The Importance of the Quran in Our Lives

15-minute standard · Free English Friday sermon

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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 إِلَٰهَ 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 followed the guidance He gave us.

Today's khutbah is about one of the greatest blessings Allah has given mankind.

A blessing that guides us towards what is right, teaches us how to live and shows us the path to Jannah.

The Holy Quran.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Almost every Muslim home has a copy of the Quran.

Some families have several copies.

We keep them on shelves, in cupboards and beside our beds.

We have Quran applications on our phones.

And we can listen to beautiful recitations whenever we want.

But there is an important question we should ask ourselves.

How much time do we actually spend reading and understanding the Quran?

Sometimes, we go through an entire day without opening it.

Days become weeks.

And for some people, months pass without reading even a few verses.

Yet we always seem to find time for other things.

We have time for our phones.

Time for television.

And time for social media.

But when it comes to the Quran, we often say that we are too busy.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah did not reveal the Quran simply so that we could keep it in our homes.

He revealed it to guide us.

In Surah Al-Isra, (verse 9), Allah tells us that the Quran guides people towards what is most upright and gives good news to believers who perform righteous deeds.

Think about this.

The Quran teaches us how to worship Allah.

How to treat our parents.

How to behave towards our spouses and children.

How to deal honestly with others.

And how to prepare for the Hereafter.

Its guidance is relevant to our everyday lives.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Sometimes, a person is facing problems in his marriage.

He is struggling to control his anger.

Or he feels that his life has no direction.

He searches everywhere for advice.

He watches videos and listens to different people.

There is nothing wrong with seeking useful advice.

But how often do we also turn to the Quran for guidance?

The Quran should be among the first places we turn when we want to understand how Allah expects us to live.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught us the importance of learning the Quran.

In Sahih al-Bukhari, (Hadith 5027), the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, said:

“The best among you are those who learn the Quran and teach it.”

What a beautiful reminder.

Learning the Quran is not something reserved only for scholars or people who speak Arabic fluently.

Every Muslim should make an effort to develop a relationship with it.

Some people are able to memorise large portions.

Others may struggle to read even a few lines.

But everyone can begin according to their ability.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Sometimes, people avoid reading the Quran because they are embarrassed about their Arabic.

They struggle with pronunciation.

They read slowly.

Or they worry about making mistakes.

But this should never stop someone from trying.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught us in Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 798a), that a person who recites the Quran with difficulty, struggling while reading it, receives two rewards.

Think about that.

A person may feel embarrassed because they are struggling.

But Allah knows the effort they are making.

Do not allow difficulty with Arabic to become a reason for abandoning the Quran.

Begin with what you can manage.

Learn a little at a time.

And continue improving.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We must also remember that reading the Quran is only part of our responsibility.

We should make an effort to understand what we are reading.

A person may recite a passage beautifully but have no understanding of its meaning.

Recitation is an important act of worship.

But we should also try to understand what Allah is teaching us.

In Surah Muhammad, (verse 24), Allah asks:

“Will they not contemplate the Quran?”

This is an important question.

Allah is calling people to reflect upon His words.

To think about their meaning.

And to recognise the guidance they contain.

My dear brothers in Islam,

If Arabic is not your first language, read a reliable translation alongside the Arabic.

When you come across something you do not understand, seek an explanation from a qualified scholar or a reliable source.

Do not be ashamed to ask questions.

Even learning the meaning of a few verses can make a difference in how we live.

My dear brothers in Islam,

There is another important matter we must consider.

Are we actually following the Quran's teachings?

Imagine someone who regularly recites verses about honesty.

But when he goes to work, he cheats his customers.

Someone who reads about respecting parents but speaks harshly to his mother and father.

Or someone who recites verses about kindness but constantly insults his wife and children.

My dear brothers in Islam,

What benefit are we taking from these reminders if we deliberately ignore them?

The Quran should influence our character.

It should encourage us to become more honest.

More patient.

More forgiving.

And more careful about our relationship with Allah.

