

In the Name of Allah: The Most Compassionate, the Most Beneficent.

The Sunnah: A Clarification of what was Revealed

The First Khutbah:

All praises are due to Allah. Who has perfected for us His religion and has graced us with the greatest of the Messengers, ordering us to obey him and to follow his guidance and his way. And I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of absolute worship, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon his name), is the perfected example of servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the universe. O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon him; his family; all of his companions; and whomsoever follows and seeks to emulate him in the best of ways till the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you, dutiful servants of Allah, and myself, to adhere to a heartfelt consciousness (Taqwa) of Allah, for He, the Most Gloriously Transcendent, states:

وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَمَا أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَالْحِكْمَةِ يَعِظُكُمْ بِهِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا
أَنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

And remember the favor of Allah upon you and what has been revealed to you of the Book and wisdom by which He instructs you. And fear Allah and know that Allah is Knowing of all things.

[Qur'an: ٢:٢٣١]

O You Who Believe:

Indeed, Allah has honored mankind, when He sent forth to them the best of creation, our Master and Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). For it was the Prophet who recited unto mankind the noble Qur'an, about which Allah says:

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ
الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ

Certainly did Allah confer [great] favor upon the believers when He sent among them a Messenger from themselves, reciting to them His verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book and Wisdom

[Qur'an: ٣:١٦٤]

The Book (Kitab) mentioned in the verse, is the noble Qur'an, and the Wisdom (Hikmah) is the Sunnah (Way) of our Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), consisting of his beautiful speech and conduct. Hence it was his Sunnah that came as a counterpart to the Qur'an, to clarify for us what was the intent of our Lord therein, and to clarify for us the rulings within His religion. As Allah says:

وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ

[We sent them] with clear proofs and written ordinances. And We revealed to you the message that you may make clear to the people what was sent down to them and that they might give thought.

[Qur'an: ١٦:٤٤]

Thus whilst the Qur'an is a revelation from Allah in its exact wording and meaning, the Hadith of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) is also a type of revelation, coming through the words articulated by His Messenger. Hence you will find the speech of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) being distinguished in its rhetorical eloquence and linguistic precision. This is why the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"I have been given speech that is 'Jawami' al-Kalam' (i.e. concise and yet comprehensive in meaning)"** [Bukhari and Muslim]. This miraculous speech of the Prophet is actually evidence of his Prophethood, as Allah says:

وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ * إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ

Nor does he speak from [his own] inclination. It is not but a revelation revealed,

[Qur'an: ٥٣:٣-٤]

This is why the Prophet is reported to have said: **"I have been given the Book (i.e. Qur'an) and the like of it alongside it"** [Abu Dawud]. In other words he was given the Qur'an and the Hadith alongside it. The Sunnah of the Prophet includes all that is narrated from the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), whether it be it from speech or action or even a characteristic trait. It also includes affairs that he may have observed and accepted, for his acceptance is validation of their permissibility. Note that from the Hadith of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) is that which reaffirms what the Qur'an may have already addressed, and from it also is that which legislates new matters that the Qur'an may not have addressed. Also from the Hadith is that which further clarifies and legislates what is in the Qur'an, such as specific affairs of worship, societal transactions, morals and the ethics of spiritual journeying towards Allah. By way of example, the command to perform the obligatory prayers (Salat) and

pay the obligatory charity (Zakat) was revealed in the Qur'an, but it did not provide the exact details on manner of how to do so. Allah says:

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

And establish prayer and give zakah and obey the Messenger that you may receive mercy.

[Qur'an: ٢٤:٥٦]

So it was the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) who clarified how to pray the obligatory prayers, such as the number of its Rakats, the positions, the manner in which

its performed, and he said: صَلُّوا كَمَا رَأَيْتُمُونِي أُصَلِّي

Pray in the way you see me praying

[Bukhari]

And similarly it is in the Hadith of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) that we find the details of how much the Zakat actually is, its conditions, and the various rulings it has with regards to its recipients. In similar manner is the affair of Hajj. Whilst it is mentioned in the Qur'an, it is in the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) that we actually learn how to practically perform it and the various rulings that pertain to the rites in it. As the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

خُذُوا عَنِّي مَنَاسِكَكُمْ

Take from me [how to perform] your sacred rites [in the Hajj]

[Muslim]

This applies to the domain of societal affairs as well. In the Qur'an we find that Allah has ordered us to embody excellent spiritual conduct (Ihsan), He says:

وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good.

