Raising Children in Today’s World

Standard khutbah · With Arabic transliteration and linked audio

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 إِلَهَ 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 lived our lives.

Today's khutbah is about one of the greatest blessings Allah has given us, but also one of our greatest responsibilities.

Our children.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We live in a world that is changing very quickly.

Our children are growing up surrounded by things that many of us never experienced when we were young.

They have mobile phones, social media, online games, videos and access to almost anything through the internet.

Some of these things can be useful.

They can help our children learn, communicate and develop new skills.

But they can also expose them to things that harm their faith, their character and their understanding of right and wrong.

And sometimes, parents have no idea what their children are seeing.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah has placed our children in our care.

They are not simply people we feed, clothe and send to school.

They are a responsibility that Allah has entrusted to us.

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.

Allah tells us to protect ourselves and our families.

Of course, we want to protect our children from danger.

We teach them to look before crossing the road.

We teach them not to speak to strangers.

We worry when they are sick or when they come home late.

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

Do we worry when they begin missing their salah?

Do we worry about the people influencing them?

Do we know what they are watching on their phones?

And do we take the time to teach them why Islam matters?

My dear brothers in Islam,

We cannot leave our children's Islamic education to chance.

We cannot simply hope that they will grow up to become good Muslims without making an effort to guide them.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, explained our responsibility in Sahih al-Bukhari, (Hadith 7138).

He said:

"Everyone of you is a guardian and is responsible for his charges"

The Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, then explained that a man is responsible for his household and a woman is responsible for her home and children.

This responsibility belongs to both parents.

We will be asked about how we cared for the children Allah placed in our lives.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One of the most important ways we teach our children is through our own example.

Children watch what we do.

They listen to how we speak.

They notice how we treat our parents, our spouses and other people.

If we tell our children to pray, but they regularly see us neglecting our salah, what message are we giving them?

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

If we tell them to respect others, but they hear us shouting and insulting people at home, what kind of example are we setting?

Our actions often teach our children more than our words.

This does not mean parents must be perfect.

None of us is perfect.

But when we make mistakes, we should admit them.

We should apologise when we are wrong.

And we should show our children what it means to seek Allah's forgiveness and try to become better.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We must also understand that raising children is not only about giving them rules.

It is about helping them love Allah.

We want our children to understand why we pray.

Why we fast.

Why we read the Quran.

And why we avoid things that Allah has forbidden.

If children only hear the words "haram" and "don't do that", without ever understanding the reasons behind our guidance, they may begin to see Islam as nothing but restrictions.

We should teach them about Allah's mercy.

Teach them about Jannah.

Teach them about the beautiful character of the Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam.

And help them understand that Islam is a blessing, not a punishment.

Allah tells us in Surah Luqman, (verse 17), about the advice Luqman gave to his son:

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

Notice that Luqman is speaking directly to his son.

He is guiding him.

He is teaching him what matters.

My dear brothers in Islam,

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

And this brings us to another important matter.

We must learn to listen to our children.

Sometimes, a child wants to tell us about something that happened at school.

Or something a friend said.

Or a problem they are having.

But we are busy.

We are looking at our phones.

Or we tell them to stop bothering us.

And slowly, that child may stop coming to us.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Take time to listen to what your children have to say.

Let them speak without always interrupting or judging them.

Make them feel heard, loved and understood.

When children feel comfortable speaking to their parents, they are more likely to come to them when they have problems.

But if they are frightened of our reaction, they may begin hiding things from us.

And they may turn to other people for advice.

People who may not have their best interests at heart.

This does not mean we agree with everything our children say.

It means we listen first, understand the problem and then guide them with patience.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Another challenge facing our families today is the amount of time spent on screens.

It is not unusual for families to sit together in the same room while everyone is looking at a different device.

The father is on his phone.

The mother is on hers.

The children are watching videos or playing games.

Everyone is physically together, but hardly anyone is speaking.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should ask ourselves a simple question.

Are we giving our children our time, or are we only giving them things?

Buying children expensive gifts is not the same as spending time with them.

A new phone cannot replace a father's attention.

And expensive clothes cannot replace a mother's love.

Our children need guidance.

They need affection.

They need someone who will listen to them.

And they need parents who are involved in their lives.

Set reasonable limits on screen time.

Know what younger children are watching.

Encourage activities that are good for them.

And most importantly, lead by example.

We cannot complain that our children are always on their phones if we ourselves cannot put ours down.

My dear brothers in Islam,

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

There is a difference between teaching a child that something is wrong and making that child feel worthless.

Calling a child stupid, useless or a failure can leave deep wounds.

Children need correction, but they also need encouragement.

They need to know that making a mistake does not mean they have lost their parents' love.

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

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

A man who saw 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 is not a sign of weakness.

Being kind does not mean we have no rules.

We can be firm when necessary while still being patient, fair and loving.

And we should never forget to make dua for our children.

We can teach them, guide them and set a good example.

But ultimately, guidance comes from Allah.

In Surah Al-Furqan, (verse 74), Allah teaches us a beautiful supplication:

"Our Lord, give us joy in our spouses and offspring."

My dear brothers in Islam,

Let us remember that our children will not remain young forever.

One day, they will grow up.

They will make their own decisions.

They will face challenges without us beside them.

And we want the lessons we taught them to remain in their hearts long after they leave our homes.

May Allah guide our children and protect their iman.

May Allah help us become better parents.

May Allah make our homes places of love, salah and remembrance of Him.

And may Allah make our children a source of happiness for us in this world and the Hereafter, Ameen.

Seeking 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 raising our children in today's world.

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 our homes places where Allah is remembered.

Let our children see us praying.

Encourage them to pray with us.

Read some Quran together, even if it is only for a few minutes.

And talk about Islam as part of everyday life, not only when someone does something wrong.

The second thing we can do is spend more time with our children.

Put the phone down.

Sit with them.

Ask how their day went.

Listen to their answers.

And show them that their concerns are important to us.

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

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also remember that every child is different.

Some children learn quickly.

Others need more time.

Some are confident.

Others are quiet or shy.

We should not constantly compare one child with another.

And we should never make a child feel that they are less loved because they struggle with something.

Guide each child according to their needs.

Encourage their strengths.

Help them with their weaknesses.

And be patient with their progress.

My dear brothers in Islam,

As our children grow older, they will begin asking questions.

Sometimes those questions may be about Islam.

Sometimes they may be about things they have seen online.

And sometimes they may ask questions that make us uncomfortable.

Do not immediately become angry.

Listen carefully.

If you know the answer, explain it clearly.

And if you do not know, seek knowledge from someone qualified.

We want our children to feel comfortable asking us questions rather than searching for answers from people who may mislead them.

My dear brothers in Islam,

For those whose children have already grown up and moved away from Islam, do not lose hope.

Continue making dua for them.

Keep the door of communication open.

Give advice with wisdom.

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

Guidance is in the hands of Allah.

Our responsibility is to make a sincere effort.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, we will stand before Allah and answer for how we fulfilled our responsibilities.

Let us make sure we did more than provide food, clothing and a place to live.

Let us try to raise children who know Allah, love their religion, respect others and understand the difference between right and wrong.

And let us begin by becoming the example we want our children to follow.

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

May Allah guide those who have moved away from Him.

May Allah grant patience and wisdom to every parent.

May Allah fill our homes with love, mercy and strong iman.

And may Allah reunite us with our families in Jannah, Ameen.

Closing duas

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 closing

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.