

MLU-14.2: The Farewell Hajj (pilgrimage) & The Last Sermon

The land of Arabia had seen many wars and killings for centuries. In the year 10 A.H. most of Arabia had embraced Islam. There were no idol-worshipping. In the month of Zil-Qadah 10 A.H. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) accompanied by 124,000 Sahaba (Companions) left Madinah for Makkah to perform the Hajj. On the 5th of Zil-Hajj the Muslims entered Makkah and performed Umrah, and on the 8th of Zil-Hajj our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) camped at Mina with the Sahaba. Riding on his camel Quswa, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) proceeded to the plains of Arafat, some 10 km from Mina. Here he delivered his final Khutba to the entire assembly of Muslims. He reminded them of their duties towards Islam, explained the rights and treatment of women, that nobody should absorb the rights of each other's property and all Muslims should honour and respect each other. The slaves also received a declaration of just treatment. False superiority of race, nation and tribe was discouraged and interest (usury) was made Haraam.

That day the torch that brightened the Path of Truth was handed to the Ummat and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) exclaimed to his people "O Lord have I conveyed the Message?" The whole assembly of Muslims replied in one voice: "By our Lord, Verily Thou Hast".

Our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also told his vast audience: "I leave behind amongst you two things. If you should hold fast to it, you shall be secure from vices and evil ways, i.e. the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of Allah's Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) “

When the glowing message and the marvelous mission saw the day of its grand achievement, the Holy Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) received the Divine Call thus: "This day have I perfected your religion and completed my favour on you and have chosen Islam as your religion." (Al-Quran 3:5).

Thus giving this Divine Message he bid farewell to all the Muslims. Then performing other rites and performing the Fajr Salaat in the Ka'ba on the 12th Zil-Hajj, the whole gathering left for their homes and the beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) of Allah accompanied by the Muhajireen and Ansaar returned to Madinah.

The Last Sermon of Prophet Muhammad (Farewell Sermon)

Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) delivered his last sermon (Khutbah) on the ninth of Dhul Hijjah (12th and last month of the Islamic year), 10 years after Hijrah (migration from Makkah to Madinah) in the Umanah Valley of mount Arafat. His words were quite clear and concise and were directed to the entire humanity.

After praising, and thanking Allah (SWT) he said:

"O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore, listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and TAKE THESE WORDS TO THOSE WHO COULD NOT BE PRESENT HERE TODAY.

O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your LORD, and that HE will indeed reckon your deeds. ALLAH has forbidden you to take usury (interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. Allah has Judged that there shall be no interest and that all the interest due to Abbas ibn 'Abd, al Muttalib (Prophet,s uncle) shall henceforth be waived...

Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah,s trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right, then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste.

O People, listen to me in earnest, worship ALLAH, say your five daily prayers (Salah), fast during the month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in Zakat. Perform Hajj if you can afford to.

All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves.

Remember, one day you will appear before ALLAH and answer your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

O People, NO PROPHET OR APOSTLE WILL COME AFTER ME AND NO NEW FAITH WILL BE BORN. Reason well, therefore, O People, and understand words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the QURAN and my example, the SUNNAH and if you follow these you will never go astray.

All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness, O ALLAH, that I have conveyed your message to your people".

(Reference: See Al-Bukhari, Hadith 1623, 1626, 6361) Sahih of Imam Muslim also refers to this sermon in Hadith number 98. Imam al-Tirmidhi has mentioned this sermon in Hadith nos. 1628, 2046, 2085. Imam Ahmed bin Hanbal has given us the longest and perhaps the most complete version of this sermon in his Masnud, Hadith no. 19774....

One can heed words of wisdom and guidelines from the last sermon (khutbah) of the Prophet (PBUH). His sermon emphasized on the following:

- Sacredness of a Muslim's life and property
- The importance of propagating this message to all others (A Muslim's responsibility does not end by following the religion)
- A reminder that everyone is fully accountable for their deeds and Allah (God) will take every person into account. If everyone heeded to this fact alone, the world would be a much better place today.
- "Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you." These words of the prophet are self-explanatory.
- The prohibition of dealing with interest (Numerous accounts in Quran and Hadith prohibit taking, giving or being a part of any transaction dealing with interest).
- "You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity." These words of the prophet are self-explanatory.
- The awareness of satan and how satan can work to deviate us from the right path and doing evil things.
- Rights of women over men and rights of men over women.
- Treatment of women with kindness.
- Modesty and chastity in women.
- The importance of worshiping Allah (saying your five daily prayers (Salah), fasting during the month of Ramadan, giving charity (Zakat) and performing pilgrimage (Hajj)).
- Equality amongst all (blacks, white, Arabs, non-Arabs, etc.)
- The need to establish justice.
- Islam is the final divine religion (Last prophet and Last Book).