

## DEVELOPING A NOBLE PERSONALITY

13 JUNE 2025 | 16 ZULHIJAH 1446H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ:

﴿وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا ۝٧٠﴾

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Today's *khutbah* (sermon) is titled “Developing a Noble Personality”, in conjunction with Teacher's Day which is celebrated every year. Teachers and scholars convey the message of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him [PBUH]) whose position was elevated by Allah the Almighty as He said in the Quran in Chapter 58 (*Surah Al-Mujadila*) Verse (*ayat*) 11:

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ۝١١

**Which means:** “...Allah will raise up, by many degrees, those of you who believe and those who have been given knowledge: He is fully aware of what you do.”

Teachers are not just knowledge conveyors, but are also architects of the *ummah* (community) shaping morality and character. Teachers are also individuals who never tire of sacrificing for the future generations. Let us reflect on the words of the Prophet (PBUH) in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Ahmad:

إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ لِأَتَمِّمَ صَالِحَ الْأَخْلَاقِ

**Which means:** “*I was sent to perfect good character.*”

Since before independence, traditional religious schools, Islamic colleges and national schools have played a major role in our society. They are not only places to gain knowledge, but also centers for character formation based on Islamic manners, morals and integrity. This role is performed by sincere and dedicated *murabbi* or teachers, who polish the potential of the nation’s children producing quality individuals with noble character.

However, we need to realize that the responsibility of educating does not only lie on teachers. Each individual, whether parents, community members, or leaders, has an important role in supporting education and the formation of a civilized generation. Children are a trust (*amanah*) given by Allah. So, let us together ensure that their environment is filled with noble values that will shape them into people with noble character.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

As time goes by, the manners and morals of the younger generation are also increasingly tested. The increasingly open life style, the advancement of internet technology, and the influence of social media have changed the way the younger generation thinks and interacts with each other. These changes also affect the way they

speak, how they respect teachers, and how they communicate inside and outside of school. This situation challenges teachers to improve their knowledge and skills to balance the positive and negative influences of technology so that the younger generation can utilize knowledge in a civilized and moral manner.

In the Islamic scholarly tradition, there is an expression that says: “Manners first, then knowledge.” This shows how important it is to improve manners before a person can attain other knowledge. Imam Hasan Al-Basri (may Allah be pleased with him) once said:

مَنْ لَا أَدَبَ لَهُ لَا عِلْمَ لَهُ، وَمَنْ لَا صَبْرَ لَهُ لَا دِينَ لَهُ، وَمَنْ لَا وَرَعَ لَهُ لَا رُفْقَى لَهُ

**Which means:** Those who have no manners will not gain knowledge. Those who have no patience will not perfect their religion and those who are not pious will have no status.

The reality is that the teaching profession today is not only faced with the challenges of student manners and morals, but also has become the focus of attention among parents and the general public. Although this profession is very noble from a religious perspective, it is constantly tested and becomes a topic of conversation, especially on social media. Every year, various issues are raised on social media involving the teaching profession which invites negative reactions from the community.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Remember, the things mentioned above can have a negative impact on the morals and mentality of future generations. This is because respecting teachers symbolizes society’s respect for knowledge. If society loses respect for teachers, the value of knowledge and the importance of education will also fade.

As the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Ahmad:

لَيْسَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي مَنْ لَمْ يُجِلِّ كَبِيرَنَا، وَيَرْحَمْ صَغِيرَنَا، وَيَعْرِفَ لِعَالِمِنَا حَقَّهُ

**Which means:** “*Anyone who does not show mercy to our children nor acknowledge the right of our old people is not one of us.*”

To respected teachers, continue your efforts to educate the nation’s children with full dedication. Do not give up easily even when faced with various challenges. Remember, guiding and educating someone with knowledge and good morals is a noble practice that will be rewarded by Allah the Almighty, not only in this world but also in the hereafter.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Ending the *khutbah* (sermon) on this glorious day, I would like to remind everyone that:

**First:** We all need to remember that the teaching profession is a noble duty from the perspective of Islam. Therefore, society needs to respect people in this profession.

**Second:** Manners and moral issues among students need to be resolved together. Parents play an important role of teaching children manners from a young age at home, while teachers will continue this task at school through guidance and discipline.

**Third:** Teachers need to ponder their role as guides in educating the nation’s children, while continuing to increase their knowledge and skills to keep pace with changing times.

In conjunction with the celebration of Teachers' Day 2025, let us pray for the well-being of all teachers, whether living or deceased. May their knowledge and education be a continuous reward, and may their lives always be blessed by Allah the Almighty and their affairs be made easy in this world and the hereafter.

Let us be reminded by the words of Allah in the Quran in Chapter 39 (*Surah Az-Zumar*), Verse (*ayat*) 9:

أَمَّنْ هُوَ قُنُوتٌ ءَانَاءَ اللَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُوا رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۚ  
إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

**Which means:** “What about someone who worships devoutly during the night, bowing down, standing in prayer, ever mindful of the life to come, hoping for his Lord’s mercy? Say, ‘How can those who know be equal to those who do not know?’ Only those who have understanding will take heed.”

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.