

The Surah of Blessings

First Khutbah

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ , نَحْمَدُهُ , وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ , وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا , مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ , وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ , وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

Verily, all praise is for Allah. We praise Him, we seek His assistance and we ask for His forgiveness. And we seek refuge in Him from the evils of our selves. Whoever Allah guides, none can misguide. Whoever He misguides, none can guide. And I bear witness that there is no deity other than Allah and I bear witness that Mohammad is His servant and messenger.

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ) [آل

عمران:102]

Al Imran(3) 102 : **O you who believe! Fear Allah as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam.**

Oh Believers:

Among all the surahs of the Qur'an, Surah an-Nahl is the most abundant in mentioning blessings. And the word "ni'mah" (blessing) and its derivatives are repeated most often in it. Some of the early generations even named it "The Surah of Blessings," because of how many favors Allah Most High enumerated.

And the first, greatest and most important of these blessings is the blessing of guidance to Allah Most High, knowledge of Him Almighty and

of what pleases Him. It is the first blessing mentioned in the surah and repeated throughout the surah:

يُنَزِّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةَ بِالرُّوحِ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ عَلَى مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ أَنْ أَنْذِرُوا أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاتَّقُونِ

An-Nahl (16) 2: **He sends down the angels, with the inspiration of His command, upon whom He wills of His servants, [telling them], ‘Warn that there is no deity except Me; so fear Me.**

And there is a reminder of those who carried the revelation and conveyed it to humanity—that they may be followed—and the message to which they called:

وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنْ أُعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ

An-Nahl (16) 36: **And We certainly sent into every nation a messenger, [saying], ‘Worship Allah and avoid Taghut [false deities].’**

The Messenger صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم is the bearer of the Qur’an and its conveyer, and the scholars are the bearers of knowledge after him, so that the knowledge of Allah Almighty and that what pleases Him may continue throughout generations, until the end of time:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رَجَالًا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِمْ فَاسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ *
بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالزُّبُرِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 43–44: (43) **And We sent not before you except men to whom We revealed [Our message]. So ask the people of the message if you do not know (44) [We sent them] with clear proofs and written ordinances. And We revealed to you the message that you may make clear to the people what was sent down to them and that they might give thought.**

Then the surah clarifies that the Quran is guidance and mercy, and a final judgment concerning the great matters about which humanity has differed:

وَمَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا لِتُبَيِّنَ لَهُمُ الَّذِي اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 64: **And We have not revealed to you the Book, [O Muhammad], except for you to make clear to them that wherein they have differed and as guidance and mercy for a people who believe.**

And it further clarifies that the Quran is a means of steadfastness upon the truth:

قُلْ نَزَّلَهُ رُوحُ الْقُدُسِ مِنْ رَبِّكَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيُثَبِّتَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهُدًى وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ

An-Nahl (16) 102: **Say, the Pure Spirit has brought it down from your Lord in truth to make firm those who believe and as guidance and good tidings for the Muslims.**

The Quran's repeated emphasis on the blessing of guidance, and the indication of its sources, stirs the believer to safeguard and revere it accordingly.

And the blessing of guidance is greater and more vital than the blessing of creation itself. For if someone is not guided, then their nonexistence would have been better than their existence:

وَيَقُولُ الْكَافِرُ يَا لَيْتَنِي كُنْتُ تُرَابًا

An-Naba (78) 40: **And the disbeliever will say, 'Oh, I wish that I were dust!'**

Next, the blessing of creation is mentioned after the blessing of guidance:

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ فَإِذَا هُوَ خَصِيمٌ مُبِينٌ

An-Nahl (16) 4: **He created man from a sperm-drop; then at once, he is a clear adversary.**

And from the perfection of His blessing of the creation of humankind is that He endowed them with instruments of acquiring knowledge, so that they may benefit from worldly and religious knowledge. These abundant blessings necessitate abundant gratitude:

وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ
وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

Surah An-Nahl (16) 78: **And Allah brought you out from the wombs of your mothers not knowing a thing, and He made for you hearing and vision and intellect that you might give thanks.**

And life in this world requires necessities: food, drink, transport, and shelter—all of which are mentioned in this surah. As for the blessings food and drink:

هُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً لَكُمْ مِنْهُ شَرَابٌ وَمِنْهُ شَجَرٌ فِيهِ تُسِيمُونَ * يُنْبِتُ لَكُمْ بِهِ
الزَّرْعَ وَالزَّيْتُونَ وَالنَّخِيلَ وَالْأَعْنَابَ وَمِنْ كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ

An-Nahl (16) 10-11: (10) **It is He who sends down rain from the sky; from it is drink, and from it [grows] vegetation on which you pasture your animals. (11) He causes to grow for you thereby the crops, olives, palm trees, grapevines, and from all the fruits.**

And as for the blessing of clothing:

وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ سَرَائِلَ تَقِيكُمْ الْحَرَّ وَسَرَائِلَ تَقِيكُمْ بَأْسَكُمْ

An-Nahl (16) 81: **And He made for you garments which protect you from the heat and garments which protect you from your [enemy in] battle.**

Regarding protection from cold, Allah Almighty said:

وَالْأَنْعَامَ خَلَقَهَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا دِفْءٌ وَمَنَافِعُ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 5: **And the grazing livestock He has created for you; in them is warmth and [numerous] benefits, and from them you eat.**

And after the blessing of warmth, He followed it with several other blessings derived from animals: riding them, bearing loads upon them, and taking them as adornment:

وَتَحْمِلُ أَثْقَالَكُمْ إِلَىٰ بَلَدٍ لَّمْ تَكُونُوا بِالْغِيَةِ إِلَّا بِشِقِّ الْأَنْفُسِ إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ لَرءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

An-Nahl (16) 7: **And they carry your loads to a land you could not have reached except with difficulty to yourselves. Indeed, your Lord is Kind and Merciful.**

وَالْخَيْلَ وَالْبِغَالَ وَالْحَمِيرَ لِتَرْكَبُوهَا وَزِينَةً وَيَخْلُقُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 8: **And [He created] the horses, mules, and donkeys for you to ride and [as] adornment. And He creates that which you do not know.**

And Allah's statement—"And He creates that which you do not know"—includes everything that people ride and adorn themselves with until the end of time.

As for the blessings of dwellings, shelters and furnishings and the like, Allah Almighty said:

وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ بُيُوتِكُمْ سَكَنًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ جُلُودِ الْأَنْعَامِ بُيُوتًا تَسْتَخِفُّونَهَا يَوْمَ ظَعْنِكُمْ وَيَوْمَ إِقَامَتِكُمْ وَمِنْ أَصْوَابِهَا وَأَوْبَارِهَا وَأَشْعَارِهَا أَثَاثًا وَمَتَاعًا إِلَى حِينٍ * وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِمَّا خَلَقَ ظِلَالًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الْجِبَالِ أَكْنَانًا

An-Nahl (16) 80-81: (80) **And Allah has made for you from your homes a place of rest and made for you from the hides of the animals tents which you find light on your day of travel and your day of encampment; and from their wool, fur, and hair is furnishing and enjoyment for a time. (81) And Allah has made for you from that which He has created shadows and has made for you from the mountains, shelters.**

And Allah recounts his favor of subjecting whatever is on the earth for humankind:

وَمَا ذَرَأَا لَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُخْتَلِفًا أَلْوَانُهُ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِقَوْمٍ يَذْكُرُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 13: **And [He has subjected] to you whatever He multiplied on the earth of varying colors. Indeed in that is a sign for a people who remember.**

And the blessing of the stability of the earth is necessary for life upon it and for developing it and for traveling through it:

وَأَلْقَى فِي الْأَرْضِ رَوَاسِيَ أَنْ تَمِيدَ بِكُمْ وَأَنْهَارًا وَسُبُلًا لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ * وَعَلَامَاتٍ
وَبِالنَّجْمِ هُمْ يَهْتَدُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 15-16: (15) **And He has cast into the earth firmly set mountains, lest it should shift with you, and [made] rivers and roads, that you may be guided, and landmarks. (16) And by the stars they are guided.**

In addition to the blessings on land, surah An Nahl includes the bounties of Allah Almighty in the sea:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ الْبَحْرَ لِتَأْكُلُوا مِنْهُ لَحْمًا طَرِيًّا وَتَسْتَخْرِجُوا مِنْهُ حِلْيَةً تَلْبَسُونَهَا وَتَرَى
الْفُلْكَ مَوَاحِرَ فِيهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَلِعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 14: **And it is He who subjected the sea for you to eat from it tender meat and to extract from it ornaments which you wear. And you see the ships plowing through it, and [He subjected it] that you may seek of His bounty; and perhaps you will be grateful.**

