

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Friday Khutbah – 16/01/2015

All praise is due to Allah, we thank Him, seek His Help and His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Him from the evils of our souls and our sinful deeds. Whomsoever Allah guides, none can misguide him, and whomsoever Allah misguides, none can guide him. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship save Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his slave and messenger. He conveyed the message, discharged the trust and advised the *Ummah*. He strived true strive for the sake of Allah.

His people harmed him, but he patiently endured the harm for the sake of conveying the message of Islam. He presented his message to the tribes of Arabia and when they refused, that did not weaken his resolve or deter him from continuing his endeavour. He travelled from Makkah to Taif on foot to present Islam to its tribes, but they met him with the worst reception. They encouraged their young children and foolish men to harm him. They threw stones at him until his feet bled.

He was ordered to migrate from Makkah and so he left saying: “By Allah! You are the most beloved land to me. Had not your people expelled me I would not have departed.”

He was struck on the head on the Day of battle of *Uhud* and his face was wounded and his front tooth was broken and his enemies surrounded him to kill him.

His enemies gathered the parties against him on the Day of the battle of *Al-Khandaq*. They Jews in Madinah tried to kill him more than once by poisoning his food and by attempting to throw a huge stone on him while he was sitting leaning to a wall.

These and many other forms of hostilities and harm did not put him off or deter him from spreading the *Deen* until Islam reached the eastern and western parts of the world.

We cannot count his virtues or enumerate his qualities, *Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*.

Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) made it an obligation upon Muslims to honour and revere this noble Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. He says (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*): “Verily We have sent you (O Muhammad) as a witness and a bearer of glad tidings and a warner. In order that you (O mankind) may believe in Allah and His Messenger, and that you assist and honour him and (that you) glorify (Allah's) praises morning and afternoon.” (*al-Fath 8-9*.)

The *Mufasroon* said: “In this *ayah* Allah (*ta'ala*) explained the due right which is shared between Allah and His Messenger which is to believe in both of them, and the right which is due to His Messenger (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) which is to respect, honour and revere him and the right which is due to Allah alone which is to praise him in *Salat* mornings and afternoons.

Depicting the prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) in cartoons or films contradicts the reverence which is due to him. It (depiction) could be used as a pretext to undermine his position and to mock him and the message which he had brought from the Lord of the worlds.

Muslims throughout the generations recognised this right which is due to the Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) i.e. reverence. For this they refuse any portrayal or representation of him (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*.) This is the attitude of Muslims towards their prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) though -many among them - might fail to observe the true reverence and honouring of the prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) which is to honour his *Sunnah* by acting according to it and to observe his commands and prohibitions.

Muslims also recognise this due right to all the prophets of Allah and reject any depiction of them and consider that to be wrong and unacceptable.

However, the case of our Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) was not any different from that of previous messengers of Allah in that never Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) had sent any messenger but there emerged for that messenger enemies who oppose and mock him and his message. This was the established *Sunnah* of Allah with regard to all the *Mursaleen* (messengers of Allah) as Allah says: "Thus have We made for every prophet an enemy among the criminals. But sufficient is your Lord as a guide and as a supporter." This happened to our Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) during his lifetime, but he endured and persevered – as mentioned earlier.

Since the message of Rasulullah (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) will continue and last as long as day and night last, this opposition and mockery is set to continue, and his enemies will expand in time and space as his message expands. Therefore, this opposition and mockery should not be very strange or shocking, though it is totally rejected.

Anger for the insults directed at our Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) is legitimate and required. It is a sign of Iman; however, this anger and the reactions that follow have to be governed and controlled by the *Shar'iah* rules – so that we do not end defending the Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) using means that are against his commands, and which he had prohibited. It has happened before in some Muslim countries that when Muslims demonstrated against the insults directed at the Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) that some people were killed- Muslims and others and properties were destroyed. This is gravely wrong.

It is important that anger and reaction should be weighed and linked to the objective which is to stop these insults. Any reactions that lead to the repetition and spread of these insults should be avoided.

