

Seeking Knowledge Under the Gaze of Al Aleem

Servants of Allah, among the greatest realities that revive the heart is reflecting upon the Beautiful Names of Allah, his magnificent attributes, and how His names and attributes are manifest in our daily lives. Last week we talked about how seeking Islamic knowledge is treading upon the path to paradise. So today we are going to talk about the beautiful name of Allah, that is characterized with bestowing that blessed prophetic inheritance to those whom he will from his servants.

One of the most beautiful names of Allah, that helps us tread upon that path of paradise, and seeking Islamic knowledge is: Al-‘Aleem, the All-Knowing. Believing that Allah is -Al-‘Aleem entails that we understand that there is someone who knows more than us, someone whose knowledge is perfect, eternal, infallible, and encompasses all of creation and everything in existence. Belief in Allah being Al Aleem includes knowing that Allah knows the seen and unseen, the past, present, and future, and even the thoughts hidden within hearts. Nothing escapes His knowledge, and every bit of knowledge possessed by creation is a gift that He teaches and grants according to His wisdom.

Allah-Al Aleem-The All Knowing is the One who knows what is in the wombs before any eye sees it:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَيُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْأَرْحَامِ﴾

"Indeed, Allah alone has knowledge of the Hour, sends down the rain, and knows what is in the wombs."

He knows the child's provision, lifespan, deeds, and destiny while he is still hidden in the darkness of the womb.

Then that same human being enters the world knowing absolutely nothing:

﴿وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا﴾

"Allah brought you forth from the wombs of your mothers while you knew nothing."

SubḥānAllāh, before a person ever saw the light of day, Allah already knew every detail of his life: his provision, his lifespan, his deeds, and his final destination. Yet when that same person enters the world, he arrives with no knowledge whatsoever, completely dependent upon his Lord. The journey of life is therefore a journey from ignorance to knowledge, and the one who honors these divine gifts by seeking beneficial knowledge is fulfilling one of the greatest purposes for which Allah created them.

Brothers and sisters, when a servant truly reflects upon the Name of Allah Al-‘Aleem, he realizes two realities: the perfection of Allah's knowledge and the deficiency of his own knowledge.

Allah knows everything, while we know almost nothing except what He teaches us. Allah knows the unseen while we only know a small portion of what is visible before us. Allah is never mistaken, never forgetful, never confused, while mankind is forgetful, limited, and prone to error.

When a Muslim recognizes these two realities, he becomes humble before Allah and eager to learn his religion. He understands that he cannot worship Allah correctly based upon assumptions, culture, personal opinions, social media clips, or what happens to be popular among people. Rather, he must learn how Allah wants to be worshipped.

How can a person pray correctly without knowledge? How can he fast correctly without knowledge? How can he raise his family correctly without knowledge? How can he know what pleases Allah and what angers Allah without knowledge?

Therefore, recognizing Allah as Al-‘Aleem should not make us proud of what we know; rather, it should make us humble because of what we do not know and motivate us to seek the knowledge that brings us closer to Him.

To understand the vastness and greatness of Allah’s Knowledge and the deficiencies of our knowledge, listen to what Allah-Al Aleem-the All knowing tells us about himself saying in the Quran:

﴿وَعِنْدَهُ مَفَاتِيحُ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْلَمُهَا إِلَّا هُوَ ۚ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ ۚ وَمَا تَسْقُطُ مِنْ وَرَقَةٍ إِلَّا يَعْلَمُهَا وَلَا حَبَّةٍ فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الْأَرْضِ وَلَا رَطْبٍ وَلَا يَابِسٍ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ﴾

“And with Him are the keys of the unseen; none knows them except Him. He knows whatever is on the land and in the sea. Not a leaf falls except that He knows it, nor a grain within the darkneses of the earth, nor anything fresh or dry, except that it is in a clear Record.”

Brothers and sisters, reflect upon the vastness of Allah's knowledge and the weakness of our own. Every second, countless leaves fall from trees across the earth, yet not a single leaf falls except that Allah knows when it fell, where it came from, where the wind carried it, and where it finally came to rest. He knows every raindrop that descends from the heavens, every grain hidden beneath the earth, every heartbeat beating within every creature, and every hair upon every human being and animal. Even an ant crawling beneath a rock in the darkness of the night is fully known to Him.

Yet despite all of our technology, education, and discoveries, a human being cannot even count the hairs upon his own head, nor can he know what tomorrow will bring. Allah's knowledge is perfect, infinite, eternal, and all-encompassing, while our knowledge is limited, deficient, and dependent upon what Allah chooses to teach us. We entered this world knowing nothing,

and whatever knowledge we possess is but a drop from the endless ocean of Allah's knowledge. This is why the believer remains humble and never becomes arrogant about what he knows. Rather, the more he learns, the more he realizes how much he does not know.

