



GUIDELINES FOR UMMAH GIVEN BY THE HOLY PROPHET IN LAST DAYS

The Holy Prophet was indisposed during the middle of Safar 11 A.H. after his return from Mecca. Abu Bakr was commanded by the Holy Prophet to lead the prayer during his illness. One day feeling better and refreshed by the bath he felt relieved and went forth to the Masjid, supported by Ali and Fazi ibn Abbas to offer his noonday prayer. At the conclusion of the prayer he seated himself upon the pulpit and addressed the people around him:

“O my people! I praise Allah before you. There is no God but He. My disappearance from among you has come nearer. Now, if I have ever flogged on the back of someone (illegally), this is my back on which he should retaliate. If I have ever abused someone in respect of his honour and disquity, this is my honour on which he should retaliate. If I have ever taken money from someone, this is my money; he should take from it. No one should bear any grudge from me because it is not my habit. Beware, the most loving to me among you is the one who takes from me his right, if any, or the one who acquits me so I may meet my Lord while I am glad and satisfied. And I think that this (offer) will continue to stand until I rise before you several times.

“O people! If someone owes something to someone else he should pay it to him and not say: Humiliation in the world! Lo!” The humiliation in this world is lesser than the humiliation in the Hereafter. Then the Prophet (peace be on him) prayed for the martyrs of Uhud and invoked Divine forgiveness for them and then said:

‘Verily, a servant of Allah has been given the power of choice between this world, and what is with God; the servant opted for what is with God.’

(Upon the last sentence Hazrat Abu Bakr burst into tears and said:

‘Could we but sacrifice ourselves and our parents for you.’

Then the Apostle of Allah continued:

“There is none more bountiful to me for his unwavering loyalty and devotion and his sacrifice of wealth than Abu Bakr. If I were to choose a bosom friend (other than Allah) it would be he: but Islam has established a closer brotherhood among us all. Let every door that leads into the Mosque be closed, except the door of Abu Bakr.

“O people! It has reached me that you are afraid of the approaching death of your Prophet. Has any previous Prophet lived forever among those to whom he was sent so that I would live forever among you? Behold! I am about to go to my Lord. You too will go sooner or later. I admonish you to do good to the first Emigrants and I recommend the Emigrants to do good amongst themselves. Verily Allah the Exalted says:

‘By the time. Verily man is in lost, except those who themselves believe and work righteous works and enjoin upon each other the truth and enjoin upon each other endurance.’ (103:1-3)

“Verily, the affairs take their course according to the will of God. Delay in dispensation should not in any way urge you to be impatient in demand. Allah – the Mighty and the Great – does not submit to the haste of anybody.

“He who contends with Allah – Allah overpowers him. He who tries to play false and loose with Allah he is outwitted by Allah. In the near future, if you get power in the world then do not spread mischief on earth and do not cut off your blood relations. I admonish you to do to the (Ansars) Helpers. They are those who provided shelter for you and provided facilities for the promotion of the faith. So you should behave

unto them well. Did they not provide accommodation for you in their homes? Did they not give you preference over themselves while they were confronted with poverty?

'The number of believers would increase, but the Ansar would decrease to the extent that they would be among men as salt in the food. They are my family and with them I found shelter.

"By Him in Whose Hand is my life, I verily love you. The Helpers have acquitted themselves creditably of the responsibility that fell upon them and now there remains what you have to do.

"So he who from among you who occupies a position of responsibility and is powerful enough to do harm or good to the people, he should fully acknowledge and appreciate the favour that has been shown by these benefactors and should overlook their faults.

"Verily do not give preference to yourselves over them.

"Beware, he who is anxious to come to the 'fountain' along with me tomorrow should hold his tongue and restrain his hands.

"O ye people! Verily sins deprive people of blessings and bring about changes in their lot. When people are good, their rulers do good to them and when the people are wrongdoers their rulers oppress them.

For God, I pray you, and may God keep you on the Right Path. I entrust you to His care. I have warned you of the everlasting punishment and given you tidings of everlasting bliss. O creatures of God, shun arrogance and pride. Paradise and the blessings of the Hereafter are for the humble and the righteous. The resort of the proud is Hell."

Even at this hour of illness, when he had grown very weak, his mind was alert and perceived all that went on around him. Some of the women who had been exiled in Abyssinia mentioned about the cathedral of Maria and of the wonderful picture of its walls. Overhearing it, the Holy Prophet was displeased and remarked:

"These are the people who, when a saint among them dies, build over his tomb a place of worship and they adorn it with their pictures in the eyes of Lord, the worst part of all creation."

He then raised his hand in prayer and said:

"O Lord! Let my grave be not adopted as an idol. God has cursed the Jews and the Christians who have turned the graves of their prophets into places of worship."

The last occasion on which the Holy Prophet appeared in public and once more addressed his devoted followers is recorded as under:

"By the Lord! As for myself, I have not made lawful anything excepting that thing which God has declared lawful; nor have I prohibited ought but that which God has forbidden."

Then later at intervals in privacy he uttered these words:

"Lord! Grant me pardon; and join me to the companionship on high."

He also murmured admonition:

"Prayer and persons who have been entrusted in your care."

This he repeated several times.

It was Monday, 12th. Rabi Al Awwal that he left for his heavenly abode, at the age of sixty-three:

"May the Lord shower His choicest blessings on him, his family and his companions."

So ended a life consecrated, from first to last, to the service of God and humanity.

(From: Sermons of the Holy Prophet Muhammad – p.b.u.h.)
