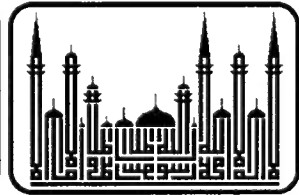


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Perspectives



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## Editorial

A policy-research group called "Drug Strategies" has recently produced a report that calls alcohol "America's most pervasive drug problem". It documents that fact by the following statistics:

- Alcohol related deaths outnumber deaths relate to drugs four to one.
- Alcohol is a factor in more than half of all domestic violence and sexual assault cases.
- Between accidents, health problems, crime and lost productivity alcohol abuse cost our economy an estimated \$167 billion a year.
- In 1995 four out of every ten people on probation said they were drinking when they committed a violent crime. By contrast, one in ten admitted using illicit drugs.

The report of the group, which is posted on their web site (<http://www.drugstrategies.org/>), supports the Islamic view of considering both drugs and alcohol as very harmful to the society. Any substance that causes intoxication or disorder to the mind, or causes the person to loose his/her consciousness, is referred to as *Khamr* خمر and is prohibited in Islam. This is clearly stated in many sayings of the Prophet (PBUH), for example:

كُلُّ مُشَكِّرٍ خَمْرٌ وَكُلُّ خَمْرٍ حَرَامٌ  
(صحيح مسلم)

*Every intoxicant is Khamr and every Khamr is unlawful. (Sahih Muslim)*

Our minds play an important role in making the choices between right and wrong. We pray to Almighty Allah to protect us and our societies from the evil of *Khamr*. ☐

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## Free On-line Multimedia Islamic Software

**Harf Information technology** has developed on-line versions of a number of their programs, in Arabic, English and other languages . These include the Holy Qur'an, Al-Bayan (1700 *Hadiths* agreed on by Bukhari and Muslim), Islamic Dictionary, Prayer times for all cities in the US and other major cities in the world, *Zakah* , and *Hajj and Umrah* (see the figures below). The prayer times program provides date conversion (from the Gregorian to the *Hijri* date, and vice versa). The *Zakah* program calculates the *zakah* to be paid on all types of individual property, with a detailed explanation of how it is to be calculated, and guiding legal principles. It also provides extensive information on *zakah* jurisprudence. The URL address of the web site of these programs is: <http://www.al-islam.com/>. ☐

## Reflections

Dr. Ahmed K. Noor

### The Significance and Virtues of Friday

فضل يوم

الجمعة

والله



Allah selected some of His creations and elevated them above others. This applies, among others, to angels, men, places, months, days and nights (see the figure on page 3). Of the days created by Allah, Friday was made very special. The significance and virtues of Friday, and the opportunities provided to us by Allah (SWT) on that day are the subjects of this article.

#### Significance of Friday

The significance and virtues of Friday are best illustrated by the following two sayings of the Prophet (PBUH):

خير يوم طلعت عليه الشمس يوم الجمعة فيه خلق آدم وفيه أُدخِل الجنة وفيه أُخرج منها ولا تقوم الساعة إلا في يوم الجمعة. (صحيح مسلم)

*The best day on which the sun has risen is Friday; on that day Adam was created; on that day he entered the Garden; and on that day he was expelled from it, and the last Hour will take place on no day other than Friday.* (Sahih Muslim)

الجمعة إلى الجمعة كفارة ما بينهما ما لم تُغش الكبائر. (سنن ابن ماجه)

*Friday to Friday wipe out the sins between them, if major sins were not committed.* (Sunan Ibn Majah)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ. فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانْتَشِرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَابْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ. وَإِذَا رَأَوْا تِجَارَةً أَوْ لَهْوًا انفَضُّوا إِلَيْهَا وَتَرَكُوكَ قَائِمًا قُلْ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ مِنَ اللَّهْوِ وَمَنْ التَّجَارَةِ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ. (سورة الجمعة - آيات 9 إلى 11)

*O ye who believe! When the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday (The Day of Assembly), hasten earnestly to the Remembrance of Allah, and leave off business (and traffic): that is best for you if ye but knew! And when the prayer is finished, then may ye disperse through the land, and seek of the Bounty of Allah: and remember Allah frequently that ye may prosper. But when they see some bargain or some pastime, they disperse headlong to it, and leave you standing. Say: "that which Allah has is better than any pastime or bargain! And Allah is the Best to provide (for all needs)".* (Qur'an 62:9 to 11)

ذَكَرَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ فَقَالَ فِيهِ سَاعَةٌ لَا يُوَافِقُهَا عَبْدٌ مُسْلِمٌ وَهُوَ يُصَلِّيُ يَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ شَيْئًا إِلَّا أُعْطَاهُ إِيَّاهُ وَأَشَارَ بِيَدِهِ يَقْلِلُهَا (صحيح مسلم)

من قرأ سورة الكهف في يوم الجمعة، أضاء له من النور ما بين الجمعتين. (البيهقي)

*Whoever recites Surat Al-Kahf on Friday, it will be a light for him from that Friday to the next.*

(Al-Bayhaqi and Al-Hakim)

- Invoking prayers and salutations upon the Prophet (PBUH) on Friday and the night before. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

عن أبي الدرداء قال : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم أكثرُوا الصَّلَاةَ عَلَيَّ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ فَإِنَّهُ مَشْهُودٌ تَشْهَدُهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَإِنْ أَحَدًا لَنْ يُصَلِّيَ عَلَيَّ إِلَّا غُرِضْتُ عَلَيَّ صَلَاتِهِ حَتَّى يَفْرُغَ مِنْهَا قَالَ قُلْتُ وَبَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ قَالَ وَبَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ إِنْ اللَّهُ حَرَّمَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ تَأْكُلَ أَجْسَادَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ فَنَبِيُّ اللَّهِ حَتَّى يُرْزَقَ . (سنن ابن ماجه)

*Invoke as many prayers (and salutations) on me (i.e., on the Prophet) on Friday since it is a day witnessed by the angels. The prayers of every one who invokes prayers on me will be brought to me until he finishes. The Prophet (PBUH) was asked: How will the prayers be presented to him when he has passed away? He replied: Allah has*



*"And remembrance of Allah is the Greatest (thing in life)" .* (Qur'an 29:45)

Also, the Prophet (PBUH) was mentioning the excellence of Friday and said: *There is an hour (special time) on Friday at which no Muslim would ask Allah for some thing (that is good) but Allah would give it to him, and he pointed with his hand that (this time) is short and narrow.* (Sahih Muslim)

#### Recommended Actions on Friday (see the figure on page 5)

- Recitation of *Surat Al-Kahf* (the cave) on Friday and the night before. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

Allah Selected some of His creations and elevated them above others

إصطفى الله صفايا من خلقه ومخلوقاته

From His creatures He selected certain angels and men as messengers (Qur'an 22:75)

من الملائكة والإنس  
إصطفى رسل

From the human messengers Selected the five major messengers (Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad - Peace be upon them) (Qur'an 46:35)

من الرسل للبشر إصطفى أولى  
العزم من الرسل - نوح و إبراهيم و  
موسى و عيسى و محمد - عليهم  
الصلاة والسلام

From all the places on Earth He selected the mosques (Qur'an 72:18)

من الأرض إصطفى  
المساجد

From the mosques He selected the Sacred mosque (Qur'an 2:125)

من المساجد  
إصطفى المسجد  
الحرام

From the year He selected certain months, days and nights:

- The Sacred months (Muharram, Rajab, Zul-Qidah, Zul-Hijjah).
  - The month of Ramadan
  - The first ten days of Zul-Hijjah
    - Friday
    - The night of Power
- من الزمان إصطفى أشهر وأيام

وليالى

\* الأشهر الحرم

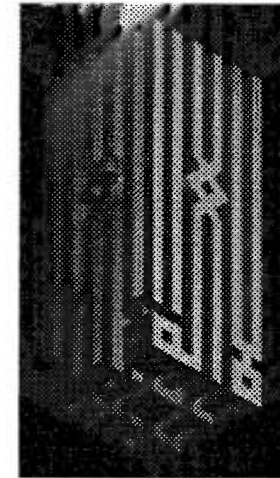
\* شهر رمضان

\* يوم الجمعة

\* ليلة القدر

From the talk He selected His remembrance (Qur'an 29:45)

إصطفى من  
الكلام ذكره



prohibited the earth from eating the bodies of the Prophets.

(Sunan Ibn Majah)

- Performing *ghusl* (taking a bath), beautifying oneself, using the *miswak* (tooth brush) and applying perfume before attending Friday prayers. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

على كل مسلم الغُسل يوم الجمعة  
ويلبس من صالح ثيابه ، وإن كان  
له طيب مَسَّ منه .

(رواه أحمد والشيخان)

Every Muslim should have *ghusl* on Friday and wear his best clothing, and if he has perfume, he should use it. (Related by Ahmad, Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

- Going early to Friday prayer, sitting near the Imam, listening attentively to the *Khutbah* (sermon) and not talking during it. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

إذا كان يوم الجمعة كان على كل باب  
من أبواب المساجد ملائكة يكتبون  
الأول فالأول فإذا جلس الإمام طَوَّأوا  
الصُّحُفَ وجاءوا يستمعون الذِّكْرَ .

