



1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>YOUR SQUANDERED FRIDAYS</b> 17 February 2017AD / 20 Jamadilawal 1438H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِّيِّ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١﴾</p>
7	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Let us strive to increase the level of our faith and conviction in Allah SWT by obeying His commands and avoiding all that has been forbidden by Him. Acknowledge and appreciate the blessings bestowed by Allah SWT by being grateful, for it is fortunate for those who are full of conviction, because Allah SWT will grant His blessings and rewards in the most unexpected ways. Indeed, Allah SWT will provide solutions to the problems we face in our life.</p>
8	<p>The <i>mimbar</i> on this auspicious day shall deliver a sermon entitled: <b>“Your Squandered Fridays”</b></p>



9	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>In Islam, every single day has its own distinctions and rewards. If the Jews are proud of Saturdays, and Christians of Sundays, then, as Muslims, we honour Friday as the leader of all days. This is the day that all distinctions and rewards are accumulated, as enshrined in the Al-Quran and Sunnah.</p>
10	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>The distinction of Fridays is coupled with the command to perform the compulsory Friday prayers by those who fulfil all conditions sufficiently. Allah SWT declared in Surah Al Jumu'ah verse 9, the verse which was read at the beginning of this sermon:</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> <i>“O, you who believe! When the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday (the Day of Assembly), hasten earnestly to the Remembrance of Allah, and leave off business (and trade): That is best for you if you but knew!”</i></p>
11	<p>As mentioned by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Al-Zuhaili: Friday prayers and sermons are the Muslims’ symbols of greatness. It is the time when people gather to strengthen brotherhood and love, regardless of race or rank. Indeed, Fridays bear witness to the door of mercy being flung wide open.</p>
12	<p>Therefore, Muslims are encouraged to increase their supplementary practices and supplications in addition to fulfil the obligation to perform Friday prayers. However, there are still a handful of people we are complacent and pay little attention to it. Even worse, they squander the day of many rewards by doing things that are useless, including:</p>
13	<p><b>First: Conducting business and trade after the Azan for Friday Prayers</b></p> <p>In the same verse above, Allah SWT has given a clear emphasis on the prohibition of trading after the call to Friday prayers is made. Any business or trade should stop the moment the call to prayer ends. It is unfortunate that there are still some of us who wilfully, every week, at such time, eat and drink even after the call to prayer has concluded. Do we not realize that it</p>



	has been clearly forbidden by Allah SWT? Don't they know the ban extends to all Muslim men who reside in the area and are required to attend Friday prayers? They should hasten to the prayer hall to listen to the sermon with the rest of the congregation and take advantage of it.
14	<p><b>Second: Arriving late at the mosque</b></p> <p>There are also those who purposely come late to the mosque. They think there is no difference in coming early or late. To them, what is important is to perform the Friday prayers. Be reminded that Rasulullah SAW has encouraged us to arrive early at the mosque in order to reap as much rewards as are available on this prestigious day.</p>
15	<p>Reflect on the hadith recorded by Imam Al-Bukhari R.H and narrated by Abu Hurairah R.A, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p>مَنْ اغْتَسَلَ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ غُسْلَ الْجَنَابَةِ ثُمَّ رَاحَ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَرَّبَ بَدَنَةً، وَمَنْ رَاحَ فِي السَّاعَةِ الثَّانِيَةِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَرَّبَ بَقْرَةً، وَمَنْ رَاحَ فِي السَّاعَةِ الثَّلَاثَةِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَرَّبَ كَبْشًا، أَقْرَنَ وَمَنْ رَاحَ فِي السَّاعَةِ الرَّابِعَةِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَرَّبَ دَجَاجَةً، وَمَنْ رَاحَ فِي السَّاعَةِ الْخَامِسَةِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَرَّبَ بَيْضَةً، فَإِذَا خَرَجَ الْإِمَامُ حَضَرَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَسْتَمِعُونَ الذِّكْرَ.</p>
16	<p><b>Which means:</b> "Any person who takes a bath on Friday like the bath of Junub and then goes for prayer during the first part, it is as if he had sacrificed a camel (in Allah's cause); and whoever goes during the second part it is as if he had sacrificed a cow; and whoever goes during the third part, then it is as if he had sacrificed a horned ram; and if one goes during the fourth part, then it is as if he had sacrificed a hen; and whoever goes during the fifth part, then it is as if he had offered an egg. When the Imam comes out (to deliver the sermon), the angels present themselves to listen to the sermon."</p>
17	In addition, those who arrive late also affects the attention of other members of the congregation who come early, because the latecomers would have to



