

<u>First khutbah</u>

My brothers and sisters, all salvation is in following the Qur'an and in following the Sunnah with the understanding of the Salaf us Salih. So for us as Muslims, education, teaching and learning, growing together is something which is very important. So for the very first command that was given to the Messenger of Allah مَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was:

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

"Recite in the name of your Lord who created" al-`Alaq (The Clot, Read) 96:1

Allah سُبْحَانَهُ connects His mercy to knowledge He says سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى Allah

ٱلرَّحْمَانُ ١

"The Most Merciful" ar-Rahman (The Beneficent, The Mercy Giving, The Merciful) 55:1



عَلَّمَ ٱلْقُرْءَانَ ٢

"Taught the Qur'an" ar-Rahman (The Beneficent, The Mercy Giving, The Merciful) 55:2

Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى connects learning and education into His generosity. Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى says:

اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الأَكْرَمُ

"Recite, and your Lord is the most Generous" al-`Alaq (The Clot, Read) 96:3al-`Alaq (The Clot, Read) 96:3

My brothers and sisters as our children prepare to go back to schools and colleges, we have to remind ourselves of the importance of knowledge and how knowledge is important for our stability, because there is no nation that has ever been stable whilst its followers will remain ignorant. Ibn Qayyim رحمه الله says:

وإذا ظهر العلمُ

"If knowledge becomes apparent"



This is because my brothers and sisters without knowledge, there is no stability and if there is no stability there is no path. No path for us and no path for our children, and the doors for corruption remain open.



My brother and sister's, knowledge is of two types, beneficial knowledge and harmful knowledge and that which is beneficial is also of two types, that which is fard al ayn, something that every single Muslim must know, the Prophet مَنَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said in a hadith which has been reported by Ibn Majah and classed as saheeh by al - Albani :

طَلَبُ العِلْمِ فَرِيْضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ

"Seeking knowledge is of something an act of worship that every single Muslim must do"

Imam Ahmad رحمه الله said in explanation:

يَجِبُ عَلَيْهِ أَنْ يَطْلُبَ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ مَا يَقُومُ بِهِ دِينُهُ

"It is a must for a person to seek knowledge, enough for him to establish his religion"

So ourselves, my brothers and sisters and our children must be taught tawheed. There are no excuses in this, because this is needed for our religion. We must learn the ahkam of tahara. We must learn the ahkam of salat. Maybe a person is employed, so he has to learn the ahkam of trade and employment, anything which is necessary for a person to establish his religion. The Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ has said in this hadith, "It is wajib upon every single one of us".



But, as for the second type of beneficial knowledge, this is worldly knowledge, academic knowledge and this will help a person establish his dunya. It says here in al-Mawsoo'ah al-Fiqhiyyah, "Some knowledge is an obligation for the community", meaning someone or a group of people within the community should learn this knowledge but not necessarily the whole community; this is because every single community needs an expert in different fields. Some people will benefit and learn from medicine and they will be able to spread that knowledge to others, others from accounting, others from language and so on.

In fact my brother and sisters, we live a time of fitnah and increasing sin. Our children are being taught things about their religion and about their dunya that our forefathers have never heard before. So then it becomes wajib upon every single one of us to invest in them and increasing creating opportunities for them. It is wajib upon us to combat the fitnah by learning for ourselves and teaching our children and facilitating education, because this is the only way that you can repel the fitnah. Ibn Qayyim cappairs:

نُوّاب إبليس في الأرض،

"The workers of Iblees on earth, the workers of Iblees on earth"

وهم الذين يُثبطون الناس عن طلب العلم والتفقُّه في الدِّين

"The workers of Iblees on earth are those who put people off from seeking knowledge and understanding their religion"

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فهؤلاء

"So he says, those people who deter people from beneficial knowledge"

أضرٌّ عليهم من شياطين الجن،

"These are human beings which are deterring one another from education" they are more harmful than the Shayateen that you found from the Jinn"

فإنهم يَحولون بين القلوب وبين هُدي الله

"This is because, these Shayateen from man are those who turn away the hearts from the guidance of Allah سُبُحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى by putting an obstruction towards education and beneficial knowledge"

My brother and sister's, knowledge is a protection. Knowledge is an elevation. Knowledge makes your name permanent and your footsteps remembered. Allah سُبُحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى says in the Qur'an:



إِنَّا نَحْنُ نُحْيِي الْمَوْتَى وَنَكْتُبُ مَا قَدَّمُوا وَآثَارَهُمْ وَكُلَّ شَيْءٍ أَحْصَيْنًاهُ فِي إِمَامٍ مُبِينٍ

"Indeed, it is We who bring the dead to life and record what they have put forth and what they left behind, and all things We have enumerated in a clear register" Ya Sin (Ya Sin,

Ya-Seen) 36:12

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Second khutbah

My brothers and sisters once we realise the importance of education, a common mistake that is made upon ourselves and on our children is exceeding expectations without being realistic. Ibn Qayyim رحمه الله says:

