



Welcome to Seekers of Knowledge

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, Lord of the Heavens and the Earth, the One who says:

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ

Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. [Qur'an: ٥٨:١١]

We testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except You, the uniquely One, who has no partners in His one-ness. O Allah, our Lord, to You belongs all praise. We believe in You, Your Angels, Your Divine Books, Your Messengers, in the Last Day, and in Your Divine decree, both its good and the apparent bad. And we testify that our Sayyid, Sayyiduna 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 slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah as Allah says:

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

And have Taqwa of Allah. And Allah teaches you. And Allah is Knowing of all things. [Qur'an: ٢:٢٨٢]

O Believers: One of the Sahaba came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and said to him:

يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، إِنِّي جِئْتُ أَطْلُبُ الْعِلْمَ.



O Messenger of Allah, I have come to you, seeking knowledge.

So, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

مَرْحَبًا بِطَالِبِ الْعِلْمِ

Welcome to the seeker of knowledge. [Tabarani]

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to advise and urge his companions to seek knowledge by saying:

سَيَأْتِيكُمْ أَقْوَامٌ يَطْلُبُونَ الْعِلْمَ، فَإِذَا رَأَيْتُمُوهُمْ فَقُولُوا لَهُمْ: مَرْحَبًا مَرْحَبًا

People will come to you seeking knowledge. When you see them say to them, 'Welcome, welcome.' [Sunan Ibn Majah]

So, we say welcome to the seekers of knowledge, welcome to students of all types, who will be returning back to their schools, universities and other academic institutions. We pray that you achieve your goals, that you increase in beneficial knowledge, cleverness, and intelligence and that you continue to benefit from the continued struggles and efforts you are making and the efforts made by your teachers, and the nation at large on your behalf. For your teachers are sacrificing and expending themselves for you, so we should honor and respect all of our teachers, appreciating them for the immense responsibility they are carrying in educating the future generations and helping to instruct them and improve their characters. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in praising teachers stated:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ وَأَهْلَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ، حَتَّى النَّمْلَةَ فِي جُحْرِهَا، وَحَتَّى الْحَوْتَ؛ لِيُصَلُّوا عَلَى مُعَلِّمِ النَّاسِ الْخَيْرِ

Indeed Allah, His Angels, the inhabitants of the heavens and the earths - even the ant in his hole, even the fish – send their blessings upon the one who teaches the people to do good.

[Tirmidhi]



In other words, it is as if all of creation is supplicating for such people and they are asking for blessings upon them, and for them to be upon the guidance of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who himself was a teacher, stating:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ... بَعَثَنِي مُعَلِّمًا مَّيْسَرًا

Indeed Allah ...sent me as a teacher, facilitating [goodness]
[Muslim]

Slaves of Allah: The role of education is not just in formal academic institutions, for in our homes there lies a great responsibility upon parents, on fathers and mothers, in guiding their children and following up on and supporting what they learn. This entails they encourage them in their studies, urge them to respect their teachers and to benefit from them, creating the right atmosphere for their education. In this manner efforts to educate our children are integrated and help to produce conscious generations that will hasten the pace towards progress and precede others in their distinction, so that our nations will increase in advancement. For no country or people ever bore fruits and found their civilization raised, elevated, reaching a state of progress and prosperity except that this was built on the achievements of their sons and daughters who lead them forward on the path of knowledge. As Allah says:

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

Are those who know equal to those who do not know?
[Qur'an: 39:9]

So, we ask Allah to teach our children, our sons and daughters with beneficial knowledge, increasing them in it. 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, I praise Him with the best of praises, for He is the One who sends down His reward on those who listen to His speech and follow the best of it. 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: O seekers of knowledge, O leaders of the future. The wise leadership of this nation has facilitated for you all the means of excellence in your pursuit of knowledge. So, it has established for you the best of schools and universities and has provided within them the latest means and technologies, alongside the latest scientific equipment and means of research. This is done so you can benefit from modern technology, increase your knowledge, develop your skills, and be creative and ambitious in the areas in which you feel you can specialize in. In this manner you can become leaders for the future, proceeding forward with ambition and positivity, so that your faith, and hope and awe in your Lord and Creator will be strengthened. As Allah says: **إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ**

Only those [truly] fear Allah, from among His servants, [are those] who have knowledge. [Qur'an: ٣٥:٢٨]



So, through knowledge we increase our awareness, increasing our hope and our fear in Allah, thereby increasing and raising our civilizations.

And with this we ask that You, O Allah, 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.

