Preparing for the Day of Judgment

Standard version · Jummah Khutbah Reader

First Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Innal hamda lillah, nahmaduhu wa nasta‘eenuhu wa nastaghfiruhu, wa na‘oodhu billahi min shuroori anfusina wa min sayyi’aati a‘maalina. ▶ **Audio**

Man yah-dihi-llahu falaa mudilla lah, wa man yud-lil falaa haadiya lah. ▶ **Audio**

Wa ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh. ▶ **Audio**

Yaa ay-yuhal-ladheena aamanut-taqul-laha haqqa tu-qaa-tihi wa laa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoon. ▶ **Audio**

Yaa ayyuhan-naasu-ttaqu rabbakumul-ladhee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidah, ▶ **Audio**

wa khalaqa minhaa zawjahaa, wa baththa minhumaa rijaalan katheeran wa nisaa’aa. ▶ **Audio**

Wattaqullahal-ladhee tasaa’aloona bihi wal-arhaam. Innallaha kaana ‘alaykum raqeebaa. ▶ **Audio**

Yaa ayyuhalladheena aamanu-ttaqullaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedaa. ▶ **Audio**

Yuslih lakum a‘maalakum wa yaghfir lakum dhunoobakum. ▶ **Audio**

Wa man yuti‘illaha wa rasoolahu faqad faaza fawzan ‘azeemaa. ▶ **Audio**

Ammaa ba‘d. ▶ **Audio**

Fa inna asdaqal hadeethi kitaabullah, ▶ **Audio**

wa khayral hadyi hadyu Muhammadin sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, ▶ **Audio**

wa sharral umoori muh-dathaa-tuhaa, wa kulla muh-dathatin bid‘ah, wa kulla bid‘atin dalaalah, wa kulla dalaalatin fin-naar. ▶ **Audio**

First Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

I advise myself first, and then all of you, to have taqwa of Allah.

Fear Allah, be aware of Allah, and remember that one day we will stand before Him and answer for how we lived our lives.

Today's khutbah is about a day that every one of us should be preparing for.

A day when money will no longer be able to help us.

A day when our positions in society will mean nothing.

And a day when every one of us will have to answer for what we have done.

The Day of Judgment.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We spend so much of our lives preparing for things that may or may not happen.

We prepare for our careers.

We prepare for marriage.

We prepare for our children's futures.

And we prepare for retirement.

We save money, make plans and worry about what tomorrow may bring.

But how much time do we spend preparing for the one day that we know will certainly arrive?

The day we will stand before Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Every one of us will eventually die.

And after death, there will come a day when Allah will raise all of mankind for judgment.

Every generation.

Every nation.

Every person who has ever lived.

The rich and the poor.

The powerful and the weak.

The young and the old.

All will be gathered before Allah.

And on that day, nobody will be able to hide behind their wealth, their family or their position in this world.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, described how people will be gathered on the Day of Resurrection.

In Sahih al-Bukhari, (Hadith 6523), the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught that mankind will be gathered barefoot, naked and uncircumcised.

Think about that.

The person who owned millions will stand before Allah without his wealth.

The person who was admired by thousands will stand without his position or reputation.

And the person who believed he was better than everyone else will stand before the same Lord as the people he once looked down upon.

On that day, what will matter is our faith and our deeds.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah tells us in Surah Al-Anbiya, (verse 47):

"We will set up scales of justice for the Day of Resurrection so that no one can be wronged in the least"

This is a powerful reminder.

Allah's judgment will be completely fair.

Nobody will be punished for something they did not do.

Nobody will lose a good deed because Allah has forgotten it.

And nobody will escape responsibility simply because their wrongdoing was hidden from other people.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Sometimes, people commit terrible acts in this world and appear to escape the consequences.

Someone steals money from others and becomes wealthy.

Someone treats people cruelly but continues enjoying a comfortable life.

Someone lies, cheats or abuses their position, and nobody holds them responsible.

We may look at these situations and wonder where the justice is.

But my dear brothers in Islam,

The fact that someone escapes punishment in this world does not mean they have escaped Allah's judgment.

There will come a day when every injustice will be dealt with.

And Allah will judge with perfect fairness.

This should bring comfort to those who have been wronged.

But it should also make us afraid of wronging others.

Because on that day, we will not only answer for our prayers and fasting.

We will also answer for how we treated people.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, gave us a frightening warning about this.

In Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 2581), the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, asked his companions if they knew who the truly bankrupt person was.

He explained that a person may arrive on the Day of Judgment with prayers, fasting and charity.

But that same person may also have insulted others, made false accusations, taken people's money or harmed them.

His good deeds will then be given to those he wronged.

And if his good deeds are exhausted before he has answered for the harm he caused, the sins of those he wronged will be placed upon him.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Think carefully about this.

