



The General Presidency for the Affairs of
the Grand Holy Mosque and the Prophet's Holy Mosque

Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University
College of Languages and Translation

[19-1-35– B - Al-Budair]

المسجد النبوي

Follow the *Sunnah* and Avoid Innovations in Religion

His Eminence Sheikh Salah Al-Budair, may Allah preserve him, delivered the Friday *khutbah* entitled, “Follow the *Sunnah* and Avoid Innovations in Religion”, in which he talked about the necessity of adhering to the *sunnah* of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, which is the right way and straight path. He urged Muslims to avoid innovations in religion (*bid'ahs*) and superstitions, citing a number of *hadiths* and traditions of the righteous predecessors to this effect.

Part One

Praise be to Allah. Praise be to Allah, Who has honoured us with the Qur'an and the *sunnah* and has made us members of the best *ummah*. I praise Him for His ample favours. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone –a testimony that provides the best protection to whomever holds fast to it, and I bear witness that our prophet and our master, Muhammad, is His servant and messenger, whom the Lord sent as a mercy to the worlds. May Allah's perpetual and extended peace and blessings be upon him, his family and his Companions until the Day of Judgement.

O Muslims!

Fear Allah, for fear of Allah is the best of all gains and obedience to Him is the most honourable source of pride.

﴿O you who believe! Fear Allah (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey



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Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islam (as Muslims) with complete submission to Allah.﴾(AlImran: 102)

O Muslims!

The way of true believers and monotheists is to adhere to the *sunnah*, follow the traditions of the righteous predecessors, abandon superstitions and innovations in religion (*bid'ahs*), reject newly-invented matters in religion and acts of misguidance, and disavow them and their followers. That was the practice of the Prophet's Companions, their contemporaries who did not see the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him (*Tabi'un*), their followers, and the *sunnah* scholars, who all expressed agreement and consensus that this is the right way that should be followed.

Abdullah ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him and his father, said, "The most hateful things in the sight of Allah are innovations in religion."

Abdullah ibn Umar, may Allah be pleased with him and his father, said, "Any innovation in religion is misguidance, even if people find it good."

Abdullah ibn Mas'ud, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Follow the *sunnah* and avoid innovations in religion, and you will be saved from evil. Each innovation in religion is misguidance." Ibn Mas'ud, may Allah be pleased with him and please him, also said, "Seek religious knowledge, and beware of innovation, excess, and extremism in matters of religion." He also said, "Following a middle course in practising the *sunnah* is far better than striving hard in practising innovations in religion."

Hudhaifah ibn Al-Yaman, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Abandon any act of worship that is not performed by the Companions of Allah's Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, for the earlier generations left nothing for the later ones to add [in matters of religion]."



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A man wrote to ‘Umar ibn ‘Abdul-Aziz asking him about the divine decree, and he wrote back to him, “I advise you to fear Allah, to be moderate in obeying His commands, to follow the *sunnah* of His Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, and to abandon whatever innovations people have introduced into religion.”

Imam Abu Hanifah, may Allah have mercy upon his soul, said, “Adhere to the *sunnah* and the way of the righteous predecessors, and beware of every newly-invented matter in religion, for it is an innovation.”

Imam Malik, may Allah have mercy upon his soul, said, “Whoever introduces an innovation in Islam, believing it to be something good, has in fact claimed that Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, betrayed the mission [that Allah assigned him], for Allah says, ﴿This day, I have perfected your religion for you.﴾ (Al-Ma’idah: 3). Therefore, whatever was not part of the religion then cannot be part of the religion today.”

Imam Ash-Shafi’i, may Allah have mercy on his soul, said, “Anything that contradicts the command of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, is null and void and cannot be the basis for any personal opinion or analogy; for Allah gives no excuse to anyone who opposes what the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said.”

Imam Ahmad, may Allah have mercy upon his soul, said, “In our estimation, the fundamentals of the *sunnah* consist of adhering to the practice of the Companions of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, following in their footsteps, and abandoning innovations in religion, for every innovation is misguidance.”

Imam Al-Awza’i, may Allah have mercy upon his soul, said, “We closely follow the *sunnah* wherever it may be.”



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Ibn ‘Awn, may Allah have mercy upon his soul, advised those around him before his death, by repeatedly saying, “Adhere to the *sunnah*, and beware of innovations in religion. Adhere to the *sunnah*, and beware of innovations in religion.”

Imam Al-Ajurri, may Allah have mercy upon his soul, said, “May Allah have mercy upon a person who keeps away from such [deviant] sects, shuns innovations in religion, follows the *sunnah* without introducing innovations into it, and sticks to the prophetic traditions, seeking thereby the straight way and asking assistance of his Lord, the Most Generous.”

Al-Awza’i was once asked, “[What do you think of] a man who says that he sits with people who follow the *sunnah* as well as those who follow innovations in religion?” He replied, “That is a man who wants to put truth and falsehood on an equal footing.”

In his interpretation of the Qur’anic verse:

﴿On the Day (i.e. the Day of Resurrection) when some faces will become white and some faces will become black . . .﴾ (Al Imran: 106)

Abdullah Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him and his father, said, “The faces of those who follow the *sunnah* and the way of the Companions and their righteous successors (*ahlus-sunnahwal-jama’ah*) will become white, while the faces of those who follow innovations in religion and cause dissension will become black.”

Jabir ibn Abdullah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “**Whenever the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, delivered a *khutbah*, his eyes would turn red, his voice would rise, and his anger would grow intense. At the beginning of the *khutbah*, he would often say, “The best speech is the Book of Allah, the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and the worst matters are newly-invented matters [in religion], and every innovation [in religion] is misguidance”**(Reported by Muslim).



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Therefore, adhere to this upright method and straight way, and you certainly will be rewarded with the Garden of Delight.

O Muslims!

In our day, evil heretics and filthy liars, the followers of corrupt doctrines and wicked beliefs, have started to rise to the surface. They have engaged in spreading innovations in religion, acts of misguidance, superstitions, obsequies (*ma'atim*), and acts of *shirk* (associating partners with Allah) among the Muslim laymen, publicly displaying these heresies in their media and in Muslim gatherings, exploiting the poverty and ignorance of some Muslims as well as their negligence in protecting true monotheism and defending the right religion.

These are the most vehement of all people in their hatred and abhorrence of the *sunnah*. They deviate from the *sunnah*, oppose it, fight against it, and stubbornly reject it. They kill whoever calls to the *sunnah* or defends it and besiege its followers. Both in the past and at present, they have incessantly taken up arms against the followers of true monotheism and the Prophet's *sunnah* in order to eradicate their call and destroy their mosques, scholarly institutes, and schools that follow the traditions of the righteous predecessors.

O followers of the Master of Mankind, Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him! Be the guardians of the right faith and the soldiers that defend true monotheism. Defend the *sunnah* of the Master of Messengers. Defend the *sunnah* of the Master of Messengers, Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. And there is no other way to defend the *sunnah* except by adhering to it, disseminating and teaching it, confronting its enemies, protecting its followers, and striving in the cause of Allah to make it reign supreme. Therefore, hasten to defend the *sunnah* before the disease spreads out of all proportions and becomes incurable. Hasten to defend it before it is too late.



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May Allah make you and me among the guardians of the *sunnah* and may He protect us all from the plotting of its enemies.

I seek forgiveness from Allah. Ask Allah for forgiveness; He is ever Most Forgiving to those who turn to Him again and again in obedience and in repentance.



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Part Two

Praise be to Allah for His kindness to us, and all forms of gratitude are due to Him for the success He has blessed us with and for His graciousness. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, Who has no partners, in glorification of His dignified position. I also bear witness that our master and our prophet, Muhammad, is His servant and messenger, the caller to whatever pleases Him. May Allah's bountiful peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and his Companions.

O Muslims,

Fear Allah, be watchful of Him, and obey Him:

﴿O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear him, and speak
(always) the truth.﴾(Al-Ahzab: 70)

O Muslims!

Adhering to the *sunnah* will bring you salvation and blessings, while abandoning it will cause you disgrace, trials, and devastation.

