ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?

Seriously.

Are you still alive?

Because if you are, there is something you need to know.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told us about a man who had killed **99 people**.

Ninety-nine.

At some point, something stirred inside him.

Regret.

A need to put things right.

A need to know whether there was still any way back.

So he went looking for a pious man and asked him:

“Can someone like me still be forgiven?”

The man looked at what he had done and said:

No.

No chance.

Too much damage.

Too far gone.

So he killed him too.

His **kill count had now reached 100.**

And yet...

he was still alive.

And while he was alive, something inside him was **still looking for redemption**.

So he kept searching.

This time he found a man of knowledge.

He told him everything.

One hundred lives.

Then he asked the same question:

“Can I still come back?”

The answer?

YES.

In fact, the scholar said something remarkable:

Who can stand between you and repentance?

But then he gave him an instruction.

You need to **move**.

Leave this place.

Leave the environment that has been destroying you.

Go to another town where there are good people worshipping Allah Ta'alaa.

Go and be with them.

And **do not go back.**

So the man set off.

He hadn't suddenly become a saint.

He hadn't spent years repairing his past.

He hadn't even reached the new town yet.

He simply **turned... and started moving.**

Then, on the journey, death caught up with him.

And according to one narration, as his strength disappeared, he pushed himself forward on his chest towards the place he was trying to reach.

He died there.

Before he arrived.

The angels of punishment said:

He never did anything good.

The angels of mercy said:

But he came back to Allah with a repentant heart.

So the distance was measured.

And he was found nearer to the land he was trying to reach.

The angels of mercy took him.

Now look at yourself.

You are reading this.

Which means...

YOU ARE STILL ALIVE.

Whatever you've taken.

Whatever you've drunk.

Whatever you've watched.

Whatever you've done.

However many times you've stopped and gone back.

However many people you've disappointed.

However badly you've disappointed yourself.

You are still alive.

And while you are alive, the road back has not closed.

You may not be able to undo everything behind you.

But you can still change the direction you are travelling in.

And sometimes that is where everything begins.

Not with becoming perfect.

Not with fixing ten years of damage overnight.

Not even with feeling particularly strong.

It begins with one thing:

MOVE.

Take a step in the right direction.

Get away from what keeps dragging you back.

Change the people around you if you need to.

Change the places.

Get help.

Find good company.

Find people who understand recovery.

Return to the Masjid.

Return to Allah Ta'alaa.

But **move**.

Because that man did not reach the town.

He died on the road.

What mattered was that when death found him...

it found him heading in the right direction.

And there is something else here.

Allah Ta'alaa does not only look at where you have been.

He knows **where you are trying to go**.

Your intention matters.

Your effort matters.

Your turning matters.

Even your first few difficult steps matter.

So if you are reading this thinking:

“I've gone too far.”

No.

A man with **100 murders behind him** was not told:

Too late.

He was told:

Start moving.

And here is the stark part.

If you are dead...

you don't get to make that move.

You don't get another attempt.

You don't get to say:

“Tomorrow.”

You don't get to search for help.

But you're reading this.

So you're not there yet.

You are still alive.

And that means...

you can still turn.

Now take the first step.