

AL-AQILIYYA SERMONS & PRAYERS

REMEMBER ME, I WILL REMEMBER YOU



Excerpts from Friday Sermon by Shaykh
Shaykh Muhammad Al-Akili

للفقير إلى رحمة ربه

محمد العقيلي

سلسلة الخطب العقيلية

Title: Remember Me, I Will Remember You

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By: Shaykh Muhammad Al-Akili

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
وَ الصَّلَاةُ وَ السَّلَامُ عَلٰی رَسُوْلِهِ الْكَرِیْمِ
Bismillahi Rahmaani Raheem
Wa Salaatu wa-Salaamu ala Rasulihi-I Kareem



**Remember Me,
I Will Remember You**

Excerpts from Friday Sermon by
Shaykh Muhammad Al-Akili

للفقير إلى رحمة ربه
محمد العقيلي



All praises are due to the Holy One, Allah ﷻ the Supreme Divine Sovereign Lord and Cherisher of all creations. "He is the Primal [before anything ever existed], and He is the Last [where there is nothing beyond Him]. He is the Manifest [there is nothing more evident than Him], He is the Immanent [there is nothing beyond Him], and He has full knowledge of everything." (Quran 57:3)

هُوَ الْأَوَّلُ وَالْآخِرُ وَالظَّاهِرُ وَالْبَاطِنُ ۗ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٢﴾

Allah ﷻ the Supreme Divine Sovereign Lord of all creations is the Infinite. No fathom can encompass His illimitableness; no creation has knowledge except for what He reveals, and our limitation to know otherwise is acknowledgment of the fact of His Divinity.

Our Lord ﷻ loves His creation. He alone determines what they need, and He is their sole provider and sustainer. Any attempts to personify or epitomize His Supreme Majesty always fail. He inspires His elite to seek Him and He alone determines what they can perceive of Him. The ranks of the elite are infinite and only He can reckon them. Some never rose from their prostration since He created them. Some may appear colossal to others but remain a token in comparison to the spread of His infiniteness. Some heavenly beings measure galaxies and others are as small as ants.

No one can reciprocate what He alone gives, but since everything originated solely from Him, their value is appreciated many folds and multiplied by Him.

Our Lord's ﷻ love for His creations is incomparable and uniquely supreme, and yet, He values greatly and appreciates a token of His creation's recognition of His Work and their acknowledgement of Him.

My dear son! In this down world, some believers ask for paradise, and others seek nothing besides Him; some aspire for health, wealth and children, and others supplicate intensely for safe crossing back to Him.

He communicates at varying levels with some of His creations, and He is graciously willing to talk to the more intelligent ones, He alone created. He communicates with the heavenly beings of His kingdom according to their level of understanding He alone advances and depending on their ranks, and with other malā'ika angels through subtle orders. Despite that, His Holy Words are always commands. Throughout ages, He spoke to some of His blessed Prophets and Messengers عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَام. He spoke in Words to our father Adam ﷺ in Paradise as well as on earth. He spoke to Noah, Abraham and to Moses عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَام and such blessed ones, upon all of whom be peace. He raised one hundred and twenty four thousand humans to the station of prophethood, and He sent three hundred and twelve Messengers عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَام to humanity across the ages and lands.

Prior to its creation, when humanity was still resident of the universe of the souls, the souls could orbit a dedicated pre-ordained sphere of the Divine Throne. Their incessant collective utterances then could only celebrate His praises. Otherwise, it was certainly unexpected and rather impossible for souls to express personal thoughts except for what they observe. What the primal souls witnessed resonated as their utterances and with such praises they joined other heavenly beings in adoring their Lord. When the souls transferred to become the embodiment of their earthly form, their pre-natal spiritual experiences were compacted to balance with the biological evolutionary state of their body. Their connection with their primal state became partially limited to the body's state of sleeping. Otherwise, their conscious awareness may become illumined again when awakened by hearkening, contemplating (arb. zikr - ذَكْر), obeying the Divine commands (arb. tTaa'a - طَاعَة), adoring their Lord (arb. 'ibada - عِبَادَة) and learning about His Holy Attributes (arb. 'ilm - عِلْم). Once their faith (arb. iman - إِيمَان) becomes certitude (arb. yaqeen - يَقِين) and their confidence is fostered by deeds (arb. 'amal - عَمَل), they can earn His blessings, and knowledge of their original state will blossom again; their hopes in receiving the Divine forgiveness and their

preparedness to be brought back to their promised then newly created lodge will absorb their aspiration and satiate their hearts with peace.

