



The General Presidency for the Affairs of
the Grand Holy Mosque and the Prophet's Holy Mosque

Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University
College of Languages and Translation

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The Virtues and Merits of Islam

Khutbah Topic

His Eminence Sheikh Osama Ibn Abdullah Khayyāt –May Allah protect him– delivered this Friday’s khutbah titled “**The Virtues and Merits of Islam.**” He spoke about Islam as the genuine religion Allah revealed to His Prophets and Messengers to be propagated (in human society) and as the sole path leading to divine satisfaction. The Sheikh mentioned some of its virtues and merits, heralding some of the prophecies about the prevalence promised to Islam and its followers throughout history, notwithstanding the diverse and successive afflictions and predicaments which might befall them.

Part One

Praise be to Allah Who has accepted Islam for us as our faith. I do praise His profuse favours and blessings (*Glory be to Him*). I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone with no associate; to Him belong the Most Beautiful Names and the Most Sublime Attributes; He is not accessible to ocular perception, nor can human intellect grasp His essence. I equally bear witness that our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, is Allah’s Servant, Messenger, Select Creature, and Master of all Humankind. O Allah, send Your *Salat* and Peace upon Your Servant and Messenger, Muhammad, his family, his Companions – the pious leaders and eminent Muslim personalities, his *tabi’īn* (the contemporaries of the Companions of the Prophet [Allah’s *Salat* and Peace be upon him] after his death), and all those who follow them in righteousness as long as days and nights keep alternating (till Doomsday).

Now then,

Observe *taqwa* vis-à-vis Allah and fear the instant you shall appear before Him (to account for your deeds), **the Day whereon neither wealth nor sons will avail, except him who brings to Allāh a clean heart.**¹

O Muslims!

In their pursuit of happiness in the herein –and in their tracking of the avenues leading thereto– people in general adopt diverse ways which they strongly champion and adhere to, judicious minds have the certitude that there is only one way which is conducive to gaining divine satisfaction, realising people’s objectives, combining worldly happiness with eternal bliss in the hereafter, and experiencing the joy of mundane life together with that of the afterlife. We are here talking about the genuine and exclusive religion which Allah can accept

¹ This expression is borrowed from the Holy Qur’ān (Al-Shūrā: 88-89).



from His creatures. Allah has never ordained, nor will He ordain, any other faith except Islam: **﴿Truly, the religion with Allâh is Islâm...﴾** [Āl-Imrān: 19]

Allah (**May He be extolled**) has made of Islam the religion of all His Prophets and Messengers, along with their respective followers. *Nūh* (Noah, **Peace be upon him**), the first prophet on earth, said: **﴿"But if you turn away [from accepting my doctrine of Islâmic Monotheism, i.e. to worship none but Allâh], then no reward have I asked of you, my reward is only from Allâh, and I have been commanded to be one of the Muslims (those who submit to Allâh's Will).﴾** [Yūnus: 72]

In the same vein, *Ibrahim Al-Khalīl* (i.e. Allah's close companion, Abraham) and his son *Ismā'īl* (Ishmael, **Peace be upon both of them**) said: **﴿"Our Lord! And make us submissive unto You and of our offspring a nation submissive unto You, ...﴾** [Al-Baqarah: 128] Allah further added: **﴿And this (submission to Allâh, Islâm) was enjoined by Ibrâhim (Abraham) upon his sons and by Ya'qûb (Jacob), (saying), "O my sons! Allâh has chosen for you the (true) religion, then die not except in the Faith of Islâm (as Muslims - Islâmic Monotheism).﴾** [Al- Baqarah: 132]

Mūsā (Moses, **Peace be upon him**) said to his people: **﴿... "O my people! If you have believed in Allâh, then put your trust in Him if you are Muslims (those who submit to Allâh's Will).﴾** [Yūnus: 84] Allah (the Great and Almighty) said about His prophet *'Īsā* (Jesus, **Peace be upon him**): **﴿Then when 'Iesa (Jesus) came to know of their disbelief, he said: "Who will be my helpers in Allâh's Cause?" Al-Hawâri'ûn (the disciples) said: "We are the helpers of Allâh; we believe in Allâh, and bear witness that we are Muslims (i.e. we submit to Allâh).﴾** [Āl-Imrān: 52]

The Queen of *Saba'* (Sheba) said: **﴿"My Lord! Verily, I have wronged myself, and I submit (in Islâm, together with Sulaimân (Solomon), to Allâh, the Lord of the 'Alamîn (mankind, jinns and all that exists).﴾** [Al-Naml: 44]

