



A glimpse on the merits of the honourable companion Abdullah Ibn Masood

First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah Who taught by the pen - taught man that which he knew not. I praise Him the Most Exalted as befitting to His Sublime Countenance and Supreme Status. 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. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his family and all of his companions, and all those who follow them till the Day of Judgment.

As to what follows,

I urge you and myself, **O Servants of Allah**, to be aware that you are asked to obey Him the Most Exalted and Sublime, in line with His orders, **“and fear Allah. And Allah teaches you. And Allah is Knowing of all things.”** (Al-Baqara: ٢٨٢).

O Worshipers,

A new academic year has started. We pray to Allah the Almighty to make it a year of success, achievements and excellence. It is also an opportunity to urge all students to work as hard as possible to acquire knowledge for the latter is the most precious of all that one could acquire and the best beneficial of them too. Our Master Muhammad pbuh has emphasised that knowledge was so essential for human beings that he compared it to the importance of water for life. He pbuh said, “The example of guidance and knowledge with which Allah has sent me is like abundant rain falling on the earth.”

For this reason, the companions, may Allah be pleased with them, strived in acquiring knowledge. As a result, many of them outstood in the various fields of sciences. A good example on this is the one of the honourable companion Abdullah Ibn Masood, may Allah be pleased with him, who set a model not only for knowledge seekers, but for instructors too. He was amongst the first men who entered Islam. On this, he said, “I am the sixth man to accept Islam on earth.”

The merits of Ibn Masood are many and he possessed a praiseworthy reputation. He was versed in many sciences, including Tafsir (interpretation) and Fiqh, in addition to being the first one to recite the Quran publicly in Mecca after the Prophet pbuh. Furthermore, Abdullah's passion to acquire knowledge has motivated him to learn from the Prophet pbuh. He once said in this regard, "The Messenger of Allah pbuh and Abu Bakr came and.... I said, 'O Messenger of Allah pbuh, teach me.' He rubbed my head and said, 'May Allah have mercy on you. You are a well-learned boy'." So, he was blessed with the Prophet's supplication.

Ibn Masood showed great interest to scoop from the springs of sciences, so he was admitted to the company of the Messenger of Allah in order to draw from his knowledge and guidance. Seeing his craving for knowledge, the Prophet pbuh made him so close to him that Abu Musa Al Ashaari, may Allah be pleased with him, once said, "When I and my brother came from Yemen we used to consider Ibn Masood and his mother amongst the members of the household of Allah's Messenger pbuh because of their visiting them frequently and staying there for long (periods of) time."

Moreover, Ibn Masood had eagerness to attain the knowledge from its source. To this, he said, "I in fact took from the mouth of Allah's Messenger pbuh more than seventy Suras of the Quran. I have a better understanding of them than anyone else." He himself talked about the sincere efforts that he exerted to increase his knowledge. He said, "By Allah, there is no surah in the Book of Allah about which I do not know where and in what context it was revealed. If I were to know that someone had a better understanding than me and I could reach him on the back of a camel, I would definitely go to him."

Not only did Abdullah Ibn Masood gather the knowledge, but he also applied what he has learnt by actions and put his knowledge for practice. Furthermore, he followed the example of the Messenger of Allah pbuh in all his matters. The Prophet's companions witnessed this for him. For instance, Hudhaifa Ibn Al Yaman, may Allah be pleased with him said, "I have never seen anyone more like the Prophet pbuh in his way of life and characteristics than Ibn Umm Abd

(i.e. Ibn Masood).” He also said, “He is the most one to resemble the Messenger of Allah pbuh in solemn gate, sobriety and eloquence.”

Ibn Masood, may Allah be pleased with him, perfected all that which he learnt, and thus became close to the Prophet pbuh who liked much to hear his recitation of the holy Quran. It was narrated that he pbuh said to Abdullah, “Recite (the Quran) to me.” Abdullah said, “Shall I recite (the Quran) to you while it has been revealed to you?” The Prophet said, “I love to hear it from another person.” So he recited Surat An-Nisaa (The Women), but when he recited the Verse: **“How (will it be) then when We bring from each nation a witness and We bring you (O Muhammad) as a witness against these people,”** he pbuh said, “Enough for the present,” Ibn Masood looked at him and his eyes were overflowing with tears.

Appreciating his knowledge, the Prophet pbuh urged people to learn the holy Quran from Ibn Masood, may Allah be pleased with him, as he said, “Whoever would like to recite the Quran as fresh as when it was revealed, let him recite it like Ibn Umm Abd (Ibn Masood).” So, thanks to his knowledge, Ibn Masood has seen his status raised in degrees and he was ever remembered in the worlds.

Dear Muslims,

Please know that Ibn Masood has possessed vast knowledge and attained an elite standing amongst the Prophet’s companions. They appreciated his status and understanding. About him, Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “He is filled with knowledge.” As such, he sent him to Kufa and said to the people there, “By Allah, I have given you a preference over myself when I sent him to you. So, learn from him.”