We will never become perfect.

But we should continually make an effort to improve.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also be concerned about the relationship our children have with the Quran.

Many parents spend large amounts of money on their children's education.

They want them to succeed at school and have good careers.

These are understandable goals.

But what about their Islamic education?

Do our children know how to read the Quran?

Do they understand the importance of salah?

And do they know why the Quran should guide their lives?

My dear brothers in Islam,

A good education should prepare our children for this world without causing them to forget the Hereafter.

We should encourage them to learn the Quran while they are young.

But we should also make that experience positive.

Do not turn every Quran lesson into an argument.

Do not constantly compare one child with another.

And do not humiliate a child who struggles with reading.

Encourage their efforts.

Praise their progress.

And help them develop love and respect for the words of Allah.

Most importantly, let them see us reading the Quran ourselves.

My dear brothers in Islam,

There is also a serious warning we should remember.

In Surah Al-Furqan, (verse 30), Allah tells us that the Messenger, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, will say:

“Lord, my people treat this Quran as something to be shunned”

Think carefully about this warning.

We should never become people who possess the Quran but neglect its guidance.

People who respect its physical pages but rarely make time to read them.

Or people who know what Allah has commanded but deliberately turn away.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The Quran is a blessing we should appreciate while we still have time.

One day, our lives will come to an end.

We will no longer have the opportunity to read another verse or seek further knowledge.

So let us make the effort today.

May Allah make the Quran a source of guidance in our lives.

May Allah help us read, understand and follow its teachings.

May Allah place love for the Quran in the hearts of our children.

And may Allah make us among those who live by His guidance and enter Jannah, 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 importance of the Quran and the responsibility we have to follow its guidance.

But now we need to ask ourselves:

How can we make the Quran a greater part of our everyday lives?

My dear brothers in Islam,

The first thing we can do is make time to read it regularly.

Do not wait until Ramadan.

Do not wait until you become older.

And do not wait until you have finished every other responsibility.

Begin today.

Even if you can only read a few verses, make it a regular habit.

A small amount read consistently is better than constantly delaying until we have more time.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The second thing we should do is learn the meaning of what we read.

If you read Arabic but do not understand it, spend some time reading a reliable English translation.

Think about the lessons.

Ask yourself how they apply to your life.

And make a sincere effort to follow what you have learned.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The third thing we can do is bring the Quran into our family lives.

Read with your children.

Encourage them to learn short Surahs.

Explain the lessons in words they can understand.

And make Quran learning something they look forward to rather than something they fear.

Remember that children learn from our example.

If they regularly see us reading the Quran, they are more likely to understand its importance.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also make better use of the technology available to us.

Today, we can listen to Quran recitations on our phones.

We can read translations and access explanations that help us understand the verses.

Instead of spending every spare moment watching unnecessary videos, use some of that time to listen to or learn the Quran.

My dear brothers in Islam,

There is another beautiful reason to remain connected to the Quran.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught us in Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 804a), that the Quran will come on the Day of Resurrection as an intercessor for those devoted to its recitation.

Think about that.

The Quran we read during our lives can become a source of benefit when we desperately need Allah's mercy.

What greater encouragement do we need to develop a lasting relationship with the Quran?

My dear brothers in Islam,

Finally, remember that our relationship with the Quran should continue throughout our lives.

Whether we are young or old.

Whether we have memorised many Surahs or only a few.

And whether we read fluently or still struggle.

There is always more to learn.

So let us leave this masjid today with a sincere intention.

To read the Quran more regularly.

To understand its guidance.

To teach it to our families.

And most importantly, to put its teachings into practice.

Let the Quran be more than a book on our shelves. Let it become a guide for the way we live.

May Allah fill our hearts with love for the Quran.

May Allah make its recitation easy for those who struggle.

May Allah guide our children through its teachings.

May Allah forgive us for the times we have neglected His Book.

And may Allah make the Quran a source of guidance, mercy and reward for us in this world and the Hereafter, 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.