Islam is then the religion which Allah (the Great and Almighty) ordained for His creatures. This is how He addressed the *ummah* of Prophet Muhammad [**May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him**]: **﴿This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you,**



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and have chosen for you Islâm as your religion. ﴿ [Al-Māedah: 3] Allah (Glory be to Him) has equally proclaimed His unfailing and truthful vow to make this religion prevail over the rest of religions: *﴿It is He Who has sent His Messenger (Muhammad SAW) with guidance and the religion of truth (Islâm), to make it superior over all religions even though the Mushrikûn (polytheists, pagans, idolaters, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allâh) hate (it).* ﴿ [Al-Taubah: 33]

There is definitely no other religion which is as precious as Islam. It is the faith ordained by Allah for His creatures as the sole path leading to His satisfaction and the only way to attain glorious ranks, reach a distinguished status, and achieve victory as well as prevalence. This is confirmed in the *hadith* reported by Imam Ahmed in his *Musnad*, Ibn Hibbân in his *Sahih*, and Al-Hâkim in his *Mustadrak* –via an authentic chain of narration on the authority of Ubey Ibn Ka’b (May Allah be pleased with him) who narrated, “*The Messenger of Allah [May Allah’s Salat and Peace be upon him] said, ‘Herald to this Ummah grandeur, faith, and supremacy on earth; whoever performs deeds which are normally intended to guarantee the hereafter but diverts them towards mundane purposes will have no share in the afterlife.’*” In the *Sahih* by Imam Muslim, along with other *hadith* books, Prophet Muhammad [May Allah’s Salat and Peace be upon him] was reported to have said, “*Allah compacted for me the East and the West of the earth; and the dominion of my Ummah will reach as far as what was unfolded to me.*”

Islam is surrender, submission, and amenability to Allah’s command and the teachings of His Prophet Muhammad’s [May Allah’s Salat and Peace be upon him]. Islam requires singling out the adored Lord for worship (Glory be to Him). He is the sole deity to Whom all acts of worship shall be piously and faithfully addressed and His Prophet Muhammad [May Allah’s Salat and Peace be upon him] shall be accordingly followed. That is the true prerequisite for the exoneration from polytheism and polytheists.

Polytheism is an aggression against the perfection of divinity (Be he extolled and remote from human-like attributes). Unlike monotheism, which elevates the status of its followers, refines their values through devoutness, and endows them with the honour of servitude to the Lord of the Universe, polytheism leads its followers to total psychological and spiritual degradation: *﴿... and whoever assigns partners to Allâh, it is as if he had fallen from the sky, and the birds had snatched him, or the wind had thrown him to a far off place.﴾* [Al-Hajj: 31] Polytheism is the unpardonable sin which Allah never expiates if its performer does not repent before his/her death: *﴿Verily, Allâh forgives not that partners should be set up with him in worship, but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He pleases...﴾* [Al-Nissâ’: 48]



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Islam, O servants of Allah, is the true religion which is conformable to human nature. Thanks to this religion, Allah lifted the constraints and fetters that restricted the life of preceding generations. This alleviation is meant to be a sign of divine mercy, grace, and good treatment. This is echoed in Allah's verses (Glory be to Him): *﴿Those who follow the Messenger, the Prophet who can neither read nor write (i.e. Muhammad SAW) whom they find written with them in the Taurât (Torah) (Deut, xviii, 15) and the Injeel (Gospel) (John xiv, 16), - he commands them for Al-Ma'rûf (i.e. Islâmic Monotheism and all that Islâm has ordained); and forbids them from Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief, polytheism of all kinds, and all that Islâm has forbidden); he allows them as lawful At-Taiyibât [(i.e. all good and lawful) as regards things, deeds, beliefs, persons, foods, etc.], and prohibits them as unlawful Al-Khabâ'ith (i.e. all evil and unlawful as regards things, deeds, beliefs, persons, foods, etc.), he releases them from their heavy burdens (of Allâh's Covenant), and from the fetters (bindings) that were upon them. So those who believe in him (Muhammad SAW), honour him, help him, and follow the light (the Qur'ân) which has been sent down with him, it is they who will be successful.﴾* [Al-A'râf: 157]

