

Rank of Jumu'ah

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Rank of *Jumu'ah*

وَصَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَحْمَدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَأَفْضَلُ الصَّلَاةِ
وَأَتَمُّ التَّسْلِيمِ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَرَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَىٰ عَنِ السَّادَاتِ
التَّابِعِينَ، وَالْعُلَمَاءِ الْعَامِلِينَ، وَالْأئِمَّةِ الْأَرْبَعَةِ الْمُجْتَهِدِينَ، وَمَقَلِّدِيهِمْ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. آمِينَ:

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon our master Muhammad, his Family and Companions. All praises are due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, and the best prayers (*afdalul as-salaati*) and most abundant peace (*attamu at-tasleemi*) be upon Muhammad our master (*sayyidina*) Muhammad, upon his family (*alihi*), and Companions (*sahbihi*), all of them (*ajma'een*). May Allah, the Most High, be pleased with the masters (*as-saadaati*) of the *Taabi'een* and the right-acting '*ulamaa*' and the four *Imaams* who exercised independent judgment and those who follow them until the Day of Judgment. Ameen!

Jumu'ah is a special day that many of us have begun to take for granted. This can be seen by the way we present ourselves for the *Jumu'ah* prayer. This day is mentioned by Allah in His book:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكُمْ
خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانْتَشِرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَابْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا لَعَلَّكُمْ
تُقَلِّحُونَ

O you who believe! When the call is proclaimed for the prayer on the day of gathering (*yaum al-Jumu'ah*), come to the remembrance of Allah and leave off business, that is better for you if you did but know!

Then when the *Salah* is finished, disperse through the land, and seek the bounty of Allah, and remember Allah much, that you may be successful.¹

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ((خَيْرُ يَوْمٍ طَلَعَتْ عَلَيْهِ الشَّمْسُ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ فِيهِ خُلِقَ آدَمُ
وَفِيهِ أُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ وَفِيهِ أُخْرِجَ مِنْهَا))

The messenger of Allah said: “The best day among the days on which the sun rises, is *yaum al-Jumu’ah*; this is the day when Adam was created; on that day he was admitted into Paradise and on that very day he was sent down from the heaven.”²

This day is blessed by Allah Himself and contains immense *barakah* for the believers. This is evidenced by his words,

((مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الْوُضُوءَ ، ثُمَّ أَتَى الْجُمُعَةَ ، فَاسْتَمَعَ وَانصَتَ ، غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ
الْجُمُعَةِ وَزِيَادَةُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ ، وَ مَنْ مَسَّ الْحَصَا فَقَدْ لَغَا)) رَوَاهُ الْمُسْلِمُ

“One who makes his ablutions (*wudu*’) carefully and comes to the *Jumu’ah* prayer and listens to the *khutbah* (sermon) attentively, has his sins forgiven from the previous *Jumu’ah* plus three days. And one who occupies himself with pebbles during the *khutbah* has not done well.”³

How many of us come to *Jumu’ah khutbah* and play with our cell phones, have conversations in the middle of the *khutbah*, exchange greetings, or even attend *Jumu’ah* for that matter? All of these are violations of the respect and sanctity in which the *Jumu’ah khutbah* and *salah* (prayer) deserves and is a cause of affliction for the one guilty of it because he or she is missing out on having their sins forgiven and who doesn’t need that? This *Hadith* contains a rebuke and a condemnation for the one who does something as little as playing with pebbles, so what about those of us engaged in activities bigger then that during the *khutbah*?

Everything worth having has conditions. *Yaum ul-Jumu’ah* is special and as such there are preparations that need to be made in order to obtain the blessings contained in it. In the same way that many of us are aware of the deep discounts and savings that are to be had on Black Friday, likewise we need to prepare accordingly. Some of us have saved money in order to take advantage of the savings on that day. Many people have waited hours before a store even opened in order to purchase some item, like a flat screen television. That same person will show up late to *Jumu’ah* and look at his watch the whole time! In the same way that we showed up at the store early in preparation for some worldly enjoyment - that will not be a source of benefit for us when it counts - we need to show up early for the *Jumu’ah khutbah*. The Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace has said,

((مَنْ اغْتَسَلَ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ غَسَلَ الْجَنَابَةَ ، ثُمَّ رَاحَ فِي السَّاعَةِ الْأُولَى ، فَكَأَنَّمَا قَرَّبَ بَدَنَةً ، وَ مَنْ رَاحَ فِي السَّاعَةِ الثَّانِيَةِ ، فَكَأَنَّمَا قَرَّبَ بَقْرَةً ، وَ مَنْ رَاحَ فِي السَّاعَةِ الثَّلَاثَةِ ، فَكَأَنَّمَا قَرَّبَ كَبْشًا أَقْرَنَ ، وَ مَنْ رَاحَ فِي السَّاعَةِ الرَّابِعَةِ ، فَكَأَنَّمَا قَرَّبَ دَجَاجَةً ، وَ مَنْ رَاحَ فِي السَّاعَةِ الْخَامِسَةِ ، فَكَأَنَّمَا قَرَّبَ بَيْضَةً ، فَإِذَا خَرَجَ الْإِمَامُ ، حَضَرَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَسْتَمِعُونَ النَّكْرَ)) مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ

“He who takes a full bath (*ghusl*) on *Jumu'ah* (*yaum al-Jumu'ah*) – [the same type of] *ghusl* required for purification after having intercourse - and reaches the *masjid* early is as meritorious as if he had sacrificed a camel for the sake of Allah; and one who reaches the *masjid* after him, is as if he had sacrificed a cow; and the person who goes subsequently, it is as if he had sacrificed a full grown sheep; and the person who goes afterwards it is as if he had sacrificed a hen; and the person who reaches the *masjid* in the fifth turn is like one who has sacrificed an egg. At last when the *Imam* comes for the *Jumu'ah Khutbah*, the angels at the gates of the *masjid* leave the gates to listen to the *khutbah* (literally: the reminder (*adh-dhikr*)) and the names of the late comers are left out.”⁴

