

O my dear brothers and sisters in Islam I advise myself as well as you all to fear Allah the most high. O servants of Allah this life in which we are living is a testing ground for which there will be only two consequences, paradise or hellfire. Unfortunately, many of us are busying ourselves with our worldly affairs, such as jobs, investments, businesses, entertainment, sports and are sometimes heedless of the destroyer of pleasures. Who or what is this destroyer of pleasures???

The destroyer of pleasures doesn't care about our being rich or poor, doesn't care about our being healthy or sick, doesn't care about us being young or old, doesn't care about our jobs, social statuses or the likes. The destroyer of pleasures exists everywhere and is present at all times. Everyone waits to meet him but he waits to meet no-one, everyone is fearful of him but he is fearful of no one. Most of us are only reminded of the destroyer of pleasures when one of our relatives or close friends meets him. *who and what is the destroyer of pleasures??*

Yes, my dearly beloved Muslims, the destroyer of pleasures is death and every one of us will taste it. Allah says:

(كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ)

"Everyone is going to taste death" Anbiyaa 21/35

No matter where you ^{are...} in America, in Pakistan, in Saudia Arabia, in Africa, Asia, living in a straw shack in middle of the amazon or living in a tent made of camel hair in the desert or living in the loftiest mansion with the highest security, no matter where we are death will overtake us all, as Allah says:

(أَيْنَمَا نَكُونُوا يُدْرِكُكُمُ الْمَوْتُ وَلَوْ كُنْتُمْ فِي بُرُوجٍ مُّشِيدَةٍ)

"Wheresoever you may be, death will overtake you even if you are in fortresses built up strong and high..." an Nisa 4/78

O servants of Allah, Each day that passes, each day we breathe, each day we go about our lives, sinning or doing good, is but a day closer to our end, closer to our return to our Creator – Allah the All-Mighty. Many of us, have at some point in our lives, lost a close relative or a close friend. True, we shed tears, we show remorse and we show sadness – but I ask you yaa IbaadAllah, what did ~~you~~ learn?, how did ~~you~~ reflect it upon ~~your~~ own self ???

Perhaps some think that death is yet a distance from us and we will not taste it until at a later age, or perhaps when we think that we are better prepared for it's coming *but know that death can come at any time of place, and*

The prophet muhammad advised us to frequently remember 'the destroyer of pleasures' -death.

"أَكْثِرُوا مِنْ ذِكْرِ هَازِمِ اللَّذَاتِ"

only Allah knows where and when.

Because when one of us remembers the reality of death and what follows it, our present worldly desires and concerns become insignificant and futile and the life of the hereafter becomes our goal and we become interested in the means to attain that goal, as Allah says:

(وَمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَهُمْ وَلَعِبٌ وَإِنَّ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ لَهِمْ النَّيۜۤوَانَ لَوَكَفُّوا يَعْلَمُونَ)

"And the life of this world is only an amusement and a play! Verily the home of the hereafter that is the true eternal life which will never end, if they but knew" al ankaabut: 29/64

So live in this world as strangers ^{and} travelers my dear brothers and sisters. A traveler does not waste his time in gathering that which is of no benefit for his journey. The traveler

immediately selects that which will facilitate him to reach his goal. So we must be like travelers in this world gathering up the good deeds which we can take with us when we reach our final destination, the hereafter/and by the will of Allah and his mercy, the paradise. So strive to do good deeds everyday, by comparing every action of worship you do with the quran sunnah, if the action is in accordance with the quran and sunnah perform the action, if not then leave it off for verily it will harm you in your journey in this world and the hereafter. Also do not delay in doing righteous good deeds because we do not know if we will be here tomorrow, as the Prophet said: 'If you survive until the evening don't expect to live until the morning and if you survive until the morning don't expect to live until the evening, benefit from your health for your sickness and benefit from your life for your death.' So let's benefit from our lives by increasing our good deeds before the destroyer of pleasures comes and takes away our opportunities.

Second khutbah. ~~o~~ servants of Allah, take heed and prepare yourselves, ~~o~~ those who are distracted by this world and its adornments

~~o heedless one~~ Ponder over the agonies of death and its bitter difficulties. Death is a promise which will definitely come true; the thought of death is enough to wound the heart, wet the eyes, ~~disunite people~~, destroy pleasures and prevent ambitions for this life. O you who is hoarding wealth, eager to build and prosper in this life! The only wealth you have is your shroud and your good deeds. Your riches will eventually vanish; your body will become ruined. What will happen to the treasures you accumulated? Will they rescue you from the agonies of death? ~~Indeed no!~~ You will be leaving them all behind. It is ~~aduty~~ upon the Muslim to utilize what Allaah granted him in this life to gain the benefit of the Hereafter. 'Dear ~~brother~~! Where is ~~your~~ preparation for death and its agonies? Where is ~~your~~ preparation for the pressing of the grave? Where is ~~your~~ preparation for answering the two angels in the grave? Where is ~~your~~ preparation for the meeting with Allaah, the Most High, the All-Competent?

