

Sincerity, Truth and Patience: Obligations upon Every Muslim¹

Al-Imām Ibn Bāz (rahimahullāh)

All praise belongs to Allāh, may peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allāh, his family, and his companions and all those who follow in their way. To Proceed:

The *ummah* of *Islām* is the foremost of nations in commanding with good and forbidding from evil. This is an obligation prescribed upon every Muslim in accordance with his capability and his ability in fulfilling the task of sincere advice and instruction so that he is absolved of any blame and so that others are guided by way of him. Allah (تعالى) says,

وَذَكِّرْ فَإِنَّ الذِّكْرَى تَنْفَعُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

And remind for indeed the reminder benefits the believers.²

¹ Majmū' Fatāwa wa Maqālāt of Shaykh Ibn Bāz vol.2, p.154

² Šūrah adh-Dhāriyāt, Ayah 55



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There is likewise no doubt that every believer, rather every person is in dire need of remembering the rights of Allah and the rights of His servants and being encouraged in performing them.

Likewise, they are in dire need to mutually encourage one another with the truth and to be patient upon it, indeed Allah - in His Clear Book - has informed of the trait of the successful and their praiseworthy actions against the trait of the losers and their reprehensible manners. This is found in many verses of the Noble Qur'ān and has been combined in what Allāh (سبحانه) has mentioned in *Ṣūrah al-'Asr*, when He said,

وَالْعَصْرِ ﴿١﴾ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ ﴿٢﴾ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ

By Al-'Asr (the time). Verily! Man is in loss. Except those who believe (in Islamic Monotheism) and do righteous good deeds, and recommend one another to the truth, and recommend one another to patience.³

³ Ṣūrah al-'Aṣr, Ayah 1-3



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So, He (عز و جل) guided his servants - in this tremendous short *ṣūrah* - to the means of success and concentrated them into four characteristics.

Firstly, *al-Īmān* (sound Islamic belief and creed), **secondly**, *al-ʿAmal aṣ-Ṣāliḥ* (righteous actions), **thirdly**, enjoining with *haqq* (truth), **fourthly**, encouraging with *ṣabr* (patience).

Whoever perfects these four stations has attained the greatest success and Allāh [out of His Mercy and Generosity, has made it binding upon Himself] to honor him and grant him everlasting bliss on the Day of Resurrection.

Whoever opposes these four traits and does not embody himself with them has incurred the greatest loss and ended up in *al-Jaḥīm* (the Hellfire), the abode of disgrace.

Indeed, Allāh in His Noble Book has explained the traits of the *Rābiḥīn* [those who combine belief and righteous deeds in pursuit of reward in the Hereafter], their types and repeated them in many places throughout His Book, so that the seeker of salvation learns them, embodies them and calls to them.

He has explained the traits of the *Khāsirīn* (the losers) in many verses, so that the believer can learn them and keep far away from them.



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So, whoever contemplates on the Book of Allāh and is plentiful in reciting it, is aware of the traits of the *Rābiḥīn* and the traits of the *Khāsirīn* in detail.

Allāh has said in many verses, from them what has preceded and from them,

إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ
الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا

Verily, this Quran guides to that which is most just and right and gives glad tidings to the believers who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a great reward (Paradise).⁴

كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

(This is) a Book (the Quran) which We have sent down to you, full of blessings that they may ponder over its Verses, and that men of understanding may remember.⁵

⁴ Ṣūrah al-Isrā', Verse 9

⁵ Ṣūrah Ṣād, Verse 29



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وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ مُبَارَكٌ فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ.

And this is a blessed Book (the Quran) which We have sent down, so follow it and fear Allah (i.e. do not disobey His Orders), that you may receive mercy (i.e. saved from the torment of Hell).⁶

And it is authentically reported that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said,

خيركم من تعلم القرآن وعلمه

The best of you are those who learn the Qur'ān and teach it.⁷

He (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said in his Farewell Sermon on the day of 'Arafah,

إني تارك فيكم ما لن تضلوا إن اعتصمتم به، كتاب الله

Indeed, I leave amongst you that which if you were to cling to it you would not go astray, the Book of Allah.⁸

⁶ Ṣūrah al-An'ām, Verse 155

⁷ Al-Bukhāri 5027

⁸ At-Tirmidhi 3788



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Allah elucidated in these verses that He revealed the Qur'ān so His servants would contemplate over it, and be reminded by it, to follow it, be guided by it to the causes of happiness, honour and salvation in this world and the hereafter.

The Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) directed the nation to learn the Qur'ān and teach it, he explained that the best of people are the people of the Qur'ān, those who learn it, and teach it to others, whilst acting upon it, following it and stopping at its prescribed limits, ruling by it and referring disputes to it.

He (صلى الله عليه و سلم) clarified in a great gathering - on the Day of 'Arafah - that the people would not be misguided whilst they adhere to the Book of Allāh and follow its teachings. When the *Salaf aṣ-Ṣālih* (Pious Predecessors) and the first generation of this nation followed the teachings of the Qur'ān and the life of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) Allāh gave them honour and might, raised their station, and established them in the land. Fulfilling what He (سبحانه) promised them, in His statement,



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وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي
 الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي
 ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُم مِّن بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي
 شَيْئًا وَمَن كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

Allah has promised those among you who believe, and do righteous good deeds, that He will certainly grant them succession to (the present rulers) in the earth, as He granted it to those before them, and that He will grant them the authority to practise their religion, that which He has chosen for them (i.e. Islam). And He will surely give them in exchange a safe security after their fear (provided) they (believers) worship Me and do not associate anything (in worship) with Me. But whoever disbelieved after this, they are the Fasiqun (rebellious, disobedient to Allah).⁹

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن تَنْصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ

O you who believe! If you help (in the cause of) Allah, He will help you, and make your foothold firm.¹⁰

⁹ Sūrah An-Nur, Verse 55

¹⁰ Sūrah Muḥammad, Verse 7



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وَلَيَنْصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَنْصُرُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ ﴿٤٠﴾ الَّذِينَ إِنْ مَكَّنَّاهُمْ فِي
 الْأَرْضِ أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَمَرُوا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ
 وَلِلَّهِ عَاقِبَةُ الْأُمُورِ

Verily, Allah will help those who help His (Cause). Truly, Allah is All-Strong, All-Mighty. Those (Muslim rulers) who, if We give them power in the land, (they) order for Iqamat-as-Salat. [i.e. to perform the five compulsory congregational Salat (prayers) (the males in mosques)], to pay the Zakat and they enjoin Al-Ma'ruf (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam orders one to do), and forbid Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief, polytheism and all that Islam has forbidden). And with Allah rests the end of (all) matters (of creatures).¹¹

Therefore O Muslims, ponder over the Book of your Lord, and recite it plentifully, act upon its commandments, keep away from its prohibitions, recognise the noble manners and deeds the Qur'an commended, hasten towards them and cultivate yourselves with them. In addition, you should recognise the manners and deeds which the Qur'an has censured, and threatened those who perpetrate them, so beware of them and keep well away from them. Encourage each other with this [advice] and have patience upon it until you meet your Lord.

¹¹ Sūrah Al-Hajj, Verses 40-41



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Through that you will triumph with salvation, happiness, and honour in this life and the hereafter.

From the most important of obligations upon the Muslims is to have concern with the *Sunnah* of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم), understanding it and walking in its light. It is the second revelation, the explanation of the Book of Allah, and the guide to what may be obscure of its meanings. As Allah (سبحانه) said in His Noble Book,

وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

And We have also sent down unto you the reminder and the advice (the Quran), that you may explain clearly to men what is sent down to them, and that they may give thought.¹²

وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تَبْيَانًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً

وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ [النحل]

And We have sent down to you the Book (the Quran) as an exposition of everything, a guidance, a mercy, and glad tidings for those who have submitted themselves (to Allah as Muslims).¹³

¹² Sūrah An-Nahl, Verse 44

¹³ Sūrah An-Nahl, Verse 89



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لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ
الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have a good example to follow for him who hopes in (the Meeting with) Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah much.¹⁴

