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**Love of the Prophet**

**First Khutbah**

All praises are due to God, the One who has graced us through giving us faith in Him. Who has favored us through sending to us the best of creation as the Final Messenger, upon him be the peace and blessings of Allah. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the One who has no partners. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger.

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

**وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَخْشَ اللَّهَ وَيَتَّقْهِ فَأُوْلَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ**

**And whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger and fears Allah and is conscious of Him - it is those who are the attainers.**

[Qur'an: 24: 52]

**O Believers**: A man once came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and said: "O Messenger of Allah, indeed you are more beloved to me than myself, you are more beloved to me than my own family, and more beloved to me than my own child. When I am at my home I remember you and cannot be patient until I visit you, for then I can see you. But when I think of your death, I know that if you enter Paradise, you will be raised to the company of the Prophets, and as for me, if I enter Paradise, I fear that I will not be able to see you." The Prophet did not respond until the Angel Jibril descended upon him with this verse: **وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ**

**And whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger - those will be with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favor of the Prophets, the steadfast affirmers of truth…**

[Qur'an: 4:69]

Such was the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), for he was a Prophet sent to all of humanity, a mercy unto all of mankind, wherein the more one remembered him, the more their love would increase for him. Hence we find that remembrance and love of him increases on the occasion of his Mawlid (blessed birth), as the hearts of believers become full with his love and their tongues find themselves drawn to proclaim this love. For ultimately he is the beloved of Allah and His intimate companion, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

**إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى قَدِ اتَّخَذَنِي خَلِيلًا، كَمَا اتَّخَذَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ خَلِيلًا**

**Indeed, Allah has taken me as His intimate companion, as he took Ibrahim as His intimate companion.** [Muslim]

So, love of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is an expression of our religion and faith, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

**لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى أَكُونَ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ وَالِدِهِ وَوَلَدِهِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ**

**None of you believes till I am more beloved to him than his father, his child, and all of mankind.** [Bukhari and Muslim]

Indeed, we love the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), for his rank and honor has already been made clear for us, and what he owe him is immense as he kept aside his supplication that was guaranteed to be answered so that it could be answered for our sake. For the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ دَعْوَةٌ مُسْتَجَابَةٌ، فَتَعَجَّلَ كُلُّ نَبِيٍّ دَعْوَتَهُ، وَإِنِّي اخْتَبَأْتُ دَعْوَتِي شَفَاعَةً لِأُمَّتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ**

**There is for every Prophet a supplication which is granted, but every Prophet put forward their supplication [in the world]. I have, however, reserved my supplication for the intercession of my Ummah on the Day of Resurrection.** [Bukhari and Muslim]

So how can we not love him (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)? Allah Himself loves him, and has mentioned him to be of perfect holistic character, noble attributes, and described him with the words: **وَإِنَّكَ ‌لَعَلَى ‌خُلُقٍ ‌عَظِيمٍ**

**And indeed, you are of a great moral character.** [Qur'an: 68:4]

Yes, indeed, his character is truly great. For he is the most tolerant and large hearted of people, the most generous of them, who connects those who are separated, forgives those who wronged him, honors the elders, and is gentle to the young. From the sincerity of love for him, is that one seeks to emulate his character, and to act in accordance with his guidance, for Allah says: **لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ‌أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا**

**There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often.** [Qur'an: 33:21]

So, O Allah, 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: 4:59]

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 You who pray**: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) bore witness to those who would come after him, testifying to their love and their intense desire to see him. So, he said: **مِنْ أَشَدِّ أُمَّتِي لِي حُبًّا: نَاسٌ يَكُونُونَ بَعْدِي، يَوَدُّ أَحَدُهُمْ لَوْ رَآنِي بِأَهْلِهِ وَمَالِهِ**

**The people most loved by me from amongst my Ummah would be those who would come after me but everyone amongst them would have the keenest desire to catch a glimpse of me even it be at the cost of their own family and wealth. [Muslim]**

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) promised whosoever was true in their love of him that they will be in his company in Paradise. For he said: **‌الْمَرْءُ ‌مَعَ ‌مَنْ ‌أَحَبَّ**

**A person is with whomsoever they love** [Bukhari and Muslim]

O you who love the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): Increase your sending of salawat upon the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), for it is narrated by Ubbay ibn Ka'ab (may Allah be pleased with him) who says: I said, O Messenger of Allah, I send much salawat upon you, so how much salawat should I send upon you? The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) responded by saying: **مَا شِئْتَ**

**As much as you want.**

So, I said: A fourth? The Prophet said: **مَا شِئْتَ، فَإِنْ زِدْتَ؛ فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَكَ**

**If you wish, but if you did more, then it would be good for you.**

This continued until Ubbay said, should I spend all of my time sending salawat upon you? And the Prophet responded by saying: **إِذًا تُكْفَى هَمَّكَ، وَيُغْفَرُ لَكَ ذَنْبُكَ**

**Then your problems would be solved and your sins would be forgiven.** [Tirmidhi]

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.