

On provision and means of increasing it First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, the Provider of provision, the Generous. He extends provision for whom He wills from amongst His Servants. Indeed, He is the All-Wise, the All-Knowing. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his pure blessed family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

As to what follows,

I urge you, **O servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him the Most Exalted, in line with His orders, **“and eat of what Allah has provided for you [which is] lawful and good. And fear Allah, in whom you are believers.”** (Al-Maida: ٨٨).

Dear Muslims,

Allah the Almighty says, **“indeed, it is Allah who is the [continual] Provider, the firm possessor of strength.”** (ADh-Dhariyat: ٥٨). In this Aya, the continual provider means the One Who forever provides and gives in abundance. Indeed, Allah the Almighty is the Best of Providers and to Him belongs the depositories of the heavens and the earth. His hand is full of goodness and giving. About Him, the Messenger of Allah pbuh said, “Allah’s Hand is full, and (its fullness) is not affected by the continuous spending, day and night.” That is to say, He gives continually. He also said, “Do you see what He has spent since He created the Heavens and the Earth? Yet all that has not decreased what is in His Hand.” This means Allah’s depositories of provision have not diminished at all and will never be.

So, how great our Lord really is! He sponsors the sustenance of all of His Creation! The Most Beneficent says, **“and there is no creature on earth but that upon Allah is its provision, and He knows its place of dwelling and place of storage. All is in a clear register.”**

(Hood: ٦). Exalted is He, He is never heedless of any creature, neither on land nor in the sea, however small or big those might be and in all their standings. The Most Generous does not even forget the unborn babies in their mothers' wombs. And if the people of the earth and the Heavens were to gather together to reduce the provision decreed for mankind, they would not be able to reduce them even as much as the weight of a mustard seed. Yet, they would never be able to increase them too. In fact, such understanding is conducive to impart assurance to the Muslim's heart and tranquillity to his soul as well as contentment to his mind.

O Servants of Allah,

Please know that provision means all the favours and blessings that Allah endows upon His servants. In this sense, health, knowledge, good manners and work are provision. Similarly, one's wife and children are provision, wealth and peace of mind are provision, amongst other numerous bounties that Allah, the Most Giving, has bestowed upon mankind. The Almighty says, **“and if you should count the favours of Allah, you could not enumerate them. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.”** (An-Nahl: ١٧).

There is no doubt Allah extends His bounties to all people, yet not all people are equal in the provision they are provided with. Such differences in the share of provision is made for a good Divine reason and will. Allah the All-Wise accentuated this as He says, **“and Allah has favoured some of you over others in provision.”** (An-Nahl: ١٧). So, through such variance in provision, people are to serve one another, for the Most Exalted says, **“it is We who have apportioned among them their livelihood in the life of this world and have raised some of them above others in degrees [of rank] that they may make use of one another for service. But the mercy of your Lord is better than whatever they accumulate.”** (Az-Zukhruf: ٣٢). Nonetheless, each able human being should strive in the way of attaining their sustenance.

Dear Muslims,

It is also good to know that working hard to earn one's livelihood is an act of obedience to Allah the Almighty. At the same time, it does not contradict the Divine Decree concerning the distribution of

provision. On this account, it was narrated that Abu Huraira, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “While we were sitting with the Messenger of Allah pbuh a young man came over. When we saw him we said, ‘If only this young man uses his youth, vigour and energy in the way of Allah.’ The Messenger of Allah pbuh heard what we said, so he said, ‘Whoever strives (to seek sustenance) for his parents it (his effort) is in the way of Allah. And whoever strives (to seek sustenance) for his children, it (his effort) is in the way of Allah, and whoever strives (to seek sustenance) for himself so as to avoid asking others, then it is in the way of Allah.’”

Thus, whoever leaves his house proceeding to his work or trade seeking to earn the provision decreed for him, his efforts will be in the way of Allah’s satisfaction. In this regard, the Messenger of Allah pbuh has set the best role model for us to emulate in seeking good and lawful sustenance. Throughout his life stages, he worked in several fields. He started as a shepherd and then worked in trading. His companions, may Allah be pleased with them, followed in his footsteps and worked in trading and other kind of lawful work to earn their living.

This helped them to give in charity and compete in doing acts of goodness. The wealth they earned helped them in performing acts of obedience. Indeed, the Messenger of Allah has urged Muslims to seek lawful provisions. On this matter, it was narrated that Hudhaifa, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “The Prophet pbuh stood up and called people saying, ‘Come to me!’ people approached towards him and sat down. Thereupon, he pbuh said, ‘The messenger of the Lord of the Worlds, Jibril (Gabriel), has impressed upon my mind that a soul will never die until it completes its term and has taken in all of its provision, even if it was restricted. Therefore, fear Allah and be proper in your seeking provision and do not let a restriction of provision compel one of you to seek it by disobedience, for Allah will not accept anything before him but obedience to him.’”

O Believers,

This calls for a question about the causes of the increase and blessing of provision. The answer for this question is that piety and obedience of Allah are amongst the causes for one’s provision to be increased.

An evidence of this can be seen in the following Aya: “**and whoever fears Allah - He will make for him a way out and will provide for him from where he does not expect.**” (At-Talaq: ٢-٣).

