

**TAKING ACCOUNT OF ONE'S NAFS**

**Dear Mumins!**

Allah (s.w.t) has decided upon a certain amount of lifetimes for every human He created. He gave humans minds and intelligence. He made them responsible for their deeds from the age of adolescence until their death. He also holds them responsible for that which they neglect to perform." However, He didn't leave humans alone. He sent His prophets and holy books to guide them. A human's duty is to think about his life and ask himself: What was I before? What have I become? What will my end be like?

Before coming to this world, the human was just a cell. Then, he becomes a baby inside his mother's womb. After his birth into this world, he is an infant, who has to be taken care of. Then, he becomes an adolescent, a teenager, and a mature human being. He has power and can behave in any way that he wants. However, this does not continue forever. Every rise has a fall. Old age follows youth. And afterwards, death. But we don't know when we are going to face it. Therefore, we must be ready, as we might face it at any time.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters!**

We must take account of ourselves. We shall never forget the reality of death. We must decide our directions in light of this truth. Our final time can neither be expedited nor postponed. Before it visits us, we must ask: Are we ready to face death and go to the next world? Many of our brothers and sisters, who were among us last year are not with us now. Will we be able to last until next year? We don't have any such guarantee. Therefore, let us ask: Have we done enough deeds to face the Exalted Creator if we submitted our soul just now? Let's consider our deeds before we exhale our last breath. Let us take account of our nafs. We will be responsible in front of Allah for what we did and neglected to do. The Prophet (s.a.w) informed us: "In the day of judgment, an individual will not be able to leave Mahshar (where we all will be gathered) unless he will be asked for his deeds and take

account of them"<sup>1</sup>. The Caliph Umar (r.a.) warned us: "Before being asked of, take account of yourself. "

What have we done for ourselves, for our families, for our relatives and neighbors, and for society overall in the last year? Did we cause any damage to ourselves, to society and to the humanity? We must consider this in order to increase our good deeds and correct our mistakes. If, in any way, we happened to conduct any haram or forbidden sins, we must make Tawbah and immediately leave those sins. If we have any lack of our Ibadahs, and duties against Allah, we shall compensate for them. We should spend our numbered days in this world performing the deeds which please Allah, not doing deeds that Allah forbids and considers as haram.

**Brothers and Sisters!**

Today, the gathering and entertainments hold under the name of new-year celebrations have neither religious nor traditional and cultural origin in Muslim point of view. Furthermore, how can we explain the legitimacy of drinking alcoholic drinks, threatening the mind and the health, and gambling, damaging the family economy, extravagant spending for these entertainments?

Instead of behaviors like new-year celebrations, which Allah and His Messenger (S.A.W.) would not agree, let's think how to give a better direction to our lives in the new year by revising our deeds in the past years.

I finish my hutbah with the 18th verse of Surat-ul Hashr:

"O YOU who have attained to faith! Remain conscious of God; and let every human being look to what he sends ahead for the morrow! And [once again]: Remain conscious of God, for God is fully aware of all that you do."

---

<sup>1</sup> Tirmizi, Qiyamah,1