



MERCY TO ALL

Friday Khutba Sermon
by
Shaykh Muhammad Al-Akili

الزواوية العقيلية العصرية

ZAWIYA FELLOWSHIP

Cambridge, ON

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



رحمة للعالمين

MERCY TO ALL

Friday Sermon at Annoor Mosque

Zawiya Fellowship

Cambridge, Ontario

August 7th 2015

22nd of Shawwal 1436

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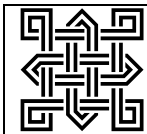
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وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



All praises are due to the Divine Sovereign Lord Allah [swt -ﷻ] who established love for His Messenger [upon whom be peace -ﷺ] as an innermost part of faith, Who made his leading guidance a direct way to eternal living in Janna paradise, and I bear witness and testify that there is no divinity, godhead or holy sovereignty except that of Allah the Most Supreme Who has no associate or partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad who is His servant and Messenger. May Allah's utmost blessings and peace be the Divine endowment upon him and upon his family, companions and those who follow in their footstep up to the Day of Judgment.

Our Lord! Strengthen our faith, support goodwill in us and raise us in station of nearness to always remain beneficiaries of Your Divine Grace. Our Lord, accept our prayers, fulfill our supplications and satisfy our needs, fill our hearts with reverence for You, devotion and admiration for Your magnificent Most Holy Divinity.

Today's subject deals with fundamental aspect of faith and a main principal of Muslim belief, every Muslim male and female is required to hold unto it until the day of meeting one's Lord. This most important principal of our faith is the Love for Allah's Messenger [uwbp]. Our Lord sent him as Mercy to all. He sent him to bring people out of the deep layers of darkness into the Light, to guide them away from heedlessness and to bring them to the Straight Path. Hence, Allah's Messenger [uwbp] received the Divine commission, delivered the Holy Message and explained its requirements up to the finest details, and until his life in this world met its term, and he left the believers with clear guidance and a well define goal, only one who is bound to total loss will ever deviate therefrom.

The passage of Allah's Messenger [uwbp] in this world was overflowing with compassion he held for the believers, as well as an overwhelming Mercy he held for all humanity as a nucleolus of true salvation, and he is indeed Mercy to all - (رحمة للعالمين).

Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is indeed **a gift of Divine Mercy** – (إِنَّمَا أَنَا رَحْمَةٌ مُّهِدَّةٌ) , as confirmed and stated by our Lord, Allah [swt]: **"We sent you as Our Mercy to all."** (21:107) - (وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ)

Indeed, our beloved, the chosen elite, Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is the gift of Divine Mercy and favors, the greatest blessing ever bestowed upon humanity, a most blessed guide, the bearer of glad tidings and a warner, a harbinger heralding people to their Lord by His permission, the true savior and through him, Allah, the Most Supreme and the Most exalted removed people's adversities and darkness from their path, and through him Allah, the Most Supreme and Most Exalted demonstrated the ultimate proof of what is true, and by his coming our Lord also exposed what is suspicious, dubious and strange; no one can argue about it thereafter.

Our Lord [swt] says: **"Indeed, Allah chooses Messengers from among the angels as well as from among the humans. Surely Allah always hears [everything you say] and sees everything [you do]."** (22:75)

اللَّهُ يَصْطَفِي مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ رُسُلًا وَمِنَ النَّاسِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ

Therefore, prophethood and messengership are not gains one attains through devotional practice, rather they are destined primordial Divine choices, and a particular endowment which is bestowed upon the elite, and a message that is forwarded and granted to people as a favor and as an act of Divine Mercy and Compassion.

"Such are Our messengers whom We endowed with gifts, and We raised some above others. Allah spoke to some, and He raised some of them to stations higher than others..." (2:253)

تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ ۚ مِنْهُمْ مَّنْ كَلَّمَ اللَّهُ ۚ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٍ ۚ

Among the stations of the elite, there is the rank of those of **Resolve and Determination** [اولي العزم], five of Allah's Messengers carry that title of **Resolve and Determination** [اولي العزم], namely, the Prophets: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus son of Mary and Muhammad, upon all of whom be peace. In fact, all the Prophets and Messengers upon all of whom be peace are from one tree, and are a family of one brotherhood.

Speaking of Allah's Messenger and the Seal of His Prophets Muhammad [ﷺ] is indeed the sweet nectar of all talk, and the course of his life in this world is the certainly the most attractive and most compelling of all stories, engaging, delightful and ever motivating.

Throughout history, when blessed believing hearts hearing any of his saying or a story about his message, his mode of living and teachings, such believing hearts are always drawn to listen attentively and are captivated by the purity and the most magnificent station of Allah's Messenger [ﷺ].

His charming qualities are always the aura of every beauty and the magnate that draws the hearts of the pious; for Allah's Prophet [ﷺ] was a Prophet since the time of the Soul without body and prior to his birth, and once he was born, he was fully infallible, protected and safeguarded. He said: "I was a Prophet when Adam was between the soul and the body." - (كُنْتُ نَبِيًّا وَآدَمُ بَيْنَ - (الروح والجسد)

No worshiper can ever reach a higher state of nearness to his Lord better than by improving his knowledge and better emulating the blessed devotion demonstrated and taught by Allah's Messenger [ﷺ]. In fact, the servant's true happiness in this temporary life and his salvation in the permanent abode of the hereafter depend totally on learning about the life of Allah's Messenger [ﷺ] and by better following his guidance. Yet, some people may be still divided in this matter between light, moderate and excellent pursuit of such goal. Ultimately, such state of devotion mirroring the Divine Light is truly a Divine favor and a gift (هدية), our Lord [swt] endows to whomever He wills.

