

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

A General Naseehah

Safar 15, 1426 / March 26, 2005

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Transcribed on Safar 16, 1426 / March 27, 2005 by Abu Abdullah ibn Shareef al-Hindee.

The brother began with the Khutbatul Haajah.

My sincere greetings to the Canadian brothers. This is your brother Shaakir al-Kanadee, giving some naseehah from Dar-ul-Hadeeth here in Dammaaj, Yemen.

An authentic hadeeth, which was narrated by Abi Ruqayyah, that the Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wasallam) said: The deen is sincerity and advice (sincere advise). He (Abi Ruqayyah) said to the Prophet who is this sincerity to? The Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wasallam) said, it's to Allaah, and his Messenger, and his Book, and the leaders of the Muslims, and the general Muslim. (Muslim)

So I would like to take this opportunity to give my brothers, the brothers who are in Toronto and whoever may be listening to this naseehah, to talk about knowledge and the importance of knowledge in our deen, deen al-Islaam.

Allaah's statement in the Quraan: Allâh bears witness that Lâ ilâha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), and the angels, and those having knowledge (also give this witness); (He is always) maintaining His creation in Justice. Lâ ilâh illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the All-Mighty, the All-Wise. (Aali Imran 3:18)

The greatest thing to bear witness to is Allaah's unity in his names, attributes, in his lordship, and in his worship, and he has taken the people of knowledge and he has made them witness to this great witness.

Allaah's statement in the Quraan: Are those who know equal to those who know not? It is only men of understanding who will remember (i.e. get a lesson from Allâh's Signs and Verses). (Az-Zumar 39:9)

Allaah's statement in the Quraan: And be not in haste (O Muhammad sallallaahu alayhi wasallam) with the Qur'ân before its revelation is completed to you, and say: "My Lord! Increase me in knowledge." (Ta-Ha 20:114)

The Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wasallam) has been ordered by his Lord to ask for increasement in knowledge, and Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) did not order the Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wasallam) to ask for an increase in anything except knowledge. Knowledge that is beneficial,

knowledge of the deen. Knowledge of the halaal and the haraam, of tawheed, of shirk, of ahlus sunnah wa ahlul bidah, al waajib wa sunnah.

Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) said: So know (O Muhammad sallallaahu alayhi wasallam) that Lâ ilâha ill-Allâh (none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh), and ask forgiveness for your sin, and also for (the sin of) believing men and believing women. (Muhammad 47:19)

I would like to share with the brothers a benefit that I had while reading a book by Shaykh Abdur Rahmaan as-Sa'dee (rahimahullaah) in his book which could be roughly translated as the Principles of Fiqh. Shaykh Abdur Rahmaan as-Sa'dee being the Shaykh of Shaykh Uthaymeen (rahimahullaah), he wrote this book when he was approximately 24 years old. He mentioned in this book that gained from knowledge are two fundamental things:

1. Certainty in the affairs of the deen
2. Perfection of imaan.

A servant when he attains knowledge of the law of Allaah, gains a certainty where he is not taken by the shubahaat and the uncertainties that the kuffaar, the munafiqeen, the people of bid'ah, the orientlists, and other than them that are driving day and night to extinguish the light of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa). A servant in this day and age, if he does not have knowledge, there is no way that he can stand up against the onslaught that is against Islaam and against the servants of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa), unless he has knowledge. This is the first thing that Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) has ordered the servant to attain.

Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) said: So know (O Muhammad sallallaahu alayhi wasallam) that Lâ ilâha ill-Allâh (none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh), and ask forgiveness for your sin. (Muhammad 47:19).

And this address to the Prophet also contains address to the nation of the Prophet. Imaam Bukhaari in his Saheeh has mentioned a chapter according to this ayah. He says that actions and deeds do not precede knowledge. Meaning knowledge must precede actions and deeds.

Shaykh Abdur Rahmaan as-Sa'dee, in the second thing this is attained from knowledge, perfection of imaan, and with the perfection of imaan the servant is able to leave off the desires and the luxuries of this dunyaa, and be able to depend on Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) entirely. And to be able to leave off the sicknesses of the heart and the desires of this wordly life. Seeking the pleasure of Allaah and willing to give up for the sake of Allaah and the sake of his deen and the sake of helping his servants in the path of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa).

