

The community of Believers sent by God

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered on Friday, 5 January 2007 in Arabic. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as volunteers translate reminders. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

"You are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind; you encourage that which is good [*Al-Maruf*] and forbid wrongdoing [*Al-Munkar*], and you believe in God." [Imran 3:110]

This is the description of the community of Quran, the community of Islam, the community of the Prophet Muhammad SAW (peace and blessings of God be upon him).

This is the community that God has chosen to be the best of all nations and blessed with distinctive miracles. This community has attained this high status with God as a result of following the blessed example of the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

God has stated in the Quran that this community is the best and the most honourable because they:

1. encourage that which is good
2. discourage wrongdoing and
3. believe in God.

This great community of Muhammad SAW has been distinguished with distinctive characteristics:

- God The Most High has eliminated all burdens, difficulties and hardships from the religion of this community. He has permitted for this community that which was prohibited for previous nations:
"He has chosen you and has not laid upon you any hardship in the observance of your faith." [Hajj 22:78]
Thus the Islamic Shariah is the complete and easiest of all laws decreed upon mankind. The Prophet Muhammad SAW said: "I was sent with a simple monotheistic law."
- God has made this earth pure so that this community may use the whole of it as a place to pray and also if you reach prayer time but have no water you can pray after performing tayamum (which is to purify yourself with earth).
- God has guided this community to the blessed day of Friday, the best of the days.
- God has forgiven this community the errors from what they forget. [On the authority of Abu Hurayra,] The Prophet Muhammad SAW said:

"God has forgiven my followers the evil thoughts that occur to their minds, as long as such thoughts are not put into action or uttered."
[Al-Bukhari]

- God has protected this community from destruction and eradication. So floods and famine will not destroy this community and in addition no enemy will eradicate this community. The Prophet SAW confirmed that from this community there will always remain:
"a section of my people [that] will not cease to keep on the Truth and will prevail till the Day of Resurrection."

In addition to all the distinctive characteristics in this present life [the dunya], God has blessed them with distinctive characteristics in the hereafter:

- The people of this community will be resurrected with a light (noor) on their foreheads and encircling their feet as an effect of the wudhu that will distinguish the people of the Prophet SAW's community. The Prophet SAW confirmed this by saying:
"I love to see my brothers.' (Those hearing this) said: Aren't we your brothers-Messenger of God?' He said: 'You are my companions, and our brothers are those who have, so far, not come into the world.' They said: 'Messenger of God, how would you recognise those persons of your Community who have not yet been born?' The Messenger of God, said: 'They would come with light in their faces and arms and legs owing to ablution.'" (Muslim)
- This community will bear witness that all the Prophets have delivered their messages and God will accept their testimony. The Prophet SAW said:
"A Prophet will be resurrected with two men (i.e. followers), and another will be resurrected with three or more or less, each Prophet will be asked if he had delivered his message and then the relevant community will be called upon and asked if their Prophet had delivered it, and they will say 'no', then each Prophet will be asked who is your witness? The Prophet will say: 'Muhammad and his community'. Then Muhammad's community will be called upon and asked: 'has this prophet delivered?' they will say: 'yes', then they'll be asked: 'who informed you?' they will say: 'our Prophet informed us that all the prophets have delivered their messages and we believed him.'
God, The Most High says: "And so We have made you a community of the middle way so that you may testify against mankind and that your own messenger may testify against you." [Baqarah 2:143]
- This community will make up the largest majority of the people of Paradise. [On the authority of ibn Masood,] The Prophet Muhammad said to his companions:

'would you not hope to be a quarter of the people of paradise?' the companions all replied Allahu akbar (God is Great). The Prophet then asked them: 'Do you not hope to be a third of the people of paradise?' The companions then all repeated, Allahu akbar. The Prophet said: 'I hope that you will be a half of the people of the paradise'.

The community which has:

- (1) believed in God as their Lord, Islam as their religion, Muhammad SAW as their Prophet and Messenger and
- (2) kept the Qur'an and the prophetic example [Sunnah] as their constitution and methodology

is a community that deserves all those characteristics given to them by God due to their faith, holding fast to their religion, the book of God and the way of their Prophet SAW.

Second Khutba:

This nation is a nation that spreads good. [On the authority of Anas] The Prophet SAW said:

"My community is like the rain, it brings good with its beginning and with its end". [Tirmidhi]

- Just as the rain is all good - its beginning, middle and end - so the Muslim community brings goods in all its times.
- Just as every drop of rain brings good with it, so every Muslim should bring good to this world and to the people around them.

However, it is sad to see today that the drive to bring good is fast becoming non-existent. We must become ambitious and work to spreading the good as the world is thirsty for the rain of Muslims, it longs for the good they can bring.

How lucky and how blessed are we to be part of the community of the great and honourable Prophet Muhammad SAW.

However, have we truly thanked God in the way in which he deserves for blessing us in being part of this community? Are we living up to the standards that God has chosen for this community? Have we given the world a good and true impression of this community?

- God The Most High sent to us a leader to guide us, a complete methodology to follow.
- He made all the rules clear to us.
- He revealed His words to us so we could record it in a book.
- He made things lawful for us, and others unlawful. He guided us to that which will lead us to happiness and all good by guiding us to the straight path.

- Have we followed His leader sent to guide us?
- Have we adhered to His rule?
- Have we dedicated ourselves to His book?
- Have we made lawful that which He has made lawful and made unlawful that which He has made unlawful?

Let us all be honest with ourselves and account ourselves now for how we measure up to these questions, and the reality will be clear to us. God informs us:

"Indeed, God will never change the condition of a people unless they [each person] changes their own [individual] condition."
[Surah Ra'd 13:11]

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