

## Post Ramadan Resolve

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

Good days and blessed times were those which we enjoyed during the month of Ramadan. How many souls have found its guidance! How many who were forgetful now have perception! How many a sinner has repented and taken a way back to his Lord! How many were neglectful but then strived hard so his/her soul was filled with desire to achieve a paradise as wide as the heavens and the earth and looked forward to the promised that God Almighty gave to his obeying slaves “And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous” [Al-Imran 3:133]

And is there any wise person that would accept to go a step back after moving a step forward! Is there any sensible one who would leave the joy of belief after enjoying the taste of being obedient to the most merciful! How bad would it be to beautify your building of belief during Ramadan only to then demolish it after Ramadan. To know the danger of such action reflect on the verse “And do not be like she who untwisted her spun thread after it was strong” [Al-Nahl 16:92]. She twisted and spun her thread, beautifying it until it become almost perfect and how stupid of her to untwist all that effort and start it all over again! So do you accept to be like this woman who had a weak determination and a dreadful mind to think and measure by?

Oh Muslims,

God warns believers in the verse “O you who have believed, fear Allāh. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow – and fear Allāh. Indeed, Allāh is Acquainted with what you do.” [Al-Hashir 59:18] and immediately after this warning He says “And be not like those who forgot Allāh, so He made them forget themselves. Those are the defiantly disobedient” [Al-Hashir 59:19]. This noble verse is very clear that forgetting God (SW) is a direct reason in making the human forget him/her self. That human will lose his/her own self, lose this life so he/she will end up surrounded by problems and more importantly lose the hereafter by losing Paradise and salvation from hellfire.

God has made forgetting the self a punishment to those who forget Him, but how can someone forget God? Forgetting God is a result of two things: having a weak connection with God the Almighty and turning away from the way of God.

- Whoever neglects to establish his prayer and neglects to keep the regular practice of the remembrance of God, the optional prayers, reciting Quran and other duties during the day and the night is actually someone who is forgetful of his Lord.
- Whoever plans for his worldly life only, so he pursues wealth and profit and prefers this life over the hereafter without following the means that satisfy God, is actually someone who is forgetful of his Lord.

- The one who repents to God after committing sins and promises to follow the straight path and after that he breaks his covenant is actually someone who is forgetful of his Lord.
- The one who neglects to balance the rights of his Lord, his family and people around him and only cares about himself is actually someone who is forgetful of his Lord.

Such people are punished by forgetting themselves: “Those are the defiantly disobedient” the perverted, neglectful, destroyed and the ones who break the covenant of God after contracting it. You see them in constant worry and distress despite their wealth. You see them sadden for the condition of their children and the bad manners of their wives. You see them unable to achieve or produce in their study or trade although everything is provided for them! These are some kinds of the punishment of forgetting the self.

God says “And know that God intervenes between a man and his heart” [Al-Anfal 8:24]. It is a terrifying picture of God’s ability and power, He (SW) intervenes between a man and his heart so He blocks the heart from thinking and alters it the way that He SWT wishes without the man being able to do anything about it! So how can you assure the safety of your heart from such punishment oh you who lacks respect and ridicules, who enjoys backbiting and slandering, who shows off in front of people, whose heart is full of grudge and envy! Are you not afraid that your heart will be altered without your even knowing because you were careless?

The prophet (pbuh) used to supplicate to God by this prayer very often ‘O Turner of hearts, fix my heart on Your religion’ meaning: grant me:

- the continuity of my belief,
- my contact with You,
- my remembrance of You,
- my obedience for You,
- my commitment to Your way and
- my worship to You till the day I meet You.

It is a strange but true case, whoever forgets God will end up without any noble objective in this life so he/she will stay in this condition until death when he/she will lose both this life and the hereafter. God says “Say, [O Muhammad], “Shall we [believers] inform you of the greatest losers as to [their] deeds? [They are] those whose effort is lost in worldly life, while they think that they are doing well in work.” [Al-Kahf 18:103-104].