[Qur'an: ٢:١٩٥]

It is in the Hadith that we come to know the imagery and various ways that such good (Ihsan) can be done. For it is the Hadith that tells us about the noble values, praiseworthy character, elevated conduct, that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) personified. So we see therein the beautiful example and importance of visiting the sick, that of helping the oppressed and weak, being compassionate to the young, respecting the elderly, and several other concrete example that we can embody to emulate such goodness or Ihsan.

O You who Pray:

Let there be no doubt. The Companions of the Prophet, the Sahaba, memorized his noble Hadith, and preserved them diligently. They then entrusted them to the upright and trustworthy of those who came after them. The Scholars of Islam were thus avid and meticulous in their preservation of the Hadith, serving this Ummah, and scrutinizing every single narration in its authenticity. They thus were able to determine all the Hadith that had authentic chains of narration and that could be claimed to be truly said by the Prophet. This truly was a Science, for example it was a condition that anyone narrating a Hadith be someone who is known for their piety and consciousness of Allah, that they be known for their truthfulness and the accuracy of their narrations, and that others must be able to testify to these narrations as well. As a result, in this Science of Hadith methodology, some great Scholars emerged. Scholars who travelled across the Muslim world to gather and memorize thousands and thousands of Hadith of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). In the course of their travels they would double check the narrations, revise and clarify the chains of the people narrating the Hadith, find out the deep explanations and contexts of these Hadith and their meanings. Then they would compile all of this into their books, which went onto form the famous collections of such Hadith which have been transmitted to us with all the accuracy, precision of their scholarship, as well as their trustworthiness. In this regard, they have a right upon us, that we understand the value of what they did in this Science and knowledge of Hadith. We should appreciate and value the great efforts they took for the sake of Allah, efforts taken to preserve and ensure that the true sayings of the Prophet would be able to reach us. We should thank them in our supplications, make much du'a for their welfare in the next life, and ask for Allah's mercy to descend upon them in accordance with what they did.

O Lovers of the Messenger of Allah:

It is an obligation on us to orientate ourselves and our affairs towards the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him). This entails that we honor the Sunnah, venerate it, accept it and submit to it, by bringing the Sunnah into our lives. For Allah informs us about His Prophet by saying:

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا لِّتُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتُعَزِّرُوهُ وَتُوَقِّرُوهُ

**Indeed, We have sent you as a witness and a bringer of good tidings and a warner -
That you [people] may believe in Allah and His Messenger and honor him and
respect the Prophet**

[Qur'an: ٤٨:٨-٩]

The word ‘al-Ta’zir’ (honor) in this verse means ‘veneration and reverence’. From such veneration and reverence of the Prophet, is that we honor his sayings and act in accordance with what they are tasking us to do. As Allah says:

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا

And whatever the Messenger has given you - take; and what he has forbidden you - refrain from.

[Qur’an: ٥٩:٧]

In other words, do what you have been commanded to do, and abstain from that which you have been forbidden to do. This entails that we act in accordance with whatever has come to us from the Hadith and the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). This means we should follow and seek to emulate him in his sayings, actions and states. As Allah says:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ

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: ٣٣:٢١]

Such emulation is the means to eternal success in this life and the next. As Allah says:

فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ مَعَهُ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him - it is those who will be the successful.

[Qur’an: ٧:١٥٧]

So we ask Allah that He grant us the ability to truly follow and emulate our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). To act in accordance with his Hadith and Sunnah and that He assist us all in the way of piety and obedience. Piety towards His trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), to be dutiful towards those He has commanded us to be dutiful towards, in accordance with His words: **O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.** [Qur’an: ٤:٥٩]

May Allah bless me and bless you with the Noble Qur’an and with the Way (Sunnah) of His Noble Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). I say this, and I seek forgiveness for me and for you, so seek His forgiveness, for He is the All-Forgiving and the All-Merciful.

