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Islam and Digital Engagement

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهٰذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا اَنْ هَدَانَا اللّٰهُ، وَاشْهَدُ
اَنْ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَاشْهَدُ اَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِينَ. اَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا
عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اَوْصِيْ نَفْسِيْ وَاَيُّكُمْ بِتَقْوٰى اللّٰهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us increase our taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by fulfilling all His commands and avoiding all His prohibitions. Let us fill our **time** with **beneficial** activities and good deeds. May Allah s.w.t. grant us barakah in our **time** and let it be filled with obedience and goodness. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Dear blessed congregation,

Did you know that our smartphones record the amount of **time** we spend using them each day? Now, let us answer the following questions honestly. How many hours do we spend daily on our **digital gadgets**, such as our smartphones, tablets, computers, and other devices? An hour or two? Or less than that? Now,

compare that with the amount of **time** we spend in remembrance of Allah and His Messenger, whether by reading the Qur'an, reflecting on the Prophet's guidance, or other similar acts of devotion.

My dear brothers, we are well aware that **digital** devices can be a source of both good and harm, **benefit** and distraction. Our lives have become heavily dependent on these devices, and they are among the greatest tests faced by mankind in this age.

Therefore, today's khutbah is by no means intended to call us to abandon **digital** devices, for Islam is a religion that emphasises balance and wisdom. We are not instructed to separate ourselves from the realities of worldly life – such as building a career, engaging in business, participating in sports, or even **benefiting** from the **gadgets** we own. Rather, we are required to manage them in a good, **beneficial** manner, guided by the teachings of Allah and His Messenger s.a.w.

My dear brothers,

Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-'Ankabut, verse 64:

وَمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَهُوٌّ وَلَعِبٌ وَإِنَّ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ لَهِيَ الْحَيَوَانُ
لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾

Which means: *“And this worldly life is no more than a **diversion** and amusement. But the Hereafter is indeed the real life, if only they knew.”*

This is a clear warning from Allah about the temporary nature of worldly life. It is filled with entertainment that can either amuse or distract us if not managed properly. In this era, it encompasses **digital** entertainment such as games, social media, videos, and endless scrolling activities. When we get bored with one type of content, we move on to another. And this cycle continues, without us realising the passage of **time** spent.

Dear congregation,

There are three steps we can take to manage the use of **digital gadgets** better:

Firstly: Be cautious of how we spend our leisure **time**.

The Prophet s.a.w. said which means: *“**There are two blessings that many people are deceived by: health and free time.**”*
(Bukhari)

Health and free **time** are among the most valuable blessings from Allah. However, today, they are slowly being taken away by the screens we stare at. Being cautious means becoming more aware of the **time** spent in front of screens.

Avoid and train ourselves to distance from unhealthy or useless content, especially during **times** close to worship like now, or

when studying, working, or spending **time** with family. The same goes for crossing the road, entering the restroom, or staying up late until it affects our rest and long-term health.

Secondly: Using technology for personal development

Gadgets can be tools that aid personal and spiritual **development**. There are various applications and **digital** platforms that can enhance knowledge and strengthen our relationship with Allah, the Quran, and so on. Today, there is a wealth of authentic Islamic content available at our fingertips, such as online classes, religious lectures, as well as **digital** versions of the Quran and Hadith. All of these can serve as means to deepen our understanding of religion and connect us with dhikr and knowledge, wherever we are.

However, we must also be cautious and wise in evaluating online sources of knowledge. While modern technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), can make information more accessible, it has its limitations. It may not provide in-depth understanding, lack spiritual guidance, and be unaware of the context in religious matters.

Therefore, we should refer to qualified religious scholars (asatizah) for authentic religious guidance. Use technology as a tool to assist in the journey of knowledge, but never let it replace the role and guidance of religious teachers.

Thirdly: Avoiding the misuse of aliases

One of the greatest dangers in the virtual world is the illusion of anonymity – the feeling that we can say or do anything without being identified. This leads some people to write hurtful words, gossip, spread false news, and so on, under the impression that they will not be questioned or held accountable by others.

However, remember this: although we may be able to hide from the view of others, we can never hide from the gaze of Allah, the Creator of mankind. Every word written, every comment posted, every action taken, everything is recorded in our book of deeds.

Islam emphasises the values of responsibility and honesty. The **digital** world is not a space free from moral and ethical boundaries. It is merely another space where our actions are being recorded and will be held accountable in the Hereafter.

Dear brothers,

Every passing moment will never return. So, let us fill our free **time** with **beneficial** activities and righteous deeds. May the **time** we spend in all our affairs serve as a witness to assist us, and not as one that condemns us, on the Day of Judgement. Allahul Musta'aan. (اللَّهُ الْمُسْتَعَانُ)

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 نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْغَرِيزِ: 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 وَعُمَرُ وَعُثْمَانُ وَعَلِيٌّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنْ مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالْمَحَنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ أَنْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعِفِينَ فِي عَرَّةٍ وَفِي فِلَسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزَنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتُبِ السَّلَامَ وَالسَّلَامَ وَالْأَمْنَ وَالْأَمَانَ

لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً،
وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.