



UNIS

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The Day of Friday

Friday is the most an important day for the Believers. Many important events which become the turning points in the history of Islam had taken place on this auspicious day.

Friday, is primarily the Day of assembly, the weekly meeting of the congregation, where the Muslims show their unity by sharing in common public worship, preceded by a 'khutba' in the which the Imam reviews the week's life of the community and offers advice and exhortation on good living.

The day of Friday also has many virtues which many people are unaware of. It was narrated from Aws ibn Aws that the Prophet (pbuh) (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The best of your days is Friday. On that day Adam (pbuh) was created; on that day he died; on that day the Trumpet will be blown and on that day all of creation will swoon. So send a great deal of blessings upon me, for your blessings will be shown to me." They said, "O Messenger of Allah, how will our blessings upon you be shown to you when you have turned to dust?" He said, "Allah has forbidden the earth to consume the bodies of the Prophets, peace be upon them."

It was also narrated that Abu Hurayrah and Hudhayfah (may Allah be pleased with them) said: The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: "Allah led those who came before us away from Friday. The Jews had Saturday, and the Christians had Sunday. Then Allah brought us and

Allah guided us to Friday. So there is Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and thus they (the Jews and Christians) will follow us on the Day of Resurrection. We are the last of the people of this world but we will be the first on the Day of Resurrection, and we will be dealt with before all others."

In addition to the two Eids, i.e. Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha, the day of Friday has also been mentioned as the third Eid in many traditions from the Prophet (pbuh).

The blazing fire of Hell is kindled to intensify its heat every day, except on Friday. On Friday, there is a spell of time when Allah gives to a Muslim servant whatever he asks for. Giving Sadaqah (charity) on that day is preferred to giving it on any other day. In paradise, the believers will see Allah and visit Him on Friday. It is the best day which Allah has chosen from the days of the week, just as he has chosen Ramadan as the best of the months and Laylat al Qadr (the night of decree) as the best of the nights and Muhammad as the best of His creatures.

Because Friday is such a great day and also because the Muslims have their required weekly congregation on that they, the holy prophet (pbuh) has taught us and encouraged us to prepare for Friday and the Friday prayer.

One should take extra care to clean and purify oneself for saying Friday prayers. Islam lays a great deal of

emphasis on bathing and adorning oneself for the day which is full of blessing and auspiciousness. Abu Sa'eed (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: "It is binding upon everyone who has attained maturity that he should take a bath on Friday. He should use the siwaak (tooth-stick) and perfume if it is available."

Salman (may Allah be pleased with him) also reports that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: "An individual who bathes on Fridays, performs ablution, oils (grooms his hair), and scents himself, then goes to the mosque in the noon, without disturbing two persons already sitting in the line, offers the prescribed prayer, and listens to the khutba (sermons) attentively, shall have all the sins he may have committed between this Friday and the previous one pardoned."

It is preferred that a Muslim wear the best of his clothes on Friday. It is reported that the Prophet (pbuh) said: "A man who performs ghusl (bathes) on Friday, perfumes himself if he has perfume, wears form the best of his clothes, then goes to the mosque covered with calmness until he reaches the mosque, and offers two rak'ahs of prayer if he wishes, and does not harm/disturb anybody, and then listens quietly while the Imam speaks until he offers the prayer, all his sins between that Friday and the next Friday will be forgiven"

It is not permissible for the one upon whom Jumu`ah is obligatory, to travel on this day before attending the Friday prayer if its time is due.

It is also preferred to perfume the mosque with incense on Friday for it is reported that Ibn `Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, used to perfume the mosque of Al-Madinah with incense every Friday at midday.

So we should adorn ourselves before going to the Friday prayer, but what do we do once we get to the Masjid. Well, instead of chatting and gossiping, one should keep himself occupied with the remembrance of Allah, supplication, and recitation until the Imam begins his khutbah. But when the Imam starts his khutba, one must be completely silent. Listening to the Khutbah is obligatory, and one should not disturb or talk to others while the Imam is delivering the khutba. Even saying As-Salamu-Alaikum is not allowed when the khutba is being delivered. Allah's prophet (pbuh) said: "When the Imaam is delivering the Khutbah, and you ask your companion to keep quiet and listen, then, no doubt you have done an evil act".