They will not unless they are spent in the way of Allah

Death is an indisputable fact; Allaah says ~~what means:~~ ^{in the Quran}

(وَجَاءَتْ سَكْرَتُ الْمَوْتِ بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكَ مَا كُنْتَ تَحِيدُ)

"And the stupor of death will come in truth; this is what you have been avoiding!" (Qaaf: 19)

Who can argue about death and its agonies after hearing these words? Who can dispute the pressing of the grave? Who can delay his death from its appointed time? Allaah says ~~what means:~~

when the angel of death is sent no one can delay his coming no wealth, no status, no fortresses, no investments. As

"When their term comes, neither can they delay it nor can they advance it an hour (or a moment)." (Al-A'raaf:34) ^{say} (وَ لِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْذِنُونَ سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ)

O mankind! Why are some of you so arrogant when you will soon be consumed by worms? Why do you transgress when you will eventually be thrown into a ditch under the ground? Why the delay and heedlessness when you know that death comes suddenly, without any warning? Allaah says ~~what means:~~

(كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ وَإِنَّمَا تُوَفَّوْنَ أَجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ)

"Every soul shall have a taste of death; and only on the Day of Judgment shall you be paid your full recompense. Only he who is saved far from the Fire and admitted to the Garden will have attained the object (of Life). For the life of this world is but goods and chattels of deception." (Aal 'Imraan: 185)

~~Allah~~

~~He~~ also said,

"Whatsoever is on it (the earth) will perish." (Ar-Rahmaan: 26)

~~Allah~~

~~He~~ also says:

"And invoke not any other ilaah (deity) along with Allaah, Laa ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He)." (Al-Qasas: 88)

The Reality of Death Dear Muslims is true! He who thinks that death is the final stage of his existence, after which there will be no accountability, no Paradise or Hellfire and no life after that is in serious error. If this was the case, there would have been no wisdom behind creation and existence to start with, and all people would have been equally at rest after death. The believer and the infidel would have been the same: the murderer and his victim, the oppressor and the oppressed, the obedient and the disobedient, the adulterer and the one who guarded his prayers, and so on. Only one who is shameless and senseless would utter such a statement. Allaah says ~~what~~ ^{means:}

means: (زَعَمَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنْ لَنْ يُبْعَثُوا قُلْ بَلَىٰ وَرَبِّي لَتُبْعَثُنَّ ثُمَّ لَتُنَبَّؤُنَّ بِمَا كُودَلْتُمْ وَذَٰلِكَ كَلِمَاتُ الْيَسِيرِ) *and claim*

"The disbelievers pretend that they will never be resurrected (for the Account). Say (O Muhammad: Yes! By my Lord, you will certainly be resurrected, then you will be informed of (and recompensed for) what you did; and that is easy for Allaah." (At- Taghaabun: 7)

~~He~~ also said:

~~"And he puts forth for Us a parable, and forgets his own creation. He says: 'Who will give life to these bones after they are rotten and have become dust?' Say (O Muhammad: 'He will give life to them Who created them for the first time! And He is the All-Knower of every creation!'" (Yaa Seen: 78-79)~~

Certainly,

Death is the stage at which the soul becomes disconnected from the body. As it departs, man moves from one world (life) to another (the Hereafter). One's records of deeds are closed and the opportunity for repentance comes to an end. The Prophet said: "Allah accepts the repentance of His slave until the time of death" (Tirmithi) *So repent now O servants of Allah before the time is too late, return back to obedience and* O servants of Allah, Death is the greatest affliction, and Allaah has called it a disaster; Allaah says ~~what means:~~ *perform your duties as a muslim.*

(فَأَصَابَتْكُمْ مُصِيبَةُ الْمَوْتِ)

"And the great affliction of death befalls on you." (Al- Maa'idah: 106) If the slave was obedient, he regrets that he did not do more righteous deeds at the time of his death, but if he was disobedient, he regrets his shortcomings and wishes to return to this life so that he could repent and ~~act righteously~~ *act righteously* but ~~at this point it is too late,~~ *when death comes it is too late*

when death comes it is too late



As 45
 Allaah says ~~what means~~

(حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ قَالَ رَبِّ ارْجِعُونِ)

