

**Keywords:**  
Youth / Young  
Guide / Nurture  
Role



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**Friday Sermon**

**3 July 2026 / 17 Muharram 1448H**

**Righteous Youth – A Shared Responsibility**

أَحْمَدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ  
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا  
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ. قَالَ تَعَالَى: يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ  
وَلَا تُمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

**Dear blessed congregation,**

Let us have taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. Obey all His commands and abstain from all His prohibitions. May the blessed month of Muharram continue to drive us towards goodness in this world and in the hereafter. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

**Dear brothers,**

Have we ever wondered: *what is Islam's view of the youth?*

To answer this question, let us reflect on a description of **youth** offered by a companion of Rasulullah s.a.w., Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri r.a., who was himself a **young** man when he embraced Islam.

It is narrated that whenever Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri r.a. saw the **youth** coming to seek knowledge, he would say, "*Welcome, O trustees of Rasulallah s.a.w.*"

The trustees of Rasulallah s.a.w. – those whom the Prophet s.a.w. frequently reminded and entrusted us with. This is the description given by a companion of Rasulallah s.a.w. to the **youth**, especially those who diligently seek knowledge and then share it for the benefit of mankind.

**My dear brothers,**

We know that the way **young** people perceive life is shaped by the environment created by the adults around them. It is therefore a sacred trust upon the shoulders of every adult, especially among the believers, to play a **role** in **guiding** the **youth** in accordance with divine **guidance**.

In this regard, the Quran is rich with exemplary stories, counsel, and supplications that are most fitting as a **guide** in **nurturing** the **young**. This includes the counsel of a righteous man to his son in Surah Luqman, verse 17:

يَبْنِيَّ أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَانْهَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ  
وَأَصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا أَصَابَكَ ۖ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ ﴿١٧﴾

Which means: *"O my son! Establish prayer, enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and be patient over whatever befalls you. Indeed, that is of the matters requiring resolve."*

Through the *sirah* of Rasulullah s.a.w., we also learn the best approach to shaping character and empowering the **youth**. Look, for instance, at how the Prophet s.a.w. dealt with a companion named Zaid bin Thabit r.a.

Zaid was also a **young** man at the time. And because of his age, Rasulullah s.a.w. did not permit him to join the Muslims in the Battle of Badr. Yet, the Prophet s.a.w. did not belittle his enthusiasm or dismiss him outright. Instead, Rasulullah s.a.w. recognised and valued his ability in reading and memorising, and recommended an alternative path of contribution for Zaid by learning and mastering the Hebrew language, the language of the Jewish people.

Having heeded the Prophet's advice, Zaid bin Thabit r.a. went on to become the official scribe and translator of Rasulullah s.a.w., even at a **young** age. Such was the way of the Prophet s.a.w. With deep compassion and far-sightedness, he empowered and **nurtured** the potential of the **youth** around him. In time, Zaid r.a. became a scholar who played a key **role** in the compilation of the Mushaf after the passing of Rasulullah s.a.w.

**My dear brothers,**

The examples presented earlier invite us to reflect and ask ourselves: *what is our **role in guiding the youth**? When was the last time we became a source of inspiration that shaped the character of the next generation of believers?*

Here, the khutbah proposes four things we can do:

### **First: Be a good example**

**Youth** are keen observers. Often, they are more influenced by actions than by words. Simply instructing them to do good, to perform their prayers, to abstain from sin, is not enough if they do not see us doing the same. Let us therefore strive to be, first and foremost, a mirror of the believer's character that we wish to see in them.

### **Second: Guide with wisdom**

This was the true approach of Rasulullah s.a.w. He did not **nurture** the souls of the **young** through scolding, ridicule, or nagging. Instead, he drew out the potential within each **young** person with gentleness and utmost love. Every mistake must be corrected, but take an approach that is constructive, seeing mistakes as part of the learning process.

### **Third: Place our trust in them**

Let us not underestimate the capabilities of the **youth**. The *sirah* records how Rasulullah s.a.w. was willing to place great responsibility on the shoulders of Zaid bin Thabit r.a., as

recounted earlier. If we find that our **youth** still lack certain skills, **guide** them to improve on those abilities. Give them opportunities to contribute, based on their interests and strengths, so that they feel valued. In time, it will be they who carry the trust of faith and the hopes of the community.

#### **Fourth: Pray for our youth**

Rasulullah s.a.w. always prayed for the wellbeing of the **young** people around him. Beyond just strengthening bonds and offering encouragement, our supplications are also a testament to our reliance and belief that Allah s.w.t. is able to grant goodness upon anyone He wishes.

#### **Dear blessed congregation,**

The effort to shape a righteous generation is a responsibility that belongs to all of us. Those who are more senior must play their part, and the **young** too must be open to receiving **guidance**. It is not a one-way relationship. Rather, it is a bond that is mutually beneficial and strengthening.

May Allah s.w.t. strengthen the love between us, **guide** our every step, and shower His mercy upon us all. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ  
الرَّحِيمُ.

## Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا كَاهَأَكُمُ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهَدِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا رَحِيمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالْخُرْبَ وَالْإِعْتِدَاءَ. اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْتَوْدِعُكَ أَنْفُسَنَا وَأَهْلَنَا وَبِلَادَنَا، وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شُرُورِ الْمَفْسِدِينَ، وَكَيْدِ الْمُعْتَدِينَ، وَظُلْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَجْعَلُكَ فِي مُحُورِهِمْ، وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شُرُورِهِمْ.

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي عَزَّةٍ وَفِي فَلَسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً،  
يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا  
رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَقِنَا عَذَابَ  
النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ  
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ  
يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَا تَدْرُكُ  
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرَ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.