

إن الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستهديه ونستغفره ونتوب إليه، ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا، من يهده الله فلا مضل له ومن يضلل فلا هادي له، وأشهد أن محمداً صلى الله عليه وسلم عبده ورسوله وصفيه من خلقه وحبيبه. بلغ الرسالة وأدى الأمانة، ونصح الأمة وكشف الله به الغمة، وجاهد في الله حق جهاده حتى أتاه اليقين. فأجزه الله عنا خير ما جازيت نبي عن أمته ورسول عن قومه. وإتقوا الله وأعلموا أن ما قل و كفى خير مم كثر و ألهى وما أنتم معجزين ثم أما بعد:

## Introduction

Brothers in Islam,

The title of my Khutba today is "Living Islam". Brothers many people especially these days promote a different kind of religion than what the prophets taught us.

While the Prophets taught us that Allah the Almighty has created us and that we must worship him and glorify him as is the due of our creator, these new preachers present religion as personal gratification. When you feel like some spiritual fuel, then you perform some act of worship. Otherwise you should you live your life as you please.

We can see what happened to the Christian faith after it has been modernized. We see the moral degradation is our surrounding sociality that is a result of not adhering to the teachings of religion. Look at how they have become. They only follow the teachings that please them and they leave those teachings that they don't. A few days ago I was watching TV where a comedian was making fun of someone who proposed abstinence in school as part of sexual education. Isn't this what the Bible teaches them?

Allah describes them in the Quran in Surat Al Bakara verse 85 saying:

أَفْتُوْمُنُوْنَ بِبَعْضِ الْكُتُبِ وَتَكْفُرُوْنَ بِبَعْضِ مَا جَرَاءَ مَن يَفْعَلُ ذَلِكَ مِنكُمْ إِلَّا خِزْيًا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يُرَدُّوْنَ إِلَىٰ أَشَدِّ الْعَذَابِ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُوْنَ

Do you, then, believe in some parts of the divine writ and deny the truth of other parts? What, then, could be the reward of those among you who do such things but ignominy in the life of this world and, on the Day of Resurrection, commitment to most grievous suffering? For God is not unmindful of what you do.

Brothers we can see that Islam is and has been for some time, the target for modernization. I went to the Eid Al Adha pray and I saw some thing strange! I saw a large population of our sisters without their Hijab! I told myself "isn't that strange! I mean Eid pray is Sunnah, yet the covering of the awra is compulsory." And I started wondering if maybe we were going to Eid prayer, not to thank Allah and glorify him, but to have a good time and enjoy ourselves. I tried to examine my niyah to

see if I have fallen in this trap. I am not saying that having a good time or enjoying yourselves is wrong. Quite the opposite in fact, that is the height of Iman, to enjoy your special connection with Allah (جل جلاله). But that is a side effect. The main objective is pleasing Allah.

We know that the intentions behind the act determines if you are rewarded for that act. Every book of hadeeth opens with the same hadeeth. Listen to our prophet brothers:

عن عمر بن الخطاب رضي الله عنه قال: سمعت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يقول: انما الأعمال بالنيات ، وإنما لكل امرئ ما نوى ، فمن كانت هجرته إلى الله ورسوله ، فهجرته إلى الله ورسوله ومن كانت هجرته إلى دنيا يصيبها ، أو إلى امرأة ينكحها ، فهجرته إلى ما هاجر إليه . متفق عليه.

Umar bin Al-Khattab Narrated that:

The Prophet said, 'O people! The reward of deeds depends upon the intentions, and every person will get the reward according to what he has intended. So, whoever emigrated for Allah and His Apostle, then his emigration was for Allah and His Apostle, and whoever emigrated to take worldly benefit or for a woman to marry, then his emigration was for what he emigrated for."

We need our intentions to be focused on the pleasing of our lord and the following of his prophet. We also need to follow all that Allah has commanded, not just those that we feel like. We need to be sure we are not following in the footsteps of those who have lost their way. Allah describes those who have the knowledge yet do not follow it in the Quran in surat Al-Jumoah verse 5:

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ حُمِّلُوا التَّوْرَةَ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَحْمِلُوهَا كَمَثَلِ الْجِمَارِ يَحْمِلُ أَسْفَارًا بِئْسَ مَثَلُ الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا  
بآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الطَّالِبِينَ

THE PARABLE of those who were graced with the burden of the Torah, and thereafter failed to bear this burden, is that of an donkey that carries a load of books (but cannot benefit from them). Evil is the parable of people who are bent on giving the lie to God's messages - for God does not bestow His guidance upon such evildoing folk!

