





1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>STEADFAST IN PRACTICING THE SUNNAH</b> 21 October 2016AD / 20 Muharram 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يُضِلَّهُ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وِليًا مُرْشِدًا.</p>
3	<p>أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،</p>
4	<p>اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
5	<p>أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا</p> 
7	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Living in a finite world is surely incomparable in value to the eternal life of the Hereafter. What is the point of being a great and successful person in this world if in the Hereafter we are dragged and thrown into Hell, where the punishment would be painful beyond belief. Strengthen the conviction within ourselves, with the drive and determination to perform all that has been commanded by Allah SWT and to avoid all that He has prohibited. May the firmness of conviction embodied within us assure our safety and success in this world and in the hereafter.</p>



8	On this blessed Friday, the <i>khatib</i> would like to invite the congregation to jointly reflect upon a sermon entitled, " <b>Steadfast in Practicing the Sunnah</b> ".
9	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Indeed, the arrival of Rasulullah SAW was the greatest gift of Allah SWT upon mankind. There is no better role model to follow than him. We should emulate his personality, character and mannerisms in our daily life. It is true that there are many leaders in this world whom we can idolise, but do they all have the quality of character and personality like him? Of course, the answer is <i>no</i> .
10	Even in the book entitled " <b>100 Most Influential Persons in History</b> " written by Michael H. Hart, the Prophet Muhammad SAW has been placed at the number one position. This clearly shows that Rasulullah SAW is the best and most special person among all human beings. Not only was he able to change people, but he was also able change the world after his death.
11	Therefore, let us strive to emulate the way of life of Rasulullah SAW by practicing what he had carried out and performed in his life, in terms of worship, manners or even Islamic attitude, in order to achieve the pleasures and graces of Allah SWT.
12	This coincides with the words of Allah SWT in Surah Al-Ahzab verse 21: لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ۝
13	<b>Which means:</b> "You have indeed, in the Messenger of Allah, a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in the graces and blessings of Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the Praise of Allah."
14	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Among the most favoured deeds, or <i>Sunnah</i> , of Rasulullah SAW is the



	<i>Tahajjud</i> prayers. It is one of the voluntary prayers performed by Rasulullah SAW that we are very much encouraged to perform. This prayer is performed with a minimum of 2 <i>rakaats</i> , or more than 2 <i>rakaats</i> if able to.
15	Come, let us constantly perform the <i>Tahajjud</i> prayers, up to the point that we will regret not performing it. Sacrifice some sleep at night in order to be awarded a high position and to receive priceless rewards from Allah SWT.
	as mentioned in Surah Al-Isra' verse 79:
16	<p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p><b>Which means:</b> “And pray in the small hours of the morning: (it would be) an additional prayer (or spiritual profit) for you: soon will your Lord raise you to a Station of Praise and Glory!”</p>
17	The <i>Dhuha</i> prayer does not necessarily have to take place in the mosque or mussola. We can perform it in the office or at work before starting the day’s work. It only takes 5 minutes to perform and will not interfere with the productivity of our work. Furthermore, the <i>Dhuha</i> prayer has a remarkably good virtue,
18	as told in the hadith Qudsi recorded by Imam Abu Daud rahimahullah and narrated by Nu'aym bin Hammar RA, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:
	<p style="text-align: center;"> </p>
19	<b>Which means:</b> “Allah SWT said: ‘Sons of Adam, do not fail in performing four rak`ahs in the beginning of the day (the time of <i>Dhuha</i> ) as it will be sufficient for the latter part of the day.’”
20	<i>Which means:</i> “Allah SWT said: ‘Sons of Adam, do not fail in performing four rak`ahs in the beginning of the day (the time of <i>Dhuha</i> ) as it will be sufficient for the latter part of the day.’”
21	Based on the hadith above, the voluntary <i>Dhuha</i> prayers is likened to a key



	that will open the eagerly awaited door of sustenance. Therefore, let us make the <i>Dhuha</i> prayers a daily practice in order for the sustenance we receive be increased with the permission of Allah SWT.
22	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Rasulullah SAW was also fond of voluntary fasting. One of the voluntary fasts practiced by Rasulallah SAW was the Three (3) Day fast performed every thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth day of every Hijri month. This is also known as the White Days Fast (<i>Yaum al-Bidh</i>). Rasulallah SAW had also fast on Mondays and Thursdays, on the day of <i>Arafah</i> (which is on 9th of ZulHijjah), on the day of <i>Ashura</i> (which is on 10th of Muharram) and Six Days in Shawwal.</p>
23	<p>Indeed, there are many hadith that explains the advantages of voluntary fasts mentioned above. Among the hadiths that explain the virtues of fasting three days in each month, is the hadith recorded by Imam Al-Bukhari and narrated by 'Abdullah bin' Amr bin Al-Aas, where Rasulallah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">صَوْمُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ صَوْمُ الدَّهْرِ كُلِّهِ</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> <i>“Whoever fasts three days every month it is as if he had fast all his life.</i></p>
24	Such is the reward to be gained by those who fast as practiced by Rasulallah SAW. Therefore, let us train ourselves to perform voluntary fasting in order to obtain as many rewards as possible from Allah SWT.
25	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Be aware that Rasulallah SAW also emphasized on the practice of asking for forgiveness through <i>istighfar</i> on a daily basis. Although Rasulallah SAW was a man above any wrongdoing and safeguarded from committing any sin or error, he still made the practice of asking for forgiveness a routine in his daily life.</p>



26	<p>This is based on the hadith recorded by Imam Al-Bukhari and narrated by Abu Hurairah Rahimahullah RA where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">وَاللَّهِ إِنِّي لَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ فِي الْيَوْمِ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ سَبْعِينَ مَرَّةً.</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> "I swear by Allah that I seek Allah's Pardon and turn to Him in repentance more than seventy times a day."</p>
27	<p>As normal human beings who cannot escape from committing sins and wrongdoings, we must continuously seek forgiveness from Allah SWT, as taught by Rasulullah SAW. Indeed, the door of forgiveness and mercy of Allah SWT is always open for His servants who are repentant.</p>
28	<p>To conclude today's sermon, the <i>khatib</i> would like to invite the congregation to reflect upon the following as a guide for us all:</p> <p><b>First:</b> Practice and perform the <i>Sunnah</i> of Rasulullah SAW throughout our lives.</p> <p><b>Second:</b> <i>Tahajjud</i> and <i>Dhuha</i> prayers as well as fasting are among the <i>Sunnah</i> that must be adopted and practiced in order to receive mercy and love from Allah SWT.</p> <p><b>Third:</b> The <i>Sunnah</i> of asking for forgiveness through <i>Istighfar</i> every day is a practice that puts us in the graces and mercy of Allah SWT.</p>
29	<p>As stated by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Ahzab, verses 45-46:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا ﴿٤٥﴾ وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا ﴿٤٦﴾</p>



30	<b>Which means:</b> “O Prophet! Truly We have sent you as a Witness, a Bearer of Glad Tidings, and Warning (to those who are unrepentant), And as one who invites to Allah's (grace) by His leave, and as a lamp that spreads light.”
31	<p>بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَاِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنَّا وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهُ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمُ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.</p>