

فيا أيها الناس عندما يتفكر المسلم في حاله، وما منَّ الله عليه من نعمة الإسلام، والتي تحوي نعمًا عظيمةً، يَرَى أنه من الغباء أن يقلد غيره ممن هو دونه، ويغبطه على مكانته.

عباد الله: لقد امتنَّ اللهُ -تعالى- علينا نحن المسلمين بنعمة الإسلام، فهي أعظمُّ نعمةٍ، وأجلُّ منَّةٍ، قال تعالى:

(هُوَ سَمَّاكُمُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ قَبْلُ)

جعلَ اللهُ الإسلامَ ديناً خاتماً ، و رَضِيَهُ من عباده ، و ما كان ذلك إلا لميزةٍ تميَّزَ بها الإسلامُ عن سائر الأديان الأخرى ، و خصوصيةٍ خُصَّ بها دون غيره ، و هذه الميزة و الخصوصية دالةٌ على فضيلةٍ لهذا الدين على سواه من الأديان.

قال تعالى : { وَ مَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ } ، و قال تعالى : { الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَ أَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَ رَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا }

و تميَّزُ الإسلامُ نصَّ عليه سيدنا محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم في قوله : " أحبُّ الدين إلى الله الحنيفية السَّمحة

و فضائلُ الإسلامِ كثيراتٌ جداً ، اهتمَّ بها علماءُ الإسلامِ و فقهاؤه ، و بيَّنوا حقائق الإسلام ، و أبانوا عن سِرِّ تميُّزِ الإسلامِ.

وَبِضْدِهَا تَنْبِيْنُ الْأَشْيَاءِ

تَجَمَّعَتِ الْأَضْدَادُ فِيهَا لِحِكْمَةٍ فَأَشْكَالَهَا تَبْدُو عَلَى كُلِّ هَيْئَةٍ

Brothers and sisters in Islam, whenever we get the chance I want all of you to sit, reflect and contemplate over your life and think about the greatest blessing we have been blessed with, that is Al Islam and to be Muslims. We should be constantly grateful and appreciative to our Creator that He chose to guide us to praise Him, worship Him and do the

things that please and satisfy Him. The deen of Al Islam is the only deen that Allah will accept from human beings. The deen of al Islam is the only deen that Allah is pleased with us practicing. The reason behind this is because the deen of Al Islam has distinguishing features and unique practices and beliefs that are special and found only in al Islam. Allah tells us in the Quran that whoever seeks to believe in or practice a religion other than Al Islam, then it is not accept from them. Allah tells us that He has perfected our deen for us and is pleased with Al Islam as our religion and way of life. The virtues of Al Islam over other ways of life and religions are too many to account for. However today we will mention a few. One of the best ways to understand and distinguish something is by observing it's opposites. Today we will compare between the virtues of being Muslim and the unfortunate situation of not being Muslim. Islam means to submit and accept Allah as the only one to be worshipped and the Prophet Muhammad as His Messenger, those who believe this are called Muslims. The opposite of Islam is Kufr, which means to reject, deny, oppose, and not accept Allah as the only one to be worshipped alone and to not accept the Prophet Muhammad as His Messenger. Those who do so are called Kuffar. So what are some differences between Muslims and Kuffar.

With Islam the human being knows the secret behind his existence and why he/she was created, as for the kuffar (non-Muslim) then they don't know why they were created nor do they know what their purpose is here on this earth.

With Islam the human being knows the path to the Paradise and works hard to get there, and he knows the path to the Hellfire and works hard to avoid it.

As for the kuffar then they live in this life similar to the life of animals, if they were asked why they were created they will most likely reply: to eat, drink, sleep and experience the pleasures of this world. Alhamdulillah for the guidance of Al Islam.

My brothers and sisters in Islam, did you know that Allah has favored you and chosen you over all of the rest of creation. The righteous Muslim is even better than the angels, as many scholars have mentioned, and because of your virtue and favor over the rest of the creation, Allah has made everything in the creation subservient to you. Did you know that just from becoming Muslim and believing truly and practicing it, and dying upon Al Islam that you as a Muslim will never abide in the hellfire eternally and perhaps may not even touch the Hellfire?

Another virtue of Islam is that Islam teaches us that a Muslim will live his life between times of ease and times of hardship. If ease and goodness comes to him, he is thankful to Allah, and if times of hardship and difficulties come to him, he is patient, and this is good for him, and this is only the believe who does this. As for a non-Muslim then if good or ease comes to him, he oppresses or transgresses against others, uses whatever he was given to harm others, drugs, weapons, deceiving, cheating, he denies and rejects the truth and attributes it to himself or his hard work, and if hardship

befalls him, then he loses his mind, falls into deep depression, anger and guilt and sometimes violence; and even if he was to be patient in times of hardship, he wouldn't have any reward from Allah, solely because he doesn't believe in Allah and his actions are not accepted by him and he doesn't understand the concept of niyyah or intentions.

Did you know that a Muslim can receive reward in every action in his life, when he eats, when he drinks, when he sits, when he sleeps, when he is intimate with his wife, but only if his intention is made sincerely for Allah. As for the non-Muslim then they have not intentions that can be rewarded because they don't believe in Allah.

When a Muslim is dying it is said to him: don't be afraid or sad, and the Muslim loves to meet Allah and Allah loves to meet him. As for the non-Muslim, when the angels of death approach him, they are shown their place in the hellfire, and he hates to meet his maker, because he never believed in him nor worshipped him, so Allah in turn dislikes to see the disbeliever as well.

On a daily basis a Muslim is taught how to take care of his/her personal hygiene, how to clean oneself after intimacy, how to clean oneself after using the bathroom, how to groom one's beard, moustache and hair, as for a non-Muslim then many do not bathe after intimacy and many do not know the proper way to cleanse themselves after answering the call of nature. Even some priests and rabbis of the past used to consider it praiseworthy to not bathe and be unclean.

From the virtues of Islam is that A Muslim is taught what is healthy to eat and what is not healthy to eat, whatever is halaal to consume and whatever is not halaal to consume. Eat all wholesome foods, avoid intoxicants, pork, dead animals and carcasses. As for a non-Muslim then they eat whatever pleases their pallet, they consume whatever their hearts and stomachs desire, no distinction whether the animal was dead before slaughtering, no care or concern whether the food is harmful to the body or not. Just grazing like cows and other livestock.

يَتَمَتُّعُونَ وَيَأْكُلُونَ كَمَا تَأْكُلُ الْأَنْعَامُ وَالنَّارُ مَثْوًى لَّهُمْ

“They enjoy and eat everything just how livestock do, and the Hellfire is their final abode”

A Muslim woman wears modest clothing and covers her head with hijab and her body out of love for Allah, respect for herself and to keep her beauty sacred for her husband. She is not seen as an object, rather as a precious pearl with value and worth. She is valued by her intellect, her piety and her modesty. As for the non-Muslim woman, then she flaunts her body, she’s seen as an object, a marketing and advertising tool, the more clothes she takes off, the more sales and followers she gets. A non-Muslim woman has no shame nor modesty, she wears clothing to draw the eyes and attention of as many men that she can, with no respect for herself, nor her husband nor her lord and creator. She is like a piece of meat thrown around from the butcher shop, to the grocery store, that all people put their hands on and fight over to eat. She is like a piece of candy that fell on the floor

with no wrapper on it; no value, no one wants to eat it, it's kicked around until it reaches the closest garbage can.

Islam teaches us that when the Muslim dies, he relaxes and rests from the distress, stress, hardships, difficulties, bills, responsibilities and harms of this dunya and is embraced by the mercy, love and forgiveness of Allah. As for the non-Muslim when he dies, then the whole of creation is happy, the neighborhood, the community, the trees, animals and all creatures are at ease and pleased with their passing, because they are not creating mischief upon the earth anymore, and not living another day of the earth denying and rejecting the worship of their creator; who provided them with everything.

Islam teaches the Muslim to worship one Lord, one creator, one deity, who has no partners, no son, no spouse, no offspring, he does not beget nor was he begotten. As for the non-Muslim then they worship idols, statues, cows, crosses, saints, priests, rabbis, graves and other created beings from amongst the creation. Some even worship money, status, followers, basketball players, football players and other so called famous people.

The Muslim does acts of worship based upon pure, unaltered revelation from Allah, as for the non-Muslim then they worship how they deem fit, any way they want, dancing, singing in church, definitely not the way Jesus worshipped his creator; rather they worship upon falsehood, speculation and conjecture.

So constantly thank Allah for being guided to Islam, appreciate the greatest blessing that can be bestowed upon us or upon any human being, and remember how you were once misguided and Allah guided you.

