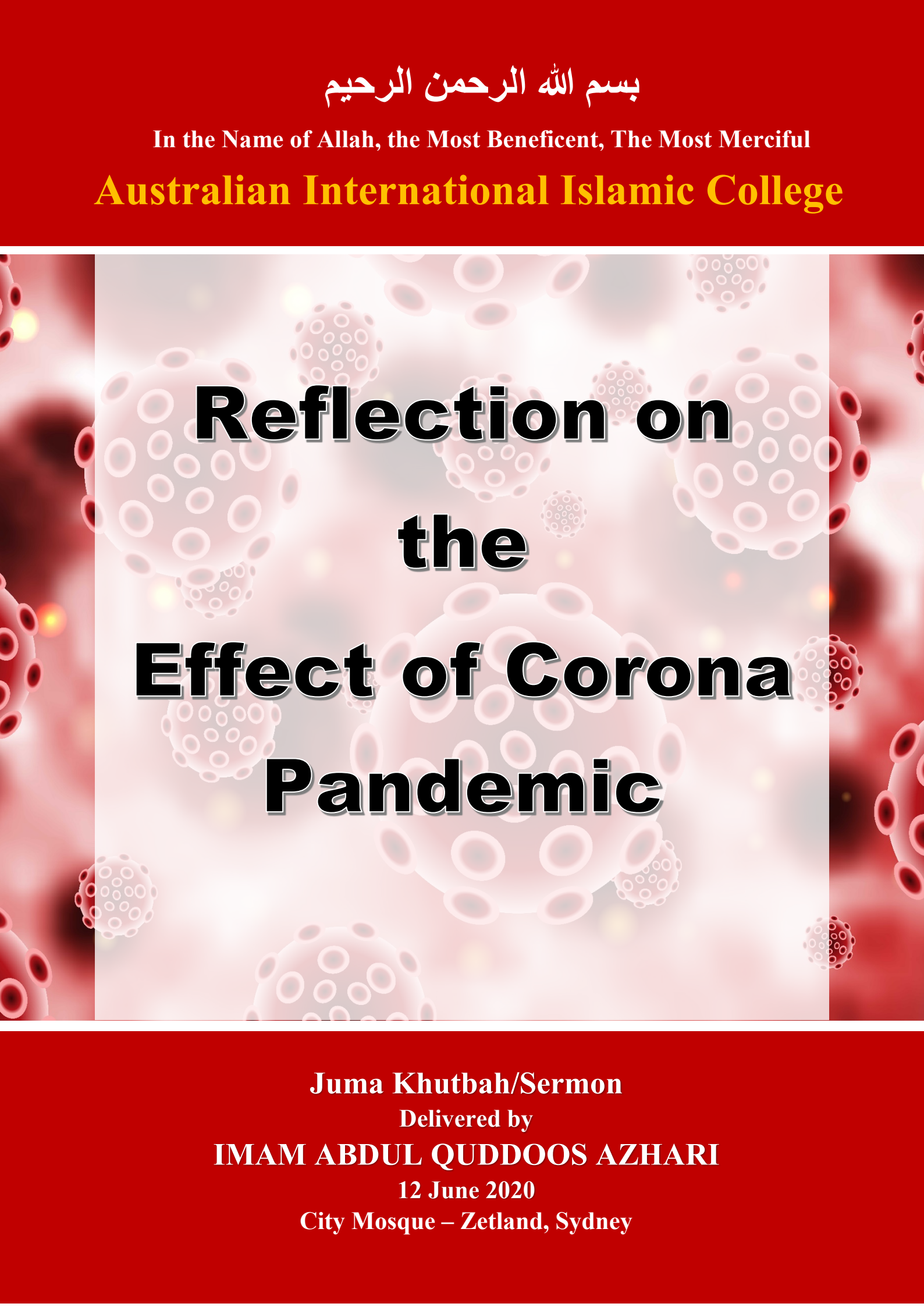


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

Australian International Islamic College



Reflection on the Effect of Corona Pandemic

Juma Khutbah/Sermon

Delivered by

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12 June 2020

City Mosque – Zetland, Sydney

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In The Name Of Allah, The Most Beneficent The Most Merciful

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the universe, peace and blessings of Allah upon our beloved Nabi, Muhammad (Ṣallallāhu Alaihi Wassalam)

We Glorify Allah (SWT) the Lord of the universe. We testify that there is nobody worthy of worship but Allah and we testify that Mohammed (SAW) was the best of messengers and last of the Prophets.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu.

We thank Allah (SWT) for giving us this opportunity to come together after we have been deprived of Jama'ah for the last four months due to the Corona Pandemic.

During this period, our life changed, our life became abnormal in many, many aspects, particularly in the field of collective Ibadaat. As Jama'ah, unity and togetherness are very important aspects in all walks of Islamic life.

In many tenets of Islam; collectiveness, unity and Jama'ah have been again and again emphasised.

For the last four months, we felt a great void in our hearts and souls for not being able to get together and pray collectively. Salaatul Jama'ah my dear brothers and sisters brings 27 times more Sawaab and blessings than Salaat performed individually.