Amongst his other merits is that he set a model for those who instruct, for he treated his students leniently in accordance with his ethics. An illustration of this can be seen in the following narration. One day a number of Companions were gathered at the house of Ali Ibn Abu Talib, may Allah be pleased with him, and said to him, “We have never seen a man who is more virtuous, more learned, more companionable, friendly, and Allah-fearing than Abd Allah Ibn Masood.” Ali said, ‘O Allah, I testify in front of You that I say about him like what they said and more.’”

Indeed, there are many lessons that one can draw from the honourable companion Abdullah Ibn Masood. One of such lessons is his carefulness about his appearance and nice smell. He was really amongst the most generous of people when taking care of his outlook. He was even known as the fragrance of night. He won the hearts of people because of his vast knowledge, good manners, kindness and good appearance. People always sought his assembly and were never bored of his speech nor were they enough of his knowledge. In evidence of this, one of his students said, “Abdullah used to give a (religious) talk to us every Thursday. When he stopped, we wished that he would say more.”

Indeed, there is nothing more beautiful than seeing today’s students following in footsteps of this great companion in terms of his passion to acquire knowledge and doing whatever it takes in this way. And how great it would be if the teachers, too, take example of his ethics, good appearance and vast knowledge.

With this in mind, we beseech Allah the Almighty to give us success to follow in Ibn Masood’s footsteps and grant us a beneficial knowledge and righteous deeds.

We seek Allah’s favour to guide us all to obey Him and obey His Messenger Muhammad pbuh and obey those He has commanded us to obey in line with Your orders: **“O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority amongst you.”** (An-Nisaa: ٥٩).

May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh.

I say this and ask Allah for forgiveness for me and you, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Second Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. To Him all the good praise and the worthy gratefulness is due. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master

Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you, **O Servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Most Exalted and Sublime.

O Worshipers,

Today's world is racing against time to accomplish development in all the disciplines of science, making strides in modernisation and competing in discoveries and inventions. The fields of knowledge are many in our age and in the students lays the nation's reservoir and hope for accomplishing success and growth. Thus, you are urged, dear knowledge seekers, to take example of those who have genuine craving to learn, and exert your time and efforts in the way of knowledge seeking.

In this context, Abdullah Ibn Masood, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "I dislike to see a man being idle – neither with beneficial action in this world nor righteous deeds for the Hereafter." So, if you work hard, you will not only keep in pace with those who have outrun you in the past, but also outpace others. This way, you will see your status raised in degrees in this life and in the Hereafter. Furthermore, you will impart happiness to your parents' heart, contribute to the advancement of your homeland and achieve success in your future endeavour.

Allah the Most High has praised people of knowledge and promised them of great rewards. The Almighty says, "**Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. And Allah is Acquainted with what you do.**" (Al-Mujadila: 11).

In fact, the mission of science and knowledge seeking is a responsibility that lays in the hands of not only the students, but also in the hands of parents, teachers and those running schools. Thus, let us start a new academic year with concerted efforts amongst all those components in order to realise the objective of learning on ground.

That is said, we pray to Allah the Almighty to be pleased with Abdullah Ibn Masood and all of the companions.

Please bear in mind that you are instructed to invoke peace and blessings on the Prophet pbuh. Allah, the Most Sublime, says, **“indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.”** (Al-Ahzab: ٥٦).

On the same matter, the Prophet pbuh said, “For everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah.”

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all of the noble Companions.

O Lord, please make us amongst those who are rightful to their fathers and mothers and kind to their kith and kin.

May Allah grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we also seek Your favour to grant him continued health and care. May Allah also ensure success to his Vice-President, trustworthy Crown Prince and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, please forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, living and dead. We pray to Allah to show mercy on late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the late UAE Sheikhs. O Lord, grant them abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction.

O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whoever has done a favour to us.

O Allah, may we ask You to guide us to all that may help us attain Your mercy and forgiveness and grant us rewards for our good deeds.

O Allah, we implore to You to protect us from every major sin and grant us the reward of every good deed. O Allah, we seek Your grace to make us amongst those who will win Your Paradise and save us from the Hellfire.

O Allah, we implore You at this instance not to let a sin unforgiven, a distress unrelieved, a debt unpaid, an illness unhealed, a dead without

mercy or a need unsatisfied, for You are the Most Generous and over all things Competent. Indeed, You are ever responding.

We pray to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, to continue blessing the UAE with stability and welfare and increase it in bounties, knowledge, civilisation, tolerance, happiness, beauty and cleanliness. O Allah, please bless for the UAE its provisions and continue blessing it with safety and security.

May Allah have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the prophets. May Allah make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You answer to the supplications.

O Allah, please grant the best reward for the families of the martyrs and offer them patience and solace. May Allah grant victory to the soldiers of the Arab Coalition who gathered to restore the rights to their owners. O Lord, please be by their side and guide the Yemeni people to everything that is good. O Allah, make them rally for the word of truth and legitimacy, and bless them with welfare and stability, O the Most Generous.

O Lord, we beseech You to bless all of the Muslim countries and the whole world with stability and peace.

Our Lord, give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire.

Remember Allah and He will remember you. Be grateful of His benevolence and He will increase His blessings to you.

Please stand for prayer.