

LISTEN TO THE PROPHET

Muhammad Zafrullah

Pocatello, Idaho

Below is a translation of Prophet Muhammad's farewell sermon to his followers, the Muslims, at his last Hajj. This is in the form of a message. The Prophet (May peace be upon him) suggested that this farewell message is for all times and suggested that this message be spread all over the world. Until recently I thought that the message was for Muslims alone, but reading it again I realized that non-Muslims can also benefit from it. Besides the Muslims can benefit from reading it again and comparing their actions with what is expected of them.

The Farewell Message

O' men, lend me an attentive ear for I know not whether I will stand before you again in this valley and address you as I address you now. Your lives and your possessions have been made immune by God to attacks by one another until the Day of Judgment. God has appointed for everyone a share in the inheritance. No testament shall now be admitted which is prejudicial against the interests of a rightful heir. A child born in any house will be regarded as the child of the father of that house. Whoever contests the parentage of such a child shall be liable to punishment under the Law of Islam. Anyone who attributes his birth to someone else's father, or falsely claims someone to be his master, God, His angels and the whole of mankind will curse him.

O' men, you have some rights against your wives, but your wives also have some rights against you. Your right against them is that they should live chaste lives, and not adopt ways, which may bring disgrace to the husband in the sight of his people. But if the behavior of your wives is not such as would bring disgrace to their husbands, then your duty is to provide for them food and clothing and shelter, according to your own standard of living. Remember, you must always treat your wives well. God has charged you with the duty of looking after them. A woman is weak and cannot protect her own rights. When you married, God appointed you trustees of those rights. You brought your wives to your homes under the law of God. You must not, therefore, abuse the trust, which God has placed in your hands.

O' men, you still have in your possession some prisoners of war. I advise you, therefore, to feed them and to clothe them in the same way and style as you feed and clothe yourselves. If they do anything wrong which you are unable to forgive, then pass them on to someone else. They are part of God's

creation. To give them pain or cause them suffering can never be right. O' men, what I say to you, you must hear and remember.

All Muslims are as brethren to one another. All of you are equal. All men, whatever nation or tribe they may belong to, and whatever station in life they may hold are equal. (Raising his hands, and joining the fingers of the one hand with those of the other, he added the following.) Even as the fingers of the two hands are equal, so are human beings equal to one another. No one has any right, any superiority to claim over another. You are as brothers.

O' men, your God is One and your ancestor is one. An Arab possesses no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab over an Arab. A white man is in no way superior to a black man nor for that matter, a black man better than a white man, but only to the extent to which he discharges his duty to God and man. The most honored among you in the sight of God is the most righteous among you.

Even as this month is sacred, this land inviolate, and this day holy, so has God made the lives, property and honor of every man sacred. To take any man's life or his property, or attack his honor, is as unjust and wrong as to violate the sanctity of this day, this month, and this territory. What I command you today, is not meant only for today. It is meant for all time. You are expected to remember it and to act upon it: until you leave this world and go to the next to meet your Maker. What I have said to you, you should communicate to the ends of the earth. Maybe those who have not heard me may benefit by it more than those who have heard.

**The sources of this message are “Sihah Sitta” the six most trusted books of Ahadith (sayings of the Prophet) and books written by Tabari, Hisham and Baihaqi. (I saw this translation in Mukhtar A. Cheemas, “A rejoinder to Pope’s allegations about Islam” which I found at: www.alislam.org . May Allah reward Mr. Cheema for including it in his article.
Muhammad**