

KHUTBA

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English

The good (or blessed) end

Dear Muslims,

A good end means when a person was guided before his death to keep away from that which angers the Lord, to repent from sin, to focus on doing acts of worship and good deeds, and then to die in this good state. This blessed end has been indicated in sahih hadith reported by Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) who said: The Messenger of Allah (saws) said: **«When Allah wills good for His slave, He uses him.» They said: «How does He use him? » He said: «He guides him to do good deeds before he dies.»** [Ahmad]

The Messenger of Allah (saws) also said: **«When Allah wills good for His slave, He sweetens him.» He was asked: «What is this sweetening?» He said: «Allah guides him to do righteous deeds before he dies, then He takes (his soul) whilst he is in that state.»** [Ahmad]

There are certain signs of a good end that appear to the dying person and give him the glad tidings, that Allah is pleased with him. These glad tidings come only to the true believers, who were guided to do good deeds, when they are dying.

Verily, those who say: 'Our Lord is Allah (Alone),' and then they stand firm, on them the angels will descend (at the time of their death) (saying): 'Fear not, nor grieve! But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised!' [41:30]

This is also indicated by the hadeeth narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim from the Mother of the Believers Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) who said: The Messenger of Allah (saws) said: **«Whoever loves to meet Allah, Allah loves to meet him, and whoever hates to meet Allah, Allah hates to meet him.» I said: «O Prophet of Allah, do you mean hating death, for all of us hate death?» He said: «It is not like that; but when the believer is given the glad tidings of the mercy and pleasure of Allah, and His Paradise, he loves to meet Allah. And when the kaafir is given the tidings of the wrath and punishment of Allah, he hates to meet Allah and Allah hates to meet him.»**

Al-Nawawi (may Allah have mercy on him) said: **«What this hadith means is that the love and hate that are referred to here are those that happen when one enters the stage in which repentance is not accepted, where the dying person is told of his situation and he is shown his destiny.»**

There are many signs of a good end, which the scholars (may Allah have mercy on them) have derived from the texts which speak of that. These signs include the following:

1 – Uttering the shahadah (testimony of faith) when dying, because the Prophet (saws) said, as reported by Moath Ibn Jabal: **«A person whose last words are La ilaha illa Allah [there is no God but Allah] will enter Paradise.»** [Abu Dawood]

2 – Dying with sweat on the forehead, because al-Buraydah ibn al-Husayb (may Allah be pleased with him) said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (saws) saying: **«The believer dies with sweat on his forehead.»** [Ahmad]

3 – Dying on the night or day of Friday, because the Messenger of Allah (saws) said: **There is no Muslim who dies on the day of Friday or the night of Friday, but Allah will protect him from the trial (fitnah) of the grave.** [Al-Tirmidhi]

4 – Dying as a fighter for the sake of Allah, whether in or out of the battle, because Allah says:

*Think not of those as dead who are killed in the way of Allah. Nay, they are alive, with their Lord, and they have provision * They rejoice in what Allah has bestowed upon them of His Bounty and rejoice for the sake of those who have not yet joined them, but are left behind (not yet martyred) that on them no fear shall come, nor shall they grieve * They rejoice in a grace and a bounty from Allah, and that Allah will not waste the reward of the believers.* [3:169-171]

And the Prophet (saws) said to his companion: **Whom do you consider to be a martyr among you? They said: One who is slain in the way of Allah is a martyr. He said: Then (if this is the definition of a martyr) the martyrs of my Umma will be small in number. They asked: Messenger of Allah, who are they? He said: One who is slain in the way of Allah is a martyr; one who dies in the way of Allah, is a martyr; one who dies of plague is a martyr; one who dies of cholera is a martyr.**

The martyr (shahid) has 7 blessings from Allah: he is forgiven from the moment his blood is first shed; he

will be shown his place in Paradise; he will be spared the trial of the grave; and he will be secure on the Day of the Greatest Terror (the Day of Judgement); there will be placed on his head a crown of dignity, one ruby of which is better than this world and all that is in it; he will be married to 72 of al-hoor al-ayn; and he will be permitted to intercede for 70 of his relatives. [Al-Tirmidhi]

5 – Dying of the plague, because the Prophet (saws) said: **«The plague is martyrdom for every Muslim»** [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

6 – Dying of a stomach disease. The Prophet (saws) said: **«... and whoever dies of a stomach disease is a martyr.»** [Muslim]

7 – Dying because of being crushed by a falling wall or by drowning, because the Prophet (saws) said: **«The martyrs are five: the one who dies of plague, the one who dies of a stomach disease, the one who drowns, the one who is crushed by a falling wall, and the one who is martyred for the sake of Allah.»** [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

8 – If a woman dies as a result of childbirth, or when she is pregnant. The evidence for that includes the hadith reported by ‘Ubaadah ibn al-Saamit from prophet Mohamed who once asked his companion: **«Who is counted as a shaheed among you?» They said: «The one who fights and is killed for the sake of Allah.» Prophet Mohamed said: «Then the shahids among my ummah would be few. The one who is killed for the sake of Allah is a shahid; the one who dies of plague is a shahid; the one who dies of a stomach disease is a shahid; the woman who dies with a child in her womb is a shahid.»** [Ahmad]

9 – Dying to defend one’s religion, one’s wealth or one’s life, because the Prophet (saws) said: **«Whoever dies protecting his religion, he is a martyr; whoever dies protecting his wealth, he is a martyr; whoever dies protecting his family, he is a martyr; and whoever dies protecting his blood (i.e. his life), he is a martyr.»** [Abu Dawood]

