



Recognition of the rank of the family

First Khutbah

All praises are for Allah Lord of all the worlds. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely one who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Muhammad is the slave of Allah and His Messenger, may the 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, as Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا

O you who have believed, fear Allah and speak words of appropriate justice. [Qur'an: ٣٣:٧٠]

O Believers: Indeed, Allah is noble, graceful, and generous, He loves that we acknowledge His blessings and acknowledge His favours and grace unto us, for He says, glory be to Him: [Qur'an: ٤٠:٦١]

For He is the One who has gifted to us life and existence itself and has facilitated for us whatsoever is in the heavens and the earth. He has guided us to true faith and belief, his blessings come to us outwardly and inwardly, as He says:

وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ

And Allah is the possessor of great bounty. [Qur'an: ٣:٧٤]

We were taught by the Prophet Sulayman (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) of showing recognition of the blessings we have been given when he said:

هَذَا مِنْ فَضْلِ رَبِّي

This is from the favor of my Lord [Qur'an: ٢٧:٤٠]

Similarly, our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to praise his Lord in his supplications by saying: "**You are the One [i.e. Provider] of grace and blessings**".

In this spirit of recognition and gratitude, Allah has ordered us to recognize the rank, grace and bounty of our families. This begins with our parents who are the most deserving of our recognition on account of their sacrifice and their concern for their children. For this reason the Prophet Ibrahim (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) singled them out for his supplication when he said:

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ

Our Lord, forgive me and my parents [Qur'an: ١٤:٤١]

We should benefit from the story of Yusuf (peace and blessings be upon him) with his brothers and their recognition of his rank and bounties when they said:

تَاللَّهِ لَقَدْ آثَرَكَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا

By Allah, certainly has Allah preferred you over us

[Qur'an: ١٢:٩١]

In this regard it is important for spouses to recognize each other's efforts, for this is what increases love and compassions between them and brings happiness and mercy to the family as a whole. For the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to remember the favors

of Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her), recognizing the blessing she was and making clear her rank, when he said:

لَقَدْ صَدَّقْتَنِي حِينَ كَذَّبَنِي النَّاسُ، وَأَشْرَكْتَنِي فِي مَالِهَا حِينَ حَرَمَنِي

النَّاسُ

She believed in me when the people disbelieved, she took part in my mission and supported me with her wealth when the people boycotted me. [Ahmad]

So indeed recognition of each other is what causes bonds of connection to grow, whether it be to our family or our friends, this is what sows mutual love between hearts. This is why our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) praised Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him), recognizing his rank, thanking him for his efforts and beautiful companionship. So O Allah make us from those who recognize each other's ranks and of those who are grateful. I say this and seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most-forgiving, most-merciful.

Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, and may peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allah who was an example of goodly conduct to those who fast. And may peace and blessings be upon his family and companions, and whomsoever follows him in the best of ways till the Last Day.

O Believers: Indeed, from the obligations upon us is that we recognize the rank of whoever it is who puts forward a form of service or form of goodness unto us. So when the Prophet Moses (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) helped provide water to the daughter of Shuayb (peace and blessings

of Allah be upon him), she mentioned this to her father highlighting two characteristics that encompass all goodness, and she said: **يَا أَبَتِ اسْتَأْجِرْهُ إِنَّ خَيْرَ مَنْ اسْتَأْجَرْتَ الْقَوِيُّ**

الْأَمِينُ

O my father, hire him. Indeed, the best one you can hire is the strong and the trustworthy. [Qur'an: ٢٨:٢٦]

So, let us recognize those who have served us, being the first line of defense; seeking to support the directives of our nation's leadership. Let us support those who have served the country, achieving great things at the national level, and assuming leading positions on the global level. Let whoever takes any benefit from any place, appreciate the efforts of that nation in serving them, and let us bring this spirit of recognition to our families, for this is what forms the nucleus and foundation of any successful society and helps instill genuine ethical values and morals in ourselves and our children.

So, let us honor this praiseworthy character amongst ourselves and let us seek to instill in ourselves and our children. And with this, let us send our prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, 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 Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates. and guide them to all that is good and what pleases You. 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. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on the martyrs, and grant their families with patience and a great reward.

And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us. And continue sending your blessings and bounties upon the UAE. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah, bless us, bless us, bless us. O Allah: Give us in this life that which is beautiful and in the next life that which is beautiful, and save us from the fire. Remember Allah and He will remember you.

Stand up for prayer.