(صحيح مسلم)

When it is Friday, the angels stand at every door of the mosque and record the people in the order of their arrival, and when the Imam sits for delivering the sermon, they fold up their sheets and listen to the *Zikr* (remembrance of Allah). (Sahih Muslim)

من غَسَّلَ يوم الجمعة واغْتَسَلَ وَبَكَرَ  
وَابْتَكَرَ ومشى ولم يركب ودنا من  
الإمام فاستمع ولم يُلغ كان له بكل  
خَطْوَةٍ عمل سنة أجر صيامها  
وقيامها. (سنن ابن ماجه)

Anyone who takes on Friday a bath, and excels in purifying himself/herself, goes early and walks, then sits close to the Imam and listens (to the *Khutbah*) without indulging in any talk, will have for every step the reward of one year

fasting and worship.

(Sunan Ibn Majah)

### Friday Prayer

Muslim scholars are in agreement that Friday prayer is an individual obligation ( and it is two *raka'h* ), as is clear from (Qur'an 62:9) - see the beginning of the article. Important facts about Friday prayer are summarized in the figure on page 7.

The establishment of Friday prayers was one of the earliest things that the Prophet (PBUH) did after his emigration to Medinah (on the 5th day after his arrival). The incident referred to in Qur'an 62:11 is: A trade caravan from Syria arrived in Medinah right at the time of the Friday prayer, and its people started playing their drums to announce their arrival. At that time the Prophet was delivering the sermon. The people in the congregation rushed out towards the caravan, and only few (twelve men) remained with the Prophet.

Friday prayer plays a very important role in the life of the Muslims. It reminds the Muslims about their obligation towards Allah and their community. It teaches them to make their social life a visible expression of *taqwa* (Consciousness of the presence of Allah). There is a great deal of reward in attending Friday prayer in the proper manner. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

من اغتسل يوم الجمعة ثم أتى الجمعة  
فصلى ما قدر له ، ثم أنصت حتى  
يفرخ الإمام من خطبته ، ثم يصلى  
معه غفر له ما بينه وبين الجمعة  
الأخرى وفضل ثلاثة أيام .  
(صحيح مسلم)

Whoever makes *ghusl* on Friday, then goes to the mosque and prays what was fixed for him, then kept silent till the Imam finished the sermon, and then prayed along with him, his sins between that time and the next Friday would be forgiven, and even of three days more (Sahih Muslim)

The Prophet (PBUH) gave a stern warning for men against missing Friday

prayer, without a legitimate excuse, in the following two sayings:

من ترك الجمعة ثلاث مرات تهاوناً  
بها طَبَعَ اللهُ على قلبه .  
(سنن الترمذی)

Anyone who forgoes three consecutive Fridays without genuine reason and legitimate excuse, Allah will seal his heart. (Sunan Al-Termidhi)

قال النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم لِقَوْمٍ  
يَتَخَلَّفُونَ عن الجمعة لقد هَمَمْتُ أَنْ  
أَمُرَّ رجلاً يُصَلِّي بالناس ثم أَحْرَقَ على  
رجال يَتَخَلَّفُونَ عن الجمعة بِيَوْمِهِمْ .  
(صحيح مسلم)

The Prophet (PBUH) said about people who forgo Friday prayers: I feel I should ask somebody else to lead the prayer and I go and burn the homes of those who forgo (without legitimate excuse) the Friday prayers. (Sahih Muslim)

### Upon Whom It Is Obligatory

Friday prayer is an individual obligation upon every free, adult, sane, resident Muslim male who has the ability to attend the prayer and does not have a legitimate excuse to miss it. The Prophet (PBUH) identified the ones on whom Friday prayer is not obligatory in his saying:

