The Responsibility of Muslim Fathers

Standard version · English Friday sermon

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 fulfilled the responsibilities He placed upon us.

Today's khutbah is about one of the greatest responsibilities Allah has given to many of us.

The responsibility of Muslim fathers.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Becoming a father is one of the great blessings of life.

We want our children to be healthy, receive a good education and have opportunities that perhaps we never had.

We work hard to provide food, clothing and a comfortable home.

But as Muslim fathers, our responsibilities go much further.

Our children need more than our money. They need our time, our guidance, our love and our example.

Allah has entrusted our children to our care.

And one day, we will answer for how we fulfilled that trust.

Allah says in Surah At-Tahrim, (verse 6):

"Believers, guard yourselves and your families against a Fire fuelled by people and stones"

Think about this command.

We understand the importance of protecting our children from physical danger.

We worry when they are sick.

We teach them to be careful.

But how much effort do we put into protecting their faith?

Do we teach them to pray?

Do we teach them about Allah?

Do we help them understand what is halal and haram?

Protecting our children's faith is just as important as protecting their physical wellbeing.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, reminded us of this responsibility.

In Sahih al-Bukhari, (Hadith 7138), the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught that every person is a guardian and responsible for those under their care.

He explained that a man is responsible for his household, while a woman also has responsibilities towards her home and children.

Raising a family is a responsibility shared by both parents.

But fathers must never use this as an excuse to leave everything to their wives.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Sometimes, a father believes that because he works hard and pays the bills, he has fulfilled his responsibilities.

He leaves home early, returns late and spends the evening exhausted.

Years pass.

His children grow older.

And one day, he realises that he hardly knows what is happening in their lives.

Providing financially is important.

But earning money is not the only responsibility of fatherhood.

A child can live in a beautiful house and still feel that their father is never there for them.

Our children need someone who will listen, encourage them and help them through difficulties.

Think about when your child was young.

Perhaps they wanted you to play with them.

Or perhaps they were excited to tell you something that happened at school.

To us, these may seem like small things.

But to a child, having their father's attention can mean so much.

Sometimes, we tell them, "Not now, I'm busy."

There will certainly be times when we are genuinely busy.

But if the answer is always "not now", eventually our children may stop asking.

And one day, we may be the ones asking for their time and attention.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Build relationships with your children while they are young.

Ask about their day.

Know who their friends are.

Take an interest in their education.

And make sure they feel comfortable speaking to you.

Sometimes, children make mistakes but become frightened to tell their fathers.

They fear being shouted at or humiliated.

So they begin hiding their problems.

They may turn to friends who give poor advice, or search online for answers.

Our children should be able to come to us when they have problems, not only when they have good news.

This does not mean approving of everything they do.

It means listening carefully and guiding them with patience.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Another important responsibility is setting the right example.

Children are constantly watching us.

They notice how we speak to their mother.

They notice whether we pray.

And they notice how we behave when things go wrong.

If we tell our children to perform salah but neglect our own prayers, what message are we giving them?

If we tell them not to lie but they hear us being dishonest, what are they learning?

And if we tell them to respect their mother but regularly speak harshly to her, what example are we setting?

Our children are learning from the things we do, even when we are not trying to teach them.

A father who wants respectful children should show respect.

A father who wants honest children should be honest.

And a father who wants his children to love Islam should demonstrate its beauty through his own behaviour.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah gives us a beautiful example through the advice of Luqman to his son.

In Surah Luqman, (verse 13), Luqman advises his son not to associate anything with Allah.

And in the same Surah, (verse 17), he tells him:

"Keep up the prayer, my son; command what is right; forbid what is wrong"

Luqman teaches his son about faith, worship and good character.

We need to make time for these conversations with our children.

Teach them why we pray.

Teach them about Allah's mercy.

And help them understand why certain actions are forbidden.

Encourage them to ask questions about Islam.

If they ask something we do not know, there is no shame in seeking the answer.

