



1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LESSONS FROM THE BATTLE OF AHZAB</b> 30 June 2017AD / 6 Syawal 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، مُحَمَّدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينَهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ 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 الدِّينِ.</p>
5	<p>أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p>قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ يُرِيدُونَ لِيُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ مُتِمُّ نُورِهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ ﴿٨﴾ هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٩﴾</p>
7	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Let us increase the level of our conviction in Allah SWT with full devotion, confidence and sincerity, by performing all that He has commanded and by avoiding all that He has prohibited from doing. May we be counted among those who are faithful, as well as successful, in this world and in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>The <i>mimbar</i> today shall discuss a sermon entitled, "<b>Lessons from the Battle of Ahzab</b>".</p>
9	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> The month of Syawal reminds us of the events during the Battle of Ahzab, which took place on 7th Syawal, in the year Five (5) Hijrah. During that time, the faith and obedience of Muslims towards Allah SWT and Prophet Muhammad SAW were</p>



	severely tested. Also, at that time, Muslims were faced with an alarming and aggravating situation.
10	<p>Therefore, every time we recite the <i>Takbir</i> during the Eid celebration, it echoes the following expression:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ، صَدَقَ وَعْدُهُ، وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ، وَأَعَزَّ جُنْدَهُ وَهَزَمَ الْأَحْزَابَ وَحْدَهُ</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> "There is no god but Allah SWT, who keeps His promises, who helps His servants and glorifies His army in the defeat of the army of the al-Ahzab alone (by His power)."</p>
11	<p>Why was the Battle of Ahzab specifically mentioned in the <i>Takbir</i>, and what were the wisdom and lessons learnt from it?</p> <p>The Battle of Ahzab or, Battle of the Clans, occurred when the enemies of Islam, such as the polytheistic Quraish, the Jews and the Ghatafan clan, joined forces to wage war against Islam. The Quraish group consisted of the tribes of Bani Salim, Bani Asad, Bani Fazarah, Bani Ashja' and Bani Murrah. While the Jews were comprised of the Banu Nadir, Banu Qurayza and Banu Wail tribes.</p>
12	<p>This group of <i>al-Ahzab</i> comprised of 10,000 soldiers in total, while the Muslim army was about 3,000 only. This battle was also known as the Battle of the Trenches. Salman al-Farisi RA had suggested that trenches be dug, with the approval of Rasulullah SAW, to face the army of <i>Al-Ahzab</i>. This battle strategy of digging trenches was unknown to the Arabs at the time.</p>
13	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>The Battle of Ahzab occurred because of Jewish betrayal, deception and manipulation. The Jewish tribe of Banu Nadir initiated, incited and raised the Ahzab alliance while the Jewish tribe of Banu Qurayza, who were bound by the Charter of Medina, betrayed the Muslims.</p>
14	<p>The Ahzab alliance began when some emissaries from the Jewish tribe of Banu Nadir went to Makkah to invite the Quraish to align with them. These</p>



	Jewish emissaries also invited the Ghatafan tribe and other tribes who had grudges against Islam to join their alliance.
15	Indeed, the Battle of Ahzab was a major test for individuals who claim to be believers and faithful. The faithless soul saw only death before them while decrying Allah SWT's and His Messenger's promises as deception. While the souls of the faithful remained steadfast in dreaming of victory or martyrdom in death and this added to their faith in, and submission to, Allah SWT.
16	Allah SWT declared in Surah al-Ahzab, verse 22: <p style="text-align: center;">وَلَمَّا رَأَى الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الْأَحْزَابَ قَالُوا هَذَا مَا وَعَدَنَا اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَصَدَقَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَمَا زَادَهُمْ إِلَّا إِيمَانًا وَتَسْلِيمًا ﴿٢٢﴾</p>
17	<b>Which means:</b> "When the Believers saw the Confederate forces, they said: "This is what Allah and his Messenger had promised us, and Allah and His Messenger told us what was true." And it only added to their faith and their zeal in obedience."
18	No matter how great the military planning of the Ahzab forces to defeat Islam was, but with the help of Allah SWT who dispatched a hurricane, coupled with the sublime wisdom of Rasulullah SAW and his companions, a victory was finally declared for the Muslims.
19	The provocative ploy of Nu'iam bin Mas'ud successfully created chaos amongst the Ahzab alliance. The siege laid by the army of the Clans for a month did not give any advantage or benefit to them. Allah SWT drove away His enemies with wrath.
20	Allah SWT decreed in Surah Muhammad, verse 7: <p style="text-align: center;">يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن نَّصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ ﴿٧﴾</p> <b>Which means:</b> "O you who believe! If you will aid (the cause of) Allah, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly."



