



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">LESSONS FROM PROPAGATION EFFORTS IN TAIF 23 December 2016AD / 23 Rabiulawal 1438H</p>
2	الحمد لله الذي علمَ وأنعمَ، وهدانا بالقرآنِ للتي هي أقوم،
3	<p style="text-align: right;">قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>وَمَنْ لَا يُحِبُّ دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ فَلَيْسَ بِمُعْجِزٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَيْسَ لَهُ مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءُ أُولَئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ ﴿٣٢﴾</p>
4	أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
5	اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
6	أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَآيَايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ. وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى، وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ، لَعَلَّكُمْ تَفْلِحُونَ.
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Let us develop our soul to achieve the highest level of faith in Allah SWT as well emulate Rasulullah SAW in multiplying our good deeds, while avoiding all that are bad and evil. May we gain success in this world and in the hereafter.</p>
8	The title of today's sermon is " Lessons From Propagation Efforts in Taif ".
9	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Do we still remember what happened to Rasulullah SAW when he went to Taif to propagate the teachings of Islam? Let us recall the unfortunate</p>



	events that happened in Taif in the month of Syawal during Rasulullah SAW's 10th year of Prophethood, which saw great resistance by the people of Taif against Rasulullah SAW's efforts to propagate Islam. At that time, Rasulullah SAW, who was accompanied by Sayyidina Zaid bin Haritha R.A., walked to Taif to propagate the religion of Allah SWT.
10	Upon arriving in Taif, he was met by the heads of Bani Thaqif, the largest Arab tribe in Taif, namely `Abd Yalil, Mas`ud and Habib, who were also the children of Amru bin Umair al-Thaqafy. He called them to embrace Islam and asked for their support. But, one of the siblings responded by saying, <i>"Allah has tore the shroud of the Kaabah if it is you who is sent as a prophet."</i>
11	Another one said, <i>"Is there nobody else for Allah SWT to send, apart from you?"</i> The same attitude was shown by the third sibling when he insulted and humiliated the noble Rasulullah SAW. He said, <i>"By Allah, I do not want to talk to you forever! If you are the man sent by Allah, then you are more dangerous for me to have any conversation with!"</i> Rasulullah SAW stood up and requested permission to gracefully leave.
12	The rejection of the message and propagation of Rasulullah SAW did not end there. He remained in Taif for 10 days, to invite, to urge and to persuade the people of Taif to embrace Islam. However, no one entertained the propagation efforts of Rasulullah SAW. In fact, the people of Taif drove Rasulullah SAW away and said, <i>"Get out from our town!"</i>
13	It was recorded in the book of <i>al-Rahiqul Makhtum</i> that town officials and nobles had ordered the servants and the people of Taif to line up along the road to push and drive the Prophet out. Imagine... the youths of Taif also threw stones at Rasulullah SAW while pouring scorn, mocking and taunting him, until Rasulullah SAW bled from wounds on his head, body and legs.
14	Blood filled his shoes, while Sayiddina Zaid continued using his body to protect Rasulullah SAW, until he himself suffered head injuries. In fact, while descending down a steep hill in Taif, the stones thrown by the people of Taif