"And if they seek to please Allaah, yet they are not of those who will ever be allowed to please Allaah." (Fussilat: 24) He also says: "Until when death comes to one of them (those who join partners with Allaah), he says:

(لَعَلِّي أَعْمَلُ صَالِحًا فِيمَا تَرَكْتُ كَلَّا إِنَّهَا كَلِمَةٌ تَقُولُهَا مِنْ وَرَائِهِمْ يُنْزَخُ إِلَىٰ نَوْمٍ يُبْعَثُونَ)

'My Lord! Send me back so that I may do good in that which I have left behind!' No! It is but a word that he speaks; and behind them is Barzakh (a barrier) until the Day when they will be resurrected." (Al-Mu'minoon:99- 100)

AN^d It has been narrated that one of the righteous predecessors, ~~may Allaah have mercy upon him~~, said: 'While a fisherman was fishing, he threw his net in the sea and it came back with a human's skull. He looked at it and started crying and said: 'If you were honorable, your honor did not delay your death! If you were wealthy, your wealth did not delay your death! If you were poor, your poverty did not delay your death! If you were generous, your generosity did not delay your death! If you were strong, your strength did not delay your death! If you were a scholar, your knowledge did not delay your death!' He kept repeating these words and crying."

So Remember the Destroyer of Pleasures Honorable Muslim! The Prophet encouraged us to ~~always~~ ^{Frequently} remember and mention death saying: "Frequently remember the destroyer of pleasures (i.e., death)."

It has been mentioned that one of the companions said: 'I came to the Prophet along with nine other people, when a man from the Ansaar (residents of Madeenah) stood up and asked: 'O Prophet of Allaah! Who is the wisest person?' He replied, The one who mentions and contemplates death the most, and the one who prepares for his death the most. These are the wise ones; they gain the glory of this life as well as the honor of the Hereafter.'" (At-Tabaraani & Al-Munthiri)

SO BE FROM AMONGST THE WISE ONES O BROTHERS AND SISTERS
 There are many Benefits of Mentioning and Contemplating Death my Beloved Muslims! From them:

- It encourages one to prepare for death before it strikes. • ~~It makes one lose hope in living longer, which is a hope that causes heedlessness.~~ • It makes a person content with very little. • It makes one inclined towards the Hereafter and the obedience of Allaah. • It makes worldly hardships seem insignificant. • It prevents one from greed and extravagance. • It encourages one to repent and make up for what he missed in the past. • It softens the heart, makes the eyes shed tears, assists one in becoming committed to Islaam and expels base and lowly desires. • It makes a person humble and prevents arrogance and oppression. • It makes a person kind and forgiving towards his fellow Muslims.

O servants of Allah always be ready to receive death and be prepared for what comes after it." One of the righteous predecessors used to address himself saying: "Who will pray on your behalf after you die? Who will fast on your behalf after you die? Who will please your Lord on your behalf after your death?" He used to say to people: "O people! Why do you not cry for the rest of your lives? How can one's situation be when death is seeking him-the grave is his abode-the earth is his mattress-worms are his companions- how will his state be then?"

30 Be informed my beloved Brothers and sisters that He who frequently remembers death will be granted three things: a rapid repentance, a content heart and enthusiasm to worship Allaah and be obedient to Him and His messenger; and the one who neglects remembering death will be afflicted with three things: delay in repentance, discontentment and laziness in worshipping Allaah." ^{heedlessnes,} and the obedience of him and his messenger

Some things that Remind one of Death

Visiting the graves according to the quran and sunnah making supplication for the dead and not to the dead:

The Prophet said: "Visit the graves because they remind you of the Hereafter." (Ahmad)

• Visiting the places where the dead are washed and witnessing the washing.

• visiting people who are dying to see how they suffer and to try to get them to utter the Shahaadah.

• Accompanying funerals and the funeral prayers and attending the burial of the dead.

• Reciting the Qur'aan, especially the verses that mention the agonies of death, ^{and the resurrection} like the saying of Allaah which means: "And the stupor of death will come in truth: This is what you have been avoiding!" (Qaaf: 19)

Pondering over earthquakes, volcanoes, floods and landslides which remind one of the nearness of death.

Reading about previous nations who died and vanished. ^{within the Quran and sunnah}

Finally We ask Allah to allow us to remember the destroyer of pleasures and soften our hearts and makes us firm upon obedience to Allah and His Messenger. And we ask Allah to enable us to have