



Honoring people of virtue and distinction

Frist Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah who is the most majestic and noble. The One who graces and blesses from His bounty through His giving noble nature. 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 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: **إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ**

Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. [Qur'an: ٤٩:١٣]

O Believers: Indeed, Allah is the most noble, the most gracious, and so He enobles those who are gracious – preserving in posterity their status, so that the people may know about their rank, and esteem for noble characteristics such as the attribute of generosity. Hence we find Allah has particularly singled out the Prophets and Messengers by the fact that they were noble and generous, whereby they were distinguished from others in their ascedancy and rank. As Allah says: **تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ فَضَّلْنَا**

بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ مِنْهُمْ مَنْ كَلَّمَ اللَّهُ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٍ



Those messengers - some of them We caused to exceed others. Among them were those to whom Allah spoke, and He raised some of them in degree. [Qur'an: ٢:٢٥٣]

Among these Prophets are the Prophets who have been honored as being the People of Azm (determination) and their seal is our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who was ennobled by His noble Lord. As Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both) states:

مَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَلَا ذَرًّا مِنْ نَفْسٍ أَكْرَمَ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ مُحَمَّدٍ ﷺ

Allah did not create anything, nor create any soul more noble to Him than the [soul of] Muhammad ﷺ

[Musnad Harith]

Slaves of Allah: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to honor the people of virtue and distinction amongst his companions, and used to praise them for their beautiful attributes, preserving for them their good, remembering them in goodness. So, whenever the Prophet would hear Khadija (Allah be pleased with her) being mentioned he would praise her profusely, saying:

صَدَّقْتَنِي إِذْ كَذَّبَنِي النَّاسُ، وَوَأَسْتَنِي بِمَا هَا إِذْ حَرَمَنِي النَّاسُ

She affirmed me as truthful when people said I was lying, and she expanded my provision for me with her wealth when people deprived me. [Ahmad]

Likewise, he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to praise the generosity and sacrifices of Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) saying:

إِنَّ مِنْ أَمْنِ النَّاسِ عَلَيَّ فِي صُحْبَتِهِ وَمَالِهِ أَبَا بَكْرٍ

No doubt, I am indebted to Abu Bakr more than to anybody else regarding both his companionship and his wealth.

[Bukhari and Muslim]

In other words, here the Prophet was specifically drawing attention to Abu Bakr's generosity and his sacrificing of his own self. This is why the Prophet said were he to take anyone as a khalil, an intimate companion, he would have taken Abu Bakr, and the Prophet indicated the level of his leadership by ordering all the doors of the Masjid al Nabawi to be shut except the door of Abu Bakr. He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also praised those with high morals and intellectual competencies, so this would be an honor and a motivation for them to increase, thereby showing people the importance of these attributes, so they could emulate them in seeking guidance and knowledge and embodying good character, benefitting themselves and the community of the believers. So, he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

أَرْحَمُ أُمَّتِي بِأُمَّتِي أَبُو بَكْرٍ، وَأَشَدُّهُمْ فِي أَمْرِ اللَّهِ عُمَرُ، وَأَصْدَقُهُمْ حَيَاءً
عُثْمَانُ، وَأَفْرُوهُمْ لِكِتَابِ اللَّهِ أَبِي بِنِ كَعْبٍ، وَأَفْرَضُهُمْ زَيْدُ بْنُ ثَابِتٍ،
وَأَعْلَمُهُمْ بِالْحَلَالِ وَالْحَرَامِ مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ، أَلَا وَإِنَّ لِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ أَمِينًا، وَإِنَّ
أَمِينَ هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةِ أَبُو عُبَيْدَةَ بْنَ الْجَرَّاحِ

The most merciful of my Ummah towards my Ummah is Abu Bakr; the one who adheres most resolutely to the religion of Allah is 'Umar; the most sincere of them in modesty is 'Uthman; the best judge is 'Ali bin Abu Talib; the best in reciting the Book of Allah is Ubayy bin Ka'b; the most knowledgeable of what is lawful and unlawful is Mu'adh bin Jabal; and the most knowledgeable of the rules of inheritance (Fara'id) is Zaid bin Thabit. And every nation has a trustworthy guardian, and the trustworthy guardian of this Ummah is Abu 'Ubaidah bin Jarrah. [Tirmidhi]

In such a manner the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would honor and value each and every companion with whatever skill, competence or attribute they were particularly gifted with, validating and encouraging them in their path of drawing near to Allah. We too, are tasked with recognizing the unique value of people around us, to honor and encourage them, especially the young who are moulded by some of our expectations of them. 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: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to particularly honor his companions when it came to their relationship with reciting the Qur'an, praising them and encouraging them. So, he said to Abu Musa (may



Allah be pleased with him), approving his voice when reciting the Qur'an: لَقَدْ أُوتِيَ مِزْمَارًا مِنْ مِزَامِيرِ آلِ دَاوُدَ

You have been given one of the mazamir (sweet melodious voices) of the family of [the Prophet] David. [Bukhari and Muslim]

Likewise, he praised Ibn Masud on the preciseness of his recitation of the Book of Allah saying:

مَنْ سَرَّهُ أَنْ يَقْرَأَ الْقُرْآنَ غَضًّا كَمَا أَنْزَلَ؛ فَلْيَقْرَأْهُ بِقِرَاءَةِ ابْنِ أُمِّ عَبْدِ

Whoever would like to recite the Qur'an as fresh as when it was revealed, let him recite it like Ibn Umm 'Abd.

[Musnad Ahmad]

He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also honored those who had achieved great achievements, so he gave Ka'b bin Zuhair bin Abi Salma his cloak, and gave Abdullah bin Unays his staff, saying: آيَةٌ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

It is a sign between me and between you until Day of Judgment. [Musnad Ahmad]

He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also praised the skill of craftsmen amongst the companions. So, for example when building the Prophet's Mosque, he saw that one of the companions was skilled in construction, so he ordered the companions that they should bring him forward, saying:

فَإِنَّهُ أَحْسَنُكُمْ لَكُمْ مَسًّا، وَأَشَدُّكُمْ لَكُمْ سَبْكًَا

For indeed he is the best amongst you in his holding and the firmest amongst you in his linking. [Musnad Ahmad]

All of this is a form of motivation for those who excel in their talents, honoring pioneers in their fields, those who are virtuous in their actions, and in their lives. In following this example, the wise leadership of this nation adopts an approach in honoring

people of virtue and distinction to encourage them to give more, and to create a spirit of healthy competition in goodness amongst them. So let us preserve and honor the virtue of every virtuous person, and praise their work, whether within the family, whether they be mothers, fathers, sister, brothers, or other family members. Or whether they be colleagues in the work environment, or people of different professions, such as doctors, engineers, teachers or students, so that everyone may feel valued, honored and encouraged to do even more good. This is the Prophetic example in promoting and encouraging people to fulfill their innate gifts and talents for the sake of Allah, let us help others and help ourselves, being diligent in our work professions and excelling in our vocations. In this manner we can be people who bring benefit to society at large and contribute to the advancement of our nations and the ummah.

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.