It is now obvious that confrontation and violence is not going to stop these stupidities. What happened last week in France was a desperate act which will not serve any good purpose as far as Islam is concerned. Its outcome was evil and was counterproductive. The magazine which was going through financial difficulties received huge support and was revived. It used to print 60000 copies before the attack on its headquarters. This week it printed three million copies. The attack did not stop the depiction of what they called Muhammad. (I would not say what they depicted was Prophet Muhammad and later I will tell you why I say this.) On the other hands attacks against mosques in France increased. Fifty were reported in the news.

There is little doubt that some of our enemies seek to keep us busy, waste our time and energies and distract us from our main mission. We should not play in their hands. Unfortunately, many Muslims have played in their hand.

What is our purpose and mission in this life at this time – especially we who live among non-Muslim people? Is it to launch wars and raids which are fruitless and which we cannot win anyway?

Our mission is what Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) has outlined in His noble book: "O you who have believed! Bow down, and prostrate yourselves, and worship your Lord and do good deeds that you may succeed. And strive in Allah's Cause as you ought to strive. He has chosen you and has not laid upon you in religion any hardship..."

Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) commands Muslims to perform *Salat* which is the core of *Ibadah* (worship) and the most important of the rites of Islam, to do good and shun evil. He then orders them to strive for His sake by conveying His Message to mankind by inviting them to His religion, of Islam. We, Muslims, are the ones who have been appointed as witnesses for Allah over human kind. We are the ones who have been charged with the responsibility of carrying out the message of belief in Allah, enjoining what is good and forbidding what is evil. "You are the best nation ever raised for human kind enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong and believing in Allah."

Our mission is that which the Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) struggled to fulfill during his lifetime enduring the difficulties and harm until the message of Allah reached the eastern and western parts of the world. Our mission is to maintain and spread this message.

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Muslims everywhere have to stand up for their *Deen* and for their Prophet adopting all possible and legitimate means that are likely to achieve the hoped for objectives.

If challenging and confronting the wrong-doers; those who insult the Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) is not going to achieve the purpose for which it is intended, then we should turn away from the ignorant and arrogant –as the Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) used to deal with those who harmed him and as we have been advised by Allah and by him.

At the same time we have to be certain that Allah will defend His *Deen* and His Prophet against all those who oppose or insult him. Is it not Him Who says: "Those who oppose Allah and His Messenger, they will be among the most humiliated." Is it not Him Who says: "Truly! We will suffice you against the mockers." Is it not Him Who says: "Is Allah not sufficient for (the protection of) His slave? (Indeed, yes He is.)"

Al-Sheikh Al-Sa'adi said: "And He did (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) for no one mocked Rasulallah (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) but Allah killed him in the worst way."

This *ayah* includes everyone who opposed the Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) and mocked him and accused him falsely – whether he lived at the time of Rasulallah (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) or came after him until the day of Judgement.

*Quraysh* made various false accusations against Rasulallah (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) saying that he was a sorcerer (magician), a liar and mad man, but all these false claims were duly dismissal.

Al-Bukhari and Muslim reported the *Hadith* that He (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) said: "Do you not see how Allah has diverted the abuse and curse of *Quraysh* (away from me.) They abuse *Mudhammad* (blameworthy) and the curse *Mudhammad*, and I am Muhammad."

He was Muhammad not *Mudhammad*. And likewise we say to the cartoonists that these caricatures which you invented definitely do not represent Rasulallah (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) or look like him in any way. They were the creation of your sick imagination. As for him, (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*), his face was radiant shining with light, smile and happiness. Even his contemporaries from among his companions were unable to fill their eyes with a glimpse of him out of reverence and respect for him. So what about those who did not live at his time, who neither share *Iman* nor *Ikhlaq* with him? How would they know how he looked like? It is indeed a delusion and fantasy! Would any Muslim still think that what they drew was Rasulallah?