



On the Anniversary of the Unification of the Armed Forces

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, the All-Powerful, the One who aids those in need. The One who has made stability and peace from the best of blessings we can enjoy in this world. We testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the One who has no partners. We testify that our master Muhammad is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. So, O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon him and upon his family, his companions and whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you, and myself, with the Taqwa of Allah, as Allah says: **يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ**

نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do.

[Qur'an: ١٨: ٥٩]

Brothers and Sisters in Islam: Indeed, when reflecting upon the strength and cohesion of nations and the reasons for their stability, advancement and prosperity, it is important to note the story Allah tells us about the people of the Queen of Sheba, saying: **قَالُوا نَحْنُ أَوْلُو قُوَّةٍ وَأُولُو بَأْسٍ**

شَدِيدٍ وَالْأَمْرُ إِلَيْكِ فَانظُرِي



They said, "We are men of strength and of great military might, but the command is yours, so see what you will command." [Qur'an: ٢٧:٢٣]

The strength referenced in this verse was the means of power that the Armed Forces of nation of the Queen of Sheba used to face crises, being the means by which they would prepare themselves for potential adversities, the means through which they would protect their homeland from potential enemies, and support and defend the people of their land. Hence, we can say that the Qur'an's referring to them, validates their roles in being part of such 'men of strength', and affirms the great responsibility that such a role assumes. For this reason, Scholars of Islam state that this responsibility is a form of collective responsibility that falls upon the men of a nation, inclusive of its mature youth, for they represent its strength and power, and the means by which the future of nations are protected. It is through such protection and stability, that nations can advance in their knowledge and experience and can continually benefit, and build the nation forward in a manner of advancement and honor. Effectively it is through these means, that nations can continually increase on the path of developing their civilizations.

O Believers: Indeed, the presence of Armed Forces are one of the main reasons for the stability and strength of nations. Were such forces to be divided, weak or unstable, then the nations themselves would become divided, weak and unstable. Hence, the stability of Armed Forces are key means that enable and allow generations to grow up in close-knit families, to find strong, stable, social communities in which their parents and elders treat them with good guidance and care, to have good upbringing with

upright and refined morals, to have moderate and balanced beliefs that are not swayed by fabricated suspicious ideologies or extremist, destructive currents of thought. Nations with strong, stable Armed Forces are not affected by malicious ideologies and extremist, destructive ideas, for they base their foundations on the words of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who said:

كَفَى بِالْمَرْءِ إِثْمًا؛ أَنْ يُحَدِّثَ بِكُلِّ مَا سَمِعَ

It is enough falsehood for a man to relate everything he hears. [Muslim]

So, it especially important for the youth to take heed and make beneficial use of their strength and energies, in a manner that will return goodness to themselves, their communities and their homelands. For this would be acting upon the words of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who said: اَعْتَنِمُ خَمْسًا قَبْلَ خَمْسٍ، وَذَكَرَ مِنْهَا:

شَبَابَكَ قَبْلَ هَرَمِكَ، وَصِحَّتَكَ قَبْلَ سَقَمِكَ

Take advantage of five before five, and from them he mentioned: Your youth before your old age, and your health before your illness. [Sunnan al-Kubra]

O Allah bless our nations with security and peace. And bless us with devotion to You, and accept all of us for Your obedience and bless us with obedience towards Your Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and obedience towards those whom You have ordered us to show obedience towards, in accordance with Your saying:



يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ
مِنْكُمْ

O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. [Qur'an:

٤:٥٩]

I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness, indeed He is the most forgiving, most Merciful.

Second Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, the uniquely One. And may peace and blessings be upon our Sayyid, 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, so have Taqwa of Him.

O Believers: Indeed, nations progress and ascend ultimately by Allah granting them success to do so. But one of the key means by which this success is manifested is in the efforts of its people. So, you see its people giving of themselves with their efforts, and sacrificing of themselves to ensure stability and prosperity of the nation. So, on the anniversary of the unification of the UAE Armed Forces we extend to everyone who has been affiliated with these Forces our abundant appreciation and gratitude, and our thanks and gratefulness, for the members of these forces have made their aspirations and efforts the means by which they seek the pleasure of their Lord. They have also demonstrated faithfulness and loyalty to their nations and to their leadership. It is through their efforts that we continue to

enjoy stability, peace and the opportunities for continued prosperity in our lives. Some of these men have already sacrificed their lives whilst others continue to be willing to do so, for the sake of Allah, in this lofty goal of ensuring peace. Such people are deserving of the good news that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) gave those believers who dedicate themselves to being continually vigilant and watchful with the intention of safeguarding the lives and property of the believers, when he said: **عَيْنَانِ لَا تَمْسُهُمَا النَّارُ: عَيْنٌ بَكَتْ مِنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ،**

وَعَيْنٌ بَاتَتْ تَحْرُسُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ

“There are two eyes which will never be touched by the fire of hell, an eye which weeps from fear of Allah and an eye which spends the night on guard in the way of Allah.” [Tirmidhi]

So, O Allah, protect the Armed Forces of the nation and support them in assisting peace and making the nation a place of safety and security. We ask this not just for our nation, but for all of the nations of the world, so that the world be in peace and security. O Allah, You are the Possessor of Peace, and from You is all Peace, and to You is all Peace, so admit us in the Paradise, Gardens and ultimate Abode of Peace, O Possessor of all Majesty and Honor.

And with this we ask that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, 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. And send your blessings upon the righteous and rightly guided Khulafa:



Sayyiduna Abu Bakr, Sayyiduna Umar, Sayyiduna Uthman and Sayyiduna Ali, and upon all of the companions and those of the righteous who come after them, may Allah be pleased with them all.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that which is good and what pleases You.

O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed 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 all of the believers, the living and the dead. Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Be grateful for your blessings and you will be increased therein. So, stand up for prayer.