When a servant recognizes the perfection of Al-'Aleem and the deficiency of his own understanding, he is driven to seek knowledge from its true source. He turns to Allah, asking Him for guidance, understanding, and beneficial knowledge. He studies the Qur'an and Sunnah, sits with the people of knowledge, and strives to remove ignorance from himself. For how can we know Allah, worship Him correctly, distinguish truth from falsehood, and walk the path to Paradise unless Allah teaches us? The vastness of Allah's knowledge and the weakness of our own are among the greatest reasons to spend our lives seeking the sacred knowledge that brings us closer to Him.

Brothers and sisters in Islam... if our Lord knows every leaf that falls from a tree, every drop that descends from the sky, every seed hidden in the darkness of the earth, and every hair upon the head of every creature, then how could the tear of a grieving servant, the sigh of one in distress, the supplication of one in need, the knowledge sought in the masjid by his believing servants, or a thought passing through a believer's

heart ever be hidden from Him. This is who Al Aleem is...He knows what is going on in our lives. Allah knows everyone's affairs and is waiting for us to call upon him using this blessed name to help us, aid us, and increase us in beneficial knowledge which will get us closer to him.

Brothers and sisters, we live in a world where people carefully plan their meals, monitor their nutrition, and rush to satisfy their physical needs, yet many of us neglect the nourishment of our hearts, minds, and souls. The scholars understood that while food and drink preserve the body, Islamic knowledge preserves the religion, preserves the mind, the heart, and the soul. Every prayer, every transaction, every family matter, every act of worship requires guidance from Allah. Thus, the Muslim's need for beneficial knowledge is constant, for without it he may feed his body while starving his soul.

So how can a Muslim know Allah-Al-'Aleem except through Islamic knowledge? How can a young man or woman know Allah's Names, His Attributes, His commands, and what pleases Him, without seeking religious knowledge? How can a Muslim learn how to use Allah's names to benefit him and draw closer to him, except by treading a path seeking Islamic knowledge?

The path to knowing Al-'Aleem, Allah-the All Knowing, is Islamic knowledge.

That is why Allah commanded His Prophet ﷺ:

﴿وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا﴾

"And say: My Lord, increase me in knowledge."

He did not command him to ask for more wealth, status, or power, investments, children, or followers. He only commanded him to ask the one who possesses all knowledge, infinite knowledge, blessed knowledge, endless knowledge, to increase him in the most valuable possession that can benefit mankind and help him to know his creator-islamic knowledge, in the form of Quran and Sunnah....

The more that a Muslim increases in islamic knowledge, the more he increases in humility, profound reverence, true fear of Allah arising from knowledge of him and his deen, and consciousness of Allah wherever he is, as Allah says:

﴿إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ﴾

"Only the (scholars of islam) truly have profound reverence, and humility in front of Allah and are conscious of him." (Surah Fāṭir 35:28)

It was reported that Mu'adth ibn Jabal said: "Learn knowledge, and if you cannot, then love the scholars, and if you cannot, then love those who love them."

As human beings, because of our nature, which is weakness, imperfection, fallibility, and prone to error; our knowledge will

always be deficient and weak in comparison to the knowledge of Allah. As Allah says:

﴿وَمَا أُوتِيتُمْ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا﴾

“And you have not been given of knowledge except a little.”
(Surah Al-Isrā’ 17:85)

Therefore, no matter how much knowledge a servant acquires, his knowledge is but a drop in an ocean when compared to the knowledge of Al-‘Aleem, the All-Knowing...No matter how much knowledge we acquire, we always have to remember that there is someone more knowledgeable than us, and Allah is more knowledgeable than them. As Allah tells us:

﴿وَفَوْقَ كُلِّ ذِي عِلْمٍ عَلِيمٌ﴾

“And above every possessor of knowledge is One more knowing.”

The Salaf would say: "A person remains knowledgeable as long as he seeks knowledge. When he thinks he has become knowledgeable, he becomes ignorant." So keep striving to learn your religion brothers and sisters, and take the time out and put in the efforts to come and benefit from the people of knowledge in your communities...

Brothers and sisters in Islam...I have a question for all of us today, about what was talked about in last weeks khutbah ...what do you all think of a person who the angels, all the

inhabitants of the heavens (eagles, hawks, bees), all the inhabitants upon the earth, inside the earth, and even the fish in the seas seek forgiveness for? What time and efforts would you put in to receive some of the blessed inheritance of the Prophet Muhammad and his companions? What would you do to be that person? What would you spend? What would you sacrifice?.....This is what our beloved Prophet Muhammad taught us:

مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا، سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَتَضَعُ أجنحتَهَا رِضًا لِطَالِبِ الْعِلْمِ، وَإِنَّ الْعَالِمَ لَيَسْتَغْفِرُ لَهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ، حَتَّى الْحِيتَانُ فِي الْمَاءِ، وَفَضْلُ الْعَالِمِ عَلَى الْعَابِدِ كَفَضْلِ الْقَمَرِ عَلَى سَائِرِ الْكَوَاكِبِ، وَإِنَّ الْعُلَمَاءَ وَرَثَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَإِنَّ الْأَنْبِيَاءَ لَمْ يُورَثُوا دِينَارًا وَلَا دِرْهَمًا، إِنَّمَا وَرَثُوا الْعِلْمَ، فَمَنْ أَخَذَهُ أَخَذَ بِحِظِّ وَافِرٍ"

رواه أبو داود والترمذي وابن ماجه وصححه جمع من أهل العلم

"Whoever travels a path seeking knowledge, Allah will place him on a path to Paradise. Indeed, the angels lower their wings in pleasure for the seeker of knowledge. Indeed, the scholar is sought forgiveness for by those in the heavens and those on the earth, even the fish in the water. The superiority of the scholar over the devoted worshipper is like the superiority of the moon over the rest of the stars. The scholars are the heirs of the Prophets. The Prophets did not leave behind dinars or dirhams; rather, they left behind knowledge. Whoever takes hold of it has taken an abundant share."

