



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">RETURN TO GREATNESS THROUGH ISLAM 3 March 2017AD / 4 Jamadilakhir 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا 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 الْدِّينِ.</p>
5	<p>أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُقْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p>قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بَعَايَتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Let us enhance our conviction in Allah SWT through sincere obedience to Him and His Messenger, and avoiding all that He has forbade us from doing. May we be rewarded with blessings and forgiveness from Allah SWT.</p>



8	<p>Have we ever reflected upon and thought about how lucky we are to have been born as Muslims? Have we ever noticed the difference between how our new Muslim converts act and how they appreciate the guidance of Islam, compared to those who have long since inherited their religion at birth? Unfortunately, many Muslims today do not seem to appreciate the priceless blessings of Islam.</p>
9	<p>Therefore, the sermon today shall discuss the topic: <i>"Return to Greatness Through Islam"</i>.</p>
10	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Let us together reflect upon the question: what is Islam and what makes it impressive? To answer that, we first must realize the true nature of humans who live on this earth. As Allah SWT has stated in Surah Al-An'am, verse 32:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p>Which means: <i>“And the worldly life is not but amusement and diversion; but the home of the Hereafter is best for those who fear Allah SWT, so will you not reason?”</i></p>
11	<p>Acknowledge the fact that our purpose in this life is simply to build our conviction and devotion towards Allah SWT alone. Through conviction and faith, we will surely be victorious, peaceful and secure in the eternal Hereafter. Therefore, the only way to build conviction and devotion is to obey Allah SWT through compliance of Islamic laws.</p>
12	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>In reality, many Muslims today are becoming increasingly distant from practicing the true Islamic way of life. They seem to have lost faith in Islam, a way of life which ensures happiness in this world and in the Hereafter. In fact, some are embarrassed to openly display the Islamic way of life. Isn't Islam a comprehensive way of life, which is perfect and guarantees us</p>



	abundance and success in this world and in the Hereafter?
13	<p>Let us ponder upon this affirmation by Allah SWT, in Surah Ali Imran, verse 85:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَسِرِينَ </p> <p>Which means: <i>“If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah), never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter He will be in the ranks of those who have lost (All spiritual good)”.</i></p> <p>Therefore, be thankful that Allah SWT has chosen us to be Muslims among all others in the world.</p>
14	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Although our ultimate goal is achieving happiness in the Hereafter, we must also remember that we are also vicegerents of Allah SWT on earth, who are responsible to administer this world according to the rules set by Him. Rasulallah SAW had in fact reminded us to hold steadfastly to the teachings of Islam.</p>
15	<p>As recorded by Ibn Majah Rahimahullah and narrated by al-'Irbadh bin Sariyah RA, Rasulallah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> قَدْ تَرَكْتُكُمْ عَلَى الْبَيْضَاءِ، لَيْلُهَا كَنَهَارِهَا لَا يَزِيغُ عَنْهَا بَعْدِي إِلَّا هَالِكٌ. </p> <p>Which means: <i>“Indeed I have left you upon a clear white path, its night is like its day. No one deviates from it after me, except that he is destroyed.”</i></p>
16	<p>History has also proven that Islam would lead us to success and excellence. Look at the greatness and the pinnacle of education and knowledge achieved at the time of the Abbasid Caliphate, especially during the reign of Caliph Harun al-Rashid. Acknowledge also the sophistication and military tactics of the great Ottoman Caliphate which saw Islam ruling two-thirds of the known world then. This is clear proof that Islam brought glory to the world without neglecting the requirements of the Hereafter.</p>



