

**QHUTBAH, INSHA ALLAH, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2003**

*Alhamdu lillah, wa ash hadu ala ila ha ill lallah*

*Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim*

Insha Allah, the topic today is on “deeds and duties of submitters”. The Quran regards the Submitters as [3:110] You are the best community ever raised among the people: you advocate righteousness and forbid evil, and you believe in GOD. If the followers of the scripture believed, it would be better for them. Some of them do believe, but the majority of them are wicked.

[3:104] Let there be a community of you who invite to what is good, advocate righteousness, and forbid evil. These are the winners. So according to the Quran the ideal Submitter community would be blissful i.e. happy, unaffected by conflicts or doubts, sure of itself and its beliefs, strong, united and prosperous because it invites to what is good, enjoins righteousness and forbids all wrongs and evils.

We learn to rejoice that by giving up worries for small things like ourselves and our possessions, we are to be rewarded with the eternal life of bliss. We have to live not only for ourselves but for the entire human race. This is one of our primary duties both individually and collectively as members of the brotherhood termed as the “Ummah”. We understand that it is obligatory on us not only to perform our duties but also to guide others in similar performances. We have to be as much mindful of the betterment of our brethren as of ourselves.

Submission has a comprehensive code of do’s and don’ts and governs our life in religious, cultural and political perspectives. This list should be imposed on our own lives and we also have to strive towards its implementation without any force or compulsion on the lives of our fellow beings. [2:256] There shall be no compulsion in religion: the right way is now distinct from the wrong way. Anyone who denounces the devil and believes in GOD has grasped the strongest bond; one that never breaks. GOD is Hearer, Omniscient. We could then be the party of God as the Quran gives us glad tidings [5:56] Those who ally themselves with GOD and His messenger, and those who believed, belong in the party of GOD (hizballah); absolutely, they are the victors. [10:62] Absolutely, GOD’s allies (awliya) have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve. [10:63] They are those who believe and lead a righteous life. [10:64] For them, joy and happiness in this world, as well as in the Hereafter. This is GOD’s unchangeable law. Such is the greatest triumph (fawzul Aziim).

From these Quranic injunctions it transpires that God has an all embracing knowledge, infinite power and keeps a constant watch over all His creations. This may be a source of fear to sinners but there is no cause of apprehension for those whom He graces with His love and closeness – neither in this world nor in the Hereafter. God also proclaims in [9:111] GOD has bought from the believers their lives and their money in exchange for Paradise. Thus, they fight in the cause of GOD, willing to kill and get killed. Such is His

truthful pledge in the Torah, the Gospel, and the Quran - and who fulfills His pledge better than GOD? You shall rejoice in making such an exchange. This is the greatest triumph. Our lives and property in any case belong to God alone and God through His mercy has, in return, promised to admit us into Paradise. By "bought" it is merely meant that whenever there is an occasion to strive in the Divine cause, the believers should join it unstinted and subscribe to it whole-heartedly.

This is truly the best bargain and a supreme achievement. Martyrs have a guarantee from God for admission into Paradise. Prominent attributes of believers whom God is pleased has been recounted in the Quran as [9:112] They are the repenters, the worshipers, the praisers, the meditators, the bowing and prostrating, the advocates of righteousness and forbidders of evil, and the keepers of GOD's laws. Give good news to such believers. These are the ones who are unconcerned of the luxuries of life, they genuflect on God and His attributes and they are the safe guarders of the limits set by God.

God is Most Just in His rewards and punishments both in this world and the Next. So, when believers are honoured with power in this life and are conferred with authority over the affairs of others, their duties are correspondingly increased. Worldly allurements should not distract them from the remembrance of God and their duties towards their community. Instead of oppressing and exploiting their subjects or giving in to their lower impulses and baser selves, they are required to be the embodiments of virtue and godliness. [22:41] They are those who, if we appointed them as rulers on earth, they would establish the Contact Prayers (Salat) and the obligatory charity (Zakat), and would advocate righteousness and forbid evil. GOD is the ultimate ruler.

The Quran, while delineating our duties, assures that no one needs to be perturbed if at some time or the other evil forces get the upper hand because the ultimate end which has the real importance rests with God. [3:146] Many a prophet had godly people fight along with him, without ever wavering under pressure in the cause of GOD, nor did they hesitate or become discouraged. GOD loves the steadfast.

A submitter is required to achieve perfection in thankfulness and patience. These are two virtues necessary in order to bring human nature into full accomplishment. If prosperity comes our way, we must be thankful to God and this is good for us; if adversity befalls us, we must be patient and this too is good for us. We also realize the classic Quranic injunction [4:79] Anything good that happens to you is from GOD, and anything bad that happens to you is from you.....

The Holy Quran contains numerous exhortations and admonitions about these two virtues and contains Divine Promises of rewards if we are steadfast in this respect.