Well, you all have the opportunity this weekend brothers and sisters, here at Uqbah Mosque. These are just some of the virtues and benefits of someone who treads a path seeking religious knowledge. These are just some of the profitable returns we get by investing a few hours a day to study the religion of Allah. The angels protect us, learn with us, hover above the gatherings of knowledge, the ants seek forgiveness for us, the fish in the oceans ask Allah to pardon us and forgive us our shortcomings...Brothers and sisters, there is not a better opportunity, or endeavor or path to start treading upon this summer, as a young man, young woman, father, mother, parent, and student than seeking religious knowledge in our masjid.

Many of us love the virtues of knowledge, but only a few of us are willing to walk the path that leads to those virtues.

Let us act and begin today by treading the path of sacred knowledge. Knowledge is not acquired by injection. Knowledge is not acquired by wishful thinking. Knowledge is not acquired merely by scrolling through social media or watching a few short videos on tiktok, facebook, or youtube.

Knowledge is acquired by showing up to the lectures and lessons. It is acquired by sitting with the people of knowledge. It is acquired through patience, consistency, humility, and striving to remove ignorance from oneself.

The scholars of Islam traveled across deserts, crossed oceans, spent their wealth, endured hunger, and sacrificed comfort in pursuit of sacred knowledge. We may not be required to make those same sacrifices, but we are required to dedicate time, effort, and commitment.

Whoever sincerely desires to know Allah, worship Him correctly, and follow the path of His Messenger must dedicate himself to learning the religion of Allah little by little, step by step, lesson after lesson.

Every verse learned, every hadith memorized, every lesson attended, and every moment spent seeking Islamic knowledge is another step toward knowing Al-‘Aleem, loving Him, fearing Him, and drawing nearer to Him.

That is the noblest pursuit upon which a life can be spent. May Allah grant us success to know him and seek beneficial Islamic knowledge to increase of love of Him and love of doing what pleases him.

Second khutbah

To my fellow parents, mothers, fathers, and guardians I especially remind myself and you regarding your children.

We live in a world competing aggressively for their hearts, minds, attention, values, and beliefs. Every day there are influences calling them away from Allah and His religion.

Therefore, make every effort to register your children in Islamic classes, Quran programs, youth camps, youth overnight programs, and beneficial gatherings in the masjid.

Give them opportunities to experience Islamic brotherhood and sisterhood. Give them opportunities to build righteous friendships. Give them opportunities to spend time in the houses of Allah and learn beneficial knowledge.

There are very few investments greater than investing in the religion of your children.

One lesson can change a life. One righteous friend can change a future. One reminder can guide a heart. One weekend in the company of righteous Muslims can alter the course of a young person's life forever.

Wealth can be lost. Careers can come and go. Possessions fade with time. But knowledge of Allah, love for His religion, and righteous companionship remain among the greatest gifts a parent can leave behind.

So invest in your children before others invest in them. Fill their hearts with faith before the world fills them with confusion. Connect them to the masjid before other influences compete for their loyalty.

And whoever helps his children tread the path of sacred knowledge is helping them tread a path that leads, by the permission of Allah, to Paradise.

For there is no pursuit more noble, no journey more rewarding, and no investment more profitable than seeking sacred knowledge under the gaze of Al-'Aleem, the One who taught mankind what they knew not.

Indeed, the greatest honor a servant can attain in this world is to know his Lord, and the greatest path to knowing Him is through seeking the knowledge that He revealed.

اللَّهُمَّ يَا عَلِيمُ، يَا مَنْ بِيَدِهِ خَزَائِنُ الْعِلْمِ، وَيَا مَنْ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ، نَسْأَلُكَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا، وَقَلْبًا خَاشِعًا، وَعَمَلًا مُتَقَبَّلًا. اللَّهُمَّ فَفَهِّنَا فِي دِينِكَ، وَعَلِّمْنَا تَأْوِيلَ كِتَابِكَ، وَارْزُقْنَا الْإِخْلَاصَ فِي طَلَبِ الْعِلْمِ وَالْعَمَلِ بِهِ. اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنَا مِنَ الَّذِينَ يَسْأَلُونَ طَرِيقَ الْعِلْمِ فَتُنَيْسِرُ لَهُمْ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ، وَاجْعَلْنَا مِنْ عِبَادِكَ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَكَ عَلَى بَصِيرَةٍ، إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ. وَآخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنْ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.