

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْكَبِيرِ الْمُتَعَالِ، أَكْرَمَنَا بِنِعْمَةِ الْأَطْفَالِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولَهُ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ وَسَلَّمْ وَبَارَكَ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ  
أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

...أَمَّا بَعْدُ: فَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ

عَنْ أَنَسٍ -رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ- قَالَ: أَتَيْتُ النَّبِيَّ -صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ- بِعَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ أَبِي طَلْحَةَ جَيْنٍ  
وُلِدَ، وَهُوَ يَهْنَأُ بَعِيرًا لَهُ، وَعَلَيْهِ عِبَاءَةٌ، فَقَالَ: "مَعَكَ تَمْرٌ؟" فَنَاقَلْتُهُ تَمْرَاتٍ، فَأَلْقَاهُنَّ فِي فِيهِ  
فَلَكَهِنَّ، ثُمَّ فَعَرَ فَاَهُ، ثُمَّ أَوْجَرَهُنَّ إِيَّاهُ، فَجَعَلَ يَنْتَلِمُ الصَّبِيُّ، فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ -صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ  
وَسَلَّمَ-: "حُبُّ الْأَنْصَارِ التَّمْرُ"، وَسَمَّاهُ: عَبْدَ اللَّهِ" (رواه مسلم)، "فَمَا كَانَ فِي الْأَنْصَارِ شَابًّا أَفْضَلَ  
مِنْهُ" (رواه أحمد)

أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ: إِنَّ الْأَطْفَالَ نِعْمَةَ عَظِيمَةً، وَهَبَةً كَبِيرَةً، قَالَ اللَّهُ -عَزَّ وَجَلَّ-: (يَهَبُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ  
إِنثًا وَيَهَبُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ الذُّكُورَ) [الشورى: 49]؛ فَهُمْ بِهَجَّةِ الْفُؤَادِ، وَمَصْدَرُ السَّعَادَةِ، وَزِينَةُ الْحَيَاةِ:  
(الْمَالُ وَالْبُنُونَ زِينَةُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا) [الكهف: 46]

وَإِنَّ الطُّفُولَةَ مِنْ أَهَمِّ مَرَاجِلِ حَيَاةِ الْإِنْسَانِ، وَتَبْدَأُ مِنَ الْوِلَادَةِ إِلَى الْبُلُوغِ شَرَعًا، وَهِيَ الْأَسَاسُ  
فِي بِنَاءِ شَخْصِيَّةِ الْمَرْءِ، وَتَكْوِينِ عَقْلِهِ، وَتَنْمِيَةِ قُدْرَاتِهِ، لِذَلِكَ اهْتَمَّ بِهَا النَّبِيُّ -صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ  
وَسَلَّمَ- اهْتِمَامًا بَالِغًا، فَكَانَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي تَعَامُلِهِ مَعَ الْأَطْفَالِ أُنْمُوذَجًا يُفْتَدَى، وَمِمَّا لَا  
يُحْتَدَى، فَمَا هُوَ هَدْيُهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي ذَلِكَ؟

The great companion of Allah's Messenger Anas ibn Malik said, "I took 'Abdullah ibn Abi Talha the day he was born to the Prophet Muhammad. I found the Prophet Muhammad wearing a woolen robe while he was marking one of his camels with tar. The Prophet asked me: 'Do you have any dates with you?' 'Yes,' I replied. And I gave him some dates. He chewed the dates and opened the child's mouth and put some chewed dates into the child's mouth. The child licked his lips. The Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, 'The Ansar love dates,' and gave him the name 'Abdullah.'" From all of the children of the Ansaar, there was no better child then him.

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Islam, one of the greatest blessings, gifts and trusts that Allah can bestow upon us is granting us children. Giving us sons and daughters that are the adornments of this worldly life.

We find numerous texts in the Quran and Sunnah that teach us how to care, raise and nurture our children. Childhood, from the time that a child is born up until they reach puberty is one of the most important times of a child's life. Childhood is the time when the foundational and fundamental traits of a child's personality develop and start to take shape. Their intellects are molded, their abilities are shaped, for this reason the Prophet Muhammad showed extreme care, concern and importance for raising children properly. He was the best example of how one should raise, interact, behave with, and treat children.