17	Islam would be far greater if its followers actively engage in good deeds. Islam would be more dignified if its followers intensely acquire knowledge. Islam would reign supreme if its followers put faith and conviction as the axis of life. On the other hand, as a result of ignoring faith and conviction in life, being complacent and neglectful due to the pleasures of the world, and being unable to see the importance of seeking knowledge, then of course, Muslims would look backward and weak.
18	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, We will definitely be great with Islam, because Islam is the religion recognised by Allah SWT. We can be magnificent with Islam because Allah SWT will always be with us, if we remain devoutly on His path. We can achieve real success with Islam if we strategize towards it.
19	Therefore, let us start with knowledge, as knowledge is the light that illuminates our path. There are three basic types of knowledge which must be emphasised and acquired in this life, namely:
20	<i>First: The Knowledge of Faith</i> Faith is a matter of belief and trust. We must learn about each one in order for our conviction to be secure and protected from all forms of distortions, such as liberal thinking, secularism, <i>Shiah</i> and others.
21	We must also acquire knowledge regarding matters which can cause the invalidation of faith through speech or actions. This is the main fortress that must be strengthened by every Muslim. If faith collapses, the bastion of Islam will also fall.
22	<i>Second: Knowledge about Islam</i> Islam encompasses all knowledge related to man's way of life, including worship, jurisprudence, commercial dealings, criminal law and government. If we are ignorant about such systems of Islam, it is likely our deeds will be invalidated or void. When we are ignorant about them, we may easily commit actions forbidden by Allah SWT. Therefore, we would not have a valid reason to question judgements passed in the Hereafter when we have in fact been given the chance right now to acquire as much knowledge as



	possible, to prepare for that eventual day.
23	<p>Third: Knowledge in obtaining Ihsan</p> <p>Obtaining <i>Ihsan</i> as described by Rasulullah SAW is worshipping Allah SWT as if we can actually see Him, but if we cannot act as if we actually see Him, then we still have the belief that He is constantly watching over us. Be mindful that Allah SWT sees our behaviour, knows the intent of our heart, as well as know our plans. Therefore, in the process of obtaining <i>Ihsan</i>, we are required to be aware, and to educate our hearts to always remember Allah SWT.</p>
24	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Sayiddina Umar Al Khattab RA offered a reminder:</p> <p>نَحْنُ قَوْمٌ أَعَزَّنَا اللَّهُ بِالْإِسْلَامِ. فَإِنْ ابْتَغَيْنَا الْعِزَّةَ بغيرِهِ، أَذَلَّنَا اللَّهُ</p> <p>Which means: "We are all honoured by Allah SWT through Islam. But, if we seek glory apart from Islam, Allah SWT will humiliate us."</p>
25	<p>Don't even dare to dream of becoming leaders of the world, let alone be put on a pedestal or be held in high regard if we do not practice Islam completely. The reality today is that we view prayer obligations as insignificant, we mix the lawful with the unlawful, have unrestrained mingling between men and women, look at wrongdoings as a normal part of life, allow the modesty of our wives and daughters to be exposed and allow evil to propagate and flourish.</p>
26	<p>Reflect upon the reminder given by Rasulullah SAW, as recorded by Imam Abu Dawud <i>Rahimahullah</i> and narrated by al-'Irbadh bin Sariyah RA:</p> <p>فَعَلَيْكُمْ بِسُنَّتِي وَسُنَّةِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الْمَهْدِيِّينَ الرَّاشِدِينَ، تَمَسَّكُوا بِهَا وَعَضُّوا عَلَيْهَا بِالنَّوَاجِدِ</p> <p>Which means: "Follow my Sunnah, and the practices of the Rightly Guided Caliphs who come after me. Hold steadfast to that like a bite with your molar teeth"</p>



27	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Ending the sermon today, let us together reflect on some takeaways as our guidance:</p> <p>First: Islam is a religion of blessings, harmony, progress, excellence and is a comprehensive way of life.</p> <p>Second: Understanding and embracing Islam is a continuous and endless process. Seek the knowledge of Islam in order to increase our faith and conviction.</p> <p>Third: Restore the beauty and grandeur of Islam through our earnest embrace of its practices in our life.</p>
28	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah as-Saf, verse 7:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ وَهُوَ يُدْعَىٰ إِلَى الْإِسْلَامِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٧﴾</p> <p>Which means: “Who does greater wrong than one who invents falsehood against Allah, even as he is being invited to Islam? And Allah guides not those who do wrong.”</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 مِنْهُنَّ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>