

# *Lessons from Intense Heat*

**SERIES NO: 98**

**KHUTBA**  
**17<sup>E</sup> JUMA**  
**MAY 2024**



## Lessons from Intense Heat

**Dear Brothers,**

What do you think of a man barefoot, bareheaded, standing in the middle of the scorching noon during such hot days, with the blazing sun sending its arrows above his head, sweat pouring from all over his body, and the scorching heat of toxins causing him discomfort with its stings? What feelings might this man carry? Is he relaxed and content, or is he worried and disturbed? Servants of God!

Allah, the Most High, says: **إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ لَآيَاتٍ لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ \* الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ** [قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ] آل عمران: 190 – 191.

"Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day are signs for those who have wisdom and remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides and give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], 'Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire.'" [Quran 3:190-191].

It is an invitation to contemplate the many visible signs of Allah, so let us respond to this invitation in brief aspects.

First aspect: Indeed, the heat of this world must remind us of the heat of the hereafter. Allah has placed in this abode reminders of the verdant gardens of paradise and the blazing, overwhelming fire of hell. Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "When the heat becomes intense, then let the weather be cool and then offer prayer (afternoon prayer), for indeed, the intensity of the heat is from the breath of Hell, and the fire complained to its Lord, so He allowed it two breaths: one breath in winter and one breath in summer. That is the severest heat you find in summer, and the severest cold you find in winter." [Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

**Brothers of Faith,**

Our righteous predecessors, when they were reminded of the fire, were seized by fear and humility, which drove them to further reflection and contemplation. However, it is the story of Shaddad ibn Aws, who, when he went to bed, sleep would not come to him. He would say, "O Allah, the fire has taken away my sleep." Then he would stand and pray until dawn.

Umar ibn Abdul Aziz (may Allah have mercy on him) once recited the verse: **وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَىٰ** [1] "By the night when it covers" [Quran 92:1]

and when he reached the verse:

**أَنذَرْتُكُمْ نَارًا تَلَظَّىٰ**. (الأعلى: ١٤)

So I have warned you of a Fire which is blazing" [Quran 92:14], he choked up, unable to continue. He left that and recited another chapter.

Nu'man ibn Bashir (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that he heard the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) saying in his sermon, "I have warned you against the fire, I have warned you against the fire, I have warned you against the fire, until he who was in the market could hear it from where I am standing, and until the garment that was on his shoulder fell to his feet." [Reported by Imam Ahmad].

Second Aspect: If we can shield ourselves from the heat of the sun in this world with the means and devices provided by Allah, then a day will come of intense heat and great distress, from which there is no escape. Miqdad ibn al-Aswad (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that he heard the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) saying, "The sun will draw near on the Day of Resurrection until it is as close as a mile, and the people will be in accordance with their deeds in their sweat. Some will be submerged in sweat up to their ankles, others up to their knees, others

up to their waists, and yet others will have bridle-reins of sweat." Then the Prophet (peace be upon him) pointed to his mouth with his hand." [Reported by Muslim].

Third Aspect: If the matter is so horrific and heinous, then continue to be pious and obedient, and let your place be in those shades. Be among those whom Allah will shade on the Day when there is no shade except His. The Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and mercy be upon him) said: "Seven are those whom Allah will shade with His shade on the Day when there will be no shade except His shade: a just ruler, a young person who grew up in the worship of his Lord, a person whose heart is attached to the mosques, two persons who love each other for the sake of Allah; they meet and depart on that basis, a man whom a beautiful and high-ranking woman seduces, but he says, 'I fear Allah,' a person who gives charity and conceals it (to such an extent) that the left hand does not know what the right hand has given, and a person who remembers Allah in solitude and his eyes well up with tears." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Fourth Aspect: Brothers in Islam, Indeed, among the means of protecting oneself from the heat of Hellfire are: walking to the mosques for congregational prayers and gatherings, attending funerals and similar acts of obedience, especially during hot summer days. For every increase in heat, the reward increases. Thus, the reward is proportional to the difficulty. Perhaps returning from the Friday prayer in the heat of midday reminds us of people departing from the reckoning stage; a group heading to Paradise and another to the Blaze. For indeed, Judgment Day will occur on Friday, and this day will not end until the people of Paradise are settled in Paradise and the people of Hellfire are settled in Hellfire. This is the meaning of the statement of Allah Almighty:

{أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ مَقِيلًا} [الفرقان: 24].

The companions of Paradise, that Day, are [in] a better settlement and better resting place' [Quran 25:24]

And regarding the other group Allah Almighty says:

{ثُمَّ إِنَّهُمْ مَرْجِعُهُمْ إِلَى الْعَذَابِ أَلْفًا} [الصافات: 68].

'Then indeed, their return is to the Hellfire' [Quran 37:68].

At the end let us take pledge to carry out such deeds that protect us from hellfire

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Publisher:

JAMIA ISLAMIA ISHA'ATUL ULOOM

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