

SUMMER IMMERSION

BLISSFUL DEPARTURE



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SESSION 1

Introduction

- A blissful departure happens when we understand the importance of death and when we are prepared for death.
- When the Prophet (ﷺ) was passing away and when the Companions were on their deathbed, they never detested their departure from this world. It was a blissful departure because they had prepared for it.
- For example, when Bilal RA was on his deathbed, he said, "What a day of happiness! Tomorrow I will meet Muhammad (SAW) and his Companions."

Preparing for Death

- 1. Remember death excessively
 - Death is inescapable and talking about death is Prophetic. This is why the Prophet (ﷺ) commanded:

أَكْثِرُوا ذِكْرَ هَازِمِ اللَّذَاتِ . يَغْنِي الْمَوْتَ .

"Frequently remember the destroyer of pleasures,' meaning death." (Sunan Ibn Majah)

- Remembering death excessively helps us destroy two types of pleasures:
 - Haram pleasures; temporary pleasures
 - Halal pleasures; excessiveness and extravagance
- 2. Longing to meet with Allah
 - The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

مَنْ أَحَبَّ لِقَاءَ اللَّهِ أَحَبَّ اللَّهُ لِقَاءَهُ

"Whoever loves to meet Allah, Allah loves to meet him. (Jami` at-Tirmidhi)

- To see the life of the Hereafter and to meet Allah, our only barrier is death.

- Narrated Anas bin Malik: The Prophet (ﷺ) said,

"مَا مِنْ عَبْدٍ يَمُوتُ لَهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ، يَسْرُهُ أَنْ يَرْجِعَ إِلَى الدُّنْيَا، وَأَنْ لَهُ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا فِيهَا، إِلَّا الشَّهِيدَ، لِمَا يَرَى مِنْ فَضْلِ الشَّهَادَةِ، فَإِنَّهُ يَسْرُهُ أَنْ يَرْجِعَ إِلَى الدُّنْيَا فَيُقْتَلَ مَرَّةً أُخْرَى."

"Nobody who dies and finds good from Allah (in the Hereafter) would wish to come back to this world even if he were given the whole world and whatever is in it, except the martyr who, on seeing the superiority of martyrdom, would like to come back to the world and get killed again (in Allah's Cause)." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

- When a person looks forward to their meeting with Allah, they would start preparing for their journey to the Hereafter through doing good deeds and abstaining from anything that displeases Him.
- 3. Dying upon iman
 - In the process of preparation to meet Allah, it allows us to live a life of iman. And if we live a life of iman, we are likely to die in the state of iman.
 - We have to work to live with iman in our lifetime to have the best outcome when death comes.
- 4. Having a righteous death
 - The more we strive towards maintaining our iman and increasing our iman, we can ask Allah to grant us a righteous death.
 - The way we pass away, is the way in which we will be resurrected.
 - The likelihood of attaining a righteous death will keep increasing as long as we live a life of iman.
- 5. Having righteous company
 - We need to have company or people around us; family, community etc. that consists of righteous people that can perform janaza upon us, make du'a and recite Qur'an for us.
 - The minute we leave this world, we ourselves cannot do one more good deed. Hence, the righteous company we have, will be a pipeline of us attaining more reward.
 - This is why it is important to lead a life righteousness ourselves because we will be surrounded by people who are like-minded as well.

Death in Islam

- There are three phases of life:
 - Dunya – the life that we are currently living
 - Barzakh – the transitory stage in between dunya and akhirah upon death
 - Akhirah – the time when the souls and bodies are resurrected again
- Death is a transition from dunya to barzakh. It is not seen as something negative but a source of peace for the believer.

Writing a Will

- Writing a will is one of the most important things that a person can do to prepare for their death.
- It is encouraged to write a will as it is a constant reminder of death. Just the idea of thinking about what we're going to write itself is rewarding because we are remembering death. And in doing so, it will enable us to do more good deeds.
- Our will should primarily include the things that are either going to help us or hurt us after our death.
- Things to include in a will:
 - Debts receivable or payable
 - Owing someone could hurt us
 - Anything owed must be made clear
 - Outstanding zakah, missed prayers, fast, hajj
 - Our debts receivable to Allah is important
 - For example, if someone has missed their fast in Ramadan, one can either fast on their behalf or give some type of payment on their behalf to expiate the sin of missing it.
 - Assigning up 1/3 of individual's wealth to be given to an individual/cause
 - If one does not verbally state with witnesses or write 1/3 in their will, their inheritor cannot be given more than the normal inheritance stipulated.
 - Any business dealings or partnerships pertinent to their heirs

- If one is involved in business dealings or partnerships and they want to clarify or they want to change it after they pass away, they cannot change more than 1/3 of the profit that they would make in any business in terms of their profit.
- In terms of the will, it is important to ensure that the will is a valid legal document that is written by Muslim lawyers who actually practice death law as well as follow the law of the land so it has validity.