Islam is also the religion with which Allah established the foundations of a social order based on solidarity, just like the building blocks which support each other. This is confirmed in the *hadith* reported by Imam Muslim and Imam Bukhari in their respective *Sahih Books* where Al-Nu'mân Ibn Basheer (May Allah be pleased with both of them) reported that Prophet Muhammad [May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him] said, ***“The believers' solidarity and mutual love is analogous to the concord found in the human body: whenever an organ is affected, the rest of the organs will consequently respond via symptoms of sleeplessness and fever.”*** In the two *Sahih Books*, Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari (May Allah be pleased with him) narrated that Prophet Muhammad [May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him] said, ***“The believer is to the believer like building blocks; they interlace to support each other.”***

It is a religion whereby Allah has meant to safeguard people's lives, souls, material possessions and minds. Hence, He has decreed as *haram* (forbidden) such acts, like taking someone's life, unless rightfully, committing offenses involving moral turpitude, committing adultery, taking anything that would endanger the sobriety of the human mind including alcohol, narcotics, and sedatives as well as the unlawful taking of others' property by any means or form.



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It is a religion that purports to uphold for every human being his rights and show him his obligations in such a lawful and unique enactment that has set precedence for all other legislations and surpassed all the man-made laws that are designed to safeguard human rights. In fact, it is a religion that is geared to raise man's status and sustain his dignity.

It is a religion whereby Allah has determined so indiscriminately to set up the principles of justice among all the peoples He has created, Muslims and non-Muslims, Arabs and non-Arabs, blacks and whites, males and females, and young and old. He has made *taqwa* (fear of Allah's punishment) the sole criterion for superiority among them: **«O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily, the most honourable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has At-Taqwa [i.e. one of the Muttaqun]. Verily, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.»** [Al-Hujurat: 13]

Therefore, it is not surprising that a religion encompassing such virtues and merits would certainly be vested with greatness, loftiness, prominence and prevalence in this world. Indeed, it behooves all Muslims to observe integrity vis-à-vis their religion for the sake of Allah alone, to execute His commands and those of His Messenger whenever they are called upon to carry out that which would warrant to secure their prevalence, to hold fast, all of them together, to the Rope of Allah (i.e. the Qur'an), and not to be divided among themselves. Only then will they ensure the kind of sovereignty, leadership, and glory that Allah (*May He be extolled*) has promised those true believers among His servants: **«But honour, power and glory belong to Allah, His Messenger (Muhammad), and to the believers, but the hypocrites know not.»** [Al-Munafiqun: 8]

May Allah benefit you and me with His Holy Book's guidance, the *Sunnah* of His Prophet (*May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him*). I say this and I ask Allah, the Almighty, the Exalted to forgive my sins, yours and those of all Muslims; He is truly the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Part Two



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All praise be to Allah! We praise Him, seek His assistance and guidance, and ask for His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Him from the evils of our own souls and from our wicked deeds. Whoever Allah guides no one can misguide and whoever He misguides no one can guide. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship but Allah, Who has no partners. I also bear witness that our Prophet, Muhammad, is His servant and Messenger. May Allah's Peace and Blessing be upon him! May Allah be pleased with his family, Companions and those who followed him in righteousness!

Now then,

Fear Allah, O servants of Allah! As authenticated in the *Sunnah* of the Prophet (**May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him**) there are good signs heralding victory, loftiness and prevalence for this religion. Abu Hurairah (**May Allah be pleased with him**) reported in *Sahih Al Bukhari* the Messenger of Allah (**May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him**) saying: ***"I have been commissioned with words which are concise but comprehensive in meaning; I have been helped by terror (in the hearts of enemies): and while I was asleep I was brought the keys of the treasures of the earth which were placed in my hand."***

Mu'āwiyah Ibn Abi Sufyan² (**May Allah be pleased with both him and his father**) reported in both *Sahihs* (Bukhari's and Muslim's) –when delivering a khutbah– that he once heard the Messenger of Allah (**May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him**) say: ***"A group of people amongst my followers will remain obedient to Allah's orders and they will not be harmed by anyone who will not help them or who will oppose them, till Allah's Order (the Last Day) comes upon them while they are still on the right path."***

As authenticated by Ubey Ibn Kaab (**May Allah be pleased with him**) Imam Ahmad³ and Ibn Hibbān⁴ reported in their *Musnad* and *Sahih* respectively that the Prophet (**May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him**) said: ***"Convey the good news to this Ummah (Islamic nation) that it shall prevail and achieve ultimate faith and loftiness on earth."***

O servants of Allah! Such good tidings are indeed blessed and were heralded by the truthful and trustworthy (the Prophet, **May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him**) whose words are ever true.

Make certain –May Allah have mercy on you– to win over such precious favours by carrying out Allah's commands and adhering to His religion. Hence you shall win and achieve success.