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ
شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

And whatsoever the Messenger gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it), and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Severe in punishment.¹⁵

فَلْيَحْذَرِ الَّذِينَ يُخَالِفُونَ عَنْ أَمْرِهِ أَنْ تُصِيبَهُمْ فِتْنَةٌ أَوْ يُصِيبَهُمْ عَذَابٌ
أَلِيمٌ

And let those who oppose the Messenger's commandment beware, lest some Fitnah (disbelief, trials, afflictions, earthquakes, killing, overpowered by a tyrant, etc.) befall them or a painful torment be inflicted on them.¹⁶

¹⁴ Sūrah Al-Ahzāb, Verse 21

¹⁵ Sūrah Al-Hashr, Verse 7

¹⁶ Sūrah an-Nūr, Verse 63



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The verses indicating the obligation of following the Messenger, exalting his *Sunnah*, holding firm to it, and warning against opposing it or being negligent towards it are abundant - whoever contemplates the Noble Qur'ān and deeply understands what has authentically been reported from the Messenger will know this well. There is no rectification of the servant, no happiness, power, honour, nor salvation in this life or the Hereafter, except by following [and adhering to] the Noble Qur'ān and the Sunnah of the messenger; venerating them, and advising with them in all situations and having patience upon that, as Allāh (عز وجل) said,

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ
وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَحُولُ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَأَنَّهُ إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ

O you who believe! Answer Allah (by obeying Him) and (His) Messenger when he calls you to that which will give you life, and know that Allah comes in between a person and his heart. And verily to Him you shall (all) be gathered.¹⁷

¹⁷ Sūrah al-Anfāl, Verse 24



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مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً
وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

Whoever works righteousness, whether male or female, while he (or she) is a true believer (of Islamic Monotheism) verily, to him We will give a good life (in this world with respect, contentment and lawful provision), and We shall pay them certainly a reward in proportion to the best of what they used to do (i.e. Paradise in the Hereafter).¹⁸

وَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ وَلِرَسُولِهِ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَلَكِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

But honour, power and glory belong to Allah, His Messenger, and to the believers, but the hypocrites know not.¹⁹

So in these noble verses Allāh سبحانه showed his servants that the good life, ease, contentment and complete honour is only attained by the one who responds to Allāh and his messenger and is steadfast upon that in speech and action.

As for the one who turns away from the Book of Allāh and the *Sunnah* of His messenger and is preoccupied with other than them, then indeed he will remain in torment, misery, anxiety, distress and a life of hardship, even if he possessed the entire world.

¹⁸ Sūrah An-Nahl 16:97

¹⁹ Sūrah al-Munafiqūn, Verse 8



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He will then be moved to that which is more severe and horrendous - the punishment of the Fire, Refuge is sought with Allāh from that, as He (تعالى) says,

وَمَا مَنَعَهُمْ أَنْ تُقْبَلَ مِنْهُمْ نَفَقَاتُهُمْ إِلَّا أَنَّهُمْ كَفَرُوا بِاللَّهِ وَبِرَسُولِهِ وَلَا يَأْتُونَ الصَّلَاةَ إِلَّا وَهُمْ كُسَالَىٰ وَلَا يُنْفِقُونَ إِلَّا وَهُمْ كَارِهُونَ ﴿٥٤﴾ فَلَا تُعْجِبُكَ أَمْوَالُهُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُهُمْ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُعَذِّبَهُمْ بِهَا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَتَزْهَقَ أَنفُسُهُمْ وَهُمْ كَافِرُونَ

And nothing prevents their contributions from being accepted from them except that they disbelieved in Allah and in His Messenger; and that they came not to As-Salat (the prayer) except in a lazy state; and that they offer not contributions but unwillingly. So let not their wealth or their children amaze you; in reality Allah's Plan is to punish them with these things in the life of this world, and that their souls shall depart (die) while they are disbelievers.²⁰