Allah's Messenger [ﷺ] and his most luminous ever pure character [خُلُق] and his blessed virtues are surely an infinite ocean of blessings without shores, and there are no limit to his overflowing grace and favors. His light emanates from the Divine Salawāt blessing of our Lord [swt], blessings of the myriads of heavenly malaa'ika angels and of the believers across this world and the hereafter.

Our Lord the Supreme Most Exalted and the Creator of everything addresses His blessed Prophet, saying: "**Indeed, We sent you...**" and He says: "**We sent you as Our Mercy to all.**" (21:107)

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

Our Lord [swt] says: “**He brought the truth, as well as he came to reconfirm the truth brought by the earlier Messengers.**” (37:37)

جَاء بِالْحَقِّ وَصَدَّقَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

The entire Quranic revelation is in fact a solid proof that our Lord Allah [swt] was constantly with him, hearing him, seeing him, guiding him, protecting him, addressing his needs and those of the believers, engaging the heavenly malā'ika angels in serving his mission, and all of such blessings are a concrete evidence of the Holy Majestic Presence [ذو الجلال والإكرام] as a clear expression of the Divine Mercy and Compassion [الرحمن الرحيم].

The blessed character of Allah's Messenger [uwbp] carried excellence in mercy and compassion to humans, to jinn and to all forms of life in the world, intelligent life forms, lives that are less bright, animal life as well as insects and plants.

"**MERCY TO ALL**" (رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ)

Compassion filled his heart and was embodied in each and every one of his actions. He understood the true nature and meaning of life in this world, and he always focused on the permanent life in the hereafter. His distinct personality was filled with kindness, mercy, tenderness, benevolence, forbearance, tolerance, loving care, affection, emotion and a true sentiment of care for the well being of others in this world and in the permanent life to come.

Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is indeed "**Mercy to all.**" (رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ) – and he is surely "**Most loving and compassionate towards the believers**" (بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ) (رَعُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ) - It is narrated that Allah [swt] looked at the extreme compassion Allah's Messenger [uwbp] had for his followers, Our Lord asked him: “**If you want, I leave the judgment of your umma to you!**” [لَوْ شِئْتُ جَعَلْتُ أَمْرَ أُمَّتِكَ إِلَيْكَ] but the correct understanding of Allah's Messenger [uwbp] became clear here as he replied: “**My Lord, You are surely more Merciful and more Compassionate than me.**” – [أَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ بِهِمْ مِنِّي] – Our Lord then said: “**That is on the Day when Allah will spare the Prophet and those who are with him any disappointment or disgrace.**” (66:8) – [يَوْمَ لَا يُخْزِي اللَّهُ النَّبِيَّ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ] – This verse also translates as: “I will never disappoint your aspirations or any of the believers.”

Indeed, had it not been for Allah's Messenger [uwbp] the human hearts would have never known the true meaning of love or yearning to meet with one's Lord, and following his guidance we can certainly find the door to Allah's nearness and acceptance.

Our Lord [swt] says: **"Whoever hopes to meet with his Lord, then let him engage in doing good deeds, and never associate anyone with his Lord in his worship."**

فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا

The Sacred revelation herein emphasizes that whoever believes in the Divine Oneness of Allah [swt] Who has no partner or associate, and whoever believes in the Divinely commissioned task of Allah's Messenger Muhammad [uwbp] will be happy eternally. Then, a concise critical statement follows the Divine proclamation, saying: Say [to them]: **"It is revealed to me that your Lord is the One and Only Divine Sovereign Lord. Will you [cease this polytheism] and finally submit [to Him]?"** (21:108)

قُلْ إِنَّمَا يُوحِي إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمُ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ ۖ فَمَنْ أَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

(رَحْمَةً لِلْعَالَمِينَ) - "MERCY TO ALL"

In fact, the loftiness and the innate natural purity and character of Allah's Messenger [uwbp] cannot be overstated or limited by any phrase or description, and its most rewarding portrayal is that of the Divine statement in the holy verse: **"Indeed, you have a most magnificent character."** (68:4) – Attributing **"Magnificence"** to its nature.

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

Our Lord [swt] says: **"O Prophet! We sent you as a witness, bearing glad tidings and as a warner, a harbinger heralding people to Allah by His permission and as a bright shining lamp spreading the light. Announce to the believers that they will receive an immense bounty from Allah".** (33:45-47)

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا ﴿٤٥﴾ وَدَاعِيَا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا

مُنِيرًا ﴿٤٦﴾

وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِأَنَّهُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ فَضْلًا كَبِيرًا ﴿٤٧﴾

That's who is our most blessed Prophet who was sent as the true savior to all humanity. Allah [swt] addressed him with the title: [O Prophet - يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ], as our Lord [swt] made His announcement saying: **"Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah,"** – (مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ), a full statement, a complete phrase, a subject and a predicate. A complete Divine Statement describing the Source, the mission, the task and the ultimate destiny.