Being in Dammaaj, and Dammaaj being known as a place of knowledge, a place where knowledge can be seeked, we advise the brothers, to do all things possible to reach and get out and contact the Ullema and sit with the Ullema.

I have been out of Canada for several years, the dawah in Canada has expanded and has developed and we see the brothers are benefiting and are have good connections with the Ullema. But, we would still like to remind the brothers that they should strive to get out to the

different centers of Ahlul Sunnah wal Jammah, whether it be in Yemen, or Saudi Arabia, or wherever Salafee centers, where ilm can be sought, we advise the brothers to strive very hard in sitting with the Ullema and seeing how the Ullema work day in and day out and how the Ullema deal with the Muslims and the issues of the Muslims. So this is what we advise the brothers.

I apologize to the brothers that I was really not prepared to give a naseehah this evening. But we ask Allaah from his great bounty and we ask that He make us sincere in seeking his pleasure.

If any of the brothers had any questions concerning Dammaaj, they may be we will be able to answer some of the questions.

Q1: What is the cost of living in Dammaaj?

The cost of living in Dammaaj, meaning Yemen is as what they would call a third world country, actually it's a first world country as far as imaan is concerned, as far as the dunyaa, then Yemen is a Muslim country. Things are getting easier and easier here in Dammaaj, the cost of living is relatively cheap depending on how a person is ready to live. If he comes to Dammaaj and how he is going to how he lived in America or Canada, then that is up to him and it can be done. Depending on the person's ability and the provision that Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) provides the person. As far as the cost of living, I really can't comment on that. Everybody has a different life style. Depending on a single brother, or a married brother, and how many children he may have.

Q2: What should be known in terms of knowledge before coming to Yemen (such as the Arabic language)?

I was in Egypt before coming to Dammaaj and I was told that I should learn Arabic before coming to Dammaaj. That if I went to Dammaaj without learning Arabic then I may not necessarily find teachers that may teach me Arabic. When I arrived in Dammaaj I found out that that was not necessarily the case. Even in the time of Shaykh Muqbil (rahimahullah) there were many brothers qualified in the Arabic language that were able to teach at that time and I can say that the amount of brothers able to teach Arabic until now has increased. So the brothers should not really worry about having to learn Arabic before they come to Dammaaj. In Dammaaj there are an ample amount of teachers that are very strong and capable of giving the brothers a decent level of understanding in the Arabic language and then moving on to the Yemeni and Arabic teachers, for both men and women and for children.

Q3: Some people related to us that there is some difficulty in entering Dammaaj amongst the checkpoints that are present outside the city. Is this true?

Naam, there is a little bit of difficulty in getting to Dammaaj. I am sure that the brothers who are familiar with the dawah in Toronto and in the other areas, they have had some connections with some of the brothers that deal with these issues here in Dammaaj. And anybody who is willing and wanting to come to Dammaaj and is certain, then he needs to contact some of the contacts that are here in Dammaaj and things would be explained to them. As far as explaining to you in great detail these issues then I don't really think this is the appropriate time and place.

Q4: How long would it take to learn the Arabic language fluently?

Many brothers ask this question. And I answer by saying that it all goes back to the tawfeeq that Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) has giving the servant first and foremost. Allaah says: Allâh knows best with whom to place His Message. (Al-An'am 6:124). The students who seek to learn Arabic I am sure that their intention is to learn for themselves and their families and then to benefit the Muslims. Therefore, the first and foremost thing is the tawfeeq Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) gives to the servant. And the second thing is the amount of effort that the servant puts into attaining the understanding of the language. I have seen brothers attain a good understanding in two years. I have seen brothers struggle and strive for over five years and still have not got a very strong understanding of the language. It fluctuates according to the student and the tawfeeq that Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) gives to the servant. But I do see that the students remaining in Dammaaj and those who have left Dammaaj are very competent in translating and speaking and writing the Arabic language. And some of the students who have come from Saudi Arabia, they have been able to do the same things on an equal level.

Q5: A sister wants to know if she had a caesarean and if she continues to have children with caesarean, is there any medical facilitation for her in Dammaaj?