Another cause of increasing the provision is appreciation of Allah’s favours and being grateful to Him for the bounties He endows upon us. The Most Exalted says, “**if you are grateful, I will surely increase you [in favour].**” (Ibrahim: ٧). More to the point, thanking Allah and showing gratitude to Him is associated with seeking to earn the lawful source of sustenance. Allah, the Most High and Sublime says, “**O you who have believed, eat from the good things which We have provided for you and be grateful to Allah if it is [indeed] Him that you worship.**” (Al-Baqara: ١٧٢).

Furthermore, another way of increasing one’s provision is by honouring ties of kinship. Indeed, Allah the Almighty has made it a cause of blessing the wealth and cherishing a contented life. The Messenger of Allah pbuh said in this regard, “Whoever loves that his wealth be expanded and that his lease of life be prolonged then he should keep good relations with his Kith and kin.” Here, expanding the provision means increasing and blessing it. Truly, maintaining good ties of kinship opens for the person the gateways of good sustenance.

In like manner, supplications are also means of opening the doorways of the Heaven and the increase of Allah’s provisions and bounties. Furthermore, Sadaqa (giving in charity) is one other way of expanding the wealth and blessing it. Sadaqa brings about Allah’s giving as illustrated in the following Hadith. The Messenger of Allah pbuh said, “Allah the Most Exalted and Sublime says, ‘Spend and I shall spend on you.’”

On a broader level, all good deeds are means of attaining Allah’s satisfaction and, thus, His plentiful giving and favours. The Most High says, “**and as for those who believed and did righteous deeds, He will give them in full their rewards and grant them extra from His bounty.**” (An-Nisaa: ١٧٣).

Bearing this in mind, let beseech Allah the Almighty to provide for us good lawful provisions and bless them for us.

May Allah guide us all to obey Him and obey His Messenger Muhammad pbuh and obey those He have commanded us to obey in line with His orders: “**O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority amongst you.**” (An-Nisaa: ٥٩).

May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh.

I say this and ask Allah for forgiveness for me and you, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Second Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you, **O Servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Most Exalted and Sublime.

O Worshipers,

Please be aware that amongst the duties incumbent on each Muslim is to be content with what Allah the Almighty has arranged for him from provision. This way, Allah, the Most Beneficent, will grant him the best of outcome and endow upon him the blessing of heart soundness, peace of mind and richness of the soul. The Messenger of Allah pbuh accentuated this as he said, “Be satisfied with what Allah has allotted for you and you shall be the richest of the people.”

Thus, the best of provision is, indeed, that which brings satisfaction and content to its owner. This is part of appreciating Allah’s favours and showing gratitude to Him. The Messenger of Allah pbuh advocated his companions to appreciate Allah’s favours and be content with what He allotted for them. This can be illustrated in the following Hadith: “O Abu Hurairah, be cautious, and you will be the most devoted of people to Allah. Be content, and you will be the most grateful of people to Allah.”

Undoubtedly, satisfaction and contentment are essential for the believer, yet they are consistent with the need to take the necessary means. This is because Allah the Almighty ordered us to work hard to populate the earth and earn sustenance. The Most Exalted says, **“it is He who made the earth tame for you - so walk among its slopes and eat of His provision - and to Him is the resurrection.”** (Al-Mulk: ١٥).

So, if the person performs the acts of obedience enjoined by His Lord, he will work hard to earn living in line with His orders: **“and when the prayer has been concluded, disperse within the land and seek from the bounty of Allah.”** (Al-Jumua: ١٠). This means when you complete your prayer, disperse in the earth to follow up your business, attend to your worldly daily needs and seek the attainment of Allah’s provisions.

That is said, please bear in mind that you are instructed to invoke peace and blessings on the Prophet pbuh. Allah, the Most Sublime, says, **“indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.”** (Al-Ahzab: ٥٦).

On the same matter, the Prophet pbuh said, “For everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah.”

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all of the noble Companions.

May Allah have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our country and those of the coalition and gather them with the righteous. May Allah make their dwelling with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the prophets.

O Allah, please grant the best reward for the families of the martyrs and offer them patience and solace. May Allah grant victory to the soldiers of the Arab Coalition who gathered to restore the rights to their owners. O Lord, please be by their side and guide the Yemeni people to everything that is good.

O Lord, we beseech You to bless all of the Muslim countries and the whole world with stability and peace.

O Allah, we seek Your grace to increase the UAE in delight and beauty and give the best of rewards and recompense to whoever sowed the seeds of goodness and welfare in it. Indeed, You are the Most Merciful of the merciful.

May Allah grant success and continued health and care to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. May Allah also ensure success to his Vice-President, trustworthy Crown Prince and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, please forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, living and dead. May Allah have mercy on Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the Late UAE Sheikhs. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on them and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction.

We pray to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, to continue blessing the UAE with stability and welfare and bless its provisions. O Allah, please continue blessing the UAE with safety and security.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to send us wealthy rain and make us not amongst those who are despondent. O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth.

Remember Allah and He will remember you. Be grateful of His benevolence and He will increase His blessings to you.

Please stand up for prayer.