21	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>The Battle of Ahzab instilled a number of lessons to all Muslims. Although these events have long passed, but the situation experienced by them seems to occur in this current age. The great lessons learnt from these events are:</p>
22	<p><b><i>First: It is compulsory to be convinced and to believe in the promises of Allah SWT and His Messenger.</i></b></p> <p>During the Battle of Ahzab, the Muslim community of Madinah had to endure difficult moments. It was then that the hypocrites among them displayed their true nature. The Muslim faithful were tested with words of incitement from the hypocrites to doubt the promises of Allah SWT and His Messenger. However, the faith and belief of the Companions, who were always by the side of Rasulullah SAW, in defending Islam and their homeland, were great.</p>
23	<p>If we observe our current scenario, are we capable of becoming like those who are willing to risk their lives and property for the sake of Islam? In reality, Islam today is constantly under attack by its enemies through various ways and means, which leads us to wonder whether we are able to defend Islam?</p>
24	<p><b><i>Second: Muslims must unite to preserve the sovereignty of the country</i></b></p> <p>We can observe from the abovementioned battle, that local Muslims and immigrants joined forces to dig the trenches. Regardless of their position in the society, whether they were rich or poor, young or old, men or women, leaders or citizens, they all worked together. Observe how Rasulullah SAW also helped to dig the trenches until his own body was covered in thick soil.</p>
25	<p>In fact, he destroyed the large boulders that interfered with the digging of the trenches on his own. Such exemplary character shown by Rasulullah SAW and his Companions should be emulated by us today. If we cannot work together to solve minor issues, how are we able to unite as a nation to face any threat similar to the event mentioned above?</p>
26	<p><b><i>Third: Beware of the theatrics and manipulations of the enemies of Islam who are constantly at war with Islam</i></b></p>



	The Battle of Ahzab clearly shows that the Jews of Madinah and its outskirts, as well as the polytheist Quraish, always had a grudge against Muslims. Their plans and strategies were so slick and manipulative that the people of Madinah had to be alert and wary, day and night.
27	However, Rasulullah SAW and his Companions had also planned a strategy that was beyond the thinking of the enemy. As a result, victory was achieved. The reality today is that Muslims are getting weaker. Various schools of thought and conflicting opinions are splitting up Muslims.
28	How are we able to face the schemes and plans of our enemies who are constantly seeking to undermine us? Hence, let us be re-united under the creed of the <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> in order to restore the glory of Islam.
29	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>To conclude today's sermon, the following are some of its takeaways, for us to contemplate upon:</p> <p><b>First:</b> Faith, devotion and sincerity towards Allah SWT and His Messenger shall yield peace in the face of all the challenges of life.</p> <p><b>Second:</b> The victory of the Muslims in the Battle of Ahzab, which was obtained without an outright fight, is proof of Allah SWT's assistance to those who defend His religion.</p> <p><b>Third:</b> We must be re-united under the banner of <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> to restore the glory of Islam in the eyes of the world. The assistance from Allah SWT shall always be with us.</p>
30	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah al-Ahzab verse 9:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p>



	<p>يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا اذْكُرُوْا نِعْمَةَ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْكُمْ اِذْ جَآءَتْكُمْ جُنُوْدٌ فَاَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيْحًا وَّجُنُوْدًا لَّمْ تَرَوْهَا وَكَانَ اللّٰهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُوْنَ بَصِيْرًا ﴿٩﴾</p>
31	<p><b>Which means:</b> “O, you who have believed, remember the favour of Allah upon you when armies came to [attack] you and We sent upon them hurricane and armies [of angels] you did not see: but Allah sees (clearly) all that you do.”</p>
32	<p>بَارَكَ اللّٰهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَاَيَّكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتُهُ اِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. اَقُوْلُ قَوْلِيْ هٰذَا وَاَسْتَغْفِرُوْا اللّٰهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْاَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْاَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ اِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.</p>