

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَ نَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَ نَعُوذُ 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.

All Praise be to **اللَّهِ** .

We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness within ourselves and from our own bad deeds. Whom-so-ever God guides to the truth no one can lead astray, and whom-so-ever He leaves misguided, no one has the power to guide.

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

يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ أُمَّتًا رَّبُّكُمْ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ
 وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً
 وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ
 رَقِيبًا

“O mankind! Be mindful of your duty to your Lord, who created you from a single soul, and from it created its mate, and from the two has scattered a multitude of men and women; And be mindful of your duty to Allah, through whom you demand your mutual rights of one another, and the ties of kinship; surely Allah ever watches over you” (S4, A1)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Dear Brothers and Sisters, ASA.

The topic for today’s khutbah is a simple one, but it is very close to heart. It is a reminder for us about children. As we are in the second week of the Easter Holiday, I think most of our children are again with us today.

Allah(SWT) says in the Holy Book:

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا
 كَثِيرًا

“Do they not consider the Qur'an with care? Had it been from any other than Allah, they would surely have found in it an abundance of discrepancy” (S4, A82)

This ayah is in Surat An-Nissa', Surat "4", ayah 82. The aya starts by;

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ

“Do they not consider the Qur'an with care?”

In its own right, this is a challenging statement. It is telling Muslims and non-Muslims to read the Quran and to consider and contemplate all that is in it. The challenge being that if it was from a source other than Allah, it will be full of errors. But we believe as Muslims that this is indeed the word of Allah, and as such, the next logical challenge is for us to apply it to our every day life.

My main message for the children here today is that this is the book that will guide you through your life. This is the book that will save you in this life and will save you in the Hereafter. This is the book that in the future will save your own children and their children. This is the book that will give you comfort and confidence. This is indeed the book that continues to give me comfort and confidence. This is the book in which there is no doubt and there is no error:

ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ

“This is the Book; in it there is no doubt” (S2, A2)

When one looks at the Holy Book, the first chapter listed in the book is “Al-Fateha”, which is essentially the opening of the Holy Book. In fact “Al-Fatiha”, which literally means “the opening”, for the Muslims is indeed the opening for everything we do in life.

Just a little point of information regarding the “Fatiha” and “The Holy Quran”;

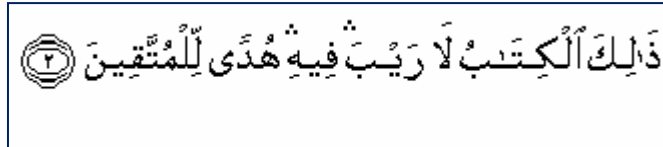
Allah(SWT) in Surat Al-Hijr, Surat 15, states in ayah 87:

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَاكَ سَبْعًا مِّنَ الْمَثَانِي وَالْقُرْآنَ الْعَظِيمَ

“And We have bestowed upon you the seven “Mathani” verses and the Glorious Quran” (S15, A87)

Scholars have agreed that the “Seven Mathani” verses denote the “Fatiha”, which is narrated in a hadeeth by Abu Huraira.

As such, when we start with The Glorious Quran, we start with “Surat Al-Baqara”. In this Surat, immediately Allah(SWT) tells us as we start our journey through the Holy Quran, Allah(SWT) tells us, there is no error and there is no doubt in this book, and this Book is the guidance for those who are mindful of their duty towards Allah(SWT).



“This is the Book; in it there is no doubt. A guidance to those who are mindful of their duty towards Allah” (S2, A2)

This is an amazing opening that no other book had dared to use. There is no other book that starts by saying: you will **not** find doubt or error in this book. As a concept of an opening to a book, this is unique.

Islam has been very clear on the duty of the Muslim parent to his child: S-Umar(RAA) was asked, what is the right of the child from his father: He said: to chose the mother well, to name the child well and to teach the child the Quran. A simple answer.

When one looks through Islam, we find many instances where the answer to a complex question is simple and short. Most of the children here are familiar with the terms “KIS” and “MIS”. Keep It Simple, and Make It Simple. S-Umar(RAA) in safeguarding children tells fathers in a simple way of their duty: Chose the mother of the child very carefully, name the child well and teach them the Quran:

In Saheeh Bukhari, the Prophet(SAAWS) said: *a woman is wed for four attributes; for her wealth, for her family background, for her beauty and for her “Deen”. Win the one with “Deen” and you have indeed been successful.*

Of course, if you can get all four attributes, you are indeed blessed. But the Prophet(SAAWS) is telling us the priorities in choosing.

Similarly, in another hadeeth in “Sunnan Ibn Majah”, the Prophet(SAAWS) said: *if you are approached by one who you are agreeable to his manners and his “Deen”, then allow him to wed. Should you choose not to, then there will be great mischief and corruption in the land.*

The Prophet(SAAWS) is promoting the “attribute” of “Deen” as the most worthy when it

comes to marriage for both men and women. We as parents need to start applying this in our daily lives. We need to start addressing the balance. We need to feed into our children this concept. There are many things that matter in this life, and the balance is being pushed on us through the media and through the values of the communities we live in. Islam tells us beware. Even though there are appealing values, the most important in this life and in the Hereafter is that of “Deen”. It does not negate the other attributes and it does not belittle them. What Islam does is put values in order to safeguard us now and in the Hereafter.

As I mentioned earlier, the main point for our children to take home today is the fact that they need to study and learn the Holy Quran and to contemplate the meanings of this Holy Book. This is by no means an easy task, but it is the duty of any father to his children. As a community, it is also our duty as a collective to our children

The second important point for all of us to take home is that when it comes to creating a Muslim family, based on the way of the Quran and the Prophet(SAAWS), the “Deen” should be the most important parameter.

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي ولكم

2nd Khutbah:

الحمد لله ثم الحمد لله. الحمد لله نستعينه ونستغفره، ونعوذ بالله من شرور
أنفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. أما بعد :

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

“This day those who disbelieve are in despair of your ‘Deen’; so fear them not but fear Me! This day I have perfected your ‘Deen’ for you and completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as “the way of life” (S5, A3)

This ayah from Surat Al-Ma'eda was the focus of my last khutbah, and last week, Brother Riza stressed to us the importance of having a goal in our lives. To have a goal and to achieve this goal, we need a firm foundation. We need a solid way of life that will give us confidence and comfort. Life is a very difficult and treacherous adventure. Our children here are just starting on their journey. No one starts on a journey without a map and without sustenance. This is what Islam is for us. It is a guiding map and it is our sustenance. But, as they start on this journey, it remains for them to establish their aim:

Our aim can be defined by the words of Allah(SWT):

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً

“And when your Lord said unto the angels; I will establish a vicegerent on earth” (S2, A30)

In simple terms, our role on this earth is to be the “Khalifa” of our Lord.

How do we do that?

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٠٤﴾

“And let there be among you a nation that invite to goodness, enjoin what is right, and forbid what is wrong: Such are they who are successful” (S3, A103)

Brothers and sisters, guiding our children on their treacherous journey in this life is never easy. Many have gone astray, both in this society and in others. Should we want to give our children the best chance in life:

- we have to choose our wives and husbands carefully,
- we should always keep “Deen” as the most important parameter of choice,
- we must learn and contemplate the meanings of this Holy Book, and
- we must ensure that our children are given the best opportunity to also learn and contemplate the meanings of this Holy Book.

Let us remember this warning from Ayah six in Surat At-Tahreem:

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُتُوبًا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ
وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ
مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿١﴾

“Oh you who believe! save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is Men and Stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe, they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them, and they do as they are commanded” (S66, A6)