

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا
وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

Praise be to **الله**.

We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness in ourselves and from our bad deeds. Whomever God guides to the truth no one will lead astray, and whomever He leads astray, no one will ever guide.

I testify that there is no God but **الله** to whom there is no partner
and I testify that Muhammad **ﷺ** is his servant and messenger

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كَثِيرًا وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَثِيرًا وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ صَدَقَ وَعْدُهُ وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ وَأَعَزَّ جُنْدَهُ وَهَزَمَ الْأَحْزَابَ وَحْدَهُ

مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى أَزْوَاجِ مُحَمَّدٍ

وَعَلَى ذُرِّيَةِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَسَلِّمْ اللَّهُمَّ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا

يَتَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

“O you who believe, observe your duty to Allah with the care which is due to Him, and do not die unless you are in a state of Islam” (S3, A102)

Brothers and sisters, Eid Mubarak.(KAWAB, AAA). May Allah give us many returns of this blessed day and give us the health, wealth and life to witness another Ramadan. May Allah give us many returns of this blessed day on the Muslim Ummah, with the Muslims of this community standing shoulder to shoulder every day, as they have stood shoulder to shoulder every night over the past month in obedience to Allah. The efforts of Ramadan are now behind us, let us make sure that the benefits of Ramadan are not left behind us as well. Brothers and sisters, Allah in his mercy has granted us this special and blessed day to celebrate our worships of Ramadan. Let us not forget what we are celebrating today, and let us not forget that the celebration should be fitting the test, so let us not celebrate the month of obedience by being disobedient to Allah.

Enjoy today as Allah has asked us to. Do not forget our daily prayers today. Do not forget to visit each other and contact our families near and far. Do not forget the less fortunate in our Ummah who have shared with us the efforts of Ramadan but will not be able to share with us the joys of Eid. Eid is a joyous occasion for Muslims, let the communities around us see how Muslims celebrate their days of joy. We celebrate with obedience to Allah. Let our children celebrate and enjoy today so that they look forward to next Ramadan and next Eid. Brothers and sisters, just as much as our children recognised that Ramadan was special, make sure that our children feel that this day is very special too. This day is a gift from Allah.

Dearest brothers and sisters, just yesterday, the Muslims of Altrincham, along with their brothers and sisters all over the world, were steadfast in worship. They were worshipping Allah through their fast, through their prayers and their qiyam in groups of large numbers. Muslims were finding it very easy to share and to be part of a group. Brotherhoods and sisterhoods were being strengthened. Quarrels of the past were being put in the past. Muslims were moving forwards with a cleaner heart and a stronger Iman and a firmer Aqueeda.

The shaitan is now let lose again, so remember clearly this aya:

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا

"Surely satan is your enemy, so take him for an enemy" (S35, A6)

We all know that as individuals, shaitan will snipe at us one by one, but as a group, shaitan will find it very difficult to attack us. We all now the universal proverb that has no cultural boundaries: united we stand, divided we fall.

My first reminder this Eid, for myself and for us all, is to appreciate the significance of Jama'a and brotherhood in Islam in defeating shaitan. Jama'a and brotherhood is in fact an order and a blessing from Allah:

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ
كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا

“And hold fast, by the covenant of Allah, and be not divided among yourselves; Remember with gratitude Allah's favour on you; for you were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace, you became brothers” (S3, A103)

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ
وَاصْبِرُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿٤٦﴾

“And obey Allah and His Messenger; and fall into no disputes, lest you lose heart and your power will perish; and be patient and persevering: For Allah is with those who patiently persevere” (S8, A46)

Allah in His infinite wisdom is reminding us of the benefit of unity and brotherhood and the devastation of disunity. Now that Ramadan is over, the satans are let lose. Shaitan will work again on our past quarrels and try his best to disperse us. He will try to separate us so that he can get to us one by one. Brothers and sisters, before this day is over, clear your quarrels for everyone's sake. Make sure that as you are going around hugging your brothers and telling them Eid Mubarak, go to the brother that you have had a dispute with and hug him. The shaitan will do his best not to let you do so. For once you have hugged your brother, your quarrels ISA will dissipate. Do not let this opportunity where probably all the community is here, do not let this opportunity to hug each other go by to waste. This opportunity may not come for another year if at all. If you do not hug them here today, make sure the day does not pass without you at least visiting them. This is one of the wonderful gifts of Eid.