Second khutbah

Today we are discussing some of the virtues of Islam over other religions and the favors Allah has bestowed upon us for being Muslim. One of the ways that we can better appreciate what we have in Islam is when we compare it with other religions and ways of life.

From the virtues of Islam over other religions:

1. Islam is based upon Quran and Sunnah which have been preserved, memorized by heart, and unchanged since the time of their revelation over 1400 years ago. As for other religions then their books have been changed, were never preserved and are still changing today.

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ ٩

2. Muslims believe in, respect and honor all prophets and messengers. We never speak bad about them, nor defame them in any way shape or form. As for Jews and Christians, then you will find numerous texts in their books which defame and slander many of Allah's prophets and messengers. Similarly the jews don't believe in Jesus and the Christians don't believe in the Prophet Muhammad. Muslims believe in all prophets.

قُلْ ءَامَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ
وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَالنَّبِيُّونَ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ
وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ ٨٤

3. Muslims believe that Allah is All Mighty, All Powerful, All Knowing; He knows everything, sees everything and hears everything. He never sleeps nor slumbers, nor does He need to, nor does he ever become tired. As for Jews and Christians, then they believe that Allah rested or slept on the seventh day to take a rest.

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ ۚ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ ۚ

4. Islamic teachings based upon clear cut authentic texts can never be changed by anyone, no Imam, no scholar, no student or no businessman or politician. What was considered a sin at the time of revelation is still considered a sin today. What was considered abominable 1443 years ago is still considered haram today. Rape, Homosexual acts, stealing, murder are all considered terrible sins in all the original revelations from Allah, the Torah, the Injeel and the Quran; so no one can come along today and say they are acceptable, approved, or loved by the Creator; no matter who they are or what social status they may have.

لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ ۚ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

5. In times of war, Islam teaches that a Muslim should not harm non-combatants, that a Muslim should not harm a woman, a child or elderly individuals. Islam teaches that even in times of war there are manners and etiquettes.

A Muslim should never burn people, or burn down houses or villages, not even cut down trees. As for the adherents of other religions Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, then no mercy is shown, all women, children, the elderly and anyone in their way; is burn, slaughtered and murdered on the spot, leaving nothing but total annihilation behind them. Just compare between when the Muslims entered Al Andalus (Spain) and when the Christians took over. When Abu Bakr As Siddeq sent his army to Ash Shaam this is what he said to them:

قال: يا أيها الناس، قفوا أوصيكم بعشر فاحفظوها عنى: لا تخونوا ولا تغلوا، ولا تغدروا ولا تمثلوا، ولا تقتلوا طفلاً صغيراً، ولا شيخاً كبيراً ولا امرأة، ولا تعقروا نخلاً ولا تحرقوه، ولا تقطعوا شجرة مثمرة، ولا تذبحوا شاةً ولا بقرة ولا بعيراً إلا لمأكلة

“O people I advise you with ten things: do not deceive others, do not steal from the spoils of war, do not retreat, cheat or torture people. Do not kill children, nor old men or women. Do not cut down trees nor burn them, do not slaughter animals (sheep, goats, camels or cows) except if you’re going to eat it....

Compare this to what the enemies of Allah advised their soldiers to do when they entered Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Palestine, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and anywhere else they left their stench, their filth and their kufr.

6. Islam is a religion that governs and shows its adherents the proper guidance for all aspects of their lives: individual life, family life, business life, life travelling,

how to raise children, how to eat, how to sleep, how to be intimate, how to bathe, how to pray, how to live a healthy lifestyle every day of one's life. As for other religions, then many of them today are just practiced one day out of the week, on a Sunday; it is only something practiced in the church or synagogue, they don't practice at home, or at work or on the street.

7. Islam doesn't have any secrets. Islam encourages all Muslims to learn, study and increase in knowledge. The more one learns the better they understand their religion, the closer they become to Allah. Islam prohibits us to conceal knowledge and encourages us to spread and convey knowledge to others. As for other faiths then they say they there are secrets of the Church, that the trinity is the great mystery, that women should not learn and they should remain ignorant and naïve, that you have to be a 33rd degree to learn the secrets of the elders of the Church or synagogue.

Brothers and sisters, we could go on and on for hours about the virtues of Islam over other faiths. However, we don't have enough time. So what we mentioned today are just some of the virtues of Islam over other religions and religious philosophies. May Allah help us appreciate our Islam and practice it daily and be a source of guidance for others.