A person may spend years praying.

He may fast every Ramadan.

He may give large amounts of charity.

But because of the way he treated other people, he may lose the reward of those good deeds.

What a terrible loss that would be.

This teaches us that worship and good character must go together.

We cannot expect our prayers to excuse us for cheating people.

We cannot expect our fasting to excuse us for being cruel to our families.

And we cannot expect our charity to excuse us for taking what belongs to others.

If we have wronged someone, we should try to make things right while we still have the opportunity.

My dear brothers in Islam,

There is another important matter we must remember.

Everything we do is being recorded.

The words we speak.

The things we do in public.

And the things we do when we believe nobody is watching.

Allah says in Surah Al-Kahf, (verse 49):

"The record of their deeds will be laid open"

Think about the meaning of this verse.

One day, the record of our lives will be placed before us.

The things we have forgotten.

The conversations we thought nobody heard.

The wrongs we committed in secret.

And the good deeds we performed without anyone knowing.

They will all be known to Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Imagine if someone gave you a complete record of everything you said and did during the past year.

Every conversation.

Every message.

Every website you visited.

Every promise you made.

Every person you hurt.

And every good deed you performed.

Would you be comfortable reading that record in front of others?

Now imagine the record of your entire life.

Not simply what other people saw.

But everything Allah knows about you.

This is why we must be careful about what we do, even when nobody else is watching.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Today, many people behave differently when they believe they are being watched.

A person may be honest when his employer is standing beside him, but dishonest when nobody is checking.

Someone may behave respectfully at the masjid, but treat his family badly at home.

Another person may avoid sins in public, but deliberately commit them in private.

But Allah sees us wherever we are.

Nothing is hidden from Him.

And we must remember that what is hidden today may become part of the record we face on the Day of Judgment.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah reminds us in Surah Az-Zalzalah, (verses 7–8):

"whoever has done an atom’s-weight of good will see it"

And the following verse warns that even the smallest evil deed will be seen.

Think about how important this is.

Sometimes, we believe that a good deed is too small to matter.

We help someone carry something.

We give a small amount of charity.

We speak kindly to someone who is upset.

Or we make dua for a person who is struggling.

And we may forget about that good deed completely.

But Allah does not forget.

No sincere act of goodness is too small for Allah to know about it.

And the same applies to our sins.

A careless insult.

A small act of dishonesty.

A hurtful comment.

Or money taken unfairly.

We should never dismiss wrongdoing simply because it seems small to us.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, also reminded us that we will be questioned about how we used the blessings Allah gave us.

In Jami at-Tirmidhi, (Hadith 2417), he taught that a servant will be questioned about his life, his knowledge, his wealth and his body, including how he used them.

Think about those questions.

Allah gave us years to live.

How did we use those years?

Allah gave us the opportunity to learn.

Did we use that knowledge for good?

Allah gave us wealth.

How did we earn it?

And how did we spend it?

Allah gave us health and strength.

Did we use those blessings in ways that pleased Him?

My dear brothers in Islam,

These are not questions we should begin thinking about only when we become old.

We should think about them now.

While we still have the opportunity to change.

If we have been neglecting our salah, now is the time to correct it.

If we have been earning money through haram means, now is the time to seek a better way.

If we have been treating our parents badly, now is the time to show them kindness.

And if we have hurt someone, now is the time to make things right.

Because once death arrives, our opportunity to perform new deeds in this world will come to an end.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The Day of Judgment should also remind us that Allah is merciful.

We should not become so frightened by our sins that we give up hope.

Allah has given us the opportunity to repent.

He has given us time to seek forgiveness.

And He has shown us the path that leads to His pleasure.

But we should never use Allah's mercy as an excuse to continue knowingly doing wrong.

We should hope for His mercy while sincerely working to obey Him.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Let us ask ourselves an important question today.

If we were called to stand before Allah tomorrow, what would we regret?

Would we regret the prayers we neglected?

The family relationships we destroyed?

The money we took unfairly?

Or the years we wasted chasing things that brought us no benefit in the Hereafter?

My dear brothers in Islam,

We cannot change the past.

But while we are alive, we can repent and begin changing our future.

So let us not delay.

Let us prepare for the Day of Judgment through sincere faith, good deeds and repentance.

May Allah forgive our sins.

May Allah make our good deeds heavy on the scales.

May Allah protect us from the punishment of the Hereafter.

And may Allah grant us an easy judgment and admit us into Jannah, Ameen.

End of First Khutbah — Asking for Forgiveness

Aqoolu qawlee haadhaa, wa astaghfirullaha lee wa lakum, wa li saa'i-ril muslimeena min kulli dhanb. Fastaghfirooh, innahu huwal ghafoorur raheem. ▶ **Audio**

Sit briefly between the two khutbahs.

