

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

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Youth, Leadership and Service to Mankind

Friday - Juma Khutbah

Delivered by
His Eminence

Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari

The National Grand Mufti of Australia

At

New College, Chennai

On

1st September 2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين
سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه

أجمعين. أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له وأشهد أن سيدنا
محمدًا عبده ورسوله. اللهم صلي وسلم وبارك عليه وعلى آله وصحبه
ومن اتبع هداه.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا ﴿٧٠﴾ يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ
وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا ﴿٧١﴾
(سورة الأحزاب)

We glorify Allah, our Creator, Sustainer, Provider, Most Merciful, Most
Compassionate.

We testify that there is no one worthy of worship except Him.

We testify that Nabi Mohammed (saw) was the most devoted servant of Allah
and His final messenger.

We ask Allah to send peace and salutations upon His messenger Muhammad,
upon his family and upon those who follow his guidance.

***“Believers, have Taqwa of Allah, (be consciously aware of Allah’s closeness to
you) and always speak with good purpose, Allah will fix your deeds and
forgive your sins. And whoever obeys Allah and His messenger will have
made a great gain.” (Al Qur’an 48: 70-71)***

My dear students and friends, Allah Ta’ala reminded us of one of His
greatest blessings upon us with the following words:

٢٨ هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ
كُلِّهِ ۗ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا

٢٩ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ۗ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ رُحَمَاءُ
بَيْنَهُمْ ۖ تَرَاهُمْ رُكَّعًا سُجَّدًا يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانًا ۖ سِيمَاهُمْ
فِي وُجُوهِهِمْ مِنْ أَثَرِ السُّجُودِ ۗ ذَٰلِكَ مَثَلُهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ ۗ وَمَثَلُهُمْ فِي
الْإِنْجِيلِ كَزَرْعٍ أَخْرَجَ شَطْأَهُ فَآزَرَهُ فَاسْتَغْلَظَ فَاسْتَوَىٰ عَلَىٰ سُوقِهِ يُعْجِبُ
الزَّרَّاعَ لِيغِيظَ بِهِمُ الْكُفَّارَ ۗ وَعَدَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
مِنْهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

28. Indeed, Allah is He Who sent His Messenger with the guidance and the True Faith, to make it prevail over all ideologies. And Sufficient is Allah as a Witness.

29. Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. Those with him are stern against the denialists, yet compassionate towards each other. You see them kneeling, prostrating, seeking blessings from Allah and approval. Their marks are on their faces from the effects of prostration. Such is their description in the Torah, and their description in the Gospel: like a plant that sprouts, becomes strong, grows thick, and rests on its stem, impressing the farmers. Though (this beauty and discipline) enrages the denialists. God has promised those among them who believe and do good deeds: forgiveness and a great reward. (Al Quran 48:28-29)

The above Ayah describes the focussed and disciplined devotion of the Companions (Sahabah) of Nabi Muhammed (S.A.W). It gives us a clear picture of some Sifat (attributes) of the Sahabah, their behaviour and character.

Most of the Sahabah (Companions of the Prophet (S.A.W)) were young men, these youth were taught, trained, and spiritually nurtured by Prophet Muhammed (S.A.W) himself. They became:

- Springs of virtue.
- Pioneers of this nation
- Models of sincere devotion to Allah
- Courageous liberators of the oppressed.
- Dazzling to the whole world by standing firm on goodness and Taqwah (God-consciousness)
- Worthy of the great reputation which was attested even by their enemies.
- Models of Amr Bil Maroof (guides to what is right) Wa Nahi Anil Munkar (staunch against what is wrong).
- People of night-prayer (Qiyamullal) between the hands of Allah.
- Examples of mercy and compassion and in Taqwah (God consciousness)

These qualities won for the Sahabah acclaim and admiration throughout the world. These qualities made them examples for those to follow. Indeed, Allah attested to their goodness in this wonderful description in Surat الفتح in the Quranul Kareem.

Allama Iqbal the famous poet of Islam says about these young people “Batil say dubanae walay I asuma nayhi ham Soubar karchuka hay tu imtihan hamara”

“We are people who do not fear tyranny and injustice, oh heaven!
And you have tested us again and again. And we have proved it”.