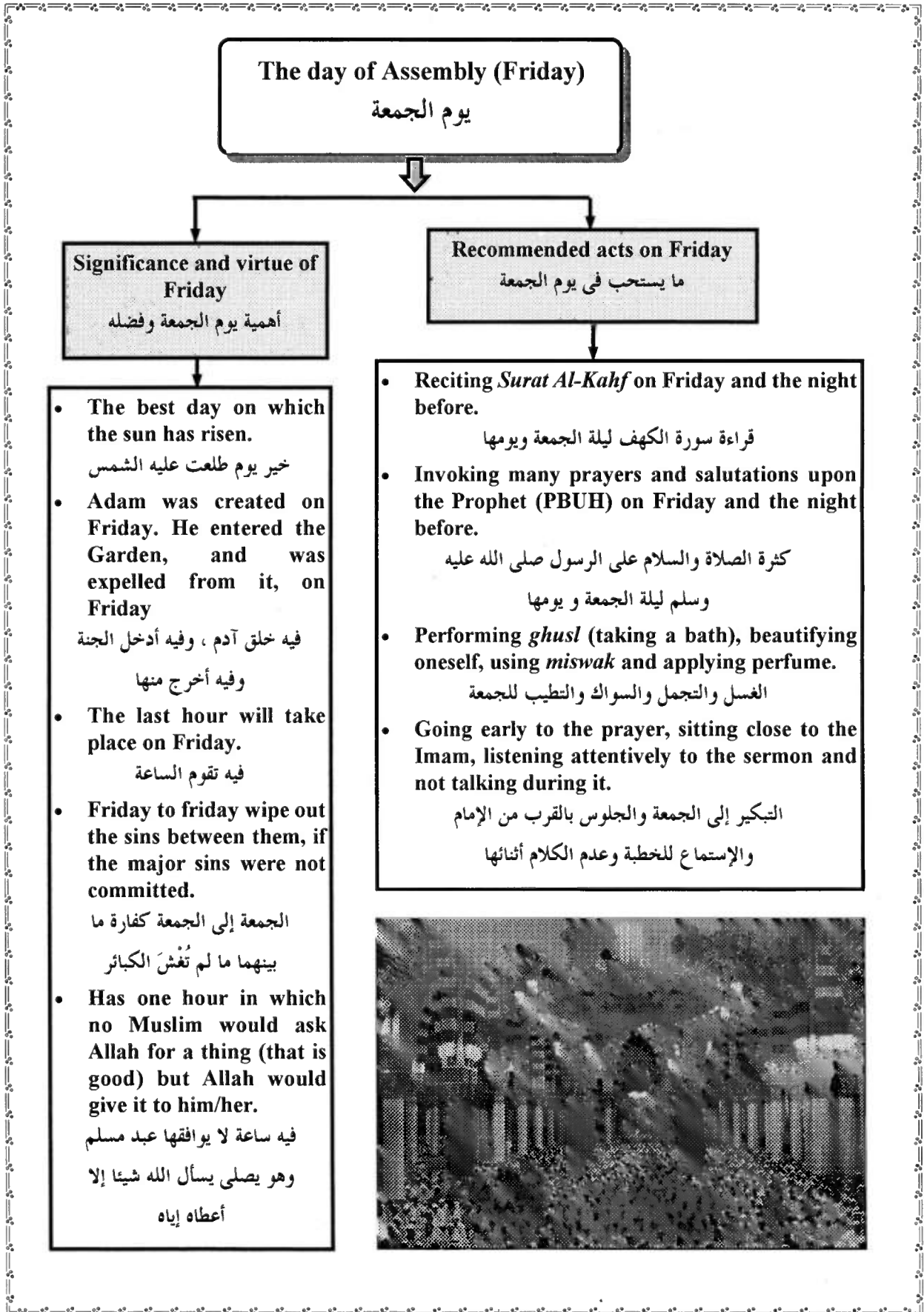
الجمعة حق واجب على كل مسلم في  
جماعة إلا أربعة : عبد مملوك ، أو  
إمرأة ، أو صبي ، أو مريض .  
(مسند أبي داود)

Friday prayer is a duty upon every Muslim in the community, save four: a slave, or a woman, or a child, or a person who is ill. (Abu Dawood)

### Its Time

The majority of the companions and successors were of the opinion that the time of Friday prayer is the same as that of *zuhr* (noon) prayer.

The scholars of the *Hanbali* school of thought and *Ishaq* are of the opinion



that the time of Friday prayer starts at the same time as that of *Eid* prayer, and ends with the end of the time for the *zuhr* (noon) prayer.

#### Number of People Required for Friday Prayer

There is agreement among Muslim scholars that a congregation is a necessary condition for the validity of Friday prayer. However, there are differences of opinion on what constitutes a congregation. The strongest evidence seems to be two people (one of them being the Imam), or three people (one of them being the Imam), are required and sufficient for Friday prayer.

In a recent study Sheikh Ibn Uthaymin reported in *Al-Sharh Al-Mumtī' ala Zad al-Mustaqni*, vol. 5, p. 53 that three is the minimum number, and Friday prayer becomes obligatory upon three Muslims who meet the conditions of that prayer.

