

'Abdullāh ibn 'Umar and Abu Hurayrah



narrated that they both heard God's Messenger (peace be upon him) say as he was standing on the steps of his platform: **Some people shall stop neglecting Friday Prayer or else God will seal their hearts and then they will be among the heedless.**<sup>(1)</sup>

1 Related by Muslim, 865.

### From the Qur'an

﴿Believers! When the call to prayer is made on Friday, go straightaway to the prayer and leave off your trading. This is best for you, if you but knew it. (9) When the prayer is finished, disperse in the land and seek God's bounty. Remember God often so that you may be successful. (10) Yet when people see some trade or entertainment, they head off towards it, leaving you standing there. Say: 'That which is with God is far better than any entertainment or trade. God is the best of providers'.﴾ (62: 9-11)

### The Narrator

The first narrator: Abu 'Abd al-Raḥmān 'Abdullāh ibn 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb ibn Nufayl belonged to the 'Adiy branch of the Quraysh. He embraced Islam when he was young. He migrated to Madinah with his father when he was still a child below the age of puberty. At the time of the Battle of Uḥud, he was too young to fight. His first military effort was the Encounter of the Moat, i.e. al-Khandaq. He also participated in the pledge under the tree. Zaynab bint Maẓ'ūn, who was 'Uthmān ibn Maẓ'ūn's sister, was his mother and the mother of his sister, Ḥafṣah the Mother of Believers. He narrated much useful information from the Prophet, and also from his father 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb, Abu Bakr, 'Uthmān, 'Alī, Bilāl, Ṣuhayb and other companions of the Prophet. He issued many fatwas and narrated a large number of hadiths. He died in Year 74 AH 694 CE

The second narrator: 'Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Ṣakhr al-Dawsī al-Azdī of Yemen was better known by his appellation Abu Hurayrah. This is what is best known about his name and his father's name. He embraced Islam in the year in which the Battle of Khaybar took place, i.e. Year 7 of the Hijri calendar. He remained close to the Prophet, eager to learn, and he used to go with the Prophet wherever he went. He was one of the best memorizers of the Prophet's companions and the one who narrated the largest number of hadiths. Al-Bukhari mentioned that more than eight hundred companions of the Prophet or those who belonged to the *tābi'īn* generation narrated hadiths from him. 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb appointed him as governor of Bahrain. Later he returned to Madinah and devoted his time to narrating the Prophet's hadiths and educating people about their faith. He died in Year 58 AH, 678 CE.

### Summary

The Prophet (peace be upon him) warned in his address in the mosque against neglecting Friday Prayer. Whoever neglects it shall have his heart sealed by God, and he will go astray and be one of the heedless.



# Message and Meaning



This hadith shows that Friday Prayer is obligatory for all Muslims. The hadith also warns against neglecting it and mentions the very severe punishment incurred by a person who does so.



The hadith means that one of the two alternatives is certain to happen. Either people will stop their negligence of Friday Prayer or God will seal their hearts so that they will be unable to determine the truth and thereby join those who are heedless. A reference to such an eventuality is given in the Qur'an: 'God has sealed their hearts and ears; their eyes are covered; and a grievous punishment awaits them'. (2: 7)



The message of this hadith is reiterated in the hadith quoting the Prophet (peace be upon him): 'Whoever abandons the Friday Prayer three times, in negligence, shall have his heart sealed by God'.<sup>(1)</sup>



Friday Prayer is a personal duty applicable for every male Muslim who has attained puberty. God says: 'Believers! When the call to prayer is made on Friday, go straightaway to the prayer and leave off your trading. This is best for you, if you but knew it'. (62: 9) The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: 'Everyone who has attained puberty must go to Friday Prayer; and whoever goes to join the Friday Prayer should have had a bath'.<sup>(2)</sup>



1 Related by Abu Dāwūd, 1052; al-Tirmidhī, 500; al-Nasāī in *al-Sunan al-Kubrā*, 1668; Ibn Mājah, 1125.

2 Related by Abu Dāwūd, 342; al-Nasāī, 1371.

# Implementation



A Muslim who prays to God to grant him guidance on the right path does not expose himself to God's wrath and punishment. Thus he does not deserve to have his heart sealed and become heedless of what pleases God.



Serious matters require that commands and prohibitions are announced in public gatherings. Hence, it was especially suitable that the warning against neglecting Friday Prayer and congregational prayers was made when the Prophet addressed the people from the platform, thereby stressing the importance of what he said. Advocates of Islam, scholars and educators should give everything its proper importance. What is suitable as admonition in a general circle is different from what is suited for Friday Prayer.



The style employed by an advocate of Islam or an educator should differ in intensity so as to suit the occasion. In some cases, an implicit reference may be adequate, in others a clear advice may be better, while in different cases gentle remonstrance and perhaps some blame is suitable. However, some situations call for an angry and firm attitude.



When giving strong advice, it is not right to publicly name the people being warned. To do so is to worsen the situation. It may be that criticizing some wrong behaviour will lead to an even worse behaviour. In this hadith, the Prophet uses the formula, 'some people shall stop...', without mentioning any of them.



Friday Prayer is obligatory, according to the unanimous view of all scholars. God has warned the one who neglects it with various types of punishment. Everyone should beware of incurring God's wrath and deserving His punishment.



Friday is the best day ever. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: 'The best day on which the sun has ever risen is Friday: it is the day when Adam was created, and the day on which he was settled in Heaven and the day on which he was removed from it'.<sup>(1)</sup> Every Muslim should make sure that Friday will testify for him, not against him.



Everyone should go early to Friday Prayer. He is strongly recommended to take a bath and put on his best clothes. God's reward for so doing is indeed rich. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: 'Whoever on Friday takes a bath like the one required for [removing] a state of ceremonial impurity then goes is like one who gives a camel to charity, and whoever goes in the second period is like one who gives a cow to charity, and whoever goes in the third period is like one who gives a horned sheep to charity, and whoever goes in the fourth period is like one who gives a hen to charity, and whoever goes in the fifth period is like one who gives an egg to charity. When the imam comes out, the angels will attend, listening to God's glorification'.<sup>(2)</sup>

1 Related by Muslim, 854.

2 Related by al-Bukhari, 881; Muslim, 850.