Even the angels recognize the weight and importance of the *Jumu'ah khutbah* and avail themselves of the benefit and all of those who came late aren't included in that noble log book of the angels! What about those who chose not to come at all? The Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said

((لَيَنْتَهِينَ أَفْوَاهٌ عَنْ وَدْعِهِمُ الْجُمُعَاتِ ، أَوْ لَيَخْتَمَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ ، ثُمَّ لَيَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ))
رَوَاهُ الْمُسْلِمُ

“The people should not neglect *Jumu'ah*, otherwise Allah will seal their hearts, and they will be counted among the negligent ones (*al-ghaafileen*).”⁵

Furthermore, the best of creation, may Allah bless him and grant him peace has informed us that we should take our personal hygiene to an even higher level. Shehu ‘Uthman Dan Fodio, may Allah have mercy on him said:

وَمِنْ طَرِيقِ سُنَّتِهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ الْهُنُّ وَالطَّيِّبُ نَدْبًا. وَ فِي صَحِيحِ
 الْبُخَارِيِّ عَنْ سَلْمَانَ الْفَارِسِيِّ قَالَ: قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ((لَا يَغْتَسِلُ رَجُلٌ يَوْمَ
 الْجُمُعَةِ وَيَتَطَهَّرُ مَا اسْتَطَاعَ مِنْ طَهْرٍ ، وَ يَدَّهْنُ مِنْ دُهْنِهِ ، أَوْ يَمَسُّ مِنْ طِيبٍ بَيْنَيْهِ ، ثُمَّ
 يَخْرُجُ فَلَا يَفْرُقُ بَيْنَ اثْنَيْنِ ، ثُمَّ يُصَلِّي مَا كُتِبَ لَهُ ، ثُمَّ يُنْصِتُ إِذَا تَكَلَّمَ الْإِمَامُ إِلَّا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا
 بَيْنَهُ وَ بَيْنَ الْجُمُعَةِ الْأُخْرَى))

“From the path of the *Sunnah* of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, concerning the day of *Jumu'ah* is utilizing oils (*ad-duhn*) and perfumes (*at-tayb*) being highly recommended (*nadban*). It is also related in the Sahih of al-Bukhari on the authority of Salman al-Farisi who said, "The Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, "A man does not take the ritual bath on the day of *Jumu'ah*, purify what he is able to purify, oils his hair and utilizes perfumes on himself, goes out to the *masjid* without stepping between two people, prays what is written for him and listens in silence when the *Imam* delivers his *khutbah* (sermon) - except that he will be forgiven for his sins which occurred between this *Jumu'ah* and the next *Jumu'ah*.”

You see brothers and sisters, this day is special and we need to begin to honor it as such. Whenever we attend an important function such as a banquet, graduation or some important meeting we dress accordingly; well the day of *Jumu'ah* deserves much more than that!

With that being said, I hope and pray that this will serve as a reminder because it will be a source of benefit for the one who has faith (*imaan*) in his heart. Allah, the Most High says:

وَذَكَرْ فَإِنَّ الذِّكْرَ يَنْتَفِعُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

And remind for verily, the reminder benefits the believers.⁶

We should also try to refrain from calling this the “Friday Prayer” because Friday was named in homage to a pagan goddess to whom pagans used to invoke in relation to matters of love. I have not mentioned everything in connection with this blessed day for that was not my intention. My only intention was to remind the believers of the special nature of this day because many Muslims are becoming depressed in their struggle to hold on to this blessed *deen* (way of life) during these trying times and are consequently beginning to neglect *Jumu'ah*. I also pray that this will encourage us to revive the Prophetic *Sunnah* regarding to the real meaning, *adab* (conduct) and rewards associated with *Yaum ul-Jumu'ah* and as a result be included among those about whom the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, has said,

((رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى خُلَفَاءِ)) قِيلَ: وَمَا خُلَفَاؤُكَ؟ قَالَ ((الَّذِينَ يُحْيِينُ سُنَّتِي وَيُعَلِّمُونَهَا النَّاسَ،
مَنْ مِنْ أَحْيَا سُنَّتِي فَقَدْ أَحْيَانِي وَمَنْ أَحْيَانِي كَانَ مَعِيَ فِي الْجَنَّةِ))

The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said, “The Mercy of Allah is with my *Khalifahs*.” It was said, “Who or what are your *Khalifahs*?” He said, “Those who bring my *Sunnah* to life and teach it to the people. Whoever brings my *Sunnah* back to life, has given life to me. Whoever gives life to me, will be with me in paradise.”⁷

Success is with Allah!

Your Brother,

Na’eem Abdullah

¹ Surah al-Jumu’ah (62), ayat(s) 9 and 10.

² This Hadith was narrated by Abu Hurayrah, collected by Imam Muslim in his Sahih.

³ This Hadith was narrated by Abu Hurayrah, collected by *Imam* Muslim in his Sahih.

⁴ This Hadith was narrated by Abu Hurayrah, collected by *Imams* Bukhari *and* Muslim in their Sahih collections.

⁵ This Hadith was narrated by Abu Hurayrah Abdullah ibn ‘Umar, collected by *Imam* Muslim in his Sahih.

⁶ Surah az-Zaariyaat (51), ayat 55.

⁷ This was related by al-Isbahaani in his Targheeb.