

Shawwal 18, 1440 - AlRahman AlRaheem

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 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 وَفُؤَلُوا 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 Khutbahs 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 **Knowing Allah** is the way to love him, and that the best way to know him is through his names and attributes by affirming the Names and Attributes which Allah has affirmed for Himself in a manner befitting His majesty.

Today we will start our journey of memorizing and understanding the names of Allah SWT, and let's start with the names that Allah started the Quran with: AlRahman AlRaheem (as the Quran starts with the basmala بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم). And before we start, I want you to first acknowledge or appreciate something about the difficulty of translating

the names of Allah SWT because as many of you might know the common English translation for bismillah says (in the name of Allah the most beneficent the most merciful) or (the most merciful the most kind) the problem with this is when we say the word *beneficent* for example, it's a word that we don't use in our everyday life! so we translate Quran with words that we don't use, and this defeats the entire purpose of translation: which is making the names of Allah easier for us to relate to and easier for us to understand, so the English we use has to be one that we actually can relate to, can connect with it but when we use words like beneficent, it's hard to connect with.

The other problem is when we say the most merciful and the most kind they sound like the same thing, but they are two different names of Allah: AlRahman and AlRaheem they're definitely different the Arabic principle is “إذا اجتمعا تفرقا” when two names or two things are mentioned together that means they cannot mean the same thing, they have to mean two different things: so there's a difference between AlRahman and AlRaheem and that has to be made clear to anyone who says it. So you and I have to be aware of what is the difference between AlRahman and AlRaheem and how does each of them benefit me and why is that in the bismillah anyway! why not just say bismillah why even the addition of a AlRahman AlRaheem.

So let's start from an easy place, the first thing I want to share with you is both of these words AlRahman and AlRaheem have something in common, yes they are different but they have something in common and what they have in common is that they come from the same origin Rahma (رحمة) AlRahman and AlRaheem both has to do with Rahma. As we typically translate **Rahma** as **mercy**, it's not very accurate translation, as mercy in English usually means sparing someone from punishment or help him getting rid or alleviating his suffering.

In Arabic, the word Rahma has nothing to do with being spared but actually Rahma has to do with the word Rahem (رحم) which means the belly of a mother or the womb of the mother when a woman is pregnant they say (رحمت المرأة) meaning she became pregnant. And that's important, because if we're going to understand the names of AlRahman AlRaheem, we have to understand the womb of the mother if we are to get any idea what these names really mean for us.

Let's think about this, every relationship human beings have with other human beings is a two-way relationship people say to each other I love you no matter what! but in reality the situation is different if you insult me all the time or make fun of me or if you're angry with me and pushing me away and hurting me! if you do these things then what happens to that love? it starts going away even though you said No Matter What, because most relationships have conditional love, there's nothing such as unconditional love in most relationships! love is grown when love is shown you receive it and then it grows.

But there's one relationship human beings have this very strange behavior. Something is growing inside a mother and as it grows it's causing the mother more and more pain and she eats food and he's taking all the food and he's sleeping but she's awake in pain and as he grows more he causes her more pain; backache, stomachache, throwing up, she can't taste food anymore, and this mother as the child grows all older the love she has for this child grows and she still loves this baby! she doesn't say you caused me so much pain so I hate you! No, she'll walk carefully and do everything she can to protect the baby, true unconditional love that Allah describes this as (وهناً على وهن) weakness on top of weakness and pain upon pain. And all of this is happening while that child doesn't even know about or appreciate.

Allah wanted to show us something about the way he loves us by choosing the names of AlRahman and AlRaheem, Allah gives and he gives and he gives more and he gives every second and he cares and loves and protects like a mother cares and loves and protects while we have no idea how much more Allah does to us! And sometimes one would ask what have Allah done for me?! When was he when I needed him! I made duaa and he didn't answer my duaa. And yet you are enveloped and covered inside the Rahma of Allah, it's not just mercy! a mother is not merciful to her baby a mother loves and cares and protects her baby so the word of AlRahman and AlRaheem have to do with Allah's love and his care and his protection, all while we have no idea how incredibly powerful that love and that care and that protection is. That's the first thing we must know about the words AlRahman and AlRaheem.

Now the second thing is equally important is to help us understand the difference between AlRahman and AlRaheem. We will mention three things about the word AlRahman, three qualities of the word from the Arabic Language. When a word ends with “ان” like “عطشان، جوعان، غضبان” when they have this “ان” at the end three things happen to that word:

1. The first thing is it becomes very extreme

So it's not just that Allah loves and cares, Allah is loving and caring but he's being described as extremely loving and extremely caring unimaginably loving and imaginably caring. It's not a normal amount of love or care it's an extreme amount.

2. The second thing that happens to the word is that it is happening right now it's happening immediately

If you say to somebody that man is patient or this man is knowledgeable or this man is wise it's a general quality, but it doesn't mean he is being patient or being wise right now! when human beings are in need they don't want to know about the quality you have in general, they want to know how that quality is helping them right now!

So, when you say the word AlRahman then you are accepting that Allah's love and his care and his protection is extreme and that his love and his care and his protection is showering on you right now it's happening as we speak right now.

