



## The Etiquette of Enquiry

### The First Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, the Lord of all the worlds. Who has commanded us to embody an enquiring nature in His Manifest Book. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely one who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger, may the peace and blessings upon him and upon whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

**To Continue:** I advise you, O slaves of Allah and myself, with the Taqwa of Allah, as Allah says:

وَإِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ لَحُسْنَ مَآبٍ

**And indeed, for the righteous is a good place of return**

[Qur'an: ٣٨:٤٩]

**O Believers:** Indeed, the art of asking a good question is half of knowledge. It has been narrated that Ibn Abbas was asked: "How did you attain to such knowledge? He responded by saying: By a tongue given to enquire and a heart that is present". Whoever reads the Qur'an and looks at the guidance of the Prophet finds that in them both there are answers to numerous questions, as Allah says:

يَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا أُحِلَّ لَهُمْ قُلْ أُحِلَّ لَكُمْ الطَّيِّبَاتُ

**They ask you, [O Muhammad], what has been made lawful for them. Say, "Lawful for you are [all] good foods ...**

[Qur'an: ٥:٤]

Similarly, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to ask the Angel Gabriel (peace be upon him) about

many issues that Gabriel then used to answer and respond to. Likewise, whoever reflects upon the life of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) will find it full of many questions posed to him by his companions (may Allah be pleased with them all). All of this was because of their love for knowledge and their avidness to gain it, wherein their questions served as proof of the degree they were immersed in knowledge. They knew how to ask, about what to ask, when to ask and for what purpose they should ask. From the wisdom of the companions was that their questions were concise and precise, consisting of few words but containing much meaning. One of them once asked the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saying: "Inform me of that which will draw me near to Paradise and that which takes me away from Hellfire". The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was amazed by the question and then looked at his companions saying: **لَقَدْ وَفَّقَ** **He has been guided well**

So, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) responded by saying: **تَعْبُدُ اللَّهَ لَا تُشْرِكُ بِهِ شَيْئًا، وَتَقِيمُ الصَّلَاةَ، وَتُؤْتِي الزَّكَاةَ، وَتَصِلُ الرَّحِمَ**

**The deeds which can draw you near to Paradise and take you away from Hellfire are that you worship Allah and associate none with Him, and that you establish prayer and pay Zakat, and do good and join bonds with your relatives.**

[Sahih Muslim and Bukhari]

They were those who used to ask about deeds that would lead them closer to Allah. It is narrated by Ibn Abbas that he said: "I have never seen a better people than the companions of the Messenger of Allah, for they would only ask about that which

would benefit them". So, they would ask about issues that were difficult for them so that they could understand better and act in accordance with that which is the good. It is narrated on the authority of Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) that she used to never hear about anything that she did not know about except that she would have hope to acquire its knowledge, hence she would ask about it and then come to know of it. It should also be noted that the companions used to choose the appropriate time to ask their questions. It is narrated on the authority of Muadh Ibn Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him) who was with the Prophet on one of his journeys wherein he sensed the intimacy and closeness to him and hence took advantage of the opportunity and asked about what he needed.

O Allah give us the spirit of enquiry, the correct understanding of spirit of enquiry, and grant us goodly behavior. I say this and seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most-forgiving, most-merciful.

### **The Second Khutbah**

All praises are for Allah, and may peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allah who was an example of goodly conduct to those who fast. And may peace and blessings be upon his family and companions, and whomsoever follows him in the best of ways till the Last Day.

**O Believers:** The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) paid special attention to the various questions posed by his companions. He used to direct them to deeds that would benefit them, so when a companion asked him about the Last Hour, he responded by saying: وَمَاذَا أَعَدَدْتَ لَهَا؟

**What did you prepare for it? [Bukhari]**

For this reason, each person should busy themselves with that which is most beneficial to them. So, the student should learn the ability to ask the best questions, in order to gain the right understanding and learning. Similarly, employees should gain knowledge that further increases in them the spirit of enquiry, in order to perfect deeds. Mothers and fathers should also direct their children to this spirit of enquiry, that which aids their contemplative faculties. Likewise, in our gatherings, we should ensure the discourse is one that is beneficial and knowledgeable. And with this, let us send our prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Muhammad. **O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family, his companions, all of them. O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates. and guide them to all that is good and what pleases You. O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on the martyrs, and grant their families with patience and a great reward.**

And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us. And continue perpetuating blessings and bounties upon the UAE. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah, bless us, bless us, bless us. O Allah: Give us in this life that which is beautiful and in the next life that which is beautiful, and save us from the fire. Remember Allah and He will remember you.

Stand up for prayer.