



Synopsis of Friday Sermon

Ameer Mustapha Elturk



IONA
REPENTANCE
REVITALIZATION OF FAITH
RENEWAL OF COVENANT

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Synopsis of Friday Sermon

The Pharaoh of Our time

"Indeed, Pharaoh exalted himself in the land and made its people into factions, oppressing a sector among them, slaughtering their sons and keeping their women alive. Indeed, he was of the corrupters." [al-Qasas, 28:4]

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) made a profound statement, "There is a Pharaoh for every nation (ummah), and the Pharaoh of my ummah is Abu Jahl." Abu Dawud

As Muslims, through the Quran and the Seerah, we know well the arrogance and tyranny of Abu Jahl. But now, our focus is on the Pharaoh of our time. Many may see President Trump as embodying such traits. He is authoritarian. His word must be obeyed. He displays arrogance and ruthlessness, showing little regard for international laws and human rights.

The Pharaoh of Egypt refused to recognize the power of God. He was shown many signs but remained heedless, unwilling to humble himself before the true, powerful God—who does not love oppressors but instead supports those who uphold justice.

Trump first declared "Hell will break out in the Middle East" was before taking office. On January 7, 2025, he demanded the release of hostages, repeating six times that "all hell will break loose." He told his envoy Steve Witkoff, *"If they're not back by the time I get into office, all hell will break out in the Middle East."*

On that same day, January 7, Allah (SWT) displayed His power. The Los Angeles fires erupted—a clear and powerful divine sign directed at the soon-to-be president. These fires raged until January 31, causing enormous destruction. At least 29 people lost their lives (May Allah grant them mercy), and over 12,000 structures were destroyed, displacing nearly 200,000 residents (Wikipedia).

Allah (SWT) reminds us in surat al-Hadid, *"No calamity occurs on earth or in yourselves without being written in a Record before We bring it into being. This is certainly easy for Allah."* [al-Hadid, 57:22]

The fires consumed the mansions of the wealthy—actors, politicians, and elites in Palisades, Santa Monica, and Malibu among other cities. This was not the first time such destruction occurred. In August 2023, Hawaii's fires devastated casinos and countless structures.

In that is Warning to the Afluent (Mutrafīn). The Qur'an speaks of those who indulge excessively in worldly blessings (Taraf), using them in disobedience, through extravagance, gambling, alcohol, and immoral behavior. Allah (SWT) says in surat al-Anbiya', *"For, how many a community that persisted in evildoing have We destroyed, raising up other people after them! When they felt the might of Our punishment, they fled at once. 'Do not flee, but return to the life of luxury you enjoyed and to your homes, so that you may be questioned.' They said, 'Woe to us! we were truly wrongdoers.' They kept repeating their cry until We mowed them down, (leaving them) lifeless."* [al-Anbiya', 21:11-15] Just take a look at what is left of LA fires.

In another place Allah informs, *"But then when We seize the affluent among them, they will cry out for help. (They will be told) 'Do not cry out today. You will not get any help from Us.'"* [al-Mu'minun, 23:64]

The Godless Culture of Hollywood

The 82nd Golden Globe Awards took place on Sunday, January 5, 2025—just two days before the fires. Host Nikki Glaser noted that while awardees thanked their mothers, aides, and film crews, not one person thanked God. She remarked, *"God, the Creator of the Universe, with zero mentions—no surprise in this godless town."*

Indeed, we live in a godless time, where leaders like Trump, assuming all power, declare "Hell will break out in the Middle East." And without hesitation, Allah, the Almighty, showed him what hellfire looks like.

The Message is: Do Not Play God

The warning is clear: Do not play God. Do not be arrogant. Be just. Pharaoh of Egypt claimed divine status, saying, *"I am your lord, the most high!"* [al-Nazi'at, 79:24] His arrogance led him to reject the signs brought by Moses.

Televangelist Paula White, who was appointed to lead the White House faith office during Donald Trump's administration, once said, "To say no to Trump is to say no to God."

The LA fires was one of the worst fires in U.S. history. The LA fires were a direct message to Trump, just as the Titanic disaster was a warning to human arrogance. Before its launch in 1911, a White Star Line employee arrogantly said, "Not even God Himself could sink this ship."

Yet, the Titanic sank in 1912.

Do They Take Heed?

The ayah from surat al-Baqarah sheds light to the state of affairs, *"Would any of you like to have a garden of palm trees and vines, graced with flowing streams and all kinds of produce, which, when you are afflicted with old age and feeble offspring, is struck by a fiery whirlwind and burnt down? In this way, Allah makes His signs clear to you, so perhaps you will reflect."* [al-Baqarah, 2:266]

Will they recognize the divine signs? Or will they continue in arrogance, like Pharaoh, until it is too late? Unfortunately, it appears that as Allah (SWT) proclaimed, *"Deaf, dumb and blind they will not return."* [al-Baqarah, 2:18] Indeed, they will not return (to the path of righteousness and justice).

