

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We will insha Allah today continue with the wise advice that Hazrat Abu Dharr received from the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). He said:

“Oh Abu Dharr! No servant abstains in the world but Allah causes wisdom to grow in his heart, and causes his tongue to utter it, and gives him insight of the faults of the world and its sickness and its cure and causes him to leave from it safely into the abode of peace.

Oh Abu Dharr! When you see your brother abstaining from worldliness, listen to him for surely, he is dictating wisdom. So, I said, "Oh Messenger of Allah (s), who is the most abstemious (*zahid*) of mankind?" So, he said, "One who doesn't forget the graves and the deterioration (of the world) and leaves the excess of the adornment of the world and prefers what lasts over that which perishes and doesn't count tomorrow among his days and counts himself among the dead.

Oh Abu Dharr! I wear coarse clothing, sit on the floor, lick my fingers, ride a donkey without a saddle and have someone sit behind me. So, whoever does not like my manner, is not of me.

Oh Abu Dharr! Love of wealth and honor are stronger in stripping a man of his religion than two ferocious wolves in a cattle pen of sheep; so, they attack in it until morning. So, what will remain of it? I said, "Oh Messenger of Allah (S), the fearful humble lowly people who remember Allah much, will they be the first among mankind to go to heaven?"

So, he said, "No. But it will be the poor among the Muslims. They will come outstripping the necks of mankind. Will say to them the Keepers of Heaven, "Like that you are until you are accounted for!" So they will say, "About what shall we be accounted for, for by Allah we didn't own anything by which we could oppress or do justice and we weren't given (wealth) so we could withhold or give (to others) but we worshipped our Lord until He called us so we answered."

Oh Abu Dharr! The world keeps our hearts and bodies busy and Allah will ask us about what we were favored with of His lawful (halal), then what about that which we enjoyed in His unlawful (haram)!

Oh Abu Dharr! I surely asked Allah, magnificent is His praise, to make the sustenance of he who loves me sufficient and to give the one who hates me much wealth and children.

Oh Abu Dharr! Blessedness is for those who are abstemious in the world, those who long for the hereafter; they take the earth of Allah as a carpet and its soil as a pillow and its water as perfume. They read the book of Allah lowly and call Him loudly and they cut themselves off from worldliness completely.

Oh Abu Dharr! The harvest of the Hereafter is the good deeds, and the harvest of the life of this world is wealth and children.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely my Lord has informed me so He said, "By My glory and majesty, no servants attain to crying but I build for them a palace in paradise that no one will be a partner with in it. So I said, "Oh Messenger of Allah (s), who among the believers is most intelligent?" He said, "those that remember death most and prepare for it in the best way."

Oh Abu Dharr! When light enters the heart, it expands and becomes spacious. I said, "So what is the sign of that by my mother and father, Oh Messenger of Allah (s)." He said, "Turning (one's attention) to the eternal abode and keeping aloof from the abode of deception and preparation for death before it takes place."

Oh Abu Dharr! Fear Allah and don't show mankind that you fear Allah so they honor you while your heart is evil.

Oh Abu Dharr! Let there be for you in everything a pious intention, even when it comes to sleeping and eating.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely Allah has angels who are standing out of fear of Him. They won't raise their heads until the trumpet shall be blown, the sounding of the Hereafter. So they will all say, "Glory be to You our Lord, and Your praise. We haven't worshipped you as it is fit for You to be worshipped!"

Oh Abu Dharr! If a woman of the people of paradise rose from the sky of the world in the darkest night she would illuminate the earth more than the moon does when it is full and would notice the fragrance she emits, all the people of

the earth. And if a cloth of the garments of the people of paradise was spread today in the world, would faint who ever looks at it because of what their eyes are beholding.

Oh Abu Dharr! Lower your voice during a funeral, during fighting and during the recitation of the Qur'an.

Oh Abu Dharr! When you are in a funeral procession, so let your mind be busy in pondering and humbleness and know that you will meet the same fate.

Oh Abu Dharr! Know that when something gets spoiled then salt is its remedy and when the salt is spoiled there is no remedy for it. And know that in you are two (dangerous) qualities; laughing at something not amusing and laziness when not tired.

Oh Abu Dharr! Two moderate cycles of prayer (*rak'at*) with pondering is better than standing all night in prayer with a neglectful heart.

Oh Abu Dharr! The truth is heavy and bitter and the falsehood is light and sweet and it may be that the (fulfillment of the) desire of an hour will yield a long period of grief.

Oh Abu Dharr! A man has not fully understood until he sees mankind next to Allah as camels, then he looks to himself and holds himself more contemptible.

Oh Abu Dharr! You will not reach the reality of faith until you see all of mankind as fools in regards to their religion (*deen*) and intelligent in regards to their worldly matters (*dunya*).

Oh Abu Dharr! Take account of yourself before you're taken account of so your accounting will be easier tomorrow. And weigh yourself before you are weighed and prepare for the great staging; the day you will be presented, not the least of a hidden thing of you will be hidden from Allah.

