Brotherhood and Unity Among Muslims

15-minute standard · Free English Friday sermon

Open interactive reader · Download PDF

First Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Innal hamda lillah,
nahmaduhu wa nasta‘eenuhu wa nastaghfiruhu,
wa na‘oodhu billahi min shuroori anfusina
wa min sayyi’aati a‘maalina. ▶ Audio

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.

Man yah-dihi-llahu falaa mudilla lah,
wa man yud-lil falaa haadiya lah. ▶ Audio

مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

Wa ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah,
wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh. ▶ Audio

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

Yaa ay-yuhal-ladheena aamanut-taqul-laha haqqa tu-qaa-tihi
wa laa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoon. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Yaa ayyuhan-naasu-ttaqu rabbakumul-ladhee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidah,
▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،

wa khalaqa minhaa zawjahaa,
wa baththa minhumaa rijaalan katheeran wa nisaa’aa. ▶ Audio

وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا، وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً.

Wattaqullahal-ladhee tasaa’aloona bihi wal-arhaam.
Innallaha kaana ‘alaykum raqeebaa. ▶ Audio

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا.

Yaa ayyuhalladheena aamanu-ttaqullaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedaa. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا.

Yuslih lakum a‘maalakum wa yaghfir lakum dhunoobakum. ▶ Audio

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ.

Wa man yuti‘illaha wa rasoolahu faqad faaza fawzan ‘azeemaa. ▶ Audio

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

Ammaa ba‘d. ▶ Audio

أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Fa inna asdaqal hadeethi kitaabullah, ▶ Audio

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ،

wa khayral hadyi hadyu Muhammadin sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, ▶ Audio

وَخَيْرَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

wa sharral umoori muh-dathaa-tuhaa,
wa kulla muh-dathatin bid‘ah,
wa kulla bid‘atin dalaalah,
wa kulla dalaalatin fin-naar. ▶ Audio

وَشَرَّ الْأُمُورِ مُحْدَثَاتُهَا، وَكُلَّ مُحْدَثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ، وَكُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ، وَكُلَّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ.

First Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

I advise myself first, and then all of you, to have taqwa of Allah.

Fear Allah, be aware of Allah, and remember that one day we will stand before Him and answer for how we treated our fellow Muslims.

Today's khutbah is about something that our Muslim community needs now more than ever.

Brotherhood and unity among Muslims.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Islam brings people together.

People from different countries.

People who speak different languages.

People who have different cultures, backgrounds and ways of life.

Yet, despite all these differences, we share something far greater.

Our belief in Allah and His Messenger, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam.

We worship the same Allah.

We follow the same Quran.

We face the same Qiblah when we pray.

And we hope to enter the same Jannah.

But sometimes, when we look at the condition of our Muslim communities, we see something very different from the brotherhood Islam teaches us.

We see arguments.

We see jealousy.

We see families divided.

We see Muslims refusing to speak to one another.

And sometimes, we see people treating fellow Muslims as enemies over matters that should never have destroyed their relationships.

My dear brothers in Islam,

This is something we need to think about seriously.

Allah says in Surah Al-Hujurat, (verse 10):

"The believers are brothers, so make peace between your two brothers"

Think about these words.

Allah does not tell us that believers should only care about one another when they agree on everything.

He tells us that we are brothers.

And He tells us to make peace.

Brotherhood is not simply something we speak about. It is something we must practise.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Think about what happens when someone in your own family is struggling.

Perhaps your brother loses his job.

Perhaps your sister becomes seriously ill.

Or perhaps your parents need help.

Most of us would feel concerned.

We would want to know what happened.

We would try to help.

Why?

Because they are family.

But Islam teaches us that our concern should extend beyond our immediate families.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, gave us a beautiful example of this.

In Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 2586a), the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, compared the believers to one body.

He explained that when one part of the body suffers, the rest of the body responds with pain and discomfort.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Think about that example.

When you hurt your hand, the rest of your body does not ignore it.

When you are sick, the whole body is affected.

And when you are in pain, you naturally want relief.

This is how Muslims should care about one another.

When a Muslim family is suffering, we should not simply look away.

When someone is struggling financially, we should help if we are able.

When someone loses a loved one, we should offer comfort.

And when we see injustice, we should care enough to stand against it through lawful and appropriate means.

My dear brothers in Islam,

But brotherhood is not only about helping people when something terrible happens.

It is also about our everyday behaviour.

How do we treat the Muslims who attend this masjid?

Do we greet them?

Do we make newcomers feel welcome?

Do we show kindness to people from different backgrounds?

Or do we only speak to those who come from the same country, speak the same language or belong to the same group as us?

Sometimes, people come to the masjid seeking peace and a sense of belonging.

They may be new Muslims.

