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“The Heat of Summer: Reflections and Lessons”

All praise is due to Allah, the One Who guides those who seek His guidance, answers those who call upon Him, and comes to the aid of those who seek His protection and call upon Him. None can guide those whom He leaves astray, and none can lead astray those whom He guides. **“And whatever you have of favor - it is from Allah. Then when adversity touches you, to Him you cry for help.”** (An-Nahl 16:53)

I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone, without partner—the Most Holy, exalted far above all imperfection. And I bear witness that Muhammad is the servant and Messenger of Allah, His chosen one, His beloved, and His elect. May Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him, upon his family and Companions, and upon all who follow him. May He grant him abundant peace and blessings until the Day we meet him.

To proceed: Fear Allah, O servants of Allah: **“And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do.”** (Al-Hashr 59:18)

O Believers!

It is part of Allah’s wisdom that He has made this worldly life a place of trial and hardship, and that He has ordained it to be marked by difficulty and toil. Through this, the sincerity of the believers’ submission becomes evident, while the discontent and despair of those who lose hope are exposed.

Allah, Most High, says: **“Indeed, We have created mankind in a state of hardship.”** (Al-Balad 90:4)

Among the manifestations of this trial is the changing of the seasons and the weather: summer followed by winter; clear skies giving way to dust; heat that scorches the feet and cold that penetrates the bones. All of this occurs according to a profound wisdom, inviting us to reflect upon its signs and deeper meaning.

Allah, Most High, says: **“Allah alternates the night and the day. Surely in this is a lesson for those who have insight.”** (An-Nur 24:44)

Servants of Allah!

The intense heat we are experiencing these days is indeed a profound sign and a clear reminder. It awakens heedless hearts, reminds us of the Hereafter, and teaches us that this world is not a place of ease and idleness. Rather, it is a place of trial, striving, and action; a place in which people prepare provisions for the day of their departure and prepare themselves to meet their Lord.

Allah, Most High, says: **“In a Day the measure whereof is fifty thousand years.”** (Al-Ma`arij 70:4)

The scorching rays of the sun and the streams of sweat beneath its heat offer us a glimpse of what people will face in the Hereafter, when their Lord gathers them all upon one vast plain. The burden upon them will be immense, their fear overwhelming, and the sun will draw near to their heads. Terror will seize their hearts, the ordeal will become grievous, and the distress will intensify.

Al-Miqdad ibn Al-Aswad (may Allah be pleased with him) told that he heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: “On the Day of Resurrection the sun will come near created beings till it is about a mile. from them, and mankind will sweat according to what they have done, the sweat reaching the ankles of some, the knees of others, the waists of others, while some will have their mouths covered by the sweat,” and Allah's Messenger pointed his hand at his mouth. (Muslim)

O believers!

On that terrible day, Allah will single out certain people for His special grace and bestow upon them from His immense generosity. He will protect them from the heat of the sun beneath the shade of His Throne, on a Day when there will be no shade but His.

We ask Allah for His boundless grace.

People will look upon them with admiration, envying their elevated rank and blessed state, wishing they could attain even a portion of that shade. But how far beyond reach it will be! That shade cannot be purchased with gold or silver. Rather, it is earned through righteous deeds throughout the night and the day, and through avoiding that which incurs the displeasure of the Almighty.

That is the path to salvation and deliverance from that tremendous ordeal.

Among the means of seeking protection from the blazing heat of that Day is what has been authentically reported from Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet ﷺ said:

“There are seven whom Allah will shade with His shade on the Day when there will be no shade but His: a just ruler; a young person who grew up worshipping Allah; a person whose heart is attached to the mosques; two people who love one another for Allah’s sake, meeting upon that love and parting upon it; a man whom a woman of status and beauty invites, but he says, ‘I fear Allah’; a person who gives charity so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given; and a person who remembers Allah in solitude and his eyes overflow with tears.” (AL-Bukhari and Muslim)

Among the means of attaining the shade of the Most Merciful is to show leniency toward one who is in financial difficulty and to reduce or waive a debt when it becomes due. Such mercy toward others is a means by which a person may hope for the mercy of the King, the Judge.

Abul Yasar told of hearing the Messenger of Allah say, “He who grants a respite to one who is in straitened circumstances or remits his debt will be taken by Allah under His protection.” (Muslim)

Another means, servants of Allah, is loving one another for the sake of Allah and coming together upon that which pleases Him. Their relationships are not founded upon material considerations or personal interests. Rather, they make faith the bond that unites their hearts and their religion the foundation of their loyalty. Thus they experience a genuine and enduring love, and they will enjoy its shade in the lofty gardens of Paradise.

Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: “Verily. Allah would say on the Day of Resurrection: Where are those who have mutual love for My Glory's sake? Today I shall shelter them in My shadow when there is no other shadow but the shadow of Mine.” (Muslim)

And among the deeds that bring protection from the heat—and from the bitter cold—of that difficult Day is charity in all its forms. The one who gives charity will be honored with shade as a reward for his righteous deed.

‘Uqbah ibn ‘Amir (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “Verily, charity will extinguish the heat of the graves for their people. Only the believer can seek shade on the Day of Resurrection in the shade of his charity.” (At-Tabarani)

I say these words of mine, and I seek the forgiveness of Allah, the Almighty, the Most Majestic, for me, for you, and for all Muslims, for every sin.

The Second Khutbah

All praise is due to Allah, and sufficient is He. And may peace and blessings be upon His chosen servants.

To proceed,

Fear Allah, O servants of Allah. Purify your time through acts of obedience, invest your lives in righteous deeds, and fill your days with goodness.

O believers!

The true believer is the one who hastens toward that which Allah loves and with which He is pleased. Even when the summer heat becomes intense, he hastens to prayer, seeking the pleasure of his Lord, and he hastens to acts of obedience, striving to increase in righteousness and God-consciousness.

Such a person is truly wise: one who attains the highest ranks and protects himself from the blazing heat of the Day of Resurrection.

But as for the one who becomes negligent because of the heat, misses the prayers, and uses the scorching weather as an excuse to stay away from Friday Prayer and congregational prayers—this is the one who has fallen into weakness and loss. His own soul has deceived him, and Satan has led him astray. He has fallen behind the ranks of the believers and adopted the ways of the hypocrites when they held back from obeying the Lord of the worlds.

Allah, Most High, describes their attitude: **“Those who remained behind rejoiced in their staying [at home] after (the departure of) the Messenger of Allah and disliked to strive with their wealth and their lives in the cause of Allah and said, "Do not go forth in the heat." Say, "The fire of Hell is more intensive in heat" - if they would but understand.”** (At-Tawbah 9:81)

Likewise, those workers and employees who go out in pursuit of lawful provision, enduring the heat so that they may provide for their families and maintain their dignity—such people have been promised immense reward and a noble standing.

Ka’b ibn ‘Ujrah reported: A man passed by the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, and the companions of the Messenger of Allah saw his endurance and vigor. They said, “O Messenger of Allah, if only this man was acting in the way of Allah!” The Prophet said, “If he goes out striving for his small children, he is in the way of Allah. If he goes out striving for his elderly parents, he is in the way of Allah. If he goes out striving for himself to abstain from wrongdoing, he is in the way of Allah. If he goes out vainly and boasting, he is in the way of Satan.” (At-Tabarani reported it, Al-Albani graded it sahih)

O believers!

Let the heat of summer remind us of Allah's blessings upon us. He has made available to us well-insulated buildings and abundant means of cooling. Let us therefore hasten to show gratitude and thankfulness to the One who has bestowed these blessings upon us. Then let us strive to preserve them, cooperate with the relevant authorities in using them wisely, and avoid extravagance and waste in their consumption.

At the same time, let us become mindful of the suffering of those whose circumstances are severe and who are deprived of such comforts. This should move us to support them with kindness and compassion and to take the initiative in relieving their heat, thirst, and hardship—by providing wells, constructing homes and shaded shelters, supplying air conditioners and cooling equipment, and through every other means that can help those in need endure the heat of summer.

Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated: Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "While a man was walking, he felt thirsty and went down a well and drank water from it. On coming out of it, he saw a dog panting and eating mud because of excessive thirst. The man said, 'This (dog) is suffering from the same problem as that of mine. So, he (went down the well), filled his shoe with water, caught hold of it with his teeth and climbed up and watered the dog. Allah thanked him for his (good) deed and forgave him.' The people asked, 'O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! Is there a reward for us in serving (the) animals?' He replied, 'Yes, there is a reward for serving any animate.'" (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon the one of the radiant countenance and luminous brow.

O Allah, make faith beloved to us and beautify it within our hearts. Make disbelief, wickedness, and disobedience hateful to us, and make us among those who are rightly guided.

O Allah, honor Islam and the Muslims, humble disbelief and those who persist in it, and grant victory to Your religion, Your Book, the Sunnah of Your Prophet ﷺ, and Your believing servants.

O Allah, forgive the Muslim men and women, and the believing men and women, those who are living and those who have passed away.

O Allah, protect our brothers who are entrusted with safeguarding the security of our country.

O Allah, guide our Amir and his Crown Prince to that which pleases You, and make their deeds devoted to Your obedience and Your pleasure.

O Allah, make this country safe, secure, prosperous, and blessed—a land of security and faith—and grant the same to all Muslim lands.

(Committee for preparing the model sermon for Friday Prayer.)