الْبُيُوتُ سَكَنٌ وَطُمَأْنينَةُ

Homes are Places of Comfort and Tranquility First Sermon

All Praise be to Allah, Who gave us homes out of His Generosity and Beneficence, and Who made them for us places of comfort and compassion.

I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah; the Uniquely One, who has no partners in His Oneness, and I testify that our Master and Prophet, Muhammad – is the Servant and Messenger of Allah.

O Allah send Your salutations, peace and blessings upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, all of his family and companions, and whomsoever follows them in benevolence till the Day of Judgment.

To proceed: I advise you and myself to embody a reverential consciousness (taqwa) of Allah.

O Worshippers: Allah Almighty says:

(وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ بُيُوتِكُمْ سَكَنًا)

(And Allah made for you from your homes places of comfort and rest)

In this noble verse, our Lord confers upon us the gift of having a home – a home in which our parents and children reside and which serves as a place of shelter, an abode of

happiness and a sanctuary of stability and comfort. It is the place in which a person feels at ease and at peace and experiences love and affection.

How then do we achieve peace and tranquility in our homes?

O Servants of Allah: A believer enters his house invoking the remembrance of his Lord in order to protect him from Satan, the Accursed, and safeguard him and his family from his wicked whisperings and malicious promptings, and from his malevolence and evil temptations in their food, drink, when they are asleep and when they are awake. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) says:

<إِذَا دَخَلَ الرَّجُلُ بَيْتَهُ فَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ عِنْدَ دُخُولِهِ، وَعِنْدَ طَعَامِهِ، قَالَ الشَّيْطَانُ: لَا مَبِيتَ لَكُمْ وَلَا عَشَاءَ»

"When a man enters his house and mentions Allah's Name on entering and on his food, the devil says: You have no place to spend the night and no evening meal" That is to say, the devil says to the other devils who hang out with him: "Allah Most High has protected this man and his home from you through his invoking Allah's Name and seeking His refuge and protection." When the believer continuous to remember Allah Almighty and read and listen to the Holy Qur'an, then Allah Most High fills his house with life and vitality, and its inhabitants live a good, pleasant and wholesome life.

The believer should also perform a portion of his worship at home, for the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to allocate a portion of his ritual prayer for him to perform it at home and explained to us the excellence of doing so, saying: «صَلُوا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ فِي بُيُوتِكُمْ، فَإِنَّ أَفْضَلَ الصَّلَاةِ صَلَاةُ الْمَرْءِ فِي بَيْتِهِ، إِلَّا الْمَكْتُوبَةَ»

"O People! perform your (voluntary) ritual prayers in your homes because the best ritual prayer of a man is the one he performs at home, except the obligatory ritual prayers."

In this way, the house of the believer shares with the mosque (the House of Allah) in bearing witness to his righteous and pious works, and thus will share in a portion of his worship and devotion and the angels will descend upon his house in scores and give glad tidings of the reward and blessing that his family will enjoy. Likewise, it will increase the reward of his congregational prayer in the mosque manifold. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) says:

«تَطُوُّعُ الرَّجُل فِي بَيْتِهِ يَزِيدُ عَلَى تَطَوُّعِهِ عِنْدَ النَّاس؛ كَفَضْل صَلَاةِ الجُمَاعَةِ عَلَى صَلَاةِ الرَّجُل وَحْدَهُ»

"A person's voluntary worship at home is superior to his voluntary worship in the presence of people, in the same way praying (obligatory prayers) in congregation is superior to a person praying alone and on his own."

When a man and his household partake in one or the other act of worship, then that will multiply their reward and attract Allah's Mercy even more. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) says: ... رَحِمَ اللَّهُ امْرَأَةً قَامَتْ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَصَلَّى وَأَيْقَظَ امْرَأَتَهُ فَصَلَّتْ... وَحَمَ اللَّهُ امْرَأَةً قَامَتْ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ

"May Allah have mercy on a man who gets up at night and prays, then he wakes his wife and she prays ... and may Allah have mercy on a woman who gets up at night and prays, then she wakes her husband and he prays"

How beautiful it is that Allah Most High gazes upon a family and they are in a state of bowing, prostrating to Him, invoking His Remembrance and reading His Divine Book. O Muslims: Allah Almighty wants us to spread peace in our homes, for He says: (فَإِذَا دَخَلْتُمْ بُيُوتًا فَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِكُمْ) تَحَيَّةً مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ مُبَارَكَةً طَيِّبَةً)

(So when you enter homes, greet one another with Salam (peace), a greeting prescribed by Allah, which is blessed and pleasant.)

That is to say, O People when you enter your homes, then greet your wives and children with Salam (peace), because the greeting of peace is blessed and pleasant, which Your Lord has ordered you to do, made it a source of blessing for your homes and promised you great reward and huge recompense for engaging in it.

Just as a person is keen to fill his home with goodness, belief and faith as a way of following and emulating the example of the Prophets and Divine Messengers (peace and blessings be upon them), Prophet Nuh (Noah) (peace be upon him) says:

(رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِمَنْ دَخَلَ بَيْتِي مُؤْمِنًا)

(My Lord! Forgive me and my parents and him who enters my house believing and filled with faith.)