ومما ينبغي أن يعتمد عليه

"From the things that the parent must pay attention to"

حال الصبى وما هو مستعد له من الأعمال

"The ability of the child and what he is able to do and what he has interests in"

ومهيًّا له منها ،

"And what becomes easy for him"



فيعلم أنه مخلوق له

"The parent must then realise that this child has been created with certain qualities that he possesses, so it is upon the parent to nurture those qualities that Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has placed upon that child"

فلا يحمله على غيره ،

"So encouraging the child or forcing the child even to do something else, is incorrect"

My brothers and sisters, not all of us are equal in our abilities. Imam Malik رحمه الله said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَسَّمَ الأَعْمَالَ كَمَا قَسَّمَ الأَرْزَاقَ

"Allah سُبُحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has divided and measured and given you a portion of actions, just like He has given you your rizq and your provisions"

So it could be that a person is really good with one thing, but he might not be good with anything else. Imam Malik رحمه الله goes on to say:



وقد رضيت بما فُتح لي فيه

"And I am happy with what Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has made easy for me"

وَمَا أَظُنُّ مَا أَنَا فِيهِ بِدُونِ مَا أَنْتَ فِيهِ

"But I do not think that I am better than you, because I am in a position which is not yours, this is because Allah سُبُحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has made easy for me certain things, which He hasn't made for you"

This is because Imam Malik رحمه الله realized that we all have our strengths and nobody should look down upon another just because they are not able to do something that you probably would expect them to do. Imam as Shafi'i رحمه الله admitting his inferiority in hadith to Imam Ahmad رحمه الله, Imam as Shafi'i برحمه الله says:

"If you know something of hadith then teach me", the teacher is saying to the student, because:

أنتم أعلم بالأخبار الصِّحَاحِ منَّا

"This is because you are more knowledgeable in hadith than myself"



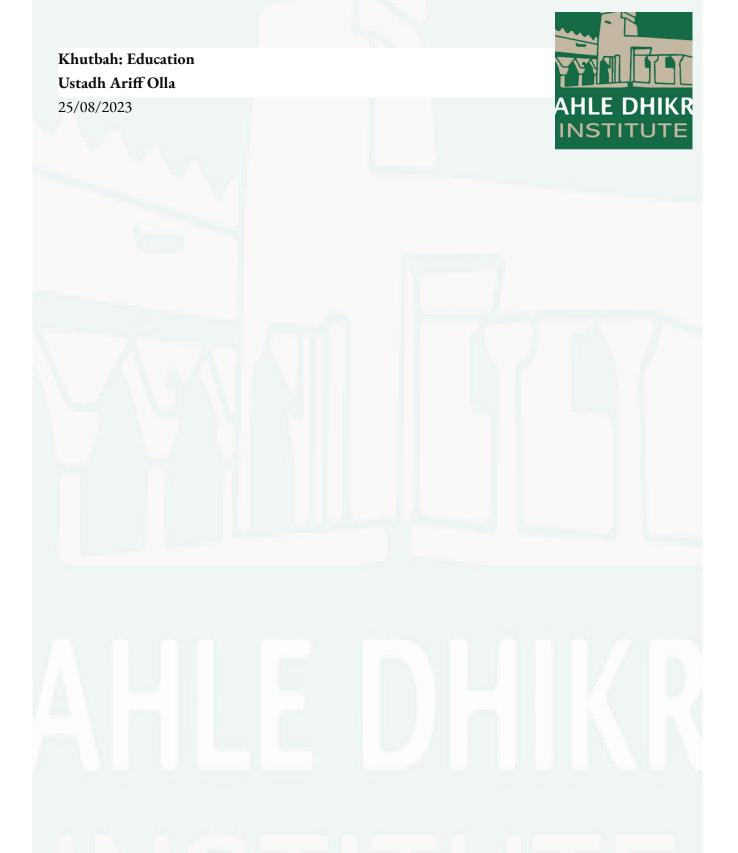
My brothers and sisters what would happen if we all had the same abilities and the same qualities, education will be lost if we were all strict and if we were all shy, then efforts would be lost, rather our differences and our capabilities complete one another and this is something that our religion teaches us also to pay attention.

My brothers and sisters, all actions are preceded by knowledge. All actions are preceded by knowledge, if a person wants the akhirah, he needs knowledge and if a person wants a dunya which is beneficial for him, then he needs knowledge.

My brother and sister Allah سَنُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has commanded that we send peace and blessings upon the Messenger of Allah مَنَلَى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ he was the most knowledgeable of us and he was our role model and there was none better and more sincere than him. Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى says:

إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ وَمَلَٰئِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى ٱلنَّبِيَّ ۚ يَأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ٥٦

"Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace" al-Ahzab (The Clans, The Coalition, The Combined Forces, The Allies) 33:56



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"One who guides to something good has a reward similar to that of its doer"- Saheeh Muslim vol.3, no.4665.