

KHUTBA

Friday 11.12.09

The concept of worship

Dear Muslims,

As mentioned last Friday, The mission and the task we were created for is to worship Allah. ***I have only created Jinns and men, that they may serve Me.*** [Koran, 51:56]. This is the main mission for whom we have to work and dedicate our lives. To do that we need to understand the concept of worship, in order to perform it in the best way.

So what is the right concept of worship?

- First of all, the worship should be only for Allah as the only God in the universe. This can only be achieved by obeying Him and following His orders and guide.
They take their priests and their anchorites to be their lords in derogation of God, and (they take as their Lord) Christ the son of Mary; yet they were commanded to worship but One God: there is no god but He. Praise and glory to Him: (Far is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him). [Koran, 9:31].
- The worships should not be limited to time, condition or place. We have to be in the status of worship all the time morning or nights; at work or at home; walking, sitting or while laying.
- The worships are done by acts or movements, tongue and heart.
- The rules of worships are five; Obligatory, favorable, permissible, unfavorable, and forbidden.
- The basic component of the worship is the intention. The intention of the act or worship should be to get rewards from Allah. If this intention was not there, the act, even if it is good or charity, will not be accepted by Allah. Having this in mind, many of our daily acts can reward us if, by doing it, we intended to obey Allah and abandoned the devil way. This has been repeatedly mentioned by Prophet Mohamed who said: **Sadaqa is due on every joint of a person, every day the sun rises. Administering of justice between two men is also a Sadaqa. And assisting a man to ride upon his beast, or helping him load his luggage upon it, is a Sadaqa; and a good word is a Sadaqa; and every step that you take towards prayer is a Sadaqa, and removing of harmful things from the pathway is a Sadaqa.** [Muslim].

Abu Dharr said: Some of the companions of the messenger of Allah said : «**O Messenger of Allah, the affluent have made of with the rewards, they pray as we pray they fast as we fast, and they give away in charity the superfluity of their wealth.** He said: " Has not Allah made things for you to give away in charity ? every tasbihah is a charity, every takbirah is a charity, every tahmidah is a charity, and every tahlilah is a charity, to enjoin a good action is a charity, to forbid an evil action is a charity, and in the sexual act of each of you there is a charity) They said: "O Messenger of Allah, when one of us fulfils his sexual desire will he have some reward for that?" He said: "Do you not think that were he to act upon it unlawfully he would be sinning? Likewise, if he has acted upon it lawfully he will have a reward» [Muslim].

The prophet also said to Saad bin abi waqas when he visited him before he died: «**And what you spend as charity from your property is Sadaqa and flour spending on your family is also Sadaqa, and what your wife eats from your property is also Sadaqa, and that you leave your heirs well off (or he said: prosperous) is better than to leave them (poor and) begging from people**» [Muslim].

Dear Muslims,

As you can see, Allah has facilitated for us and made it easier to get rewards. All the good things and most of our normal daily acts can give us rewards but under certain conditions:

- 1– The work should be done with good intention. Umar Ibn al-Khattab said: the Messenger of Allah (May peace be upon him) said: «**The value of an action depends on the intention behind it. A man will be rewarded only for what he intended**».
- 2– The act should be accepted by Allah (i.e. not a sin or bad acts that hurt others). Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: **0 people, Allah is Good and He therefore, accepts only that which is good. And Allah commanded the believers as He commanded the Messengers by saying: «O Messengers, eat of the good things, and do good deeds; verily I am aware of what you do»** [Koran, 23:51]. **And He said: «0 those who believe, eat of the good things that We gave you»** [Koran, 2:172]. **He then made a mention of a person who travels widely, his hair disheveled and covered with dust. He lifts his hand towards the sky (and thus makes the supplication):" O Lord, 0 Lord," whereas his diet is unlawful, his drink is unlawful, and his clothes are unlawful and his nourishment is unlawful. How can then his supplication be accepted?) Narrated by Muslim.**
- 3– The act, as it is for Allah, should be done in the most perfect way. Shaddad Ibn Aus said: The prophet (PBUH) said: «**Verily Allah has enjoined goodness to everything; so when you kill, kill in a good way and when you slaughter, slaughter in a good way. So every one of you should sharpen his knife, and let the slaughtered animal die comfortably**» [Muslim].
- 4– The act should not be void or prevent you from doing the obligatory religious practice such as prayers. ***O ye who believe! Let not your riches or your children divert you from the remembrance of God. If any act thus, the loss is their own* and spend something (in charity) out of the substance which We have bestowed on you, before Death should come to any of you and he should say, "O my Lord! why didst Thou not give me respite for a little while? I should then have given (largely) in charity, and I should have been one of the doers of good*063.011 But to no soul will God grant respite when the time appointed (for it) has come; and God is well acquainted with (all) that ye do.*** [Koran, 69:9-11].

Finally, we ask Allah to guide us and help us to worship Him in the best way.

Amen

Khutba by Sidi Mohamed Ould Cherif