It is recommended to recite certain surahs/chapters of the Quran on Friday. "The reciter of Surat al-Kahf (Surah 18) on Friday will be blessed with a light that will rise from underneath his feet to the peak of the sky. This will be a light for him on the Day of Resurrection, and he will be forgiven for what is between this Jumu`ah (and the next) Jumu`ah"

The messenger of Allah (pbuh) also used to recite Surat al-Jumu`ah (Surah 62) and al-Munaafiqoon (Surah 63) or al-Ghaashiyah (Surah 88) and al-A`la (Surah 87) during the Jumu`ah prayer.

As much as we all know Friday is important, it is sad to see that many of us fail to realize that and don't give Friday the attention it deserves. Some

people even try to find excuses to not go to Friday prayer. Allah says in the Quran: "O you who believe! When the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday (the Day of Assembly), hasten earnestly to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off business (and traffic): that is best for you if ye but knew!" (al-jumu'a 9)

So, if you are working, you must make arrangements with your employer and take extra time off so that you can make it to prayer. If you have a class, talk to your teacher and ask him/her to give you an exception so that you can come and pray.

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) is reported to have said: "People should not neglect Friday Prayers under any circumstances, otherwise their hearts will be sealed, (they will be deprived of Divine Guidance); they will become one with those who are forgetful (of Religion)."

Like all other acts of worship in Islam, there are certain guidelines and required elements that a Friday Khutba (sermon) must have. According to Imam Ahmed ibn Hanbal, the Friday khutba must have: 1) **Hamd** (Glorifications of Allah), 2) **Tashahhud** (testifying that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad (pbuh) is his prophet), including **Daruud** (sending blessings on the prophet (pbuh)); 3) **Verse from the Qur'an**, 4) a **Hadith as Mauizah** (exhortation/Advice), 5) **Tandhir** and **Tabsheer** (Admonition and glad tidings); 6) **Du'a for Muslims**

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) did not pray any Jumu`ah without preceding it with a Khutbah. His (pbuh) khutba consisted of two parts; in between them he sat down (for a short while).

The first khutba basically contains the message and the reminder and the second khutba contains the dua.

The following are some sample first parts of khutbas:

KHUTBAH # 1
EXTRA NAWAAFIL SALAAH
DURING THE DAY AND NIGHT

All forms and abundance of praise is due to Allah for His blessings. We remember Allah in a manner that does not leave any trace of pride or resentment in our hearts. We thank Allah who makes the night and day a place for those who take heed or express gratefulness to Him, We bear witness that there is no God besides Allah, the Unique. He is one and has no partner. We bear witness that Muhammad (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is His messenger and servant, who was sent with the truth, as a giver of glad tidings and as a warner. Salutations of Allah be upon him, his family and his honored companions, who strived in the worship of their Creator in the mornings and evenings to such an extent that each one of them became guided to the Deen and a shining lamp (Illuminating the road to guidance).

1. Allah says in the Quran, "and be constant in prayer and spend in charity, and bow down in prayer with all who thus bow down." (Baqarah 2:43)
2. Prophet (pbuh) has said that Allah says: "My slave continues to come nearer to Me with superogatory (nawaafile) prayers until I start loving him. (Bukhari)
3. Prophet (pbuh) has said: "O slave of Allah do not be like that one, who used to stand (at) night in worship, but left it." (Bukhari, Muslim)
4. Prophet (pbuh) has also said: "Verily Deen is easy, a person who makes it difficult on him, will be overwhelmed by it, so be moderate (in your affairs), seek the nearness of Allah, be happy and seek assistance (by worship) in the morning and evening and in a part

of the night, (for the hereafter).”
(Bukhari)

I seek refuge with Allah from the accursed shaytaan. The Quran says, “Remember thy Sustainer within yourself with humbleness and fear, in a low voice in the morning and evening, and be not of the neglectful ones”.

