

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنُؤْمِنُ بِهِ وَنَتَوَكَّلُ عَلَيْهِ ،
وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا ،
مَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ ، وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ

وَنَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ ، يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ . وَنَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَرْسَلَهُ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا ، بَيْنَ يَدَيْ السَّاعَةِ ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأُوصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَا اللَّهِ وَأُحْذِرُكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ مِنْ مَعْصِيَتِهِ

تاريخ اليوم

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

I council you and myself to have taqwa of Allah, and I council you and myself to avoid and beware of disobeying him.

The date today is 8th Sha'baan in the year 1430.

Alhamdulillah for the gift of Islam. And Al-hamdulillah for the gift of The Messenger (saw) and al-hamdulillah for the gift of His Noble Book.

قُلْ لَئِنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا

He (swt) says in Surat Al-Isra (17:88) that whose meaning is:

Say: 'If both men and jinn banded together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could never produce anything like it, even if they backed each other up.'

Our Messenger (saw) was granted many miracles. Among them the splitting of the moon, the ability to make food multiply so that many people could eat from what seemed like a small amount, and of course al-Isra; the Night Journey from Makkah to Jerusalem and al-Miraj; the ascension through the Heavens to the Divine Presence. But the greatest of all the miracles that the Prophet (saw) was blessed with is The Qur'an.

The Qur'an is the uncreated word of Allah. It is very important that you reflect and understand this point. It is not a book, it is the **uncreated** word of Allah (swt) that He

revealed to His Beloved Slave, the Best of Creation; Sayidunnah Muhammad (saw). Allah t'ala says about the nature His speech:

لَوْ أَنْزَلْنَا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ عَلَى جَبَلٍ لَرَأَيْتَهُ خَاشِعًا مُتَصَدِّعًا مِّنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ

Whose meaning is (59:21):

If We Had sent down this Qur'an onto a mountain, you would have seen it humbled, crushed to pieces out of fear of Allah.

We must ask ourselves then, what is the size of our hearts in comparison to a mountain? In His infinite mercy Allah (swt) has placed in the hearts of His believing slaves the strength to bear the Quran so that we can reflect on it, study it and remember what it contains. Wa al hamdulillahi wa shukrillah.

Again, you must not think of the Qur'an as a book like any other book on a shelf, it is a light and a guide for all mankind until the end of time. It is unique, there is not and can never be anything like it. This is the undoubtable truth, and for those who doubt or cover over this truth Allah (swt) challenges them to produce something similar.

As He says in Sura Baqara (2:23-24)

وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّثْلِهِ وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ {23} فَإِنْ لَّمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَلَكِنْ تَفْعَلُوا فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ

Whose meaning is:

If you have doubts about what We have sent down to Our slave, produce another sura equal to it, and call your witnesses, besides Allah, if you are telling the truth. If you do not do that – and you will not do it – then fear the Fire whose fuel is people and stones, made ready for the kafirun.

Allah (swt) describes the Qur'an using many different names all of which give an insight to what it contains. In Surat Ali Imran He (swt) calls it Al-Furqan; the Discrimination (3:2-3)

نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَأَنْزَلَ التَّوْرَةَ وَالْإِنْجِيلَ {3} مِنْ قَبْلُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَأَنْزَلَ الْفُرْقَانَ

2 *He has sent down the Book to you with truth, confirming what was there before it. And He sent down the Torah and the Injil, previously, as guidance for mankind, and He has sent down the Furqan.*

And in Sura Al-'Araf (7:157) Allah t'ala names it An-Nur (the Light):

فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ مَعَهُ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

Those who have iman in him and honour him and help him, and follow the Light that has been sent down with him, they are the ones who are successful

And in Sura Yunus (10:57) Allah t'ala describes the Quran as مَوْعِظَةٌ; an admonition, شِفَاءٌ; healing, هُدًى; guidance and رَحْمَةٌ; mercy.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَشِفَاءٌ لِّمَا فِي الصُّدُورِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ

57 Mankind! admonition has come to you from your Lord and also healing for what is in the breasts and guidance and mercy for the muminun.

The Qur'an is Allah's final and complete revelation to mankind. It contains everything we need, and for those who follow it and the example of the Rasul (saw), who was the Qur'an walking, there is success and a great reward in this life and the next.