They may have recently moved into the area.

They may not know anyone.

Imagine how much difference a simple smile, a greeting or a friendly conversation could make.

And imagine how unwelcome they may feel if everyone ignores them.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The masjid should be a place where Muslims feel welcomed, not a place where they feel judged or excluded.

We should never allow our nationality, culture or family background to make us believe that we are better than other Muslims.

Allah says in Surah Al-Hujurat, (verse 13):

"In Allah's eyes, the most honoured of you are the ones most mindful of Him"

Our worth is not measured by the colour of our skin.

Not by the language we speak.

Not by the country we were born in.

And not by how wealthy our families are.

What matters is our taqwa.

Our awareness of Allah and our obedience to Him.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Another danger to our unity is the way we sometimes speak about one another.

A disagreement begins between two people.

Someone tells a friend.

That friend tells another person.

And before long, people who were never involved in the disagreement begin taking sides.

Rumours are spread.

Angry messages are exchanged.

And a small problem becomes a major division.

Sometimes, the original disagreement could have been settled with one honest conversation.

But pride, gossip and interference make things worse.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should be people who help solve problems, not people who make them bigger.

If two Muslims are arguing, do not immediately encourage one to attack the other.

Do not spread stories you have not checked.

Do not share private messages simply to embarrass someone.

Instead, encourage fairness.

Encourage calm discussion.

And where appropriate, help them find a peaceful solution.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah says in Surah Ali Imran, (verse 103):

"Hold fast to Allah's rope all together; do not split into factions."

This is a powerful command.

Allah calls us to remain united upon His guidance.

But unity does not mean that every Muslim will agree on every matter.

There have always been differences of opinion among Muslims, including matters where qualified scholars have disagreed.

We should seek knowledge and follow what we understand to be correct according to the Quran and Sunnah.

But we must not allow every disagreement to become a reason for hatred, insults and division.

We can disagree respectfully without becoming enemies.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Of course, this does not mean that we ignore wrongdoing.

It does not mean that we support injustice simply because the person involved is Muslim.

And it does not mean that we remain silent when someone is being harmed.

True brotherhood requires fairness.

Sometimes, helping a fellow Muslim means advising him when he is doing something wrong.

Sometimes, it means stopping him from harming another person.

And sometimes, it means standing beside someone who is being treated unjustly.

But our aim should be to bring people closer to what is right, not to humiliate them or win an argument.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught us in Sahih al-Bukhari, (Hadith 2446), that a Muslim must not oppress his fellow Muslim or abandon him to oppression.

This is an important lesson.

We cannot claim to love our Muslim brothers while deliberately harming them.

We cannot speak about unity while cheating one another.

We cannot demand respect while refusing to show respect.

And we cannot claim to care about the Muslim community while ignoring people who genuinely need our help.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Sometimes, the greatest divisions happen within our own families.

Two brothers stop speaking over money.

Relatives refuse to visit each other because of an argument.

Parents and children remain upset with one another for months.

And sometimes, these disagreements continue for so many years that people can barely remember how they began.

Think about how sad this is.

People who should be supporting one another become strangers.

Children grow up hardly knowing their own relatives.

And family gatherings become divided because of arguments that nobody wants to resolve.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Do not allow pride to destroy relationships that could still be repaired.

If you have wronged someone, apologise.

If someone has wronged you, consider whether forgiveness and reconciliation are possible.

If there has been a misunderstanding, try to clear it up.

And if the disagreement is serious, seek help from someone trustworthy who can be fair to both sides.

Reconciliation does not mean accepting abuse or allowing someone to continue harming you.

But where peace can be restored safely and fairly, we should make a sincere effort.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We must also remember that unity begins with our own character.

It is easy to complain about divisions among Muslims.

It is easy to blame community leaders.

It is easy to say that people should be more united.

But what about us?

Are we helping to create unity?

Or are we contributing to the very problems we complain about?

Do we speak kindly about others?

Do we make excuses for our own mistakes while constantly criticising theirs?

And do we genuinely want good for our fellow Muslims?

My dear brothers in Islam,

Let us remember that our Muslim brotherhood is a blessing from Allah.

A blessing we should protect.

A blessing we should strengthen through our words and actions.

And a blessing we should never take for granted.

May Allah unite the hearts of the Muslims.

May Allah remove hatred, jealousy and pride from our communities.

May Allah help us treat one another with kindness, fairness and respect.

And may Allah make us among those who bring people together rather than divide them, Ameen.

End of First Khutbah — Asking for Forgiveness

Aqoolu qawlee haadhaa,
wa astaghfirullaha lee wa lakum,
wa li saa'i-ril muslimeena min kulli dhanb.
Fastaghfirooh, innahu huwal ghafoorur raheem. ▶ Audio

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا، وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ،
فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

Sit briefly between the two khutbahs.

