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Friday Sermon

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Islam, Intellect and AI

ٱلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ ٱلَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهٰذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا ٱللّٰهُ. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا ٱللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. ٱللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ ٱللّٰهِ، ٱتَّقُوا ٱللّٰهَ. قَالَ تَعَالَى فِي التَّنْزِيلِ: يَـٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ ٱتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِۦ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us observe taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by obeying all His commands and staying away from all His prohibitions. May our taqwa be a source of joy in this world and the hereafter. Amin, ya Rabbal ‘Alamin.

Dear blessed congregation,

The Quran repeatedly calls upon humanity to exercise **reason**, to contemplate, and to **think**. Throughout its verses, Allah s.w.t. asks: *Afalaa ya’qiluun*: “Do they not exercise **reason**?”

Afalaa yatadabbaruunal Quraan: “Do they not contemplate the Quran?” *Afalaa tatafakkaruun*: “Do you not **think**?”

Dear congregation,

Allah s.w.t. invites us to pay attention to our **intellectual** capacity and our power of **reasoning**. Why? Because it helps us distinguish truth from falsehood, and right from wrong. Our **intellect** influences our daily decisions, which in turn shape our character, our conduct and our religious life.

Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Anfal, verse 22:

إِنَّ شَرَّ ٱلدَّوَآبِّ عِندَ ٱللَّهِ ٱلصُّمُّ ٱلۡبُكۡمُ ٱلَّذِينَ لَا يَعۡقِلُونَ ٢٢

Which means: *“Indeed, the worst of living creatures in the sight of Allah are the deaf and dumb who do not use **reason**.”*

This is amongst the strongest statements in the Quran on the importance of **intellect**. The condemnation of those who deliberately refuse to use their **intellect** to arrive at understanding and truth is severe indeed. The rebuke of those who refuse to use the **mind** Allah has given them is formidable.

Blessed Friday congregation,

Truly, the verse that was just recited is becoming ever more relevant today. With the rapid advance of **artificial intelligence (AI),** many tasks that once required our own **thinking** are now

completed almost instantly, and **AI** has become a big part of our daily routines.

It is true that Islam does not forbid beneficial technology. However, over-reliance on **AI** is a cause for concern, because our **minds** can be affected little by little. When we constantly hand simple tasks over to **AI** without trying them ourselves, we fail to train our ability to **think**.

Therefore, **AI** must remain a tool that supports, not replaces, the human **intellect**. And today's khutbah suggests three approaches to this end:

Firstly: Think for yourself before consulting AI

Let us first attempt to formulate our own ideas and solve problems on our own. Afterwards, **AI** can be used to challenge, refine and improve our work.

Secondly: Verify accuracy without handing over our judgment entirely to AI

AI can deliver false information that looks as though it were true, whereas Rasulullah s.a.w. warned that passing on everything one receives without checking can lead to lying. We remain responsible for our decisions. Moral and religious judgment must not be handed over to **AI**. In matters of religion, let us refer to qualified asatizah, not to **AI** alone.

Thirdly: Sharpen the mind through conventional means

Brothers, we should preserve our natural intelligence through practices such as reading, attending gatherings of knowledge, and discussing in person. Before using **AI**, let us ask ourselves: is this a fitting or necessary use, or does it merely keep us from **thinking**? Remember, our time and our **minds** are a trust (*amanah*) from Allah s.w.t.

Dear brothers,

With this awareness, let us preserve the strength of our **intellect** by using **AI** responsibly and moderately, in a way that Allah s.w.t. is pleased with. Remember that every blessing and advancement is a trust, and every trust will be questioned in the hereafter. May Allah s.w.t. grant us guidance to navigate life with faith and wisdom. Amin ya Rabbal ‘Alamin.

أَقُوْلُ قَوْلِي هَذا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ العَظِيْمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْم.

Second Sermon

الحَمْدُ للهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَن لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللهِ، اِتَّقُوا اللهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَاكُم عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَال فِي كِتَابِهِ العَزِيزِ: إِنَّ اللهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ المَهْدِيِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَن بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالقَرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُم وَفِيهِم بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالمُسْلِمِينَ وَالمُسْلِمَاتِ، الأَحْيَاءِ مِنهُم وَالأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا البَلَاءَ وَالوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالمِحَنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَن بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ البُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ العَالَمِينَ. اَللَّهُمَّ انْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا اْلمُسْتَضْعَفِيْنَ فِي غَزَّة وَفِي فِلِسْطِينَ وَفِيْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ

عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللهِ، إِنَّ اللهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالعَدْلِ وَالإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي القُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ الفَحْشَاءِ وَالمُنكَرِ وَالبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَاذكُرُوا اللهَ العَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُم، وَلَذِكْرُ اللهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.