

Motherhood: The Most Honored of Roles **The First Khutbah:**

All praises are due to Allah, Lord of the Heavens and Earth. Who has commanded us to honor our Mothers. Who has mentioned for us in the Noble Quran the example of the noblest of Mothers. And I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of absolute love and 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 perfect example of 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.

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:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ مُحْسِنُونَ

Indeed, Allah is with those who fear Him and those who are doers of good. [Qur'an: ١٦:١٢٨]

O You Who Believe:

Indeed Allah has immortalized the lives of some of the most honorable women as Mothers in the Qur'an. As women dedicated to piety and worship they serve as examples and role models. This is so that the children know the degree to which their Mothers have sacrificed for them, and what they bore in raising them up. From such illuminated examples, is the example of Hajjar, the Mother of Ismail. She had certainty of faith in her Lord, trusting in her Creator, in conformity with her husband, the Prophet Ibrahim (peace and blessings be upon him). For Ibrahim (peace and blessings be upon him) left with her and his young son, Ismail, to Mecca, an uninhabited and desolate land at the time, and left them both there, in his submission to the will of Allah. With them he left some dates and water, until when even that ran out, the young baby Ismail began to shiver from his chest due to the extremity of his hunger and thirst. Hajjar's heart ached for her son, out of concern for him, so she ascended Safa, then she ascended Marwa. She did that seven times. The she heard a sound and she said: "Help us, if you are of the good", and behold, it was the Angel Jibrail. So he struck the Earth and water poured out, Hajjar was amazed and began to immediately collect the water, drinking from it herself and feeding her baby. She was pleased with what Allah had bequeathed her, after her patience and ability to bear. And despite facing such difficult conditions, this great mother was able to raise her child upon the noble attributes about whom Allah says:

وَاذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتَابِ إِسْمَاعِيلَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ صَادِقَ الْوَعْدِ وَكَانَ رَسُولًا نَبِيًّا

And mention in the Book, Ishmael. Indeed, he was true to his promise, and he was a messenger and a prophet. [Qur'an: ١٩:٥٤]

Allah preserved her act of running between Safa and Marwa, the Sa'y, making it a religious rite, a sacred ritual, that people can draw near to Allah thereby. This rite,

enshrines the sacrifice of Hajjar, the love of a mother for her child, Ismail. About this Allah says: **إِنَّ الصَّفَا وَالْمَرْوَةَ مِنْ شَعَائِرِ اللَّهِ فَمَنْ حَجَّ الْبَيْتَ أَوْ اعْتَمَرَ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِ أَنْ يَطَّوَّفَ بِهِمَا وَمَنْ تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ شَاكِرٌ عَلِيمٌ**

Indeed, as-safa and al-Marwah are among the symbols of Allah . So whoever makes Hajj to the House or performs 'umrah - there is no blame upon him for walking between them. And whoever offers good - then indeed, Allah is appreciative and Knowing. [Qur'an: ٢:١٥٨]

O You Who Believe:

Another example of a righteous Mother Allah has informed us of in His noble Qur'an about, forever recording her remembrance, honoring her is the Mother of Moses (peace and blessings be upon him). She was not mentioned in the Qur'an except with the attributes of Motherhood. She first had to hide her Motherhood, out of fear of the Pharaoh, about whom Allah says: **يُذَبِّحُ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ وَيَسْتَحْيِي نِسَاءَهُمْ**

[Pharaoh was] slaughtering their [newborn] sons and keeping their females alive. [Qur'an: ٢٨:٤]

The Mother of Moses faced a difficult period fearing for her child. This is how Mothers are with their children, always concerned for their welfare, thinking about their future, anxious about any events that may face them, preserving them. When her fear reached the level of her capacity to bear, Allah sent His mercy upon her, being ever-aware of her state, knowing the inner realities of her heart. So He ordered her with a strange command, as He said: **وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَرْضِعِيهِ فَإِذَا خِفْتِ عَلَيْهِ فَأَلْقِيهِ فِي الْيَمِّ وَلَا**

تَخَافِي وَلَا تَحْزَنِي

And We inspired to the mother of Moses, "Suckle him; but when you fear for him, cast him into the river and do not fear and do not grieve. [Qur'an: ٢٨:٧]

If she feared for him when he was in her arms – how could she throw him in the Sea? This demonstrates the degree of trust she had in her Lord.

