

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ، وَيُغَيِّثُ الْمَلْهُوفَ إِذَا نَادَاهُ، وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ، وَيُقْرِجُ الْكُرْبَاتِ، لَا تَحْيَا الْقُلُوبَ إِلَّا بِذِكْرِهِ، وَلَا يَقَعُ أَمْرٌ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ، وَلَا يُتَخَلَّصُ مِنْ مَكْرُوهِ إِلَّا بِرَحْمَتِهِ، وَلَا يُحْفَظُ شَيْءٌ إِلَّا بِكَلَاءَتِهِ، وَلَا يُدْرَكَ مَأْمُولٌ إِلَّا بِتَيْسِيرِهِ، وَلَا تُنَالُ سَعَادَةٌ إِلَّا بِطَاعَتِهِ.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَإِلَهُ الْأَوَّلِينَ وَالْآخِرِينَ، وَقَيُّومُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِينَ.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ، وَالصِّرَاطِ الْقَوِيمِ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ وَسَلَّمْ عَلَيْهِ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أما بعد:

فهذه بعض وصايا نافعة أذكّرُ بها بمُناسَبَةِ مَخَافِ النَّاسِ فِي هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ مِنَ الْوَبَاءِ الْمُسَمَّى: (كورونا) نَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ أَنْ يَرْفَعَ عَنَّا وَعَنْ الْمُسْلِمِينَ أَيْنَمَا كَانُوا كُلَّ ضَرِّ وَبَلَاءٍ، وَأَنْ يَكْشِفَ عَنَّا الشَّدَّةَ وَاللَّوَاءَ، وَأَنْ يَحْفَظَنَا أَجْمَعِينَ بِمَا يَحْفَظُ بِهِ عِبَادَهُ الصَّالِحِينَ، إِنَّهُ وَلِيُّ ذَلِكَ وَالْقَادِرُ عَلَيْهِ.

All praises are due to Allah, the creator of the heavens and earth, the only one who answers the supplications and prayers of those who call upon him. The only one who relieves the distressed from his hardships, the only one who removes difficulties, trials, tribulations and adversities. The only one who can revive the dead hearts from their heedlessness, the only one who has complete control over everything that happens within the universe, nothing happens or occurs except by his will, wisdom, knowledge and power. No human being is able to be relieved from any hardship they are experiencing except by Allah's mercy and grace, and no true happiness can be attained except by Allah's guidance.

I bare witness that there is not deity worthy of worship except Allah alone, who has no partners, lord of all creation, lord of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad and all of mankind. I also bare witness that Muhammad ibn Abdillah is Allah's final servant and messenger sent to all of mankind.

My beloved brothers and sisters in Islam...Over the past couple of weeks we have been seeing and hearing about a sickness or virus called Corona. Everywhere you look, everywhere you hear, every email, text message, social media account we are being bombarded by videos, audios, newsflashes about this so called 'global pandemic'.

In these very stressful and anxious times, what are we advised to do? What does ~~the~~ our prophet Muhammad tell us to do? What do we find within our beautiful religion ~~and way of life~~ of Islam to deal with these types of situations, these trials, these tribulations? We know that Allah, through his final messenger has clarified ~~for us~~ everything that is for our benefit, and warned us about everything that may bring us harm...Sickness, and more specifically pandemics or epidemics bring about a sense of anxiety and nervousness amongst all. The sense of the unknown afflicting sickness on us ~~may give many~~ <sup>causes</sup> feelings of uncertainty, and ~~some even~~ <sup>anxiety, stress and</sup> helplessness. So where do we find our refuge? Where and what do we find our inner peace ~~in~~? Brothers and sisters...it is in these times that we build spiritual, emotional, and physical resilience. Among the beliefs core to our faith, ~~with~~ <sup>that</sup> our faith is founded upon, is believing that nothing befalls a person except that it is the will of Allah and, that whatever occurs has a divine purpose even if we may not understand it. Some of Allah's actions within the creation we may perceive and others we may not. From the important fundamentals of faith is to believe in Allah's decree...accepting it...liking it...being content with it...and knowing that there is wisdom and knowledge behind it even if we don't understand it now...

Plagues have affected our pious predecessors in the past and the decisions they made in how to deal with plagues are followed by all civilized nations of today...A plague in the city of Amwaas, Palestine took place in the time of Umar ibn Al Khattab and they were actually travelling to that city during a military campaign, and once Umar heard about that plague he decided to turn back and not to enter the city. When one of the companions heard of Umar's decision, he asked him: O Umar, are you fleeing from the decree of Allah? So Umar replied: Yes, we are fleeing from the decree of Allah to the decree of Allah...Do you think that if you had camels and they went down into a valley which had two sides, one which was fertile and the other barren. Is it not that if you grazed them on the fertile side, then that grazing would be by the decree of Allah, and if you grazed them on the barren side, then that grazing would also be by the decree of Allah?...

