

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah; Most Gracious, Most Merciful

All praise is due to Allaah. We thank Him and seek His aid and forgiveness. Whomsoever Allaah guides will never be misguided; and whomsoever Allaah leads astray will never be guided. I bear witness that there is no God except Allaah, and I further bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger *may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him* (PBUH). To proceed:

I would like to remind my dear brothers and sisters in Islaam that it is our duty as Muslims to vote in the US Presidential elections **today, Tuesday, Nov 4th 2008**, insh'Allaah. Allaah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* states in the Noble Quran:

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

Let there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good (Islâm), enjoining Al-Ma'rûf (i.e. Islâmic Monotheism and all that Islâm orders one to do) and forbidding Al-Munkar (polytheism and disbelief and all that Islâm has forbidden). And it is they who are the successful.
[Aal-Imran (3):104]

Our esteemed Sheikh Muhammad Saalih Ibn Uthaymeen (d. 2001), may Allaah have mercy on him, said during a lecture when visiting the United States in 2000: "voting is part of commanding good and forbidding evil." This is especially true today when we see how some people, when given power, can further harm the state of Islaam and Muslims in particular, and the state of the world in general. The above mentioned verses highlight the commands of Allaah to enjoin good and forbid evil, which will result in making us the truly successful ones. In another chapter Allaah voices similar commands, when The Most High says:

وَالْعَصْرِ، إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ، إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَّصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَّصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ

By Al-'Asr (the time). (Verily, man is in loss, except those who believe (in Islâmic Monotheism) and do righteous deeds, and recommend one another to the truth , and recommend one another to patience.
[al-Asr (103):1-3]

These noble verses highlight the importance of enjoining one another for the truth, as a mean for mankind (not only Muslims) not to be at loss. So not only is ensuring that evil and mischief not spread in the society an obligation upon Muslims, it is a key to our success in this life and the afterlife, insh'Allaah.

Some Muslims use the argument that, since this is a government of kufr (polytheism) we should not get involved, and therefore not vote. This is partially wrong because, if we go by that premise, that this is a land of kufr, we must then make hijrah (migration) to a land of Islaam as Allaah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* states:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَوَفَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ ظَالِمِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ قَالُوا فِيمَ كُنْتُمْ قَالُوا كُنَّا مُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا أَلَمْ تَكُنْ أَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَاسِعَةً فَتُهَاجِرُوا فِيهَا فَأُولَئِكَ مَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا

Verily! As for those whom the angels take (in death) while they are wronging themselves (as they stayed among the disbelievers even though emigration was obligatory for them), they (angels) say (to them): "In what (condition) were you?" They reply: "We were weak and oppressed on earth." They (angels) say: "Was not the earth of Allâh spacious enough for you to emigrate therein?" Such men will find their abode in Hell - What an evil destination! [an-Nisaa (4):97]

However, our religion being a religion of Yussr (ease) Allaah allowed us to live in such polytheists nations to seek knowledge, medical treatment and, most importantly, to spread Islaam. And know my dear brother and sister that the best way to spread Islam is to apply it in our daily lives and be a living example of Islam. This can be highlighted from Aisha's (the mother of the believers) saying when asked about the manners of our Prophet Mohammad (PBUH): "His (PBUH) manners were the Quran." Which meant that our Prophet (PBUH) applied Islaam in every aspect of his life, including caring about the benefit of the community regardless of the religion of the people in it. Since he (PBUH) was sent to all mankind.

Furthermore, Allaah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* not only commands us to believe with our hearts and act with our limbs, He has also warned us about saying things that which we don't implement:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِمَ تَقُولُونَ مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ , كَبُرَ مَقْتًا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَنْ تَقُولُوا مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ

O you who believe! Why do you say that which you do not do? Most hateful it is with Allâh that you say that which you do not do. [as-Saff (61):2-3]

As you can see my fellow Muslims, saying that we enjoin good and forbid evil and don't act upon it, is most hated to Allaah. Furthermore, consistently claiming faith without sincerely believing in it or acting upon is a sign of hypocrisy! Just as the hypocrites claimed to believe in Allah with their tongues but not with their hearts or actions. May Allah protect us from hypocrisy!

Finally, we need to respond to some individuals who explain their lack of involvement and most notably lack of voting by saying: "My vote does not matter! If I vote or not, Allaah has already chosen a winner." Although such statements are, in fact, accurate in terms that we believe in the qadr (the divine decree) of Allaah and that He controls all the affairs of His creation. Behaving in such a manner, however, is un-Islamic. This is similar to saying: "I don't need to seek knowledge. If Allaah wills I will become knowledgeable over night!" or you give up on seeking income by saying "if Allaah wills, He will feed me without me having to work." This thinking is flawed because a Muslim must rely on Allaah (tawkul) while still abiding to the worldly means (waseelah). This is clear from many instances in the Quran, where Allaah states:

فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانْتَشِرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَابْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

Then when the (Jumu'ah) Salât (prayer) is ended, you may disperse through the land, and seek the Bounty of Allâh (by working, etc.), and remember Allâh much, that you may be successful [al-Jumuah (62):10]

Or in His statement:

وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ

And take provision with you for the journey (Hajj), but indeed the best provision is Taqwaa (righteousness) [al-Baqara (2):197]

The above mentioned verses clearly highlight the importance of relying on Allaah and abiding to the means. One must understand that relying solely upon the mean is shirk (polytheism), while abandoning the means is a defamation of the Religion. So a Muslim must display a fine balance of relying on Allaah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* and accepting his qadr, while abiding to the worldly means.

To conclude, we must not be extreme in our religion like the nations that preceded us. We must display the high moral character that comes with being a Muslim, whether it is to apply what we claim to believe in, or to care about the greater good of our fellow Muslims and human beings. My dear brothers and sisters in Islam, on **Nov. 4th (today)** insh'Allah, we must vote for the person that has the most benefits for Islaam, no matter how slim they may seem. Voting for an individual that will stop the wars in the Muslim lands and therefore save the lives of millions of Muslims, insh'Allaah, should be our priority. This is following the Prophet's (PHUB) command:

*It was recorded that Saeed al-Khudree, may Allah be pleased with him, said:
I heard the Prophet (PBUH) say: "Whoever witnesses an evil, then let him change it with his hand. If he couldn't, then with his tongue. If he still couldn't change it, then with his heart; and that is the weakest form of faith." [Recorded in Sahih Muslim]*

Today, the weakest form of faith may be the most telling about a Muslim's character: relying on Allaah and changing evil with his/her hands by voting.

If there is any truth and benefit in this short letter then it is from Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*, and if there are any mistakes then there are from myself and the Shaytaan. And our last supplication is al-hamdulil' Allaahi Rabb al alameen (All thanks and praise are due to Allaah the Lord of the worlds.)

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