



1	 <p><b>RESOLUTION AND HOPE</b> 5 January 2018AD / 17 Rabiulakhir 1439H</p>
2	إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وِلِيًّا مُرْشِدًا.
3	أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،
4	اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْدِّينِ.
5	أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَفْلِحُونَ.
6	قَالَ تَعَالَى: لَهُ، مُعَقَّبَتْ مَنْ بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَمَنْ خَلْفَهُ، يَحْفَظُونَهُ، مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ <sup>ظ</sup> وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ <sup>ع</sup> وَمَا لَهُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ مِنْ وَالٍ ﴿١١﴾
7	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b>



	Let us together increase the level of our conviction in Allah SWT through absolute obedience, faith and sincerity, by performing all His commands and staying away from all that He has forbade us from doing.
8	May we be counted among those who have conviction, and thereafter attain victory and security, in this world and the Hereafter.
9	To begin this new year of 2018, the <i>mimbar</i> today shall deliver a sermon entitled, “ <b>Resolution and Hope</b> ”.
10	The years go by, we continue to age, and our physical abilities tend to diminish. Nevertheless, the passing of time and the increase in age are not reasons for us to give up, and to let things happen without any effort to change. A Muslim should aim for what is good for himself, his family and his community.
11	In fact, we are encouraged to continue doing good deeds without having regard to the time.
12	In a hadith narrated by Ahmad, Anas bin Malik RA reported that Rasulullah SAW had said:  إِنْ قَامَتِ السَّاعَةُ وَبِيَدِ أَحَدِكُمْ فَسِيلَةٌ فَإِنْ اسْتَطَاعَ أَنْ لَا يَقُومَ حَتَّى يَغْرِسَهَا فَلْيَفْعَلْ
13	<b>Which means:</b> “If the end of the world is about to happen, but in the hand of one of you is the seed of a date palm, if he is able to plant it before the end comes then he should do so”.
14	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b>



	At the beginning of each year we are always reminded to have a new year's resolve. Each of us, young or old, rich or poor, would surely have a resolve, or a dream, which we want to achieve.
15	A resolve is a very strong desire, want, or ambition to gain or to achieve something. It becomes an encouragement for each individual to achieve what has been longed for.
16	Therefore, take advantage of our age, life, health, fortune and free time bestowed by Allah SWT to realise our goals in order to attain what is good in this life, as well as in the afterlife.
17	In a hadith narrated by Ahmad, Abd Al-Rahman bin Abi Bakrah reported from his father the following:  إِنَّ رَجُلًا قَالَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، أَيُّ النَّاسِ خَيْرٌ؟ قَالَ: مَنْ طَالَ عُمُرُهُ وَحَسُنَ وَحَسُنَ عَمَلُهُ. قَالَ: فَأَيُّ النَّاسِ شَرُّ؟ قَالَ: مَنْ طَالَ عُمُرُهُ وَسَاءَ عَمَلُهُ.
18	<b>Which means:</b> "A man asked: O, Rasulallah, who is a good human being? The Prophet answered: Those with long life and performing good deeds. The man then asked: Then, who is the worst human being? The Prophet answered: Those with long life and performing bad deeds."
19	Al-Tayyibi RH, in the book <i>Tuhfat al-Ahwazi</i> , in elaborating on the hadith just now, said: "Indeed, time is like a commodity to the trader and so he should utilise it to generate profits. The bigger his capital, the more would be his profits.
20	Whoever utilises his life well by performing good deeds, then he would surely be successful. But, those who lose their capital by



	<i>squandering the time given, then surely he is unsuccessful and faces great loss."</i>
21	Al-Habib Abdullah bin 'Alawi al-Haddad stated in his book, <i>an-Nasaih al-Diniyyah wal-Wasaya al-Imaniyyah</i> , that mankind, in managing their resolve or aspirations, is divided into three groups:
22	<b>The first group:</b> Those of our forefathers, among the prophets and the truthful, who do not have worldly aspirations. They await their moment of death with gladness, and prepare themselves for the afterlife with obedience and submission to the commandments of Allah SWT.
23	<b>The second group:</b> Those in the middle level who do good and obey. They have aspirations but are not side-tracked from obeying Allah SWT and the preparation for the afterlife. But, members of this group are not like members of the first group who focus more on the afterlife.
24	<b>The third group:</b> Those who are taken in, and become idiots, due to their great daydreams, to the point of forgetting about their afterlife. They forget about death, they love their worldly fortunes, amass wealth, and are continuously pre-occupied with this life.
25	Allah SWT declared in surah <i>Taha</i> , verse 131: <p style="text-align: center;">وَلَا تَمُدَّنَّ عَيْنَيْكَ إِلَىٰ مَا مَتَّعْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِنْهُمْ زَهْرَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا لِنَفْتِنَهُمْ فِيهِ وَرِزْقُ رَبِّكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ ﴿١٣١﴾</p>
26	<b>Which means:</b> <i>"Nor strain your eyes in longing for the things We have given for enjoyment to parties of them, the splendour of the</i>



