

THE YEAR CHANGES, HAVE WE CHANGED?



حرائنه الرحص الرحيب I remind myself and call upon fellow respected audience to strive in increasing our imaan and taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala

with istiqaamah (steadfastness) in fulfilling all of His Commands and avoiding all of His prohibitions. May the increase in imaan

and taqwa serve as added values for us in becoming true believers.

Today, I invite upon fellow Muslims to ponder upon a *khutbah* titled

"THE YEAR CHANGES, HAVE WE CHANGED?"



We had just entered the New Year 2019 according to the Gregorian calendar. Definitely there were numerous moments of happiness and sorrow that we all experienced throughout the year 2018. The question is, how was the performance of our deeds throughout those 365 days that had passed? How far did we get in utilizing our time spent? Have we fulfilled all of the commands from from Allah? Or are we continuously in the state of negligence, heedlessness, and deceived by worldly enjoyments that are temporary?

In the *hadeeth* of ibn 'Abbaas *radiyAllaahu 'anhuma*, Rasulullah ﷺ said:

"There are two blessings which many people lose: (They are) Health and free time for doing good." (al-Bukhaari)

May these two blessings not harm us, but instead they are utilized in gaining as much provision possible in meeting our Creator. May the days to come become beneficial in the lives of us all.

Every year, surely we will determine several resolutions for ourselves. Hence, with this new year, there are several guidelines in initiating transformations within oneself so that those

resolutions can be attained effectively and actioned upon.

1ST: SELF-EVALUATION

We must evaluate (muhaasabah) our

progress and development towards Allah. Are our deeds, quality of imaan and taqwa of Allah actually on the increase or on a decline?

Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala reminds us in verse 18 of soorah al-Hashr:

"O you who have believed, fear Allah.

And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do."

2ND: DETERMINATION

We must have solid determination to improve our lives at all times purely for the sake of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala. As Muslims,

let us remain resolute in attaining as many rewards possible and also the pleasure of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala. Are the qualities of our obligatory and supererogatory prayers

enhanced? Do we actually have istiqaamah (steadfastness) in attending circles of knowledge? Have we abandoned all forms of disobedience and prohibitions by Allah?

Let us instill firm resolutions for the sake of Allah Alone and seek His Pleasure in attaining salvation in this world and the Hereafter.

3RD: PLANNING

Every resolution determined must be followed up with organized planning that includes strategy or approach taken,

as well as resources in putting them into actions, so as to yield positive impacts. Every planning that is executed must conform to the Sharee'ah of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala.

On the authority of 'Abdullah bin 'Amr radiyAllaahu 'anhuma who said: Rasulullah ماليّالله Said:

"None of you [truly] believes until his desires are subservient to that which I have brought."

(al-Bayhaqi)

4TH: IMPLEMENTATION

A matter that has been properly planned must be implemented with diligence until one successfully achieves

its defined ideals or resolution. Islam takes great seriousness upon its adherents that do not act upon what they utter. Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala mentions in verses 2-3 of

soorah as-Saff:

"O you who have believed, why do you say what you do not do? Great is hatred in the sight of Allah that you say what you do not do."

After planning and remaining resolute, it is unbefitting for us to delay in executing a matter that bring about good such as salaah (prayer),

tawbah (repentance), sadaqah (charity), and daily affairs. This is because we truly do not know what will happen in the next second.

5TH AND FINAL: 1STIQAAMAH

Retaining something that has been attained will definitely be faced with various challenges. Therefore, I implore upon

the Muslim ummah to always remain istiqaamah (steadfast) in maintaining obedience upon the commands of Allah, as well as sabr (patience) in avoiding His prohibitions. Let us always supplicate

so that we will remain istigaamah in the transformation towards good and always bestowed with the guidance of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala. Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* mentions in verse
112 of soorah Hood:

"So remain on a right course as you have been commanded, [you] and those who have turned back with you [to Allah], and do not transgress. Indeed, He is Seeing of what you do."

On the authority of Abu 'Amr radiyAllaahu 'anh who said:

I said, "O Messenger of Allah, tell me something about al-Islaam which I can ask of no one but you." He said, "Say I believe in Allah — and then be steadfast."

