



Knowledge is through perseverance and diligence

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah who tells us that He is the One:

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ * عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

Who taught by the pen - Taught man that which he knew not. [Qur'an: ٩٦:٤-٥]

I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely One, who has no partners in His one-ness. The One who: وَسِعَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا

He has encompassed all things in knowledge. [Qur'an: ٢٠:٩٨]
And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger, the one who said: إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ مُعَلِّمًا

Indeed, I was sent as a teacher. [Ibn Majah]

O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon him and upon whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah, as Allah says: وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَيَعْلَمَكُمُ اللَّهُ

And fear Allah. And Allah teaches you. [Qur'an: ٢:٢٨٢]

O Believers: We are coming up to the inception of the new academic year. So just as the educational institutions open their doors, and welcome their students with open arms we encourage students who enter them to do so with lofty ambitions and



sincere determination to seek knowledge. It is these students who realize that education is a foundational basis for forming a person, and by investing in education, whole civilizations are formed, societies are able to progress and nations can advance. Indicating how people are delineated through knowledge 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, strive O student and exert yourself, take advantage of your youth in the seeking of knowledge and the development of skills. Seek to obtain as much knowledge and virtues as you can with all of your determination, perseverance, strength and grit. Notice how Allah commanded the Prophet Yahya, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, to invest his youth in the acquisition of knowledge, when He said:

يَا يَحْيَى خُذِ الْكِتَابَ بِقُوَّةٍ وَآتَيْنَاهُ الْحُكْمَ صَبِيًّا

"O Yahya, take the Scripture with determination. And We gave him judgement [while yet] a boy" [Qur'an: ١٩:١٢]

So here as an example to be emulated we see how the Prophet Yahya (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as a young boy, in the prime of his youth is being told to strive and be determined in his acquiring knowledge of the Scripture. The Prophets represent the role models for us to emulate, which is why in similar manner we find our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saying: **إِنَّمَا الْعِلْمُ بِالتَّعَلُّمِ**

Indeed, knowledge is through diligent learning [Bukhari]

In other words, true knowledge is that which is attained through striving, exertion and diligence in its attainment, and it requires patience in its acquisition. Such knowledge is not attained



through a lazy attitude wherein one wastes their bodily vitality in frivolous pastimes, mindless entertainment and distractions, for such an attitude is the opposite to what the Prophet was indicating. For this reason, one of the scholars said in a couplet of poetry: "True Knowledge of God is precious in its sublimity, and God does not grant it until you give Him your entirety".

A reflection on our illustrious history as Muslims shows how many of the previous scholars demonstrated the best of examples in seizing the opportunities of their youth. This they did by striving and investing their time in their seeking and acquisition of knowledge whenever and wherever it was facilitated for them. So, we see that many of them became specialists and excelled in the various fields of knowledge, such as the sciences of religion and Sharia, medicine, mathematics, physics, chemistry, linguistics and astronomy. We ask Allah that He honor our daughters and sons in turn with the light of such knowledge, and the grace of understanding, and adorn them with the beauty and illumination of such a true education. O Allah we pray that you accept all of us for Your obedience and bless us with obedience towards Your Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and obedience towards those whom You have ordered us to show obedience towards, in accordance with Your saying:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ

O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. [Qur'an: ٤:٥٩]
I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness, indeed He is the most forgiving, most Merciful.

Second Khutbah



All praises are due to Allah the One. And may peace and blessings be upon our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and upon all of his companions. I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah.

O Believers: Indeed, beneficial knowledge is of many types, its fruits are immense. About the people who acquire it, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have

said: **مَنْ أَخَذَهُ؛ أَخَذَ بِحِطٍّ وَافِرٍ**

He who takes it [knowledge] takes an abundant portion.

[Abu Dawud]

In fact, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

used to begin the day by saying: **اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا**

O Allah, we ask You for beneficial knowledge. [Ahmad]

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also used to encourage his companions and the believers in general

to seek beneficial knowledge by saying: **سَلُوا اللَّهَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا**

Ask Allah for beneficial knowledge. [Ibn Majah]

Indeed, following this encouragement for us to seek beneficial knowledge, we should especially encourage our youth to take up and busy themselves with what their creative intellects are inclined towards. For Allah has given each of them special capacities and talents that often concur with their inclinations and capabilities, and are compatible with their energies and aptitudes. We should help nature this creativity and curiosity in them, reassuring and supporting them to seek knowledge that Allah loves, inspiring them that they can make a difference to the world in different fields and draw closer to Allah thereby. These fields can be forms of knowledge as diverse as social sciences such as psychology and economics, the natural sciences



such as physics and chemistry, and cutting-edge technology such as artificial intelligence and space sciences. We should assure our children that provided they have sincere intentions for the sake of Allah and wish to serve and be of benefit to their nations and the wider Ummah of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), then we as their families will always be full of pride and happiness with their achievements. This is way successful nations continue to progress, for the leadership of such nations are always interested in the custodianship of its people and the approach to knowledge for the forthcoming generations. Let us ensure we take on the baton and continue to play this role in the stewardship of our children. And with this we ask You O Allah that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Sayyiduna 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 Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan 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 which is good and what pleases You.

O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed 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 those martyred for Your sake, and grant them intercession for their people, and grant their families patience and a great reward. And have mercy, our Lord, upon all of the believers, the living and the dead.



Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Be grateful for your blessings and you will be increased therein. So, stand up for prayer.

