

Lessons from the birth of the prophet (pbuh)

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 6 March 2009. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. 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.

For every human society there are events and memories recorded in its history. Those events and memories have an effect upon that society's strengths or weaknesses, its knowledge or its ignorance, its stability or its instability and its security or fear. The whole society benefits from them if they were good and suffer from them if they were bad. "[This is] the established way of Allāh with those who passed on before; and you will not find in the way of Allāh any change" [Al-Ahzab 33:62].

These events are recorded by the history for each community to be considered as a reflection for the generations that come after. Generations that come long time after those events took place for them to realise how great such events were or how they shaped a society's history and glory.

Oh Muslims, Allah (SWT) says "There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves. Grievous to him is what you suffer; [he is] concerned over you and to the believers is kind and merciful." [Al-Tawbah 9:128]. This is our great prophet (pbuh) who was chosen by Allah above all other human beings. He (pbuh) was the fruit of the supplication of Ibrahim (AS) and the glad tidings foretold by Jesus the son of Mary.

- We should remember the day in which the master of the sons of Adam was born – marked with a light that radiated to the palaces of Ash-Sham.
- We should remember the days when he (pbuh) was a young boy working as a shepherd and keeping himself away from every place of amusement and diversion.
- We should remember the days when he was a strong youth who participated in Al-Fujjar War (the sacrilegious war) and Hilf AlFudul (the Alliance for Charity).
- We should remember the days when he was a full grown wise man who people used to love, honour and accept as a judge for their arguments.
- We should remember the days when he was remembering Allah alone, escaping from the anxieties of this worldly life to the joy of the remembrance of Allah and escaping from the darkness of being away from Allah to the pleasure of the light of belief.
- We should remember Muhammad the merciful and the lenient towards his own disbelieving people who were drawn by their own desires and how he (pbuh) was striving hard in order to guide them to the right path.
- We should remember the day when he was sent as a messenger, bringer of good tidings, a Warner, a mercy to the worlds, an Inviter to the way of Allah with wisdom and good instruction and the one who gave good tidings for believers and warned the non believers.
- We should remember the day when he (pbuh) faced those who refused to believe, people who used cunning, were openly hostile and even hatred from his own relatives and others.
- We should remember the patience he practiced when faced with those hardships for the sake of delivering the message of Islam.
- We should remember the day when he migrated from the place he lived in for all his life, the home land of parents and grandparents.
- We should remember the day when he was granted victory by Allah with the support of the believers, the day when he (pbuh) became a commander leading the nation toward the glory and dignity by the honour [through power] of Islam, when he became a just

ruler ordering justice and good conduct and forbidding immorality, bad conduct and oppression.

Oh Muslims, early Muslims did not specify a time to remember the prophet (pbuh) and to remind people of how great he was because his greatness was embedded in their souls and hearts so they never forgot him. Their movements, sayings and acts were following the tradition of Mohammed (pbuh).

Oh Muslims, we are in great need of a dose from his (pbuh) teachings, love and way of life "There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allāh an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allāh and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allāh often" [Al-Ahzab 33:21]. We really need to emulate the high morality which exceeded all morals, to follow his manners which the enemies admit before the friends, we need to track the way he (pbuh) dealt with his opponents, companions, family and wives, amongst the community that did not believe in God, the Merciful during his time in Mecca and amongst the believing community when he was in Madina. We need to learn from his effort and sacrifices to deliver the message of Islam to every one in order to save every heart and soul "And whoever saves one – it is as if he had saved mankind entirely" [Al-Maaida 5:32]. We are really in a dire need to truly know our prophet (pbuh), to be attached to him and to love him truly by following his tradition with knowledge.

Second khutba

Oh Muslims, we should know that the relation between the Muslims and their prophet (pbuh) is a relationship of love. It arises from the knowledge of his person and nature, a relation of following his tradition and judging by the legislation he brought and follow this way. Whoever does that is the most worthy of Muhammed (pbuh) and whoever goes astray from that guidance will be lost. An evidence for that is what was narrated by Abu Hurairah: The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) came to the graveyard and said, "Peace be upon you, abode of the believing people and we, if God so wills, are about to join you! I love to see my brothers." They said, 'Are we not your brothers, Messenger of Allah?' He said, "You are my companions, and our brothers are those who have, so far, not come into the world." They said, 'Messenger of Allah, how would you recognize those persons of your ummah who have not yet been born?' He said, "Supposing a man had horses with white blazes on foreheads and legs among horses which were all black, tell me, would he not recognize his own horses?" They said, 'Certainly, Messenger of Allah.' He said, "They would come with white faces and arms and legs owing to ablution, and I would arrive at the Hawd (drinking water place) before them. Some people would be driven away from my Hawd as the stray camel is driven away. I would call out, 'Come! Come!' Then it would be said (to me), 'These people changed after you.' I would then say, 'Be off, be off.'"

This is the greatness of our prophet (pbuh) and that is how this greatness was implemented in the souls of early Muslims. When the souls got weaker and when the hearts fell short of fulfilling the trust - we forgot the greatness of our prophet (pbuh) and stopped remembering him except in the month of Rabi' al-awwal when we start celebrating his birth (pbuh)!

Oh Muslims, Ask your self, how much knowledge of your prophet do you have? How attached to him are you? How much do you love him as his love is a part of your belief? And how does that love effect your behaviour and belief? May Allah guide us to be recognisable by the prophet (pbuh) as his brothers in the Next Life.