

روى ابن ماجه (4259) بإسناد جيد عن ابن عمر أنه قال : كُنْتُ مَعَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَجَاءَهُ رَجُلٌ مِنَ الْأَنْصَارِ ، فَسَلَّمَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ثُمَّ قَالَ : يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ، أَيُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَفْضَلُ ؟ قَالَ : أَحْسَنُهُمْ خُلُقًا . قَالَ : فَأَيُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَكْبَرُ ؟ (أي : أعقل) قَالَ : أَكْثَرُهُمْ لِلْمَوْتِ ذِكْرًا ، وَأَحْسَنُهُمْ لِمَا بَعْدَهُ اسْتِعْذَادًا أَوْلَيْكَ الْأَكْبَاسُ . يَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ :

تَزَوَّدَ مِنَ التَّقْوَى فَإِنَّكَ لَا تَدْرِي *** إِذَا جَنَّ لَيْلٌ هَلْ تَعِيشُ إِلَى الْفَجْرِ
فَكَمْ مِنْ عُرُوسٍ زَيَّنُوها لِزَوْجِها *** وَقَدْ أُخِذَتْ أَرْوَاحُهُمْ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ
وَكَمْ مِنْ صِغَارٍ يُرْجَى طَوْلَ عُمْرِهِمْ *** وَقَدْ أُدْخِلَتْ أَرْوَاحُهُمْ ظِلْمَةَ
الْقَبْرِ

وَكَمْ مِنْ سَلِيمٍ مَاتَ مِنْ غَيْرِ عِلَّةٍ *** وَكَمْ مِنْ سَقِيمٍ عَاشَ حِينًا مِنْ
الدَّهْرِ

وَكَمْ مِنْ فَتَى يُفْسِي وَيُصْبِحُ لَاهِيًا *** وَقَدْ نُسِجَتْ أَكْفَانُهُ وَهُوَ لَا
يَدْرِي

وَكَمْ مِنْ سَاكِنٍ عِنْدَ الصَّبَاحِ بِقَصْرِه *** وَعِنْدَ الْمَسَاءِ قَدْ كَانَ مِنْ
سَاكِنِ الْقَبْرِ

فَكُنْ مُخْلِصًا وَاعْمَلْ الْخَيْرَ دَائِمًا *** لَعَلَّكَ تَحْطَى بِالْمَنْوَبَةِ وَالْأَجْرِ
وَدَاوِمٌ عَلَى تَقْوَى الْإِلَهِ فَإِنَّهَا *** أَمَانٌ مِنَ الْأَهْوَالِ فِي مَوْقِفِ
الْحَشْرِ

وكانت وصية الصالحين والنبیین دائماً للمسلمين أن يكثروا من ذكر الموت:

فقال النبي: "أكثرُوا من ذكر هادم/هادم اللذات"

It was narrated that Ibn 'Umar said:

"I was with the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) and a man from among the Ansar came to him and greeted the Prophet (ﷺ) with Salam. Then he said: 'O Messenger of Allah, which of the believers is best?' He said: 'He who has the best manners among them.' He said: 'Which of them is wisest?' He said: 'The one who remembers death the most and is best in preparing for it. Those are the wisest.'"

Servants of Allah, brothers and sisters in faith....Increase in piety and consciousness of Allah for indeed you do not know that if the night comes that we will live until Fajr. How many brides were beautified for their husbands but on their wedding night their souls were taken. How many of our youngsters are we hoping to have long lives, but many of them passed away in their young age and went to their graves. How many healthy people have died suddenly without any cause of sickness, and how many sick people have lived extremely long lives. How many young men have been wasting their time throughout the day and the night, and his shroud for his burial has already been prepared for him. How many of those living in their castles and mansions in the morning, have woken up and found themselves in the grave in the evening.

Remain sincere, and constantly do good deeds, so that you will receive great rewards and bounties. Continuously have taqwa of Allah for indeed it is safety and security during the gathering of souls on the day of resurrection.

From the recommendations of our righteous predecessors and the prophets was to frequently remind ourselves about death, as the prophet Muhammad said: "Frequently remember the destroyer of pleasures".

I remind myself and all of you to fear Allah wherever you are, in your homes, in your offices, in your cars, in public, in private, when your alone and when your with others.

Allah addresses the believers in the Quran saying:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تُلْهِكُمْ أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ
وَأَنْفِقُوا مِنْ مَّا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ أَحَدَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ فَيَقُولَ رَبِّ لَوْلَا أَخَّرْتَنِي إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ
فَأَصَدَّقَ وَأَكُن مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ وَلَنْ يُؤَخِّرَ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِذَا جَاءَ أَجَلُهَا وَاللَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

O you who believe, do not let your wealth and your children divert you from remembrance of Allah . And whoever does that - then they are from amongst the losers. And spend in our cause from what We have provided you with before death approaches one of you and he says, "My Lord, if only You would delay me for a brief term so I would give charity and be among the righteous." But never will Allah delay a soul when its time has come. And Allah is Acquainted with what you do"

Don't let this worldly life distract you, deceive you and keep you so busy that you forget about Allah, forget about praying, forget about fasting, forget about giving charity...

