

Date: 31.12.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْكَيْسُ مَنْ دَانَ نَفْسَهُ وَعَمِلَ لِمَا بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ وَالْعَاجِزُ مَنْ

أَتْبَعَ نَفْسَهُ هَوَاهَا وَتَمَنَّى عَلَى اللَّهِ.

REVIEWING OUR PAST AND SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Honorable Muslims!

The second caliph of Islam, the symbol of justice Umar b. al-Khattab once said to his friends as follows: **“Reckon with yourselves before you are reckoned with, and prepare for the Greatest Inquisition. The reckoning of the Day of Judgment is easy for those who reckoned with themselves in the world.”**¹

Dear Muslims!

Time flies. Days of our life are running out day after day. Our numbered breaths are coming to an end. We are leaving another Gregorian year behind us with its ups and downs and its sorrow and joy. Let us decide to face with ourselves in this blessed time of Friday when prayers are accepted. Let us review what we have done so far. Let us reckon with ourselves before we are reckoned with.

Dear Muslims!

The essence of the reckoning is to know oneself. It means to see oneself through the mirror of truth. It also means to contemplate on where one came from, why s/he came and where s/he will go.

The beginning of the reckoning is to be able to stop all kinds of carnal and lustful desires. It means to abandon bad habits and behaviors. It also means to repent of our sins and decide not to commit the same sins again.

The reckoning is the effort to mature our faith and maintain our direction. It is the endeavor to adhere to the words and behaviors which Allah (swt) made halal (permissible) and stay away from the haram, (prohibited). It is the determination not to give up worshipping for even a moment until the death. It is the resolution to equip ourselves with the morals of our Beloved Prophet (saw) who is a man of outstanding character.

Eventually, the reckoning is being a servant of Allah (swt) with complete submission, and meticulously abiding by the rights of people. It means to purify our hearts from everything but Allah.

Dear Believers!

It is stated in the Holy Qur'an: **“O you who believe! Fear Allah and keep your duty to Him. And let every person look to what he has sent forth for the tomorrow, and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is All-Aware of what you do.”**² This verse calls us to reckon with ourselves as a requirement of our faith. It invites us to make a future plan in accordance with our purpose of creation.

Then, in the last day of this Gregorian year, let us ask ourselves these questions in order to review our past and shape our future: Are we loyal to our servitude vow we gave to Allah (swt) in reply to the question “Am I not your Lord?” Did we spend our life with faith, worship and good morals? Did we stay away from everything Allah (swt) prohibited? Did we fulfill our responsibilities towards all living and non-living creatures? In brief, did we appreciate the value of every year, every month, every day, and even every hour?

I would like to conclude this week's khutbah with the following hadith of the Messenger of Allah (saw): **“The clever person is the one who subjugates his soul, and works for what is after death. And the incapable is the one who follows his desires and merely hopes in Allah.”**³

¹ Tirmidhi, Sifat al-Qiyamah, 25.

² Hashr, 59/18.

³ Tirmidhi, Sifat al-Qiyamah, 25.