Islam is the forerunner of the message of peace which is the core of its teachings. To redeem this cherished goal, it has defined duties between each of us in our various capacities. This includes our social aspects which have to be translated into deeds by us. A true believer should have a very broad outlook. We have to live in peace with the entire

human race. Hence, absolute peace in the life of a true believer has been preached by Islam to promote mutual goodwill and good neighbourliness.

I read somewhere that *De Lacy O'Leary* in his well known work *Islam at the Crossroads* remarked – History, makes it clear however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of sword upon conquered races is one of the most fanatically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated. The Quran maintains that God has set orderliness on the earth by having all natural forces work in a coordinated and regulated manner. He has informed the people that they are all His creations. He has ordained that we should not depart from His Guidance and thereby create a state of moral and spiritual chaos in the world. [7:56] Do not corrupt the earth after it has been set straight, and worship Him out of reverence, and out of hope. Surely, GOD's mercy is attainable by the righteous.

The Quran assures believers of high ranks with their Lord [8:4] Such are the true believers. They attain high ranks at their Lord, as well as forgiveness and a generous provision. [20:75] As for those who come to Him as believers who had led a righteous life, they attain the high ranks.

However, this exalted position and these rewards are contingent upon pious deeds. The Quran, inter alia (among other things) prescribes to its adherents the following:-

[2:83] ...."You shall not worship except GOD. You shall honor your parents and regard the relatives, the orphans, and the poor. You shall treat the people amicably. You shall observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat)." .... [2:177] Righteousness is not turning your faces towards the east or the west. Righteous are those who believe in GOD, the Last Day, the angels, the scripture, and the prophets; and they give the money, cheerfully, to the relatives, the orphans, the needy, the traveling alien, the beggars, and to free the slaves; and they observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat); and they keep their word whenever they make a promise; and they steadfastly persevere in the face of persecution, hardship, and war. These are the truthful; these are the righteous.

[3:17] They are steadfast, truthful, submitting, charitable, and meditators at dawn. [3:103] You shall hold fast to the rope of GOD, all of you, and do not be divided. Recall GOD's blessings upon you - you used to be enemies and He reconciled your hearts. By His grace, you became brethren. You were at the brink of a pit of fire, and He saved you therefrom. GOD thus explains His revelations for you, that you may be guided. [3:134] who give to charity during the good times, as well as the bad times. They are suppressors of anger, and pardoners of the people. GOD loves the charitable.

[4:58] GOD commands you to give back anything the people have entrusted to you. If you judge among the people, you shall judge equitably. The best enlightenment indeed is what GOD recommends for you. GOD is Hearer, Seer. [5:42] ....If they come to you to judge among them, you may judge among them or you may disregard them. If you choose to disregard them, they cannot harm you in the least. But if you judge among them, you shall

judge equitably. GOD loves those who are equitable. [8:49] ....However, if one puts his trust in GOD, then GOD is Almighty, Most Wise [9:108] ....GOD loves those who purify themselves. [9:119] O you who believe, you shall reverence GOD, and be among the truthful.

[14:7] Your Lord has decreed: "The more you thank Me, the more I give you." But if you turn unappreciative, then My retribution is severe. [23:2] who are reverent during their Contact Prayers (Salat). [23:3] And they avoid vain talk. [23:4] And they give their obligatory charity (Zakat). [23:5] And they maintain their chastity. [31:18] "You shall not treat the people with arrogance, nor shall you roam the earth proudly. GOD does not like the arrogant showoffs. [31:19] "Walk humbly and lower your voice - the ugliest voice is the donkey's voice."

[42:37] They avoid gross sins and vice, and when angered they forgive. [46:13] Surely, those who say, "Our Lord is GOD," then lead a righteous life, will have no fear, nor will they grieve.

[47:31] We will certainly put you to the test, in order to distinguish those among you who strive, and steadfastly persevere. We must expose your true qualities.

[51:17] Rarely did they sleep the whole night. [51:18] At dawn, they prayed for forgiveness. [51:19] A portion of their money was set aside for the beggar and the needy. [51:26] He asked his family to prepare a fat calf (they are hospitable).

Submission does not differentiate between males and female when it comes to duties and rewards. Both are treated on an equal footing in this context. God has categorically pledged in:-

[16:97] Anyone who works righteousness, male or female, while believing, we will surely grant them a happy life in this world, and we will surely pay them their full recompense (on the Day of Judgment) for their righteous works.

[33:35] The submitting men, the submitting women, the believing men, the believing women, the obedient men, the obedient women, the truthful men, the truthful women, the steadfast men, the steadfast women, the reverent men, the reverent women, the charitable men, the charitable women, the fasting men, the fasting women, the chaste men, the chaste women, and the men who commemorate GOD frequently, and the commemorating women; GOD has prepared for them forgiveness and a great recompense.