting." He said: "You have tarried there for a mere short while, if you only knew it." (*Quran 23:112-114*)

Our Lord says: “Truly, comforts of the present life are most meager by comparison to the eternal joy and delight [of the believers] in the hereafter”. (*Quran 9:38*)

Allah, the Most Supreme and Magnificent says: “Surely, the present life in this lower-world is merely a deceptive joy”. (*Quran 3:185*)

Allah, the Most Supreme and Magnificent says: “Tell [them]: “**Joy in this lower world is short, and life in the hereafter is more lasting for the pious ones**, and you will not be treated unjustly for even the weight of a husk [in deeds].” (*Quran 4:77*)

Therefore, shun those who turn their backs to Our call and who want nothing but the lower life form in this world. That is how far their knowledge goes. Your Lord knows well who strayed from His path, as well as He knows best who is well guided. (*Quran 53:29-30*)

Say: “O people! Truth has come to you from your Lord. Therefore, whoever finds guidance therein, his pursuit of guidance will benefit him, and whoever goes astray, that will be to his own loss, for I am not in charge of you.” (*Quran 10:108*)

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَشِفَاءٌ لِّمَا فِي الصُّدُورِ
وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ (٥٧) قُلْ بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَبِرَحْمَتِهِ فَبِذَلِكَ
فَلْيَفْرَحُوا هُوَ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ (٥٨)

O people! You have been delivered a keen warning and advice from your Lord, a cure for the hearts, and guidance and mercy for the believers. Say: “All of this comes as a favor from the Divine Sovereign Lord by His Grace and Mercy.” By this [Quran] let them rejoice greatly. It is certainly much more beneficial than the material wealth they amass. (*Quran 10:57-58*)

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

Allah enjoins what is just and equitable, truthfulness and sincerity in one's devotion, and to maintain good kinship with one's family, and He forbids obscenity, abomination and transgression. He admonishes you [to observe His commands] so perhaps you may remember. (16: 90)

” سبحان ربك رب العزة عما يصفون وسلام على المرسلين والحمد
لله رب العالمين ”.

Glory be to your Lord, the Eminent Lord of Supreme Powers. He is surely most exalted above and beyond their false characterization [of Him]. Peace be upon all of the Messengers. And all praises are due to the Divine Sovereign Lord of all creations. (37:180)

Al-faqir ila Rahmati Rabbihi

Shaykh Muhammad al-Akili

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