So What then is the correct view of religion? What does Islam really teach? Well let's hear what Allah teaches our father, the Prophet Abraham. In the Quran surat Al-An'am verse 162,163 Allah says:

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ  
الْمُسْلِمِينَ

Say: "Behold, my prayer, and (all) my acts of worship, and my living and my dying are for God (alone), the Sustainer of all the worlds, in whose divinity none has a share: for thus have I been bidden-and I shall (always) be foremost among those who surrender themselves unto Him."

So this is the meaning of surrendering ourselves to Allah. It is not just a matter of praying 5 times a day. Or making Haj and fasting. It is about having Allah in our hearts every second of every minute of our lives. It is about making sure that our every action is OK in Allah's book. How do we treat each other? How do we raise our children? How do we lend each other money? Islam teaches us how to do all of this. This is our objective to live every aspect of our lives as Allah wants us to. And this brothers is why we get to enter paradise. Look at Surat At-Tauba verse 111:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَى مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ بِأَنْ لَهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَيَقْتُلُونَ  
وَيُقْتَلُونَ وَعَدًّا عَلَيْهِ حَقًّا فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ وَالْقُرْآنِ وَمَنْ أَوْفَى بِعَهْدِهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ فَاسْتَبْشِرُوا بِبَيْعِكُمْ  
الَّذِي بَايَعْتُمْ بِهِ وَذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

BEHOLD, God has bought of the believers their lives and their possessions, promising them paradise in return, ,(and so) they fight in God's cause, and slay, and are slain: a promise which in truth He has willed upon Himself in (the words of) the Torah, and the Gospel, and the Qur'an. And who could be more faithful to his covenant than God? Rejoice, then, in the bargain which you have made with Him: for this, this is the triumph supreme!

You see? The price of paradise is to give your self up and to surrender completely. It doesn't have any exclusions. I surrender everything but my cigarettes. I surrender everything but I don't feel like praying on time. I don't feel like covering up my hair. I surrender but I will not be good to my brothers, my mother and my father. I will not stop putting my personal gain above the benefit of my Muslim brothers. The list goes on and on brothers and they just will not work. We pretend to submit to Allah yet we hold so much back. We do not fully submit.

In this kutba I hope to offer some guidance to how we can live Islam so that every minute of our lives is submission to Allah.

The fist thing we need to cover of how to surround your self with remembrance. It is not enough to remember Allah on Fridays or once a year in Ramadan. We need to keep Allah in our hearts every day. The number one way to do this is with dua!

Riyadh Al Saliheen 1465

عن النعمان بن بشير رضي الله عنهما، أن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "الدعاء هو العبادة". رواه أبو داود

AnNu'man ibn Bashir narrated that: The Prophet PBUH said: Du'a is worship.

And what is Duaa but an expression of one's humbleness and helplessness before Allah. This expression of one's weakness and Allah's might is the essence of worship. And It is for that reason we need to surround ourselves with dua. The Prophet teaches us dua for when we wake up and when we go to sleep. When we start eating and when we finish. When we enter our homes and when we exit. When we enter the bathroom and when we exit. When we see something that makes us sad and when we see something that makes us happy. We have dua to protect us thought they day. We have dua to thank Allah for the many bounties. We have Duaa to repent to Allah with.

Now how many of us know all these dua? Why don't we know them? And how many of us that know these dua use them daily? And how many people (may Allah guide us all) know them but think that it is superstitious or silly to use them?

This brings me to the second point. In order to follow the teachings of Islam, we need to know what those teachings are. It is only through knowledge that we will be able to live the life that Allah requires of us. Allah says in surat Fatir verse 28:

إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ

Of all His servants, only such as are endowed with (innate) knowledge stand (truly) in awe of God

And I find it very sad that so many brothers who know so much about physics, chemistry, mathematics and biology know so little about their faith. All their knowledge is passed down from farther to son based on what he has heard or seen without any understanding of the issue or knowledge is what he saw and heard was right or wrong.