Allah t'ala has said in a Hadith Qudsi: "The excellence of the words of Allah over all other words is like the excellence of Allah over His creation." And the Rasul (s.a.w) said: 'The Book of Allah, t'ala, contains your history, information about what came before you, news about what will come after you and correct judgment between you. It is decisive, not a jest. Allah will crush any tyrant who abandons it and Allah will misguide whoever seeks guidance from other than it. It is the Firm Rope of Allah, His Clear Light and the Wise Reminder. It is the Straight Path. Passions are not misguided by it, the tongues do not become sated with it, and the godfearing do not become bored by it. It does not wear out when it is recited a lot and its wonders do not cease.'

And by the mercy of Allah (swt), His words have been preserved in mushafs and in the hearts of Muslims for over 1400 years so that each of us can read and memorise it and benefit from it today. Alhamdulillah.

Allah t'ala says in Surat al-Hijr (15:9):

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

Whose meaning is:

9 It is We Who have sent down the Reminder and We Who will preserve it.

And so Allah (swt) has promised to protect the Qur'an, and as we know Allah's promise is true. And by this promise we can be sure that the Qur'an we recite today is exactly the same Qur'an that was revealed to our Beloved Messenger Sayidunnah Muhammad (s.a.w).

I would like to remind you and myself of a key point in Allah's preservation of His Book, by recounting the story of one of the great companions; his name was Zayd ibn Thabit (r.a.h).

Zayd was very young at the time of Badr, and although he wanted to join the army and fight against the kuffar the Rasul (s.a.w) didn't permit him because of his age. He tried again the following year at the time of Uhud, but again the Rasul (s.a.w) felt he was too young to fight. After this second rejection, Zayd started to think of other ways, which could bring him closer to the Prophet (s.a.w) and decided upon the field of knowledge and in particular memorisation of the Qur'an.

When the Prophet (s.a.w) listened to Zayd reciting some surahs he had memorised, he saw that Zayd's recitation was clear and beautiful and that he understood well what he recited. After some time the Rasul (s.a.w) entrusted Zayd with the weighty responsibility of recording the Qur'an. And so when any part of the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet (s.a.w), he often sent for Zayd and instructed him to bring the writing materials and write down the revelation. In this way, Zayd learnt the Qur'an directly from the Prophet himself (s.a.w). And so he grew up with the verses of the Qur'an, and understood well the circumstances surrounding each revelation.

In the time of the Prophet (s.a.w), the Qur'an was preserved in the breasts of men, on leaves, animal skins and stones. Then a great number of the reciters were killed in the Battle of Yamama in the time of Abu Bakr (rah). Something like 700 of them were killed in a single day. And so 'Umar ibn al-Khattab (rah) suggested to Abu Bakr (rah) to collect the Qur'an out of fear that the shaykhs of the reciters such as Ubayy, Ibn Mas'ud and Zayd would all die.

Al-Bukhari reports that Zayd ibn Thabit said, "After the slaughter in the war of Yamama, Abu Bakr sent for me, and 'Umar was with him. Abu Bakr said, "Umar has come to me and said, "Many people were killed in the Battle of Yamama, and I fear that many Qur'an reciters will be killed in other places and so much of the Qur'an will be lost unless you collect it. I think that you should collect the Qur'an together." Abu Bakr said, 'I said to 'Umar, "How can I do something which the Messenger of Allah did not do?" 'Umar said, "By Allah, it is better." 'Umar kept on at me about it until Allah opened my breast to it. I think what 'Umar thinks.'" Zayd ibn Thabit continued, "'Umar was sitting with him, not speaking. Abu Bakr said, 'You are an intelligent young man and we have no doubts about you. You used to write down the revelation for the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w). Therefore you are to search out the Qur'an and collect it. In later years Zayd said about this command from Abu Bakr; **' By Allah, if he had obliged me to move one of the mountains, that would not have been weightier for me than his command to me to collect together the Qur'an.** I replied, 'How can the two of you do something which the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) did not do?' Abu Bakr said, 'By Allah, it is better.' He continued to keep on at me until Allah opened my breast to that which Allah had opened the breasts of Abu Bakr and 'Umar. So I began to search out the Qur'an and collect it from the parchments, shoulder-blades, palm fronds and the breasts of men until I found two ayats of Surat at-Tawba with Khuzayma al-Ansari that I did not find with anyone else:

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَؤُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ
 {128} فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَقُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَهُوَ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ

Whose meaning is:

A Messenger has come to you from among yourselves. Your suffering is distressing to him; he is deeply concerned for you; he is gentle and merciful to the muminin. But if they turn away, say, 'Allah is enough for me. There is no god but Him. I have put my trust in Him. He is the Lord of the Mighty Throne.'(9:128)

Do you see how Allah has protected His Book? Zayd (r.a.h) searched and found every ayat of the Quran except these two verses, which had apparently been forgotten and lost, but it was Allah's Decree that they should be preserved in the heart of this sole companion; Khuzayma al-Ansari (r.a.h).