KHUTBAH # 2 REGARDING THE EVILS OF PRIDE AND VANITY

All praise is due to Allah Ta'aala, the Creator, the Producer, the Fashioner, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Exalted, the High whose greatness cannot be impaired by any denouncer. Allah is the Omnipotent before whom every tyrant is submissive and abject. Majesty and Magnificence are His garments.

His magnificence is most High and His attributes are sanctified. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah alone, who has no partner. I also bear witness that our Master and Leader, Muhammed (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is His servant and messenger upon whom has been revealed the spreading brilliance (i.e. the Quraan) so that the comers of the world be illuminated by its brilliance and light. May Allah's peace and blessing be in abundance upon Muhammed (pbuh) and his illustrious companions who were the beloved and friends of Allah Ta'aala. They were also His chosen and selected ones.

Verily vanity and pride are two destructive sicknesses which are detested and abhorred by Allah: Proud and vainglorious persons are indeed inflicted with sickness. Allah states in the Holy Quraan that verily He does not love the arrogant and the boastful. Allah further states concerning the battle of Hunain, which the Muslims lost. The Quran says: “on the Day of Hunayn, when

you took pride in your great numbers and they proved of no avail whatever to you -for the earth, despite all its vastness, became [too] narrow for you and you turned back, retreating” (Tawba 9:25)

1. Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) states: “He who is humble for the sake of Allah, will regard himself as insignificant - whereas in the eyes of the people he will hold honor, while he who is proud, Allah humiliates him to such an extent that he is worthless and insignificant in the eyes of the people although he regards himself as a great person. Such a person's status is even lower to them than the status of a dog or a pig.” (Baihaqi)
2. Prophet (pbuh) has also stated: “Destructive things are passions which are followed, greed which is ingrained and the worst of these attributes is a person's vanity regarding himself.” (Baihaqi)
3. Prophet (pbuh) has also stated: “The person who has even an iota of pride will not enter Paradise.” A person then questioned concerning a person who loves good (and neat) clothes and shoes. He(Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) thereupon answered “Allah is Most Beautiful and He loves beauty. Pride relates to rejecting the truth and despising people.” (Muslim)

I seek protection with Allah from the accursed Shaytaan. “And unto Allah belongs the Majesty in the heavens and the earth. He is Mighty, Wise.” (Al Quran)

KHUTBAH # 3 REMEMBRANCE OF ALLAH AND SUPPLICATIONS

All praise is due to Allah whose compassion is all inclusive and whose mercy is general, who has requited His servants for their remembrances by His remembrance (of them). Allah has stated: “Remember Me and I shall remember you” and He has

encouraged them in asking and supplicating by His command. Allah has also stated: “Ask of me and I will answer you” and has thus made the obedient and disobedient, the kind and wicked aspire for the fulfillment of necessities and desires (from Him) by His statement “Indeed I am close by and I will answer the supplication of the caller when he calls Me.”

We testify that there is no Deity except Allah who is alone and has no partner and we testify that our Leader and Master Muhammed (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is His slave and the leader of all the prophets. May Allah send His manifestation and salutations upon him, his kinfolk and companions who were the choicest of His chosen ones. May He confer upon them an abundance of peace.

1. Indeed the remembrance of Allah and the fulfillment of necessities from Him is the most meritorious of worship that can be discharged by the tongue after the recitation of the Quran. Indeed Prophet (pbuh) has said never does a group of people sit in the remembrance of Allah except that the Angels surround their gathering, mercy encompasses them while tranquility descends upon them and Allah makes mention of them to those that are around Him (i.e. the angles). (Muslim).
2. Prophet (pbuh) has said: “The similitude between that person who remembers his Sustainer and that person who does not, is that between the living and the dead.” (Bukhari and Muslim)
3. Prophet (pbuh) has said: “There is nothing nobler in the sight of Allah than supplication.” (Tirmizi).
4. Prophet (pbuh) said: “Invocation is the essence of Worship.” (Tirmizi, Ibn Maajah).
5. Prophet (pbuh) has mentioned: “Indeed supplication confers benefit to that which Allah has bestowed and to that which He has

not yet bestowed. Therefore, servants of Allah hold firmly to supplication.” (Tirmizi)

6. Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has mentioned: “He who does not ask from Allah, He will become angry upon him. I seek refuge with Allah from the accursed shaytaan. O’ you who believe, remember Allah in abundance and extol His praise by morning and evening.”

KHUTBAH # 4

SAFEGUARDING OF THE TONGUE

All praise is due to Allah who has masterly created and fashioned mankind. He had poured forth the treasures of knowledge upon his heart and perfected it. He then blessed him with a tongue with which he interprets the feelings of his heart and mind and which can also be used to destroy the innocence he was sent with.

I bear witness that there is no one worthy of worship except Allah alone who has no partner. I also bear witness that Muhammed (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is Allah’s revered and venerated messenger and prophet with whom He has sent the Quran. May Allah's peace and blessings be upon him, his family and companions for as long as a single sole glorifies Him, by saying Allahu Akbar - Allah is the Greatest, or by saying Laa illaha illaahu - no one is worthy of worship, besides Allah.

Verily the tongue is small but its wound is great. The Shariah (Islamic law) has therefore recommended silence and encouraged it, except in expressing the truth.

1. Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has said: “The person who gives me the guarantee of safeguarding that which is between his lips and that which is between his legs (i.e. tongue and private

parts), I give him guarantee of (entering) Jannah” (Bukhari)

2. In another Hadith Prophet (pbuh) mentions: “A slanderer will not enter Jannah (except after being punished). (Bukhari and Muslim)
3. Prophet (pbuh) has also mentioned: “Verily truthfulness is a virtue and virtue leads towards Jannah while falsehood is a sin and sin leads to the fire.” (Muslim)
4. Prophet (pbuh) asked the Sahabah (his companions) “Do you know what is backbiting?” The Sahabah replied “Allah and His Rasool know knows best.” Thereafter Rasulullah (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) answered: “Speaking about your brother concerning that which he doesn't like.” It was then asked: “If that which I mention is an attribute of my brother (i.e. it is actually true)?” He (pbuh) answered: “In that case you have verily backbited him, for if that which you mention is not in him, then you have indeed slandered him.” (Muslim)
5. Prophet (pbuh) has said: He who keeps silent is saved. (Ahmed, Tirmizi, Daarimi, Baihaqi)
6. In another Hadith, Prophet (pbuh) said: The beauty of a person’s Islam is his discarding those things which do not concern him. (Muwatta Malik, Ibn Maajah, Ahmed)
7. Prophet (pbuh) said: “Do not display happiness upon your brother's misfortune or else Allah will shower His Mercies on him and involve you in misfortune.” (Tirmizi)

I seek refuge with Allah from Shaytaan, the accursed. Allah says “Never does man utter a word except that there is a guard (angel) ready at hand (to record it).”

THE SECOND KHUTBA (FOR ALL THE SERMONS)

All praise is due to Allah. I seek help from Him and I seek His forgiveness.

We seek protection with Allah from the evils of ourselves. He who Allah guides, none can misguide while he who Allah misguides, none can guide. I bear witness that there is no Deity but Allah who has no partner. I bear witness that Muhammed (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is His servant and Messenger who has been sent with the truth as a giver of glad tidings and as a warner of that following the Hour of Reckoning. He who obeys Allah and His apostle, is verily on the right path and he who disobeys Allah and His messenger does not cause any harm but to himself and nor will he cause any harm to Allah. (Abu Dawood)

I seek protection with Allah from Shaytaan, the Accursed. Certainly Allah and His angels send salutations on Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). O you who believe, send salutations and blessings upon him. O Allah send Your blessings upon Muhammed (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). Your servant and Your apostle and also send Your blessings upon the faithful males and females and the believing males and females.

The best amongst my Ummah are those who live in my era and thereafter those who are close to them and then those who are close to them (the latter). Verily, Allah commands you to do justice with harmony. Allah forbids from shamelessness, obscenity and evil. He bestows advice to you so that you be of the mindful. Allah says, “Remember Me (Allah), and I will remember you. Commemorate thanks to Me and be not of those who transgress.

Editorial

Assalamu Alakium
Dear Readers! Thank you very much for your comments & questions.

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