

## Shahadah

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 20 January 2012. 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

We learned in previous reminders about the attributes of the servants of The Most Merciful in regards of:

- Their situation with themselves: a situation of humility and tranquillity “And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth easily” [Al-Furqan 25:63]
- Their situation with people, especially the ignorant among them “and when the ignorant address them [harshly], they say [words of] peace,” [Al-Furqan 25:63]
- Their situation with their Lord “And those who spend [part of] the night to their Lord prostrating and standing [in prayer]” [Al-Furqan 25:64]
- Their situation in their living and wealth which is to be moderate in all of their affairs, their manner is to be just and their way is moderation “And [they are] those who, when they spend, do so not excessively or sparingly but are ever, between that, [justly] moderate” [Al-Furqan 25:67] and “And thus we have made you a just community” [Al-Baqarah 2:143]

That is how Allah Almighty described them with positive attributes but to achieve such attributes the religion of Islam contains commands as well as prohibitions. We learned about their situation with the commands of Allah and the guidance of religion but about how their situation with that which Allah (SW) has forbidden? After the verses mentioned their practice of good deeds, Allah (SW) started to describe their situation in avoiding sins and He (SW) started with the biggest and the most dangerous of sins which is associating [others] with Allah and taking Lords with or instead of Him (SW) “And those who do not invoke with Allāh another deity” [Al-Furqan 25:68]

O Muslims,

The first foundation to build the Muslim community upon belief (Iman) is to establish the correct belief system. The belief system of Islam was defined as belief in God, His angels, His divine books, His messengers and The Day of Judgment – as God says - “The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying], “We make no distinction between any of His messengers.” And they say, “We hear and we obey. [We seek] Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the [final] destination.”” [Al-Baqarah 2:285]. This doctrine is summarised and expressed by the slogan of Islam (the testimony that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah). The meaning of making this our slogan is to live so that no one is worthy of our service except Allah, no one deserves that we humble ourselves before him except Allah, all of our love is directed to Him and the command is His only, foreheads prostrate and tongues praise for Him only and glorify and hearts, minds and bodies are submitted for His judgment only.

O Muslims,

There are three principles of monotheism (Tawheed) mentioned in the Holy Quran in Surat Al-Ana’am:

- 1- Not to desire a Lord other than Allah “Say, “Is it other than Allah I should desire as a lord while He is the Lord of all things?” [Al-Ana’am 6:164]

- 2- Not to seek a Protector other than Allah "Say, "Is it other than Allah I should take as a protector, Creator of the heavens and the earth, while it is He who feeds and is not fed?" [Al-Ana'am 6:14]
- 3- Not to seek a law-maker other than Allah "Say, "Then is it other than Allah I should seek as law-maker while it is He who has revealed to you the Book explained in detail?" [Al-Ana'am 6:114]

We start with the first principle 'Not to desire a Lord other than Allah' which means to repel all alleged gods taken by the people, in past and in present. Whether such Gods are made of trees, stone, sun, moon, Jinn or by taking human beings as Lords. All Gods other than Allah Almighty are invalid so rising up against all false gods is a must and also against those who appointed themselves as gods among the arrogant who seek to take the servants of Allah (SW) as servants for themselves! 'There is no God but Allah' is a general declaration to free the human from submission and servitude except for his Creator. Faces should not look up to seek, heads should not bow, foreheads should not prostrate and hearts should not submit except for The Sustainer of heavens and earth.

The prophet (pbuh) used to send messengers to kings, princes and Caesars with this verse "O People of the Scripture, come to a word that is equitable between us and you – that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of Allah." But if they turn away, then say, "Bear witness that we are Muslims [submitting to Him]." [Al-Imran 3:64]. So the word of 'our Lord is Allah' was a declaration of rebellion, insurrection and revolution against any tyrant on earth. Because of the same principle, Musa (AS) was threatened to be killed so a believer among the people of Pharaoh stood up and defended him "Do you kill a man [merely] because he says, 'My Lord is Allah'" [Ghafir 40:28]. And because of the same principle, our prophet (pbuh) and his companions were exposed to harm and persecution and were expelled away from their families and properties "those who have been evicted from their homes without right – only because they say, "Our Lord is Allah." [Al-Hajj 22:40]

### Second khutba

O Muslim,

It is very important for you to understand and realise the meaning of monotheism (Taweed) and the Unity/Oneness of Allah. That is to firmly believe that there is no Lord but Allah, no Creator but Allah and no Provider but Allah who is the Creator and Owner of heavens and earth. Whoever attains that firm belief will rush on earth as free, sovereign, strong, courageous, persistent diligent workers. Whoever attains that firm belief, relies on Allah and confident of that which is with Him, becomes a believer who does not fear anything but Allah and does not seek anything but from Allah. Whoever does not have that then surely he has weakness in his perception of the reality of monotheism.

The prophet (pbuh) established the first generation of Muslims in Madina on the principle of worshiping Allah the Almighty so he (pbuh) changed by this small group the condition of the whole earth. Before he (pbuh) came with the principle of monotheism darkness prevailed in the hearts and minds and injustice ruled the earth until it became a place for the arrogant to spread murder, injustice and aggression so the weak and the vulnerable lost the blessing of security and tranquillity until ar-Rahman (SW) desired for all of that to end on the hands of His believing servants living the meaning and slogan of there being no one worth of service except ar-Rahman. Allah (SW) has told us that monotheists will always be exposed to harm

and abuse so he instructed us in the verse “You will surely be tested in your possessions and in yourselves. And you will surely hear from those who were given the Scripture before you and from those who associate others with Allah much abuse. But if you are patient and fear Allah – indeed, that is of the matters [worthy] of determination.” [Al-Imran 3:186]. This earth was filled with injustice and corruption before Muhammad (pbuh) but Allah (SW) replaced that with justice and reform with Muhammad (pbuh) and the message He (SW) sent him with.

Rib'ee ibn 'Amir entered upon Rustum (the leader of the Persian army) confidently reclining on his spear and not afraid that he was piercing the rugs with it. Rustum asked him ‘what brings you here?’ to which Rib'ee replied ‘Allah sent us to bring out those He wills from worshipping creatures to worshipping Allah; from the narrowness of this world to its spaciousness and from the injustice of other religions to the justice of Islam’

[See reminder for 27.01.2012]