

Friday Khutbah – 22/03/2013

The state of man from the time of his death until he settles in one of the two abodes

Praise be to Allah Who has made everything that He has created most good. Who has not created human beings without purpose and will not leave them unchecked.

Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) in the noble Qur'an and the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) have explained very clearly the state of man from the time of his death until he settles in one of the two abodes; *al-Jannah* or *an-Nar*- so that man may know what awaits him. It is very important we know these situations and remind ourselves with them.

When death approaches, the messengers of Allah come to man in order to transfer him from the temporary abode to the everlasting one. The angel of death draws closer to him and calls upon the soul to come out and leave the body. If it is a good soul, he will say: "Come out you good soul! You were in the good body."

So, the soul will easily come out from the body. They will embalm it and shroud it with embalmment and shroud from *al-Jannah*. They will pray for it and it will then be lifted up to the lower heaven. Permission will be sought for it to enter. The gate of the lower heaven will open for it, and the angels there will pray for it. The angels (الملائكة) (المقربون) who are blessed with nearness (to Allah) will follow its procession to the second heaven. The same will happen to it in the second heaven (gates open, angels pray, follow the procession.) and in the third heaven, fourth until they reach the heaven in which Allah is there. It will greet its lord, may He be glorified and exalted, with the greeting of lordship (الربوبية) saying: O Allah! To You belongs peace! And from you comes peace! Glory be to You, O Lord of majesty and honour!"

If Allah wills, He gives permission for it to prostrate for Him. Then the Lord جلّ جلاله will say: "Place the record of My servant in Illyeen عليين and then return him to earth, because from it I have created them, to it I shall return them and from it I shall bring them to life again.

Then his soul will return to earth. It will attend his washing, shrouding and carrying. It will say: Take me forward! Take me forward!

When he is buried and his companions leave him, the soul enters with him. The two questioning angels come and ask him: who is your Lord? What is your religion? Who is your prophet? He will say: 'Rabbiya Allah, Islam is my *deen* and Muhammad is my prophet.'

His grave will be enlarged for him and extended as far as one's eye-sight can reach. A young man with a beautiful face and a pleasing smell will be assigned to him. He (the dead) will ask him: who are you? He will say: I am your good deeds. A small window showing a view of the Hell-fire will be opened and it will be said to him: Look at what Allah has removed from you! A small window showing a view of *al-Jannah* will be opened and it will be said to him: Look at what Allah has promised you! And he will see them both.

As for the soul of the *Fajir* (wrong-doer) – when it is time for it to depart from this life, angels with black faces will descend upon it. With them is embalmment and

shroud from the Hell-fire. The angel of death will come near and say: "Come out you evil soul! You were in the evil body."

The soul will try to hide in the body but the angel will pull it out from deep inside the body.

It will then be embalmed and shrouded with that embalmment and shrouded from the Hell-fire. Every angel between heaven and earth will curse it. It will be taken up towards heaven and permission to enter will be sought for it, but none of the gates of heaven will be open to it. Then a call from the Lord of the world will come: "Place his record in Sijjeen and return him to earth."

His soul will attend his washing, shrouding and carrying. It will say while being carried: 'Woe to her! Where are you taking her!'

When he is put in the grave his soul will be returned to him. The two angels will come to him and ask him: "who is your lord?"

He Will say: 'Ha Ha ! I don't know.'

They will ask him: "What is your religion?"

'He Will say: Ha Ha ! I don't know.'

They will ask him: "Who is man who was sent to you?"

He Will say: 'Ha Ha ! I don't know.'

They will say to him: "May you never know!"

They will strike him with a blow and he will cry such a loud cry that every creation will hear him with the exception of human beings and Jinn. His grave will be tightened until his ribs are crushed. A small window showing a view of *al-Jannah* will be opened and it will be said to him: 'Look at what Allah as removed from you!'

Then a small window showing a view the Hell-fire will be opened and it will be said to him: 'Look at your seat in Hell-fire.'

And He will see them both.

In *Al-Barzakh*, the believer will be in bliss according to his deeds, and the wrong-doer will be in punishment according to his deed. Every part/limb of him (the wrong-doer) will have punishment befitting to its crime. The lips of the backbiters who used to tear the flesh of people will be cut off with scissors made from fire. The bellies of those who used to eat up the money of the orphans will burn in fire. Those who consumed *riba* will be stoned and will swim in rivers of blood. The heads of those who used to sleep over the time of the prayer will be shattered with stones. The mouth of the liar will be ripped with iron hooks from front to his back and his nostrils from front to his back and his eyes from front to his back. The *Zaani* and *Zaaniyah* (fornicators, men and women) will be detained in a hot oven, and the parts with which they used to commit the disobedience will be punished. This will continue until Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) decides the end of life on earth.

Have *taqwa*, servants of Allah! "And be afraid of the Day when you shall be brought back to Allâh. Then every person shall be paid what he earned, and they shall not be dealt with unjustly."

When Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) gives permission for the hour of the last day to take place, He commands Israfil عليه السلام to blow the trumpet for resurrection. The earth will split apart and people will rise from their graves. They will be driven to the place of gathering; brae-footed and naked. With every soul will be a driver that will

direct it and a witness that will witness against it. Some of them will be happy, others will be sad; some laughing, others crying.

While they are in this state, the Lord of the worlds comes for judgement. The earth will shine with the light of its Lord, the balance will be set up to weigh the deeds, the witnesses will be called, and the hands, tongue, legs and skins will give their testimonies.

Among the scenes on that day is the passage over *as-Sirat*. It will be dark and people will be given light (to see) according to the light of their *Iman*, sincerity and good deeds. The speed of their passage over *as-Sirat* differs according to their adherence to the straight path in this life.

Some will pass as fast as the lightening, some like a wind, some like a bird, some like a good horse, some running, some walking, some creeping and some crawls. *Amanah* (trust) and bond of kinship will be stationed on the sides of *as-Sirat*, and no treacherous person or one who cut off the ties of kinship will pass.

When the believers pass the *sirat*- and only the believers will pass- they will be secure from entering the Hell-fire. However, they will be stopped on a bridge between *al-Jannah* and *an-Nar* (Heaven and Hell) where retaliations for wrongs and injustices between them will take place. When they are cleansed, they will be permitted to enter *al-Jannah*.

When the inhabitants of *al-Jannah* and the inhabitants of *an-Nar* settle in their respective abodes, death will be brought forward to a point between *al-Jannah* and *an-Nar* in the shape of a ram. It will be said: O people of *al-Jannah*! O people of *an-Nar*! Do you know this? They will both recognise it and say: Yes. It will be slaughtered between *al-Jannah* and *an-Nar* and will then be said: O people of *al-Jannah*! Eternity without death! O people of *an-Nar*! Eternity without death!

We ask Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) to make us among *ahl al-Jannah*, those for whom the good (news) from Allah has been decreed and not among the losers and wretched.

(Imam Yahya Al-Hussein.)