The Prophet Muhammad loved children dearly, he would show them love and compassion, be easy with them when dealing with them, and make them feel that he loves them and cares for them. He would even tell them directly:

فَعَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ - رضي الله عنه -: أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ -صلى الله عليه وسلم- ضَمَّ أَحَدَ أَحْقَادِهِ، وَقَالَ:  
"اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أُحِبُّهُ" (متفق عليه)

The Prophet Muhammad hugged one of his grandchildren, and said: "O Allah I love him"

This is from the Prophet Muhammad's mercy and kindness with children. As Anas ibn Malik observed and witnessed to while spending so much time with the Prophet:

قَالَ أَنَسٌ - رضي الله عنه -: "مَا رَأَيْتُ أَحَدًا كَانَ أَرْحَمَ بِالْعِيَالِ مِنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ -صلى الله عليه وسلم- (رواه مسلم)

Anas said: "I never saw anyone more merciful with children than the Prophet Muhammad."

Servants of Allah, the Prophet Muhammad used to spend special time with children, and cater to their needs, wants, and play with them, and do activities with them to build strong muscles and intellects, and to satisfy their needs and desire to move around a lot, and their lack of ability to sit still. When he would engage them and play with them, this would make the children so happy and it would fulfill their needs to the point they wouldn't want to play any more.

The Prophet Muhammad would even joke with the children some times, making them laugh and feel happy:

فَعَنْ يَعْلَى الْعَامِرِيِّ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ -: أَنَّهُ خَرَجَ مَعَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - فَإِذَا حُسَيْنٌ يَلْعَبُ مَعَ الصَّبِيَّانِ، فَاسْتَقْبَلَهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَبَسَطَ يَدَهُ، فَجَعَلَ الصَّبِيُّ يَفِرُّ هَاهُنَا مَرَّةً وَهَاهُنَا مَرَّةً، وَجَعَلَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - يُضَاحِكُهُ (رواه ابن ماجه وغيره)

They had gone out with the Prophet to a meal to which they had been invited, and Husain was there playing in the street with some other kids. The Prophet came in front of the people and stretched out his hands, and the child started to run here and there. The Prophet made him laugh until he caught him, then he put one hand under his chin and the other on his head and kissed him, and said, "Husain is part of me and I am part of him.

Brothers and sisters in Islam, the Prophet Muhammad was kind and gentle with children, wise in teaching them, merciful in raising them and nurturing them. He showed the utmost concern in teaching them verses from the Quran and supplications that will aid them and protect them throughout the day and night. He would consistently remind the children about their Lord, and how to build a strong relationship with their lord. He would encourage them always to learn more about Allah,

and teach them to love Allah. He would always remind them that Allah is the one who protects them, cares for them, has mercy upon them, and is their guardian.

فَعَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَبَّاسٍ -رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا-: "أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ -صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ- قَالَ لَهُ: "يَا غُلَامُ إِنِّي أُعَلِّمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ: احْفَظِ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظْكَ" (رواه الترمذي)

The young companion Abdullah ibn Abaas reported that the Prophet Muhammad said to him: "O young man, I will teach you some important words: Be conscious of Allah and He will protect you."

The Prophet Muhammad also encouraged the fathers to teach their children how to pray when they are seven years old so that their hearts become attached to Allah and the pray at an early age.

So that their bodies, minds and souls become accustomed to it at an early age and they continue performing the prayer throughout their life.

Not only did the Prophet Muhammad show utmost care and concern towards teaching the children the proper creed, but he also showed great importance to teaching them the proper manners. As he said to Anas ibn Malik:

"يَا بُنَيَّ إِذَا دَخَلْتَ عَلَى أَهْلِكَ فَسَلِّمْ يَكُونُ بَرَكَتًا عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَى أَهْلِ بَيْتِكَ" (رواه الترمذي)

"O Anas when you enter your house, then greet them with the salam, it will be blessings for you and blessings in your household."

The Prophet Muhammad would even teach the children how to eat properly, nothing was too small or too big when it came to teaching the children the proper beliefs and manners.

فَعَنْ عُمَرَ بْنِ أَبِي سَلَمَةَ -رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا- قَالَ: "كُنْتُ غُلَامًا فِي حَجْرِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ -صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ-، وَكَانَتْ يَدِي تَطِيشُ فِي الصَّخْفَةِ، فَقَالَ لِي صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "يَا غُلَامُ سَمِّ اللَّهَ، وَكُلْ بِيَمِينِكَ، وَكُلْ مِمَّا يَلِيكَ" (متفق عليه)

Dearly beloved brothers, fathers, grandfathers, male-role models: Be reminded that the Prophet Muhammad would bring children along with him during special occasions, gatherings, meetings, dinners, lunches, or congregations so as to build, teach them and develop their personalities and life skills. Also as an encouragement for them that they are important and their presence is valued.

فَعَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ جَعْفَرٍ -رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا-: أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ -صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ- كَانَ إِذَا قَدِمَ مِنْ سَفَرٍ تَلَقَّاهُ صَبِيَانُ أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ، قَالَ: وَإِنَّهُ قَدِمَ مِنْ سَفَرٍ فَسَبِقَ بِي إِلَيْهِ، فَحَمَلَنِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ، ثُمَّ جِيءَ بِأَحَدِ ابْنَيْ فَاطِمَةَ فَأَزْدَقَهُ خَلْفَهُ" (رواه مسلم)

Abdullah b. Ja'far reported that when Allah's Messenger came back from a journey, the children of his family used all come and greet him. On one occasion he came back from a journey and I was the first one to greet him. He placed me on his shoulders first. Then there came one of the two sons of Fatima and he mounted him behind me and this is how we all entered Medina riding on a camel.

Fathers take your children out with you to lunch, to your occasional business meeting, on travels, when you go to the store. Our children need to see positive roles models from their fathers and learn from their father's interactions with other individuals, different circumstances and different places and times.

Brothers and sisters in faith, another important topic related to our children is the importance of making dua and supplication for our

children. And the role of dua in our children's upbringing, their guidance and their steadfastness upon the straight path. Making supplication for our children starts from the time they are born.

"أَنَّهَا أَتَتْ النَّبِيَّ -صلى الله عليه وسلم- بِمَوْلُودٍ لَهَا، فَدَعَا لَهَا" (متفق عليه)

From the types of supplications that parents should make for their children is to seek refuge in Allah from the accursed shaytaan and his allies in affecting our children. The Prophet Muhammad would recite special duas over his children to protect them:

قَالَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ عَبَّاسٍ -رضي الله عنه-: كَانَ النَّبِيُّ -صلى الله عليه وسلم- يُعَوِّدُ الْحَسَنَ وَالْحُسَيْنَ، وَيَقُولُ: "إِنَّ أَبَاكُمْ كَانَ يُعَوِّدُ بِهَا إِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ: أَعُوذُ بِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ التَّامَّةِ، مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ وَهَامَّةٍ، وَمِنْ كُلِّ عَيْنٍ لَامَّةٍ" (رواه البخاري)

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to seek Refuge with Allah for Al-Hasan and Al-Husain and say: "Your forefather (i.e. Abraham) used to seek Refuge with Allah for Ishmael and Isaac by reciting the following: 'O Allah! I seek Refuge with Your Perfect Words from every devil and from poisonous pests and from every evil, harmful, envious eye.'

So let us fear Allah brothers and sisters in Islam, take good care of our children, benefit from the guidance of the Quran and Sunnah in showing us how to raise, care for and treat our children properly.

## Second Khutbah

O Servants of Allah, fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles, grandfathers and grandmothers.....

From the necessary and obligatory actions that fathers, mothers, teachers, Imams, role-models need to pay utmost concern and attention to is the proper raising, upbringing, teaching, and educating of our children. First by supplicating to Allah to constantly aid them, guide them, remove harm from their paths...

Furthermore it is extremely important that as parents we follow up with our children on a regular basis. Check up on their progress and grades in school. Ask about their friends, where they are going, what they are doing, who they are hanging around with. While instilling in them the importance of always being conscious of Allah, and that Allah sees them, hears them, knows what they are doing or not doing, even when we are not with them.

Our children need to know that parents ask about their whereabouts, ask about their friends, ask to see their cellphones, laptops, etc...because they are concerned about their welfare and well-being, and mental health...not because they want to control you or tell you what to do or make things hard for you...Your parents do these things out of love for you...

We are living in a society now brothers and sisters that is filled with distractions. Mobile phones, internet, social media. Many of our kids cannot pay attention for more than five minutes at a time without being distracted. The only things they find appealing are videos with bright colors and attractive sounds...

Let's take some time to sit down and talk with our children, go out to the park, read the Quran together, learn a supplication together, go for a hike or a walk up the street.

There's only about a month left of school. Let's come together as a community to have beneficial activities connected with the masjid for our youth. Summer camps, hikes, Quran memorization and competitions, hadith memorization competitions, field trips, soccer competitions...