Al-Bukhari and Muslim narrated that Abd-Allah ibn Amr (may Allah be pleased with him) said: I heard the Prophet (saws) saying: **«Whoever is killed defending his wealth is a martyr.»**

10 – Dying guarding the borders of Islam for the sake of Allah. Muslim narrated that Salmaan al-Faarisi (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (saws) said: **«Guarding the borders of Islam for one day and one night is better than fasting and praying at night for a whole month, and if he dies (whilst performing this duty), he will go on receiving the reward for this great deed and his provision (continually), and he will be spared the questioning in the grave.»**

11 – One of the signs of a good end is dying whilst doing a righteous deed, because the Prophet (saws) said: **Whoever says La ilaha illa Allah, seeking the Countenance of Allah thereby, and that is the last of his deeds, will enter Paradise. Whoever gives charity and that is the last of his deeds will enter Paradise.** [Ahmad]

These are the good signs which point to a good end; despite that, however, we cannot be certain that a specific person is one of the people of Paradise unless the Prophet (saws) testified that he will go to Paradise, such as the four khalifah.

So the whole person’s life is summarized in his last moment. If he did good, then he will be shown good tidings and promised with great rewards; and if not then he will be shown a bad tidings and promised with punishment.

Now let us live with three examples of people who had a good end:

Before the start of the battle of Uhud, Abdullah ibn Jahsh prayed to Allah: **«O’ Lord, Let me meet a man of great standing and enormous fury. I shall fight him for Your sake, O Lord, and he shall fight me. He shall take me and cut off my nose and ears and when I meet You on the morrow You will ask: ‘For what were your nose and ear cut off?’ And I would reply: ‘For Your sake and for the sake of Your Prophet. And then You would say: You have spoken the truth.’»** He was found dead in a status exactly as he prayed.

The story of Umayr Ibn Alhamam in battle of Uhud. Just before the battle, the Prophet (saws) said: **«Rise to Paradise, which is as wide as the distance between the heavens and the earth.»** Umayr Ibn Al-Hamam asked: **«O Messenger of Allah, is it really as wide than the heavens and earth?»** Prophet Mohammad replied: **«Yes.»** Thereupon Umayr said: **«Bakh Bakh.»** (an expression reflecting astonishment). The Prophet asked: **«What made you say Bakh Bakh?»** He said: **«Nothing, except the desire to be of its dwellers.»** The Prophet said: **«You will be of its people.»** Then Umayr took out some dates which he had in his arrow pouch and started eating them, then he stopped and said to himself: **«Indeed it would a too long a life for me if I were to live long enough to finish eating these dates»** Then he threw them away and fought until he was killed.

When Umar Ibn Abdelaziz was dying he said to the people surrounded him: Please let me alone. So they went out and stood by the door. There after they heard him saying: Welcome this faces, neither for human or jinni. After that he started reciting ***That Home of the Hereafter We shall give to those who intend not high-handedness or mischief on earth: and the end is (best) for the righteous.*** [28:83], and then died.

Dear Muslims,

We have to do our best to get this good and blessed end. That should be the aim of every Muslim, because it is the way for permanent happiness. Here are some advices how to reach this nice end:

- Doing the obligatory prayers in time and in Jamaah (in groups), preferably in Masjid when possible. The Prophet (PBUH) said: «**Whoever pray A-Burdain (meaning Fajr and Asr prayers), will be in Paradise.**» [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]
- Have strong Faith in Allah and continuously try to reform yourself and others. ***We send the apostles only to give good news and to warn: so those who believe and mend (their lives),- upon them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.*** [6:48]
- Fear Allah and follow his orders. ***That Home of the Hereafter We shall give to those who intend not high-handedness or mischief on earth: and the end is (best) for the righteous.*** [28:83]

Enjoin prayer on thy people, and be constant therein. We ask thee not to provide sustenance: We provide it for thee. But the (fruit of) the Hereafter is for righteousness. [20:132]

- Avoid doing sins, specially the great sins. ***If ye (but) eschew the most heinous of the things which ye are forbidden to do, We shall expel out of you all the evil in you, and admit you to a Gate of great honour.*** [4:31]
- Follow the way and guidance of Prophet Mohamed (PBUH), his companion and the *Salaf*. ***Ye have indeed in the Apostle of God a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in God and the Final Day, and who engages much in the Praise of God.*** [33:21]

The vanguard (of Islam)- the first of those who forsook (their homes) and of those who gave them aid, and (also) those who follow them in (all) good deeds,- well-pleased is God with them, as are they with Him: for them hath He prepared gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein for ever: that is the supreme felicity. [9:100]

- Avoid obsessing or harming people. Abdullah Bin Amrou Bin Al-A's reported Prophet Mohamed as saying: «**The Muslim is the person who other Muslims fear no harm from his tongue or hand; and the Muhajer (immigrant) is the person who avoids what Allah has made forbidden.**» [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]
- Do charity and good things, show kindness and help other people (Muslims or non Muslims). ***Those who (in charity) spend of their goods by night and by day, in secret and in public, have their reward with their Lord: on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.*** [2:274]
- Praying to Allah asking for this good end for you as well as for your brother Muslims. ***And your Lord says: "Call on Me; I will answer your (Prayer): but those who are too arrogant to serve Me will surely find themselves in Hell - in humiliation!"*** [40:60]

Prophet Mohammad said: «**Whoever prays for his brother behind his back has an angel saying to him: 'And for you the same.'**» [Muslim]

Finally, we ask Allah to confer His mercy upon all Muslims, our parents, our children and upon us. We ask Him to forgive our sins and to grant us a good end.

Amen

Khutba by Sidi Mohammed Ould Cherif