

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ



Friday Sermon

HADHRAT MUHYI-UD-DIN AL-
KHALIFATULLAH

Munir Ahmad Azim

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After greeting all his disciples (and all Muslims) worldwide with the greeting of peace Hadhrat Khalifatullah (atba) read the Tashahhud, Ta'uz, Surah Al

Fatiha, and then he delivered his sermon on: **"The Spiritual Value of Jumu'ah"**.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ
وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Yaaa-'ayyuhal-laziina 'aamanuuu 'izaa nuudiya lis-Salati miyy-Yawmil-JUMU'ATI
fas-'aw 'ilaa Zikrillaahi wa zarul-bay: zaalikum khayrul-lakum 'in-kuntum ta'-
lamuun!

"O you who believe! When the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday (the Day of Assembly), hasten earnestly to the Remembrance of Allah, and leave off business (and traffic): That is best for you if you but knew!" (Al-Jumu'ah 62: 10).

I want to take the opportunity of today's Friday sermon to answer some questions about **FRIDAY (Jumu'ah)**.

What is the spiritual value of FRIDAY (Jumu'ah) in Islam? First, this day is mentioned in the Holy Quran: **"O you who believe! When the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday (the Day of Assembly), hasten earnestly to the Remembrance of Allah, and leave off business (and traffic): That is best for you if you but knew!"** (Al-Jumu'ah 62: 10).

The Muslims (men and women) are ordered to close shops and stores, to stop any transaction or activity and to rush to the mosque to complete the *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah* (Friday Prayer) when the call of the Friday Prayer is given. In full, this includes the sermon pronounced by the Imam before the *Salat* itself. This sermon is part of the *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah*.

More blessings are bestowed on believers on Friday (*Jumu'ah*) and more value is given to *Jumu'ah* by Allah the Exalted Who created the day and the night in perfect order. According to Ibn Majah and Ahmad, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said that Friday is the most prominent (or leader) of days, the most important to (and most honoured in the sight of) Allah the Exalted. It is on Friday that Allah (swt) grants the requests of His worshiper, whatever they may be, so long as this request is not unlawful. The Last Hour shall be established on a Friday.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SALAT

Rush to the prayer as soon as you hear the *Azaan* of the *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah*. Leave everything else. Why this urgency? What is special about this *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah*? Does it not have the same importance as any other *Salat*? **No!** Because *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah* has a different purpose: To gather the Muslims, to make them sit in order, in rank in the front rows to listen to the *Khutba* (sermon) which includes above all, messages addressed to the *Ummah* on matters that closely concerns it.

The purpose of *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah*, of this prayer is as follows: Gather the adults of an agglomeration - united - in one place, at the beginning of each week, to learn about the lessons learned from the divine commandments and the new decisions announced by the Imam - and especially in this present century a Caliph-Messenger of Allah who gives you messages to guide you in the right way and to give you God's messages/ instructions - concerning their spiritual and temporal

life and listen to the exhortations and warnings to fulfill their duties and to fulfill them with zeal during the coming week. This is what is happening in some mosques around the world.

In the sermon of the day, the leader of the prayer (*Imam*) chooses a theme about society or the *Ummah* and develops it so that the congregation can understand it. This is very much appreciated by the *Mussallis* (worshippers).

To demonstrate the spiritual value of Friday, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said that anyone who goes to the mosque for *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah* in the first hour is as if he has sacrificed a camel. By the first hour, this means as soon as the *Azan* (Call for prayer) is pronounced. He who goes thereto in the second hour is as if he has sacrificed a cow. The one who goes at the third hour, it's as if he has presented a horned ram. And the one who goes there at the fourth hour is as if he has presented a hen. He who goes there at the fifth hour is as if he has presented an egg. When the Imam goes to deliver his sermon, the angels are still there to listen to the reminder - that is, the *Khutba*. (Bukhari).

Anas (ra) reports that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said about the importance of Friday: *"The angel Gabriel came to see me holding a white mirror in his hand and said: 'Allah (the Exalted) presents it to you that it may be an Eid for you and your people after you.'* The Holy Prophet (pbuh): *"What is there for us in it?"* He said: *"In it is Good for you! In it there is an hour if one supplicates to his lord for good that has been allotted to him, he will receive it, or will have a better share in the Hereafter. If he asks for the protection of Allah of a predestined evil, Allah will surely protect him. It is the Leader of all the days with us."*

"Why is it so?", asked the Holy Prophet (pbuh), to which the angel Gabriel (as) replied: *"Your heavenly Lord has taken a valley in paradise more fragrant than musk. On the day of Friday, He descends from His throne and appears to the inhabitants of Paradise where they look at His affable face."*

And he said, *"The brightest day is Jumu'ah. Adam (as) was born on a Friday. He entered paradise on a Friday. He was brought to earth on a Friday, he was forgiven on a Friday. He died on a Friday. The last judgment will be on a Friday ..."*

Friday (*Jumu'ah*) is therefore an extraordinary day because the angels call it so. According to the words of the angel Gabriel to the Holy Prophet Muhammad

(pbuh), Friday is the day when the believers could see the countenance of Allah the Exalted in Paradise. *Alhamdulillah*.

