

ذِكْرَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِمَا بُعِثَ بِهِ
سَيِّدُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

الحبيب عبد الله بن حسين بن طاهر

**Reminding Believers of What was
Sent with the Best of Messengers**

Ḥabīb `Abdullāh bin Ḥusayn bin Ṭāhir

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All praise is for Allah, Lord of all beings. All praise is for Allah: we praise Him and from Him we seek guidance, food, drink, aid, sufficiency, forgiveness and assistance. To Him alone we complain. We beseech Him to enable everyone to perform those works that rectify them and concern them, and that He protects them from destruction, misguidance, ruin, and downfall. We seek refuge in Allah from the wickedness of our souls and our evil deeds. Verily, no one can withhold what He gives, nor does anyone overturn His judgment.

I testify that there is no god but Allah, alone without partner; a testimony that rectifies the heart, brings it to life, prevents it from perception of other things and annihilates it.¹

I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger, a witnessing which leads us to travel his path and follow in his footsteps, and through which we become from his perfected heirs and followers. May Allah bless him, his Folk, Companions and lovers, with everlasting blessings and peace through which He wards off from us everything that we dread and fear.

To proceed; Servants of Allah, I counsel all of you and myself to be mindful of Allah. Know—may Allah have mercy upon you—that Allah, Glorious and Exalted is He, sent our Master Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, after a gap between messengers. Humanity at that time was in deep ignorance, terrible misfortune and blind strife. People worshipped idols, divined with [marked] arrows, plunged into sin, forbade the lawful and permitted the forbidden, fought and robbed each other, co-operated in falsehood and wrong, associated partners with Allah, and denied the Last Day.

Allah's Messenger ﷺ then summoned them to belief in Allah and His Messenger, His Angels, Books, Messengers, the Final Day, destiny, its good and evil, the Garden, the Fire, reward and punishment. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ commanded them to offer prayer, give zakat, fast and make hajj. He taught them the pre-conditions and obligations [of these acts of worship] and forbade them from doing that which invalidates them. He commanded them to seek perfection (*ihsān*). He urged them to have noble character and to perform noble deeds, and made clear to them the prohibited and the lawful. He instructed them to show

¹ Meaning that the heart does not become distracted by witnessing other than Allah and becomes annihilated in Him.

kindness to their parents, maintain ties of kinship, show hospitality to guests, show goodness to neighbors, feed the hungry, aid those in grief, support the oppressed, subdue the oppressor, command the good, forbid the wrong, free captives, give respite to the insolvent, show compassion to the weak, direct the misguided, and to spread peace and pleasant speech.

He taught mutual love, affection, tenderness, mercy, visitation, and cooperation in goodness and God-consciousness (*taqwā*), and to lend support and assistance in that, and to pray for the believers and to seek Allah's mercy and forgiveness for them. He directed them to virtue, contentment, indifference to the world, desire for the Hereafter, frequent remembrance of death, preparation for it, short expectations, sitting with the pious, love of them, keeping the company of the good, plentiful remembrance of Allah, having a good opinion of Allah and the servants of Allah and suspecting the ego (*nafs*) and never being pleased with it.

He encouraged gratitude, steadfastness, satisfaction, goodness, generosity, forbearance, humility, learning, teaching, action, sincerity, submissiveness, presence, patience, dignity, modesty, tranquillity, frugality, gentleness, concealing faults, and rushing to good works. He taught them to take advantage of: hours and moments prior to their loss, life prior to death, health prior to illness, spare time prior to occupation, youth prior to old age and wealth prior to poverty.

He forbade them from feuding, oppressing, hating, envying, severing ties, forsaking one another, and commanded them to be brothers. He taught them that: "A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim. He does not hold him in contempt, harm or oppress him. It is sufficient evil for a person to look down on his fellow Muslim."

Just as he ﷺ commanded them to have these virtues and others which we have not mentioned, he forbade them from reprehensible qualities and wicked deeds, such as disbelief, polytheism, oppression, murder, arrogance (*kibr*), ostentation (*riyā'*), envy (*hasad*), deceit, malice, hatred, stinginess, backbiting, tale-bearing, lying, indecency, obscenity, hypocrisy, disputation, argumentation, and gossip.

He forbade them from avarice, greed, boasting, material competition, fornication, usury, usurpation, deception, plotting, treachery, suspicion, harshness, rudeness, hardheartedness, gluttony, over-eating, lewdness, wrong, oppression, hurting others, tyranny, vainglory (*'ujb*), reminding people of favours rendered to them, excessive laughter; amusement and play.

He forbade them from sitting in the company of the people of heedlessness, wickedness and sin, and from busying themselves with that which is superfluous and of no concern. He forbade men from wearing silk, gold and silver. He forbade people from betrayal and all other things that distance us from Allah.

Allah's Messenger left nothing that brings us nearer to Allah and His good pleasure save that he ordered us and encouraged us to do it. Nor did he know of anything that brings Allah's wrath upon us save that he forbade us from falling into it and warned us against doing so. May Allah bless and grant him peace, and reward him on our behalf with the best that He rewards any prophet on behalf of his community.