Most blessed is the Lord of all creations and far He is from forgetting even the minute need of an infinitesimal microscopic cell of His creation. His most complex multifaceted universal observation of each and every creature across the entire heavens and the galactical systems and what they contain, He alone sustains and maintains; the cycle of each life-form He alone can support, be it animate or inanimate, their renewal, revolution, rejuvenation or transformation; as the Originator, Maintainer and Provider of everything, He is praised as ‘Rabbu-l ‘Aalameen’ (رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ), the Lord of all creations, and such universal coverage proclaims Him as the sole and unique supreme Divine Sovereign Lord Who has neither associate nor partners, for He never sublet any of His duties to any of His dependents. None can maintain such Divine work except Him ﷻ. That is Allah ﷻ the Supreme Divine Lord.

The Holy Attributes He manifested, the universally never interrupted Divine operating powers He revealed and other attributes of His Absolute Omnipotent perfection, all of which will remain eternally unfathomable; the supreme marvels He made known and other Divine Attributes no human thoughts can ever conceive; the secrets of the Divine Light that fills the entire heavens and planets He distributes their stations and allocates their orbit; the secrets of life, death and resurrection He alone maintains, and on this planet earth, not even a leaf can fall from a tree without His knowledge and permission. He even hears the steps of a black ant walking on an opaque stone in a moonless dark night, and He knows its intention and final lodge. He knows what gender the womb of a mother carries as well as the future lot and destiny of that new life to be born and its lifespan. He knows each and every individual thought and intention, and He sees what the eyes look at openly or discretely. Such is the Magnificent Monitoring Lord of all creations. That is Allah ﷻ the Supreme Divine Lord to Whom we submit. That is Allah ﷻ the Supreme Divine Lord Whom we are blessed to worship and adore.

The pathway He designated for us is straight forward. Thereat, He prescribed for us what is good and beneficial, and warned us against

what is wrong and harmful. His shield is the most effulgent light; He guards with it those who accept His guidance. As to those in oblivion who neglected or refused His guidance and ignored His compassionate warning against a lasting and painful end, He lets them meet with the consequent shock of the forbidden, and to abide in the abyss of darkness they were warned against.

My son! In this life, we marvel at the beautiful sight of stars that decorate the clear skies at night. We marvel at the sight of vast seas, mountains, meadows, birds, flowers and their fragrance, butterflies and their silkworms, ants and their tribes, or even the miracle of colors He created. We marvel at the birth of a baby, and no intelligent human being can never cease to ponder His countless wonders. Not even the collective efforts of all humanity across the ages can stop the miracle of death. Our Lord ﷻ also promised the sure coming miracle of resurrection and a Day of Judgment for all.

A sample point of His unique Divine perfection is most eminently detailed even in the making of a mosquito. The head of each mosquito has one hundred eyes in honeycomb formation, forty eight tooth in its mouthpart, three hearts -- one central, and a heart for each wing -- that has two common access atriums plus two inner chambers, multilevel heat sensors, blood type analysis capability, transparent anesthetic substance producing cells, blood thinning chemical, a prehensile trunk with six extremely sharp knives -- four to cause a square cut in skin, and two knives that join and become a pipe to ease sucking its food. The feet of a mosquito also have claws to climb on rough surfaces, and suction clamps to climb on slippery surfaces. These are just a few of the featured parts of a mosquito, not to mention its life cycle, community and environmental conditions among others. Our Lord says: "Allah does not shy to use a mosquito for a parable, or even a larger creature. The believers know it is the truth from their Lord, while the unbelievers say: 'What does Allah mean by this parable?' With it, He lets many people go astray, and with it, He guides many people on the straight path, and He lets only the evildoers stray from the right path." (Quran 2:26)

Those who deny the truth say: "Is it true that once we and our fathers become dust that we will be raised [from the dead]? We were

promised as well as our forefathers were told that before. These are only legends foretold by earlier nations." (Quran 22:73) Say [to them]: "You wait and see, and here we are also waiting." (Quran 6:158) "Even if the entire creations muster their efforts, they cannot create even a fly, and should a fly nip something from them, they cannot recover it. Both the seeker and the wanted are equally weak." (Quran 22:73)

I bear witness that there is no Divine Sovereignty except that of Allah ﷻ, and I here testify that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. "He sent His Messenger with the correct guidance and the true religion, to proclaim its eminence and superiority over all religions, regardless of what the polytheists don't like [to see]." (Quran 9:33)

