



Prioritizing Reading First Khutbah

All praise is due to Allah, who has encouraged us to recite and read the noble Qur'an. I bear witness there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no partner in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Sayyid, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), is the perfect example of servanthood unto Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe. O Allah send your peace and blessings upon him and upon his family and companions all of them, and upon whoever follows them in the best of ways until the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you, o slaves of Allah and myself to embody the Taqwa of Allah, for Allah says:

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

And fear Allah. And Allah teaches you. And Allah is Knowing of all things. [Qur'an: ٢:٢٨٢]

O Believers: Indeed, the recitation and reading of the Qur'an is from the most important ways of attaining and acquiring knowledge, for through it the intellect is nourished, the heart is illuminated and the horizons of contemplation are expanded. In-fact our religion has given a priority to reading in general, in that it was from the first words revealed:

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ * خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ * اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ
الْأَكْرَمُ

Recite in the name of your Lord who created - Created man from a clinging substance. Recite, and your Lord is the most Generous. [Qur'an: ٩٦:١-٣]

The Scholars have said that the first verses of the Qur'an that were revealed were these verses, being the first specific forms of mercy sent from Allah to His slaves, representing the first blessings that Allah chose to bless His final Prophet's nation with. Because of this the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was avid in encouraging and ensuring the ability to recite the Qur'an was spread amongst his nation. So, when he saw how Zayd ibn Thabit was distinguished in his recitation, he put him forward and entrusted him with responsibilities to teach recitation of the Qur'an to the wider society. By doing this the Prophet was indicating how reading and acquiring beneficial knowledge is the very foundation of societies and their civilization, being a scale by which it is weighed. Allah says: **يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ**

Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. [Qur'an:

٥٨:١١]

So, let us make a habit of reciting the Qur'an and reading books of beneficial knowledge in general, making it an attribute in our lives, our culture and wider societies.

Slaves of Allah: Indeed, the family has a pivotal role in instilling such a culture and love of reading, for if the

individuals therein establish reading amongst themselves, then such a habit shall bring benefit to them and their societies. This entails that fathers and mothers should strive to instill this love for reading in their children, with the best way of teaching being through example. Children love to emulate their parents and when they are young they will grow to value what their parents value, so when they see their parents setting aside time to read and discuss aspects of knowledge, they will do the same.

I say this, and seek your forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness, indeed He is the most forgiving, most merciful.

The Second Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, the One, and peace and blessings upon the Prophet after whom there is no other, and upon his companions and those that follow him.

O Worshippers: Indeed, reciting the Qur'an is the best of things we can spend our times doing, as Allah says:

فَاقْرَأُوا مَا تَيْسَّرَ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ

Recite what is easy [for you] of the Qur'an. [Qur'an: ٧٣:٢٠]
So, let each house hold firm to reciting the Qur'an, and reading beneficial books. Let both the old and young benefit from gaining more and more knowledge in this manner. Nowadays we have access to the greatest of literature and knowledge through the click of a button, with the various technological devices we have, be they tablets, smart phones, laptops, as means for us to increase in our knowledge.

Indeed, the UAE as a country through its leadership places great importance on reading. Hence, we find good practices being put into place throughout its institutions, wherein you will find allocated times for such reading. So, let these initiatives benefit the employees, expand their perceptions, increase their skills, increase their productivity, and broaden their horizons.

And with this, let us send our prayers and blessings upon the best of those who have a good opinion of Allah, our master, our Prophet, Muhammad. May Allah send His peace and blessings upon him, upon his family, his companions, all of them. O Allah make the Qur'an the spring of our hearts, healing of our breasts, that which leads and guides us to Your paradise of bliss.

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. O Allah, please remove this pandemic away from us and heal those who may have been afflicted by it. You are the One who answers supplications. 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.