إِنَّا رَادُّوهُ إِلَيْكَ وَجَاعِلُوهُ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

Indeed, We will return him to you and will make him [one] of the Messengers. [Qur'an: ٢٨:٧]

So she responded to the call of her Lord. Patiently bearing the test, Allah comforted her heart, calming her terror, as He says:

وَأَصْبَحَ فُؤَادُ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ فَارِغًا إِنْ كَادَتْ لَتُبْدِي بِهِ لَوْلَا أَنْ رَبَطْنَا عَلَىٰ قَلْبِهَا لِتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

And the heart of Moses' mother became empty [of all else]. She was about to disclose [the matter concerning] him had We not bound fast her heart that she would be of the believers. [Qur'an: ٢٨:١٠]

So she did not despair, but instead followed her child as he traversed floating on the river, as the Qur'an notes: **وَقَالَتْ لِأُخْتِهِ قُصِّيه**

And she said to his sister, "Follow him" [Qur'an: ٢٨:١١]

So the sister followed his traces whilst keeping a safe distance. Allah's care for Moses was apparent in that whoever looked upon him, fell in love with him. Allah says:

وَأَلْقَيْتُ عَلَيْكَ مَحَبَّةً مِنِّي

And I bestowed upon you love from Me that you would be brought up under My eye. [Qur'an: ٢٠:٣٩]

This was the wife of the Pharaoh fell in love upon seeing him, saying to her husband:

لَا تَقْتُلُوهُ **Do not kill him;** [Qur'an: ٢٨: ٩]

So the wife of the Pharaoh began to look for someone to suckle the baby, as he would reject every wet-nurse that was presented, as Allah says: **وَحَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِ الْمَرَاضِعَ مِنْ قَبْلُ**

And We had prevented from him [all] wet nurses before [Qur'an: ٢٨: ١٢]

Until the sister of Moses came forth and said:

هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ أَهْلِ بَيْتٍ يَكْفُلُونَهُ لَكُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُ نَاصِحُونَ

so she said, "Shall I direct you to a household that will be responsible for him for you while they are to him [for his upbringing] sincere? [Qur'an: ٢٨: ١٢]

Her hopes were realized concerning her son's protection and welfare, as Allah not only chose him as His Prophet, but made him from the greatest of His Messengers, those of the 'Highest of Determination' (uwlu l-'azm).

O Servants of Allah:

Indeed having a righteous mother, having her care raise one up, is from the greatest of blessings that Allah can give a human being. For Allah says:

إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ اذْكُرْ نِعْمَتِي عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَتِكَ

[The Day] when Allah will say, "O Jesus, Son of Mary, remember My favor upon you and upon your mother [Qur'an: ٥: ١١٠]

In this verse and many like it, Allah joins between mention of Jesus and his mother, for example: **مَا الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ وَأُمُّهُ صِدِّيقَةٌ**

The Messiah, son of Mary, was not but a messenger; [other] messengers have passed on before him. And his mother was a supporter of truth. [Qur'an: ٥:٧٥]

So Mary, the daughter of Imran was raised up with a righteous upbringing, from Allah's honoring her is that He mentioned her by name in the Qur'an and provided for her sustenance without any means and any account. He honored her above all the woman of the world, raising her mention amongst all of its people.

وَإِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَا مَرْيَمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَاكِ وَطَهَّرَكِ وَاصْطَفَاكِ عَلَى نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ

And [mention] when the angels said, "O Mary, indeed Allah has chosen you and purified you and chosen you above the women of the worlds. [Qur'an: ٣:٤٢]

He likewise gave her the blessing of a Prophet from the greatest of determination, saying:

قَالَتْ أَنَّى يَكُونُ لِي غُلَامٌ وَلَمْ يَمْسَسْنِي بَشَرٌ وَلَمْ أَكْ بَعْثًا * قَالَ كَذَلِكَ قَالَ رَبُّكَ هُوَ عَلَيَّ هَيِّنٌ

She said, "How can I have a boy while no man has touched me and I have not been unchaste?"

He said, "Thus [it will be]; your Lord says, 'It is easy for Me, and We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us. And it is a matter [already] decreed.'

" [Qur'an: ١٩:٢٠-٢١]

So she became a vessel for the command of Her Lord. She was in the prime of her life and fearful for what her community would say, a state which Allah described in the

verse: فَأَجَاءَهَا الْمَخَاضُ إِلَى جِذْعِ النَّخْلَةِ قَالَتْ يَا لَيْتَنِي مِتُّ قَبْلَ هَذَا وَكُنْتُ نَسِيًّا مَنْسِيًّا

And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree. She said, "Oh, I wish I had died before this and was in oblivion, forgotten." [Qur'an: ١٩:٢٣]

Mary was a righteous Mother. She was tested and was patient. She raised up one of the greatest men of humanity, how great then would be her nurturing? This is why Allah commanded Jesus to show devotion to his mother, serving as an example to all of us

thereby: وَبَرًّا بِوَالِدَتِي وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْنِي جَبَّارًا شَقِيًّا

And [made me] dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant.

[Qur'an: ١٩:٣٢]

These are some of the examples and role models the Qur'an gives for Motherhood. Exemplifying mercy, sacrifice and patience. The compassion that is needed to raise children, boys and girls, resulting in their contentment in this life and the next. In response to this, all of us as children to Mothers need to ask ourselves the question: Are we honoring our Mothers and showing them the devotion, piety and good behavior that they deserve?

O Allah, make us from those who honor their parents, our Fathers and Mothers. And assist us all in the way of piety and obedience. Piety towards Your trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), to be dutiful towards those You have commanded us to be dutiful towards, in accordance with Your 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 command, and I thank Him for He supports those who are grateful. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love; nothing worthy of attaching our hearts upon in worshipful adoration, 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 dutiful servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created cosmos. 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 way of embodied spiritual conduct till the Last Day.

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

O Worshippers:

Indeed Mothers with Allah are in the most honorable of positions and ranks. This is the reason why Allah has commanded us to show devotion and piety towards them first and foremost. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) informed us that the Mother takes precedence in priority of piety and devotion because she is the primary caregiver who exerts herself in the care of her children and by extension the future generations. This is exemplified in the difficulties she bears from the moment of conception, in the term of pregnancy, in the years she feeds and weans her children, and then her care in raising them as they grow older. For it is narrated by Abu Hurayrah that a man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said: "O Messenger of Allah ! Who is most entitled to the best of my companionship?" The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "Your Mother." The man said, "And then Who?" The Prophet said, "Your Mother." The man further said, "Who is next?" The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "Your Mother." The man asked for the fourth time, "Who is next?" The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) [finally] said, "Your Father. " [Bukhari and Muslim].

This is because Mothers are raisers of generations. It is said that behind every noble man, there lies a woman who has formed him. And hence the role of women and our Mothers in society is of the greatest importance. And their reward with Allah is likewise commensurately great. So all of us, as sons and daughters to Mothers should know this and their rank and treat them accordingly with the highest of respect.

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 may Allah be pleased with the Righteous Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali ; and the noble companions of the Prophet, the Sahaba, May Allah 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 relief 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 therein, nor for any debt to come upon us except that You see it compensated, 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, please 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 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, You are the Most Generous and Most Forgiving.

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

Stand up for prayer.