	<i>life of this world, through which We test them: but the provision of your Lord is better and more enduring".</i>
27	What has been stated just now does not mean it is wrong to have resolutions and to make attempts to achieve our aspirations. This is because each person has his own responsibilities and rights which has to be fulfilled, be it for himself, his wife or his family.
28	But, in reaching for our own interests, needs and preparation in this world, let us never forget the actions, the preparations and the needs for happiness in the Hereafter. Indeed, what is with Allah SWT would surely be better and everlasting for the faithful and who surrender fully to their Lord.
29	<b>Fellow Muslim blessed by Allah,</b> Mankind has been given the ability and the freedom to choose how they are to colour their lives be it in this world or in the Hereafter, in line with what they desire.
30	Therefore, the following are some of the matters which we must understand in attaining our goals, chasing our dreams and reaching for the stars.
31	<b>First:</b> Assess our self, analyse and correct whatever wrongs we have committed. Indeed, no one is perfect, no one is devoid of mistakes, and the best among those who have done wrong
32	Are those who would like to atone for such mistakes and improve themselves. Indeed, blunders or mistakes of the past are factors that could help us to attain greatness in all aspects of our career and life.



33	<b>Second:</b> Building resolve and intent for the sake of Allah SWT. Our intent determines the value of our action, whether what is worked upon shall be considered an act of worship or otherwise.
34	Our intent determines whether our action matches what is required by Islam, which in turn may invoke the blessings of Allah SWT.
35	<b>Third:</b> Our resolve and determination to make changes and improvements to all areas, be it our career, finances or health. Indeed, <i>mukmins</i> who have a positive mindset is very much liked by Allah SWT.
36	In a hadith narrated by Muslim, Abu Hurairah RA reported that Rasulullah SAW had said: المُؤْمِنُ الْقَوِيُّ خَيْرٌ وَأَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِ الضَّعِيفِ، وَفِي كُلِّ خَيْرٍ أَحْرَضَ عَلَى مَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَاسْتَعِنَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَا تَعْجَزْ.
37	<b>Which means:</b> “A strong Mukmin is better and more loved by Allah SWT than a weak mukmin; but there is good in each of them. Put your hard work into getting what is to benefit you, and ask for the assistance from Allah SWT, and never, ever, feel weak.”
38	<b>Fourth:</b> Preserving the relationship with Allah SWT and with other fellow man. Indeed, all worldly affairs are not devoid of the reason why mankind was created, namely to attain the acceptance of Allah SWT.
39	Therefore, a <i>mukmin</i> must focus all his efforts for Allah SWT alone, and must always ask for His assistance and guidance. The same also goes when dealing with fellow man.



40	Therefore, have the proper resolve and intent to benefit everyone. If we want to be a good person, and be successful in all our endeavours,
41	We must resolve that whatever good derived from our actions shall be for the benefit and happiness of our wife, children and family.
42	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> To conclude the sermon today, let us remember the following takeaways: <b>First:</b> Our resolve and our ambitions are the goals or targets which we aim to achieve and they should match the requirements of Islam.
43	<b>Second:</b> Whatever improvements planned in the life of a <i>mukmin</i> must follow the tenets and the principles of Islam, so that a good future is guaranteed, and he is contented and happy in this world and in the Hereafter.
44	<b>Third:</b> Fortunate indeed for those whose days march towards good and they get closer to their Lord. On the other hand, woe indeed for those whose days march towards evil, and would invite the wrath of their Lord.
45	Allah SWT declared in surah surah Al-Qasas verse 77: <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p>



	<p>وَابْتَغِ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَأَحْسِنْ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفُسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ ﴿٧٧﴾</p>
46	<p><b>Which means:</b> "But seek, with the (wealth) which Allah has bestowed on you, the Home of the Hereafter, nor forget your portion in this world: but do you good, as Allah has been good to you, and seek not (occasions for) mischief in the land: for Allah loves not those who do mischief."</p>
47	<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 مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>