(Muslim)

To end this week's khutbah, I would like to remind and call upon all of us to derive lessons as in the following:

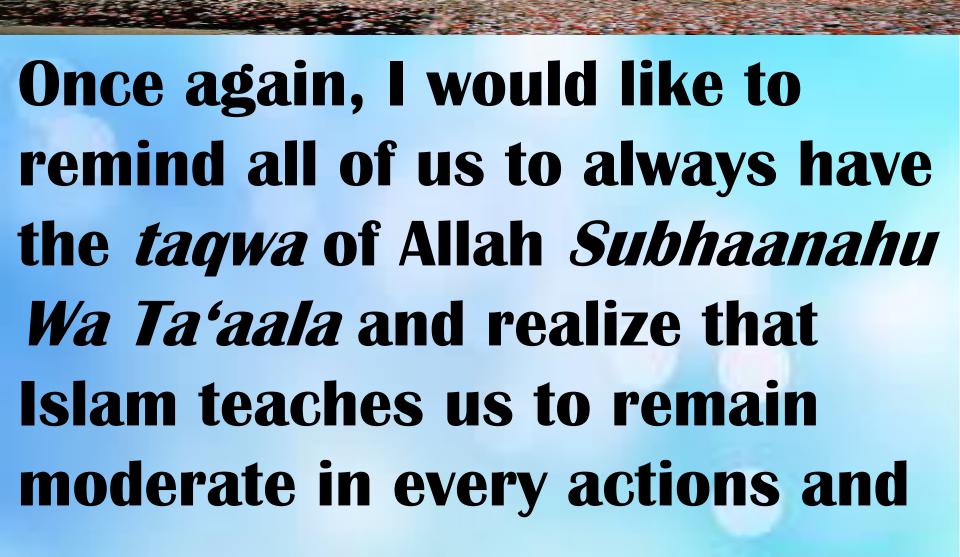
1. The Muslim ummah must have full certainty that the purpose of this worldly life is purely for servitude unto Allah, hence attaining the reward of Paradise in the Hereafter.

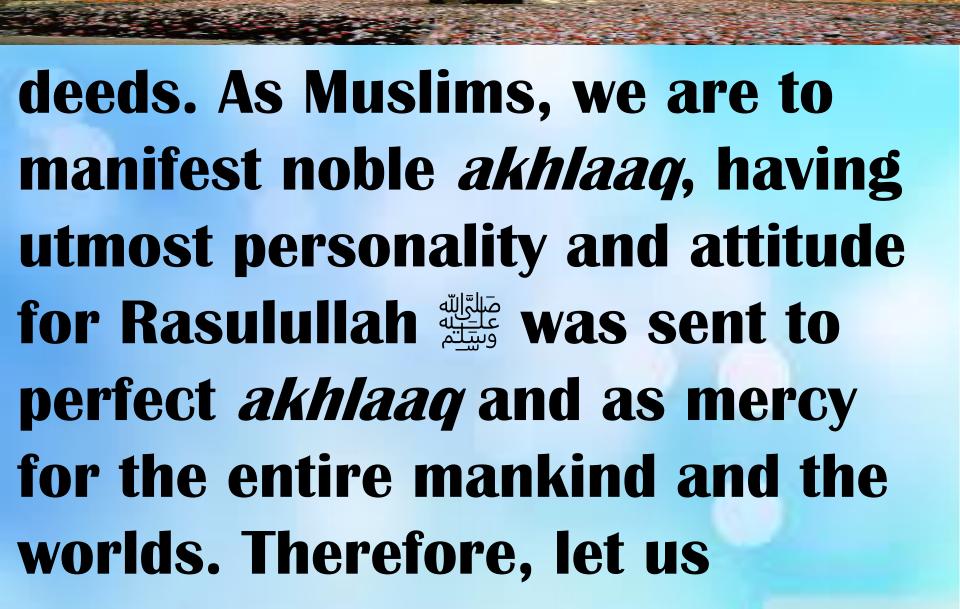
2. The Muslim ummah must always make muhaasabah and remain determined to make improvements from time to time, not only with the arrival of the new year.

3. The Muslim ummah must always remain istigaamah in performing righteous deeds and avoiding prohibited matters by Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala.

"Whoever does righteousness - it is for his [own] soul; and whoever does evil [does so] against it. And your Lord is not ever unjust to [His] servants." (Fussilat 41:46)

