

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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.

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

وَتَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٣١﴾

*"And seek Tawbah and return unto Allah altogether, O believers, so that you may be successful" (An-Noor, 24:31)*



Brothers and sisters, ASA. As we are now well and truly into winter, I am pleased to tell you that ISA the khutbahs will be shorter to allow for Asr. Again a quick reminder that we are well and truly in the winter season, and with the clocks moving back, we have a great opportunity to catch up on fasting with such short days, and catch up on night prayers with such long nights.

Brothers and sisters, Allah(SWT) says in the Holy Quran:

يُؤْتِي الْحِكْمَةَ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَمَنْ يُؤْتَ الْحِكْمَةَ فَقَدْ أُوتِيَ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا وَمَا  
يَذَكَّرُ إِلَّا أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

***“He (Allah) grants wisdom to whom He wishes; and he to whom wisdom is granted he has indeed been granted an abundance of goodness; but none will grasp the message except those of understanding” (Al-Baqara, 2:269)***

Wisdom is indeed a wonderful blessing. Many of us, as we grow older and go through life, hopefully along the way we become not just older but also wiser. sUmar(RAA) was once asked what would he chose if given the choice between an abundance of wealth and wisdom. His answer was; what benefit is wealth without wisdom. Dear Brothers and sisters, yesterday was the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. This day marks a very special occasion and is known as Armistice Day. Next Sunday will be remembrance Sunday where it has become a tradition in countries like the UK to remember those who have laid down their lives in two world wars for the freedom we now enjoy.

I think most of you have by now heard about the senseless protest that took place yesterday by a group of Muslims in London. The article in the Telegraph was headed: Muslims clash with police after burning poppy in anti-Armistice Day protest. Just two days before that, there was a debate on the radio about some Britons who do not want to wear a poppy as a matter of principle. The debate raised many good points and one of them was the deep sentiment that many people in Britain have for such a day of remembrance. We are talking about ordinary people with genuine feelings. For a group of so called Muslims protesting in such a manner is very disturbing for the rest of us who respect the feelings and sentiments of others. I have lived in the UK for over thirty years and have witnessed a great deal of “lack of wisdom” by those who claim to be Muslims but it still surprises me and also hurts me to witness what goes on.

When we are faced with such an incident, how should we feel? I am a Muslim, and by default, whether I like it or not, I am included in the article. Despite the offensive nature of the protest, I thought that the reporter was fair in presenting the argument of the group calling

itself “Muslims against Crusades”. Their grievance, which we all agree with, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, is the invasion and the destruction of Afghanistan and Iraq, the hundreds of thousands of innocent killed and the pillaging of the natural resources of these countries. If one asks the average Joe Bloggs on the street what they feel about what has happened in these two countries and what they think about the war on terror, they will mostly voice the same opinion as we the Muslims voice. What is happening is blatantly wrong and it is a grotesque failure of democracy that this should have happened. However, for some Muslims to protest by burning poppies on Armistice Day in our name demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of local custom, no common sense and no wisdom. One cannot help but remember the ayah:

وَمَنْ يُؤْتَ الْحِكْمَةَ فَقَدْ أُوتِيَ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا

***“And he to whom wisdom is granted he has indeed been granted an abundance of goodness”***

We ask Allah(SWT) to grant our Muslim brothers and sisters the wisdom to recognise that what they are doing is not what Islam stands for.

We ask Allah(SWT) to grant us patience, understanding and wisdom to cope with such senseless behaviour that is perpetrated in the name of Islam: Ameen. A saving grace for us is that the majority of non-Muslims who we deal with on a day to day basis are aware that such groups do not represent the ethos of Islam.

However, it is also important for the ordinary Muslims of Britain to voice their opinion against such distasteful actions and make sure that our voices are also heard. It seems that nowadays to be a Muslim and not be involved is not an option. Brothers and sisters, in keeping with the hadeeth of the Prophet(SAAWS); when a Muslims encounters a wrongdoing he or she is asked to be involved and to effect change through direct action. If this is not possible then try to effect change by the tongue and by other means of communication, and if that is not possible for you then at least one should condemn such an action by their heart. In doing so, at least the person defines in his heart that what has happened was wrong, and that is recognized in Islam as the least of faith. I know that we are not able to change what has happened yesterday and that we cannot change the mindset of such Muslims, but we can pray for them and we should voice our opinion about such irresponsible and distasteful actions. If not, at least we need to recognize in our hearts that what has happened is wrong and is never justified.

Brothers and sisters, we are now passing through the first ten days of Dhul-Hijja. Our relatives and friends are making their way to perform the most arduous pillar of Islam. On Monday, the pilgrims will be standing on the mount of Arafat with their hands reaching towards Allah asking for forgiveness, asking Allah for a new start, asking Allah to grant them a blessing in this life and a blessing in the hereafter. Muslims believe that we are created, and that Allah(SWT) is the creator. Our journey in this life is not an aimless one that happens to be the result of chance and that this life happens to end with death. It is our belief that our journey through life is by design, it is temporary and we will all return unto Allah to face our book of deeds.