	step forward to fill the empty rows in front. Being early for Friday prayers also allows us to perform <i>zikir</i> , to read the al-Quran, and to secure places in the front rows, as well as performing other good deeds.
18	<p><b>Third: Not focussing on the sermon</b></p> <p>In reality today, many among the congregation do not pay attention at all to what is said by the <i>khatib</i> during the sermon. Some are unashamedly engrossed with their mobile phones, updating and reading their <i>facebook</i> statuses, sending and receiving <i>whatsapp</i> messages, as well as surfing the Internet.</p>
19	In addition to these social media activities, there are also those who engage in worthless chatter and falling asleep to the point of snoring! Making it even worse are those who even play mobile phone games while the <i>khatib</i> is delivering the sermon! Is this how our manners should be in the face of Allah SWT? Be aware that such acts reduce the rewards and benefits of Allah SWT that we receive during Friday prayers.
20	<p>Our preoccupation with the mobile phone and attentiveness to other matters is alluded to in a hadith recorded by Imam Muslim R.H and narrated by Abu Hurairah R.A, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">         مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الْوُضُوءَ ثُمَّ أَتَى الْجُمُعَةَ فَاسْتَمَعَ وَأَنْصَتَ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ          الْجُمُعَةِ وَزِيَادَةُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ وَمَنْ مَسَّ الْحَصَى فَقَدْ لَغَا.       </p>
21	<p><b>Which means:</b> "Whoever performs the ablution, then he proceeds to perform the Friday prayers, then he sits, quietly, listening to the sermon; his sins are forgiven between this Friday until the next Friday and plus three more days. And those who are negligent would have committed an act in vain."</p>
22	<p><b>Fourth: Not performing the supplementary, but very much encouraged, solat tahiyatul masjid</b></p> <p>In all situations, it is highly encouraged to perform the supplementary</p>



	<i>tahiyatul masjid</i> prayers when first entering the mosque.
23	<p>This is in line with a hadith recorded by Imam Muslim R.H as narrated by Jabir bin Abdullah R.A, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p>جَاءَ مُسَلِّمٌ الْغَطَفَانِيُّ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ وَرَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَاعِدٌ عَلَى الْمِنْبَرِ، فَقَعَدَ مُسَلِّمٌ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُصَلِّيَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: أَرَكَعْتَ رَكْعَتَيْنِ؟ قَالَ: لَا. قَالَ: قُمْ، فَارْكَعْهُمَا..</p>
24	<p><b>Which means:</b> “Sulaik al Ghatfani entered the mosque on Friday while the Prophet was delivering the sermon and sat before performing the supplementary <i>tahiyatul</i> prayers (<i>tahiyatul masjid</i>). Then the Prophet asked him: ‘Have you performed the <i>tahiyatul</i> prayers? Then Sulaik answered: No, I have not. The Prophet said: Arise, and pray the two <i>rakaats</i>.”</p>
25	<p>In reality, there are a number of us who fail to perform this requirement, especially those who arrive late at the mosque. Which is why we are highly encouraged to come early to the mosque - so that we may perform supplementary practices with ease. In situations where the <i>khatib</i> has already started the sermon, simplify these supplementary prayers in order to listen to the sermon.</p>
26	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Guard ourselves from committing these mistakes which can reduce the rewards of performing the Friday prayers. Remember, as Muslims bestowed by numerous rewards and blessing by Allah SWT, we should fully utilize these benefits wisely.</p>
27	<p>To end today’s sermon, the <i>mimbar</i> would like us, together, to reflect upon the following as guidance and advice:</p> <p><b>First:</b> On Fridays, we are highly encouraged to perform good deeds, like holding invocations for Rasulullah SAW, performing</p>



	<p>prayers, charity, and so forth, from dawn until sunset.</p> <p><b>Second:</b> Avoid things that could harm our Friday practices, such as trading during Friday prayers, coming late to the mosque, engrossed with mobile phones, chatting or sleeping during the sermon, as well as not performing the supplementary <i>tahiyatul masjid</i> prayers.</p> <p><b>Third:</b> For a moment, leave behind everything that is unnecessary and pointless. Submit your heart with a sense of servitude to listen to the sermon, and seize the rewards and benefits available during Friday prayers. It is most appropriate that mobile phones be switched off or put on silent mode as soon as we get to the mosque, to preserve our manners and to respect the dignity of the mosque.</p>
28	<p>As stated by Allah SWT in Surah Al Jumuah, verse 11:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">وَإِذَا رَأَوْا تِجَارَةً أَوْ لَهْوًا انفَضُّوا إِلَيْهَا وَتَرَكُوكَ قَائِمًا قُلْ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ مِنَ اللَّهِوِ وَمِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الرَّزَاقِينَ ﴿١١﴾</p>
29	<p><b>Which means:</b> "But when they see some bargain or some amusement, they disperse headlong to it, and leave you standing. Say: "The (blessing) from the Presence of Allah is better than any amusement or bargain! and Allah is the Best to provide (for all needs)."</p>
30	<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 الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُنَّ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>