#### Etiquette for Friday Prayer

In addition to purifying, beautifying oneself, dressing well, going early to the mosque, and praying the two raka'h of greeting the mosque as mentioned previously, one should sit as close to the Imam as possible, remain quiet during the sermon and listen attentively to it. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

احْضُرُوا الذِّكْرَ وَادْنُوا مِنَ الْإِمَامِ فَإِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَا يَزَالُ يَتْبَعُهُ حَتَّى يُؤَخَّرَ فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَإِنْ دَخَلَهَا . (مسند أحمد)

*Come to the remembrance of Allah, and sit close to the Imam. The person who sits far from him will be delayed in entering paradise even if he is admitted to it.* (Musnad Ahmad)

One should avoid the following actions during the prayer:

- Engaging in buying or selling, from the time of *Azan* (call to prayer) until the end of the prayer. This is absolutely prohibited (Qur'an 62:9).
- Stepping over people to get to a particular place in the mosque.
- Clasping one's hands and intertwining one's fingers while

waiting for the prayer.

- Talking during the sermon. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

إِذَا قَلْتَ لِصَاحِبِكَ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ أَنْصِتْ وَالْإِمَامُ يَخْطُبُ فَقَدْ لَغَوْتَ . (البخارى ومسلم)

*If you (even) ask your companion to be quiet on Friday, while the Imam is delivering the sermon, you have engaged in vain talk لغو .*

(Bukhari and Muslim)

يَحْضُرُ الْجُمُعَةَ ثَلَاثَةَ نَفَرٍ رَجُلٍ حَضَرَهَا يَلْغُو وَهُوَ حَظُّهُ مِنْهَا وَرَجُلٍ حَضَرَهَا يَدْعُو فَوَجَدَ رَجُلًا دَعَا اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ إِنْ شَاءَ أَعْطَاهُ وَإِنْ شَاءَ مَنَعَهُ وَرَجُلٍ حَضَرَهَا بِأَنْصَاتٍ وَسُكُوتٍ وَلَمْ يَتَخَطَّ رَقَبَةَ مُسْلِمٍ وَلَمْ يُوذِ أَحَدًا فِيهِ كَفَّارَةٌ إِلَى الْجُمُعَةِ الَّتِي تَلِيهَا وَزِيَادَةٌ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ وَذَلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يَقُولُ مَنْ جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ عَشْرُ أَمْثَالِهَا . (رواه أحمد وأبو داود)

*There are three types of people who attend Friday (prayer): One, who is present but speaks (during the sermon), and that is his portion of the prayer; two, a man who is present and makes supplications - in his case, Allah may give him what he asks, if He wishes, or He may not give him what he asks; three, a person who is present and observes silence, and does not step over the necks of Muslims nor harm anyone - for him, there is expiation from that Friday until the next Friday plus an additional three days as Allah has said: "He that does good shall have ten times as much to his credit".*

(Related by Ahmad and Abu Dawood)

#### Friday Sermon

The majority of the Muslim scholars are of the opinion that Friday sermon is an integral part of the prayer, and is obligatory. This is supported by:

- The Prophet (PBUH) always made a sermon before performing the two

raka'h on Friday prayer. He also said:

صَلُّوا كَمَا رَأَيْتُمُونِي أَصَلِّي . (البخارى ومسلم)

*Pray as you see me pray*

(Bukhari and Muslim)

- The command of Allah "**hasten earnestly to remembrance of Allah**" in (Qur'an 62:9) is interpreted by the scholars as a reference to the Friday sermon. However, other scholars such as Al-Hassan Al-Basri, Dawood Az-Zahiri and Al-Juwaini consider listening to the Friday sermon to be only a highly recommended act.

The Friday sermon should precede the prayer and is to be divided into two consecutive parts with a short break of *Istighfar* (begging the forgiveness of Allah) in between. It is recommended for the Imam to stand during the two parts of the sermon, and to sit between them (as well as during the call to prayer before the sermon). It is also recommended that each of the two parts of the Friday sermon start with praises of Allah, the Exalted, and prayers upon the Prophet (PBUH); and that the sermons include admonition and quotation from the Qur'an.

Since the time of the Prophet (PBUH), Friday sermon has been one of the most effective means of presenting the message and teaching of Islam to the public. It is one of the important means of educating people, creating an awareness among them about social issues and problems in society, and steering them onto the right path.

Friday prayer is one of the most important acts of worship in Islam. We pray to Allah to give us the strength and support to perform it in the best possible manner, and to grant us the rewards and blessings of Friday. Ameen ☐

