

Be Ready for Death

By Sk. Omar Kadrawi

Translation: Dr. Faheem Bukhatwa

In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful.

Allah says: {and comes the struggle of death with the certainty that is what you have been avoiding} 50:19

It came with certainty and truth. And what is certain and what is true is that you are going to die. Allah is alive never dies. It comes with the truth, and you get to see the angel of mercy or your see the angel of punishment.

The truth is that your grave is either going to be one garden of the gardens of Eden, or one hole of the holes of Hellfire.

And it comes with certainty, and that is what you have been avoiding by seeking to see the doctors if you get sick, or be seeking food when you feel hungry, or seek drink... but then what is next?

There are two preachers. The messenger (PPBU) left for us two very impressive preachers: a spoken preacher and a silent preacher. They are constantly and continuously preaching to us. People do need very powerful lessons. For indeed, the minds become forgetful; and hearts become harder. This life misleads and betrays us, and our souls tend to order us with the bad, and Satan misguides people. There is a definite need for a preacher. The messenger (PPBU) left those two permanent and strong preachers.

The first is the spoken preacher, and that is the Quran.

The second is the silent preacher, and that is death.

The Koran meets us every morning and every evening with verses and miracles. It reminds people and it gets the attention of the forgetful ones, and it supplies the faithful with more faith.

Death is a silent preacher. Death too meets us in the mornings and in the evenings. And it is a powerful preacher too. But unfortunately, we are deaf, we could not hear. We are very busy with our life, we continuously, and breathlessly chasing after it, argue and even fight over what it offers. We are forgetting this which threatens us on daily basis; in fact on hourly basis. Or, even a minute by minute threat, or even momentary threat. Forgetting that this preacher "and what can be a more powerful preacher than death" did actually come to the messenger (PPBU).

Did you ever see more effective and eloquent way of preaching, than a human being, a living picture, a living body, a shining face, and an eloquently spoken tongue, with a will of want for this life, and a will that lays out the plans for this worldly life. And suddenly, this shiny face goes dull and stale, and this living body is dead, and this eloquent tongue is silenced, and this human being whose voice could fill the ears, and whose image fills the sight, suddenly is placed in one of the many graves. Yes, death is a powerful preacher.

Just few days ago, two young girls filled the lives of their parents. Only a few hours separated between saying their goodbyes departing for a temporary weekend trip, and the parents receiving the sad news of their permanent departure by death. As if it was a dream or an imagination, two little girls in their youthful childhood age can be approached by death on such an unexpected moment when people were unaware.

Dear brothers and sisters, this is the fact and the truth which is absent and also present at the same time. It is present because we see it every day. And it is absent because we do not want to remember it. Let no one feel safe after today. For death comes so sudden; and the grave is the

box of one's deeds. Death is closer than the wink of an eye. Let no one think that death is far away from him or her. With the name of Allah, death is ever so close to the human being. Every person wakening up in the morning with his family, death can strike him before he manages to put his shoes on. Each and every person has his or her time of death; and this that dies, his resurrection starts for him.

Death is like the speed of vision or as fast as the blink of an eye. There is a very fine thread separating between life and death. So little that can cause this brain to stop functioning, or this heart to halt beating, or this breath drawn in is to be unable to be exhaled, or those functioning organs to shut down, and this body to become an unmoving corpse.

After a person was being used to tell the news, now he himself becomes the news. People start saying: "he is dead". A word is spoken in such simplicity and a haste or rush. And yet what a tremendous fact it is. When we say someone is dead, it means the fact that every thing is finished for him. No more chances to improve his balance of deeds, or to repentance from his sins, or do something to improve his credit status with Allah.

When death comes to people, each one of them wishes if they were given another month in time. Or even a week, or a day, or an hour, or even a minute. In one minute one can say: "I repent to Allah" or he may praise Allah one more time, or makes a will which he never made when he had life and had health. But, he uselessly will be wishing for such a chance. Allah says: {you believers; do not let your money or your children make you forget to remember Allah; and this who does that; they are the losers. And spend from what we gave you before the death comes to one of you, and he start saying: God, if you postpone me to a not too far a time, I would give for charity, and I would be with the good ones. And Allah will not delay a soul when its term comes. And Allah is so

expert with what you do.} 62:9-11. Allah also says: {Allah's term when it comes, it does not get delayed if you just knew}71:4.

Time of death is defined; the age for living is defined; a number of days; and a limited number of breaths of air drawn. In fact a number of moments. Allah says: {and every soul will get the taste of death. And you will merely be given your rewards on the day of resurrection. For this who is budged or moved off the fire and made to enter paradise has won. And this life is mere false and vane enjoyment}3:185. Allah also says: {All on this life is to perish, and only that remains is the face of your Lord with His dignity and honor}55:26-26.

The messenger (PPBU) advised us to remember the destroyer of enjoyments: "Death". For death does cut off enjoyment and terminates it to the individual. No joy and nothing last for ever. If it can last for a person then it would have lasted for someone from the past. But it never did for anyone.

