

All praises are due to Allah who created man and blessed him with faculties to hear, see, smell, taste, touch and think. We thank Allah for constantly bestowing his favors and graciousness upon us, we praise him for providing for us with an instruction book to live our lives-the Quran, and we thank him for sending an instructor for the book-the Prophet Muhammad. Allah has given human beings many abilities and from the best and most important of these abilities, is the ability to read, to seek knowledge and to understand. My Allah send his peace and blessings upon the best of human beings to ever walk the face of the earth-The Prophet Muhammad-the most knowledgeable person about Allah and the religion of Islam, the best advisor and admonisher to his people, and all those who follow upon his guidance until the day of resurrection.

Brothers and sisters in Islam...Allah loves acts of obedience, the more acts of obedience we do the more closer we become to Allah, and the more we experience an increase in faith.

From the best acts of obedience, and the most noble types of worship of Allah, that will bring one closer to Allah, and teach one more about Allah and what we can do to please Allah, is seeking religious knowledge...Seeking to gain knowledge of the Quran, the Arabic Language, Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad. Striving to learn what Allah says in the Quran, what the Prophet Muhammad says in the Sunnah, what the companions said after him, and constantly striving to learn more about Allah's religion.

Having correct knowledge and understanding of Allah's religion is a sign that Allah loves someone and that Allah wants good for someone, as the prophet said:

((مَنْ يَرِدِ اللّٰهُ بِهِ خَيْرًا يُفَقِّهُ فِي الدِّينِ))

Whoever Allah wants good for, He gives him understanding of the religion.

In order for us to gain knowledge and earn Allah's goodness, then we need to realize the importance of seeking religious knowledge, the virtues of knowing Allah, knowing His messenger, knowing the halaal and the haram, and knowing how to worship Allah correctly based upon clear proofs and evidences. When the previous generations heard about the virtues and importance of seeking religious knowledge they would dedicate their lives to memorizing Quran, memorizing hadith, writing and preserving the Quran, writing and preserving the Hadith, they would travel weeks on end on camel just to hear one hadith, they would journey months at a time to go learn tafsir of the Quran, they would spend years and years with their teachers learning Arabic, learning Tajweed, learning Fiqh, and uloom ul hadith, and uloom ul Quran. Those who didn't know Arabic would learn Arabic first, then proper pronunciation of the Quran, then hadith, while learning the correct creed at the same time...From the companions who didn't know Arabic initially then went and learned were the likes of Suhaib the Roman and Salman al Farasee...and many others...

Some of the best and most knowledge scholars of Islam were originally non-Arab, such as Imam Bukhari from Uzbekistan, Imam Muslim from Iran, Abu Dawud from Afghanistan, Imam Tirmidhi from Uzbekistan, and Imam Ibn Majah from Iran. Also one of the greatest scholars of the Arabic language 'Seebaway' who was Persian. They didn't let anything discourage them from learning Arabic and learning their religion, The earlier Muslims really knew and understood the importance of seeking

religious knowledge and strived hard with all their time, effort and dedication to learn. It wasn't as easy for them as it is easy for us, they didn't have the internet, facebook, youtube, cd players, computers, tablets....but they we're far more knowledgeable and far more dedicated than us... in our times we have access to the people of knowledge at our fingertips, but we still don't benefit from them nor dedicate some of our time to learn from them.

Some of us will spend thousands of dollars on Universities to acquire the highest degree in an ivy league school, they'll travel hundreds of miles to acquire worldly knowledge to aid them in their worldly affairs and making a living, buy a house, a car, pay rent, mortgage, etc...which makes it easy for us to live in this temporary world... ..but how much do we spend on learning the Quran, learning hadith, learning fiqh, learning Arabic....which will benefit us not only in this world but in the permanent world the eternal abode in the hereafter? Indeed the intellectual Muslim is the one who realizes and seizes the opportunities that come to him, that will benefit him in this world and the next, not just this world alone.

Brothers and sisters in Islam.....one is in more need of religious knowledge than even food and drink...because we only need food and drink once or twice a day...but a Muslim is in need of religious knowledge with every breath they take. When you wake up, when you go to sleep, before you pray, during prayer, when you pay zakat, when you buy and sell, when you speak, when you talk to your wives, colleagues, children...when you invest, when you inherit, when you travel, every single part of our lives...