Second Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Alhamdulillahi rabbil 'aalameen, was-salaatu was-salaamu 'alaa ashrafil anbiyaa'i wal mursaleen, nabiyyinaa Muhammadin, wa 'alaa aalihi wa sahbihi ajma'een.

▶ Audio

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ،
نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh. Ammaa ba‘d. ▶ Audio

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Second Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

Again, I advise myself and all of you to have taqwa of Allah.

We have spoken about the importance of brotherhood and unity among Muslims.

But now we need to ask ourselves:

What can we do to strengthen this brotherhood?

My dear brothers in Islam,

The first thing we can do is begin with our own behaviour.

When you come to the masjid, greet your fellow Muslims.

Make an effort to speak to someone you do not know.

If you see a new Muslim or someone who appears alone, make them feel welcome.

Sometimes, one friendly conversation can help a person feel that they truly belong to the Muslim community.

The second thing we can do is stop spreading gossip and arguments.

If someone tells you something bad about another Muslim, do not immediately believe it or repeat it.

Ask whether the information is true.

Ask whether sharing it is necessary.

And ask whether it will bring any benefit.

Not every story needs to be repeated, and not every disagreement needs an audience.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The third thing we can do is help those who are struggling.

If someone has lost his job, see whether you can help him find work.

If a family is experiencing financial hardship, offer assistance if you are able.

If someone is sick, visit them or check on their wellbeing.

And if someone is going through a difficult time, sometimes the best thing you can do is simply listen.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also teach our children the meaning of Muslim brotherhood.

Teach them to respect Muslims from different countries and backgrounds.

Teach them that no nationality or language makes one Muslim better than another.

And teach them not to insult people simply because they have a different opinion.

Most importantly, let them see these values in us.

If children hear their parents constantly criticising other communities, they may grow up carrying those same attitudes.

But if they see us treating people fairly and kindly, they will learn what brotherhood looks like.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Another important step is to repair damaged relationships.

Perhaps there is someone in your family you have not spoken to for a long time.

Perhaps you have fallen out with a friend.

Perhaps you said something hurtful and never apologised.

If it is safe and appropriate, consider reaching out.

Sometimes, one phone call or sincere apology can begin repairing a relationship that has been broken for years.

And even where a relationship cannot be fully repaired, we can still avoid hatred and injustice.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah warns us in Surah Al-Anfal, (verse 46), against quarrelling with one another because it can weaken us.

Think about how true this is.

When we spend our energy fighting one another, we have less energy to help those in need.

Less time to teach our children.

And fewer opportunities to work together for something beneficial.

A united community can achieve things that divided individuals may struggle to accomplish.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, we will stand before Allah and answer for how we treated others.

Let us not be among those who prayed together in the same masjid but allowed hatred and pride to separate their hearts.

Let us become Muslims who greet one another, help one another, forgive one another and stand together upon what is right.

May Allah bring peace to families that have been divided.

May Allah protect our communities from hatred and injustice.

May Allah help us support those who are suffering.

May Allah make our masjids places of kindness, learning and brotherhood.

And may Allah unite us upon His guidance and admit us into Jannah, Ameen.

Closing Dua — Arabic Transliteration

In-nal-laaha wa ma-laaa-e-ka-ta-hoo yu-sal-loo-na 'alan-na-bee,
yaaa ay-yu-hal-la-thee-na aa-ma-noo sal-loo 'a-lay-hi wa sal-li-moo tas-lee-maa.

▶ Audio

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.

Allah humma Sali wa salam wa barik ala Muhammadin wa ala alley Muhammad

▶ Audio

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.

Allahummaghfir lil-muslimeena wal-muslimaat, wal-mu'mineena wal-mu'minaat, al-ahyaa'i minhum wal-amwaat. **▶ Audio**

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ.

Rabbanaa zalamnaa anfusanaa, wa illam taghfir lanaa wa tarhamnaa, lanakoonanna minal-khaasireen. ▶ Audio

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ.

Rabbanaa aatinaa fid-dunyaa hasanah, wa fil-aakhirati hasanah, wa qinaa 'adhaaban-naar. ▶ Audio

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

Final Khutbah Closing — Arabic Transliteration

Ibaadallah,
innallaha ya’muru bil-‘adli
wal-ihsaani
wa eetaa’i dhil-qurbaa,
wa yanhaa ‘anil fahshaa’i wal-munkari wal-baghy.
Ya‘izukum la‘allakum tadhakkaroon. ▶ Audio

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ، وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.

Wa akhiroo da3wanal humdoolilahi rubul Alameen.
Wa Aqimis-salaah. ▶ Audio

وَآخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ.