

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا فَعَلُوا فَاحِشَةً أَوْ ظَلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ ذَكَرُوا اللّٰهَ
فَاسْتَغْفِرُوا لِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَمَنْ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَلَمْ يُصِرُّوا
عَلَى مَا فَعَلُوا وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
كُلُّ بَنِي آدَمَ حَطَّاءٌ. وَخَيْرُ الْحَطَّائِينَ التَّوَابُونَ.

TURNING TO REPENTANCE

Honorable Muslims!

On one occasion, the beloved Prophet (saw) visited a young man who was on his deathbed and asked him, "How do you feel?" The young man replied, "O Messenger of Allah! I hope for my Lord's mercy, but I also fear my sins." Thereupon, the Messenger of Allah (saw) said: **"These two things (hope and fear) do not coexist in the heart of a person in a situation like this, but Allah will give him that which he hopes for and keep him safe from that which he fears."**¹

Dear Believers!

Human beings are fallible; they forget, make mistakes, and err. At times, people may grow heedless in fulfilling the commands and avoiding the prohibitions of their Lord. At other times, they may fall into sin by neglecting the rights of others or public trust. However, the following points are of great importance: One should never consider their sins as insignificant, should not boast about what is haram, and must not persist in their mistakes and wrongdoings. Allah the Almighty informs us of this quality of believers who have piety in the following way: **"They are those who, upon committing an evil deed or wronging themselves, remember Allah and seek forgiveness for their sins —and who forgives sins except Allah? —and they do not knowingly persist in wrongdoing?"**²

Esteemed Muslims!

Time is swiftly passing by, and our life capital is running out. With each passing day, we draw one step closer to the life of the Hereafter. Let us be mindful! The outcome of this short life may lead to either eternal bliss or utter loss. The most fruitful

gain for us is to fulfill the deeds that are pleasing to our Lord and to embody the noble character of our Prophet (saw). It is to adopt righteousness as our principle and to avoid all forms of evil. Our greatest loss, however, is to fall into sin while clinging to thoughts such as "Allah will surely forgive me anyway" or "I will repent when the time comes," and to neglect opening the door to repentance. Our beloved Prophet (saw) states: **"Every son of Adam commits sin, and the best of those who commit sin are those who repent."**³

Distinguished Believers!

On the night connecting this coming Monday to Tuesday, we will observe the Laylat al-Bara'ah, which heralds the approaching month of Ramadan. Let us consider this sacred night as an opportunity for a new beginning in our lives. Let us reflect upon our mistakes and repent for the sins we have committed. Let us distance ourselves from all forms of haram that lead our souls to unrest, our families to sorrow, and our work and trade to a lack of blessing. And when we succumb to our weaknesses and fall into sin, let us seek refuge in the forgiveness and mercy of Allah the Almighty. Let us not forget that sin is like a stain that leaves a mark on the heart. If this seemingly small stain becomes persistent, it gradually grows and leads to the darkening of the heart. When the heart becomes darkened, the mind can no longer comprehend; the eyes can no longer see the truth; the ears can no longer hear what is right; and the tongue can no longer speak what is true.

On this occasion, we extend our heartfelt congratulations for the upcoming Laylat al-Bara'ah. I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the glad tidings from Allah the Almighty: **"Say, 'O Prophet, that Allah says,' 'O My servants who have exceeded the limits against their souls! Do not lose hope in Allah's mercy, for Allah certainly forgives all sins. He is indeed the All-Forgiving, Most Merciful.'"**⁴

¹ Ibn Majah, Zuhd, 31.

² Ali 'Imran 3/135.

³ Ibn Majah, Zuhd, 30.

⁴ Zumar, 39/53.