Allah [swt] thus addresses him with the title of Messengership saying: **"We sent you to all humanity as a carrier of glad tidings and as a warner, but most people do not know"**. (34:28)

﴿٢٨﴾ وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

Adding: **"And whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, He will let him into [eternal] dwellings in paradise surrounded by gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will live forever and that is the ultimate win"**. (4:13)

وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ جَنَّاتٍ

And Allah's [swt] confirmation: **"Whoever obeys the Messenger would have obeyed Allah"** (4:80)

مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ

Thus strengthening the Divine Statement requiring obedience to the Divine commands as well as obedience and following to Allah's Messenger [uwbp].

And our Lord [swt] emphasizing the reward further says: **"And whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger would have won a magnificent success"**. (33:71)

وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا

That is obedience in every possible aspect, and such obedience is also a sign of love and respect.

Our Lord [swt] further required all the 124,000 prophets and 312 messengers [upon all of whom be peace] to acknowledge Allah's Messenger Muhammad [uwbp], to pledge a covenant to support him and to follow him should any happen to be in his era.

Our Lord [swt] affirms: **"This was when Allah took the pledge of [all] the prophets: "Once I gave you the Book and endow you with Wisdom, and**

then a messenger comes to you affirming the truth of your message, will you believe in him and support him?"

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ النَّبِيِّينَ لَمَا آتَيْتُكُمْ مِنْ كِتَابٍ وَحِكْمَةٍ ثُمَّ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مُصَدِّقٌ لِمَا مَعَكُمْ لَتُؤْمِنُنَّ بِهِ وَلَتَنْصُرُنَّهُ

He said, [adding], "**Do you consent and accept My pact** [under this condition] **as binding on you?**"— "We agree," they said. "Then bear witness [to this covenant]," said Allah, "**and I am with you among the witnesses.**" (3:81)

قَالَ أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ وَأَخَذْتُمْ عَلَىٰ ذَلِكُمْ إِصْرِي قَالُوا أَفَرَأَيْنَا قَالَ فَاشْهَدُوا وَأَنَا مَعَكُمْ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ

Our Lord [swt] endowed His blessed Messenger [uwbp] with the highest rank of intercession on behalf of people, He says: "**Who can there intercede before Him except as He permits.**" (2:255)

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ

This is who Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is. This is the rank of the most praiseworthy station (المقام المحمود). He is indeed our master, our beloved, our intercessor and the ultimate true Savior, Allah's Messenger to all humanity, Allah's Prophet of Peace who brought in the religion of Peace, Muhammad Rasul Allah upon whom be the ultimate regards and blessings of peace.

Our Lord made the highest rank of Intercession on the Day of Judgment his rank known as the Most Praiseworthy Station, meaning for intercession, including: 1) Supreme intercession; 2) Intercession allowing the believers to enter the eternal abode of janna paradise; 3) Intercession for raising the ranks of the believers in Janna paradise; 4) Intercession for people with minor sins who are destined for hell-fire not to be spared from entering it ; 5) Intercession on behalf of people who committed major sins; 6) Intercession of Allah's Messenger [uwbp] for his uncle Abu Talib; 7) Intercession for people to enter Janna paradise without reckoning; 8) Intercession of Allah's Messenger [uwbp] for the dwellers of Medina.

Other aspects of his role as the highest intercessor are exclusively his and no one can share them with him, while the role of intercessor may also be that of other Prophets, and may serve elite among Allah's servants and creation.

قَوْلَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ: " لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ أَحَدٌ بِعَمَلِهِ". قَالُوا: وَلَا أَنْتَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ؟ قَالَ: "وَلَا أَنَا إِلَّا أَنْ يَتَعََمَّدَنِي اللَّهُ عَزَّ مِنْهُ بِفَضْلٍ".

Allah's Messenger [uwbp] said: "No one enters janna paradise by his own efforts and deeds. They said: "Even you O Messenger of Allah?" He replied: "Not even me and unless Allah ﷻ shelters me with His favor", and he placed his hand over his head.

Therefore, no one there can solicit the ultimate success through his or her own actions and good deeds. Everyone needs and will certainly solicit the Supreme Intercession of Allah's Messenger [uwbp]. Not even someone who brings in an ocean of good deeds.

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ يُؤْتَى يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ بِأَنْعَمِ أَهْلِ الدُّنْيَا مِنَ الْكُفَّارِ فَيُقَالُ اغْمِسُوهُ فِي النَّارِ غَمْسَةً فَيُغْمَسُ فِيهَا ثُمَّ يُقَالُ لَهُ أَيُّ فُلَانٍ هَلْ أَصَابَكَ نَعِيمٌ قَطُّ فَيَقُولُ لَا مَا أَصَابَنِي نَعِيمٌ قَطُّ وَيُؤْتَى بِأَشَدِّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ضُرًّا وَبَلَاءً فَيُقَالُ اغْمِسُوهُ غَمْسَةً فِي الْجَنَّةِ فَيُغْمَسُ فِيهَا غَمْسَةً فَيُقَالُ لَهُ أَيُّ فُلَانٍ هَلْ أَصَابَكَ ضَرْ قَطُّ أَوْ بَلَاءٌ فَيَقُولُ مَا أَصَابَنِي قَطُّ ضَرْ وَلَا بَلَاءً.

