

The Prophet's Final Sermon

Compiled by Abu Rumaysah

After praising and lauding Allāh as was appropriate, the Messenger of Allāh (SAW) said, the meaning of which is:

“To proceed:

“[O people, listen attentively to me for I do not know if I will ever meet you again after this year, in this place.]”¹ [A man, tall like the people of Shanū'ah, stood and asked, ‘So what should we do?’ He replied, “Worship your Lord, pray your five daily prayers, fast the month (of Ramaḍān), perform Ḥajj to the House, give your *zakāt* without any reluctance, [obey those placed in charge over you],² and you shall enter the Paradise of your Lord.”]³

“O people, all blood debts of the *jāhiliyyah* are made null and void; the first blood debt so rendered is that of ibn Rabī'ah ibn al-Ḥārith – who was suckled among the Banū Layth and killed by Hudhayl.

“All usury of the *jāhiliyyah* is abolished and the first such usury that I shall abolish is that of al-`Abbās ibn `Abdu'l-Muṭṭalib. [Your capital is your own; “do not do wrong and you will not be wronged.”]⁴⁵

“O people, time has revolved as is its fashion since the day Allāh created the heavens and the earth. The number of the months with Allāh is twelve, of which four are sacred, these are Rajab of (Banū) Muḍar that is between Jumāda and Sha`bān, [and three which are consecutive:]⁶ Dhū'l-Qa`dah, Dhū'l-Ḥijjah and al-Muḥarram. “*That is the true and upright religion; do not wrong yourselves in them.*”⁷ “*Intercalation therein is an increase in disbelief; by it those who disbelieve are led astray. One year they make it profane and another year they make it sacred in order to tally (ostensibly) with the number that Allāh made sacred.*”⁸ One year they would make Ṣafar profane and another they would make Muḥarram sacred. One year they would make Ṣafar sacred and another they would make Muḥarram profane. This is intercalation (*nasī`*) [and it is from Shayṭān].⁹

“O people, those having deposits should award them to those who entrusted them with them.

“[Woe to you! Be careful!]”¹⁰ [You will meet your Lord and He will ask you about your deeds so]”¹¹ [do not revert to becoming unbelievers after me, striking the necks of one another. Shayṭān has despaired that those who pray will worship Him, but not so in sowing dissension amongst you].¹²

“O people, Shayṭān has despaired of being worshipped in your land till the end of time. Yet he may be pleased with you by your doing acts that you think insignificant. Beware of (harming) your religion through such acts [for he shall be obeyed in these and shall be pleased].¹³ [Therefore beware of him (lest he harm) your religion].¹⁴

“O people, [fear Allāh with regards women and]”¹⁵ [treat them well for they]”¹⁶ are as captives with you.¹⁷ You took them as a trust from Allāh and you are permitted access to their sexual organs by Allāh's word. You have rights over them and they have rights over you. One of the rights you have over them is that they not allow others besides yourselves to set foot on your furnishings [and that they do not give permission to anyone you dislike entering your homes].¹⁸ And they should not disobey you in that which is good. If they so obey, then you have no right to (chastise them). They are due their food and

their clothing in kindness. [If you fear those of them who are fractious, then admonish them and refuse to sleep with them in bed,¹⁹ and]²⁰ if you strike (them), then do so without viciousness.

“[Listen well to me and live! Do not do wrong! Do not do wrong! Do not do wrong!]²¹ [The (requital) of a transgression should not be meted to any save the transgressor. The father should not transgress against his son and the son should not transgress against his father.]²² [Know that every Muslim is a brother to another Muslim and that the Muslims are brothers, therefore]²³ no man should have access to his brother’s wealth, unless with his goodwill.

“O people, I have left among you that with which, if you adopt it, you will not go astray, the Book of Allāh [and the Sunnah of his Prophet],²⁴ live by it.