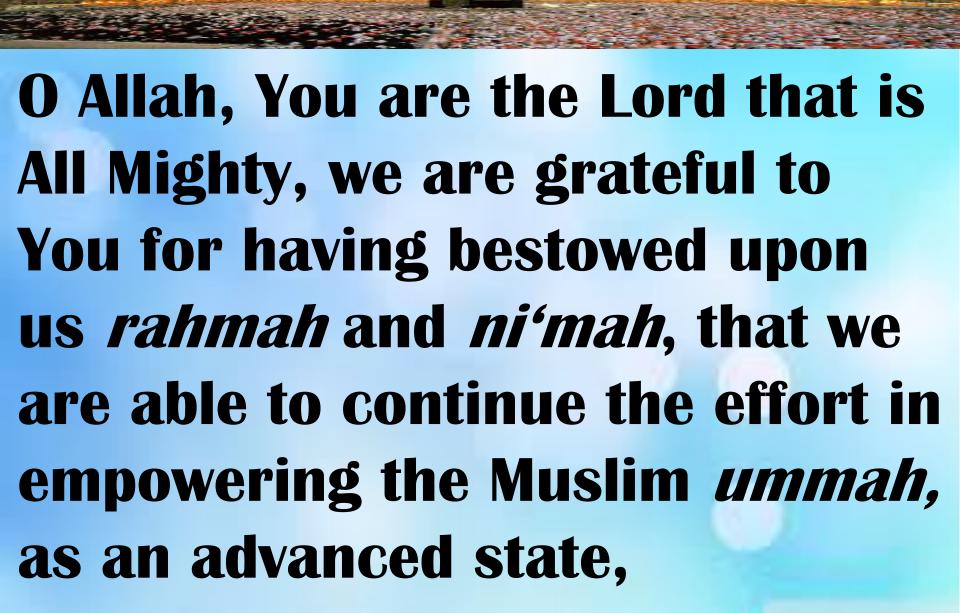
THE SECOND KHUTBAH





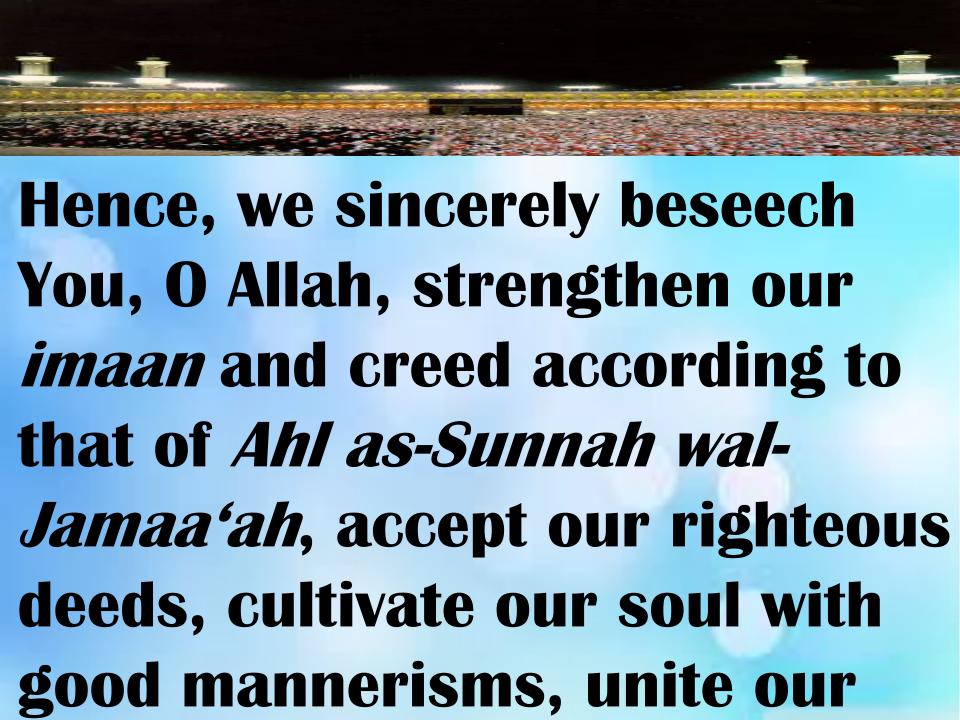


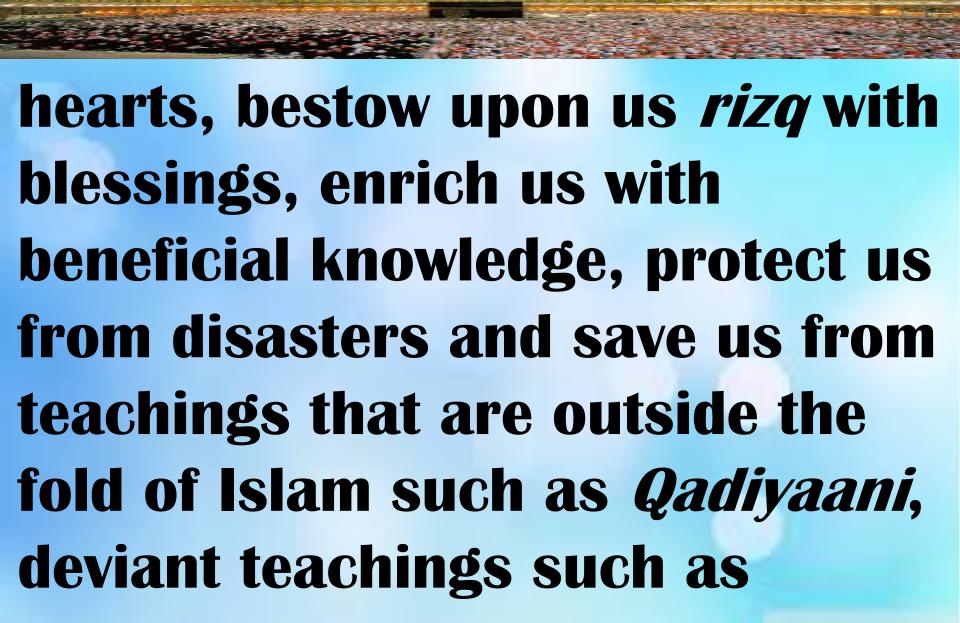
"Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him | peace." (al-Ahzaab 33:56)

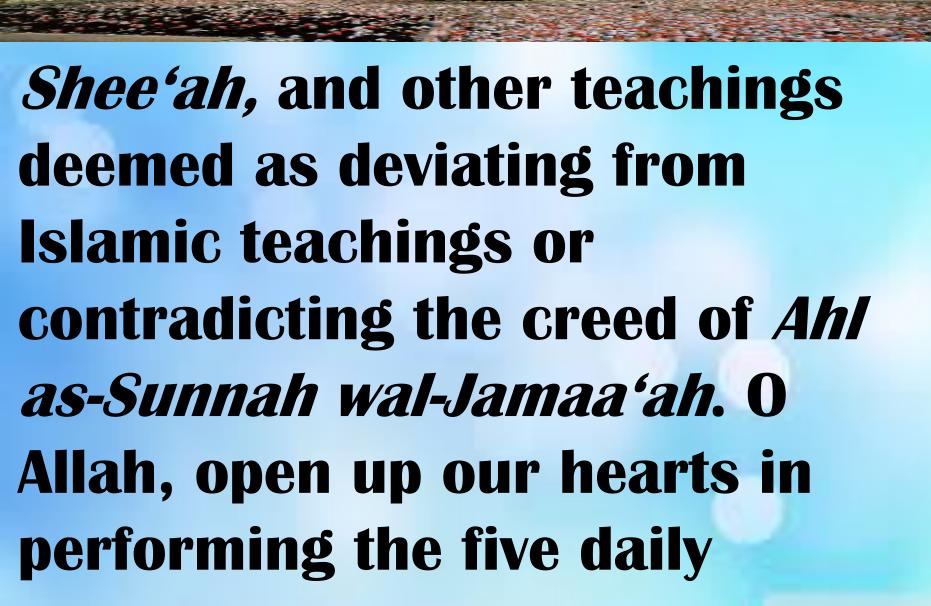


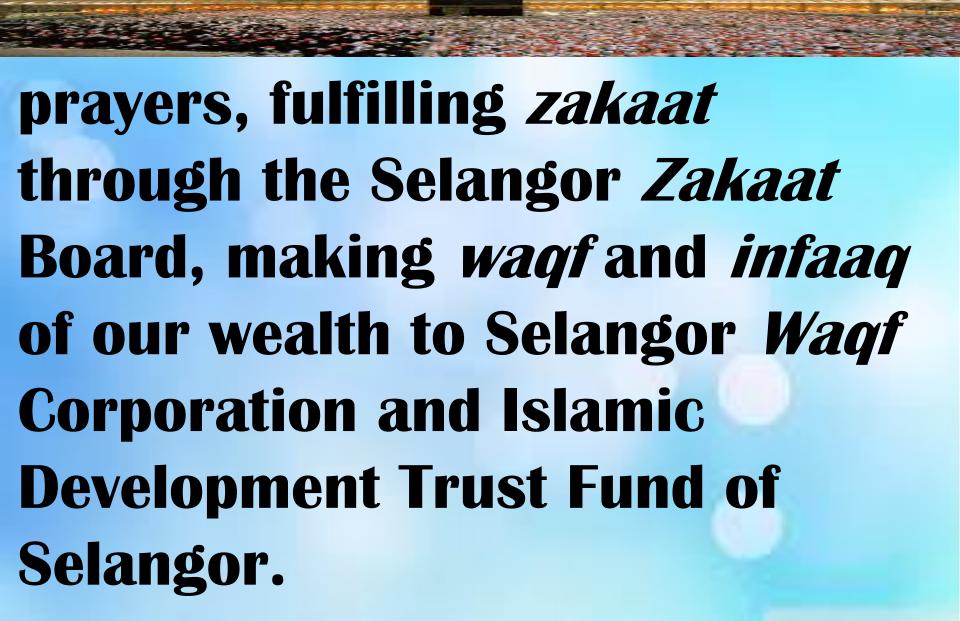


prosperous and providing welfare, under the auspices and leadership of our Ruler as the Head of Islamic affairs in this state.











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