



12. True Honour Comes From Obeying Allaah

Delivered by His Eminence
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All praise is due to Allaah. He favoured humans over all other creatures, and chose them to be the ones entrusted with all the elements of His Message. I praise Allaah, as He is perfect in every way. He is the Lord of all jinns and humans. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone, without any partner, and I bear witness that our Prophet Muhammad is Allaah’s worshipping servant and Messenger. He was the most virtuous of all people, and the most giving during prosperity and adversity. May Allaah grant an abundance of commendation and protection to His Messenger, as well as to all of the Messenger’s esteemed family and Companions.

Dear Muslims, you must observe taqwaa of Allaah, by fulfilling His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. Taqwaa is the best of provisions to prepare, and the best of garments to wear. Realize that this world is departing while the hereafter is approaching, and each one has its own children. Therefore, be among the children of the hereafter, not the children of this world. Today is for deeds without reckoning while tomorrow is for reckoning without any further deeds.

Dear Muslims, humans have a purpose, just like all other creatures. Allaah specifically favoured humans and put all things at their service. Allaah created the forefather of all humans with His own hand. Allaah blew into him the soul created for him, made the angels prostrate before him, taught him the names of all things, and put all things throughout the heavens and the earth at his disposal. Furthermore, Allaah made angels – creatures who are near to Him – the ones He placed as guardians over humans during their sleep, wakefulness, times of travel, and times of residence. Allaah sent His scriptures down to humans. He also sent the various elements of His message to humans, commissioned some of them as Messengers, and even spoke to some of them. There are humans whom Allaah granted greater degrees of love than others, humans to whom He spoke directly, humans who are obedient worshipping servants of His, and humans who are beloved to Him. Allaah made humans a manifestation of His wisdom, enabled them to attain His love, and created Jannah and the hellfire on account of them. Creation and command, as well as reward and punishment, all revolve around human beings: the central creature in Allaah’s creation. Allaah, who is perfect in every way, said,

﴿وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ

﴿وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا﴾

“We have indeed honoured the descendants of Aadam, carried them upon both land and sea, granted them wholesome provisions, and favoured them greatly over many others whom We created.”¹ Allaah, the Most Exalted, also said,

﴿الرَّحْمَنُ ۙ عَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ ۚ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ ۖ عَلَّمَهُ الْبَيَانَ ۖ﴾

“Allaah, the Most Merciful, taught people this Qur’aan. He created humans. He taught humans means of articulation and expression that distinguish them from all other creatures.”²

¹ Soorah al-Israa’ (17):70.

² Soorah ar-Rahmaan (55):1-4.



Servants of Allaah, in this world, every individual strives to do what preserves and raises his dignity, and also avoid what leads to disgracing himself. People have a very wide array of methods they use, but all of them have the common objective of seeking dignity and honourable standing.

Some individuals see honour as being equivalent to power and arrogance. However it is not long before Allaah removes whatever strength they may have, and then weakens and humiliates them. There are numerous instances of this that are witnessed by all. Allaah Himself stated,

﴿ فَأَمَّا عَادُ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُمْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ ﴿١٥﴾ فَآرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا صَرْصَرًا فِي أَيَّامٍ نَحْمَسَاتٍ لِنُذِقَهُمْ عَذَابَ الْخِزْيِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَخْرَىٰ وَهُمْ لَا يُنصَرُونَ ﴾

“As for ‘Aad – the people to whom the Prophet Hood was sent – they acted arrogantly upon the Earth when nothing could give them the right to do so, and they boastfully said, ‘Who is there that is mightier than us?’ Did they not realize that Allaah, who created them, is certainly mightier than them? Furthermore, they used to deny Our evidences. As a result, We sent upon them an extremely frigid and loud wind storm for a few days which brought about much evil for them. That was in order for Us to give them a taste of humiliating punishment in the life of this world. But surely, the punishment of the hereafter will be even more humiliating and they will have no one who can save them from it.”³

Some individuals see honour as being equivalent to an abundance of wealth and possessions, and they become conceited due to what they have. As a result, there are people who end up wanting to be just like them, and there are also others who see – with penetrating insight and guidance from Allaah – that such individuals are being tested and will face serious consequences if they remain that way. Allaah, the Almighty, stated,

﴿ إِنَّ قَارُونَ كَانَ مِنْ قَوْمِ مُوسَىٰ فَبَغَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ ۖ وَءَاتَيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْكُنُوزِ مَا إِنَّ مَفَاتِحَهُ لَتَنُوءُ بِالْعُصْبَةِ أُولَى الْقُوَّةِ إِذْ قَالَ لَهُ قَوْمُهُ لَا تَفْرَحْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفَرِحِينَ ﴾

“Indeed, Qaaroon was one of Moosaa’s people but he oppressed them. We gave him treasures whose keys would have been a burden for a group of strong men to carry. His people said to him, ‘Do not become arrogant because of what you have, such that you reject the truth from Allaah. Indeed, Allaah does not love arrogant ingrates’.”⁴ Later on in the same passage of the Qur’aan, Allaah mentioned his final outcome by saying,

﴿ فَخَسَفْنَا بِهِ وَبِدَارِهِ الْأَرْضَ فَمَا كَانَ لَهُ مِنْ فِئَةٍ يَنْصُرُوهُ، مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُنْتَصِرِينَ ﴾

“Consequently, We caused the earth to swallow Qaaroon and his dwelling. At that point, he had no group who could assist him against Allaah and he was not among those who could save themselves.”⁵ Among the people at the time of Qaaroon, there were those who let themselves be deceived into thinking that what they saw with him was honour and dignity. They preferred the luxuries

³ Soorah Fussilat (41):15-16.

