

Actions are by intentions

The first hadith in Bukhari. Why niyyah comes before the deed, and what to do when the heart is not in it.

CENTREPIECE Sahih al-Bukhari 1, Sahih Muslim 1907

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Niyyah is the engine, the deed is the body

Imam al-Bukhari placed this hadith at the beginning of his collection. The same outward act can carry a different meaning before Allah because of the intention behind it. That should make us attentive to the heart without turning private intentions into a reason to judge other people.

Source: Bukhari 1

2. Renewing the niyyah is itself an act of worship

Niyyah is not a single decision made once and left alone. It needs renewing. Before salah, renew it. Before giving sadaqah, renew it. Before sleep, renew the intention to wake for Fajr. The act of renewal is itself ibadah.

3. When the heart is not in it

If the act is obligatory, the right move is to do it and ask Allah to align the heart. Worship is not reserved for the days when motivation arrives easily. A sincere person keeps returning, corrects the intention, and refuses to let a passing feeling decide whether Allah is obeyed.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to actions are by intentions.

Suggested closing: Ask Allah this Friday: align my heart with my deeds before You take me. Ya muqallib al-qulub, O Turner of hearts, keep mine on Your deen.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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