A father does not need to know everything, but he should help his children find what is right.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We must also be careful about how we discipline our children.

There is a difference between correcting bad behaviour and making a child feel worthless.

Constant shouting, insults and humiliation can damage the relationship between a father and his children.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, showed affection towards children.

In Sahih al-Bukhari, (Hadith 5997), the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, kissed his grandson Al-Hasan.

A man who witnessed this said that he had ten children but had never kissed any of them.

The Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, replied:

"Whoever is not merciful to others will not be treated mercifully."

My dear brothers in Islam,

Showing love to our children does not make us weak.

Hugging them does not reduce our authority.

We can be firm fathers while still being loving and gentle.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Our children also face challenges through social media, online entertainment and influences we may not fully understand.

Take an interest in what younger children are watching.

Set suitable boundaries.

And speak openly about the dangers they may face.

But remember that simply taking away a phone will not teach a child how to make good decisions.

They need guidance and understanding.

My dear brothers in Islam,

There is one more responsibility we must never overlook.

The way we treat the mother of our children.

A father may teach his children about respect.

But if he constantly insults their mother or treats her unfairly, his actions contradict his words.

Our children need to see kindness and respect between their parents.

And where parents are separated, children should still be protected from adult conflicts.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Fatherhood is not always easy.

There will be difficult days, financial pressures and disagreements.

We cannot control every decision our children make, especially as they grow older.

Guidance ultimately comes from Allah.

But we can fulfil our responsibilities through teaching, supporting and making dua for them.

One day, our children will grow up.

And the opportunities we had to shape their early lives will be gone.

Let us not waste the time Allah has given us.

May Allah forgive our shortcomings as fathers.

May Allah guide our sons and daughters and protect their iman.

And may Allah make our children a source of happiness in this world and the Hereafter, 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 إِلَٰهَ 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 responsibility of Muslim fathers.

But now we need to ask ourselves:

What can we begin doing differently?

My dear brothers in Islam,

The first thing we can do is make more time for our children.

Put your phone aside.

Ask how their day went.

Listen to what they have to say.

And let them know that their concerns matter to you.

Sometimes, a short conversation today can prevent a much bigger problem tomorrow.

The second thing we should do is become better examples.

If we want our children to pray, let them see us praying.

If we want them to speak respectfully, let them hear us speaking respectfully.

And if we want them to be honest, let them see us telling the truth.

The example we set today may remain with our children long after we are gone.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The third thing we should do is show affection and appreciation.

Tell your children that you love them.

Encourage them when they make an effort.

And avoid constantly comparing them to their brothers, sisters or other children.

Every child is different.

Guide them according to their needs rather than making them feel they will never be good enough.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also learn to apologise to our children when we are wrong.

Sometimes, a father becomes angry and says something hurtful.

Later, he realises he went too far.

But pride prevents him from admitting his mistake.

Being a father does not mean we are always right.

If you have treated your child unfairly, apologise.

It teaches honesty, humility and good character.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Our responsibilities also change as our children grow older.

A young child needs protection and supervision.

A teenager needs guidance and reasonable boundaries.

And an adult child still benefits from advice and encouragement.

But we should respect their growing independence.

Our aim is to raise responsible Muslims who can make good decisions even when we are not there.

My dear brothers in Islam,

For fathers whose children have moved away from Islam, do not lose hope.

Continue making dua.

Keep the door of communication open.

And let your good character remind them of the beauty of Islam.

We cannot force guidance into another person's heart.

But we can continue making sincere efforts.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, every father will stand before Allah and answer for how he fulfilled his responsibilities.

Let us make sure we did more than provide money and possessions.

Let us make sure we tried to provide guidance, kindness, love and a good example.

Because the greatest gift a father can leave his children is not simply wealth, but the faith and good character he helped them develop.

May Allah forgive our shortcomings as fathers.

May Allah strengthen the relationships between parents and children.

May Allah protect our sons and daughters from the trials of this world.

And may Allah reunite us with our families in 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.