



1	 <p>A MUSLIM'S SHIELD 12 January 2018AD/ 24 Rabiulakhir 1439H</p>
2	الحمد لله الذي هدانا للإسلام، وأبان لنا الشرائع والأحكام، ورتب عليها جزيل الفضل والإنعام،
3	وأشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له، الملك العلام، وأشهد أن سيدنا محمدا عبده ورسوله سيد الأنام،
4	صلى الله وسلم عليه وعلى آله وأصحابه البررة الأعلام.
5	أما بعد، فيا عباد الله، اتقوا الله، أوصيكم وإياي بتقوى الله وطاعته، فقد فاز المتقون.
6	قال تعالى: قُلْ يَتَائِبَ الْكٰفِرُونَ ﴿١﴾ لَا أَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ ﴿٢﴾ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عٰبِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ ﴿٣﴾ وَلَا أَنَا عٰبِدُ مَا عٰبَدْتُمْ ﴿٤﴾ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عٰبِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ ﴿٥﴾ لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ ﴿٦﴾
7	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,



	Let us enrich our souls with a high value of conviction in Allah SWT, by striving as much as possible to perform all that He has commanded, and avoiding all that He has prohibited.
8	Indeed, those who are truly devoted to Allah SWT shall always protect themselves and others from any harm and disadvantage. May we belong among those who have peace, security and happiness in this world, as well as in the Hereafter.
9	Today's <i>mimbar</i> shall discuss a sermon entitled, " A Muslim's Shield ".
10	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Islam is an all-encompassing and complete religion. There is a huge gap perceived between Islam and other religions. Islam distinguishes between faith and disbelief, between <i>tauhid</i> (oneness) and <i>syirk</i> (idolatry), as well as between truth and falsehood. It also becomes a barrier for Muslims from imitating the lifestyle of non-believers and idolaters.
11	Rasulullah SAW reminded us that among his people there would be those who imitate the non-believers (<i>kuffar</i>).
12	Rasulullah SAW's warning was conveyed through a hadith recorded by Imam al-Bukhari Rahimahullah and narrated by Abu Said Al-Khudri, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said: لَتَتَّبِعَنَّ سَنَنَ مَنْ قَبْلَكُمْ شَبْرًا بِشِيرٍ وَذِرَاعًا بِذِرَاعٍ حَتَّىٰ لَوْ سَلَكَوا بَحْرَ ضَبٍّ لَسَلَكَتُمُوهُ. قُلْنَا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، الْيَهُودَ وَالنَّصَارَىٰ؟ قَالَ: فَمَنْ؟