And the surah goes beyond the blessings of land and sea to the expanse of the heavens, reminding of what Allah Most High has provided there of favors, all availed for humankind, so that they establish the religion of Allah Almighty and express gratitude:

وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ وَالنُّجُومَ مُسَخَّرَاتٍ بِأَمْرِهِ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ
لِقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 12: **And He has subjected for you the night and day and the sun and the moon, and the stars are subjected by His command. Indeed in that are signs for a people who reason.**

And the surah recounts Allah's favor in the bond of spouses and blessing of offspring:

وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنْ أَزْوَاجِكُمْ بَنِينَ وَحَفَدَةً وَرَزَقَكُمْ
مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ

An-Nahl (16) 72: **And Allah has made for you from yourselves mates and has made for you from your mates sons and grandchildren and provided for you from the good things.**

As far as Allah's blessing of healing, this surah bears the name of the very creature that produces cure for ailments:

وَأَوْحَىٰ رَبُّكَ إِلَى النَّحْلِ أَنِ اتَّخِذِي مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا وَمِنَ الشَّجَرِ وَمِمَّا يَعْرِشُونَ * ثُمَّ كُلِّي مِنْ
كُلِّ الشَّمَرَاتِ فَاسْلُكِي سُبُلَ رَبِّكِ ذُلًّا يَخْرُجُ مِنْ بُطُونِهَا شَرَابٌ مُّخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَانُهُ فِيهِ شِفَاءٌ
لِّلنَّاسِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 68-69: (68) **And your Lord inspired to the bee, 'Take for yourself among the mountains, houses, and among the trees and [in] that which they construct. (69) Then eat from all the fruits and follow the ways of your Lord laid down [for you]. 'There emerges from their bellies a drink, varying in colors, in which there is healing for people. Indeed in that is a sign for a people who give thought.**

أَقُولُ مَا تَسْمَعُونَ وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ
I say what you have heard and I seek forgiveness from Allah for me and you from every sin. So seek forgives from Him, Verily He is Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Second Khutbah

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

All praise is to Allah, and peace and blessings upon the Messenger of Allah, and I bear witness that there is no deity other than Allah and I bear witness that Mohammad is His slave and messenger.

Oh people:

The hearts of those reciting Surah an-Nahl and reflecting upon its verses should overflow with awe of Allah's power and gratitude for His grace as they come across His countless blessings. For in every blessing there are other blessings nested within it. Allah Almighty reminds us of their sheer abundance:

وَإِنْ تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ لَا تُحْصُوهَا

An-Nahl (16) 18: **And if you should count the favor of Allah, you could not enumerate them.**

And Allah Almighty draws our attention to the fact that every blessing, without exception, is from Him alone:

وَمَا بِكُمْ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ فَمِنَ اللَّهِ

An-Nahl (16) 53: **And whatever you have of favor—it is from Allah.**

And in another place, He reveals the wisdom behind these blessings :

كَذَلِكَ يُتِمُّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُسْلِمُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 81: **Thus does He complete His favor upon you that you might submit [to Him].**

And in another place, after mentioning His favors, He commands expressing gratitude:

فَكُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَاشْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ

An-Nahl (16)114: **So eat of what Allah has provided for you [which is] lawful and good. And be grateful for the favor of Allah, if it is [indeed] Him that you worship.**

And in this surah, Allah strikes two profound examples, one of the ungrateful, so that people avoid their path, and another of the grateful, so that people emulate them.

As for the ungrateful, Allah Almighty said:

يَعْرِفُونَ نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ يُنْكِرُونَهَا وَأَكْثَرُهُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 83: **They recognize the favor of Allah; then they deny it. And most of them are disbelievers.**

Allah warns the ungrateful by describing the punishment of those who denied His favors:

وَضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا قَرْيَةً كَانَتْ آمِنَةً مُطْمَئِنَّةً يَأْتِيهَا رِزْقُهَا رَغَدًا مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ فَكَفَرَتْ بِأَنْعُمِ اللَّهِ فَأَذَاقَهَا اللَّهُ لِبَاسَ الْجُوعِ وَالْخَوْفِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَصْنَعُونَ

An-Nahl (16) 112: **And Allah presents an example: a city which was safe and secure, its provision coming to it in abundance from every location, but it denied the favors of Allah. So Allah made it taste the envelopment of hunger and fear for what they had been doing.**

As for the grateful, the Prophet Abraham's –peace be upon him– gratitude is mentioned at the end of the surah:

إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ كَانَ أُمَّةً قَانِتًا لِلَّهِ حَنِيفًا وَلَمْ يَكُ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ * شَاكِرًا لِأَنْعُمِهِ

An-Nahl (16) 120-121: **(120) Indeed, Abraham was a [comprehensive] leader, devoutly obedient to Allah, inclining toward truth, and he was**

not of those who associate others with Allah (121) [He was] grateful for His favors.

