



Muadh Ibn Jabal and Knowledge

The First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah Who has raised the ranks of knowledge, and elevated the status of Scholars. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love, adoration and worship, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Sayyid, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), is the perfect example of servanthood unto Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe.

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:

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَيَعْلَمَكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

And fear Allah . And Allah teaches you. And Allah is Knowing of all things. [Qur'an:٢:٢٨٢]

O Muslims:

Indeed knowledge is from the greatest of what can be sought and the most honoured of what can be desired. The Sahaba attained of it a great deal, for they

contested amongst themselves in seeking it and expended much of their effort in its accrual. In fact they devoted their lives towards collecting it and Allah in turn raised their esteem, raising their remembrance in degrees, saying:

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: 58: 11]

And from these noble people who strove is a Sahabi of tremendous status, of immense understanding, possessing beautiful character, Sayyiduna Muadh Ibn Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him). He was an example for every diligent student, an exemplary model that youth can emulate. For he was one of the earliest of those who embraced Islam in Madinah, being of ١٨ years of age at the time. Ka'ab ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates that Muadh Ibn Jabal was of the best of the youth of his people. As soon as he became Muslim, he was avid to keep the company of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), keen to take as much knowledge from him as possible. So the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) loved him and said to him: يَا مُعَاذُ وَاللَّهِ إِنِّي لِأُحِبُّكَ

O Muadh: By Allah, I love you [Abu Dawud]

To which Muadh responded by saying: “By my father and mother, O Messenger of Allah, I love you too.” So

what could be more beautiful than this intimate relationship of instruction between a teacher and student and what could be more wonderful than such noble values being exchanged between them?

O students of knowledge and its teachers:

Indeed the spiritual aspiration of Muadh ibn Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him) in seeking knowledge was very high, and his ambitions were great. He was particularly avid in learning the Qur'an from the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). For Abdullah bin Masud (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates: Muadh came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said: O Messenger of Allah, recite [the Qur'an] for me. So the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said to me [Abdullah]: O Abdullah, recite for him", so I recited for him what was with me. In this manner of his seeking knowledge of the Qur'an, Muadh was discerning and intelligent, persevering and patient, until he became one of only four people who had memorized the Qur'an during the life of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). It is related on the authority of Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) who said: "Four people were able to memorize the Qur'an entirely during the life of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him)." This is the way knowledge is acquired. So a student should give to the knowledge he seeks all of his attention and time, such that it in turn may give him its benefit, and that is exactly what Muadh (may Allah be

pleased with) did. He not only took the knowledge most required of him but constantly strove in its increase, joining not only in memorizing the Qur'an but learning of its rulings. He did this by investing his time in the good, taking advantage of any opportunity and occasion that offered him the chance to increase in knowledge. In this regard, he used to frequently ask the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) questions to increase himself in knowledge and understanding. So he once asked the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) for permission to question him, to which the Prophet responded: **سَلْنِي عَمَّ شِئْت** **Ask me whatever you want.** So he asked him about a deed that would enter him into Paradise. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) responded by directing him to a great deed, a path towards goodness, commanding him to strengthen his relationship with his Lord and to beautify his character with people. This is prophetic advice that we should direct towards students, in that they should strive to improve their relationship with their Lord. This can be affected through guarding their prayers, honouring their ties with their parents, including improving their relationships with those around them. This includes interacting in the best of manners with their teachers, and fellow students in their school.

Muadh ibn Jabal was always passionate to learn beneficial knowledge, wishing to sit in the company of

those teachers who knew best their subjects, avid to benefit from their knowledge and experience. He did this, until he himself became a leader, an Imam, one possessing the deep understanding of religion, being firmly grounded in its knowledge. This why the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

أَعْلَمُكُمْ بِالْحَالِلِ وَالْحَرَامِ مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ

The most knowledgeable of you in the Halal and the Haram is Muadh ibn Jabal. [Tirmidhi]

In fact the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) himself bore witness to Muadh's ascendance over other scholars stating:

Muadh ibn Jabal shall come on the Day of Judgment in front of the scholars.

