

## **Syria and the Awakening of the Ummah**

### **Khutbah Topic**

His Eminence Sheikh Saud Al-Shuraim –may Allah protect him– delivered this week’s Friday Khutbah titled **Syria and the Awakening of the Ummah** in which he spoke about the Muslim *Ummah* and how Allah distinguished it with special features enabling it to deal with reality anywhere and anytime. He also pointed out that no matter how many times it is defeated or weakened, it would never perish or succumb to humiliation. The Sheikh encouraged Muslims to do their utmost to support and patronize Islamic causes everywhere in the world.

### **Part One**

Praise be to Allah! We praise Him, seek His help, ask Him to forgive us, and we repent to Him. We seek refuge with Allah from the evils of ourselves and our bad deeds. Whomever Allah guides, no one will ever misguide; and whomever Allah misguides, no one will ever guide. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone with no associate, and I also bear witness that Muhammad (ﷺ) is Allah’s Servant and Messenger.

*﴿O you who believe! Fear Allâh (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islâm [as Muslims (with complete submission to Allâh)].﴾ [Al-Imran: 102]*

*﴿O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him (Adam) He created his wife [Hawwâ (Eve)], and from them both He created many men and women; and fear Allâh through Whom you demand (your mutual*

rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, Allâh is Ever an All-Watcher over you.﴾ [An-Nisa: 1]

﴿O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allâh and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth.﴾ [Al-Ahzab: 70]

﴿He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allâh and His Messenger (ﷺ), he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise).﴾ [Al-Ahzab: 71]

Now then, O people!

Allah has distinguished the Muslim *Ummah* by granting it the ability to deal with the changes of life and its various walks. Muslims thank Allah in times of prosperity and show patience in times of adversity. Whenever they achieve victory, they know that it is thanks to Allah, and whenever they are defeated, they attribute that to themselves as Allah, their Lord (ﷻ), has taught them: ﴿(What is the matter with you?) When a single disaster smites you, although you smote (your enemies) with one twice as great, you say: "From where does this come to us?" Say (to them), "It is from yourselves (because of your evil deeds)." And Allâh has power over all things.﴾[Al-Imran: 165]

The Muslim *Ummah* is being afflicted at the present time with such an intense and rampant flow of information technology that has drawn the world close together and that has helped uncover what was hidden. As a result of this sweeping flood of civilization that has brought some comfort to the body but much desolation to the soul, the whole world was turned into a single arena pooling together the violence of the People of *Aad*, the disobedience of the people of Lot, the sorcery of Pharaoh and his people, the stinting on measures of the Madian people, the mockery of the people of Noah, and the wickedness of the brothers of Yusuf (Joseph).

Like the rest of the world, our Muslim *Ummah* felt the scorching fire of this calamity. Muslims have thus experienced the sorrows and woes of civilization, its good and its bad. For them, such civilization added insult to injury as it turned their anguish into severe pain and their destitution into stress until many of them fell prey

to the web of desperation and melancholy. They were so distressed that their breasts felt closed and constricted as if they were climbing up to the sky<sup>1</sup>.

Their pains have been aggravated and their hopes assassinated; their lands, homes, and properties have been destroyed and they have been forced into all sorts of adversities. They have had to swallow chokingly forged truths while vomiting oppression and injustice in order to confess to the falsity of what is rightfully theirs and to the legality of the falsehood of others.

However, this civilization was soon proven only illusive and hopelessly biased. The so-called "human rights" have made a stern appearance with utter indifference to the concerns and causes of the Muslim *Ummah*. The latter has no share in this regard since the roaring armored vehicles and fighter jets are taking the lives of its people without restraint, accountability, conscience, or human mercy.

The Muslim *Ummah*, being a proud *umma* –no matter how difficult things get– would never look for a hired crier or a rented wet nurse (i.e. find excuses) in order to entrust its causes to its contemporaries. That is because tears cannot be lent nor can crying bring the dead back to life. Therefore, the Muslim *Ummah* had no other way but to hold tight to the rope of its Creator before anything else, then to that of unity and togetherness among its leaders in order to support its cause and to make every possible effort to wipe the tears of orphans, the tears of bereaved mothers, and of the wounded who have been victims of the wars of oppression, injustice, and tyranny.

The Muslim *Ummah* can derive from the spring of its religion what would make it the strongest and most just of all nations. This can only be achieved through the unity in Faith and the will, on the part of Muslims, to help one another in *Al-Birr* and *At-Taqwâ* (godliness, righteousness and piety). With this accomplished, the *Ummah* would stand tall and invulnerable in the face of the enemy, and if its enemy looks again then his sight will return to him in a state of humiliation and worn out<sup>2</sup>.

The Muslim *Ummah* may get weak but shall not perish; it may be defeated but shall not retreat, for Allah (ﷻ) says: *«So do not become weak (against your enemy), nor be sad, and you will be superior (in victory) if you are indeed (true) believers.»* [Al-Imran: 139] *«If a wound (and killing) has touched you, be sure a similar wound (and killing) has touched the others. And so are the days (good and not so good), We give to men by turns, that Allâh may test those who believe, and that He may*

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<sup>1</sup> The last part of this sentence is used in reference to a beautiful expression in the Holy Qur'ân (Al-An'âm: 125).