May Allah (SWT) guide us to be among those who heed His warnings and stand for justice. Ameen.

When considering modern leaders, it's crucial to evaluate their actions and policies based on similar ethical and moral standards. What we see today is a clear sign of Pharaonic attitude,

- Centralizing power and suppressing dissent. This is authoritarianism.
- Disregard for Justice: Implementing policies that lead to systemic injustice or discrimination.
- Displaying excessive pride or self-glorification, potentially leading to harmful decision-making. Such as the latest deal.

President Donald Trump's recent proposal regarding the Gaza Strip has sparked significant controversy and international debate. Unveiled during a joint press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on February 4, 2025, the plan suggests that the United States "take over" Gaza, relocate its over 2 million Palestinian residents to neighboring countries such as Egypt and Jordan, and redevelop the area into a "Riviera of the Middle East," in which "the world's people" would live.

The proposal includes the forced relocation of Gazans to countries like Egypt and Jordan, as well as to other nations needing economic assistance or recognition from the U.S. However, leaders from these countries have publicly objected to accepting Gazans, citing concerns over international law and potential regional instability.

On the authority of Abdullah Ibn Masoud, the Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "Indeed, for every nation there is a Pharaoh, and the Pharaoh of my nation is Abu Jahl." Abu Dawud

Understanding This Statement

Pharaoh as a Symbol of Tyranny

- The term "Pharaoh" in this context is not just referring to the historical figure of Egypt but represents a symbol of oppression, arrogance, and enmity toward truth.
- Pharaoh in the Qur'an is the ultimate example of a ruler who rejected divine guidance, oppressed his people, and met a humiliating end.

Abu Jahl – The Pharaoh of This Ummah

- Abu Jahl (Amr ibn Hisham) was a staunch enemy of Islam, persecuting the Prophet (SAW) and the early Muslims.
- Recall what Trump did in his first term as soon as he took office, “the Muslim Ban”

The "Muslim Ban" refers to Executive Order 13769, titled *"Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States,"* which was signed by President Donald Trump on January 27, 2017. 7 days after he took office.

The order restricted entry into the U.S. for citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries, Iran, Iraq (removed in a later version), Libya, Somalia, Sudan (removed in a later version), Syria, and Yemen.

The ban initially suspended refugee admissions for 120 days and indefinitely barred Syrian refugees. It also banned all travelers from the listed countries for 90 days.

Every Era Has Its Pharaoh

From this hadith, scholars have understood that every nation or generation will have its own Pharaoh i.e. a tyrant who embodies arrogance, oppression, and hostility toward truth and justice. And one may conclude that the Pharaoh of the world is Trump.

A "Pharaoh" of our time would be:

- A leader who oppresses the weak. Just look at the executive orders thus far that range from immigration to cutting off aid to
- For Someone who sees themselves as above accountability.
- A figure who spreads corruption and injustice.
- One who rejects truth despite clear signs.

The hadith serves as a reminder that oppression and arrogance have always existed and that, just as Pharaoh was ultimately defeated, every tyrant will meet their downfall. *"And We caused Pharaoh and his people to drown, and all of them were utterly destroyed."* [al-Isra', 17:103]

And as the little kid, (mocking Trump on social media for his remark regarding, taking over Gaza and displacing its people, comparing him to Pharaoh) remarked the drowning of Pharaoh saying, “and he didn’t know how to swim.” In other words, this little god couldn’t even save himself from the wrath of God.

May Allah (SWT) protect us from tyranny and grant victory to the oppressed. Ameen.

What we see today is similar to what Pharaoh did, refusing to recognize the rights of the oppressed. Such behavior, disregarding human rights, using threats of “All hell will break out,” i.e. extreme violence, and seeking to displace people, can indeed be seen as "Pharaonic" in nature.

The Qur’an repeatedly warns against such arrogance and tyranny, as seen in Pharaoh’s downfall. *"Indeed, Pharaoh exalted himself in the land and made its people into factions, oppressing a sector among them, slaughtering their sons and keeping their women alive. Indeed, he was of the corrupters."* [al-Qasas, 28:4]

This ayah highlights how Pharaoh divided his people, oppressed a group (the Israelites), and committed atrocities to maintain his rule, all while justifying his brutality.

Regardless of who the leader is, any form of injustice, oppression, and disregard for human dignity is condemned in Islam and throughout history, tyrants have always faced divine retribution.