When a person upholds and maintains an atmosphere of iman (belief and faith) in his home and amongst his family members, it will have an impact on the upbringing of his children, instilling in them noble values and exalted morals. This will be manifested in gatherings marked by love and affection between family members like when they get together to sit around the dinner table or the study table, revising with one another, reinforcing praiseworthy customs and noble traditions, praising Allah for these blessings and bounties and asking Him for more. Consequently, the home becomes a point of departure for every beautiful trait and every noble and good practice. Indeed, from the good practices and beautiful social traits that emanate from the home is maintaining good family ties, keeping contact with one's near of kin and neighbours, because parents encourage their children to do so as well as doing so themselves, thus leading by example.

Of the noble traits that stem from the home is standing together solidarity and showing understanding for one another and taking care of one another, for here we find the sister of Musa (Moses) (peace be upon him) describing the household that her brother was raised in, saying:

(هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَى أَهْل بَيْتٍ يَكْفُلُونَهُ لَكُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُ نَاصِحُونَ)

(Shall I point out to you a family who will rear him for you and take care of him, and who will act in good faith towards him?)

Thus, Musa (peace be upon him) emerged from this home of his as one of the Prophets of Allah Most High and one of the Mighty and Resolute Messengers of Allah.

We should therefore have greater concern for our families and households, and thus raise them correctly and carry out our responsibility completely and properly with respect to them. This is because Allah Almighty will hold us accountable for them, and ask us concerning them, for the family is the nucleus, cornerstone and foundation of society. It is the first school from which generations of children graduate. Hence, if the family is right, functional and stable, then the building structure will be strong and secure, and its impact will manifest in society.

O Allah increase our homes in happiness and bliss, in affection and compassion, and make us obedient to You and follow the example of Your Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). grant us all, O Allah, the power and ability to obey You and to obey Your Trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad, and to obey those whom You have commanded us to obey in Your Holy Book when You said, and You are the Truest of Speakers:

(O you who believe, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.)

I say this speech of mine, and I seek Allah's Forgiveness for me and for you, so seek His Forgiveness, for He is the All-Forgiving and the All-Merciful.

Second Sermon

All Praise be to Allah, Praise that is abundant in the manner He has commanded, and I thank Him, for indeed He rewards the one who thanks Him. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah; the Uniquely One, who has no partners in His Oneness, and I testify that our Master and Prophet, Muhammad – is the Servant and Messenger of Allah.

O Allah send Your salutations, peace and blessings upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, all of his family and companions, and whomsoever follows them in benevolence till the Day of Judgment.

I advise you and myself to embody a reverential consciousness (taqwa) of Allah.

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O Worshippers: Part of the parents' responsibility towards their children is to warn them against everything that can cause them harm and be detrimental to them both in this life and the Afterlife. Allah Most High says:

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا)

(O you who believe, protect and safeguard your families against a Fire)

That is to say, protect your homes, children and families against evil, and place a barrier and shield between them and evil, because of the many evils that destroy families and bring down societies is substance abuse (taking drugs) which is a worldwide problem and global scourge from which the vast majority of countries in the world suffer. It is therefore our incumbent duty towards our children and binding responsibility towards our families that we protect them and guard them against falling into the clutches of drug addition, for it is temporary or permanent poisoning that wastes money, weakens health and corrupts religion and morality. Also, of the kinds of addiction that are detrimental to the health of our sons and daughters and cause them to waste their time and effort is electronic and video-game addiction which the World Health Organization has warned against,

because it distances our children from reality and the real

world, takes them away from their homes, severs them from the societies and communities in which they live and exercises a negative impact on their lives.

So let us look after the health of our children and the wellbeing of their bodies, minds and souls. Let us increase our children's awareness of the harms of drugs, drug dealers and drug promoters and the dangers of electronic and video-game addiction. This is so our households can live in happiness, tranquility and peace of mind, and so productive generations of children can emerge and graduate from them – generations that will benefit society and contribute to the upliftment, advancement and progress of our country.

And with this, let us send our peace and blessings upon the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers, as the Lord of the Worlds has commanded us to do, for He says in His Noble Book: (Allah and His angels send blessings on the Prophet:

O you who believe! Send a prayers of blessing to him and prayers of peace and salutations to him in abundance.)

O Allah: Bestow Your peace and blessings upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, his family and all of his companions.

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O Allah: Be pleased with the Righteous Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and with all the noble companions.

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 ask You to grant success to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates.

O You Who Hears and Answers prayers and Who raises and elevates people in ranks, forgive the Muslim men and Muslim women, the believing men and believing women, those of them who are alive and those who have passed on.

O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. O Allah: We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah, Continue to shower on the UAE Your Blessings, Generosity and Bounteousness, and bless its wealth and resources and its people and let it always live in happiness, and let it always increase in everything that is good.

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O Allah: Have mercy on the honorable martyrs of our nation and coalition forces of the righteous, and enter them unto paradise with the elect.

O Allah: Bestow upon their families the reward of those who are patient, through Your immense generosity. O most generous of the generous.

O Allah: Give aid to the Arab Coalition Forces, and spread peace and security throughout the lands of the Muslims, and the entirety of the world.

O Allah: Confer upon us Your blessings and do not make us from those who despair.

O Allah, send down upon us abundant, wholesome rain, productive, plentiful and all encompassing.

O Allah, grant us rain from the blessings and bounties of the skies, and cultivate for us from the blessings and bounties of the earth.

O Allah: Give us in this life what is good; and in the next life what is good, and save us from the fire.

And enter us into paradise with the righteous. O most noble and most forgiving.

O Servants of Allah: Remember Allah and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings, He will increase you therein.

So stand up for prayer.