﴿. . . And let those who oppose the Messenger's (Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him) commandment (i.e. his *Sunnah*— legalways, orders, acts of worship, statements) (among the sects) beware, lest some *Fitnah* (disbelief, trials, afflictions, earthquakes, killing, overpowered by a tyrant) should befall them or a painful torment be inflicted on them.﴾(An-Nur: 63)

Al-'IrbadhibnSariyah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "**One day the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, delivered such a deeply moving *khutbah* that our hearts were filled with fear and our eyes brimmed with tears. We said, 'O Messenger of Allah! It is as though this were a farewell sermon,**



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so advise us.’ He said, ‘I advise you to fear Allah and to listen and obey, even if your leader was an Abyssinian slave. Whoever among you lives after I am gone will see much discord. I urge you to adhere to my *sunnah* and the way of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs; cling tightly to it. Beware of newly-invented matters [in religion], for every innovation [in religion] is misguidance’”(Reported by Ahmad, Abu Dawud, and At-Tirmidhi).

Imam Abu Amr Al-Awza’i, may Allah, Exalted be He, have mercy upon his soul, said, “The Prophet’s Companions observed five things, adhering to the main body of the Muslim community (*al-jama’ah*), following the *sunnah*, maintaining mosques, reciting the Qur’an, and striving in the Cause of Allah.”

Ask Allah to bestow His peace and blessings on Your Prophet Ahmad, the guide and the intercessor of all mankind, for whoever invokes Allah to bless him once will be blessed for it by Allah ten times.

O Allah! Bestow peace and blessings upon your servant and messenger, Muhammad. O Allah! Be pleased with the four Rightly-Guided Caliphs, whose tradition is to be followed, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali, along with all the Prophet’s Companions, their contemporaries who did not see the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him (*Tabi’un*), and those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment, and also be pleased with us together with them, by Your grace, generosity, and munificence, O Most Merciful of all the merciful!

O Allah! Grant power and glory to Islam and Muslims. O Allah! Grant power and glory to Islam and Muslims. O Allah! Grant power and glory to Islam and Muslims, subdue polytheism and the polytheists, and destroy the enemies of the religion, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Keep the land of the two Holy Mosques secure, stable, prosperous, and powerful.



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O Allah! Guide our Imam and ruler, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, to what You love and accept, and lead him to the way of righteousness and piety. O Allah! Guide him and guide the Crown Prince to do what provides power and glory to Islam and what achieves the good of Muslims, O You Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Grant security, stability, and prosperity to all Muslim homelands, O Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Grant security, stability, and prosperity to all Muslim homelands, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Grant victory to Your servants who believe in Your Oneness. O Allah! Grant victory to Your servants who believe in Your Oneness over those who follow superstitions and innovations in religion, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Grant them victory in Syria and everywhere, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Cure the sick among us, relieve the distress of the afflicted among us, have mercy on our dead, release our prisoners, and grant us victory over our enemies, O Most Merciful of All the Merciful!

Servants of Allah!

﴿Verily, Allah enjoins *Al-Adl* (i.e. justice and worshipping none but Allah Alone - Islamic Monotheism) and *Al-Ihsan* [i.e. to be patient in performing your duties to Allah, totally for Allah's sake and in accordance with the *Sunnah* (legal ways) of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) in a perfect manner], and giving (help) to kith and kin (i.e. all that Allah has ordered you to give them e.g., wealth, visiting, looking after them, or any other kind of help, etc.): and forbids *Al-Fahsha'* (i.e. all evil deeds, e.g. illegal sexual acts, disobedience of parents, polytheism, to tell lies, to give false witness, to kill a life without right, etc.), and *Al-Munkar* (i.e. all that is prohibited by Islamic law:



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polytheism of every kind, disbelief and every kind of evil deeds, etc.), and *Al-Baghy* (i.e. all kinds of oppression), He admonishes you, that you may take heed. ﴿**An-Nahl: 90**﴾

Remember Allah, the Great, the Sublime, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His favours and He will give you more. Remembrance of Allah is greater than all, and Allah knows what you do.