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

**“To Allah we belong and unto Allah we shall return” (Al-Baqara, 2:165)**

For those of us who have not had the opportunity this year to visit the house of Allah and have remained here, let us make the best use of these blessed days through fasting and through the remembrance of Allah(SWT). This is also the time for us to raise our hands and seek forgiveness for our sins. It is the time for us to raise our hands to Allah(SWT) and ask Him for guidance, for patience and for wisdom.

In Surat Al-Baqara, ayah 186, Allah(SWT) says:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ مُّجِيبٌ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

**“And when My servants ask you about Me, I am indeed close (to them); I respond to the prayer of every supplicant when and should he calls upon Me; let them also respond to My call and let them believe in Me; that they may be rightly guided” (Al-Baqara, 2:186)**

Brothers and sisters, Allah(SWT) tells us that He is “indeed” close to us. Allah(SWT) tells us that He will respond to our “Dua”, so what are we waiting for. Let us use these days to ask Allah in the firm belief that our Dua’s will be answered.

Allah(SWT) also tells us:

وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ

**“And your Lord said: "Call upon Me; I will answer your (Prayer)” (Ghafir, 40:60)**

In both ayahs, it is clear that we need to be proactive in this process. In both ayahs, Allah(SWT) says; “call upon Me”. To call upon Allah(SWT) and to keep the remembrance of Allah(SWT) is very important for us. Allah also tells us:

فَأذْكُرُونِي أَذْكَرْكُمْ

**“Therefore remember Me, I will remember you” (Al-Baqara, 2:152)**

Brothers and sisters, we cannot afford to be like the ones that Allah(SWT) described in surat Al-Hashr:

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَأَنْسَاهُمْ أَنْفُسَهُمْ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَٰسِقُونَ

**“And do not be like those who forgot Allah; and He made them forget themselves! Such are the rebellious transgressors” (Al-Hashr, 59:19)**

Not only is it beneficial for us to keep the remembrance of Allah and to call upon Allah, but it is also very dangerous and detrimental for us not to do so.

The Prophet(SAAWS) said in Saheeh hadeeth by Bukhari: *“Allah the almighty says: I am with my worshiper as long as he is remembering me and his lips move (in my mention)”*.

Brothers and sisters, with all that we have in front of us, we simply cannot afford not to remember Allah(SWT) and not to call unto Allah(SWT).

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَ لَكُمْ

2<sup>nd</sup> Khutbah:

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

وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ

**“And your Lord said: "Call upon Me; I will answer your (Prayer)” (Ghafir, 40:60)**

Brothers and sisters, do we want to be amongst those who ask; My Lord, My Lord, and Allah Says; My worshiper, ask and you shall be given. Can we imagine such a status: Ask and you shall be given. Who does not want that. To do so, we have to accomplish a few “simple” tasks.

Firstly, we need to make sure that what we eat is Halal. This does not simply mean that the meat is Halal meat, but it means that the money you spend has been earned in a legitimate

and halal way. The second task is for us to be just with people when it comes to giving them their rights of us. And the third task is to deal with people in the best of manners and conduct.

Three simple tasks. If we want our prayers to be answered we must make sure that what we earn is halal, and that means every single penny. Brothers and sisters, we cannot escape from this reality. The money we earn is a very important part of our Dua'. The two are intimately linked. If we also want our prayers answered, we need to be just to others when they have a right on us. We are very good at seeking our rights of others, but are we just when the tables are turned? Let us ask ourselves, are we truly just to others in what we do. And finally, if we want our prayers answered, we need to make sure that our conduct with people should be the best that Islam expects of us. Can we now ask ourselves, are we really worthy of having our Dua's answered; are we among those who Allah tells: ask and you shall be given.

When we come to the mosque to pray and to ask Allah, it seems that simply kneeling in the hands of Allah, raising our hands and asking of Him is not an isolated spiritual task. This task needs a great deal of preparation before we set a foot in the mosque. Brothers and sisters, when you decide that you want to do a Dua' to Allah in the sure hope that it will be answered, please keep to hand this simple list and go through it: Ask yourself, is my income halal? If you tick yes, ask yourself the second question, am I just with others if they have a right on me? If you tick yes, ask yourself the third question, do I deal with people in the best of conduct and manners? If you tick yes, then ISA you have nothing to worry about. However, should you tick "no" to any, then we need to seriously reconsider the value of our Dua'.

We ask Allah to guide us to His remembrance, for without Allah's guidance, we can never be guided. We ask Allah to help us make our income only from what is Halal and not let us be misguided by the false bounties of this life. We ask Allah to help us be just with others when they have a right on us, and do not let greed or arrogance cloud our judgement. We ask Allah to help us improve our conduct and behaviour with others, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, so that when we raise our hands in supplication, we are full of hope that we have fulfilled our duties of this Dua', Ameen