² Muawiyah Ibn Abi Sufyan (c. 602 – 680 CE) was Islam's fifth caliph and the founder of the Umayyad dynasty.

³ *Musnad* Ahmad Ibn Hanbal is a collection of *Hadiths* collected by Imam Ibn Hanbal to whom the *Hanbali madhab* of Sunnis is attributed.

⁴ He was a prominent *Shafi'i muhaddith* (*hadith* specialist) and prolific author who died in 965 CE.



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Always remember that Allah has ordered you to ask Him to send His *Salat* (Graces, Honours and Mercy) and Peace upon the Seal of Prophets, the leader of all Messenger and the Mercy He sent down on *Al-alamîn* (the Worlds). He, the Almighty, says in His Truthful Book: **﴿Allâh sends His Salât (Graces, Honours, Blessings, Mercy) on the Prophet (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), and also His angels (ask Allâh to bless and forgive him). O you who believe! Send your salat on (ask Allâh to bless) him (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), and (you should) greet (salute) him with the Islâmîc way of greeting (salutation i.e. As-Salâmu ‘Alaikum)﴾** [Al-Aḥzāb: 56]

O Allah! Send Your *Salat* (Graces, Honours, and Mercy) upon Your Servant and Messenger Muhammad (**May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him**)! Be pleased with the four Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman and Ali, with the Prophet's family, Companions, the *tabi'in*, and those who follow them righteously until the Day of Resurrection! O Allah! Be also pleased with us all, along with them, by Your Pardon, Generosity and Bounty, O You, the Most Generous and Bounteous of all!

O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! Protect the unity of Your Religion! Destroy the enemies of religion and all tyrants and corrupters! Unite the hearts of Muslims; unify them; guide their leaders and unite their word on the Truth, O You, Lord of *al-'ālamîn* (the Worlds)!

O Allah! Grant victory to Your religion, Your Book, the *Sunnah* of Your Prophet Muhammad (**May Allah's Salat and Peace be upon him**) and Your truly-believing servants and *Mujahideen*.

O Allah! Grant us security in our homelands, make good our leaders and those responsible for our affairs, support with truth our Imam and leader, provide him with righteous retinue and guide him to do whatever you love and accept! O You. All-Hearing of our prayers! O Allah! Guide him, his Crown Prince and his brothers to do what is good for Islam and Muslims and for the country and the people! O You to Whom people shall return on the Day of Resurrection!

O Allah! Make good all our last deeds (just before we die)! Save us from the disgrace of this Worldly life and the punishment of the Hereafter!

O Allah! Make better our belief which is the bond of our lives! Make better our *Dunya* (life in this world) where we live! Make better our Hereafter to which we are returning! Make life an increase of every good and death a relief from every evil!



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O Allah! We ask You to guide us to do good deeds, forsake reprehensible actions and love the needy! O Allah! We ask You to forgive us and have mercy upon us! O Allah! If You want to send an affliction on a nation, please make us die before your affliction was sent!

O Allah! Protect us against Your enemies and ours in any way that pleases You, O Lord of *Al-'Alamin!* O Allah! Protect us against Your enemies and ours in any way that pleases You, O Lord of *Al-'Alamin!* O Allah! Protect us against Your enemies and ours in any way that pleases You, O Lord of *Al-'Alamin!* O Allah! We leave them to You (to deal with them) and seek refuge in You from their evils! O Allah! We leave them to You (to deal with them) and seek refuge in You from their evils!

O Allah! Protect all Muslim countries and all Muslims wherever they may be! O Allah! Make peace among them and shove away from them and from us all *fitnahs* (temptations)! O Allah! Save us and them from the evil of *Fitnahs*, those of them which are apparent and those which are concealed! O Allah! Save their bloodshed! O Allah! Save their bloodshed and safeguard their material possessions and honour, and grant them victory against Your enemy and theirs, O You, Lord of *Al-'ālamîn!*

O Allah! Cure those of us who are sick! O Allah! Bless the souls of those of us who are dead! O Allah! Fulfil our hopes in accordance with Your pleasure and make our last deeds good ones! ﴿Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. If You forgive us not, and bestow not upon us Your Mercy, we shall certainly be of the losers.﴾
[Al Aaraf: 23]; ﴿Our Lord! Give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire!﴾ [Al-Baqarah: 201]

O Allah! Send Your *Salat* (Graces, Honours, and Mercy) and Peace on our Prophet, Muhammad, on his family and Companions. All praise be to Allah, the Lord of *al-'ālamîn!*