



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">PARADISE AWAITS YOU 22 April 2016AD / 14 Rejab 1437H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ وَأَنْعَمَ، وَهَدَانَا بِالْقُرْآنِ لَلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ،</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">مَثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وَعِدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ أُكُلُهَا دَائِمٌ وَظِلُّهَا تِلْكَ عُقْبَى الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَعُقْبَى الْكَافِرِينَ النَّارُ ﴿٣٥﴾</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ،</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ، وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى، وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>On this auspicious day, let us work together to increase our conviction in Allah SWT. Do our best to execute all that He has commanded and curb our desires by abandoning all that He has prohibited. Indeed, conviction is the best provision we need to prepare in this world, before we return to Allah SWT in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>There is no man in this world who has never heard of the word Paradise. In fact, just ask anyone, they all want to enter Paradise, whether they are Believers or not. But, there are many questions: What is the nature of</p>



	Paradise? Who is the real owner of Paradise? Who will inhabit it? Most importantly, what are the practices and preparations that need to be done to enter / reach it?
9	Therefore, the <i>khatib</i> shall discuss today's sermon entitled, " Paradise Awaits You ".
10	This is stated by Allah SWT in Surah al-Rad, verse 35, which was read at the beginning of this sermon and has the following meaning: <i>"The example of Paradise, which the Righteous have been promised, is [that] beneath it rivers flow. Its fruit is lasting, and (so are) its shade. That is the consequence for the Righteous, and the consequence for the disbelievers is the Fire."</i>
11	The verse deliberately lists all the graces contained in Paradise as reminders and provisions to fire the imagination and longing in our souls for the Paradise of Allah SWT. To <i>tadabbur</i> , or to have a deeper understanding of this paragraph alone is comforting, more so when Paradise is truly granted by Allah SWT.
12	Paradise is the right of Allah SWT. He has the right to bestow it to anyone He wishes. Anyone who is blessed by Allah SWT deserves the opportunity to enjoy Paradise. In fact, there are so many factors that qualify a person to reach the Paradise of Allah SWT. The <i>khatib</i> would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few key points that we should use as a guide in our effort to heed the call of Allah SWT in order to be granted the reward of Paradise.
13	<i>First: Not to associate Allah SWT with anything is the main condition to be a member of Paradise</i> Paradise is a gift from Allah SWT to His most obedient servants. Basic obedience to Allah SWT is true faith, as taught by Rasulullah SAW.
14	through a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari based on a report by Anas bin Malik RA:



	<p>أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ لِمُعَاذِ بْنِ جَبَلٍ مَنْ لَقِيَ اللَّهَ لَا يُشْرِكُ بِهِ شَيْئًا دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ</p>
15	<p>Which means: "The Prophet SAW said to Mu'adh bin Jabal; those who meet Allah (in death) with the condition of not associating anything with Him, (then) he will enter Paradise."</p>
16	<p>According to this <i>hadith</i>, the main requirement to be a member of Paradise is to never associate Allah SWT with anything else. Surely, someone who associates Allah SWT with anything else is not eligible to be awarded a place in Paradise. Therefore, let us work together to preserve the faith and to hold steadfastly to the religion, until we are called to be with Allah SWT.</p>
17	<p>Second: Adhere strongly to the Al-Quran and the Sunnah of Rasullullah SAW</p> <p>Rasullullah SAW's mission to the people is an enormous blessing from Allah SWT. He was sent to reveal and teach us how to translate Islam into daily life. He is the leading example of this <i>Ummah</i> until the Day of Resurrection.</p>
18	<p>Rasullullah SAW said, through the <i>hadith</i> narrated by Imam al-Bukhari, based on a report by Abu Hurairah RA:</p> <p>كُلُّ أُمَّتِي يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَبَى قَالُوا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يَأْبَى قَالَ مَنْ أَطَاعَنِي دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَنْ عَصَانِي فَقَدْ أَبَى</p>
19	<p>Which means: "All of my Ummah (people) will enter Paradise except those who refuse. They (the Companions) asked: O Messenger of Allah, and who does not? He replied: Whoever obeys will enter Paradise and those who reject it, he is refused."</p>
20	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Allah SWT sent Rasullullah SAW, so that people could emulate his faith, morals, and personality. Through this <i>hadith</i>, the rewards of Paradise is a morale booster to the faithful who have struggled and worked hard all their life to obey and follow the Sunnah of Rasullullah SAW.</p>
21	<p>Third: Always maintain good relations among people</p> <p>Islam is a religion with inherent qualities of mind and character that can</p>



	<p>solve all human issues, whether in the form of social depravity, immorality, spread of slander and so on. More than that, Islam is the basis of human culture and civilization. Islam emphasizes on human relationships, including relationships and bonds with our neighbours.</p>
22	<p>This is what can be understood from the hadith of Rasullullah SAW, as narrated by Imam Muslim and reported by Abu Hurairah RA:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مَنْ لَا يَأْمَنُ جَارَهُ بَوَائِقَهُ</p> <p>Which means: <i>“He who creates discontentment and uneasiness among his neighbours shall not enter Paradise.”</i></p>
23	<p>This issue is rarely noted by us, especially by those living in the cities. The foundation of social entities are our neighbours. Before doing good deeds for the distant neighbours, Islam encourages us to do good deeds for our closest neighbours first. In the event of a dispute with a neighbour, it must be solved wisely and peacefully. Any fault or weakness of our neighbours, will harm us. Likewise, our faults and weaknesses would pose a danger to our neighbours.</p>
24	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>The world today demonstrates to us how humans are busy working like robots and machines. Outwardly they acquire wealth and luxuries of life. But, deep in their hearts and souls, they are devoid of knowledge and faith. This is what makes corruption and repression rampant. Usury, gambling, corruption, and the like, produces greed and avarice in achieving worldly paradise, rather than the Paradise of the Hereafter.</p>
25	<p>The fact is, belief in the Paradise of Allah SWT is part of faith. It is not enough as a reminder alone. In fact, the rewards of attaining Paradise should be sown at a very young age. All our children’s actions should be balanced with faith, considering between sin and reward, the reward of Paradise and damnation of hell from Allah SWT. If they are shaped well, a fantastic Islamic generation may certainly be formed.</p>



26	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>To conclude today's sermon, the <i>khatib</i> would like to formulate and conclude on these matters so that we can easily take it as reminders for ourselves:</p> <p>First: Paradise belongs to Allah SWT and is bestowed upon the most blessed and selected among His servants.</p> <p>Second: Following and obeying the teachings of Rasullullah SAW is the key requirement for achieving the Paradise of Allah SWT.</p> <p>Third: Instil faith and love for Paradise in our children from a very young age, because it will encourage them to do good deeds in life.</p>
27	<p>Let us appreciate and promote these ideals in us, as stated by Allah SWT in Surah al-Zumar, verse 73:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ زُمَرًا حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ ﴿٧٣﴾</p>
28	<p>Which means: “And those who feared their Lord will be led to the Garden in crowds: until behold they arrive there; its gates will be opened: and its Keepers will say: Peace be upon you! You have done well! Enter here to dwell therein.”</p>
29	<p>بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>