

THE ROLE OF MOSQUES AND SURAU IN SOCIETY

14 AUGUST 2026 | 1 RABIULAWAL 1448H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ
اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
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، اتَّقُوا 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,

Mosques and *surau* (a place for Muslims to gather for prayers other than a mosque) have a special position in Islam. This is proven by the first action taken by the Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) when he migrated to Medina, which was to build a mosque that became the main center for Muslim affairs during his time. Allah the Almighty glorifies mosques with the title *Baitullah* (House of Allah). Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 24 (*Surah An-Nur*) Verse (Ayat) 36:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

فِي بُيُوتٍ أُذِنَ لِلَّهِ أَنْ تُرْفَعَ وَيُذْكَرَ فِيهَا أَسْمُهُ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ فِيهَا بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ

Which means: “...Allah has ordained that they be raised high and that His name be remembered in them, with people in them celebrating His glory morning and evening:”

In fact, mosques are the most beloved place to Allah the Almighty on earth. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim:

أَحَبُّ الْبِلَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَسَاجِدُهَا

Which means: “The parts of land dearest to Allah are its mosques”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The main roles of mosques and *surau* for Muslims include:

First: As a Place of Worship

Mosques are built specifically as the main place for Muslims to worship, especially congregational prayers. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Bukhari and Muslim:

سَبْعَةٌ يُظِلُّهُمْ اللَّهُ، فِي ظِلِّهِ، يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ، (مِنْهَا) وَرَجُلٌ قَلْبُهُ مُعَلَّقٌ فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ،

Which means: “Allah will give shade to seven categories on the Day when there will be no shade but His – (among them) a man whose heart is attached to the mosques (i.e. who prays the compulsory prayers in the mosque in congregation)”

Similarly, Abdullah bin Mas’ud (may Allah be pleased with him) warned that:

“He who likes to meet Allah tomorrow as Muslim, he should persevere in observing these prayers, when a call is announced for him... I have seen the time when no one stayed away from it, except a hypocrite...”

Other acts of worship such as reading the Quran, *i'tikaf* (retreat in a mosque), *dhikr* (remembering Allah), etc. are also encouraged to be carried out in the mosque.

Second: As a Center of Knowledge Development

Mosques have been a center for the development of knowledge since the time of the Prophet (PBUH). People who seek knowledge in the mosque are given peace, are blessed and are prayed for by the angels. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim which means:

“No people get together in a house of the houses of Allah (i.e. a mosque), reciting the Book of Allah, and learning it together among themselves, but calmness (sakinah) comes down to them, (Divine) mercy covers them (from above), the angels surround them, and Allah mentions them among those who are with Him.”

Third: As a Center of Social Development

The mosque is also a meeting place for Muslims to get to know each other, help each other and love each other regardless of rank and position.

The life history of Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) who once lived in the Prophet's Mosque as an *Ahlus Suffah* and lived as an

ascetic is an example, as he was always supported by the Prophet (PBUH) and his Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) as well as the Islamic community. This is evidence of the high spirit of social concern and brotherhood among Muslims since early Islamic times.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Mosques should include activities that are children and teenager friendly so that a love for mosques can be fostered in them at an early age. Activities involving women also need to be improved and appropriate approaches to accommodate the disabled need to be given attention. Such efforts are to ensure that the mosque continues to be relevant and is inherited by future generations.

Among the factors for the success of a mosque is a mosque committee that actively plans and manages programs that are beneficial to all levels of society. In addition, religious institutions and the community must also always cooperate and support any mosque development efforts that are implemented.

Let us make the mosque and *surau* the main destination in our daily lives as every effort to enliven them will be rewarded and provide the protection of Allah the Almighty in the hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Several lessons can be learned from today's *khutbah* (sermon), including:

- First: The mosque is the main center of worship, the center for the dissemination of religious knowledge and the center for social development for Muslims.
- Second: The mosque should be made a friendly center for children, teenagers, women and the disabled so that their love for it can be nurtured.
- Third: The enlivening of mosques requires close cooperation between the mosque committee and all levels of society so that it can function more comprehensively and effectively.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسْجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَءَاتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ
فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَنْ يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ

Which means: “The only ones who should tend Allah’s places of worship are those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, who keep up the prayer, who pay the prescribed alms, and who fear no one but Allah: such people may hope to be among the rightly guided.” (Quran [Surah At-Tawbah] 9:18)

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ 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، وَلِسَانِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.