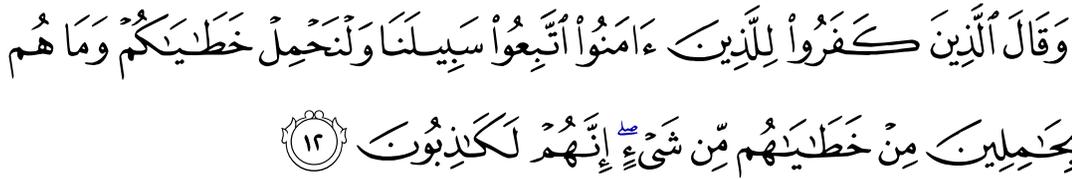


13	<p>Which means: <i>“You would tread the same path as was trodden by those before you inch by inch and step by step, so much so that if they had entered into the hole of the lizard, you would follow them in there also. We asked: O, Messenger of Allah, do you mean Jews and Christians (by your words) "those before you"? He said: Who else (than those two religious groups)?”</i></p>
14	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, In reality today, there are some Muslims who are slowly beginning to imitate the non-believers' way of life by their willingness to abandon the Islamic laws, <i>or syariah</i>, and faith. What are the causes? The most appropriate answer is due to ignorance.</p>
15	<p>For the ignorant, the truth is wrong and the wrong becomes the truth, the right is wrong and the wrong is right. Ignorance has closed their eyes from heeding the warning of Allah SWT against those who imitate the way of the disbelievers.</p>
16	<p>Allah SWT reminded us through Surah Ar-Rum, verses 31 to 32:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  مُنِيبِينَ إِلَيْهِ وَاتَّقُوهُ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَلَا تَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ  </p> <p style="text-align: center;">  الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِعَابًا كُلَّ حِزْبٍ بِمَا لَدَيْهِمْ فَرِحُونَ  </p>
17	<p>Which means: <i>“[Adhere to it], turning in repentance to Him, and fear Him and establish prayer and do not be of those who associate others with Allah. [Or] of those who have divided their religion and become sects, every faction rejoicing in what it has.”</i></p>
18	<p>This verse asserts that the believers do not imitate the non-believers who change and replace their religious teachings and practices according to their desire. They believe in some of Allah SWT's revelations, but reject others.</p>



19	Ignorance is also defined as being unaware due to incorrect, or false, knowledge. They may be wise in some knowledge, but it would be contrary to the true faith and laws of Islam.
20	They know the existence of an Almighty God, but place divinity upon something other than Allah SWT. They might also be human rights defenders, but they fight for rights that are opposed to Islamic law.
21	The ignorance arises from them not accepting the truth. Despite being explained to them about the truth of Islam, they tend to believe in mere logic, and in the beliefs of their ancestors, although they are not under the cover of divine guidance.
22	<p>Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 170 has narrated their stubbornness:</p> <p>وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ ءَابَاءَنَا أُولَٰئِكَ كَانُوا ءَابَاءَهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٧٠﴾</p>
23	Which means: “And when it is said to them, “Follow what Allah has revealed,” they say, “Rather, we will follow that which we found our fathers doing.” Even though their fathers understood nothing, nor were they guided?”
24	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Be wary of our words and deeds when we interact with others, as they may have legal implications. Matters relating to worldly affairs may be tolerated. But, when it comes to religious beliefs and rituals, then we have to assess the situation.</p>



25	<p>Stay away from matters that involve ceremonies contrary to Islam in terms of deeds, words or beliefs. Examples include symbols, songs, speeches or acts that portray non-Islamic qualities. Avoid matters that are contrary to the morals and culture of the Muslim community in this country. Also, avoid matters that touch upon the sensitivities of the Muslim community, such as insulting the law of Allah SWT and so forth.</p>
26	<p>Reflect upon the reminder by Allah SWT through His words in Surah al-Ankabut, verse 12:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>
27	<p>Which means: <i>“And those who disbelieve say to those who believe, “Follow our way, and we will carry your sins.” But they will not carry anything of their sins. Indeed, they are liars.”</i></p>
28	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>In ending the sermon on this blessed day, let us reflect upon some of the lessons we have learned from it:</p> <p>First: Islam sets a very clear boundary between faith and disbelief, between <i>tauhid</i> and <i>syirk</i>, as well as between truth and falsehood.</p> <p>Second: Muslims need to be wise in living this life, by staying on the path of true faith and not pursuing what is forbidden.</p>



	<p>Third: The shield of a Muslim is knowledge. Eliminate ignorance by gaining deeper religious knowledge until the end of our lives.</p>
29	<p>Reflect and understand the words of Allah SWT in Surah Al-Hadid, verse 16:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنْ تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَا نَزَلَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ وَلَا يَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلُ فَطَالَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَمَدُ فَقَسَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَكَثِيرٌ مِنْهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ ﴿١٦﴾</p>
30	<p>Which means: “Has the time not come for those who have believed that their hearts should become humbly submissive at the remembrance of Allah and what has come down of the truth? And let them not be like those who were given the Scripture before, and a long period passed over them, so their hearts hardened; and many of them are defiantly disobedient.”</p>
31	<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 وَأَسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>