If you want to observe this, all you need to do it take a good look at a lots of the emails that circulate the Muslim cyber space. I don't know about you but I get emails that are a bunch of lies. Whether it is some dua or hadeeth that is wrongly attributed to the prophet or some wild story about how the key holder of the kaba has a dream and if I don't pass this email on to ten more people I will have bad

luck for 2 years. Why is it that so many Muslims know so little about the stuff they are supposed to practice 24/7. When the Egyptian people were freed from the Romans by Amr bin al Aas and the Muslim army it took only 2 years for the people of Egypt to speak Arabic. How many million of Muslims can't read the language of the Quran. I mean what would it take to have the Muslim nation speak Arabic. If the schools decided to have Arabic as a extra language from grade 1 until the end off university then in 20 years we will have a Uma that can converse easily. Why has it not been done? Is that an issue on the minds of the Muslim people? I don't think so.

Brothers As Muslims we are plagued by many issues. We are portrayed in the media as barbaric and superstitious. maybe even a little stupid. If we follow the news we can see the reaction we got in Sydney when trying to build a new Islamic school. Now a lot of that is from troublemakers yet we need to ask ourselves; do the Muslims in Australia have a good reputation? Are we acting according to our beliefs? So many situations that we face are similar to those faced by the Prophet PBUH 1400 years ago. But how many of us have read his seerah. Not a general understanding of what happened. but a in depth read about how the Prophet dealt with the different situations that he faced? Do we believe that there can be a better person to learn from then the beloved? Why have we forsaken his teachings?

I truly believe that the Muslim Ummah will suffer as it is until we take up the mantel of knowledge and rise again to the status that we had in Andalusia when the world came to learn from us and knowledge of this world was not separated from the knowledge of the hereafter.

Remember bothers, the time between the two khutbas might be that time on Friday when Allah answers all duaa's. I urge you to use the time between the two khutbas to pray for forgiveness, hoping that such a time may be upon us.

## 2nd Kutbah

الحمد لله وكفى. والصلاة على نبيه المصطفى وعلى اله وصحبه وسلم

In order to really live Islam we need to find the strength to do things that are often difficult. Our faith is the fuel that allows us to go against our personal lusts and not so good inclination. The Scholars of Islam are of the opinion that Eman increases and decreases. It Increases by doing good deeds and decreases by doing bad or evil deeds.

Allah says in surat Al touba verse 124:

وَإِذَا مَا أَنْزَلْنَا سُورَةً فَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ يَقُولُ أَيُّكُمْ زَادَتْهُ هَذِهِ إِيمَانًا فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا فَرَّادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَهُمْ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ

YET WHENEVER a surah (of this divine writ) is bestowed from on high, some of the deniers of the truth are prone to ask, "Which of you has this (message) strengthened in his faith?" Now as for those who have attained to faith, it does strengthen them in their faith, and they rejoice in the glad tiding (which God has given them).

It is very important to increase our Eman and keep it high. Things like reading Quran every day, wakening up for Fajir and tahajud and getting together with friends to remember Allah and to discuss seera or read some Fiqh together. These are the kind of activities that strengthen our Eman and keep us reminded that we will soon find ourselves in our graves, being asked about how we spent our time.

We need to remove the fog of ignorance that has descended on the Muslim people. None of us have an excuse. We can buy translated versions of **فقه السنة** and study the fiqh we need for our every day lives. We can read the seera of our belesed Prophet and get together to see how we can apply the actions of the Prophet and his Sahaba in our every day lives.

Brothers... Many of us lament the sorry sate of the ummah. But the umma is just of a group of individuals like us. If we do not start changing then how can we expect it of others.

Allah Commands us to salute our prophet saying: "Verily Allah and His angels shower blessings on the Prophet (s). O, Believer! Send blessings upon him and salute him with a worthy salutation."

<Dua>

Allah orders justice and ihsan and to be generous to our family and kin, and forbids fahshaa, monkar and injustice, so does Allah advise us so that we may remember. So remember Allah and he will remember you, thank him for his bounties and he will increase them for you. And remember that the remembrance of Allah is greater and Allah knows what you do.