Anas bin Malik رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrated that Allah's Messenger [uwbp] said: **"On the Day of Judgment, a denier of the truth who was most comfortable in his life in the world will be brought in. The Malaa'ika angels will be told to plunge him for a short moment into hell-fire. He will then be asked, "Have you ever enjoyed anything in the world?" He replies, "Never did I ever enjoy anything". Then a believer who suffered to extreme in harm and adversities will be brought in. The Malaa'ika angels will be told to plunge him into janna paradise for a blinking of an eye, and they will. He will then be asked, "Have you ever suffered a thing or harm?" He replies, "Never, I ever suffered any thing".**

Allah's Messenger [uwbp] said: **"People would wish to have suffered heavily in this life when they see the kind of extensive reward reserved for those who suffered in this life on the Day of Judgment."**

يُودُّ أَنْاسٌ لَوْ أَنَّ جُلُودَهُمْ كَانَتْ تُقْرَضُ بِالْمَقَارِضِ لِمَا يَرَوْنَ مِنْ ثَوَابِ أَهْلِ الْبَلَاءِ

Our Lord [swt] says: **"Surely those who endure adversities with patience will receive their recompense without having to account for how they spend it."** (39:10)

إِنَّمَا يُؤَفَّقِي الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

"MERCY TO ALL" (رَحْمَةٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ)

Our Lord Allah [swt] also endowed His blessed Messenger [uwbp] with **the river of abundant ever flowing Divine Grace, Al-Kawthar**, and He further blessed him with the unique continual and everlasting bestowal of Divine Grace and blessings, and furthermore, He also joined with celebrating the Divine Salawaat blessing upon him the entirety of the heavenly Malaa'ika angels who are constantly and continuously invoking the Divine Grace upon him, and furthermore, our Lord also required the believers to join in that universal grace and blessings to shower on him. Our Lord, Allah [SWT] says: **"Indeed Allah is continuously endowing the Prophet with His Grace, and the malaa'ika angels too; they are constantly invoking Allah's blessings on him. O believers! Invoke Allah's blessings on him, and adhere openly to his precise guidance without any reservation". (33:56)**

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Such blessings also involve the blessed family of Allah's Prophet Abraham and his descendants of Prophets and family, upon all of whom be peace, in fact, the believers' Salāt prayers night and day also include his personal family, companions and the righteous believers since primordial times and in eternity by invoking honor, blessings and Divine Grace upon our Master Muhammad and his family as He bestowed honor, blessings and Divine Grace upon His Prophet Ibrahim and his family.

Such Holy Divine blessings of Salawaat blessings were not initiated after their revelation in the Holy Quran, but rather they were celebrated primordially and even before the creation of our father Adam [uwbp], and such will remain ever echoing eternally as our Lord Wills.

The true need of invoking Salawaat blessings upon Allah's Prophet [uwbp] is the need of the seeker himself to receive Divine blessings that raise him or her in station of nearness to his or her Lord [swt]. In fact, invoking Salawaat blessings (Salawaat) upon Allah's Prophet [uwbp] is drawn from the ocean of light, the ever expanding infinite ocean of Divine Light manifested by the Divine's Own constant ever bestowing of Salawaat blessings on him, and therefore, the servant's invocation may compare to evaporated water from the sea to assemble as a cloud, and then the cloud of faith, certitude and determination is driven back to fall as a few drops of rain on the ocean of

Divine Grace. Hence, the LOVE of Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is not merely a word one utters, but rather it is a mode of living, a true life which is mixed with itself, by itself and in itself.

Even though LOVE is built in the heart, yet its effects are leading marks that show in one's conduct, behavior and deeds. Hence, LOVE produces outwardly effects and proofs that distinguish a true lover from a claimant, and designates clearly the true believer who pursues the correct avenues in expressing one's love for Allah's Messenger [uwbp].

Allah's Messenger [uwbp] identified true faith with true love, he said: **"Your faith will not materialize until I become more loved to him than his own parents, children and all people."**

لا يؤمن أحدكم حتى أكون أحب إليه من والده وولده والناس أجمعين

Hence, one's faith (إيمان) is correctly equated and corresponds here to his LOVE for Allah's Messenger [uwbp]. The stronger is his love, the stronger becomes his faith, and the stronger is his faith, it becomes a true demonstration of his LOVE for Allah's Messenger [uwbp]. Hence, one's LOVE for Allah's Messenger equated with obedience and solicitation of nearness.

In fact, LOVE for Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is an arch-pillar and a foundation of our religion and one's faith (إيمان) cannot be verified without the proof of such love. Our Lord [swt] instructs His beloved Messenger to say: **"If you truly love Allah, then follow me, Allah will love you and forgive you your sins, and Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most-Compassionate."**

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Al-Hassan Al-Basri said: **"Some people claimed to love Allah's Messenger [uwbp] and Allah [swt] tried them with this verse,"** He asked them to love him, to obey him and promised them to forgive their sins as a result.

Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, said: **"I saw Allah's Messenger [uwbp] sitting and a barber was giving him a haircut. His companions stood-by around him and cared not to let a single hair of his fall but into someone's hand."** (Narrated by Muslim)

عن أنس رضي الله عنه قال: "رأيت رسول الله ﷺ والحلاق يحلقه وأطاف به أصحابه فما يريدون أن تقع شعرة إلا في يد رجل."

If we consider salāt prayers as a blessed rain that quenches the thirst of the servant, then love for Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is certainly the sunlight without which the fruit of love cannot ripen. And when prescribing to his Sunna tradition and to have commitment in pursuing his exemplary role model of true human being, to obey him and hope to meet Allah [with true faith and sincerity], and when one has good aspirations for the Last Day, and who keeps celebrating Allah's praises, then **LOVE for Allah's Messenger** [uwbp] is certainly the physical address of becoming his neighbor in Janna paradise.

Our Lord [swt] says: **You have a good model in Allah's Messenger to follow, for someone who hopes to meet Allah [with true faith and sincerity], who has good aspirations for the Last Day, and who keeps celebrating Allah's praises.** (33:21)

قَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا
 LOVE is an inner feeling that overflows the spirit and submerges each cell of a virtual body into a state of absolute delight and continual satisfaction that cannot be measured or translated. LOVE is an ever scintillating light like a distant brilliant star that is ever bright, always shining and never dims, and it sheds a light which is reflected by the beholder. Love is pure and transparent without color, and yet, it is never missed by the onlooker, the finder, the witness or the passer-by, and nothing can affect its purity. LOVE is a serene inner peace and a paradise, a garden without walls and a distinct unique satisfaction without measure and a day without night. LOVE is the ultimate destination of light in its journey from beginning to end. LOVE is life that has no opposite. Allah is the source and Allah is the final destination.

Our Lord [swt] says: **Whoever obeys the Divine Sovereign Lord and the Messenger, such ones will be among those whom Allah has endowed with His special favors,** (to dwell permanently in janna paradise) in the company of the prophets, the truthful believers, the martyrs, and the righteous ones, and **how beautiful is such fellowship!**) Such munificent grace comes from Allah, and most sufficient is the Divine Sovereign and Supreme for an All-Knowing Lord. (4:69-70)

وَمَن يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِم مِّنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصَّدِّيقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ
 وَالصَّالِحِينَ ۖ
 وَحَسُنَ أُولَٰئِكَ رَفِيقًا

Our Lord [swt] says: **“You have a good model in Allah's Messenger to follow, for someone who hopes to meet Allah [with true faith and sincerity], who has good aspirations for the Last Day, and who keeps celebrating Allah's praises.”** (33:21)

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا
Our Lord [swt] says: **“So that you may believe in the Divine Sovereignty of Allah and in His Messenger whom you should honor, acknowledge his reverent station, and exalt his praises morning and evening.”** (48:9)

لَتُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتُعَزِّرُوهُ وَتُوَقِّرُوهُ وَتَتَّبِعُوهُ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا
May our Lord increase and multiply His most magnificent Holy bestowal of Divine Grace and Salawaat blessings on You O Prophet of Allah, O beloved of Allah, O son of Abdullah son of Abdul-Muttalib, O Messenger of Allah [swt], O Messenger of Peace.

As our Lord, Allah [swt] says: **“We sent you as Our Mercy to all.”** (21:107) -
(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ)

Abdullah bin Mas'oud ؓ said: “We were in the company of Allah’s Messenger [uwbp] on a short journey. Allah’s Messenger [uwbp] went alone for a short walk. Meanwhile, we saw a nest of a red sparrow. There we found two baby birds and we took them. Shortly after that, the mother sparrow flew in and found out that her fledglings were not in the nest. The mother sparrow became extremely upset and started flapping her wings. When Allah’s Messenger (uwbp) came back and saw that, he asked: **“Who agonized this mother and caused her to suffer for the sake of her babies? Give her back her fledglings,”** and we complied. (Narrated by Abu Dawoud)

In another one of similar countless stories, a camel once came near Allah’s Messenger [uwbp] with his eyes filled with tears. When Allah’s Messenger [uwbp] saw that, his eyes also became filled with tears, and he kindly rubbed the camel’s head and his ear, and then asked: “Who does this camel belong to?” A young boy came and claimed it. Allah’s Messenger [uwbp] then said to the boy: “Don’t you fear Allah with respect to this [poor] animal Allah entrusted it to you? **This camel is complaining that you rarely feed him, and that you overload him with burdens and duties.”** (Narrated by Imam Ahmad)

Indeed, Allah's Messenger [uwbp] and the Seal of all the Prophets [upon all of whom be peace] is the preacher who called people to their Lord [swt]. He is the true leader and guide who brings his followers to the safe haven of reaching their Lord and Creator on the Straight Path. He is the true savior and deliverer of the Divine Speech and the Final Message of our Lord [swt], namely the Holy Quranic revelation, the guide to his Lord [swt], and the explainer of the Divine Holy Revelation by permission of the Lord of all creations. He is the one who established the Divine Law by which the believers live in this life and by which the creation will be judged on the **Day of Judgment**. That is who is Allah's Messenger upon whom be peace.

Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is indeed the witness who attested and confirmed the preceding Divine messages to humanity, the coming of the prophets and messengers [upon all of whom be peace] sent by their Lord [swt] to their nations. Our Lord says: **"And that will be the Day [of Judgment] when We bring forth a witness from each nation [their prophet], and We bring you [O Prophet] as a main witness on your nation."** (16:89)

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ شَهِيدًا عَلَى هَؤُلَاءِ

Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is also the ultimate Intercessor [الشفيع] before the Lord who will offer petitionary prayers for his Umma followers on the Day of Judgment. Allah, the Most Supreme, Lord of Divine Grace established that obeying the Messenger is the true expression of Obeying Allah [swt], He says: **"Whoever obeys the Messenger would have obeyed Allah, and whoever [refuses to obey him,] turns his back and walks away, [would have disobeyed Allah's commands]; – for We did not sent you as a keeper over them."** (4:80)

مَنْ يُطِعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ وَمَنْ تَوَلَّى فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِظًا

Our Lord, Allah [swt] further established that true **"faith"** needs to be verified through **"obedience"** and consent to Allah's Messenger's concluding judgment: **"By no means will they be believers, and your Lord is the Witness to that, unless they come to you to arbitrate concerning their differences, and find no objection in their hearts towards your verdict, and submit to it unconditionally."** (4:65)

فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

When Allah's Messenger [uwbp] proclaimed by Divine Command: "Say [to them]: **"I am only human like you, and it is being revealed to me that your Divine Sovereign Lord is One."**" (41:6)

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمْ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ

He in fact described in this verse by Divine Command his human nature as well as his Spiritual essence that is appropriate, suited and ready to receive Divine Spiritual communication [Wahi - وَحْيٍ]. For only such spotless and pure soul, a dedicated and a chosen blessed spirit can reside in such station, the station of receiving [Wahi - وَحْيٍ] the Divine Spiritual Communication.

Our Lord Allah [swt] celebrated his Messengership saying: [وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ] - **"Indeed Muhammad is only a messenger."** (3:144)

But then, Allah [swt] further identifies his rank and blessed mission: **"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of all the Prophets; and Allah certainly knows everything."**

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۚ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا
"The Messenger of Allah" whose virtues and most lofty spiritual reality are not hidden even to the heavenly malaa'ika angels or to the Arch-Angels Gabriel, Michael and Israfeel or Mālik the Guardian angel of Janna Paradise among myriads of Malaa'ika angels he met during the Mi'rāj, the miracle of the Nocturnal journey among others.

In fact, Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is a Divine blessing wherever he went or visited and wherever he stayed. He was a blessing to Mecca and then to Medina among other places he visited on this planet, as well as he was a blessing to the heavens as he traveled through them and to Janna paradise as he entered it, as well as he makes the final entry therein, as he will be the first to enter it leading the believers after the Day of Judgment.

Our beloved Rasul Allah [uwbp] stated: **"The peace of my heart was placed in Salat prayers"** [وجعلت قرة عيني في الصلاة], and such was the result of the Divine Command: **"Just prostrate yourself and come closer [to your Lord]."** (96:19) [واسجد واقترب]

Salāt prayers help the believer to maintain visual focus and spiritual alertness, and eliminate the veils of distance while being sustained by the

Holy Divine Presence. In **Salāt prayers**, the devout servant acknowledges and celebrates the Holy Divine Attributes and resides in the comfort of the Divine nearness. In **Salāt prayers**, the devout servant solicits more of the Divine Grace to illumine his heart and both in this world and eternally in the hereafter. In **Salāt prayers**, the devout servant keeps aspiring for the overflow of Divine Grace to include him. The devout servant's heart is occupied constantly with reverence of his Lord and solicits none besides Him, and never fails to recognize the Divine work and the Holy Causal being. The devout servant keeps hoping that his Lord will erase all distractive and sidetracking figures of this world from his mind, and to replace everything with the manifestations of Divine Grace.

Allah [swt] says: **"They certainly did not estimate Allah's Supreme Authority,"** [وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ], therefore, if people could not estimate Allah's [swt] value to what His due right, then how can they value Allah's Messenger [uwbp] to his due right?

O Allah, bless our master Muhammad [uwbp] whose heart is the pure and clear mirror that reflects Your Divine Grace, and as he said: **"A believer is a mirror of the believer."** [المؤمن مرآة المؤمن]. Our Lord, Your Holy description is best suited to describe his mission: **"A harbinger heralding people to Allah by His permission, and as a bright shining lamp spreading the light."** (33:46)

وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا

The Divine Will also intended for Allah's Messenger [uwbp] to rise in true honor of the Divine Blessings and Grace when Our Lord, Allah [swt] made the covenant with the Messenger a pledge with the Divine Absolute Himself, saying: **"Those who are making a covenant with you are no less pledging their allegiance to Allah."** (48:10)

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُبَايِعُونَكَ إِنَّمَا يُبَايِعُونَ اللَّهَ

Once the believer makes a covenant with Allah's Messenger [uwbp], he sees his life in this world as a gift he is entrusted with, and he dedicates such trust (أمانة) in serving the path and to please his Lord [swt].