Oh Abu Dharr! Would you like to enter heaven? I said, "Yes, may my father be sacrificed for thee." He said, "So cut your hopes short and put death before your eyes and feel shy of Allah, the shyness due to Him." He said, I said, "Oh Messenger of Allah, all of us feel shy of Allah." He said, "That is not shyness; rather shyness is to not forget the graves and deterioration and protecting your stomach and what concerns it and the head and what it contains and whoever wants the honor of the Hereafter, so let him leave the embellishments of the

worldly life. So if you are like that, you have attained the Kingdom (*walayat*) of Allah."

Oh Abu Dharr! Some supplication with good deeds is sufficient just as some salt is sufficient with food.

Oh Abu Dharr! The one who supplicates without deed is like one who tries to shoot his arrow without a string on his bow.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely Allah, because of the goodness of his servant, betters the condition of his whole family and even his neighbors and the houses around him so long as he is with them.

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely your Lord (s) boasts to the angels about three people: A man who is in a deserted place (though alone), he calls azan and iqamat and he prays. So your Lord says to the angels, "Look at my servant! He's praying and no one sees him but me." So, descends 70,000 angels and pray behind him and they seek forgiveness for him until the next day; and a man who stands in the middle of night and prays alone and does sajdah (prostrates) and falls asleep while prostrating. So Allah (s) says, "Look to my servant! His soul is with me and his body is prostrate" and a man who is in a war and all his companions flee, but he stays firm fighting until he is killed.

Oh Abu Dharr! No man puts his forehead (in prostration) in a place of the places of the earth but that place bears witness of that for him on the Day of Judgement. There is no place that a people visit but that place starts either sending salutation on them or cursing them.

Oh Abu Dharr! There is no place of lodging or departure of the places of the earth but they call one another, "Oh neighbor, did anyone pass by you who remembered Allah or worshipped by placing his forehead on you in prostration to Allah?" So one says yes and one says no. When one says yes, it shakes and opens up (in happiness) and sees that it has (been favored) a greater rank over its neighbor.

Oh Abu Dharr! The earth cries over the believer when he dies for forty mornings.

Oh Abu Dharr! When a servant is in a deserted place and does *wudu* or *tayammum* then he does *Azan* and *Iqamat* and he prays. Allah (s) orders the angels, so they form a row behind him where the two ends of the row are not

seen. They bow with his bowing and prostrate with his prostrating and say Ameen for his supplications.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever does *Iqamah* without Azan, no one prays with him but the two angels with him.

Oh Abu Dharr! No youth leaves the world and he spent his youth in obedience to Allah but Allah gives him the reward of 72 Siddiq (truthful near servants).

Oh Abu Dharr! He who remembers (Allah) among the careless is like a warrior among the fleeing.

Oh Abu Dharr! A pious gathering is better than being alone and being alone is better than an evil gathering and speaking good is better than silence and silence is better than speaking evil.

Oh Abu Dharr! Give your food to eat to one who you love for Allah and eat the food of one who loves you for Allah (s).

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely Allah (s) is with the tongue of every speaker. So let every man fear Allah and know what he is saying.

Oh Abu Dharr! It is enough for a man as a lie to say everything he hears.

Oh Abu Dharr! There is nothing more deserving of being imprisoned for (in Hell) than the tongue.

Oh Abu Dharr! It is of respect to Allah to honor an old Muslim man, and to honor a carrier of the Qur'an who acts by it, and to honor a just ruler.

Oh Abu Dharr! Has not acted, the one who has not guarded his tongue.

Oh Abu Dharr! Do not be a seeker of faults (in others) nor a person who over praises (others in their face), nor a defamer nor a wrangler.

Oh Abu Dharr! A servant continues to increase in distance from Allah so long as his behavior is bad.

Oh Abu Dharr! A good word (of advice) is *sadaqah* (charity) and every step you take towards Salat is (also) *sadaqah*.

Oh Abu Dharr! Whoever answers the caller of Allah and does well in inhabiting the masjids of Allah, his reward from Allah is paradise. So I said, "May my father and mother be sacrificed for you Oh Messenger of Allah (s). How should the masjids of Allah be inhabited?" He said, "Voices should not

be raised in them and useless matters should not be discussed in them and things should not be bought and sold in them. Leave foolish talk so long as you are in them and if you don't, so don't blame on the Day of Judgement but yourself."

Oh Abu Dharr! Surely Allah gives, so long as you're sitting in the masjid, for every breath taken in it, a degree in paradise. And the angels send blessings on you and will be written for you for every breath you take in it ten good deeds and will be wiped out from you ten evil deeds.

Oh Abu Dharr! Do you know the reason concerning which this verse was revealed? "Be patient and exhort others to be patient and connect and fear Allah that you may be successful." I said, "I don't know. May my father and mother be sacrificed for you." He said, "In waiting for the next Salat after every Salat.""

These words of wisdom should make each one amongst us reflect on how far we really understand the significance of this life. May Allah forgive each one amongst us our sins and may He put all of us amongst His devoted servants. Ameen.