

Traits of the slaves of the Rahman.

17 August 2007

Trait 4: Fear of the hell fire.

The Imam is still talking about the traits of the slaves of the Rahman. With the image painted by Allah may He be exalted to show us a model of those who are contented with Allah and Allah is contented with them.

In Surat Furkan Allah says: {And the slaves of the Most Beneficent (Allâh) are those who walk on earth in humility or modesty, and when the ignorant people address them (with bad words) they reply back with words of Peace. And those who spend their nights kneeling down and standing to their Lord. And those who say: Our Lord; take away the punishment of hell, It's punishment is continuously endless, It is such a bad place for resting and residing}

Allah showed us a number of traits for his slaves:

- 1) They have the attributes of humility and humbleness, not pride and not cockiness.
- 2) Their state with other people. That is not indulging with those who are ignorant and arrogant. He said that their reply is "Salam", when they are addressed by the ignorant and the arrogant people.
- 3) The staying up at night praying kneeling and standing in hope and in fear.
- 4) Today the Imam talks about the next trait which is the fear of Hell fire punishment.

They go to their Lord, in hope and fear. Always remembering that in this worldly life, no matter how long they live, time will come when they will die. They remember that there is a death and it has its struggles. And then there is a grave and it has its embrace. They remember the day after, that there is a day of resurrection when it will be so crowded. They know that there is the scale with all its accuracy and precision. They know that they are going to be brought to an account, or brought to justice and they are going to answer for what they did or said. And they know the speed it will

happen at. They do not know which side the scale would tip towards. Will it tip towards the side of the good deeds, or towards the side of the sins? And they know then that there is a God to worry about, and He may become dissatisfied. They remember they will head then; either to paradise with all its goodness or to Hell with all its pain and flame. But mostly; it is hell fire is what they remember and think of. That is they pray: { Our Lord; take away the punishment of hell, It's punishment is continuously endless, It is such a bad place for resting and residing }.

All people no matter who they are; shall come to it, and will pass by it, over the path which is built to run just over it. Will you make it? Or will you fall off that path into the flames? Will you be saved or will you go to hell, literally? Will you pass fast over that path, or will you be pulled down? Allah said: {Each and everyone of you is coming to it, for that; God has decided that it is definite it will come to pass, then We shall save those who feared, and we shall leave those who transgressed in it; unable to stand.} Ebn Maisara ميسرة used to cry and used to say: "Allah said we will be approaching it, and did not say we will be leaving it"

Our problem is that; that day is so far away. Far away of our thinking about it. We only think of this life and what is in it. This life is the focus of our thinking; the orbit of our attention, and the spectrum of our existence, and the ultimate aim of our desires and what we hope to achieve.

In fact the next life is so close to each individual amongst us. It is death that will bring an individual to his next life. And death is so uncomfortably close, but we don't think of it. Allah says: {The time of the Hour is just like the blink of an eye; or even closer}. On the other hand the slaves of the Rahman are like a different breed of people altogether in their way of thinking. They always think of the next life and specifically they think of Hell.

The messenger (PPBU) used to pray and say: {Our Lord, bring us mercy in this life; and a mercy in the next life, and guard us from

the punishment of Fire}. And He used to teach his companions this prayer: {My Lord, be my guard from the punishment of Hell, and from the punishment of the grave, and from the luring of the false Massaiah, and be our protector from the enticements of life and death}.

Prophet David used to pray and say: "My Lord; I can not bear the heat of your sun, how could I bear the heat of your hell fire."

Dear Lord, I do not deserve your paradise, but, I could not stand your hell fire, please Lord give me the gift of repentance, forgive my sins, for you are the most gracious the most forgiving.

Allah says: {Our Lord, you didn't create all this in vain, praise be to you. Guard us from fire. Our lord, this who you condemn to hell fire, you have shamed them. Transgressors will have no supporters} Shaming someone in this context is insulting them and disgracing them. For Hell fire is not just a physical burning punishment, but also It is a mental or psychological punishment too. Some of the companions used to grab the covers of the Kaaba and cry: "Lord is there any other form of punishment other than fire. How could we stand it". And the messenger PBU said: {Never forget the two tremendous ones, paradise and Hell fire} He also said: {I never seen anything like Hell fire with the one running away from it is falling asleep, and never seen anything like paradise with the one seeking it is falling asleep}.

Dear believers, no matter how long one live, one is going to die. Ten years, a hundred years or even a thousand years; time comes when one will certainly die. And after death there is no other place but: paradise or Hell fire.

Save your selves from hell fire by doing good deeds and by refraining from doing sin and forbidden acts. Save your selves by doing the compulsory worships and avoiding the forbidden. By giving others what is rightfully theirs. The rights of Allah, and the rights of people. Jesus PBU said: {Many a person with a healthy

body, and an eloquent tongue, and a beautiful face, tomorrow in between the layers of fire it shall scream}

For tomorrow there is accounting and no work, and today; there is work with no accounting. Therefore, work today for tomorrow and save yourself from fire. The messenger PPBU used to pray by saying: {I ask you for paradise and for all words and acts that bring closer to it. And with your grace to keep me away from the fire and from all word or acts that bring closer to it.}

Hasan Basry passed a young man caught up in a fit of laughter. He said to him: "what has got you laughing? Have you found out whether you will be carrying your records by your left or right? He answered: No. then he asked him: Have you passed through the path, and found out; that you have made it? He answered: No. He asked him: Have you found out if you are falling into hell; or if you are save from it? He answered: No. He asked him: why are you laughing then. The young man started crying."

One does not need to cry, but certainly remember the next life. Every now and then remember the hell fire in order to straighten up your lives, improve your actions and words.

"Lord give us a mercy in this life, and a mercy in the next life, and protect us from the punishment of fire."