So we understand from this wise statement and decision by Umar ibn Al Khattab that we have to have firm faith that everything is from Allah, and at the same time take the proper measures and abstain from things that may lead to our

- This was in direct alignment with the sunnah as the prophet said:  
If you hear of a plague in a land do not enter it and if you are in a place where plague breaks out do not leave that place

destruction...and know that no matter how much we wash our hands, our faces, or how much hand sanitizer we use...that it cannot protect us from the decree of Allah...if it was written that we will get sick then it will happen no matter who or what tries to stop it...and if there are thousands of people sick with corona virus and you walk amongst them and shake their hands....if it was not written for you to get sick...then you will not contract the virus...and this is the fundamental belief of the Muslim... *The Muslim must never forget that Allah is in control of our affairs --*  
 As Allah tells us:

وَهُوَ الْقَاهِرُ فَوْقَ عِبَادِهِ وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْخَبِيرُ

“He is the Supreme Master over all of his creatures and the All Wise, the All Aware.”

And Allah tells us that no calamity befalls anyone except with Allah’s permission.

Even though we may not understand all the wisdoms behind adversity, hardships, universal change and moments of struggle-in their passing we witness our need to Almighty Allah and the reality of our neglect. The neglect of our souls....The neglect of our hearts....The neglect of our devotion to our Lord and his commandments....Moments of difficulty, on many occasions teach us empathy. A person who has gone through strife can empathize even more personally with someone worse than them. The selfishness of humanity dwindles when they are collectively weak and learn that their only solution is turning to their Lord first and foremost, then turning to each other and inviting others to the Lord who created them and the one who binds them with other people.

Brothers and sisters...many countries throughout the world are taking measures to do quarantines...schools in MD have been shut down...some neighborhoods have been quarantined here in the USA...

How should we react or understand all of these sudden changes that are taking place so rapidly, right in front of our faces? We need to prepare ourselves and the most important preparations that we need to have, before physical, mental and financial, is spiritual preparations. The quarantine that we need is quarantining of

our souls, our egos, our desires and our addiction to sins. The washing and purification <sup>that we truly need</sup> ~~we need~~ is the purification of our hearts.

So what are some recommendations and advices within our deen of Islam in how to deal with such as situation as the corona virus?

As Muslims, Allah has blessed us with the most powerful cure for all of our illnesses, sicknesses and difficulties. We don't have to pay monthly fees, or have money deducted from our paychecks in order to receive these benefits...Rather every Muslim can access these benefits at any time and at any place...It is dua...it is supplication to our Lord...Dua is the real and strongest weapon of the believer...

So what should we say to protect ourselves and our families from this virus?

**The first advice is to make constant supplication and dua to Allah.**

**The Prophet Muhammad said:**

If anyone says this supplication three times in the morning he will not suffer any affliction until the evening and if he says it three times in the evening he will not suffer any affliction until the morning:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي لَا يَضُرُّ مَعَ اسْمِهِ شَيْءٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فِي السَّمَاءِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

“In the name of Allah, when whose name is mentioned, that nothing on earth or in the heaven can cause harm, and He is the All hearing the All knowing.”

By the will of Allah, if we repeat this supplication nothing will harm your or your family or your children...no virus, no disease, no human being, shaytan or jinn as well...

The believer must constantly use the weapons that Allah has provided us with in the Quran and Sunnah...they are the nourishment for the soul and body...their power may be stronger than the most expensive vaccine in the world...Sometimes the sickness of the flesh is a reflection of sickness in the soul and heart...so when the heart is healthy with the tawheed of Allah and constantly calling upon him, then you will see the body healthy as well...however when the hearts is filled with

something other than the tawheed of Allah, then you will see the body will be sick, diseased and weak...

Another supplication is to say:

اللهم إني أعوذ بك من البرص والجنون والجذام ومن سيء الأسقام

“O Allah I seek refuge in you from leprosy, insanity, elephantiasis and all evil diseases”.

One of our great prophets was swallowed by a whale...Imagine what me or you would do? Imagine if we are prohibited from leaving our homes, or imprisoned or stuck in our bedrooms and under a curfew and cannot leave our neighborhoods....What is the remedy to relieve us from such difficult situations...It is dua, brothers and sisters....supplication, patience and perseverance...What did Yunus do when he was stuck in the belly of the whale...did he fight...did he protest...did he lose hope...did he give up...no...he sought refuge in Allah and used his most strongest weapon...this dua...that contains the most beautiful form of tawheed...

(لا إله إلا أنت سبحانك إني كنت من الظالمين)

“There is no deity other than you. Exalted are you. Indeed I have been of the wrongdoers.”

What did the prophet Muhammad tell us about this supplication? What did he say to encourage us to use this supplication that is easy to learn and memorize...he said

«دعوة ذي النون إذ دعا بها وهو في بطن الحوت: «لا إله إلا أنت سبحانك إني كنت من الظالمين»، لم يدع بها رجلٌ في شيء قط إلا استجاب الله له.»

“No Muslim that supplicates to Allah with this supplication and asks Allah for anything, except that it will be granted to him.”

Ask Allah to protect you, your families, your loved ones, your community.

Observe brothers and sisters how the master key to unlock all difficulties in any situation is the tawheed-the oneness of Allah...believing in and manifesting the oneness of Allah in all of our beliefs, actions and supplications...The key to remove all of our hardships is the affirmation, belief, and action upon Tawheed in it's meanings in every aspect of our lives...beliefs, actions, manners, business, and especially dua...when we supplicate, we only supplicate to Allah, when we fear, we need to only fear Allah, when we ask we should only ask Allah, when we seek assistance we should only seek the assistance of Allah...This is exactly how the Prophet Muhammad raised his young companions, when he said in an authentic hadith:

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ: "كُنْتُ خَلْفَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَوْمًا، فَقَالَ: يَا غُلَامُ! إِنِّي أَعْلَمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ: أَحْفَظْ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظْكَ، أَحْفَظْ اللَّهَ تَحِذَهُ تُجَاهَكَ، إِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلِ اللَّهَ، وَإِذَا اسْتَعْنَيْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ، وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ الْأُمَّةَ لَوِ اجْتَمَعَتْ عَلَى أَنْ يَنْفَعُوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَنْفَعُوكَ إِلَّا بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ لَكَ، وَإِنْ اجْتَمَعُوا عَلَى أَنْ يَضُرُّوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَضُرُّوكَ إِلَّا بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ؛ رُفِعَتْ الْأَقْلَامُ، وَجَفَّتِ الصُّحُفُ."

One day I was behind the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) [riding on the same mount] and he said, “O young man, I shall teach you some words [of advice]: Be mindful of Allah and Allah will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him in front of you. If you ask, then ask Allah [alone]; and if you seek help, then seek help from Allah [alone]. And know that if the nation were to gather together to benefit you with anything, they would not benefit you except with what Allah had already prescribed for you. And if they were to gather together to harm you with anything, they would not harm you except with what Allah had already prescribed against you. The pens have been lifted and the pages have dried.”

"The great scholar Ibnul Qayyim al Jawziyyah mentioned in his book ~~called~~ 'Al Fawa'id': 'No calamities, trials, or tribulations in this world were ever rectified or removed with anything as great as the oneness of Allah, this is why the

supplications for removal of any types of hardships contain the fundamentals of tawheed, and the main reason why Allah responded to the supplication of Yunus was because He called upon Allah with Tawheed. Similarly, hardships, calamities, trials and tribulations are brought about and facilitated through 'shirk' and the worshipping of other than Allah, the Almighty.

Based on this, could the corona virus be a punishment for some nations engaging in shirk and oppressing our brothers and sisters? No doubt, many of the nations that have been most affected by the corona virus are known to engage in shirk and the worship of other than Allah, but it has also affected some Muslim countries as well... whatever the case may be...we should all know by now that It is a time to reflect brothers and sisters...reflection brings about awareness and change.... Have any of us ever thought that this plague and epidemic could be a punishment for us as Muslims because of our lack of concern, our lack of speech and our lack of action for the thousands of Muslims in China being placed in concentration camps, being forced to abandon Islam, being raped, tortured and their families being torn apart, while the rest of the world...Muslim and non-Muslim just looks and turns their heads the other way? Isn't it possible that this virus may be a way of Allah punishing us Muslims for sitting back and watching His enemies destroy and colonize the Muslim's minds and lands, where many of us have become so weak and complacent that we've come to love and adore the ways of the kuffar, kufr and shirk more than we love Islam, the Quran and the Sunnah...Have any of us ever thought that this could possibly be a punishment for those countries that are refusing people fleeing from oppression...Italy has been refusing people migrating from North Africa...now the whole country is on lockdown...Here in the USA, they've banned a long list of Muslims from entering the USA unjustly...now many states are on lockdown...Many of us Muslims in America are negligent in coming to the masjid 5 times a day, so as a result Allah decreed that many states cannot gather with over 250 people....including Maryland....and many masjid are closed for Jumah.....Allah is indeed wise in the way he shows us his signs...