To ponder upon: One of the special features of *Jumu'ah* and not the least is that it includes a time when invocations are granted. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said on this subject: *"There is in this day a moment during which if a Muslim is in worship (Ibadah) and asks something to Allah the Exalted, He will grant him his request."* (Bukhari).

This moment has not been precisely determined, as is the case with the Night of *Qadr* (Decree) during the month of Ramadan. But according to a Hadith of Muslim, it is written that the explanations of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) leads us to understand that this precise time could be the moment between the two parts of the Friday Sermon during which the Imam sits on the pulpit (*mimbar*). But, beware, there is no unanimity on this despite the many researches done. Even the explanations sought from certain persons who know the teachings of Islam do not agree. Another important point about Friday: The Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) avoided fasting that day, preferring to do it on Thursdays. In doing so, he spent most of the time of Friday at the mosque in *Ibadat*.

Come early to the mosque, sit in the front ranks, concentrate yourselves in *Zikrullah*, *Darood Shareef*, read the Holy Quran (preferring to read the Surah Al-Kahf before *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah*), listen carefully and piously the sermon until the time of *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah*; this is the duty of each one of you of the *Ummah*.

A Hadith from Bukhari records the presence of angels at the gates of the mosque on Friday. The angels stand before the doors of the mosques, noting down in their books the arrival of the believers in order; when the Imam sits to begin the sermon, they fold their rolls and come running to get a place in the first rows to listen to the sermon of the Imam.

An Anecdote: A man came to the congregation on a Friday during the sermon of the Holy Prophet (pbuh). The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said to him, *"Sit down quickly. You're disturbing others who are came before you ..."*

Is there a weekday explicitly mentioned in the Holy Qur'an? Yes, only one: **FRIDAY** or **AL-JUMU'AH**, mentioned in Chapter 62 (*Al-Jumu'ah*) with 11 verses (except for the first verse which is '*Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim*').

So before closing this sermon, I give you these advices:

Do not waste your time especially on Fridays, going to the mosques at the last moment, almost at a time when the faithful are lining up for *Salat*. Do not waste your time staying in the back near the *Wuzu Khana* (the ablution corner) chatting with friends, especially during the sermon. Must I repeat that the *Khutba Jumu'ah* is part of the *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah*? Do not sleep during the sermon. There are people who sit leaning against the walls during the sermon, and that makes them drift into sleep, where they even come to the stage of dreaming and snoring. As a result, they do not benefit from Friday sermon which is full of grace and blessing. When they sleep, they lose the essence of *Jumu'ah* and do not know what has been said in the *Khutba*. Whether you understand the sermon or not (no matter what language it is announced), you must remain silent out of respect for these pious words.

THE DYNAMIC TEAM OF JAMAAT UL SAHIH AL ISLAM INTERNATIONAL

Alhamdulillah, many people go to our website to listen to or read my sermons which are also translated into several languages, and many people also visit the blog of the Jamaat Ul Sahih Al Islam which is administered by Fazil Jamal Sahib to read these sermons and other articles, *Alhamdulillah*. The sermons in the Malayalam language are prepared by the Amir Sahib of South Kerala, assisted by his daughter Fauzia Sahiba and the others. Those of Tamil are prepared by Azim Ahmad Sahib, Salim Sahib and the others, *Alhamdulillah*. *Insha-Allah*, besides the sermons in Creole, English, French, Malayalam and Tamil, there will be translation of sermons into Hindi, Urdu, Arabic and other languages, *Insha-Allah*.

ADVICES TO HOW TO SPEND ONE'S TIME ON FRIDAY

So spend most of this half-day (or the remaining half) in *Ibadat* in mosques in several forms. Keep quiet by religiously listening to the *Khutba*. Participate in the *Salat-ul-Jumu'ah* with piety. Seek the protection of Allah the Exalted with *Zikr*, *Darood* and *Duahs*. A profitable work for the faith of the believer and rewarded here on earth but much more so in the afterlife. Who knows, paradise may have been reserved for him. *Insha-Allah*.

Recommendation of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh): Read the *Darood* daily at any time, double this reading from the night of Thursday (the beginning of *Jumu'ah* after the sunset of Thursday) and that during the whole day of Friday as much as you can. Its benefit is invaluable. According to a Hadith, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) recommends to his *Ummah* to send him the double, the triple or as much as one can of *Darood* on Friday.

May each one of us from the *Ummah* ask Allah the Exalted to direct our heart towards the good and to count us among the number of those who go week after week to the mosques, on Fridays, to accomplish the *Salat* and also to obtain the various gifts given by Allah the Exalted to the believers who come to the mosques for *Jumu'ah*. *Ameen, Summa Ameen, Ya Rabbul Aalameen.*