

# Ramadan 12, 1440 - Knowing Allah (SWT)

إن الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستغفره ونستهديه ، ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا ومن سيئات أعمالنا من يهده الله فلا مضلّ له ومن يضلّل فلا هادي له ، وأشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له وأشهد أن محمداً عبده ورسوله وصفيّه من خلقه وخليله صلى الله وسلم وبارك عليه وعلى آله وأصحابه وسلم تسليماً كثيراً

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

*“O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, who created you from a single person, and from him He created his wife, and from them both He created many men and women; and fear Allah through Whom you demand your mutual rights, and do not Cut the relations of kinship. Surely, Allah is an All-Watcher over you.”*

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا \* يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا

*“O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear Him, and always speak the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive your sins. And whosoever Obeys Allah and His Messenger (SAWS) he has indeed achieved a great achievement.”*

أما بعد ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters ...

In our previous Khutbah we talked about Loving Allah SWT, and how this love is the true power for worshiping Allah SWT. Loving Allah SWT allows us to worship him the right way and increases our iman and faith. We also emphasized that **Remembrance** (thikr) is the way of intimacy with Allah. But what does it take to really Love Allah SWT? and what can we do to achieve that?

So, what if I ask you to love someone and do whatever he asks, just obey him 100% of the time! What would be your reaction? What first question will you ask? I believe most of us would just ask WHO is this person? We will have the urge to know that person very well so that we would be able to really love him and obey him. Although this seems very logical to do, we don't really follow the same path with Allah SWT “ولله المثل الأعلى”.

Knowing Allah (معرفة الله) is the way to him and obey him, and we must have ideas of Allah SWT if we are to worship him, and it is an ongoing process because to define our Rabb is utterly beyond human power. Prophet Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah, has said, "One among you who knows Allah best is the one who fears Him most, and I fear Him even more than him."

Accurately knowing Allah is the pillar whereupon Islam in its entirety hinges, and the Question is: "How can we get to know Allah SWT, and what is the venue for attaining such knowledge?"

The answer is crucially conditional: If we do not know the right course, we can never reach our destination. Any wrong approach to knowing Allah SWT is a major contributor to distancing many people from accurately getting to believe in Allah. The Holy Qur'an narrates to us stories about those who disbelieved in Allah in every age and time, depicting for us how they insisted, in order to believe in Him, on hearing or seeing Him, relying only on their senses.

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ لَوْلَا يُكَلِّمُنَا اللَّهُ أَوْ تَأْتِينَا آيَةٌ كَذَلِكَ قَالَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ مِثْلَ قَوْلِهِمْ تَشَبَهَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ قَدْ بَيَّنَّا الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ ﴿١١٨﴾

*Those who do not know say, "Why does Allah not speak to us or there come to us a sign?" Thus spoke those before them like their words. Their hearts resemble each other. We have shown clearly the signs to a people who are certain [in faith].*

﴿١١٨﴾ وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ لِقَاءَنَا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَوْ نَرَى رَبَّنَا لَقَدِ اسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَعَتَوْا عُتُوًا كَبِيرًا ﴿١١٩﴾

*And those who do not expect the meeting with Us say, "Why were not angels sent down to us, or [why] do we [not] see our Lord?" They have certainly become arrogant within themselves and [become] insolent with great insolence.*

﴿١١٩﴾ وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ يَنْهَمْنُنُ ابْنِ لِي صِرْحًا لَعَلِّي أَبْلُغُ الْأَسْبَابَ أَسْبَابَ السَّمَوَاتِ فَأَطَّلِعَ إِلَى إِلَهِ مُوسَى وَإِنِّي لِأَظُنُّهُ كَذِبًا وَكَذَلِكَ زَيْنَ لِفِرْعَوْنَ سُوءُ عَمَلِهِ وَصُدَّ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا كَيْدُ فِرْعَوْنَ إِلَّا فِي تَبَابٍ ﴿١٢٠﴾

*And Pharaoh said, "O Haman, construct for me a tower that I might reach the ways \* The ways into the heavens - so that I may look at the God of Moses; but indeed, I think he is a liar." And thus was made attractive to Pharaoh the evil of his deed, and he was averted from the [right] way. And the plan of Pharaoh was not except in ruin.*

In this last verse, "averted from the [right] way" refers to the course that ends with acquiring a sound and accurate knowledge of Allah Almighty. Such a goal should be our first and foremost concern. Without properly knowing Allah, how can we properly worship Him?

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "ومن سلك طريقاً يلتمس فيه علماً سهل الله له به طريقاً إلى الجنة" ((رواه مسلم)).

*The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "Allah makes the way to Jannah easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge."*

Knowing Allah is a journey and an attempt to search for noble, sound, and accurate knowledge, the knowledge that brings us closer to our Lord and leads us to the path of salvation, and to happiness both in this life and in the eternal life to come.

We mentioned that we shouldn't rely on our senses to know Allah SWT, as this is not the way Allah intended for us to know him. The right way to know Allah SWT is by knowing him through what he told us about himself, which are his names and attributes (معرفة الله بأسمائه (وصفاته)).

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال، قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "لِلَّهِ تِسْعَةٌ وَتِسْعُونَ اسْمًا، مِئَةٌ إِلَّا وَاحِدًا، لَا يُحْفَظُهَا أَحَدٌ إِلَّا دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ، وَهُوَ وَثْرٌ يُجِبُّ الْوَثَرَ." وفي رواية ابن أبي عمير: مَنْ أَحْصَاهَا دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ.

