



The Mosque is an Oasis of Civilization

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah who has made the Mosques an oasis and beacon for worship, and a guide for communities to progress and civilization. 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, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. O Allah, send Your 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, for verily Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ
اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

O you who believe! Fear Allah, and let every soul consider what it has forwarded for tomorrow, and be conscious of Allah. Allah is well informed of what you do. [Qur'an: ٥٩:١٨]

O You who Believe: Allah says: فِي بُيُوتٍ أذنَ اللهُ أنْ تُرْفَعَ وَيُذَكَرَ فِيهَا اسْمُهُ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ فِيهَا بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ

In houses that Allah has permitted to be raised, and His name is celebrated there. He is glorified there, morning and evening. [Qur'an: ٢٤:٣٦]

So, Mosques are the houses of Allah and are amongst the most beloved of places to him. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

أَحَبُّ الْبِلَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَسَاجِدُهَا

The parts of the land dearest to Allah are its Mosques.

[Muslim]

For Mosques are places of devotion, piety and worship of the Most Merciful. They are where remembrance, intimate discourse, recitation of the Qur'an takes place, which bequeaths peace, tranquility, and the teaching of ethics in words and deeds. The Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said:

إِنَّمَا هِيَ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَالصَّلَاةِ وَقِرَاءَةِ الْقُرْآنِ

Indeed these [Mosques] are for the remembrance of Allah, prayer and recitation of the Qur'an. [Muslim]

So, it is an obligation upon us to honor the houses of Allah, to know its rights, to esteem them and their ranks. So let us guard our prayers therein, for Allah has sworn about the faith in its foundations:

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ

The only people to attend Allah's mosques are those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and pray regularly, and practice regular charity, and fear none except Allah.

[Qur'an: ٩:١٨]

From such honoring of Mosques and esteem is that Muslims keep these Mosques clean and pure. He should wear the best of his clothes when entering them, he should be in the best of states when he enters, adorning himself in best of fragrances. This would be acting in accordance with the verse:

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ

O Children of Adam! Dress appropriately at every Mosque.

Also consistent with the saying of the Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) who said: فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ أَحَقُّ مَنْ تُزِينُ لَهُ

Indeed, Allah is more deserving of being adorned for.

[Sunnan al-Kubra]

So, the Muslim goes to the Mosques with tranquility and grace, wherein they can hope for their sins to be forgiven and their ranks can be raised. The Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah

be upon him) said: مَنْ تَطَهَّرَ فِي بَيْتِهِ، ثُمَّ مَشَى إِلَى بَيْتٍ مِنْ بُيُوتِ اللَّهِ؛ لِيَقْضِيَ فَرِيضَةً مِنْ فَرَائِضِ اللَّهِ؛ كَانَتْ خَطْوَتَاهُ إِحْدَاهُمَا تَحُطُّ خَطِيئَةً، وَالْأُخْرَى تَرْفَعُ دَرَجَةً

He who purified himself in his house, and then he walked to one of the houses of Allah for the sake of performing a Fard (obligatory prayer) out of the Fara'id (obligatory acts) of Allah, all of his steps (would be significant) as one of them would obliterate his sin and the second one would raise his status. [Muslim]

From that which a believer should be avid about when entering a Mosque, is that they safeguard their cleanliness and adorn themselves with fragrance prior to entering. Indeed, the Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) commanded that one should do this, such that Mosques can remain an oasis for worship and faith. In this manner the Mosque becomes a manifestation from the manifestations of the civilization of Islam. O Allah, help and aid us in looking after our Mosques, both inwardly in our esteem and honoring them and outwardly in appearance, cleanliness and fragrance. May we honor them

through our beautiful behavior and actions. I say this and I ask Allah's forgiveness for me and you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most Forgiving, the most Merciful.

Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, and may peace and blessings be upon our leader, Sayyiduna Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) and upon all of his companions. I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah.

O Believers: Indeed, the Mosques are beacons of faith and symbols of civilization, which have a sanctity to be observed, and a great prestige to be appreciated, for Allah says:

وَمَنْ يُعَظِّمْ شَعَائِرَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّهَا مِنْ تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ

Whoever esteems the sacred symbols of Allah— that is from the reverence of the hearts. [Qur'an: ٢٦:٣٢]

So, such honoring is honoring the sacredness of the houses of Allah. This includes not just looking after its facilities and furnishings, endowments, and maintaining the beauty of their appearance, but abiding by the procedures put in place therein. So, one should remove anything that is not becoming of entering a Mosque, not place one's shoes randomly at the entrances, for this distorts their appearance and hinders the entry of worshipers into and out of them. Similarly, one should not park cars or queue erratically in front of them, as this obstructs the movement of traffic and threatens the safety of others. This is in opposition to the Prophetic command to give rights to the paths, as the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

أَعْطُوا الطَّرِيقَ حَقَّهَا

Give the paths their rights. [Bukhari and Muslim]

And with this we ask You Allah that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Sayyiduna 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 those martyred for Your sake, and grant them intercession for their people, and grant their families patience and a great reward.

And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us. Please continue sending Your blessings and bounties upon this nation the UAE, and upon all the Muslims and the entire Ummah wheresoever they may be. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings upon us and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah: aid us, help us, and bless us. O Allah: bless us in this life with that which is good and in the next life that which is good, and save us from the hellfire. Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Let us align ourselves towards Him sincerely, and align our hearts.

So, stand up for prayer.