If you're seeking a high status and social position, then indeed Religious knowledge will come with us to the grave, and grant us a higher status in this world as well as the next and place us close to Allah and His Messengers on the day of Resurrection.

Allah says in the Quran:

{ يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ }

Allah raises in status those who believe and those who were given religious knowledge

{ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ }

'Say, are those who know equal to those who do not know'?

Brothers and sisters in Islam....there is no way that we can know how to worship Allah correctly and follow the sunnah correctly while attaining a large amount of reward, except by seeking religious knowledge and understanding it correctly.

The Prophet Muhammad said:

((وَإِنَّ فَضْلَ الْعَالِمِ عَلَى الْعَابِدِ كَفَضْلِ الْقَمَرِ لَيْلَةَ الْبَدْرِ عَلَى سَائِرِ الْكَوَاكِبِ))

The virtue of the religious scholar over the worshipper is like the virtue of the full moon over the stars.

The religious scholar enlightens the whole world with his knowledge, he teaches people how to worship correctly, benefitting many ...without the scholar there would be no righteous worshippers, as for the worshipper, then he only benefits himself by his acts of worship.

Brothers and sisters....If you are seeking to attain more 'khasyah' awe, and consciousness of Allah in public as well as in private, while attaining

a soft heart and peace of mind, then constantly seek to learn more about your religion,

Allah says:

{ إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ }.

Indeed, those who truly are conscious of Allah and fearful of Allah are the religious scholars.

And when the prophet Muhammad was the most knowledgeable of all human beings and the greatest in understanding Allah's religion, he informed us in his statement:

: ((وَاللَّهِ إِنِّي لَأَرْجُو أَنْ أَكُونَ أَحْشَاكُمُ لِلَّهِ، وَأَعْلَمَكُم بِمَا أَنْتَقِي)) .

I swear by Allah, I am the one who is the most conscious of Allah, and possess the best knowledge of the things that should be avoided.

So attaining religious knowledge brothers and sisters is so that we can truly be conscious of Allah and get closer to him and know how to worship him properly.

Some of the righteous predecessors used to say:

((إِنَّمَا يُتَعَلَّمُ الْعِلْمُ لِيَتَّقَى اللَّهَ بِهِ، وَإِنَّمَا فَضَّلَ الْعِلْمُ عَلَى غَيْرِهِ؛ لِأَنَّهُ يُتَّقَى اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ بِهِ)) .

One learns religious knowledge so that he can become more God-fearing, religious knowledge is more virtuous than other things, because one acquires more piety with it.

And actually piety and religious knowledge go hand in hand, as Allah says:

﴿ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ ﴾

'Fear Allah and be conscious of him and he will teach you, and Allah knows everything'

Seeking and understanding religious will enable you to distinguish between truth and falsehood, as Allah says:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ فُرْقَانًا وَيُكَفِّرْ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ ﴾

O you who believe, if you are God fearing, then Allah will make for you the furqan (the criterion to distinguish), and he will expiate your sins, and forgive you, and Allah is the one with great bounties'

If we are seeking paradise and want to be the inhabitants of the jannah, then seeking religious knowledge is from the greatest and widest doors and paths to the paradise, as the Prophet Muhammad said:

((مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا، سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَتَضَعُ أجنحتها رِضًا لِطَالِبِ الْعِلْمِ، وَإِنَّ طَالِبَ الْعِلْمِ يَسْتَغْفِرُ لَهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ، حَتَّى الْحَيَاتَانِ فِي الْمَاءِ)) .

Whoever treads a path in search of religious knowledge, then Allah will make the path of paradise easy for him, and even the angels will place their wings down out of approval, acceptance, humility and protection for the student of religious knowledge, and everything in the heavens

and the earth asks Allah to forgive the one seeking religious knowledge even the fish in the ocean.'

And when the normal people usually inherit from their ancestors, their parents, their grandparents, their aunts and uncles... real-estate, cars, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, gold and jewelry....then the seeker of religious knowledge inherits from the best of the creation, the best of human beings...the prophets and messengers of Allah....and receives the best of inheritance...religious knowledge...as the Prophet said:

((إِنَّ الْعُلَمَاءَ وَرَثَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، إِنَّ الْأَنْبِيَاءَ لَمْ يُوْرَثُوا دِينَارًا وَلَا دِرْهَمًا، إِنَّمَا وَرَثُوا الْعِلْمَ، فَمَنْ أَخَذَهُ أَخَذَ بِحِظِّ وَافِرٍ)) .

The scholars are the heirs of the Prophets, for the Prophets did not leave behind a Dinar or Dirham, they didn't leave behind money and wealth as inheritance, rather they left behind knowledge, so whoever takes it has taken a great share.'"

So have we taken our share of the prophetic inheritance, have we sat down to learn how to recite Quran, how to speak and read Arabic, how to understand hadith, fiqh, tafsir...indeed there is no better feeling in this world than attaining and acquiring religious knowledge and learning more about our lord and our messenger.

One day Abu Hurairah was walking through one of the markets of Madinah, and he stopped in the middle of it and said: 'O businessmen of this market...what is preventing you?'The merchants all responded: 'Preventing us from what Abu Hurairah?...he said: 'The inheritance of the Prophet Muhammad is being distributed, and you guys are still here in the market and not trying to acquire your portion of the prophet's inheritance?..they said: Where is the Prophet

Muhammad? Abu Hurairah said: He's in the masjid...so all the merchants ran out of the marketplace to the masjid...and Abu Hurairah followed them and stood with them until they returned to their marketplace, and said to them: 'What's wrong with you guys? The merchants said: ' Abu Hurairah...we went to the masjid, went inside, but we didn't see anything being distributed! So Abu Hurairah said to them: 'You didn't see anyone in the masjid? They said: Yeah, we saw people praying, other reciting the Quran, and other people discussing and studying the halaal and haram....so then Abu Hurairah said to them: 'Woe to you, indeed that what you saw the people doing is the inheritance of Allah's Messenger. (Tabarani in Awsat-Al Bani said hasan)

What a wonderful and great inheritance, from the greatest of people. Let us spend some time to learn more about our religion, in which lies the happiness of our worldly life as well as our hereafter.

Second Khutbah

People of faith, believers, brothers and sisters...seeking religious knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim.

The first thing Allah ordered the Prophet to do in the Quran was to read? How many of us read on a daily basis? How many of us read Quran daily, read the sunnah daily?

Acquiring religious knowledge will aid one in preserving and protecting oneself and one's family. Seeking and understanding religious knowledge will enable one to distinguish the truth from the falsehood, tawheed from shirk, the sunnah from bidah, obedience from disobedience, and Allah's pleasure from Allah's anger.

Seeking religious knowledge will keep one safe from trials and tribulations 'fitan', will protect one from experiencing a decrease in faith, will keep one same from doubts and misconceptions that may affect one's heart and mind, which may lead one to corruption in the lands.

Religious knowledge is the light of the heart, the essence of the soul and the pleasure of the mind and body.

From the virtues and blessings of beneficial religious knowledge is that one can notice the affects upon one's behavior, manners and etiquettes. May refine our etiquettes, manners and behavior with the Quran and Sunnah, in which there is no better refinement of our characters.

So what can we do to acquire religious knowledge:

1. Go to your local masjid and inquire about Arabic Classes and Quran Classes and religious lectures.
2. Find a qualified teacher, commit yourself and dedicate yourself, even if it is little, but must be continuous. One day a week, three days a week for an hour or two
3. Humble yourself, and be patient, knowledge will not come overnight
4. Review, review, review....Discuss it with your brothers and sisters.
5. Listen to beneficial lectures from reputable scholars.
6. Learn the most important things first: Arabic, Quran, Aqeedah, Fiqh
7. Start a religious book reading at your house
8. Don't ask questions that will not benefit you in getting closer to Allah
9. Seize the opportunities to learn religious knowledge when they are presented to you

Announcements:

1. Keep your eyes and ears open as we'll be announcing and posting announcements + schedules for various religious classes - Arabic, tafsir, Quran...
2. We've extended the registration for summer camp... →