

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 **اللَّهُ** .

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

وَأَنْتُمْ أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ يَوْمَ تُرْجَعُونَ فِيهِ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّى كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَا كَسَبَتْ
وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ

“And guard yourselves from the Day when you shall be brought back to Allah. Then every soul shall be recompensed what it has earned, and none shall be dealt with unjustly” (Al-Baqara, 2:281)



Dear brothers and sisters, ASA. I am mindful of the fact that our children are on their Christmas holidays and I was asked to focus on a few issues that relate specifically to our children. There is no doubt that going back to the basics of Islam is always a good thing as we can never get enough of the basics. Our children are facing tremendous challenges to establish their identity as British Muslims. To them many basic and seemingly unshakable concepts in Islam are being challenged on a daily basis to the extent that they are doubting themselves, doubting us and more seriously, doubting Islam itself.

I know that I am reassured by the fact that children and teenagers need to have a healthy attitude towards knowledge, and doubting is a part of this. We do not want our children to be like those described in the Quran:

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا

“And when they are told to follow the revelation of Allah, they said; we will only follow what we found familiar to our fathers” (Al-Baqara, 2:170)

To have a healthy attitude towards knowledge and to doubt is a necessary part of growing up in confidence with what we know. The trick lies in how we guide our children during their period of doubt. As parents and as educators, we need to embrace their doubts, respond to them wisely and with knowledge let them gain both the knowledge and the confidence in that knowledge. It is our duty to guide them with knowledge and wisely. But there lie the problem brothers and sisters, for it is us the parents and the educators that need to be equipped with knowledge and with wisdom. Indeed this is what Allah(swt) tells us:

ادْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ

“Call unto the way of your Lord with wisdom and good advice” (An-Nahl, 16:125)

As a Muslim child and teenager growing in such an environment, wisdom dictates that we the parents and those entrusted with the vision of setting the future for the next generation, we need to understand the needs of our children to help them cope with what current challenges are. When I was a teenager, it was in the 70's. My parents had challenges to cope with then because when they were teenagers, it was in the 40's. Each generation has the basic challenges to cope with but equally, each generation has new challenges. For today, I will probably be able to cover some of the basic challenges, and ISA, in the next khutbah, I will try to cover some of the new challenges.

The basic recurring challenge of each Muslim generation is to make sure that our children are given a sound education in the basics of Islam. These basics include the defining statements of each and every Muslim throughout the generations and throughout the world:

The first statement is that of “Shahadah”:

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

“I testify that there is no deity worthy of worship but Allah, and that Muhammad(saaws) is the messenger of Allah.”

This statement defines what our beliefs are and for that matter is not negotiable. The second statement is that of our mission as Muslims:

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

“You became the best of nations evolved for mankind; you ordain what is right, stand against what is wrong and you believe in Allah” (Al-Imran, 3:110)

Many of us in the rush of fulfilling basic duties tend to overlook our mission statement. To be a good honourable person serving one’s community, to be honest, truthful, hard working, conscientious, loving, generous, forgiving, friendly and so forth is part of the basics of the teachings of Islam and is our mission statement in life. We all know the rest of the basics which include learning Arabic, learning Quran, learning Hadeeth, learning Seerah, establishing prayers and other acts of worship.

Irrespective of the social, financial, racial or political backgrounds, these are the basic essentials of what our children deserve.

In addition to educating our children, there are other recurring basic challenges for the parents. These include setting a home for our children where the beauty of Islam comes through. A home based on Halal income. A Home where the mention of Allah(swt) and the Prophet(saaws) is always there. A home where the angels are welcome and sheitan is not. A home where the principles of Islam are applied on a daily basis. A home where the word of Allah is heard and the Quran is frequently read. A home where one can hear the “Athar” and a home where the parents are the best example to their children of what Islam is about.

I am sure, and I know that because I am the same, I am sure that setting the example for our children is actually the most difficult part for us teaching our children the basics of Islam. Sometimes we hide behind the premise that as long as I bring them to the mosque and as long as I put them in a Madrassah, and as long as I put the fear of Allah in them, my responsibilities are fulfilled. No brothers and sisters, your responsibilities are not fulfilled;

setting the example for our children is “OUR” responsibility and we cannot hide or run away from this. If we want our children to be good Muslims, “WE” have to be the example for “OUR” children.

