

Masjid Madrasas & Educational Institutions

Delivered by

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at

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at

Al Quran reading competition and Maulidur Rasul Celebration.

Masjid, Madrasas and Educational Institutions

In the name of Allah (s.w.t) the Beneficent and Merciful who has given us this great opportunity to come and take part in this important and memorable occasion of Quran reading competition and celebration of Maulidur Rasul (s.a.w)

Peace and blessings of Allah (s.w.t) upon our beloved Nabi, Mohammad (s.a.w) who have said, "The best among you is the one who learns Quran and teaches it to others".

The Honorable Tan Sri Haji Mohammad Essa bin Dato Haji Abdul Samad, the Federal Minister of Wilaya Persekutuan, our respected brother Tuan Haji Hisamuddin bin Tan Sri Ubaidullah, the Organizers of this great event, dear Parents, Teachers and beloved Children, Assalamualaikum w.r.w.b.

It is indeed a great occasion and memorable event of Quran reading competition and our Prophets Birthday celebration. I am really honored privileged to be here. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the organizers, parents, teachers and students, many Mubaraks and Congratulations, may Allah (s.w.t) accept all your efforts.

Al Quran urges the Muslims to think, ponder, reflect, and contemplate to seek and acquire knowledge that would bring a Takarubu Illallah nearness to Allah (s.w.t)

I would like to bring to the attention and conscience of its listeners. Al Quran has repeated a few concepts and key words, for example, Al Quran repeated the word "Allah" 2800 times, Al Quran repeated the word "Rub" 950 times, the third most repeated word in Al Quran is the word "Al Ilm" (the knowledge) which has been repeated 750 times.

Nabi Mohammad (s.a.w) had repeated in a number of Ahadeeth about the importance of acquiring Ilm (knowledge). One of the famous sayings we all know is, "Seeking knowledge is Fardh (compulsory) on each and every Muslim male and female". In one of the Ahadeeth our beloved Nabi (s.a.w) has said, "Whoever would like to achieve the greatness of this immediate world (Duniya) should seek it through the medium of Al Ilm. Whoever would like to achieve the greatness of Aakhirat (hereafter) should seek it through the medium of Al Ilm and whoever would like to achieve the greatness of both Duniya and Aakhirat should seek them both through the medium of Al Ilm".

Due to this great emphasis on Ilm and Education, there was a rapid growth within the Islamic Civilization. In the later part of Rasulullahs

(s.a.w) s life it was very hard to find any illiterate people. Our beloved Nabi (s.a.w) made the necessary arrangements to open schools during his lifetime in Yamen, Najaran, Birmauoonah, and appointed teachers and inspectors of education.

Masjid and Madrasas have played a very great part in the spread of Ilm and Education in Islam throughout history. Schools became an indispensable appendage to the Masjid. The first school connected to the Masjid was Masjid Nabawi, in Madina. During the lifetime of Nabi (s.a.w), thousands of Madrasas and Schools had been built throughout Jaziratul Arab.

In Damascus in 744 large number of schools had been built and were fully functional. By the 900s, every Masjid in Sham had a primary school. In Qurtaba 800 public schools were built and functioned at that time where Muslims, Jews and Christians studied together. In Muslim Spain, it was so difficult to find an illiterate person.

The larger Masjids offered more advanced education in grammar, poetry, logic, accountancy, history, engineering, medicine and law. The famous traveler Ibn Batuta had reported that more than 500 foreign students were studying in Masjid Umavi in Damascus. In Cairo Amr bin Aass Masjid, the famous traveler and geographer, Al Muqaddasi reports that the Masjid had 120 separate Halqas (Classes).

The larger Masjids gradually became academies, colleges, even universities. Many of them still exist today. For example, Azzaituna University in Tunis, Al Azhar University in Egypt, Alqarawiyyin University in Morocco. The University in Qurtaba in 9th century had 11,000 students. In the 10th century a new type of college, educational complex and Khan Kha with Masjid emerged to accommodate the staff, students and teachers. All the students and staff had been given financial assistance grants, which were generous and abundant.

The word Jamiaat for University derived from the word Jaamie (Masjid). No similar derivation existed in any other language or culture. No better association between Islam and higher learning than this comparison and derivation of this Jaamie and Jamiaat Masjid and University.

Honorable Minister, parents, teachers, brothers and sisters, our beloved Nabi. (s.a.w) has said, *“The scholars are the inheritance of Prophets, Prophets did not leave behind them Dinar or Dirhams, the only thing they left behind, is Ilm, Knowledge, Education”*.

It is our duty to preserve and protect the estate of Ambia, this cannot happen without sincere and serious efforts, spending long days and nights reading, reflecting, learning and teaching others.

Remember what our beloved Nabi (s.a.w) reminded us, “Who so ever sets out seeking IIm, Allah makes him easy all the way to the Jannat.”

Please note, when a price is great (Jannat), the struggle required to acquire that price shall also be great. Remember, enormous award has been promised for the students, teachers, parents, contributors and everyone involved in the establishment of Madrasas and Educational Institutions.

One of the great Mohaddis that Imam Al Bukhary took Ahadeeth from was Imam Hisham ibn Amar, who narrates an incident that happened to him when he was eight. “My father sold our house for 20 dinars in order to educate me and send me to Imam Malik in Madina. When I arrived in Imam’s halqa, I sat down with the students, the Imam was answering questions. When my turn came to ask question I said, “Haddisni (recite to me)”. Imam said, “Rather you lead”. I said again, “No, you Haddisni”.

Imam repeated the same again, “I rather you read”. When I talked back and argued with him unnecessarily, Imam was annoyed and got angry and said to another student, “Take this boy out and smack him 15 times”. That boy took me and smacked me 15 times with a stick then brought me back to the Imam. I told Imam, “You have done a great injustice on me. My father sold our house in order for me to come to you and learn Ahadeeth but you smacked me 15 times, I will not forgive you”. Imam Malik said, “Then what is the Kaffarah” (expiation and punishment for me for this great zulm and injustice). I said to him, “To recite 15 Ahadeeth to me”. Imam began to recite and completed 15 Ahadeeth. When he stopped, I told him, “Please beat me 15 more times again then read 15 more Ahadeeth to me”. The Imam laughed and said, “be off”.

Honorable Minister, Tuan Haji Hishamuddin, dear parents, teachers and beloved students, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you and to thank and convey my heart felt Thahniah Mubarak to all the Madrasa, organizers, committees, supporters, contributors for your great contribution and to preserve the estate of our beloved Nabi (s.a.w) That is IIm Knowledge and education. Many Mubarak and congratulations

Wassalamualaim w.r.w.b