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Contemplating Allah's Signs in His Creation

الْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ الَّذِي يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ، وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا ٱللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. ٱللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ ٱللَّهِ، ٱتَّقُوا ٱللَّهَ. قَالَ تَعَالَى فِي التَّنْزِيلِ: يَـٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ ٱتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِۦ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us strengthen our taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by obeying His commands and abstaining from His prohibitions. May Allah s.w.t. bless us with senses that constantly remind us of Him and enable us to appreciate the blessings of His **creation**. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Blessed congregation,

Have we ever gazed at the open sky, listened to the chirping of birds, or felt the gentle breeze, and found ourselves glorifying Allah in awe of His **greatness**?

Some of us remember Allah s.w.t. when we pray, recite the Quran, or listen to religious talk. Yet, does not the **creation** that surrounds us also invite us to reflect upon His **greatness**?

Reflect upon the words of Allah s.w.t. in Surah Ali ‘Imran, verse 190:

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ وَٱخْتِلَٰفِ ٱلَّيْلِ وَٱلنَّهَارِ لَءَايَٰتٍ لِّأُو۟لِى ٱلْأَلْبَٰبِ ﴿١٩٠﴾

Which means: *“Indeed, in the **creation** of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of the night and day, there are signs (of Allah's **greatness**) for people of understanding.”*

These are known as *ayat kauniyyah*, the signs of Allah's power and **greatness** that we can discover by reflecting upon His **creation**. Every living being is a testament to the **greatness** of Al-Khaliq, the Almighty **Creator**.

Dear brothers,

Let us reflect on three lessons about our relationship with the **natural world**, guided by our *iman*.

First: Recognise that all creation glorifies Allah

Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Isra’, verse 44:

وَإِن مِّن شَىْءٍ إِلَّا يُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِهِۦ وَلَٰكِن لَّا تَفْقَهُونَ تَسْبِيحَهُمْ

Which means: *“There is not a single thing (in **creation**) that does not glorify Him with praise, but you do not understand their glorification.”*

Think of the lush trees, the flowing rivers, and the tiniest **creatures**. All of them make *tasbih* and glorify Allah in ways beyond our understanding.

With this realisation, how could we carelessly cause destruction to the **world**? Indeed, the **natural world** is not merely a resource for us to use and exploit. It is part of Allah's **creation** that glorifies Him. Protecting it means respecting His **creation**, while destroying it is as though we are silencing the continuous *tasbih* or praises of His **creation**.

Second: Reflect on the destruction of the environment

Allah s.w.t. reminds us in Surah Ar-Rum, verse 41:

ظَهَرَ ٱلْفَسَادُ فِى ٱلْبَرِّ وَٱلْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِى ٱلنَّاسِ

Which means: *“Corruption has appeared on land and at sea because of what people's hands have done.”*

Brothers, our discourse about the environment today often focus on the harmful effects of capitalism and rapid technological advancement on the environment. Yet, reflecting on this verse reminds us that the environmental crisis can also reflect a deeper spiritual crisis.

When we fail to appreciate the signs of Allah's **greatness** in the **world** around us, we may become more likely to harm the environment, sometimes even without restraint.

Therefore, caring for the environment begins with self-reflection. Do our lifestyles reflect gratitude for Allah's blessings, or do they contribute to waste and destruction?

Third: Fulfil our responsibility as *khalifah* of the Earth

Indeed, in Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 30, Allah s.w.t. describes humankind as *khalifah*, or stewards of the Earth. We must understand, however, that this role is not merely an honour. It is also a trust that we are **responsible** for fulfilling.

Each of us, as a steward in our own capacity, can begin with simple changes. Avoid waste, reduce unnecessary spending, and use resources **responsibly**, including conserving water even when performing ablution, in accordance with the guidance of Rasulullah s.a.w.

Let us not underestimate these small efforts. Every action reflects our awareness of the trust Allah has placed upon us, for the well-being of future generations.

Blessed congregation,

The **world** we inhabit is more than just a place for us to live. It is filled with signs of Allah's **greatness**. The more we reflect upon

His **creation**, the more our faith and sense of **responsibility** towards it should grow.

May Allah s.w.t. grant us hearts that are attentive to the signs of His **greatness**, and guide us to be grateful servants who cherish His blessings and safeguard the **creation** entrusted to our care. Amin, ya Rabbal ‘Alamin.

أَقُوْلُ قَوْلِي هَذا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ العَظِيْمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْم.

Second Sermon

الحَمْدُ للهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَن لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللهِ، اِتَّقُوا اللهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَاكُم عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَال فِي كِتَابِهِ العَزِيزِ: إِنَّ اللهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ المَهْدِيِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَن بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالقَرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُم وَفِيهِم بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالمُسْلِمِينَ وَالمُسْلِمَاتِ، الأَحْيَاءِ مِنهُم وَالأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا البَلَاءَ وَالوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالمِحَنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَن بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ البُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ العَالَمِينَ. اَللَّهُمَّ انْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا اْلمُسْتَضْعَفِيْنَ فِي غَزَّة وَفِي فِلِسْطِينَ وَفِيْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ

عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللهِ، إِنَّ اللهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالعَدْلِ وَالإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي القُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ الفَحْشَاءِ وَالمُنكَرِ وَالبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَاذكُرُوا اللهَ العَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُم، وَلَذِكْرُ اللهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.