

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Friday Khutbah – 07/11/2014

Our duty towards Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa

It is indeed very painful for every truthful Muslim that year after year passes by and the sufferings of the Muslim *Ummah* are continuing unabated.

At the beginning of every new year one hopes that the Muslim *Ummah* would rise up, go a step forward on the path of strength and might and break up the chains of humiliation. However, these hopes quickly fade away as a result of the tragedies that happen to Muslims.

It is unfortunate that the calamities are continuously on the increase and if one looks around at grief-stricken areas around the world, one will only find persecuted Muslims who are being tormented by their enemies or by their fellow Muslims.

The forms of afflictions that are befalling the Muslims are numerous; however, in these days they have touched a belonging of the *Ummah*; its sanctities. They have befallen Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa, the first *Qibla* of Muslims and the third most sacred *Masjid*.

Perhaps you have heard in the news and seen on the screens what is happening in Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa in these days; the storming of the Masjid by the Zionists and their soldiers, the violation of its sanctity and the closure of it in the face of the worshippers.

What is happening in these days is part of an extensive plan to change the status of Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa. The siege and closure of the Masjid - which is happening for the first time since its occupation in 1967 - is to test the reaction of the Arabs and Muslims – in preparation by the Zionist for the major step of demolishing Al-Aqsa and building the so called Temple Mount in its place.

The Jews have religious beliefs in *Al-Qudus* which can only be realised by ethnically cleansing the Palestinians; by forcibly removing all Muslims from their land and resettling the Zionists in it - and thus changing the demography of the city and build the Jewish Jerusalem on the ruins of *Al-Qudus Al-Islamiyyah*.

Slaves of Allah! The sanctities of a nation become trivial to it only when its *Deen* becomes trivial to the members of that nation. When this happens, then the enemies of that nation will have the upper hand over them; subjugate and humiliate them.

If the Jews were to realise their plan of demolishing Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa and building their temple – and they are intent to do so, and will not stop unless they are prevented by force or fear of the consequences- if that happens then that catastrophe will be a shame upon all Muslims worldwide and will not be forgotten through the generations as Muslims did not forget the desecration of Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa by the Crusades in the fifth *Hijri* century until it was liberated by Salahuddin and his soldiers almost ninety years after its occupation.

The Palestinian inhabitants of *Al-Qudus* and those of the occupied land of 1948, young and old men, women and children are defending Al-Aqsa Mosque, guarding the blessed *Al-Qudus* and continuing their resistance of the Zionist plans in a wonderful way. Their resistance and struggle is the main factor in foiling the Zionist projects.

However, the responsibility of defending the blessed land is not theirs alone. It is the duty of all Muslims worldwide.

It is indeed a huge responsibility upon Muslims and their rulers. Everyone will stand responsible before Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) tomorrow for failing to defend the rights of the *Ummah* and its sanctities.

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Second Khutbah:

It is the duty of all Muslims to stand against the plans of the Zionists. To do this they need to know the place of Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa in the book of Allah and Sunnah of the Prophet (*salla Allah alaihi wasallam*) and in the history of the Muslim *Ummah* throughout the centuries. Even the contemporary heroic acts to defend *Al-Qudus* and Al-Aqsa we should know them and teach them to the younger generations of Muslims.

Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa has an important position in the hearts of Muslims. Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) blessed its land and surroundings. It is the first *Masjid* built on earth after Al-Masjid Al-Haram. The reward of *Salat* in it is multiplied. It is five hundred times better than in any other *Masjid* with the exception of Al-Masjid Al-Haram and Al-Masjid An-Nabawi.

It is a duty upon Muslims to keep the issue of Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa and its occupation alive and to give it the priority it deserves. They have to educate themselves and the generations of Muslims about its virtues and glorious history. They have to activate the doctrine of loyalty to the people of *Al-Qudus* and Muslims in general and freedom from the enemies of Islam and Muslims.

It is a duty upon parents to instil the love of *Al-Qudus* into the hearts of their children and those who are defending it, and to instil hatred to those who attack and violate its sanctity and those who support and assist them. Teachers should do this in their schools as well as *Du'at* in their *Masajids*. This is important to keep the issue of *Al-Qudus* alive in the hearts of Muslims.

Before and after this we must set right the relationship between us and Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) by repenting from our sins so that our state may change from weakness to strength and from humiliation to dignity and might.

We ask Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) to protect Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa from the evils and wickedness of the Jews. To foil their plans and expel them out of the blessed land defeated and humiliated, and give victory to our brothers and sisters in the holy land.