The collated copy of the Qur'an remained in the possession of Abu Bakr until Allah took him, and then it was with 'Umar until Allah took him, and then it was with Hafsa the daughter of 'Umar." May Allah be pleased with and reward all of them.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلِكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

As we have seen the Qur'an is both a miracle and a tremendous gift. Reflect on the fact that every one of us is able to read, recite and memorise the actual words of the Lord of All the Worlds. As we have said there was a time when the Qur'an was only to be found in the hearts of the sahaba or on bits of parchment and stones. Then Allah t'ala guided the Rasul's two closest companions (s.a.w) to collect the Qur'an into one mushaf. Then later, He (swt) inspired Sayidunnah Uthman (r.a.h) to copy that mushaf and order all other copies of the Qur'an be collected and burnt, thereby unifying the ummah under one copy of Allah's Book. And then look at our situation now, the Mosques are full of copies of the Qur'an, and in every Muslim household you will find several copies. It is available in different sizes and different scripts, and has been translated into every language. This is Allah's mercy to us; His slaves, and His protection of His Book. But do we truly see and appreciate the enormity of this mercy? And do we reflect on the nature of this miracle? And do we really seek the benefits it contains?

It has been reported on the authority of Uthman ibn Affan (rah) that the Rasul (s.a.w) said:

خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ

The best of you is the one who learns the Qur'an and teaches it.

And so we must study and memorise the Qur'an and then teach it. But do not concern yourself with whether you know this much or that much. And do not think that you must

memorise the whole Qur'an or a large portion of it before you can begin teaching. **Teach now**, from whatever you have learnt. As narrated in Sahih Muslim: "The Messenger of Allah, (s.a.w) came out to us while we were in the Suffa and asked, 'Which of you would like to go every day to Buthan or to al-'Aqiq and bring two large-humped she-camels from it without wrongdoing?' We said, 'Messenger of Allah, all of us would like that!' He said, 'Does not one of you go to the mosque and teach or recite two ayats from the Book of Allah? That is better for him than two camels, and three verses are better for him than three camels, four verses are better than four camels, and so on regarding the number of camels."

Imam An-Nawawi (rahimahullah) said that recitation of Quran is the most virtuous form of dhikr. So as well as teaching and memorising Allah's Book we should busy ourselves with reading and reciting it. The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) said:

مَنْ قَرَأَ حَرْفًا مِنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ فَلَهُ بِهِ حَسَنَةٌ، وَالْحَسَنَةُ بِعَشْرِ أَمْثَالِهَا؛
 لَا أَقُولُ: أَل م، حَرْفٌ وَلَكِنْ أَلِفٌ حَرْفٌ وَلامٌ حَرْفٌ وَمِيمٌ حَرْفٌ

Whoever reads a letter of the Qurân will have ten rewards and I do not say that alif lam mîm is one letter but rather that alif is a letter, lam is a letter and mîm is a letter.

And the Rasul (s.a.w) also said in a Hadith Qudsi:

يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ: مَنْ شَغَلَهُ الْقُرْآنُ وَذَكَرَنِي عَنْ مَسْأَلَتِي أَعْطَيْتُهُ
 أَفْضَلَ مَا أَعْطِي السَّائِلِينَ وَفَضْلُ كَلَامِ اللَّهِ عَلَى سَائِرِ الْكَلَامِ كَفَضْلِ
 اللَّهِ عَلَى خَلْقِهِ

The Lord, Mighty and Majestic, says, 'whoever is occupied with the Qurân and My remembrance rather than supplicating Me, I give him better than that which is given to the supplicants. The superiority of My Speech over all other speech is like the superiority of Allah over His creation.'

Again if you find it difficult to read the Quran do not let this stop you, because the reward for struggling is even greater with Allah (swt).

As reported on the authority of Aisha (r.a.h) that the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) said: 'The expert reader of Quran will be among the noble scribes of the angels and the one who stutters and for whom it is difficult will have double the reward.'

Beyond reading the Qur'an we must strive to memorise it, so that it's light can enter our hearts and remain with us and guide our actions at all times. Those who memorise the Qur'an and bear its weight in their hearts have a high status with Allah and He has promised them a great reward.