⁴ Soorah al-Qasas (28):76.

⁵ Soorah al-Qasas (28):81.



of this world over the hereafter. “Qaaron went forth before his people in his arrogance. Those who desired the life of this world said, ‘If only we could have the same as what Qaaron has been given. He is certainly the owner of a tremendous fortune.’”⁶ That group of people was countered by another group, who were people of knowledge and sound beliefs. Their knowledge enabled them to avoid being deceived by outward appearances, and their sound beliefs enabled them to give preference to the hereafter over this world. “Those granted knowledge said to the other group, ‘What is the matter with you? Allaah’s reward in the hereafter is better for those who have sound beliefs and perform righteous deeds, and none shall attain that except those who patiently persevere.’”⁷

The worst state a person can reach in the aforementioned regard is for him to presume that having an abundance of worldly blessings means Allaah is honouring him, and that having limited provisions means Allaah is disgracing him. Allaah said,

﴿فَأَمَّا الْإِنْسَانُ إِذَا مَا ابْتَلَاهُ رَبُّهُ فَأَكْرَمَهُ، وَنَعَّمَهُ، فَيَقُولُ رَبِّي أَكْرَمَنِ ﴿١٥﴾﴾

﴿وَأَمَّا إِذَا مَا ابْتَلَاهُ فَقَدَرَ عَلَيْهِ رِزْقَهُ، فَيَقُولُ رَبِّي أَهْنَنِ ﴿١٦﴾﴾

“As for the human being in general, if his Lord tests him by granting him various favours and abundant provisions, the individual thinks that happened because he must be worth something to Allaah and he then proudly says, ‘My Lord has honoured me because I deserve it.’ However, if his Lord tests him by constricting some of his provisions, the individual thinks that happened because he is insignificant to Allaah and he then says, ‘My Lord has humiliated me.’”⁸

In addition to the foregoing, some individuals see honour as being equivalent to high status, reputation, and mention among people at large. Consequently, such individuals end up doing blameworthy and despicable things for the sake of garnering praise and good standing in the eyes of others. Such an individual pays no mind to doing what angers Allaah so long as he maintains his reputation with others. This course is the one followed by those who have gone completely astray from the path to genuine honour and dignity. It would not be long before the intents of such people backfire on them. The Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) said, “If someone seeks to please Allaah even though that incurs the anger of certain people, Allaah would take care of that person and leave him in no need of the people. However, if someone seeks to please certain people even though that incurs Allaah’s anger, Allaah will leave that person to the people.” This was collected by at-Tirmitheh in his Sunan, from ‘Aa’ishah (may Allaah be pleased with her).

All of the aforementioned paths deviate from the one that leads to actual honour. They are, in fact, paths that lead one to disgrace and humiliation, and we seek Allaah’s assistance against such things.

May Allaah enable all of us to glean benefit from the evidences and guidance which He revealed, and may He bless us by way of the Sunnah of best individual among mankind. I ask Allaah, the Most Magnificent, to forgive myself and all of you for every misdeed. Thus, ask His forgiveness as well, since He is continually forgiving to those who constantly repent.



All praise is due to Allaah. He grants honour to those whom He loves by guiding them to continue obeying Him, following the truth, and avoiding falsehood. I praise Allaah, as He is perfect in every way, and it is an obligation for us to state His praise. May Allaah grant commendation and

⁶ Soorah al-Qasas (28):79.

⁷ Soorah al-Qasas (28):80.

⁸ Soorah al-Fajr (89):15-16.



protection to His worshipping servant and Messenger, Muhammad, all the way until the Day of Recompense.

Dear Muslims, the path to true honour is a path that many people stray from, and none remain guided along it besides those whom Allaah favours. The path essentially consists of making one's self subservient to what pleases Allaah, and doing one's utmost to obey Allaah. True honour comes from steadfastness in obeying Allaah and complying with His guidance. A person is not genuinely honourable if he strays from Allaah's guidance, regardless of how many possessions and luxuries of this world the person may have. This world has beauty that eventually shrivels and disappears while the hereafter contains blessings and goodness that are lasting. A sound mind would not pursue the temporary at the expense of the permanent. When a person recognizes that, his soul would find peace. So long as he holds honourable standing with his Lord, he would not be concerned if all the luxuries of this world passed him by. So long as he is mentioned by his Lord, he would not be concerned about how he is mentioned among people. Such an individual is someone enlightened by his Lord. In this world, he proceeds along his course in the shade of the honour granted by Allaah, and he hopes to attain the honour of being admitted to Jannah in the hereafter which is the abode of lasting enjoyment and Allaah's mercy. It is the abode of those upon whom Allaah bestowed His favour: the Prophets, those who were foremost in affirming the truth of the Prophets, those martyred in Allaah's path, and all righteous individuals in general. That is the best company a person could be in.