He praised him further with the saying:

نَعَمَ الرَّجُلُ مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ

Muadh ibn Jabal is the best of men. [Tirmidhi]

For this reason, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) entrusted him with tremendous responsibilities in teaching. So when the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) entered unto Mecca in 6 A.H., he left Muadh there to teach its people the matters of religion and the way of their Lord. He was indeed the best of teachers, for Sayyidina Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) stated: "Whomsoever wants deep understanding of knowledge of this religion, then

they should go to Muadh ibn Jabal.” Likewise Abdullah ibn Masud (may Allah be pleased with him) stated: “Muadh was a teacher from the teachers upon the covenant of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), teaching them the good.” This model in turn is a message to teachers such that they know that the vocation of teaching is an immense one, for it was the occupation of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and his choicest companions (such as Muadh), as this is what furthers and raises the generations to come.

O You who Pray:

Indeed Muadh ibn Jabal was well-founded in his knowledge, proficient in his specialisms, which was mostly the Qur’an and its sciences. Hence the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) advised taking the Qur’an specifically from him stating:

اسْتَقْرَبُوا الْقُرْآنَ مِنْ أَرْبَعَةٍ - وَذَكَرَ مِنْهُمْ - مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ

Learn the Qur'an from these four persons: [he mentioned as being of them...] **Muadh ibn Jabal.**

[Sahih al-Bukhari]

So those seeking knowledge of the religion would come to Muadh, sitting in front of him, listening to him intently, such that their hearts would become full of faith and their intellects illuminated by light. This was because of what they would see of the abundance of his knowledge, and the greatness of his character. Hence many a Sahabi traversed the path of knowledge under

his instruction gaining wisdom and clemency. As attested by them, he would always make things easy for his students, manifesting for them his love and content, extending his hand to them in service.

So we ask Allah that he bestow his pleasure upon Muadh ibn Jabal, the great scholar and teacher of the companions, and may His pleasure be upon all the companions of the Prophet, making us of those who emulate them in following the guidance of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). And may He assist us all in the way of piety and obedience. Piety towards His trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), and may He bless us with the ability 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, Who has honoured the Scholars and given them the ranks of those are in bliss. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love, adoration and worship, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Sayyid, 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 Muslims:

Indeed the sciences and forms of knowledge one can acquire are many. For it is through such knowledge that a person ascends in ranks, and that youth and the entire nations they make up progress. This is why the wise leadership of this nation has provided all the requirements and facilities of an effective educational system; consisting of schools, universities, institutes , centres and other learning institutions. All of this to create an educational environment that motivates students, aiding them in their educational attainments and progress of knowledge.

The Ministry of Education alongside other educational and learning bodies of the nation have sought to provide qualified teachers, that ensure the development of curricula and excellence. Hence it is upon parents and other guardians of students to strengthen their cooperation with these bodies, and follow-up with them for their children, making sure they are diligent in their attendance to school and studying for their lessons. This is so that concerted efforts can become integrated, such that distinguished generations can come forth. One distinguished in its morals, culture and knowledge, wherein the students invest whatever potential available they have available to them, and diligently make an effort to seek knowledge; benefitting not only themselves but their families and their homelands.

As for you teachers, your responsibility in this regard is great, for you have been entrusted with teaching our sons and daughters. Striving to nourish their minds and develop their skills, purifying their hearts and improving their morals. For you in the Messenger of Allah is a good example, for this was the essence of his message, as described by Allah in his stating:

يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ

reciting to them His verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book and wisdom,

[Qur'an: ٣:١٦٤]

We ask Allah that he make the coming academic year one of success for our sons and daughters.

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 on to 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 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 respite 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. Indeed You are the Most Generous and Most Forgiving.

O 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. **So stand up for prayer.**