The famous Imam Sufiyan Thawri makes it clear to the youth of his generation, that they will only reach the heights of those before them if they follow their best example.

He said: “The later part of this Ummah will not find success, purity and reform unless they adopt and follow the same method as the earlier part of the Ummah”.

My dear students I would like to very briefly mention seven important points for the benefit of our beloved students.

1. You are the ambassador of Islam and a representative of Prophet Muhammed (SAW).

My Dear respected students, you are studying at the New College, many of you will soon be graduating, and you will leave the comfort of the college. You will spread out into the land becoming the hope for the future at many different levels:

- First and foremost, you represent our hope that you would be a great Ambassador of Islam. Your actions and behaviour must illustrate and reflect best Islamic practice.
- You are the hope of your family who worked hard to provide your education.
- You are the hope of your nation that invested in this wonderful institution.
- You are the hope of the Ummah.

2. You are the hope of humanity.

You are from the people who have been sent forth as the Khairul Ummah (the best nation)

۱۱۰ كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ
عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ ۗ وَلَوْ آمَنَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ ۗ
مِنْهُمْ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

You are the best community that ever emerged for humanity: you advocate what is moral, and forbid what is immoral, and believe in God. Had the People of the Scripture believed it would have been better

for them. Among them are the believers, but most of them are sinners.
(Al Quran 3:110)

From here we can all see that we have a duty to all of humanity (al Nass) which means to all people not just to Muslims.

3. Act honourable and work sincerely.

Rasulullah (S.A.W) has said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى طَيِّبٌ لَا يَقْبَلُ إِلَّا طَيِّبًا

"Innallaha Ta'ala tayyibun la yaqbalu illa tayyiban"

Allah is Tayyib (pure) he only accepts from you clean and pure.

Dear students when you go out to work, keep this hadith in your heart. Allah will accept work that is clean and pure. As you are an ambassador of our messenger (S.A.W) you should reflect this message and ponder over it. Your job and duty are to work with Ikhlasun Niyat (sincerity of intention), the result is up to Allah (S.W.T)

Work sincerely, study with a careful mind, do your due diligence even if the whole world around you acts corruptly, you must act honourably. There are many tools of distraction in our world. Quite often the tool that is used is to keep people preoccupied with trivial matters, even in this situation the believer behaves honourably as Allah (S.W.T) says:

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا

And those who do not bear false witness; and when they come across trivialities, they pass by with dignity. (Al Quran 25:72)

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ

Successful are the believers.

الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ

Those who are humble in their prayers.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنِ اللَّغْوِ مُعْرِضُونَ

Those who avoid nonsense.

(Al Quran 23:1-3)

4. Feel proud to be Muslim and display your Islam.

Feel proud to be Muslim and display your Islam throughout all aspects of your life and remember the hadith of Nabi Muhammed (S.A.W)

بدأ الإسلام غريباً وسيعود كما بدأ غريباً، فطوبى للغرباء.

“Islam began Ghareeb (that is as something that appears strange or out of place) and it will again appear strange so good tidings to those who appear strange.”

We should not feel shy to display our identity in front of others. As mentioned in the above hadith, Islam started as something that appeared strange, those who contend to hold to their Islam despite all odds and are subjected to marginalisation by society are the ones who will succeed in Duniyah and Akheerah (this life and the hereafter). They are those who hold on to Islam with firmness who do not care what the rest of the world says about them. The world laughs at them, ridicules them, persecutes them despite all of that, estranged Muslims do not deviate from their path and are happy to remain estranged.

Please remember the following hadith that Nabi (S.A.W) said:

لَا تَزُولُ قَدَمَا عَبْدٍ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ حَتَّى يُسْأَلَ عَنْ عُمْرِهِ فِيمَا أَفْنَاهُ، وَعَنْ عِلْمِهِ فِيمَا فَعَلَ، وَعَنْ مَالِهِ مِنْ أَيْنَ اكْتَسَبَهُ وَفِيمَ أَنْفَقَهُ، وَعَنْ جِسْمِهِ فِيمَا أَبْلَاهُ

“On Yawm Al Qiyamah no person’s feet will move until he accounts for four:

- 1. His years in this world - How did he live those years?*
- 2. His ‘Ilm (knowledge), Allah blessed and honoured you with education and knowledge - What did you do with it?*
- 3. His wealth – How did he earn it and how did he spend it?*
- 4. His (healthy) body – What did he subject it to?”*

5. You are the future leaders of the Ummah.

Please read and study the following Ayah.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِن تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ۚ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا

‘O you who believe! Obey God and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. And if you dispute over anything, refer it to God and the Messenger, if you believe in God and the Last Day. That is best, and a most excellent determination. (Al Quran 4:49)

My dear students you are the leaders of tomorrow and there is much virtue and reward (sawab) in becoming good Muslim leaders. Rasulallah (S.A.W) said: "A just and wise leader will be shaded by Allah. He will provide for him a special shade under the divine Arsh (throne) as there will be no other shade on that day. It will be given to a wise and just Muslim leader.

And we must understand no one can be a good leader unless he is a good follower. We need to learn and practice the act of leadership, I would like to quote a small part of the first inaugural Khutbah of the first caliph Abdu Bakr Al-Sideeq (RA), a statement that we should all study and analyse.

He said: "follow me as long as I follow Allah and His Rasul. If I deviate from Allah and His Rasul, you don't have to follow me, instead, you must put me on the right track".

6. Serving humanity with sincerity of intentions

My dear students please study and analyse the first khutbah of Nabi Muhammad (S.A.W) after his arrival in Madinah Munawara.

Reflect on the first words of our Nabi Mohammad (S.A.W) after arriving from a very arduous 15-days 315 kilometres journey by foot with only his close friend Abu Bakr (RA), a journey replete with dangers as Meccan leaders sent mercenaries to kill him.

Abdullah Bin Salam, formerly the most respected Jewish Rabbi in Medina, said concerning this magnificent event:

عن أبي يوسف عبد الله بن سلام رضي الله عنه قال: لما قدم النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم المدينة انجفل الناس قبّله، وقيل: قد قدم رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم -ثلاثاً-، فجنّت في الناس لأنظر، فلما تبينت وجهه عرفت أن وجهه ليس بوجه كذاب، فكان أول شيء سمعته تكلم به أن قال: يا أيها الناس: أفشوا السلام، وأطعموا الطعام، وصلّوا الأرحام، وصلّوا بالليل والناس نيام، تدخلوا الجنة بسلام (رواه أحمد والترمذي والحاكم، وصححه الترمذي والحاكم ووافقه الذهبي).

When the Prophet, (peace and blessings upon him) reached Medina, people started to rush towards him saying: the messenger of Allah, (peace and blessings upon him) has arrived (repeating this three times). I came as one of the onlookers to see, when I saw his

face, I realised that this is NOT the face of a liar. The first words that I heard from him (upon this arrival) were:

“O people

1. Spread the peace (and greet with Salam),
2. Feed (good) food (to the people),
3. Maintain ties of kinship,
4. Pray at night when people are asleep.

“You will enter paradise in peace.”

7. My last point for today’s khutbah is khidmatul khalq - serving humanity with the purity of intention.

Please remember the hadith of Rasulullah (S.A.W)

... وخير الناس أنفعهم للناس (رواه الطبراني في الأوسط)

“... The best of people is the one who brings the most benefit to others.”

The sincerity of intention is the basis of the true devotion to Allah and selflessly helping our fellow human beings. This is the key to bringing salvation to humanity. Sincerity is a key to achieving unity and to creating world peace and promoting balance in this world.

We must always remind ourselves that the blessings of position, skills, knowledge and education are blessings entrusted to us to employ in the khidmatul khalq (service to humanity). All will be useless unless you have khidmatul Khalq. The knowledge, education and skills are a test from Allah.

My dear students, teachers and Chairman of the New College Mr Kaka Anis Ahmad, I am really honoured to be here at New College for the first time since I became the National Grand Mufti of Australia.

I am happy to be here, New College has provided tremendous services to the people of Tamil Nadu and India.

I congratulate the Board of Governors of New College, I have been working with honourable auditor Khalilulah ex-Chairman of New College for the last thirty (30) years,

I wish and pray for the continuous success of New College.

Please accept the best wishes and salaams on behalf of the Muslims of Australia.

Jazakallah Khair

Walaikum Assalamu Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu