

The elders: a symbol of giving

First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Most Exalted, the Most Forgiving. He decreed upon us to show reverence to the elderly people amongst us. 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 him, his family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness 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 in line with His orders: **“and fear a Day when you will be returned to Allah. Then every soul will be compensated for what it earned, and they will not be treated unjustly.”** (Al-Baqara: ٢٨١).

O Worshipers,

There can be no doubt that our elders are a symbol for giving and a blessing for our lives. For this reason, Islam attributes a high status to them, something that has been accentuated in many texts in the holy Quran and Sunna. For instance, the Messenger of Allah pbuh said in this regard, “Blessing comes with your elders.” No wonder for the older people have gone through many experiences in their lives and gained a lot of wisdom and expertise that reflect in their acts and their statements. They are really seniors in their status and possess great hearts too. Thus, their giving never ceases and the spring of their resources is vast.

In this sense, our history is full of examples on influential figures whose contributions to the humanity were remarkably great and who continued their giving till the end of their lives. The holy Quran has given us several examples on such contributions, one being that of Prophet Noah pbuh who remained amongst his people for **“a thousand years minus fifty years.”** (Al-Ankaboot: ٤١٤). After such a long life of giving, Allah the Almighty has ordered Noah pbuh to construct a ship with a perfect structure. About this the Most Exalted says, **“so We inspired to him, ‘Construct the ship under Our**

observation, and Our inspiration, and when Our command comes and the oven overflows, put into the ship from each [creature] two mates.” (Al-Muminoon: ٢٧).

Upon receiving the command of Allah, Noah pbuh loaded upon the ship from each creature two mates so that the life will continue and welfare will spread. Despite his old age, Noah pbuh sailed the ship through high and raging waves that Allah the Almighty has described in his saying, **“and it sailed with them through waves like mountains.”** (Hood: ٤٢). By this, Prophet Noah pbuh set a unique example on diligence and hard work.

Another good example on great people who contributed to humanity despite their old age is the one of the Father of Prophets, Ibrahim (Abraham) pbuh, who was given glad tidings by the angels that he would be blessed with offspring although he grew old. This was mentioned in the story of Ibrahim pbuh in the holy Quran in which Allah the Almighty says, **“he said, ‘Have you given me good tidings although old age has come upon me? Then of what [wonder] do you inform?’”** (Al-Hijr: ٥٤). So, Allah granted him a son (Ismael) with whom he, later, built the Al Bait Al Haram, **“the first House [of worship] established for mankind.”** (Al Imran: ٩٦). Allah the Most Exalted has praised them in His holy Book, for He says, **“and [mention] when Abraham was raising the foundations of the House and [with him] Ishmael, [saying], ‘Our Lord, accept [this] from us. Indeed You are the Hearing, the Knowing’.”** (Al-Baqara: ١٢٧). So, Ibrahim pbuh has also set a pattern to be followed in resilience, giving and sacrifice.

After Ibrahim, came Zakariya (Zechariah) pbuh in whose house Sayida Mariam, Mary, the Mother of Isa (Jesus) pbuh, was raised. He nurtured her after he **“reached extreme old age,”** (Mariam: ٨), yet he instilled great values and good manners in her. Allah the Almighty emphasises this, for He says, **“and caused her to grow in a good manner and put her in the care of Zechariah.”** (Al Imran: ٣٧).

Furthermore, our Master Muhammad pbuh was also one of the greatest examples in his contributions to the humanity. He fulfilled

his trust, delivered his message and continued his giving until the end of his life. The Prophet pbuh has laid down the foundations for a human civilisation in Medina, one that contributed, and is still contributing, to the prosperity of humanity.

The companions of the Prophet pbuh, may Allah be pleased with them, have also left their footprints in the welfare and stability of their communities. A good example on this is the one of Abu Bakr As-Siddiq, may Allah be pleased with him, who, at an age of sixty, has united his people's stance and restored safety and stability to his homeland. During his Caliphate, Abu Bakr has accomplished several achievements, the most important of which was the compilation of the holy Quran.

Another noble companion who can be brought as an example of notable people who devoted their lives to giving and contributing to the humanity is Imam Anas Ibn Malik, may Allah be pleased with him. Anas continued his giving and contributions to Islam even after exceeding the age of hundred years. Indeed, those are but a few examples amongst many other honourable companions who followed suit in their dedication and hard work till the last day in their lives.