The Second Khutbah:

All praises are for Allah, I praise Him with a praise commensurate to His rank, and I thank Him, for His aid is with those who are grateful. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), is the perfect example of dutiful servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe. O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon him; his family; all of his companions; and whomsoever follows and seeks to emulate him in the best of ways till the Last Day.

I advise you, O servants of Allah, and myself, with Taqwa of Allah (glorified be He).

O Worshippers:

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) compared the likes of what he had brought in guidance and knowledge with his Sunnah to water, which is the very source of life itself. He mentioned that those who benefit the most from his guidance are those who are most upon his Sunnah. For he (peace and blessings be upon him) gave the analogy of fertile ground which is able to retain water, hence it is able to benefit itself, and is thereby able to benefit others. He (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

فَذَلِكَ مَثَلٌ مِّنْ فُقَّةٍ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ، وَنَفْعُهُ بِمَا بَعَثَنِي اللَّهُ بِهِ، فَعَلِمَ وَعَلَّمَ

And that is the similitude of the one who truly understands the religion of Allah and it becomes a source of benefit to him with which Allah sent me. Someone who learns knowledge and imparts it to others.

[Bukhari and Muslim]

So we should strive to bring the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) in our lives, such that we can avail the love of Allah, and His forgiveness for our sins. As Allah says:

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

Say, [O Muhammad: to your followers], "If you should truly love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful."

[Qur'an: ٣:٣١]

And with this, let us send our peace and blessings upon the one we have been commanded to send our peace and blessings upon, as Allah says: **Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.** [Qur'an: ٣٣:٥٦]. So, O Allah, bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon our Master, our Prophet and upon his family and all of his companions.

And O Allah: be pleased with the Righteous Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali ; and the noble companions of the Prophet, the Sahaba, May You be pleased with all of them. O Allah, we ask You for soundness in our faith, and trust in good character, and a true success that will be followed by eternal bliss. O Allah, we ask You for Your mercy, for true prosperity, for Your redemptive forgiveness and Your pleasure. O Allah, make us from those who are obedient, respectful, those who venerate their parents, honoring their mothers and their fathers, embodying excellent character towards their families and wider societies.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we seek Your favour in granting him continued good health and care. O Allah, we also ask You to grant success to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, we ask You to forgive all of the Muslims, both the men and women, the living and dead. O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed onto the mercy of their Lord. O Lord, grant them from your abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Allah, we ask you to admit them into Paradise, being given bounties therein without being taken to account. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whosoever may have a right upon us.

O Allah, we ask You, from and for your loving kindness, for the immensity of your forgiveness, for the reward of all righteousness, for the safety and protection from all sin. O Allah, we ask you for the ultimate success in attaining Paradise, and the ultimate salvation in being saved from the Fire. O Allah, do not allow us to sin except that You forgive us, nor to have any worry except that you relieve us from it, nor for any debt to come upon us except that You see it paid up, nor for there to be any sick amongst us except that You see them healed. Let there be no dead, except that You have covered them in Your mercy, and let there be no pressing need, amongst any of us, except that You see it met and fulfilled. O most Noble of the Noble, You are capable over all things, and You are the most generous in responding to those who call upon You.

We ask You, O Allah, the Lord of all domains, to continue blessing the UAE with stability, welfare, increase in its bounties, knowledge, civilization, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, continue blessing it with safety and security. O Allah, have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the Prophets. O Allah, make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You are ever-responsive to those who call upon You. O Allah, grant to the people of Yemen that which is good, and unite them upon that which is True and Sacred, and provide for them all manners of prosperity, O most Noble of the Noble.

O Allah, spread peace and security amongst all the Muslim nations, and the entirety of all the nations of the world. O our Lord, we ask You for the best of this World, the best of the Hereafter, that You will protect us from the punishment of the Fire, and that You enter us into Your paradise with the righteous. Indeed, You are the Most Generous and Most Forgiving.

Servants of Allah: Remember Allah, the Majestic, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings, and He will increase you therein. And establish the prayer.

Stand up for prayer.