Second Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Alhamdulillahi rabbil 'aalameen, was-salaatu was-salaamu 'alaa ashrafil anbiyaa'i wal mursaleen, nabiyyinaa Muhammadin, wa 'alaa aalihi wa sahbihi ajma'een. ▶ **Audio**

Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh. Ammaa ba'd. ▶ **Audio**

Second Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

Again, I advise myself and all of you to have taqwa of Allah.

We have spoken about the Day of Judgment and the fact that every one of us will answer for how we lived.

But now we need to ask ourselves:

What can we do today to prepare for that day?

My dear brothers in Islam,

The first thing we must do is protect our salah.

Do not treat your prayers as something unimportant.

Arrange your day around them.

Pray sincerely.

And remember that salah is one of the greatest responsibilities Allah has placed upon us.

The second thing we should do is make sincere repentance.

Every one of us has committed sins.

But Allah has given us the opportunity to ask for forgiveness while we are still alive.

If you have been doing something wrong, make a sincere effort to stop.

If you have neglected your responsibilities, begin correcting them.

And if you have wronged another person, try to repair the harm.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The third thing we can do is become more careful about how we treat people.

Remember the warning about the person who arrives on the Day of Judgment with good deeds but loses them because he harmed others.

Do not cheat people.

Do not spread false stories.

Do not abuse your family.

And do not take money that does not belong to you.

Protect your good deeds by protecting the rights of other people.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Another important thing we can do is use our time wisely.

We spend so much time thinking about tomorrow.

But sometimes, we forget that tomorrow is not guaranteed.

We may have another twenty years.

Or we may have only a few days.

Only Allah knows.

So make good use of the time you have.

Read the Quran.

Give charity.

Help someone who is struggling.

Spend time with your family.

And do something beneficial rather than wasting every spare moment on things that bring no lasting reward.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also teach our children about the Hereafter.

Teach them that their actions have consequences.

Teach them to be truthful.

To fulfil their responsibilities.

And to treat others kindly.

But do not teach them only about punishment.

Teach them about Allah's mercy.

Teach them that repentance is possible.

And teach them that even small good deeds can bring great reward.

We want our children to grow up loving Allah, obeying Him and hoping for His mercy.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah says in Surah Al-Hashr, (verse 18):

"Be mindful of Allah, and let every soul consider carefully what it sends ahead for tomorrow"

What a powerful reminder.

We spend so much time preparing for tomorrow in this world.

But Allah reminds us to prepare for the tomorrow that matters most.

The life that comes after death.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, every one of us will stand before Allah.

There will be no opportunity to return and perform another prayer.

No opportunity to repay a debt.

And no opportunity to go back and correct the things we deliberately left undone.

But today, we still have that opportunity.

So let us leave this masjid with a sincere intention to change.

Let us protect our salah.

Let us repent from our sins.

Let us fulfil the rights of others.

And let us fill our lives with deeds that will benefit us when we stand before Allah.

May Allah forgive our shortcomings.

May Allah grant us the strength to obey Him.

May Allah protect our families from the punishment of the Hereafter.

May Allah make our good deeds heavy on the scales.

And may Allah grant us an easy judgment and admit us into Jannah, Ameen.

Closing Dua — Arabic Transliteration

In-nal-laaha wa ma-laaa-e-ka-ta-hoo yu-sal-loo-na 'alan-na-bee, yaaa ay-yu-hal-la-thee-na aa-ma-noo sal-loo 'a-lay-hi wa sal-li-moo tas-lee-maa. ▶ **Audio**

Allah humma Sali wa salam wa barik ala Muhammadin wa ala alley Muhammad ▶ **Audio**

Allahummaghfir lil-muslimeena wal-muslimaat, wal-mu'mineena wal-mu'minaat, al-ahyaa'i minhum wal-amwaat. ▶ **Audio**

Rabbanaa zalamnaa anfusanaa, wa illam taghfir lanaa wa tarhamnaa, lanakoonanna minal-khaasireen. ▶ **Audio**

Rabbanaa aatinaa fid-dunyaa hasanah, wa fil-aakhirati hasanah, wa qinaa 'adhaaban-naar. ▶ **Audio**

Final Khutbah Closing — Arabic Transliteration

Ibaadallah, innallaha ya’muru bil-‘adli wal-ihsaani wa eetaa’i dhil-qurbaa, wa yanhaa ‘anil fahshaa’i wal-munkari wal-baghy. Ya‘izukum la‘allakum tadhakkaroon. ▶ **Audio**

Wa akhiroo da3wanal humdoolilahi rubul Alameen. Wa Aqimis-salaah. ▶ **Audio**