Allah Almighty mentioned what He granted Abraham as a reward for his gratitude, and commanded us to follow his path so that we may succeed:

وَأَتَيْنَاهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَإِنَّهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ لَمِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ * ثُمَّ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ أَنْ اتَّبِعْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
حَنِيفًا

An-Nahl (16) 122-123: (122) **And We gave him good in this world, and indeed, in the Hereafter he will be among the righteous. (123) Then We revealed to you, [O Muhammad], to follow the religion of Abraham, inclining toward truth.**

So let us recite the surah with reflection and recognize Allah's blessings and express gratitude for them.

We ask Allah Most High to make us among the grateful, and to spare us from the ways of the ungrateful.

هَذَا وَصَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى نَبِيِّكُمْ كَمَا أَمَرَكُمْ بِذَلِكَ رَبُّكُمْ , فَقَالَ

I conclude with this and send prayers of blessings and peace upon your Prophet as your Lord commanded:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Al Ahzaab (33) 56: 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.

اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِنَا فِيمَنْ هَدَيْتَ وَعَافِنَا فِيمَنْ عَافَيْتَ وَتَوَلَّنَا فِيمَنْ تَوَلَّيْتَ وَبَارِكْ لَنَا فِيمَا
أَعْطَيْتَ وَقِنَا شَرَّ مَا قَضَيْتَ إِنَّكَ تَقْضِي وَلَا يُقْضَى عَلَيْكَ وَإِنَّهُ لَا يَذُلُّ مَنْ وَالَيْتَ
تَبَارَكْتَ رَبَّنَا وَتَعَالَيْتَ

O Allah, guide us with those whom You have guided, grant us well-being among those You have granted well-being, be an ally to us along with those whom You are an ally to, and bless what You have bestowed upon us, and save us from the evil of what You have decreed. For verily You decree and none can decree over You. He whom You support can never be humiliated. Glory is to You, our Lord, You are Blessed and Exalted.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ مِنَ الْخَيْرِ كُلِّهِ عَاجِلِهِ وَآجِلِهِ مَا عَلِمْنَا مِنْهُ وَمَا لَمْ نَعْلَمْ وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ
مِنَ الشَّرِّ كُلِّهِ عَاجِلِهِ وَآجِلِهِ مَا عَلِمْنَا مِنْهُ وَمَا لَمْ نَعْلَمْ اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ خَيْرِ مَا
سَأَلَكَ عَبْدُكَ وَنَبِيُّكَ وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا عَاذَ بِهِ عَبْدُكَ وَنَبِيُّكَ اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ
الْجَنَّةَ وَمَا قَرَّبَ إِلَيْهَا مِنْ قَوْلٍ أَوْ عَمَلٍ وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ النَّارِ وَمَا قَرَّبَ إِلَيْهَا مِنْ قَوْلٍ أَوْ
عَمَلٍ وَنَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَجْعَلَ كُلَّ قَضَاءٍ قَضَيْتَهُ لَنَا خَيْرًا

O Allah, We ask You for all that is good, in this world and in the Hereafter, what we know and what we do not know. O Allah, we seek refuge with You from all evil, in this world and in the Hereafter, what we know and what we do not know. O Allah, we ask You for the good that Your servant and Prophet has asked You for, and we seek refuge with You from the evil from which Your servant and Prophet sought refuge. O Allah, we ask You for Paradise and for that which brings one closer to it, in word and deed, and

we seek refuge in You from Hell and from that which brings one closer to it, in word and deed. And we ask You to make every decree that You decree concerning us good.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى وَيَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ

Servants of Allah. Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded.

أذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا يَزِدْكُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا يُغْفِرْ لَكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا يَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَمْرِكُمْ مَخْرَجًا ، وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ

Remember Allah, the Great - He will remember you. Thank Him for His favors - He will increase you therein. And seek forgiveness from Him - He will forgive you. And be conscious of Him - He will provide you a way out of difficult matters. And, establish the prayer.