It has been reported on the authority of Abdullah ibn 'Amr (r.a.h) that the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) said: *'It will be said to the one associated with the Quran, 'read and keep rising and recite as you used to recite in the world for surely your status in the next world will be as high as the last verse you read in this world'.*

*And it is reported from Ali (rah) that the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) said, "If someone reads the Quran, recites it and memorises it, Allah will admit him to the Garden and let him intercede for all the people of his family for whom the Fire is **mandatory**."*

And it is related by various paths that the Prophet (s.a.w) said, 'Part of esteem for Allah is honouring three: a just ruler, a Muslim with white hair and a bearer of the Quran who is neither excessive in it nor turns away from it.'

It is important to note that Abu Umar said about this hadith; that the bearers of the Quran are those who know its rulings, its lawful and unlawful and **act** by what it contains.

In every matter we have the best of examples in the sunnah of the Prophet (s.a.w). And as we know from the well-known saying of the wife of the Rasul (s.a.w) Aisha (r.a.h), the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) was the Qur'an walking. The knowledge we must take from this is that his heart contained the Quran and his limbs moved by it. He lived by it's commands and prohibitions as did his companions (may Allah be pleased with them). And so know that the benefits of learning and memorising Allah's Book will be lost if we do not act by it.

It has been reported from 'Uthman, Ibn Mas'ud and Ubayy (rah) that the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) used to recite ten ayats to them, and they did not go on to another ten until they knew what action was connected to those ayats. So we should learn the Qur'an and how to act by it at the same time. It is reported that as-Sulami said, "When we learned ten ayats of the Qur'an, we did not learn the ten after them until we knew what they contained of the halal and haram." In the Muwatta', Malik reported that he heard that 'Abdullah ibn 'Umar (rah) spent eight years learning Surat al-Baqara. Al-Anbari reports that 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud said, "It was difficult for us to memorise the words of the Qur'an, but easy for us to act by them. After us will be people for whom it is easy to memorise the Qur'an, but hard to act by it."

It is reported that Ibn 'Umar (rah) said, "The best of the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) at the beginning of this Community only memorised a sura or two of the Qur'an. They were given the gift of acting by the Qur'an. The last of this community will recite the Qur'an – children and blind – and will not be given the gift of acting by it." Khalaf ibn Hisham al-Bazzar was heard to say, "I only think that the Qur'an in our hands has been stripped of action. That is because we were told that 'Umar ibn al-Khattab memorised Surat al-Baqara over the course of about ten years. When he had memorised it, he slaughtered a camel to thank Allah. In our time, a boy sits before me and recites a third of the Qur'an without missing out a single letter. I only reckon that the Qur'an is stripped of action in our hands."

As we have said the Qur'an is a light and guide. It contains healing for every affliction and ease for every difficulty. It is a gift from Allah to each and every one of us, and by it Allah has chosen us and raised this ummah above all others. And so take enjoyment from Allah's Book. Don't limit yourself to only reading the surahs you know, take the time to become familiar with the mushaf, learn what the different markings mean on the pages, study the meanings so that you can learn from the many lessons contained in it. And make the effort to memorise the Qur'an as much as you are able, remembering the words of our beloved (s.a.w):

"Whoever travels a path on which he seeks knowledge, Allah will make the path to the Garden easy for him."

And his words (s.a.w):

أَهْلُ الْقُرْآنِ عُرَفَاءُ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ

The people of the Qur'an are the chiefs of the people of the Garden.

May Allah fill our hearts with love of His Book,

May He strengthen our hearts to bear its weight,

And may He (swt) unite for us memorisation of it and action by its words.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا
وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ ، وَسَائِرِ الصَّحَابَةِ خُصُوصًا الْمُهَاجِرِينَ
مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَنْصَارِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ لَهُمْ وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ
اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِ وِلَاةَ أُمُورِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ لِمَا يُرْضِيكَ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ سُنَّةَ مُحَمَّدٍ
اللَّهُمَّ أَعِزِّ الْإِسْلَامَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ ، وَاخْذُلِ الْكُفْرَ وَالْكَافِرِينَ ، وَانصُرِ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ، وَاجْعَلْ
كَلِمَتَكَ هِيَ الْعُلْمَا ، وَكَلِمَةَ الْكُفْرِ هِيَ السُّفْلَى
رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَؤُوفٌ
رَحِيمٌ

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً وَهَيِّئْ لَنَا مِنْ أَمْرِنَا رَشَدًا

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ
وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ
يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ
وَقُومُوا إِلَى صَلَاتِكُمْ يَرْحَمُكُمُ اللَّهُ