

## Friday Khutbah

March, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011/Rabi'1, 29<sup>th</sup>, 1432

Theme: Prophet of Mercy not a Prophet of Revenge (in the context of blasphemous killing in Pakistan)

Today is the last day of Muslim especial month, the third month of the Islamic calendar. In this month according to our authentic traditions Prophet Muhammad (sas) was born, received revelation from God, made migration to Madinah where he was able to establish a new Islamic community and finally departed from this world. Unfortunately in the last two months we had seen in the news that two prominent political leaders, one Muslim and the other one non-Muslim were assassinated. Allegedly for criticizing the Pakistani law against blasphemy specifically for insulting prophet Muhammad.

Although as practicing Muslims we believe in Almighty Allah and love prophet Muhammad and his family members deeply and profoundly and try our best to follow his excellent examples of good morals and manners in our daily life but openly and unequivocally we condemn these kinds of coward and vigilantic killings. We reach out to the victims' families and friends and pray to Allah, who knows their hearts and intentions better than any human being, to judge them with His Justice and mercy and ask the Pakistani government to bring the perpetrators to justice and we appeal the Muslim scholars to speak against these brutal killing which can never be justified under the objectives of the Quranic teachings and prophet Muhammad' merciful examples of moral excellence (sas).

Overwhelming Majority of Muslims know prophet Muhammad and love him because he was sent as a mercy to the world. He said "buihtu bir rahmah" I was sent with mercy. My existence, my whole being and my teachings is a gift of mercy from God to the world. By Allah he was given the title of "rahmatul lil alameen" mercy to the world. He never took revenge from anybody for himself. He never hit, hurt or abused anybody in his life. Allah (sw) says in the Quran it is because of your mercy and compassion for the people that they gathered around you otherwise they would have run away from you.

One day he saw a woman who was joined with her baby after a long separation. As she was filled with joy and affection as soon as she saw the baby she started hugging, kissing and clinging to the baby. Seeing this prophet Muhammad (sas) asked his companions do you think this mother by any means is going to throw her baby in the fire. They said no way. then he said Allah is more merciful to His servants than this mother for her baby. God is seventy times more merciful than a loving mother for her baby.

We love Prophet Muhammad, the prophet of mercy because he practiced mercy in his life. One woman used to dump the trash on him every day in his way to the mosque. One day he noticed that she was absent. He was worried about her health and goes to inquire about her if she was sick and visited her. What an example of mercy he gave to his followers!

We love Prophet Muhammad because he perfected God' mercy on earth. He said show mercy to the ones on earth the one on the heaven will show mercy on you. For 40 years he was known as the most truthful and trustworthy person among the people of his beloved city, Makka. Right after receiving the message from God to call people towards one God his own

people turned against him because they perceived it as a threat for their economic and tribal system. They started mistreating him and his followers. They spit on him, mocked at him, poisoned him and plotted to kill him. Eventually they forced him out of his hometown that he grew up and loved from his heart. He moved to Madina (around 250 miles in South) where he was able to establish a new community of believers based on the message of unity of God and the unity of humanity. After eight years of bitter opposition and long fight when he was entering into Makkah as a conqueror he was so humble that his chest was touching the saddle of his camel and he pardoned everybody and he said I would say to you what Prophet Joseph said to his brothers: you are free, you have no blame today. His companions were puffed up with the victory and started chanting that this is the day of revenge. He said this is not the day of revenge but it is the day of mercy. Truly he was the messenger of mercy.

He passed by a camel. He saw the camels' back touching her belly from over burdening and not feeding well. He felt mercy towards this animal and asked who the owner of this camel is? When he came he said: fears God about taking care of these dump animals. Ride them gently and feed them good.

During one of his journeys he and his companions stopped at a place for resting. When he went to the rest room his companions saw a bird with two babies and when he came back he saw the bird perching and hovering around. He asked his companions who inflicted pain on her by taking her babies. They said we. Then he ordered them to return them to their mother. 14 hundred years ago he had this concept of human society that promoted the animal rights and feeling compassion to them.

He was compassionate to the environment. He instructed his followers not to cut the trees even in times of war and in the land of enemies. He taught them not to pollute the water with urine and wastage and asked his followers to grow the plants and encourage them to do so by saying if you grow the plants as long as any human being or an animal or bird benefits from that plant you will get the reward for it and he loved the green. His teachings were environment friendly long before the world has realized the importance of it.

This was the norm in his teachings and his life style throughout his lifetime. However there were few exceptions where he was commanded by God to fight back as a commander in-chief and the head of the state with those who were bent to wipe off his message of One God and One Humanity and who could be considered in our time as high treasons and traitors. These exceptions should be understood strictly in its scope of context and circumstances of hostile situations of oppression and suppression in the beginning of Islam. They fought for God's cause that is for the freedom of religion, freedom of worshipping one God.