Frequently visiting the Masjid and performing Salat in Masjid is evidence of a great Mumin. We pray and recite in every Salaat 'iyyaka nabudu waiyyaka nastaeen'. (You we worship and Your help we seek). We plead to Allah as a community every time we recite Sura Al Fatiha; Allah loves to see us together, united as one body. Our beloved prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him, said: The example of the believers in their love and compassion towards one another is like the one body. We are the one body if we stay together, worship together and look out for one another. Not just in our neighbourhoods, but we are one Ummah, one body, no matter where we are on earth.

Allah, تعالى tells us in the holy Qur'an: **"When the time of Jum'a comes and you have been called to prayer then hasten to the Zikr of Allah."** Hasten to the Jum'a in the Masjid. (Al Quran 62:9)

Fasting together, Iftaar and breaking the fast together and performing Salutul Taraweah together and Salatul Eid, all these blessings were not there for us this year due to this Pandemic.

'Allahuma inna nasaluka al afuwa wal afiyata waqina al waba'a wal balaa wasayyi'l Asqam'

'O Allah, we seek your pardon and cure, and protect us from all and Pandemics, afflictions and severe illness'

‘Wallahu khairun hafizan wahuwa arhamur rahimeen.’

“Allah is the best protector. And he is the most merciful of all the merciful.”

I am very happy today that I am leading Khutbah in Zetland Musallah. This is my first Jum’a back in approximately 35 years. In the early 80s, I used to visit AFIC from Darwin, I used to come for Congress meetings, I used to perform the Jum’a during those days. Now this Musallah became one of the main city mosques. Ma Shaa Allah tens of thousands of Muslims have benefited and continue to benefit in their daily prayers, Jumu’ah prayers and in learning their Deen in this very mosque. I am very happy and very grateful to the Australian Federation of Islamic Council (AFIC) for making these facilities available for the Ummah and for our local Muslim community.

Although this Pandemic has put us in a difficult and inconvenient situation, it also gave us some important opportunities and advantages. Allah Ta’ala tells us:

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ﴿٥﴾ إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ﴿٦﴾

“Indeed with the hardship is ease; indeed with the hardship is ease”. (Al Qur’an 94:5 and 6).

Our most beloved prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him, said:

“know that with patience over what you hate comes great goodness and that victory comes with patience and that alleviation comes alongside perturbing situations and that with the hardship comes ease” (reported by Imam Ahmad)

Even Western thinkers have said, “behind every adversity – is an opportunity”¹.

This pandemic taught us to slow down, to spend more time reflecting, to spend more time with our children and family. All these have been strongly, very strongly recommended in Islam. Taking care of members of your family, raising your children well are blessed holy obligations. Al Qur’an describes our children, ‘as a comfort of our eyes’. If we follow the instructions of Allah SWT definitely, our family and children will become ‘a comfort of our eyes’. However, if we do not follow the guidance of Allah, what could have been comfort of our eyes will be transformed into Fitnah or ‘Your enemy’.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّ مِنْ أَزْوَاجِكُمْ وَأَوْلَادِكُمْ عَدُوًّا لَكُمْ فَاحْذَرُوهُمْ وَإِنْ تَعَفَّوْا وَتَصْفَحُوا وَتَغْفِرُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

O you who have believed, indeed, among your wives and your children are enemies to you, so beware of them. But if you pardon and overlook and forgive - then indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful. (Al Quran 64: 14-15)

إِنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ

¹ Napoleon Hill

Your wealth and your children are but a trial, and Allah has with Him a great reward. (Al Quran 8:28)

I am very happy to report to you today that yesterday the Australian Family Service Department issued statistics about domestic violence between May 2019 – May 2020. They were expecting that the domestic violence would increase this year due to the Pandemic, but to their surprise instead of a sharp increase there was a 50% decline. Alhamdulillah for His blessings upon us.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters, I would like to remind you all of the 2 famous Ahadith in which our Nabi Mohammed (SAW) said, as reported by Abu Huraira (RA) (*Riyadus Saliheen* 2891) "One dinar you spend in the path of Allah, one Dinar you spend for Miskeen (destitute) and one Dinar you spend on your children and family. The best of these dinars is the one you spend on your family and children. (*Tirmizi Hadith* 1953)

'No parent can give a treasure to their children better than teaching Akhlaq, Adaab, and a good education'.

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا ذُرِّيَّتًا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

And those who say, "Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous." (Al Quran:25-74)

May Allah protect us and help us to follow the Taleem of Al Qura'an and Ahadith of Nabi Mohammed (SAW).

I would like to finish my Khutbah today with a few Duas, which we should learn and keep repeating during this Pandemic.

'Allahuma inni a'uzu bika minal jununi wal judaami wal barsi wa sayyi il asqam.'

"O Allah, I seek refuge in you from insanity, virus, leprosy, and major illness."

It has been reported by Abdul Rahman Bin Auf and Abu Ubaidah that Rasullulah (SAW) said,

"If you hear of a plague in another land, do not go there, if you have a plague in your land, do not run away from it," (Al Bukhari 3473)

Rasulullah(SAW) said,

"If that person stayed in his locality during a pandemic Sabiran Muhtasiban (patient and expecting Allah's reward) and dies because of the plague, he would die as a Shaheed. (Al Bukhari 3474)