In fact, not only the companions, may Allah be pleased with them, have devoted their lives to giving in the way of their communities' prosperity. The history is also full of examples of scientists and scholars who committed themselves to knowledge seeking and development of the humanity. One of them is the eminent Arab physician Ibn Al Nafis. He made several important contributions to medicine and many other disciplines in his age. At his old age, he founded one of the biggest hospitals in his period where he worked till the age of eighty.

Another good example is the Arab scholar Ibn Khaldoun who is widely considered as a forerunner of the modern disciplines of sociology and historiography. Crossing the age of seventy, Ibn Khaldoun composed the book of "Al Ibar" (Book of lessons), which is considered as one of the most important hypsographical books. He wrote the Muqadimah (Introduction), his most known book, in the last year of life.

Dear Muslims,

The history of our great figures that devoted their lives to giving is not limited to men. There were also women who left their footprints and beneficial contributions to humanity. One of such women is the righteous scholar, Zainab Bint Yahya. She was characterised with piety and kindness as well as love of narration. Many parts of the Hadith were read to her in the last day of her life; when she was around ninety years old.

Another example which can be brought here is the one of Shahda Bint Abu Nasr, a notable Fiqh (jurisprudence) writer. Shahda continued knowledge seeking and composition of books until she reached the age of ninety.

In fact, throughout history, and till today, scholars and people of wisdom have paid much attention to such prominent figures, studying their biographies and showing respect and appreciation to their contributions. In this, they follow the guidance of the Messenger of Allah pbuh as he said, “It is part of reverence to Allah to show respect to a grey-haired Muslim.” On the same matter, it was narrated that when the Messenger of Allah pbuh was asked about which amongst people is the best. He pbuh said, “He whose life is long and his deeds are good.” This is because, naturally, as the people grow more and more in age, they increase in devotion to acts of obedience and get more elevated by doing extra acts of goodness.

With this in mind, we seek Allah’s favour to make us amongst those who show reverence to their elders and draw best lessons and benefits from their experiences and wisdom.

May Allah guide us all to obey Him and obey His Messenger Muhammad pbuh and obey those He have commanded us to obey in line with His orders: **“O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among 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 worthy praises are accorded. The Most Exalted, His word is the truth and He guides His servants to the straight path. 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 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 High and Exalted.

O Worshipers,

Please know that our Master Muhammad pbuh has enjoined upon Muslims to honour and appreciate the elderly amongst them. He pbuh said, “Whoever does not respect our elders is not one of us.” He pbuh urged us to respect their status, advising many attitudes that involve such respect. Amongst such attitudes is to greet them before they do that as he pbuh said, “The young should greet the old.”

Indeed, the Prophet pbuh has set the best role model in treating the white-haired in due respect. It was narrated in this regard that when a group of the companions, may Allah be pleased with them, came to the Prophet pbuh, the younger amongst them wanted to start the conversation. Thereupon, he pbuh said, “Let the elder begin, let the elder begin,” in an indication that the elder should speak first. The reason is that the speech and statements of the old-aged are derived from a long life experience and responsibility.

Following the guidance of the Prophet pbuh, respecting the elderly was a firmly rooted tradition of his companions, may Allah be pleased with them. On this account, it was narrated that Samura Ibn Jundub, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “I was a boy during the lifetime of the Messenger of Allah pbuh, and used to memorise what he said, but I do not narrate what I preserved because there were

amongst us people who were older than me (to whom the Prophet pbuh used to speak).”

You are urged, therefore, to join the assembly of the elderly people, appreciate their contributions and seek their opinion so that you may benefit from their knowledge, sound opinion, experiences and words of wisdom. We should also learn from their skills in the different walks of life. Truly, our elders are a pattern to follow for us. They are old in age and vast in experience, yet they are youthful in their giving.

That is said, 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.

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

O Allah, we implore to You to continue blessing us with Your bounties, endow upon us Your favours and make us rejoice peace of mind and wellbeing. O Allah, please accept our good deeds and accept our prayers.

O Lord, may we also ask You to rewards us in multiples for our good deeds, forgive us our past and future mistakes and honour us with happiness in this world and in the Hereafter.

O Lord, please make us amongst those who are dutiful to their parents 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 un-forgiven, 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 to prayers 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, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with happiness 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. O Allah, admit us to Your Paradise with the righteous. Indeed, You are Exalted in Might and Forgiving.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to send us wealthy rain and make us not amongst those who are despondent. O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth.

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

Please stand up for prayer.