Brothers and sisters, fulfilling the basics of Islamic teaching is actually the easy part as ISA we will find out when we cover some of the more contemporary challenges that we now face. However, whichever way you wish to look at it, remember what Allah(swt) tells us in the Holy Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا فُؤَا أَنفُسِكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَفُودَهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ
عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ

“O you who believe! Protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are set angels stern and severe, and who do not disobey Allah in that which He commands them, but do that which they are commanded” (At-Tahreem, 66:5)

This ayah is very explicit in many ways, but the clear command is for us to protect ourselves and our families. This ayah is from Surat At-Tahreem, and it is ayah 5 of the 12 ayahs in the surat. It is an interesting surah because it describes later the wives of sNuh(as) and sLut(as). sNuh(as) and sLut(as) were both messengers of Allah(swt), yet despite that status, their wives disobeyed Allah(swt). Their relationship to their husbands counted for nothing as the ayah tells us:

ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا امْرَأَتَ نُوحٍ وَامْرَأَتَ لُوطٍ كَانَتَا تَحْتَ
عِبْدَيْنٍ مِّنْ عِبَادِنَا صَالِحِينَ

“Allah gives an example for those who disbelieve: the wife of Nuh and the wife of Lut, who were under two of our righteous servants” (At-Tahreem, 66:10)

فَخَانَتَاهُمَا فَلَمْ يُغْتَيَا عَنْهُمَا مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَقِيلَ ادْخُلَا النَّارَ مَعَ الدَّاخِلِينَ

“Yet they betrayed them. Their (husbands) could not avail them against Allah and it was said (unto them): Enter the Fire with those who enter” (At-Tahreem, 66:10)

The first basic message for us today is that no matter how good we are individually, this will have no impact on our closest and dearest on the day of judgement if they chose to follow a path away from Allah(swt).

By the way, as an Islamic concept, this is not alien to others. A clear example is when one breaks the law of the land. Does it, or should it matter if one is related to royalty or related to a senior figure or if one is extremely wealthy or is a hugely popular celebrity. Is there anything that can put a person above the law? The answer is clearly no. Similarly, in Islam there is no status that puts any person above the law of Allah(swt). Even the Prophet(saaws) told his aunt, his uncle and his daughter that he cannot avail them against Allah(swt). Only their deeds will do so.

This brothers and sisters is one of the basic messages that we need to teach our children. Relations, status, wealth and so forth will count for nothing on the day of judgement. The only thing that counts for us are our deeds and our hearts. Allah(swt) tells us:

وَقُلْ أَعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ

“And say (unto them): work! Allah will see (the account of) your actions, and (so will) His messenger and the believers” (At-Tawba, 9:105)

To me brothers and sisters, this is a very important message that we need to regularly reinforce into our children. Just as we understand, they also need to understand that when they become adults like us, it is ultimately their actions and their deeds that will count on that day when they stand in the hands of Allah(swt).

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي ولكم

2nd Khutbah:

الحمد لله ثم الحمد لله . الحمد لله نستعينه ونستغفره ، ونعوذ بالله من شرور
أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا . أما بعد :

As we are on the family theme, it is only fair to point out the “glad tidings” as much as we point out the warnings. There is a beautiful ayah in Surat At-Tour, which is Surat number 52. The ayah reads:

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُمْ بِإِيمَانٍ أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَمَا أَلَتْنَاهُمْ
مِّنْ عَمَلِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ

“And for those who believe and whose offspring follow them in faith, We will bring their offspring to join them, and We will deprive them of nothing of their deeds” (At-Tour, 52:21)

In this ayah, Allah(swt) is telling us that by His Grace and Mercy that for the believing parents, should their offspring be equally successful and follow them in belief and with good deeds, Allah(swt) will join them together with their parents in Paradise, for them to be comforted. Just as distressing the ayah on protecting our families from the fire is, this ayah is of tremendous comfort to us.

However, there is a little twist in this for Allah(swt) is the most generous and most merciful. We know that even in Paradise there are levels, and when the parents and their children are joined together, Allah(swt) has promised us that it will always be at the higher level, for Allah(swt) tells us in the ayah: ***“and We deprive them of nothing of their deeds”***.

Should the parents have achieved a higher status in Paradise through their level of Iman and through their deeds; the children will be elevated to their level. And should the children turn out to be of a higher status, you, our children, will bring us, your parents, to a higher level in paradise ISA.

Brothers and sisters, can we for one minute imagine this. Allah(swt) tells us in many ayahs in the Quran about the tremendous difficulties of the Day of Judgement. The outcome of that day is described throughout the Quran, but one succinct example is what we read at the end of Surat Al-Imran where Allah(swt) Says:

فَمَنْ زُحِرِحَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ

“And the one who has been displaced away from the Fire and is admitted into Paradise, he indeed has been triumphant” (Al-Imran, 3:185)

Imagine ISA that we have been of those who are triumphant and we are there by the Grace of Allah. The happiness is immense, but even then, it is more so when you see you daughter, your son, your mum and your dad all together, all triumphant. That, brothers and sisters is a reward beyond imagination.

Brothers and sisters, if the reward is beyond imagination, what are we doing about it? What is each and every one of us doing about being triumphant on that day? What is each and every one of us doing about our children and about our parents being triumphant on that day?

ISA, in next khutbah we will go through other challenges for our children. I do however hope that the message is getting clearer for us that the challenges that our children are facing are actually our challenges. For our children to succeed in their challenges, the parents need to succeed as well. We the parents need to succeed. Brothers and sisters, there is no escaping this fact.