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| **دولة الإمـارات العـربية المتحـدة** |  | الجمعة: 22جمادى الأولى 1444هـ |
| الهيئة العامة للشؤون الإسلامية والأوقاف | **الموافق**: 16/12/2022م |

**Following the Prophet**

**First Khutbah**

All praises are due to Allah, we believe in Him and His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day and in Destiny its good and apparent bad. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely One, who has no partners in His one-ness. We are content with Allah as our Lord, Islam as our religion, and I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. 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, O slaves of Allah and myself, with the Taqwa of Allah, for verily Allah says:

**وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ ‌وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَخْشَ اللَّهَ ‌وَيَتَّقْهِ فَأُولَئِكَ 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]**

In these noble verses Allah commands us to obey His Messenger, our Sayyid and Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) by following and emulating him. This is because there is in obedience to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) the obedience to Allah, as Allah says: **‌مَنْ ‌يُطِعِ ‌الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ**

**He who obeys the Messenger has obeyed Allah [Qur'an: 4:80]**

Indeed, Allah has sent down the Qur'an upon the Prophet, and the Qur'an has within it commands and prohibitions, and the prescription of the sacred law unto the creation. As Allah says: **وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ ‌لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ**

**And We revealed to you the message that you may make clear to the people what was sent down to them [Qur'an: 16:44]**

So, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) clarified for us the affairs in our religion, he is the one who elucidates what has come to us from our Lord, teaching us through his guidance, the details of our worship. So, he clarified for us how to worship Allah and its times, the number of Rakaat it has, saying: **صَلُّوا كَمَا رَأَيْتُمُونِي أُصَلِّي**

**Pray as you have seen me pray [Bukhari]**

Similarly, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) clarified for us the rulings related to fasting, he explained the amount of Zakat, and he also made the Hajj with the people and explained for the rites by saying:

**خُذُوا عَنِّي مَنَاسِكَكُمْ**

**Learn your rites from me [Sahih Muslim]**

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) came with the best of character. Jafar ibn Abi Talib (may Allah be pleased with him) states: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) called us to Allah, he commanded us to have sincerity in our speech, to fulfill our trusts and to be kind and connected to our relations and to be kind to our neighbours. So we were sincere to him and believed in him, and followed him in what he brought forward, taking as haram that which made haram for us, and taking as halal that which is made halal. So the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is our example in our worship, he is our example in his character and interpersonal dealings, in all of the affairs of our lives. Hence let us praise Allah for the blessings of faith, and for the blessings of being able to follow the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). O Allah bless us with the ability of following the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and 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 Believers**: 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]**

Indeed, the following of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is to be in all aspects of our life, which includes his love for his homeland and his making supplication for it. So, he said:

**‌اللَّهُمَّ ‌حَبِّبْ ‌إِلَيْنَا ‌الْمَدِينَةَ كَمَا حَبَّبْتَ مَكَّةَ أَوْ أَشَدَّ**

**O Allah! Make us love Medina as You made us love Mecca, or more [Bukhari].**

So, we follow him peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, in his social and family values, for he was an excellent husband and father. As Allah says:

**‌خَيْرُكُمْ ‌خَيْرُكُمْ ‌لِأَهْلِهِ، وَأَنَا خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي**

**The best of you is he who is best to his family, and I am the best amongst you to my family. [Tirmidhi]**

And we follow all him in all of his traces, in his striving and struggles, in his mercy, in his gentleness, his tolerance and in all his lofty traits of character and humanity. Each of us is tasked to do this in his own domain, the employee in their employment, the worker in their work, the teacher in their teaching, the student in their studying, the husband with their wives and their children, and the wife with her husband and children. For it is through this that we can strengthen the love of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in our hearts, in our souls, such that we can feel the sweetness of faith in our hearts. As the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **ثَلَاثٌ مَنْ كُنَّ فِيهِ وَجَدَ بِهِنَّ حَلَاوَةَ الْإِيمَانِ**

**There are three qualities for which anyone who is characterized by them will experience the sweetness of faith: [the first of what he mentioned was] He to whom God and His messenger are dearer than all else.**

**[Bukhari and Muslim]**

So O Allah make us of those who esteem your Prophet, make us of those who love him, of those who follow and emulate him, who adopt and act in accordance with his guidance. 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, to the Vice-President 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.