*Abu Hurairah narrated that The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: Allah has ninety-nine Names, i.e., one hundred minus one, and whoever believes in their meanings and acts accordingly, will enter Paradise; and Allah is witr (one) and loves 'the witr' (i.e., odd numbers).*

Knowing Allah through his names and attributes means affirming the Names and Attributes which Allah has affirmed for Himself in a manner befitting His majesty with four conditions (من غير تحريف ولا تعطيل ولا تكييف ولا تمثيل):

- 1) without Tahrif (without distortion of the meaning)
- 2) without Ta`til (without negation of the meaning or function of Allah's Attributes)
- 3) without Takyif (without descriptive designation of Allah's Attributes)
- 4) without Tamthil (without likening Allah's Attributes to those of His Creation)

لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ ۚ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ 42:11

*There is nothing like unto Him, and He is Al-Samee', Al-Baseer.*

We must point out that we are not allowed to Add/Subtract names in the list of Allah's names without any authentic proof. Names of Allah SWT are not affirmed by the intellect – they can only be affirmed by Revelation. We should accept what is narrated in the Qur'an and Sunnah and not add or subtract anything. Based on this, it is not correct to call Allah by any name other than those by which He has called Himself in His Book or those that His Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) called Him by in saheeh alahaadeeth.

There are three levels of Memorization and Understanding of the 99 Names of Allah SWT. Ibn al-Qayyim mentioned three levels of enumerating the names of Allah

1. The first level is to memorize their words.
2. The second level is to understand their meanings and implications.
3. The third level is to make du'aa (supplicate) to Allaah SWT with them, this encompasses both supplication of worship and supplication of request.

It's a beautiful journey to go through all the 99 Names of Allah SWT memorizing then understating them, and ultimately supplicate to Allah SWT with them. While going through this journey, we must remember the ultimate reward for this is Knowing and Worshiping Allah as pleases him and finally enter Al-Jannag InShaaAllah. May Allah (SWT) give us the tawfiq to know and worship him the right way.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

I ask Allah for forgiveness, He is the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.

# Second Khutbah

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على سيد المرسلين وعلى آله وأصحابه أجمعين.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, when talk about Knowing Allah, there are a number of basic questions about Him that we can try to answer from Qura'an and Sunnah. One might ask:

## How can you describe Him?

Numerous verses of the Holy Qur'an point out to His existence. Consider the argument of His Ibrahim (Abraham, as) who said:

إِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّيَ الَّذِي يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ

"My Lord is the One Who brings life and Who causes death" (Qur'an, 2:258),

and the argument of Moses who said,

قَالَ رَبُّكُمْ وَرَبُّ آبَائِكُمُ الْأَوَّلِينَ ﴿٢٦﴾

"[He is] your Lord and the Lord of your first forefathers" (Qur'an, 26:26).

Also consider these verses:

قَالَ رَبُّنَا الَّذِي أَعْطَى كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَلْقَهُ، ثُمَّ هَدَى ﴿٥٠﴾

"Our Lord is the One Who gave everything its creation, then He guided it." (20:50)

رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَاتَّخِذْهُ وَكِيلًا ﴿٩﴾

"The Lord of the East and the West: there is no god but He; therefore, take Him for a protector." (73:9)

And many other verses in the Qura'an describing Allah SWT, another question might be:

## Can you define Him?

The Exalted One says that He defies definition:

لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ ۚ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿٤٢﴾

There is nothing at all like unto Him, and He is Al-Samee', Al-Baseer.

## Is He one or more?

The Glorified One has required the Muslims to Say:

(4) قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ (1) اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ (2) لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ (3) وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ

Say, "He is Allah, [who is] One, Allah, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is born, Nor is there to Him any equivalent." And in another verse

وَاللَّهُ كُفُوًا إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ

"And your god is one God. There is no worthy of worship except Him, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful." And Allah says about the heavens and earth

لَوْ كَانَ فِيهِمَا آلِهَةٌ إِلَّا اللَّهُ لَفَسَدَتَا فَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَرْشِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ

"Had there been in them any gods besides Allah, they would both have certainly been in a state of disorder(21:22)

Brothers and Sisters, remember that the first pillar of imaan (faith) in Islam is Belief in Allah. As Muslims, we believe in Allah in accordance with His beautiful names and attributes.

Allah has revealed His names repeatedly in the Holy Quran primarily for us to understand who He is. Learning and memorizing the names of Allah will help us to identify the correct way to believe in Him. There is nothing more sacred and blessed than understanding the names of Allah and living by them. How do we expect to worship, love, fear and trust our Lord, The Almighty Allah, if we don't know who He is?

The study of Allah's names is the most noble of all sciences. This is because the nobility of a science is connected to the nobility of its subject, and there is no subject that one can study more noble than Allah.

هَذَا وَصَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى مَنْ أَمَرَكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالسَّلَامِ عَلَيْهِ، فَقَالَ عَزَّ مِنْ قَائِلٍ: (إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا) اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى عَبْدِكَ وَنَبِيِّكَ مُحَمَّدٍ، وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ، الْأَيْمَّةِ الْمَهْدِيِّينَ: أَبِي بَكْرٍ، وَعُمَرَ، وَعُثْمَانَ، وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ سَائِرِ الصَّحَابَةِ، وَالتَّابِعِينَ لَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. اللَّهُمَّ أَصْلِحْ لَنَا دِينَنَا الَّذِي هُوَ عِصْمَةُ أَمْرِنَا، وَأَصْلِحْ لَنَا دُنْيَانَا الَّتِي فِيهَا مَعَاشِنَا، وَأَصْلِحْ لَنَا آخِرَتَنَا الَّتِي إِلَيْهَا مَعَادُنَا، وَاجْعَلْ الْحَيَاةَ زِيَادَةً لَنَا فِي كُلِّ خَيْرٍ، وَالْمَوْتَ رَاحَةً لَنَا مِنْ كُلِّ شَرٍّ. (رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ) (رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ) (سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعَزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ)\*  
وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ \* وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ). وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