Having passed through Ramadan, one may consider the experience as like being in a Boot camp. Allah has blessed us with a protected period of time and a protected environment to train and to strengthen ourselves. Many of us were hard at it. We had help from our brothers and sisters edging us forwards. We had tremendous help from the recitation every night. The reminders were coming at us thick and fast. The satellite television programs were doing their bit, and so was radio Ramadan. We were getting help left, right and centre.

Some may ask, well, what is the big deal. The answer is that the training and the protection are now over. We are now back in the real world.

As an example, and for the IT buffs among us, and that includes all the youngsters, we may consider this protected training period like using a virus protection program as we learn to surf the net. In Ramadan, the protection was set on the highest level. We could learn to surf the net at will with little worry. But now that Ramadan is over, the virus protection level is back to medium, if not even low. If we want to surf the net now, we are going to have to be much more careful. Not only that the help has been reduced, the level of attack has also increased.

Fasting is no longer compulsory until next Ramadan. Taraweeh and tahajud prayers are no longer here. The reminders are now definitely over. All that we have left is what we have gained from our training over the past month. Some of us have trained very hard, and believe that they are ready. Some may still be not up to the task. But, which ever way it is, the most certain thing is that the task ahead of us for the next eleven months is going to be hard, and the slippery slope starts today.

This is where the value of the jama'a comes into its own. Brothers and sisters, please maintain as much as is possible your attendance for jama'a prayers. Attend the study circles. If you have developed certain groups during Ramadan to help you recite the quran or do qiyam then try to maintain these groups. Stick to the jama'a and increase your protection level against shaitan.

For the youngsters here, and this includes the teenagers who are now coming of age. You will never know the joy you brought to your parents when they were witnessing you in this masjid night after night. When your father or mother sees you prostrating to Allah, they were probably on cloud nine. They feel that they have achieved the command of Allah to raise you as good Muslims. You are the future of this community, and the shaitan knows that. The shaitan does not like it, and he will definitely start his campaign with the weakest links. Do not let the shaitan have access to you. My advice to you is to be vigilant and more careful. Set your virus protection program to maximum. Maintain your love for this masjid. Keep your circles together and strengthen yourselves with more knowledge of the Quran and of the Deen.

We spoke about the shaitan during the recent qiyam, and we mentioned a number of his devious ways. For the youngsters among us here today, and probably even for some adults, please remember that one of the soldiers of shaitan is a bad friend. I use the word friend here loosely. I am talking about friends who drive you to disobey Allah through various means. They drive you through temptation and through peer pressure. Many of us have heard it before, and the tricks remain much the same: you are not a man until you take a puff of this cigarette. You are not my friend, or part of our group until you pass our initiation, so throw the brick through this window. You call yourself a good driver; let us see you doing 90 m/h. Why don't you come and watch this video at my place, my dad is better than yours because he lets us watch whatever we like. Your parents are boring and old fashioned. These are but a few examples that have a ring of familiarity. Our youngsters, now that Ramadan is over, your protection level is lowered, so be warned and be careful. To increase your protection level, strengthen the friendships you have developed over Ramadan, and keep your good friends close to you. They need you just as much as you need them.

As for the parents, know that your children have had a great opportunity to further their Islam in Ramadan, so make sure you carry on with this. As a father, I know how important it is for me to set my children up for a successful career. Probably over 70% of my efforts are directed towards that goal. But how much effort am I spending to save my children from the fire of hell.

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوًا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ
وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ
مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦٦﴾

“O you who believe! save yourselves and your families from a fire whose fuel is men and stones; over it are angels stern and strong, they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them, and do as they are commanded” (S66, A6)

For all the parents here, remember, what benefit is success in this dunia, if it was at the expense of failure in the Hereafter. Balance your goals, and remember that the hereafter is everlasting:

بَلْ تُوْثِرُونَ الْحَيٰوةَ الدُّنْيَا ﴿١٦﴾ وَالْآخِرَةَ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَى ﴿١٧﴾

“But you prefer the life of this world, while the hereafter is better and more lasting” (S87, A16-7)

Now for a special plea to our sisters. You have witnessed the brothers working so hard during Ramadan to strengthen their acts of worship. Now that Ramadan is over, please continue to encourage your husbands, your brothers and your children to continue with their efforts. Be a support to them, not a hindrance. Make sure it is you that wake them up in the morning to pray Fajr. Remind and help your husbands to fast the six days of Shawal, and to continue fasting Mondays and Thursdays. A Muslim house where the wife and husband are not standing together will be the first house that shaitan will call on.