3. The third part of this meaning, and the scariest part, is that it's not permanent “عطشان” and means extremely thirsty, but no one is always extremely thirsty “غضبان” means extremely angry, but no one is always extremely angry because eventually people calm down or they are no more hungry when they eat. So, these qualities are extreme and happening tight now, but something might come and get rid of them. As water or food would not make you “عطشان او جوعان” any more.

All SWT chose this name to describe that Allah is extremely loving and extremely caring *right now* but there's something you can do, and I can do that can disqualify us from benefiting from the AlRahman! isn't that scary that you can't always benefit from it unconditionally, there can be something that can get rid of it.

The Sahaba understood this very well, so they said AlRahman is for everyone in this world but AlRaheem is only for the believers in the next world,

قال تعالى: { الرَّحْمَنُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ اسْتَوَى } [طه:5]

AlRahmaan above the Throne established. [Taha (20): 5]

{ ..وَكَانَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَحِيمًا } [الأحزاب:43]

And ever is He, to the believers, Raheem. [Al-Ahzab (33): 43]

يقول ابن القيم: "الرحمن دال على الصفة القائمة به سبحانه والرحيم دال على تعلقها بالمرحوم، فكان الأول للوصف والثاني للفعل، فالأول دال أن الرحمة صفته، والثاني دال على أنه يرحم خلقه برحمته.."

Ibn Alqaim says: "AlRahman refers to quality of Allah himself, while AlRaheem is dependent on the subject"

People do bad things here in this dunia but Allah keeps giving them love even the disbeliever who curses Allah who makes fun of Allah and his messenger or mocks the Quran and don't care about anything, Allah still gives them love but they're doing something that will disqualify them at one point. So, these were the three qualities of AlRahman; it's extreme, it's happening right now and it may not be permanent, and we will talk about AlRaheem in the second khutbah InShaaAllah.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلِكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ 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, let's talk about Allah's name AIRaheem. AIRaheem actually means someone who has a quality even if it doesn't come out or show, so Raheem means someone who's always loving and caring, it doesn't have the "Right Now" quality as AIRahman, but it has the "Always" quality.

Now look at the mercy of Allah if Allah only said **bismillah AIRahman** if he only said AIRahman then the love of Allah would be extreme it would be right now but it wouldn't be forever! if Allah said bismillah AIRaheem, then the love the love of Allah would be forever but no guarantee that it's coming right now. Allah wanted to have us understand that his love and his protection and his care is coming right now and will always be there, so he said AIRahman AIRaheem, he took care of our immediate by saying AIRahman and he took care of our future by saying AIRaheem, and scholars even argue why not even change the order why not say bismillah AIRaheem AIRahman, why not do it that way? That's because Allah knows who he created {ألا يعلم من خلق} we as human beings can't think about our future until our immediate is taken care of, if you are hungry right now, you don't care what you will eat next week! You just want to get food now then you think about the future meals.

So Allah's name AIRahman, takes care of the *now* then comes AIRaheem to take care of the *future* showing us that his love and his care is now and will always be there.

The last thing that you and I should know, we say bismillah AIRahman AIRaheem in everything that we do, out of all of Allah's names he chose these two names for everything we begin, before we eat or work or when we are about to get in the car or about to change clothes or about to do anything we say bismillah AIRahman AIRaheem. Why is that important? that's important because we recognize something, everything Allah is allowing us to do is because He loves us and He cares for us. But sometimes we say bismillah

AlRahman AlRaheem and we start the final exam at school then we fail that exam! you said bismillah and you still fail the exam!

You have to understand one last thing about AlRahman AlRaheem, Allah SWT will give you his love and his care on his terms not on your terms and you may not always understand his terms. If somebody's in the hospital dying of cancer at a young age and Allah is still AlRahman AlRaheem to him but you and I cannot understand in what way is Allah AlRahman AlRaheem in that situation.

We all know the story of Yusuf (عليه السلام) he was a boy taken away from his family kidnapped, thrown in the woods in a ditch then sold, turned into a slave child, isn't that disturbing?! that's what happened to Yusuf (عليه السلام) did he deserve it? and then he's a servant living in a house doing a good job an honest job, and then he gets accused wrongly and what happens next he gets thrown in jail did he deserve being thrown in jail? One might ask, where was Allah AlRahman AlRaheem at that moment? But eventually he comes out of jail and interprets the king's dream. If he was never in jail the king would never have met him! and if he was never kidnapped he would never have been in jail. And because he interpreted the dream, thousands of children for seven years got to stay with their parents and didn't die of thirst and hunger because of Allah's plan because Allah didn't just show love and care to him but sometimes Allah's loving and care may come through a little bit of your suffering that creates a lot of love and care for so many other people. And Subhan Allah, for every one of those children that was saved Yusuf gets the reward.

So we must never lose sight of the fact that whether things work out for us the way we want or not one thing is always there, Allah never stopped loving Allah never stopped protecting and Allah never stopped caring.

هَذَا وَصَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى مَنْ أَمَرَكُمْ 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، الْأَيْمَةِ الْمُهَدِيَّينَ: 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، وَاجْعَلِ 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 الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ * وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ * وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ). وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