

## Knowledge- The Nourishment of the Scholars

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

It is narrated by Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari that: The Prophet said:

*"The example of guidance and knowledge with which God has sent me is like abundant rain falling on the earth, some of which was fertile soil that absorbed rain water and brought forth vegetation and grass in abundance.*

*(And) another portion of it was hard and held the rain water and God benefited the people with it and they utilized it for drinking, making their animals drink from it and for irrigation of the land for cultivation.*

*(And) a portion of it was barren which could neither hold the water nor bring forth vegetation (then that land gave no benefits).*

*The first is the example of the person who comprehends God's religion and gets benefit (from the knowledge) which God has revealed through me (the Prophets and learns and then teaches others.*

*The last example is that of a person who does not care for it and does not take God's guidance revealed through me (He is like that barren land.)*

O Muslims- What a great analogy that has been put before us by our beloved Prophet (pbuh). The people of understanding in Religion are like beneficial soil that profits people.

God Almighty says: "Are those who know equal to those that do not know?" (Surah Zumar: 9)

And He, SWT praises the people of knowledge who are God-fearers:

"It is those of His servants who have knowledge that truly have awe/fear of God" (Surah Fatir: 28)

The Prophet (pbuh) said|:

*"The superiority of the scholar over the worshipper is like the superiority of the full moon at night over the rest of the stars"*

The messenger of God (pbuh) distinguished three different ranks for people's actions to be accepted:

- the one who accepts what the prophet came with, his knowledge and actions are in accordance with this. He teaches people. The people in this category are the best of people because they benefit themselves and they benefit others.
- Second time - accept what the prophet came with and are like vessels - they carry the knowledge so others can benefit but they don't have a deep understanding of it and do little by way of striving to implement it
- Third - the one who does not benefit from what the prophet pbuh came with nor acts accordingly nor does he spread it to people. These people are given least praise by the prophet pbuh.

O muslims - there is much benefit in knowledge; from it you get to know your religion, how to worship your Lord, how to establish your relationship with people. The need that people have for knowledge is greater than their need for rain. And no person is raised except through having knowledge. And there is evidence in the shariah for this and God says:

"God will raise up by many degrees those of you who believe and those who have been given knowledge" [Mujadilah 58:11]

The prophet pbuh advised Moath ibn Jabal & Ali "if God guides one person through you - it is better for you than world and all that it contains" [Agreed upon].

'A man came to the prophet pbuh [during an expedition] and said: 'My [camel] got tired so can you find me another [camel].' The Prophet (Pbuh) replied 'I cannot.' A second man offered: 'I can find him a [camel] for him.' The Prophet (Pbuh) praised the second man by saying: "Whoever guides anyone to goodness [here helping another to join the muslim expedition], his reward shall be the same as those who follow his guidance without lessening a bit of their reward.." [Reported by Muslim]

How great is this encouragement and how great the reward which goes to the person who is doing the good and also the one who pointed him towards it. And who began by seeking knowledge and after that taught it to others.

O muslims - the one who has intellect does not disrespect knowledge or disregard its virtues. The best of people are those who are carriers of knowledge and give it its right. God benefits his servants and nations through them. These are the people of deep understanding and virtue.

Moath ibn Jabal said 'learn knowledge for it teaches you to fear God'. Seeking it is a worship. Teaching it is a glorification of God. Searching for it is to strive in God's way. Teaching it to those who do not know it is a charity. Imparting to family is a way of nearness. Knowledge is an intimate companion in solitude.

The prophet pbuh said 'the angels lower their wings for the seeker of knowledge out of pleasure for their pursuit.' [Ahmad, ibn Majah and others]

## SECOND KHUTBAH

*The messenger of God said: God does not take away the knowledge, by taking it away from (the hearts of) the people, but takes it away by the death of the religious learned men until when none of the (religious learned men) remains, people will take as their leaders ignorant persons who when consulted will give their verdict without knowledge. So they go astray and they will lead the people astray. [Al-Bukharee: Vol 1 No. 100].*

Last week, two scholars passed away - may God have mercy on their souls. Muslims lost in Shaykh Bakr ibn Abdullah Abu Zaid one of its greatest scholars - known for his accuracy, his legal verdicts, his wisdom, being a true seeker and respected teacher of Islam. He authored over 50 books that remain with us. May God be pleased with you and join you with the Prophet pbuh on the Day of Judgment

O muslims - scholars have a right upon us. They are owed our respect, for us to take knowledge from them and take that knowledge to raise our offspring with it.

Unfortunately, we are a generation that does not appreciate its scholars until they are gone. May God put blessing in those who are left from our scholars. May we be sent more sincere scholars like them to save and defend this deen.