الجزاء من جنس العمل

Many things to think about and reflect during these days and times my brothers and sisters. What if we treated our sins like we are treating this corona virus?

What if we paid attention to our deen, and read our Qurans like we are paying

attention to and reading the posts about corona virus. *what if we called upon Allah as much as we are calling our doctors and physicians...*

One thing that we need to remind ourselves brothers and sisters is that first and foremost no person can define or determine why Allah sent a certain affliction upon humanity, and why He may has chosen one nation or group of people to send affliction and not another. These are the wisdoms of Allah.

As for an epidemic or pandemic *الوباء أو الطاعون* then the scholars of Islam mention that it is a form of divine punishment for those who disobey Allah and a test for those who are obedient to Allah.

So as Muslims how should we understand this pandemic of corona virus?

*For the status of the muslims*

1. Elevation-A test in which Allah raises the status of those whom He loves.

As the Prophet Muhammad said:

عَنْ مُصْنَعِبِ بْنِ سَعْدٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، قَالَ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَيُّ النَّاسِ أَشَدُّ بَلَاءً قَالَ " الْأَنْبِيَاءُ ثُمَّ الْأُمَّةُ قَالِ الْأُمَّةُ فَيَبْتَلِي الرَّجُلَ عَلَى حَسَبِ دِينِهِ فَإِنْ كَانَ دِينُهُ صَلْبًا اشْتَدَّ بَلَاؤُهُ وَإِنْ كَانَ فِي دِينِهِ رِقَّةٌ ابْتَلِيَ عَلَى حَسَبِ دِينِهِ فَمَا يَبْرُحُ الْبَلَاءُ بِالْعَبْدِ حَتَّى يَتْرُكَهُ يَمْشِي عَلَى الْأَرْضِ مَا عَلَيْهِ خَطِيئَةٌ "

"O Messenger of Allah(s.a.w)! Which of the people is tried most severely?"

He said: "The Prophets, then those nearest to them, then those nearest to them. A man is tried according to his religion; if he is firm in his religion, then his trials are more severe, and if he is frail in his religion, then he is tried according to the strength of his religion. The servant shall continue to be tried until he is left walking upon the earth without any sins."

*for muslims*

2. Purification-of sins that were committed and it is better for them that we are cleansed of our sins in this life, than in the next life.

3. Affliction-punishment for sins and rejection *for muslims and not muslims*

عَنْ أَنَسٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ " إِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِعَبْدِهِ الْخَيْرَ عَجَّلَ لَهُ الْعُقُوبَةَ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِعَبْدِهِ الشَّرَّ أَمْسَكَ عَنْهُ بِذَنْبِهِ حَتَّى يُوفَى بِهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ " .



"When Allah wants good for his slave, He hastens his punishment in the world. And when He wants bad for His slave, He withholds his sins from him until he appears before Him on the Day of Judgement."

4. Reflection-of signs delivered to a person to come back to his/her Lord.

How many people have realized how insignificant they are now. How many millionaires cannot buy a cure for this virus? How many nations who thought they were so powerful and mighty and they could confront any problem that comes their way, are now crippled and scrambling and confused about what to do. How many people have realized that if Allah wills, he can take our lives with an unseen virus that we can't understand, can't cure and know little or nothing about any time He wants? How many non-Muslims have now realized the importance of personal hygiene? How much air pollution has been decreased in China since the outbreak of corona...how many Chinese have come to realize that eating bats, rats, fried cats, and monkeys are not wholesome types of foods and may be the cause of the spread of this virus? How many of us Muslims are scared and afraid for ourselves, our families, our children, that this fear has led us to return back to our Lord in repentance and forgiveness. The believer lives between fear and hope...fear of Allah's punishment and hope in Allah's rewards...However, do not let the fear of becoming sick overwhelm you or your family to the point that it is consuming your 24hrs a day...always remember that everything is in the control and will of our magnificent, merciful creator. So repent to Allah now before it's too late, turn to him, get back to your deen, pray your 5 daily prayers.

We ask Allah to protect us all and protect our families.

Second Khutbah

Brothers and sisters in Islam...May Allah shower us and our families with His Mercy, Protection and blessings.