<sup>2</sup> The last part of this sentence is used in reference to a beautiful expression in the Holy Qur'ân (Al-Mulk: 4).

take martyrs from among you. And Allâh likes not the Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers).» [Al-Imran: 140] «And that Allâh may test (or purify) the believers (from sins) and destroy the disbelievers.» [Al-Imran: 141]

O servants of Allah!

The Muslim *Ummah* must seek in every distress a spark of ease and comfort, and in every anguish one of relief, for the Prophet (ﷺ) ordered Muslims to be optimistic (to believe in good omens) and warned them against pessimism. He (ﷺ) said: "***I like a good omen***" They said: "*what is a good omen?*" He said: "***a good word.***" [Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim]

Thus the Muslim *Ummah* must favour optimism in its life so that it protects itself from the calamities of wars, dangers and distress; for Allah is capable of everything on earth and in the heaven. The Muslim *Ummah* is neither unjust nor aggressive. Injustice, oppression, deception, wasting others' rights, shedding their blood, and mutilating their bodies are certainly not and shall never be part of its nature.

It is an *Ummah* of justice and servitude to Allah; for whoever believes in Allah shall be granted victory, assistance and guidance by Him. Pessimism and melancholy shall never find their way to the hearts who put their trust in Allah and His promise to stand up for His Book and the *Sunnah* of His Prophet (ﷺ).

He (ﷺ) said: «Whoever thinks that Allâh will not help him (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) in this world and in the Hereafter, let him stretch out a rope to the ceiling and let him strangle himself. Then let him see whether his plan will remove that whereat he rages!» [Al-Hajj: 15]

Let us fear Allah –O servants of Allah– and strive to join hands with one another and work towards achieving unity, because work is the key to success, and the root of all work is our return to the Book of our Lord and the *Sunnah* of our Prophet (ﷺ). Let brotherly love, advice and compassion spring forth from the womb of our Muslim *Ummah*. Indeed what afflicted our *Ummah* was not unprecedented; rather it was the outcome of an obvious defect, a flagrant crack (amidst the *Ummah's* body), and dereliction of duty on the part of Muslims vis-à-vis their brothers in Faith. It is for this reason that the *Ummah* is now undergoing divine retribution through its enemies in the form of leniency, and violence in the form of disciplinary action. This is coupled with a skilful style of savagery, tyranny and threat to use military power and the right

of unjust veto, leaving aside friendly argumentation and indulging in harsh disputation.

As a result, they have turned themselves into feared ghosts, and the rights of others into chewed gums to be spitted out after chewing them between the claws of tyrannical power. Thus they have made the Muslim World nowadays familiar with various kinds of wars, aggressions, and disasters resulting in a mirage safety and security that no one can enjoy. *﴿And Allâh has full power and control over His Affairs, but most of men know not.﴾* [Yusuf: 21]

Indeed, a bunch of spears put together might not be broken; and it is true that a wolf can only prey upon the lonely sheep. Therefore Muslims must be more optimistic than pessimistic. *﴿(They were reprieved) until, when the Messengers gave up hope and thought that they were denied (by their people), then came to them Our Help, and whomsoever We willed were rescued.﴾* [Yusuf: 110]

Matters are usually relieved after tightness, problems are bound to be solved, as one hardship will not triumph over two reliefs. *﴿Verily, along with every hardship is relief, ﴾* [Ash-Sharh: 5]. *﴿Verily, along with every hardship is relief (i.e. there is one hardship with two reliefs, so one hardship cannot overcome two reliefs).﴾* [Ash-Sharh: 6]

May Allah bestow His blessings on you and on me by the Holy *Qur'ān* and benefit us from the verses the wise *Dhikr* (the contents of the Holy *Qur'ān*) therein. This is what I have said; if it is true, it is thanks to Allah, but if it is wrong it is because of me and the accursed Satan. I seek forgiveness from Allah. Verily, He is All-Forgiving!

## Part Two

Praise be to Allah for His blessings and thanks are due to Him for granting us His guidance and gratitude.

fear Allah –O servants of Allah– and remember that we have brothers in *Ash-Shām*<sup>3</sup> (i.e. Syria) who have suffered calamities and endured increasing hatred. They

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<sup>3</sup> Note that *Ash-Shām* (الشام) or *Bilād ash-Shām* (بلاد الشام), the **Levant**, also known as **the region of Syria** or the **Eastern Mediterranean**, is a geographic and cultural region consisting of the eastern Mediterranean littoral between Anatolia and Egypt. The Levant consists today of Lebanon, Syria,

have been surrounded by the powers of oppression and tyranny; thus they have been lost amidst a jumble of domination and dictatorship: oppression and aggression, poverty and homelessness, orphaned children, bereaved mothers, crying from pain and suffering from hunger and subjugation. The roofs above them are dripping, their walls leaking, their houses crumbling. Bombs and shrapnel are falling upon them; their valleys are full of human corpses and heads. In short, their towns are no longer towns and their homes are no longer homes.