It is like the security adds we see on TV. The thief will not go for a protected house with an alarm and a security system attached to the police, but will look for an unprotected property with usually a back window or door open. Please sisters, do not be that back door that allows the shaitan to enter your house. The bond between the husband and wife remains a strong defense against shaitan, so do not lower your defenses. Dear sisters, you have a vital role to play. Be your husband’s support and not his burden when it comes to Islam. Set up your homes as Allah wants you to, and remember the Dua’:

وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ يَقُولُ رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا
عَذَابَ النَّارِ ﴿٢٠١﴾

“And among them those who say, our Lord, grant us in this life a blessing, and in the hereafter a blessing and protect us from the fire of hell”

We know what the blessing in the hereafter means, but what about the blessing in this life. I believe that Ali^(RAA) was asked what was meant by a blessing in this life, and the answer he gave was “Imra’atun-saliha”, a good/righteous wife. I ask of you sisters to be what this dua' in the Quran describes you as.

As for those who have been entrusted with the running of this masjid, there is a message on this day. Praise be to Allah that we are now witnessing our fourth Eid. I have personally witnessed our community getting closer and closer over the past few years. The relationships are maturing and consolidating, but there is still more to be done. Do not rest on what has been achieved and carry on striving to serve this community. In return, I ask this community to stand whole heartedly behind us. There are still lots to be achieved. We have been here for four years, and we have yet to impress our neighbors positively. As Muslims we are entrusted in da’wah. Da’wah should be running in the Muslim’s veins. Some may say, well I am not knowledgeable enough to be part of a da’wah program.

Brothers and sisters, da’wah for the ordinary Muslim is conducted principally through his or her conduct. For the community to stand behind this masjid, we need to conduct ourselves as the Quran stated:

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ
وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

“You are the best of the nations raised up for (the benefit of) mankind; you enjoin what is right and forbid the wrong and believe in Allah” (S3, A110)

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَيَكُونَ
الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا

“Thus We have appointed you as a nation justly balanced, that you may be witnesses over mankind, and that the messenger may be a witness over you” (S2, A143)

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي و لكم

2nd Khutbah:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ثُمَّ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ . الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ
أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا . أَمَا بَعْدُ :

Brothers and sisters, please remember that shaitan is not our only enemy. Do not forget “An-Nafss”, and “Desires”.

إِنَّ النَّفْسَ لَأَمَّارَةٌ بِالسُّوءِ

"The (human) soul is certainly prone to evil" (S12, A53)

زُيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ الشَّهَوَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ وَالْبَنِينَ وَالْقَنَاطِيرِ الْمُقَنْطَرَةِ مِنَ
الذَّهَبِ وَالْفِضَّةِ وَالْخَيْلِ الْمُسَوَّمَةِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ وَالْحَرْثِ ذَلِكَ مَتْنَعُ الْحَيَاةِ
الدُّنْيَا

"The love of desires, of women and sons and hoarded treasures of gold and silver and well bred horses and cattle and tilth, is made to seem fair to mankind; this is the comfort of the life of this world" (S3, A14)

Shaitan, “An-Nafss” and desires are the true enemies of the Muslim. They want you to serve this dunia, and forget the hereafter. Our struggle with all these starts again today. Use your training to combat these enemies, and may Allah give us the strength, wisdom and unity not to fall victims to them. Remember that as Muslim we have been blessed with Islam.

الْيَوْمَ يَيْسَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ دِينِكُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَاخْشَوْنِ الْيَوْمَ
أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

"This day, those who disbelieve are in despair of (ever harming) your religion; so fear them not, but fear Me! This day have I perfected your religion for you and completed My favour unto you, and have chosen for you Islam as the religion" (S5, A3)

Brothers and sisters, Muslims all over the world are celebrating this day that Allah has set for us to enjoy. My earlier warnings are not meant to stop you enjoying this day, but to help you enjoy it without slipping. We all know what happens in Rusholme during the Eid, so, if you can avoid being a part of the problem, do so. Let us enjoy this day without disobeying Allah.

However, as we do indeed enjoy today, let us remember our less fortunate brothers and sisters all over the world. Some are stricken by poverty, some by natural disasters and some by man made misery. Now that Ramadan is over, their needs remain much the same. Let us never forget them in our financial support, and let us not forget them in our prayers.

And finally let us also not forget those who were with us last year but are no longer with us and let us pray that Allah grants us the opportunity to witness another Ramadan..