Much of what we experience and see happening around us in our world today can be distracting, disheartening and depressing...But we should try to learn lessons from what we see happening around us and try to take those lessons to strengthen our relationship with Allah...One thing that we see that has become widespread around us is the loss of lives, murder, killings, and death...We all see this on the news, on the internet, in the newspaper...we read the articles and what the newscasts...but how many of us really take heed and use these tragic incidents as a reminder to ourselves.....that we too are going to die someday...maybe today, maybe tomorrow, maybe next year, maybe 50 years from now....but certainly death is real and it is a fact that no one can deny...

What will we say when the angel of death comes to take our souls, and there will be no coming back to this earth to glorify Allah, to praise Allah,

to pray to Allah, to read Quran, to give charity...all of our opportunities to do good deeds will come to a halt. Allah reminds us in the Quran:

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَهُمُ الْمَوْتُ قَالَ رَبِّ ارْجِعُونِ - لَعَلِّي أَعْمَلُ صَالِحًا فِيمَا تَرَكْتُ ۚ كَلَّا ۚ إِنَّهَا كَلِمَةٌ هُوَ قَائِلُهَا وَمِن وَرَائِهِم بَرْزَخٌ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ - 23:100

For those who were in a state of heedlessness, until, when death comes to one of them, he says, "My Lord, send me back. That I might do righteousness in that which I left behind." No! It is only a word he is saying; and behind them is a barrier until the Day they are resurrected.

When death strikes us brothers and sisters it will be too late to start praying, too late to start memorizing Quran, too late to start practicing, *Islam*, too late to start giving charity...Many of us are enjoying the pleasures of this worldly life, but what will be our situation when the destroyer of pleasures comes? The destroyer of pleasures doesn't care about our being rich or poor, doesn't care about us being healthy or sick, doesn't care about us being young or old, doesn't care about our jobs, our professions, our businesses, our money, our wealth, our properties, or our social statuses. Every single one of us is awaiting the destroyer of pleasures, we are all waiting to meet him, but he is waiting for no one, we are all fearful of him, but he isn't scared of anyone...

Allah says in the Quran:

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ

Every soul shall taste death

With all of the issues and affairs that people differ and debate about, this is one thing that is 100 certain that is undebatable.

No matter where we are, in America, Pakistan, India, Saudia Arabia, Egypt, Harrisburg, Mechanicsburg, Steelton, or south 12th street, not matter if you are living in a straw shack in the middle of the woods in the Appalachian mountains, or living in a camel hair tent in Arabia, or living in

too late to make Hajj, too late to be dutiful and respectful to our parents, too late to make Tawbah

a lofty and luxurious mansion in Hagerstown with the highest level security system, indeed death will take us all, as Allah says:

أَيْنَمَا تَكُونُوا يُدْرِكَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ وَلَوْ كُنْتُمْ فِي بُرُوجٍ مُّشِيدَةٍ - 4:78

Wherever you are, death will overtake you, even if you should be within towers of lofty construction.

Each day that passes, each breath we take, each day we go to our places of work, is but a closer day to our end, a closer day to the meeting with our creator and maker. Perhaps some of us think that death is yet a distance away from us and we will not taste death until a later age, after we start praying, and fasting and practicing, or perhaps we think that it will come when we are better prepared for it...wake up brothers and sisters and know that it can come at any time...and for this reason the prophet Muhammad advised us to frequently remember the destroyer of pleasures when he said:

أَكْثَرُوا مِنْ ذِكْرِ هَاجِمِ اللَّذَاتِ

When we are constantly reminded about the reality of this life and the reality of death and what follows it, our attachment to this world and its adornments lessens, and our hearts become detached from it, and the striving to attain the temporary things of this world becomes insignificant and futile in comparison to the life of the hereafter and the pleasure of Allah becomes our soul objective. So we then use the opportunities in this world such as wealth, health, time, intelligence, to earn the pleasure of Allah and the reward in the hereafter.

Allah reminds us about the reality of this world all throughout the Quran, one of the verses is what Allah say:

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا

He is the one who created death and life to test those of you who will do the best deeds.

- of being obedient to Allah in this Dunya?? -

Who will pass the test? Will our grades be the same or will they be different? Some will get A+, some people will get B's, or C's or D's and some people will even Flunk...In school you can retake the test, but in the school of life, there's no going back to retake the test...

Prepare yourselves O servants of Allah, prepare yourselves and ponder over death and its bitter difficulties. Death is a promise that will come true. Let those who are hoarding wealth in this world, be reminded that the only wealth you will have in the hereafter is your white sheet and your good deeds. Let those who think they are better than everyone else and don't want to befriend those who may be of a lesser social class or status than them, that your companions in your grave will be worms, ants, centipedes and roaches. Let the one who thinks he's too good to sleep on the floor, that the earth and dirt will be your mattress after you die. Let those who are constantly obsessed with the cleanliness of their suits and ties...and brushing off every speck of dirt..that your brothers will be rushing to place you in your graves, and be throwing dirt all over you....