	continued to shower down upon them.
15	After some distance, Rasulullah SAW stopped to seek shelter and leaned against a stone wall. That was when Rasulullah SAW raised his hand and prayed and told Allah SWT of his feelings and grief.
16	When Rasulullah SAW was turning back towards Makkah, the angel Jibril AS, who was sent by Allah SWT together with the angel of the mountains, came close to Rasulullah SAW and said, "O, Muhammad, ask of your Lord's consent for me to take the hills in Taif and crush them, for I will do it!"
17	<p>And what was Rasulullah SAW's response to the offer by Jibril AS? As narrated by Sayyidatina 'A'isha RA and recorded by Imam al-Bukhari and Muslim, Rasulullah SAW gave this answer instead:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">بَلْ أَرْجُو أَنْ يُخْرِجَ اللَّهُ مِنْ أَصْلَابِهِمْ مَنْ يَعْبُدُ اللَّهَ وَحْدَهُ لَا يُشْرِكُ بِهِ شَيْئًا</p> <p>Which means: "I rather hope that Allah will raise from among their descendants' people who will worship Allah the One, and will not ascribe partners to Him (in worship)."</p>
18	Let us reflect upon this. Are we not impressed with the words of Rasulullah SAW to Jibril AS? How would it have been if we were in Rasulullah SAW's shoes at that time? Noble indeed was his character. Rather than condemning or thinking of reprisals, he prayed for good and love for the people of Taif.
19	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>History has etched the difficulties faced by Rasulullah SAW in his struggles to propagate the true teachings of Islam. Even after experiencing many challenges and obstacles, he still continued to preach and propagate, together with sincere prayers, determination and careful planning. As a result, Taif successfully embraced Islam through Abdullah Ibn Abbas 12 years after the bitter events experienced by Rasulullah SAW.</p>
20	His optimistic attitude towards faith in Allah SWT's assistance, as demonstrated by Rasulullah SAW, is akin to the parable "like a luxuriant fruit



	<i>tree, living on the streets and pelted with stones, but still bears fruits as reward."</i>
21	Remember, propagating Islam in the path of Allah SWT is the noblest path in the world. It is the way of the Apostles, the Prophets and the righteous people. A <i>da`ie</i> , or preacher, should always show examples of good character and work in tandem with the words. Generally, if we play the role of a <i>da`ie</i> , then we must have the characteristics of a <i>da`ie</i> , which are as follows:
22	<i>First: A close relationship with Allah SWT</i> A <i>da`ie</i> who has a close relationship with Allah SWT will have strong beliefs and faith when faced with challenges, coming especially from the intended recipients. Propagation efforts must solely be for the sake of Allah SWT and not for other reasons.
23	<i>Second: Controlling lust and desire</i> Every <i>da`ie</i> should improve himself and control his desires, as well as obey all the commands and prohibitions of Allah SWT. For example, if we want to advise someone on the nature of greed, then we must also refrain from bad behaviour associated with it.
24	<i>Third: Confidence in our self</i> A <i>da`ie</i> must believe in himself, his religion and the message that is to be conveyed in the propagation effort. Public confidence in the <i>da`ie</i> will not exist until he himself can set a good example in actions, morals and knowledge through daily contact.
25	The <i>da`ie</i> also needs to be proficient in the core knowledge, namely faith, jurisprudence and <i>tassawuf</i> , which is the study and cultivation of the relationship between Man and God. When a <i>da`ie</i> has obtained a high level of self-confidence, the propagation efforts will become increasingly smooth.
26	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, If we feel disheartened and lose our self-confidence in delivering religious advice, soothe and calm our hearts by remembering Allah SWT's promise in Surah an-Nahl, verse 125:



	<p>أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَدِلْهُمْ بِالتِّي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ ﴿١٢٥﴾</p>
27	<p>Which means: “Invite (all) to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for your Lord knows best, who have strayed from His Path, and who receive guidance.”</p>
28	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Let us learn from the conclusions of the sermon delivered by the <i>mimbar</i> on this blessed Friday, which are as follows:</p> <p>First: The efforts of propagation requires patience and perseverance of the soul, apart from careful planning and a realistic expectations.</p> <p>Second: Rasulullah SAW is the greatest icon of propagating the truth, who remained consistent in delivering the truth of Islam, even in the face of great resistance and ridicule.</p> <p>Third: It is the responsibility of all individuals to take care of the religion based on their specialised skills and field of expertise.</p>
29	<p>Reflect upon the words of Allah SWT as contained in Surah Fussilat, verse 33:</p> <p>أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّنِي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٣٣﴾</p>
30	<p>Which means: “Who is better in speech than one who calls (men) to Allah, works righteousness, and says, “I am of those who bow in Islam?”</p>



31	<p>بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِجَمِيعِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ يَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.</p>
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