

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Friday Khutbah – 27/11/2014

The virtues of Al-Quds and its Masjid, the nature of the conflict over them and the way to liberate them

At this time when the sacred city of *Al-Quds* is under a fierce attack by the occupying enemy and the site of *al-Isra* of Rasulullah (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) is surrounded by the Zionist soldiers who prevent the worshippers from praying in it – and in order to revive the cause of *Al-Quds* in our minds and heart, the last three *Khutbas* were dedicated for the cause of *Al-Quds* and *al-Masjid al-Aqsa*. I would like to conclude this series of talks by mentioning the virtues of *Bait Al-Maqdis* and its Masjid, the nature of the conflict with the Jews over it and the way out to liberate it from the Zionist occupation.

There are a number of virtues of *Bait Al-Maqdis* and the land of *Sham* mentioned in the Qur'an and Sunnah. Among these are:

1) It is a sacred and blessed land which whenever mentioned in the Qur'an it is described as being sacred or blessed. Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says regarding *Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa*: “Glorified is He Who took His slave for a journey by night from Al-Masjid-al-Haram to Al-Masjid al-Aqsa, the neighbourhood whereof We have blessed...”

He says (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) citing the words of Musa (*alaihis-Salam*) “O my people! Enter the sacred land which Allah has assigned to you...”

And He says (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) regarding Ibrahim (*alaihis-Salam*) and his first migration to the land of *Sham* “And We rescued him and Lut to the land which We have blessed for all the worlds.”

2) A second virtue is that: The reward of *Salat* is multiplied in *al-Masjid Al-Aqsa* five hundred times compared with prayer in any other Masjid with the exception of *al-Masjid al-Haram* and *al-Masjid an-Nabawi*. Muslim scholars are in agreement that it is *Mustahab* (recommended) to visit *Al-Aqsa* and pray in it. It is one of three *Masaajid* which are prescribed for Muslims to travel and pray in them.

3) The *du'a* of Suleiman (*alaihis-Salam*) for Allah's forgiveness for whoever prays in *Bait al-Maqdis*. Abdullah ibn Amr (*radhia Allahu 'unhuma*) reported the Prophet (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) as saying: “When Suleiman ibn Dawud finished building *Bait Al-Maqdis*, he asked Allah for three things: A judgment that agrees with His Judgement, to bestow upon him a kingdom such as shall not belong to any other after him and that no one shall come to this *Masjid* with no intention other than prayer in it but he shall be duly cleansed from his sins like the day when his mother gave birth to him. Rasulullah (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) said: ‘As for two of these three, he had been given and I hope that he had been given the third as well.’”

It was for this *Hadith* that Abdullah Ibn Umar (*radhia Allahu 'unhuma*) used to travel from *Hejaz* to pray in it and leave without drinking water inside it as he wanted to purify the intention of *Salat* in it so that he may get the *du'a* of Suleiman (*alaihis-Salam*.)

Given all these virtues and excellence no one should underestimate the position of *Al-Quds* and the land of Palestine.

With regard to the conflict over *Bait Al-Maqdis*, it is obvious that the Jews have certain religious beliefs regarding the land of Palestine and *Al-Quds* in particular. They claim it is the ‘Promised Land’ – and it is a false claim which no longer exists as I have explained last Friday- for it was both conditional and temporary. They will not be satisfied until they make

*Al-Quds* the united capital of the Great Israel which they desire to establish. This will include demolishing *Al-Aqsa* Mosque and building their temple.

Ben Gurion, the founder of the Zionist state said: “There is no value of Israel without *Al-Quds* and there is no value of *Al-Quds* without the temple.”

Their ambitions go beyond the occupied Palestine to *Khaybar* in Arabia as they desire to revive the glories of their grandparents. When the old city of *Al-Quds* fell under their occupation, and after performing the Jewish thanksgiving prayer at *Al-Buraq* wall in *Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa*, their military leader Moshe Dayan said: “Today the road to Babylon and *Yathrib* has been opened. This day is for the day of *Khaybar*.”

Their once Prime Minister Golda Mayer stood - more than forty years ago- in the port city Eilat on the Aqaba Bay on the Red Sea and said – while breathing the air- : “I can find the smell of my grandparents in *Khaybar*.”

On the other hand, the enemies and their so-called Muslim associates succeeded through the use of the media and tricks to change the nature of the Palestinian cause from being an Islamic one to an Arabic issue so that it does not take any religious dimension in order to neutralise one billion non-Arabic Muslims. After some time they made it a regional issue which only concerned the Arab countries which surround occupied Palestine - and so the rest of the Arab countries were somewhat neutralised. After some time the surrounding countries were subdued and tamed and they signed treaties with the enemy and opened embassies and the cause became an internal Palestinian issue which concerns the Palestinians only. The Palestinians were left to negotiate directly with the Israelis with the Americans acting as mediators or brokers of the so-called peace talks. The neighbouring countries were left with no role except that which serves the Zionist state such as blockading the resistance, building buffer zones and starving the people of the blessed land.

The traitors in the liberal media did their utmost to play down the religious nature and to weaken the Islamic feelings towards the Palestinian issue among the Muslim masses using different means such as asking the heads of the Muslim countries to concentrate on their internal issues and interests and forget the issue of *Al-Quds*. This was the attitude of the hypocrites at all times; they serve the enemies. The *Obeidiyeen* hypocrites were the ones who helped the Crusades and made it easy for them to occupy *Bait Al-Maqdis* more than one thousand years ago and likewise the hypocrites of our time help the Zionists against our brothers and sisters and weaken the resolve of Muslims.

Slaves of Allah! Needless to say that the issue of Palestine and *Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa* is a purely Islamic cause and its land is a Muslim land which awaits the Muslim saviour. All Muslims in the east and west are hoping to see a day when *Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa* and Palestine will be liberated from the enemies of Allah; the Jewish occupiers. However, this will not happen without an internal reform of the state of Muslims. History tells us that *Al-Aqsa* was not liberated from the Crusades until the Muslim *Ummah* was rebuilt. Salahuddin Al-Ayyoubi, the Liberator of *Al-Quds* from the Crusades, led an internal campaign of reform before leading the army which defeated the Crusades.

It was narrated that Salahuddin was born in a family of *Mujahideen* and when he was young he used to see the elders in the family wearing black turbans out of their sadness for the occupation of *Al-Quds* by the Crusades. He grew in this environment with the intention of liberating *Al-Quds* growing with him.

Finally, revive the cause of *Al-Quds* in your hearts and the hearts of your families; in your houses and in your meeting places and aid the cause of *Al-Quds* in whatever way you can!