“[O people, of a surety, your Lord is one and your father is one. Of a surety, the Arab is not superior to a non-Arab, neither a non-Arab to an Arab, neither a red-skinned person to a black-skinned person and neither a black-skinned person to a red-skinned person, except through *taqwā*].²⁵

“O people, what day is this?” They replied, ‘A sacrosanct day.’ He asked, “What land is this?” They replied, ‘A sacrosanct land.’ He asked, “What month is this?” They replied, ‘A sacrosanct month.’ He said, “Allāh has made your blood, your possessions and your honour sacrosanct, just as this day in this land and this month are sacrosanct [until you meet your Lord].”²⁶ [And he repeated this over and over].²⁷

“Let those of you who are present inform those who are absent, [for perhaps the absent would retain more than some of those present].²⁸ There will be no prophet after me and no nation after you.” [Then he raised his head and said],²⁹ [“Have I not conveyed (the message)? Have I not conveyed (the message)? Have I not conveyed (the message)?”]³⁰ [They said, ‘Yes!’]³¹ He then raised his hands and said [three times],³² “O Allāh! Bear witness [that I have conveyed (the message)!]^{33,34}

¹ Ibn Hishām, *Sīrah* #1999

² Ibn Hibbān #4563

³ Aḥmad #22260. cf. Aḥmad 22161-22258

⁴ *al-Baqarah* (2): 279

⁵ Aḥmad #20695, `Abd ibn Ḥumayd #856

⁶ Bukhārī #4406-5550-7447, Muslim #1679

⁷ *al-Tawbah* (9): 36

⁸ *al-Tawbah* (9): 37

⁹ `Abd ibn Ḥumayd #856

¹⁰ Bukhārī #4403

¹¹ Aḥmad #20386, Bukhārī #4406-5550-7447, Muslim #1679

¹² Aḥmad #20695. cf. Aḥmad #14366 and Muslim #2812

¹³ Tirmidhī #2159

¹⁴ Ibn Hishām, *Sīrah* #1999

¹⁵ Aḥmad #20695

¹⁶ Tirmidhī #1163-3087

¹⁷ i.e. bound by the contract and rules of marriage, and the duties of being a wife.

¹⁸ Aḥmad #20695, Tirmidhī #1163-3087

¹⁹ cf. *al-Nisā* (4): 34

²⁰ Aḥmad #20695

²¹ Aḥmad #20695

²² Tirmidhī #2159-3087

²³ Ibn Hishām, *Sīrah* #1999. cf. Tirmidhī #3087

²⁴ Ibn Hishām, *Sīrah* #1999

²⁵ Aḥmad #23489. cf. Aḥmad #8736-17313-21407

²⁶ Muslim #1679

²⁷ Bukhārī #1739

²⁸ Bukhārī #4406-5550-7447, Muslim #1679. cf. Bukhārī #7078

²⁹ Bukhārī #1739

³⁰ Aḥmad #20695

³¹ Aḥmad #20407, Bukhārī #4403-7078, Muslim #1679

³² Bukhārī #4403, `Abd ibn Ḥumayd #856

³³ `Abd ibn Ḥumayd #856

³⁴ The source narration is that of Bazzār #1141 (*Kashfu'l-Astār*) as quoted in ibn Kathīr, *al-Bidāyah wa'l-Nihāyah*, vol. 7, pp. 652-653. It is also found in `Abd ibn Ḥumayd #856.

The translation of the source ḥadīth was taken from Trevor Le Gassick's translation to ibn Kathīr, *Life of the Prophet Muḥammad*, vol. 4, pp. 291-292 and modified where necessary.

Although the chains of narration are weak, the ḥadīth is authentic due to supporting witnesses.

Sections of the ḥadīth are found scattered amongst various books of ḥadīth such as:

- Bukhārī #67-105-1741-3197-4407-4662-5550-7078-7447, 1742-4403-6043-6166-6785-6868-7077, 1739-7079

- Muslim #1679

- Tirmidhī #1163-2159-3087

- Abū Dāwūd #1947-1948

- Aḥmad #11762-20386-20387-20407-20419-20449-20453-20461-20498-20695

- Bazzār #3615-3617

and many more.