Death and the grave are coming soon brothers and sisters...after our friends sitting next to us today carry us to the graveyard and bury us under the soil, we will hear them walking away, and never hear their voice or footsteps again...now you're all alone, in darkness, in the cold, the grave will become narrow, quiet, no one to comfort you...except your good deeds here in this world...So are we prepared to meet Allah, and what are we doing to get ready for that meeting? Observe your deeds and make sure they are sincerely for Allah and in accordance to the Prophetic Sunnah of Muhammad. Take account of yourselves before we're all taken account of by Allah on the Day of Resurrection.

Second Khutbh

The destroyer of pleasures...Cannot be avoided...He's coming for you, for me, and for every living creature on the face of this earth... Allah says:

وَجَاءَتْ سَكْرَةُ الْمَوْتِ بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكَ مَا كُنْتُمْ مِنْهُ تَحِيدُونَ -

And the stupor of death will come in truth; that is what you were trying to avoid.

No matter what we do brothers and sisters we cannot avoid death, nor delay it in any way....when the appointment time comes, there is no coming late...an appointment that we can't miss or try to reschedule... no matter who we are, who much money we have, what status we've acquired, or mansion we live in or investments we have....

Allah reminds us:

وَيَكُلُّ أُمَّةٌ أَجَلٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ - 7:34

Everyone has an appointed term, and when that appointment comes there is no delaying, or advancing it for even one moment. No doctor, no medication, no therapist can delay our appointed terms, when death comes, there is not stopping it and no going back.

Brothers and sisters in Islam indeed Death is true and real, and he who thinks that dying in this world is the final stage of one's existence, after which there will be no accountability, no paradise or no hellfire, then this person is in serious error. If this was the case then there would have been no wisdom behind the creation of this world and the creation of human beings and all people would have been equally at rest after death. The believer and the non-believer would be the same, the murderer and his victim would be the same, the oppressor and the oppressed would be the same, the obedient and the disobedient would be the same, the adulterer and the chaste one would be the same, the one who doesn't pray and who does pray would be the same...and so on...Allah says in the Quran:

زَعَمَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنْ لَنْ يُبْعَثُوا قُلْ بَلَىٰ وَرَبِّي لَتُبْعَثُنَّ ثُمَّ لَتُنَبَّؤُنَّ بِمَا عَمِلْتُمْ ۗ وَذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ -

Those who disbelieve pretend and claim that they will never be resurrected. Indeed all of you will certainly be resurrected, then you will be informed and recompensed for what you used to do in this world.

Everything big and small that we do, say, believe, and think is being written down in a book that will be presented to each and every one of us on the day of resurrection.

Death indeed is a great affliction solely because the opportunities for the believer to do more righteous deeds comes to a halt.

So why are we talking about death today brothers and sisters...When we are reminded of death it encourages us to prepare for it before it comes...It makes us content and satisfied with little in this dunya. It makes us inclined and focused on the hereafter and obedience to Allah. It makes worldly hardships seem insignificant...It prevents one from greed and extravagance...It encourages one to repent and make up for what one missed in the past. It softens the heart, makes the eyes shed tears and assist one in becoming committed to Islam...It makes a person humble and prevents arrogance and oppression. It makes a person kind and forgiving towards his fellow brothers and sisters in Islam. Remembering death helps us learn from our past mistakes, it helps us Fix those relationships we may have spoiled, it helps us Take advantage of the time we have left while Being thankful that time as well.

Those that remember death frequently will be granted three important things: A rapid repentance from sins, mistakes and shortcomings...A content heart and enthusiasm to worship Allah and eagerness to be more obedient to Allah and His Messenger, and aiding the believers. And the one who is scared to talk about death, or neglects the remembrance of death will be afflicted with three negative things: a delay in their repentance to Allah, discontentment and laziness in worshipping Allah,

and heedlessness in regards to the importance of obeying Allah and His messenger.

Some things that can remind us of death:

1. Read the Quran and Read the Books of Hadith
2. Visit the graveyards and supplicating for the dead
3. Visit the places where the dead are washed and prepared for burial
4. Visiting people who are dying and reminding them to utter the shahadah in Cancer treatment centers, Retirement homes
5. Attending muslim funerals and janazah prayers and burials
6. Pondering over the current events in the world today that are filled with death, murder and wars.

We ask Allah to soften our hearts, to purify our souls, our intentions and our actions and accept them from us. And we ask Allah to enable us to remember the destroyer of pleasures-death-so that we can hastily repent to him and make sure our deeds are in accordance with the Quran and Sunnah, and increase in our worship and obedience to Him.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ

يَا اللَّهُ طَهِّرْ قُلُوبَنَا مِنَ النِّفَاقِ وَالرِّيَاءِ

وَالعُجْبِ وَالكُفْرَانِ ... يَا مقلبَ القلوبِ ثبِّتْ قلوبَنَا
عَلَى دِينِكَ

وَحَدِّ صُفُوفِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ فِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ

وَأَضْرِ الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ فِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ

فِي الصِّينِ، وَالسُّورِيَا وَالْعِرَاقِ وَبِرطَا فِي إفريقيا يَا

رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