

SERMON BEFORE THE BATTLE OF UHUD

"O People! I beseech you to obey Allah as He has commanded you to obey Him in His Book and stay away from the things prohibited by Him. You are today on the threshold of reward and remembrance. Anyone who establishes Zikr (that is, acts upon the commandments of the Our'an to gain nearest to Allah) and struggles in His Way with patience and forbearance, is indeed successful. To strive against the enemy is a very difficult task, very few people show such endurance. It is, however, not hard for those who are in search of guidance. Allah is with those who obey Him (in open and secret). Satan is on the side of those who disobey Allah. Start the work of Jihad with patience so that you may deserve the fulfilment of Allah's promises and obey my orders because I am very keen for your success. Remember! Disagreement, disruption and disputes are forerunners of weakness and decadence and these things are not liked by Allah. Allah's succour and support does not come to those who sow the seeds of dissension.

"O people! It has been revealed to me that Allah forgives the sins of one who abstains from prohibited things for the sake of Allah. The good deeds whether done by a Muslim or a Kafir are rewarded either in this world or in the Hereafter. Whoso believed in Allah and the Day of Judgment, it is obligatory for him to say the Juma (Friday) prayers. However, a boy who has not reached puberty, a woman, a sick man, and a slave are exempt from this order. One who is careless about offering prayer, Allah becomes indifferent towards him. Allah is the owner of all praise and is Self-Sufficient.

"O people! There is nothing which brings you near to paradise and removes you far from hell that I have not commanded you; and there is nothing which brings you near to hell and removes you far from paradise which I have not forbidden to you. The Faithful spirit has installed it into my heart that a soul will not die till it gets its whole provision. So fear Allah, be moderate in making requests and do not let the idea that your provision has been delayed induce you to seek it by acts of disobedience to Allah for what Allah provides for you can be attained only by obedience to Him.

"What is lawful is clear and what is unlawful is clear, but between them are certain doubtful cases which many people do not recognise. He who guards against doubtful things keeps his religion and his honour blameless, but he who falls into doubtful things falls into what is unlawful, just as a ruler who is upon the brink of an abyss of fire may fall anytime in it.

"Every ruler detests violation of rules and regulations. And Almighty Allah is immensely displeased with those who indulge in things which He has declared unlawful. All Muslims are as one body. If a man complains of a pain in his head, his whole body complaineth. Similarly a Muslim is affiliated by the pain befalling his Muslim brother. And peace be on you."

After the Battle of Uhud was over, some of those wounded in the Battle and other companions who were accompanying him as well as some of the women who had come all the way from Medina to enquire about the war developments got around the Holy Prophet and he travelled up to Hira. Then he lined up the people in two rows and the women were placed in the last row. Here he made a *dua* (prayer) which is of the nature of a sermon and is reproduced below:-

"O Allah! All praise is due to You, O Allah! Whosoever You afflict with adversity, there is none to bring plenty to him. And if You bestow plenty upon someone no one can stop it. If You lead someone astray then no one can guide him, and no one can mislead him who is led to guidance by You. If You keep someone away from You, no one can draw him near to You, and someone whom You draw near no one can keep him at a distance from You.

"O Allah! I ask for Your blessings, mercy and good health from You. O Allah! I ask for those of treasure s from You which are everlasting and not subject to decay and extinction. O Allah! I beg peace from You on the day of fear, and sufficiency on the of deprivation. O Allah! I seek refuge in You from those things which are with me and have the power to cause harm as well as those things which are not with me (but have the power to cause harm). O Allah! Cause me to die in a state of being a Muslim. O Allah! Grant us the love of Iman (Faith) and make it dear to our hearts and develop in us hatred for Kufr (disbelief), sin and transgression and keep us to remain firm on the right path.

"O Allah! Bring Your chastisement and heavenly destruction on those people of the Book and such of the disbelievers as dishonour Your Messengers and obstruct the people from following Thy Path. O Allah! Accept my prayers."

Ameen.