



THE SERMON AT TABUUK

(In the ninth year of the *Hijrah* mention be made to the Muslim expedition to Tabuk in Syria, where the Charitian vassals of imperial Rome, notably the Arab chieftains of Chassan, Lakham and Jasam, had persuaded their lord to help them in attacking the Muslims at Madina. The Prophet ordered his followers to make the necessary preparations in order to meet the impending menace. There were, however, many obstacles in the way. The journey was long and the weather burning hot. Crops were ripe and ready for harvesting. Moreover, such a long journey could not be undertaken on foot and there were many who could not afford a ride.

In short the far distance, the hot season, the fact that it was harvest time and the prestige of the enemy caused many to excuse themselves and many more to stay behind without cause. Those defaulters are denounced in the Qur'aan in these words;

"O ye who believe! What aileth you that when it is said to you: 'Go forth in the way of Allah', ye are bowed down to the ground with heaviness. Take ye pleasure in the life of the world rather than in the Hereafter? The comfort of the life of the world is but little in the Hereafter.'" (9:38)

Despite all odds, despite the abstention of several tribes and the withdrawal of the hypocrites, a sizeable army of people turned out, larger than any before. The army advanced to Tabuuk, on the confines of Syria, and there learned that the enemy had not yet gathered. The border was found quite peaceful. Therefore, despite all the expertise and trouble, when the Holy Prophet found there was no cause for oppression he dropped all ideas of fighting and stirred the hearts of men to the great truth which he had come to preach. The marvellous speech that he had delivered at Tabuuk on this historic occasion beautifully sums up the objective behind his struggle.)

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (p.b.o.h.) firstly praised God and thanked Him and then he said:

1. *Verily, the most veracious discourse is the Book of Allaah (the Qur-aan)'*
2. *The most trustworthy handhold is the word of piety.*
3. *The best of religions is the community of Ibrahiim.*
4. *The best of precedents is the precedent of Muhammad.*
5. *The noblest speech is the invocation of God.*
6. *The finest of the narratives is the Qur-aan.*
7. *The best of the affairs is that which has been firmly resolved on.*
8. *The worst in religion are those things which are created without the sanction of the necessary authority.*
9. *The best of guidance is the one furnished by the Prophet.*
10. *The noblest death is the death of a martyr.*
11. *The most miserable blindness is waywardness after guidance.*
12. *The best of the actions is that which is beneficent to mankind.*
13. *The best guidance is that which is put into practise.*
14. *The worst blindness is the blindness of the heart.*
15. *The upper hand is better than the lower hand (that is, it is better to give charity than to receive it.)*
16. *The little that suffices is better than what is abundant but makes a man neglectful of his duty.*
17. *The worst apology is that which is tendered when death stares one in the face.*

18. *The worst remorse is that which is felt on the Day of Resurrection.*
19. *Some men do not come to Friday prayer, but with hesitance and delay.*
20. *And some of them do not remember Allaah but with reluctance.*
21. *The tongue which is addicted to false expression is a bubbling spring of sins.*
22. *The most valuable possession is the contentment of the heart.*
23. *The best provision is that of piety.*
24. *The highest wisdom is fear of God, the Mighty and the Great.*
25. *The best thing to be cherished in the heart is faith and conviction.*
26. *Doubt is tantamount to disbelief.*
27. *Impatient wailing and fulsome laudation of the dead is an act of ignorance.*
28. *Betrayal leads one to the fire of Hell.*
29. *Drinking amounts to burning in the fire of Hell.*
30. *Obscene poetry is the work of the devil.*
31. *Wine is the mother of all evil.*
32. *The worst thing eaten is one which belongs to the orphan.*
33. *Blessed is he who receives admonition from others.*
34. *The unfortunate is the one who is born unfortunate from the womb of his mother.*
35. *Each one of you must resort to a place of four cubits (the grave).*
36. *Nothing can be said about an act until it ends.*
37. *The worst dream is false dream.*
38. *Your affairs will be decided ultimately in the next life.*
39. *Whatever is in store is near.*
40. *To abuse a believer is transgression.*
41. *Raising arms against him is infidelity.*
42. *To backbite him is disobedience to Allaah.*
43. *Inviolability and sacredness of his life and property is as that of his blood.*
44. *He who swears by Allaah (falsely), in fact falsifies him.*
45. *He who pardons others is himself granted pardon.*
46. *He who forgives others is himself forgiven by Allaah for his sins.*
47. *He who represses anger, God rewards him.*
48. *He who faces misfortune with perseverance, Allaah compensates him.*
49. *He who acts only for fame and reputation, Allaah disgraces him.*
50. *He who shows patience and forbearance, Allaah gives him a double reward.*
51. *He who disobeys God, God chastises him.*

Before concluding his Sermon, the Holy Prophet (p.b.o.h.) sought thrice the forgiveness of Allaah.

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