One of the Muslim rulers asked a scholar to preach him with some advice. The scholar said: you ought to know that you will not be the first ruler to die. And if this before you did not die, then you wouldn't have become a ruler. And between you and the first man Adam, is a few dead fathers, who died as you certainly will too.

Gabrael was reported to have told the messenger (PPBU) once: {Mohammad, live as much as you like, you shall die. And do what you like, you shall be judged for. And love whoever you like, you shall be parting from.}

No matter how old one lives, 40, 50, 60, 70, 100 or even as old as Noah did live, or over 1000. What is going to happen at the end? The end is death. When the angel of death came to take Prophet Noah soul (who incidentally lived for 950 year) he asked him: "how did you find this

life?" He answered: "I found it like a room with two doors, I entered through one and I left through the other".

A man asked the messenger (PPBU): who is the best of all people, and the most resolute? The messenger said: {this of them who remembers death more, and this of them who is most ready for death. Those are the good once who took all the nobleness of this life, and the honor of the life after}.

The messenger (PPBU) once after a funeral; sat by a grave and cried. And he said "it is for the likes of this that you should get ready".

And giving an advice to Muad (مُعَاذ) the messenger (PPBU) said: {worship Allah as if you see Him. And count your self among the dead. And say Allah's name or think of Allah at each rock, and at each tree. And if you commit a sin then do a good deed beside it. Private for a private and a public for a public}.

A king once built a beautiful palace. Decorated, painted, fitted it with the most luxurious furniture, and expensive masterpieces. And filled it with the most rare and beautiful artifacts. One of his close friends was good man. He asked his friend: can you see any fault or defect in this palace so I can fix it? His friend said: yes, I see only one fault in it, but you can not fix it. The king said: what is it? I have so much money which can get anything fixed. The friend said: The only fault in this palace is that you will have one departure from it, after which there will be no return. You will leave and never return, or you will enter and never leave. And that is the case for any home you build.

And one man bought a house from another and went to have the contract drawn up. The editor of the contract wrote the following: This is what a one dead (or dying) individual bought from another dead one. A home in the town of forgetfulness, on the sinners' way, with four borders: the

first border terminates with death, the second border leads to the grave, the third leads to be brought to an account; and the fourth border leads to paradise or Hell.

Hamed Qaisary said: we all are certain of death, and yet none of us is ready for it. And we all are certain of Paradise, and yet you don't see any once working for it. And we all are certain of Hellfire, and yet we do not see one who is afraid of it. Why are you so happy? And what you may be waiting for? It is death. It is the first to come to you with good or with bad. Brothers, walk to your God in a good manner.

{Every soul is getting the taste of death} is a verse repeated three times in the Koran. Every soul including prophets, the believers, martyrs, the good living, they all will get the taste of death. All the messengers, the chosen ones, and the best before the messenger (PPBU), all of them got the taste of death.

The messenger Muhammad (PPBU) and the choice of Allah amongst all of His creations, he got the taste of death. When he died the companions were stunned, and some of them even denied it. Omar said: "I will kill anyone who says Muhammad is dead." With the grace of Allah two men remained composed and were inspired the truth.

The first is Al-Abbas the messenger's uncle who recited to the crowds what Allah says: {Indeed you shall die and so shall they, then on the day of resurrection you shall be with your God argue.}39:30.

And the second man was Abu-Baker who gave his famous speech: "O' people, whoever was worshipping Muhammad, let them know that Muhammad is dead. And whoever was worshipping Allah, then let them know that Allah is for ever living, never dies." Then he recited the verse: {and Muhammad is just a messenger, and before him other messengers have come and gone. Is it that if he dies or gets killed your retreat

back? And this that does turn back will not hurt Allah the slightest. And Allah shall reward those who are thankful}3:144.

Kings, princes, leaders, the mighty and the rich they all died, and their riches, armies and treasures was of no help to them. Death practices equality between the rich and the poor. Death is the end of every living being. Where did all the powerful and mighty go to? This is the end for them all: one meter, by one meter by two. This is the human's destiny. The all are equal at that deadly embrace of the grave, and when maggots and worms consume the bodies.

Death is like a drink everyone will drink, those are faithful and those who are not. There is no escape from death when the time comes. Many die because of a heart attack or in a car accident. Even for those walking safely on the side of the road may be killed by an out of control car.

Death does not differentiate between an old or a young, a rich or a poor, a strong or a weak, a healthy or a sick, a traveler or a resident. Death is coming but unfortunately we are unaware of this dangerous fact. Let us get ready for death before we are supervised with its sudden arrival. Lets us pack up and get ready. Ali Ebn_Abi-Talib used to cry and say: "Worldly life, stay away from me, go and fool someone else not me. I have you divorced three times with no chance of reconciliation. You have such a short life span. You have such a low standard of living, and your enjoyment is so limited. What is regrettable and pitiful is the lack of provisions, and the far distance to travel, and the terrifying road". Allah says: {get loaded with provisions, and the best provision is God fearing. And you who have brains, fear Me.}2:197.

Dear God, grant us the God fearing attribute. And make us of the people of the next life, and make us amongst the best that get themselves ready for what comes after death.