Trump in his press conference with Netanyahu boasted about recognizing, Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, no president dared to do this before, and also recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and moving American embassy to Jerusalem, goes on to say, “I’m confident that under *our* leadership the cherished alliance between our two countries will soon be *stronger than ever.*” Does that mean a green light for the “Greater Israel?” Does that mean annexing the West bank while displacing the Palestinians in Gaza?

Trump’s statement about Gaza being “a symbol of death and destruction” while standing beside Netanyahu—without acknowledging the immense destruction and loss of over 60,000 Palestinian lives—demonstrates a

complete disregard for human suffering and a failure to recognize the responsibility of those who caused the devastation. Keep in mind that the death and destruction in Gaza was made possible by means of US weapons.

This mirrors the arrogance and denial of past tyrants, including Pharaoh, who oppressed people while justifying their cruelty. In the Qur'an, Pharaoh refused to acknowledge his own brutality, shifting blame and dehumanizing his victims to maintain power.

Likewise, failing to recognize the atrocities committed against Palestinians while discussing Gaza's future is not just morally bankrupt, but also historically consistent with the behavior of oppressors who attempt to rewrite narratives.

The world sees the reality, Gaza's destruction was not a natural disaster—it was the result of a deliberate and brutal campaign. Recognizing this truth is the first step toward justice.

Trump's threats to cut off aid to Jordan and Egypt unless they accept the forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza is another clear sign of Pharaonic arrogance and oppression.

Just like Pharaoh in the time of Musa (AS), who sought to control, oppress and expel the Children of Israel, today we see leaders who use threats, coercion, and economic pressure to impose their will on nations and people. Forcing an entire population into exile is ethnic cleansing—a crime against humanity.

Trump seeks to dictate the fate of Palestinians, ignoring their right to their own land, homes, and dignity. But history and divine justice teach us that arrogance leads to downfall. No empire or tyrant, no matter how powerful, can erase the will of the oppressed when they stand firm.

This moment is a test for the world: Will nations stand for justice, or will they bow to tyranny?

No ruler, no matter how powerful, is beyond accountability. If history has taught us anything, it is that arrogance leads to ruin, and justice will always prevail.

Domestically speaking, his own people are not spare of his arrogance and power. Just as he threatens to cut off aid to Jordan and Egypt if they don't accept Palestinians, he is also cutting aid and essential programs for vulnerable people here in the United States—and dismantling of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Allah (SWT) warns about such leaders in the Quran, *“And when it is said to them, ‘Do not spread corruption on the earth,’ they say, ‘We are only reformers!’ But truly, they are the corrupters, but they do not perceive it.”* [al-Baqarah, 2:11-12]

Oppressors always claim that their actions are for the good of the people, but in reality, they cause destruction. Cutting aid from those in need, whether in Gaza, Jordan, Egypt, or even America, only reveals the true nature of their hearts.

What can we do?

People of conscience—Muslims, Christians, Jews, and all who stand for justice—must take action against oppression, just as the righteous before us did.

1. Speak the Truth Fearlessly

- The Prophet (SAW) said, “The greatest jihad is to speak a word of truth before a tyrant ruler.” (Tirmidhi)
- Expose the lies, hypocrisy, and injustices.
- Use social media, write to leaders, engage in peaceful protests, and challenge false narratives.

2. Support the Oppressed

- Donate to reliable charities providing aid to Palestinians and others in need.
- Advocate for continued humanitarian aid to Gaza, and vulnerable communities in the U.S.
- Stand against policies that cut essential social programs that help the poor.

3. Boycott & Divest

- Stop supporting companies that fund the occupation and oppression of Palestinians.
- Invest in ethical businesses that promote justice and fairness.

4. Engage Politically

- Call or write to elected officials demanding an end to policies that fund war and injustice.

- Support leaders who stand for human rights and oppose those who enable oppression.
- Vote and encourage others to vote for justice-driven policies.

5. Build Unity & Strength in the Community

- Educate others on the reality of oppression worldwide, including in Gaza.
- Work together across faiths and backgrounds for justice—true power lies in collective action.

6. Pray & Have Tawakkul (Trust in Allah)

- Never underestimate the power of dua and steadfast faith.
- Ask Allah (SWT) to grant victory to the oppressed, expose the oppressors, and guide us to be part of the solution.
- The Qur'an reminds us, *“And never think that Allah is unaware of what the wrongdoers do. He only delays them for a day when eyes will stare in horror.”* [Ibrahim, 14:42]

We are not helpless. Every voice, every action, every prayer counts. Allah commands us to stand for justice, and He never lets oppression go unpunished. Stay strong, stay vocal, and stay committed.

End