

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْجَوَادِ الْكَرِيمِ، الْبَرِّ الرَّحِيمِ، يَتَفَضَّلُ عَلَيَّ مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ، وَاللَّهُ
ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ
سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، آتَاهُ الْحِكْمَةَ وَجَوَامِعَ الْكَلِمِ، وَعَلَّمَهُ مَا
لَمْ يَكُنْ يَعْلَمُ، وَكَانَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ عَظِيمًا، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى
سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى
يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah, the Most Kind, the Most Generous, the Beneficent, the Merciful. He endows His favours upon whomever He wills of His Servants, and Allah is the possessor of great bounty. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. He has given him wisdom and graced him with the gift of beautiful speech and taught him that which he did not [previously] know. Indeed, Allah's favour upon him was ever great. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master and Prophet Muhammad, his family and all of his companions and those who follow them till the Day of Judgment.

- The hype and talk currently is the World Cup. Football-mania has gripped the mind, the heart, the speech, the time, the money, and the life of the world and many, many Muslims.
- **I would like to draw a parallel between the World Cup and our lives.**
- It is really amazing how players engaged in a football match or any other code of sport find their lives guided and governed by the rules of the game. They know if they break the rules, penalties will follow. **As Muslims we also have rules of life & boundaries set out by Allah ﷻ.**

“These are the boundaries set by Allah, do not transgress them.” (2:229)

- How strange it is that a person is so mindful about the 2 linesman watching his actions from either side of the field while he is unmindful of the **Kiraaman Kaatibeen**, on either side of his shoulder.

وَأِنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ لَحَافِظِينَ كِرَامًا كَاتِبِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ

- How strange it is that a person would **dare not touch the ball** with his hand in the penalty area for fear of the referee penalising him, **but he dares to venture into touching that which Allah ﷻ has prohibited**

وَيُنَجِّي اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا بِمَفَازَتِهِمْ لَا يَمَسُّهُمُ السُّوءُ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

And Allah will save those who feared Him by their attainment; no evil will touch them, nor will they grieve. (39:61)

- How strange it is that a person on the football field is so cautious not to be **caught off side, but does not care if Allah ﷻ catches him in the wrong place.**
- How strange it is that when a free kick of the opposing team is so dangerously placed that it is a threat to the goals, players rally together to form a line of defence, while we do not think of standing together to protect our Deen.

“Indeed Allah loves those who fight in His Cause, in rows as if they are a solid structure.”(61:4)

- How strange it is that we would do whatever it takes to be like our sporting heroes in terms of dress code , hairstyle and external appearances, to show our identity and loyalty; but there is nothing in us to show that we are the followers of the Greatest Nabi Muhammad ﷺ.

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

- How strange it is that a person fears the **yellow warning card of the referee** but fails to respond to the yellow cards of Allah, in the form of trials and tribulations; sickness, financial loss, narrow escape from an accident...
- How strange it is that we are fear the **red card of the referee** which would suspend or expel you from the game, but totally unconcerned about those actions that would expel us out from Jannah for ever.

- How strange it is that after the final whistle is blown, the game is over, there is no re-play. But the same person fails to understand that when the final whistle for his life is blown there is no second chance, no re-play.

وَاللَّهُ خَيْرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ وَلَنْ يُؤَخِّرَ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهَا

- How strange it is that a player would never think of harming his own team by scoring an own goal, but thinks nothing about harming his own Deen.

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ -

- How strange is that a player is concerned about the millions of people around the world watching him in action but he seems to be untroubled about the day when every deed will be played out in front of mankind on **Qiyaamah**.
- Sometimes a person is at the mouth of the goals but fails to put the ball at the back of the net. **“He missed a sitter”, “He missed a golden opportunity”**
- **How often has Allah ﷻ presented us with golden opportunities** to gain nearness to Him by looking after our parents, assist the needy, perform Salaah, give charity, keep Fasts, turn to him in repentance...
- **Shaytaan is playing a more dangerous game with us.** He is sure to sit on our path tackling and defending so we do not reach our goal. Shaytaan will continue to try to snatch away our Imaan until the final throes of death. **Our defences have to be on full alert at all times.**

أَفَحَسِبْتُمْ أَنَّمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ عَبَثًا وَأَنَّكُمْ إِلَيْنَا لَا تُرْجَعُونَ

So do you think that We have created you needlessly, and that you do not have to return to Us? (23:115)

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا لَاعِبِينَ

And We did not create the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, just for play. (44:38)

وَمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَهُوٌّ وَلَعِبٌ وَإِنَّ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ لَهِيَ الْحَيَوَانُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ

And this worldly life is nothing but pastime and game; indeed the abode of the Hereafter – that is indeed the true life; if only they knew.(29:64)