To praise, celebrate, extol and laude, and to express admiration for such magnificent being who is also praised by his Lord [swt], to have respect and reverence for him is certainly the true way of establishing the religion of Islam. Failing to render the Messenger of Allah his allotted status, being the

Messenger of the Lord of all creations and the Seal of the Prophets is surely a serious neglect of establishing the true way of embracing Islam.

Our Lord [swt] says: **[O Prophet!] Surely, We sent you as a witness, a carrier of glad tidings, and as a warner. [O people!] So that you may believe in the Divine Sovereignty of Allah and in His Messenger whom you should honor, acknowledge his reverent station, and exalt his praises morning and evening. (48:4-9)**

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا * لَتُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتُعَزِّرُوهُ وَتُوَقِّرُوهُ وَتُسَبِّحُوهُ
بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا *

That is who Allah's Messenger [uwbp - ﷺ] is. This is the Prophet of Islam, the Seal of all the Prophets and Messengers [upon all of whom be peace] since Adam [uwbp]. He is our beloved Prophet and the beloved of our Lord [swt]. He is indeed the beloved of all the Prophets and the entirety of the dwellers of the heavens and all the firmaments. He is Muhammad Rasul Allah [uwbp], the Messenger of Allah [swt], the Messenger of Peace and the religion of Peace, the beloved of the blessed companions [ral], and **should we be talking about human love for a human being**, then there should be no more **marvelous love story** greater and more important than the love of a believer for Allah's Prophet Muhammad [uwbp], the Messenger of Allah [uwbp]. How many people would have loved to meet him? How many people would have aspired to walk in his company, to sit with him, to listen to his wisdom, to witness the Divine Revelation descending on him, to look even once at his most beautiful most luminous and radiant countenance? How many people love him and are always yearning to meet with him and aspire to drink a sip of water from his pond at the fountain of abundance **Al-Kawthar**? With his mission, the final tenets of the religion of Islam were established, and the heavenly Divine messages to humanity were concluded by his coming.

To LOVE in Allah [swt] is the blessed fruit of one's LOVE for his Lord [swt]. Imam Malik commented: "To love for the sake of Allah ﷻ is an essential binding duty on every Muslim." - In fact, the sweet taste of true faith is bounded to the spiritual pleasure one experiences in his devotion. Therefore, once the servant tastes the sweetness of devotion (عبودية) to his Lord and Creator [swt], he will never experience otherwise a more delightful, more pleasant and more rewarding spiritual happiness and pleasure besides his love and obedience to Allah's Messenger [uwbp] as a solid proof of his

sincerity (إخلاص) in his faith. Thereat, the heart becomes captivated by the LOVE of Allah [swt], always turning towards Him, reverent of Him and soliciting His acceptance.

Whether people acknowledge and recognize his already proclaimed and stated stature in the sight of his Lord or not, such important realization does not raise his standing or add a new title to his already most celebrated praiseworthiness since the Lord and Creator of the 18,000 universes praises him continuously. Furthermore, whether people who pray five times a day or more feel such love for Allah's beloved Messenger [uwbp] or not and forget about him even during their Salāt prayers, that too does not affect his stature and Allah's support and love for him, and the love reverence and respect for him by the entirety of heavenly beings, the cherubs (الكروبيون), and the Arc-Angels Gabriel, Michael, Isrāfeel and others because they recognize his stature in the sight of our Lord [swt].

In fact, Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is the one to whom the Holy Quranic revelation was revealed, and such stature can only be admired by whoever has even an atom of faith.

"MERCY TO ALL." (رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ)

To emphasize his relationship with the entirety of his followers, our beloved Prophet Muhammad [uwbp], the Messenger of Allah [swt] used to often express his yearning to meet with the believers of future times, as well as he expressed his love for them and anticipation to meet them.

Anas bin Malik, may Allah be pleased with him narrated that Allah's Messenger said: **"I wish I met my brothers."** The companions then said: "Are we not your brothers?" He replied: "You are my companions, but my beloved brothers are those who will come later, they believe in me without seeing me." - In another narration, Allah's beloved Messenger [uwbp] used the expression, **"My beloveds."**

قول رسول الله ﷺ: "وَدِدْتُ أَنِّي لَقَيْتُ إِخْوَانِي .

فقال أصحاب النبي ﷺ: أوليس نحن إخوانك؟

قال: "أنتم أصحابي، ولكن إخواني الذين آمنوا بي ولم يروني"

Also on this subject, **Abu 'Ubaida al-Jarrah** ﷺ asked Allah's Messenger [uwbp]: "Are there people who are better than us? We embraced Islam with you and we supported you?" He replied: "Indeed, **people who will come after you, who believe in me and who did not see me**".

To love Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is a required necessary obligatory duty for every believer because he is the beloved of Allah [swt], and whoever loves his Lord must love the one whom Allah loves. The believers need to love Allah's Messenger [uwbp] and must further love him because he is a Divine gift of Allah's Mercy and compassion, a direct special Divine favor and blessings, and because he is "**Most loving and compassionate towards the believers.**" – (بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ).