Our Lord, our submission to You is indeed a record of Your favors on us when You removed the veils that distracted our focus from pondering Your reality, and when You said: "I am Allah. There is no Divine Sovereign Lord except Me. Therefore, worship Me and hold regularly to Salat prayers to continue celebrating My praises. The [Last] Hour is certainly coming before too long. I am just about to reveal it, so that each soul receives its just retribution according to its own striving. Therefore, let no one who does not believe in it and who pursues his own obsession divert your focus from its approach, else you will suffer a perilous end." (Quran 20:14-16)

This Holy Message was revealed a few thousand years back to Allah's Prophet and Messenger Moses ﷺ upon whom be peace, when our Lord spoke to him at the Sacred Valley in Sinai, and then, the same message was rehearsed some fifteen hundred years ago to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the Seal of Allah's Prophets and Messengers upon all of whom be peace. The Sacred Message of the Glorious Quran is the sure testimonial of that.

Our Lord! Your special Grace and All-Encompassing Mercy is the lot of the elite who accept Your guidance and who adore and worship You devoutly. Our Lord! Your universal incessant Divine Compassion touches all lifeforms You alone sustain. Our Lord, You created no associations, partnerships or independent sovereignties in Your Kingdom, and You never sublet its control. None of Your creation has control over his own life, then how can anyone ever carry or manage

other than what You assigned and keep maintaining, all of which are easy for You, blessed is Your Name. The truth is in what You said: “If the heavens and the earth had any divinities except for Allah, they would have become corrupt. Indeed, Most Exalted is Allah, the Lord of the Divine Throne, and [far He is] from what they ascribe [to Him].” (Quran 21:22) “He sent His Messenger with the correct guidance and the true religion to proclaim its eminence and superiority over all religions, regardless of what the polytheists don't like [to see].” (Quran 9:33) “Those who convey Allah's Messages, who revere Allah only and fear no one besides Him, and sufficient is Allah as a judge for accountability.” (Quran 33:39-48)

My dear son, when a human being confronts his daily challenges and trials in this down life, he also recognizes his limitations, weaknesses and failures, and he can only turn to the One Who created him and Who sustains him for help, guidance and strength. Recognition of the Divine work of creating the souls, the magnificent gift of their embodiment in this down world, and their promised eventual return to their Lord are three phased process, all creations will necessarily experience regardless of one's inclinations, indulgences or faith. Humans are one of the subjects of this required transition and transformation.

Furthermore, the scope of a universe is only limited by the degree of one's level of perception. However, in reality, Almighty Allah's most magnificent work is far beyond any realization He alone can permit. Only Allah the Most Supreme knows His infiniteness, and yet His Throne encompasses the entire firmaments and what they contain. All boundaries and dependencies, He alone created with His own perfection, are preset limitations for His creation He endowed with an innate ability to recognize. What a magnificent feeling one acquires when worshipping his Lord and Creator ﷻ blessed is His Name from such infinitesimal local station one occupies to recognize and adore the Infinite Magnificent One ﷻ. That is certainly a great blessing and a feeling He alone sustains. On the other hand, one can certainly feel powerless and wonders as to how he can contemplate the vastness and magnificence of Allah's work. Allah's beloved Messenger ﷺ upon whom be peace taught us: “You may ponder the creation of Allah ﷻ

and do not contemplate on Him, for you can never measure His Divine Essence."

يَقُولُ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ:

"تَفَكَّرُوا فِي خَلْقِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَفَكَّرُوا فِي اللَّهِ فَإِنَّكُمْ لَنْ تَقْدِرُوا قَدْرَهُ."

Meanwhile, a believing servant can still focus inwardly and outwardly to express his gratitude for the ability to recognize such reality of the Divine Presence. To come before one's Creator, to praise Him, to pray and humbly implore Him to grant his request and to satisfy his needs, is a blessed station a servant owes to his Lord and Creator ﷻ. Otherwise, our Lord's instructions to those in need are simple and clear, "Call Me, and I will answer your call." (Quran 40:60) "Remember Me, I will remember you." (Quran 2:152)

﴿۱۵۲﴾ فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكَرْكُمْ

Remember Me, I Will Remember You:

There is absolutely no sharing of roles in this Divine invitation. The Holy Speech: "Remember Me, I will remember you," in other words the Divine Statement may also mean: "Speak of Me, I will speak of you. Speak of Me in your circles, I will speak of you in a higher assembly. Mention Me I, will mention you. Celebrate My praises, I will make you praiseworthy. Testify to My Sovereignty and Lordship, I will confirm your truthfulness and let you into My paradise. Read My Book, I will expand your understanding. Contemplate the benefits you receive from My creation, I will consider raising you in station. Do not forget My governing Attributes, I will not overlook increasing My favors on you. Remember My favors on you, I will include you in My extra endowments. Repent to Me, I will acknowledge your sincerity and forgive you. Place your trust in Me, I will satisfy all your needs. Answer My call to Salaat prayers, I will answer your supplications and prayers. Ask Me to forgive you, I will shelter you from My inexorable decrees. Be grateful for what befalls you in this down world as a result of your own actions, I will strengthen your faith. Fear My punishment of the sinners, I will guard you from falling into sin. Cease and abstain from wrongdoing and repent to Me, I will pardon you and erase your sins. Show true remorse for your failures to obey Me, I will forgive you

and replace your sorrow with permanent peace and comfort. Endure patiently with your temporary difficulties, I will grant you permanent joy and happiness. Stand up for My Message and support My Messenger ﷺ, I will support you. Bow to Me, I will subject the heavens and the earth to serve your needs. Obey My commands, I will lighten your burdens the Day you cross from the earthly life into the hereafter. Be aware of Me, I will raise your alertness to be in stream with the blessed ones. Respond to My call, I will spare you from much of the trials that cross your pathway back to Me. Never object to My Will, I will let you reap the benefits of obeying My Commands. Testify to My universal justice, I will acknowledge your efforts I alone sustain. Remember that you were nothing before I created you, I will expand your understanding of the status you hold in My Kingdom. Realize that you are only a single entity of My infinite number of creations I alone reckon, I will let you understand your true value in My Esteem. Consider the consequences of what happened to nations who refused to accept My admonition, I will save you from sufferings in this life and in the next. Call on Me, I will answer your call. Loan Me a good loan when a pauper asks you to assist him, I will multiply your reward many folds. Help the needy of My servants, I will pay your debts for you. Tell others about Me, I will raise your name in honor among My heavenly beings. Associate no one with Me, I will place you in the company of My beloved servants. Ask Me, I will teach you. Acknowledge that I am the only One Who can satisfy your needs, I will increase My bounty on you. Place all your needs before Me, I will fulfill them for you. Tell the truth about Me, I will let you recognize who is lying to you. Know that you have no escape from Me but to Me, I will guarantee your salvation. Be grateful for the gift of sight I gave you, I will replace it with insight for you. Never forget the gift of hearing I granted you, I will expand it with hearing My call to you. Know that I am the All-Hearing All-Seeing Lord and there is no Sovereign Lord except Me, I will expand your recognition of My Omnipresence for you. Come to Me, I will come faster to you. Tell me about your extra wishes for the hereafter, I will bless you to behold My Light. Realize that every second you live in the down world is your opportunity to receive My forgiveness, I will alleviate your sufferings. Acknowledge My Presence when you deal with others, I will bless your commerce. Do not cross the boundaries I set for you, I will protect

you and I will command My malaa'ika angels to guard you. Ask Me to heal your heart from hypocrisy, for most certainly, only I can cure your mental and physical illnesses by My Will. Join Me and My malaa'ika angels in blessing My Prophet ﷺ, I will bring you out of the layers of darkness into the Light. Obey My Messenger ﷺ, I will make his intercession encompass you. "I am your Lord and there is no Sovereign Lord except Me." (Quran 20:14)

"Therefore, remember Me [in your devotion,] I keep you in My consideration [for reward], and be thankful and never be ungrateful to Me." (Quran 2:152)

فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكَرُكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِي وَلَا تَكْفُرُونَ ﴿١٥٢﴾

My dear son! Remember that Allah gains nothing from your offerings. However, when you do good, He recognizes the piety you demonstrate. He dedicated what you have to satisfy your needs, and for you to be grateful to Him for guiding you on the straight path. Our Lord says: "And should My servants ask you about Me, I am indeed near, and I answer the prayers of one who calls upon Me. Hence, they must respond to My call, and put their faith in Me in order to attain guidance and reach true understanding." (Quran 2:186)

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ ۗ
فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

"O mankind! Worship your Lord who created you and those who have gone before you, perhaps then you could foster piety." (Quran 2:21)

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

"All praises are due to the Divine Sovereign Lord to Whom belongs everything in the heavens and on earth, and the utmost gratitude is due to Him in the hereafter [continuously], and He is the Most Wise and the Well Acquainted [with everything]. (Quran 34:1)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْخَبِيرُ ﴿١﴾

Glory be to You our Lord, You alone do we worship, and Your help alone we seek.

Al-faqir ila Rahmati Rabbihi

Muhammad Al-Akili

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