²⁰ Sūrah At-Taubah, Verses 54-55



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فَأَمَّا يَا تَيْبَتِكُمْ مِّنِّي هُدًى فَمَنِ اتَّبَعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا يَضِلُّ وَلَا يَشْقَى ﴿١٢٤﴾
 وَمَنْ أَعْرَضَ عَن ذِكْرِي فَإِنَّ لَهُ مَعِيشَةً ضَنْكًا وَنَحْشُرُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ
 أَعْمَى

Then if there comes to you guidance from Me, then whoever follows My Guidance shall neither go astray, nor fall into distress and misery. "But whosoever turns away from My Reminder (i.e. neither believes in this Quran nor acts on its orders, etc.) verily, for him is a life of hardship, and We shall raise him up blind on the Day of Resurrection."²¹

وَلَنُذِيقَنَّهُمْ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ الْأَدْنَىٰ دُونَ الْعَذَابِ الْأَكْبَرِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

And verily, We will make them taste of the near torment (i.e. the torment in the life of this world, i.e. disasters, calamities, etc.) prior to the supreme torment (in the Hereafter), in order that they may (repent and) return (i.e. accept Islam).²²

²¹ Sūrah Ta Ha, Verses 123-124

²² Sūrah As-Sajdah, Verse 21



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إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ لَفِي نَعِيمٍ ﴿١٣﴾ وَإِنَّ الْفُجَّارَ لَفِي جَحِيمٍ

Verily, the Abrar (pious and righteous) will be in delight (Paradise); And verily, the Fujjar (the wicked, disbelievers, sinners and evil-doers) will be in the blazing Fire (Hell).²³

Some of the scholars of tafsir say these verses encompass the condition of the pious and the wicked in this life and the hereafter. So the believer is in bliss in his life, his grave and his hereafter, even if he is tested in this world of the various types of trials, such as poverty and illness and it's like.

As for the wicked, he is in the fire in his life, his grave and his hereafter. This is even if he obtained whatever he has obtained of bliss in this world, in reality that is not bliss as the true bliss is bliss of the heart, it's relaxation and contentment.

Therefore, the believer with his belief in Allāh, his reliance upon Allāh, his sufficing with Him, and fulfilling His rights, believing in His promise, with a content heart, an opened chest and relaxed soul.

The wicked with his diseased heart, ignorance, doubt, turning away from Allah, and the scattering of his heart among the pursuits and desires of the worldly life, he is in torment, worry, perpetual fatigue, and the intoxication of whims and

²³ Surah Al-Infītār, Verses 13-14



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base desires which blind the heart from reflecting upon that and from responding to it with right conduct.

So O Muslims, focus on that which you were created for, the worship of Allāh, His obedience, gain understanding of that and be steadfast upon it until you meet your Lord (عز وجل), then you will be blessed with everlasting bliss and be saved from the torment of the fire. Allah (تعالى) says,

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا
وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾ نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي
الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا
تَدَّعُونَ ﴿٣١﴾ نُزُلًا مِنْ غَفُورٍ رَحِيمٍ

Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is Allah (Alone)," and then they Istaqamu, on them the angels will descend (at the time of their death) (saying): "Fear not, nor grieve! But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised! "We have been your friends in the life of this world and are (so) in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have (all) that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have (all) for which you ask for." An entertainment from (Allah), the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."²⁴

²⁴ Sūrah Fussilat, Verses 30-32



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إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ
 ﴿١٥﴾ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is (only) Allah," and thereafter Istaqamu (i.e. stood firm and straight on the Islamic Faith of Monotheism by abstaining from all kinds of sins and evil deeds which Allah has forbidden and by performing all kinds of good deeds which He has ordained), on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve. Such shall be the dwellers of Paradise, abiding therein (forever), a reward for what they used to do.²⁵

Allah is the one that we ask to make us and you from them, to protect all of us from the evil of ourselves, our misdeeds, indeed He is Capable of all things.

May Allāh's peace and blessings be upon His servant, His messenger, our Prophet Muḥammad, his family and his companions.

²⁵ Sūrah al-Ahqāf, Verses 13-15



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