Indeed, there are clear reasons to motivate our concerns to win such love for the beloved of Allah [swt] among which is our extreme admiration and love for the Magnificence of our Lord Allah [swt], and in that sense, to love Allah's Messenger [uwbp] is derived from our love for Allah our Lord and Creator [swt], because Allah's Prophet [uwbp] is the Sayyid of all the children of Adam [uwbp], because Allah's Prophet [uwbp] is the Messenger who delivered the Divine Law, because Allah's Prophet [uwbp] reserved extreme love and compassion for the believers, he advised them, he bore extreme patience and tolerance throughout long years of delivering the Divine Message to humanity; he possessed a most magnificent character and because love for Allah's Messenger [uwbp] receives the best of rewards in this life and eternally in the hereafter.

Allah's Messenger's devotion and love for his Lord is the most praiseworthy love; that is why he is also called "**Ahmad**" - the best praising of his Lord. In fact, his love and devotion to his Lord filled his entire being and spread everywhere he is. His message is a message of peace, compassion, kindness and love. No sane being with sound understanding would hear of him but feels love for him and yearns to meet with him.

Our Lord, Allah [swt] clarifies his mission saying: "**Indeed, We sent you as Our Mercy to all.**" (21:107)

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

In fact, people can never experience true faith unless and until their love for Allah's Messenger [uwbp] by-passes their love for anyone else including themselves.

Ibn Abbas ؓ, may Allah be pleased with him commented on this Quranic verse saying: **“Whoever follows him, Allah’s Messenger [uwbp] will be Mercy for him in this life and in the hereafter, and whoever [heard of him] but did not follow him, will still be safe from disasters in this life by which earlier nations were annihilated.”**

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ قَالَ: مَنْ تَبِعَهُ كَانَ لَهُ رَحْمَةٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ، وَمَنْ لَمْ يَتَّبِعْهُ عُوْفِي مِمَّا كَانَ يُبْتَغَى سَائِرُ الْأُمَمِ مِنَ الْمَسْخِ، وَالْخَسْفِ، وَالْقَذْفِ".

Anas, may Allah be pleased with him narrated that Allah’s Messenger [uwbp] said: **“None of you will become a believer until I am more loved by him than his own father, his son and all people.”**

لا يؤمن أحدكم حتى أكون أحب إليه من والده وولده والناس أجمعين

Once the believer commits a sincere and a true pledge [بيعة] with Allah’s Messenger [uwbp], he sees his days and entire life in this world as a mere assignment he is entrusted with to spend it exclusively on his path,

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو بْنِ الْعَاصِ أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ ﷺ رَفَعَ يَدَيْهِ وَقَالَ: اللَّهُمَّ أُمَّتِي أُمَّتِي وَبَكَى فَقَالَ اللَّهُ ﷻ يَا جِبْرِيلُ اذْهَبْ إِلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَرَبُّكَ أَعْلَمُ فَسَلَّهُ مَا يُبْكِيكَ فَأَتَاهُ جِبْرِيلُ ﷺ فَسَأَلَهُ فَأَخْبَرَهُ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ بِمَا قَالَ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ فَقَالَ اللَّهُ يَا جِبْرِيلُ اذْهَبْ إِلَى مُحَمَّدٍ فَقُلْ "إِنَّا سَنُرْضِيكَ فِي أَمَّتِكَ وَلَا نَسُوءُكَ". (صحيح مسلم: كتاب الإيمان)

Abdullah bnu Amr bnul 3Aas narrated that Allah’s Prophet [uwbp] raised his hand and prayed: “My Lord! My umma followers, my umma followers,” and he cried. Thereat, Allah [swt] said: **“O Jibreel, go to Muhammad (and your Lord knows best) and ask him what is making him cry!”** Jibreel [uwp] came and asked, and Allah’s Messenger [uwbp] told him, Jibreel [uwp] reported back to his Lord and Allah knows best, He said: **“Go to Muhammad and say to him: “We will grant you full satisfaction concerning your umma followers and We will not let you down.”**

Therefore, there true knowledge cannot be accomplished, and gratification of looking at the most beautiful and luminous countenance of Allah’s Messenger [uwbp] cannot be reached except by instilling that unique love for him and by following his correct Sunna tradition.

الدعاء:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى وَيَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ

Allah enjoins what is just and equitable, truthfulness and sincerity in one's devotion, and to maintain good kinship with one's family, and He forbids obscenity, abomination and transgression. He admonishes you [to observe His commands] so perhaps you may remember. (16: 90)

" سبحان ربك رب العزة عما يصفون وسلام على المرسلين والحمد لله رب العالمين ".

Glory be to your Lord, the Eminent Lord of Supreme Powers. He is surely most exalted above and beyond their false characterization [of Him]. Peace be upon all of the Messengers. And all praises are due to the Divine Sovereign Lord of all creations. (37:180)

Al-faqir ila Rahmati Rabbihi

Muhammad al-Akili

Annoor Mosque

Zawiya Fellowship

Cambridge, Ontario

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ZAWIYA FELLOWSHIP

53 – 55 Victoria Avenue
Cambridge, ON N1S 1X2

www.zawiyafellowship.com

Friday Khutba Sermon

MERCY TO ALL

رحمة للعالمين

By Shaykh Muhammad Al-Akili

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