I swear by Allah, he brought us the upright magnanimous way and the religion in which there is no narrowness, difficulty and burden. He left us on a clear path; its night like its day. He then said, "Adhere to my Sunnah and the way of my rightly-guided Caliphs after me." When he mentioned reprehensible innovations, sectarian divisions, and the numerous factions that would be destroyed except the one that would be saved, he was asked, "Who are they, O Messenger of Allah?" He replied, "What my Companions and I follow."

Then Allah, Glorious and Exalted is He and praise be to Him, completed his message with the revelation of the Mighty Qur'an. No falsehood can approach it from before it, nor behind it. In it is the clarification of everything. In it is guidance and light. Allah commanded people to act according to what is in it and to obey His commands, avoid His prohibitions, hear and obey everything that Allah's Messenger ordered them to do and forbade them from doing, to refer in all of their affairs to what Allah and His Messenger said and to ask people of knowledge about that which they knew not.

Allah informed them in His Book and on the tongue of His Messenger ﷺ that they will be taken to account for what they do, say, and harbour in their hearts, and that they will be recompensed on the Day of Rising—if good, then they will be rewarded, and if bad, then they will be punished.

Allah, Glorious is He, said: "Beware of a Day when you will be returned to Allah: every soul will be paid in full for what it has earned, and no one will be wronged." [2:281]

He, Most High, said: "Whether you reveal or conceal your thoughts, Allah will call you to account for them." [2:284]

He, Most High, said: "The ears, the eyes and the heart: you will be questioned about all these." [17:36]

He, Glorious is He, said: "Today, no soul will be wronged in the least: you will only be repaid for your deeds." [36:54]

He, Glorious is He, said: "Do they think We cannot hear their secret talk and their private counsel? Yes we can: Our messengers are at their sides, recording everything." [43:80]

He, Most High, said: "Whoever has done an atom's weight of good will see it, and whoever has done an atom's weight of evil will see it." [99:7-8]

When Allah's Messenger ﷺ brought this [message] and called them to good in which there was no wrong, great numbers of people believed in him and benefited from him. People entered the religion of Allah in multitudes, attained felicity in this life and the next and they received good pleasure and glad tidings from Allah. Through faith their breasts were expanded and their light and happiness perfected.

Some people belied this and Allah made them taste death and humiliation in the life of this world, and verily the punishment of the Hereafter is more difficult, humiliating, continuous, harder to bear, and more lasting.

When Allah's Messenger performed the Farewell Pilgrimage and the people congregated during the Hajj season, Allah perfected His religion and gave joy to His Prophet. He then proclaimed and announced to the people that Allah had made their blood, wealth, and honour inviolable like the sanctity of that sacred day, month, and land. Then he said, upon him be blessings and peace, "Have I not conveyed the message?" They replied, "Yes!" He said, "O Allah, bear witness." He then said, "Let the present from you convey to the absent!"

Now, we convey to those of you who are present that which has reached us from Allah and from His Messenger ﷺ. Let those who are present convey to those who are absent, such as women and others. O Allah, bear witness.

If this is known, then people must listen to what they are told, reflect on what is recited to them, and sit with the people of Allah and those who remind of Allah and the Days of Allah. They must perform everything that Allah has made incumbent upon them as Allah has commanded. They must avoid and beware of everything that Allah has prohibited, and overcome their egos and desires in so doing.

Know—may Allah have mercy upon you— that a person's every breath is a priceless gem if he spends it in that which brings him nearer to Allah and His good pleasure. It is a cause of endless remorse and regret if he spends it in the disobedience of Allah or in that which brings him no benefit in his Afterlife.

This is the instruction and admonition that Allah has facilitated. Acting on a little yields much. Reminding benefits the believers. Religion is sincerity. Good counsel

is part of the religion. Allah guides those whom He wills to a Straight Path. If Allah guides someone, then he is rightly guided, and if Allah allows him to go astray you will find for him no patron guide. You do not guide those whom you love, but Allah guides those whom He wills.

O Allah, make us guides who are rightly-guided, and make us those who remind others and remember. Make us of those who apply and derive benefit from what You have taught us. Grant us perfect emulation of the Seal of Prophets in our deeds, words, and those things which lead to certitude. Protect us from the insinuations of devils, the actions of hypocrites, and from being deceived or deluded. Grant us the best ending in a state of goodness and wellbeing, O Most Merciful of the Merciful.

Your Lord, the Lord of Glory, is far above what they attribute to Him. Peace be upon the Messengers and praise be to Allah, the Lord of All the Worlds. May Allah bless our Master, Muhammad, his Folk and Companions, and grant them peace.

Praise be to Allah. This treatise is named, 'Reminding Believers of What was Sent with the Best of Messengers.' We hope that those who use it as a reminder or disseminate will be from those who command the good and forbid evil, and that they be beloved to the Best of Creation because they conveyed that which he ordered and prohibited. It was compiled by the servant in need of his Lord, `Abdullāh bin Ḥusayn bin Ṭāhir, may Allah rectify him inwardly and outwardly, forgive all his sins from the first to the last, and protect him from anything which he fears or is wary, and may He give him the best ending when he passes on to the grave. Āmīn, O Allah, Āmīn.