There are several clinics here in Dammaaj where medicine is given and doctors are present in these clinics who can deal with minor issues. As far as major issues, then the hospitals located in the next closest city are at about a 25 minutes drive from Dammaaj.

Q6: What type of course structure do your brothers have over there?

Basically there are numerous dars that are consistently started up and finished and taught from the beginning to the end and then repeated. Dars like Usool uth-Thalatha, Qawl ul-Mufeed, Kitaab ut-Tawheed, explanation of Kitaab ut-Tawheed, books in Aqeedah of Asmaa was-Sifaat, Aqeedah Tahawiyyah, Aqeedah Tamriyyah. There are lessons in grammar that are continuously started up and taught to the end and started over. We have books in hadeeth from the beginning to the end. Usool ul-Fiqh and Fiqh, Umdaatul Ahkaam, Bulooq ul-Maraam. So for the student when he comes to Dammaaj is to meet up with the brothers that have preceded him and the scholars and daa'ees that are here and to let them look at his situation and to determine what level he is at and then to take direction from them as to what dars and lessons are appropriate for him.

Q7: Firstly, a brother wants to know is there a particular age limit? And secondly, can you please give us a little bit of information about the Ullema there in Dammaaj in terms of names and what they specialize in so that we can benefit?

As far as an age limit, this is from one of the specialties of Dammaaj, that every Muslim is warmly welcome here who is known to be on Salafiyyah, who is willing to learn and come here with a sincere intention to learn. There is no bracket or final age after which they are not accepted. Everybody is welcome as long as they are free from bidah, and they come here with a sincere intention for seeking knowledge.

As far as the scholars that are here in Dammaaj:

1. Shaykh Yahyah al-Hajooree – who is the successor to Shaykh Muqbil (rahimahullah), who Shaykh Muqbil is his testimony has written about Shaykh Yahyah. And he is the one that carries out three general dars everyday, seven days a week, a dars after Dhur, a dars after Asr, and a dars between Maghrib and Isha. These are three dars that the Shaykh does continuously, and the Shaykh is known for his great naseehah and great courageousness in standing up against the people of bidah and refuting their doubts and putting them in their place by the great tawfeeq of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa).
2. Shaykh Abdur Rahman al-Adaanee – who is known to be very strong in fiqh. And Shaykh Muqbil, as I recall hearing from the Shaykh myself, saying that I go back to Shaykh Abdur Rahman myself for certain issues of fiqh and take naseehah and direction from Shaykh Abdur Rahman. I am sure it has reached the brothers the Shaykh's questions and answers on hijrah, that was translated and put out on the internet.
3. Shaykh Ahmed Wassabee – who is the Imaam of the Masjid here in Dammaaj, Dar-ul-Hadeeth. And has been here in Dammaaj for well over 15 years. And is very strong in the knowledge of Quraan and who has memorized Saheeh Bukhaari. And is responsible for running the affairs of the dawah, the international affairs and the national affairs, and the local affairs in Dammaaj.
4. Shaykh Abdul Wahhaab ash-Shumeree – he is a qaadi in the government and he is known to be very strong in the fiqh of inheritance and he deals with the issues of the brothers here.

These are some of scholars and we basically are filled with students here that are very beneficial. Some of the students you don't even realize, like a student, he has memorized the Quraan, and memorized Saheeh Bukhaari, and memorized Saheeh Muslim, and memorized many other books, and he is very modest and you wouldn't realize the real nature and the true how of this brother.

These are some of the scholars of Dammaaj, as far as in Yemen, then we know that there is:

1. Shaykh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhaab al-Wassabee – who is the writer of Qawl ul-Mufeed.
2. Shaykh Muhammad Al-Imaam – who has written a book in refuting the shubuhaat and the doubts and uncertainties concerning elections, parliamentary elections, and local elections, and presidential elections. It is a very beneficial book in this time and age considering there is not a lot of information about this topic. Some of the brothers have started translating this book. Inshaa'Allaah it will be completed.
3. Shaykh Abdul Azeez al-Bura'ee – who is in a city called Taz, which is close to the South of Yemen

And of course I think we all know the testimony of Shaykh Muqbil (rahimahullah) has been translated and the Shaykh has mentioned in his testimony who the scholars are of Yemen.