O servants of Allah! All this places a share of responsibility upon each one of us in front of Allah. This includes leaders, rulers, *Ulema* (scholars), reformers, intellectuals, and ordinary people. Muslims should stand united in front of the flood of this mad rush and conspiracy against our brothers in Syria.

Each one of us bears responsibility towards our brothers in *Ash-Shām*, so fear Allah, fear Allah, fear Allah, O Muslim *Ummah*! Fear Allah, O Muslim leaders! Fear Allah, O Muslim leaders! Fear Allah, O Muslim leaders!

Our brothers need more efforts and perseverance in order to put an end to this merciless oppression and aggression by whatever means.

As for our brothers in *Ash-Shām*, we say to them that: *«Truly! Allâh is with As-Sâbirûn (the patient).»* [Al-Baqarah: 153] and: *«Truly, Allâh is with those who fear Him (keep their duty unto Him) and those who are Muhsinûn (good-doers).»* [An-Nahl: 128]. Allah is certainly kind to His servants, and He will grant victory to the oppressed as He promised, a promise that He took upon Himself.

O our brothers in *Ash-Shām*! Listen to what Al-Hakim narrated in his (book of Hadiths) "Al-Mustadrak" via an authentic chain of narrators that Omar Al-Farouk (رضي الله عنه) heard that Abu Obeidah was besieged in *Ash-Shām* and the people were conspiring against him, so Omar wrote to him saying: "*Peace be upon you; certainly, it is true that any believer who passes through a hardship, Allah will bring relief afterwards, and one hardship will not win over two reliefs.*" *«O you who believe! Endure and be more patient (than your enemy), and guard your territory by stationing army units permanently at the places from where the enemy can attack you, and fear Allâh, so that you may be successful.»* [Al-Imran: 200]

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Jordan, the occupied Palestine, Cyprus and parts of southern Turkey. Iraq and the Sinai Peninsula are also sometimes included. In this khutbah, However, what is meant by *Ash-Shām* is only today's Syria.

Abu Obeidah wrote back to Omar saying: "*Peace be upon you; Allah says in His Book ﴿Know that the life of this world is only play and amusement, pomp and mutual boasting among you, and rivalry in respect of wealth and children﴾* [Al-Hadid: 20] "...etc. (until the end of the story).

Ask Allah –may He have mercy on you– to send His *Salat* (Grace, Honour and Mercy) and Peace on the best creature of Allah and the purest of mankind, Muhammad Ibn `Abdallāh, who is given *al-Hawdh* (the sacred basin in Paradise) and is vested with intercession, for Allah sent His *Salat* (Grace, Honour and Mercy) and Peace on him and then ordered His angels, that are praising His sanctity, to do likewise and called out to you, O believers, to ask Him to send His *Salat* (Graces, Honours and Mercy) and Peace on him. Allah, the Almighty (ﷻ), says: ﴿ *O you who believe! Send your Salât on (ask Allâh to bless) him (Muhammad)﴾* [AlAhzab: 56]

O Allah! Send Your *Salat* (Grace, Honour and Mercy), Peace and Blessing upon Your Servant and Messenger, Muhammad, who had a radiant face and a bright forehead; O Allah! Be pleased with the four Caliphs, Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman and Ali, with all of his Companions, the *tabi'în* and those who righteously followed them till the Day of Judgment! O Allah! Be also pleased with us all, along with them, by Your Pardon and Generosity, O You, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate!

O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims, and fail polytheism and polytheists (who associate partners with You)! O Allah! Grant glory to Your religion, Your Book and the *Sunnah* of Your Prophet, and Your believing servants!

O Allah! Relieve the distressed among Muslims, alleviate their anguish, pay off the debts of those indebted, and cure our patients and theirs, with Your Mercy, O You, Most Merciful!

O Allah! Grant us safety in our homelands, and set right our Imams and leaders! O Allah! Make our leadership from among those who fear You, who observe taqwa and seek Your satisfaction, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Guide our leader to say and do whatever You love and please, O You, the Living, the Everlasting! O Allah! Set right his retinue, O You, the Lord of Majesty and Honour!

O Allah! Grant victory to our brothers who are oppressed and defenseless in their religion, wherever they may be! O Allah! Grant them victory in Burma, Palestine, and Syria! O Allah! Be with our brothers in Syria! O Allah! Be with our brothers in Syria! O Allah! Grant them victory against Your enemy and theirs, O You, the Lord of Majesty and Honour!

O Allah! The Revealer of the Book, the Sender of clouds, the Defeater of the *Ahzaab* (coalition of the nonbelievers), defeat their enemy, and grant victory to our brothers over them! O Allah! Let their enemy pay sooner rather than later, O You, the Lord of Majesty and Honour!

O Allah! Be merciful on them in their longing and their moaning, O You, the Living, the Everlasting! O Allah! Set free their captives, have mercy on their dead, O You, the Lord of Majesty and Honour!

﴿... Our Lord! Give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire!﴾ [Al-Baqarah: 201]

Glorified be our Lord, the Lord of Honour and Power! You are free from what they wrongly attribute unto You! May peace be upon all the Messengers! And the last of our supplications is “praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds!”

*Translated by Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University.*