



Contemplation is the key towards progress and advancement

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, the Most-High, the Most Exalted, who has gifted human beings intellects and who has encouraged them to take the path of contemplation. 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 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:

وَاتَّقُونَ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ

And fear Me, O you of understanding.

[Qur'an: ٢:١٩٧]

O Believers: Allah says: وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا

تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ

And Allah has extracted you from the wombs of your mothers not knowing a thing, and He made for you hearing and vision and intellect. [Qur'an: ١٦:٧٨]

Indeed, Allah has gifted to people an intellect and consciousness, possessing full understanding, gifting them the faculty of hearing through ears, and seeing through eyes. In this manner they have been gifted the faculty of



being able to engage in self-reflection and contemplation, wherein they can engage in trying to understand things as they truly are through their reflective insight. This insight can be engaged in different fields and disciplines. First and foremost, such contemplative insight should be employed in reflecting on the meanings of the Qur'an, in order to act upon its meanings. As Allah says:

وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

And We revealed to you the message that you may make clear to the people what was sent down to them and that they might give thought. [Qur'an: ١٦:٤٤]

In similar manner Allah has encouraged us to contemplate upon the various things he has facilitated for us in the Earth from His blessings, such that we can benefit from its produce and thank its immense Creator. For Allah says:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَدَّ الْأَرْضَ وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَأَنْهَارًا وَمِنْ كُلِّ الشَّمْرَاتِ جَعَلَ فِيهَا زَوْجَيْنِ اثْنَيْنِ يُغْشِي اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يُتَفَكَّرُونَ

And it is He who spread the earth and placed therein firmly set mountains and rivers; and from all of the fruits He made therein two mates; He causes the night to cover the day. Indeed, in that are signs for a people who give thought. [Qur'an: ١٣:٠٣]

From such fields which our Lord had called us upon to contemplate is the creation of human beings and the cosmos through His omnipotent power. As Allah says:



وَفِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ

And [Signs] in yourselves. Then will you not see?

[Qur'an: ٥١:٢١]

Or elsewhere as Allah says: أَفَلَا يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَى الْإِبِلِ كَيْفَ

خُلِقَتْ **Then do they not look at the camels - how they**

are created? [Qur'an: ٨٨:١٧] Likewise, Allah says: أَوَلَمْ

يَرَوْا إِلَى الطَّيْرِ فَوْقَهُمْ صَافَاتٍ وَيَقْبِضْنَ

Do they not see the birds above them with wings

outspread and [sometimes] folded in? [Qur'an: ٦٧:١٨]

So, contemplation establishes certainty in the greatness of our Creator, in a way that strengthens the faith, such that the believer is able to repeat with his tongue and his heart:

رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَانَكَ

Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly

[Qur'an: ٣:١٩١]

To engage the contemplative faculty is a key to bringing light to our hearts and faith, as several Sahaba are reported to have said that the "Light of Faith is contemplation" [Tafsir Ibn Kathir]. So, O Allah, indeed You are the One who has gifted to us our intellects, so give us true understanding and contemplation, such that we can return to you with goodness and ascension in our spirituality. 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



Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah and may peace and blessings be upon our leader, Sayyiduna Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah 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 way of deep contemplation is the way of creativity, and the path of inventions, through which constant discoveries are made. Allah in the Noble Qur'an has urged us to take this path, when He says:

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

Indeed in that are signs for a people who contemplate.

[Qur'an: ١٣:٠٣]

That which we see nowadays from the means by which we see scientific advancement, inventions and technological development, is from the gifted success of Allah. All of this is a result of the contemplative mind of thinkers and their discoveries. This is what has enabled them to discover and embark on technologies in space, medical sciences, technology and artificial intelligence. This is a way of advancement in human civilization. So, all parents, fathers and mothers, male and female teachers should seek to inculcate and cause to grow in the young this spirit of contemplation. This can be encouraged by promoting modes of research with children and students, wherein their progress can be monitored and continued, and developed in a sustainable way. This is what characterizes civilizations that have truly developed minds and intellects, who are able to continue to develop in innovative ways.

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.

