

***To Be Delivered On: 05 June 2026CE / 19 Dhul Hijjah 1447H***



# FRIDAY SERMON

***Title:***

***“YOUTH: PILLAR OF THE NATION”***

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***Published By:***

***Unit Khutbah***

***Bahagian Pengurusan Masjid***

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## "YOUTH: PILLAR OF THE NATION"

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا  
بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ<sup>1</sup>

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا  
عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى  
آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى  
اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى : يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا  
تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.<sup>2</sup>

Dear blessed Muslims,

I sincerely call upon all of us to altogether strive in increasing our *taqwa* of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* by fulfilling all of His Commands and abandoning all of His prohibitions. May we all be bestowed with blissfulness and success in this world and the Hereafter.

<sup>1</sup> ar-Ra'd 13:11

<sup>2</sup> Aal 'Imraan 3:102.

On this glorious day, I will discuss upon a *khutbah* titled **“YOUTH: PILLAR OF THE NATION.”**

**Dear blessed Friday audience,**

Verse 11 of Soorah ar-Ra’d that was recited during the early part of the *khutbah* firmly asserts that Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala* will not change the condition of a nation, unless they would change it themselves.

This verse emphasizes that the Muslim *ummah*, specifically the youth, is no longer a group awaiting directives, on the contrary they are the main drivers of change in the development of the nation. Today, the youth generation steps forward in playing an active and significant role in various fields encompassing digital economy and entrepreneurship, community leadership, environmental sustainability, and technological advancement, coinciding with what Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala* mentions in verse 11 of Soorah ar-Ra’d:

**“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.”**

This verse teaches us that change will always begin with actions. Hence, the youth are those who have the utmost potential in driving that change. From the pages of Islamic history, it has been proven that major changes are usually driven by the passion and bravery of the youth.

Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala* has immortalized the story of *Ashaab al-Kahf* (the People of the Cave), which was a group of youth who remained firm in safeguarding their *imaan* (belief) amid a society whose *‘aqeedah* is corrupted. Their story was etched by Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala* in verse 13 of Soorah al-Kahf:

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ نَبَأَهُم بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّهُمْ فِتْيَةٌ ءَامَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ وَزِدْنَاهُمْ  
هُدًى.

***"It is We who relate to you, [O Muhammad], their story in truth. Indeed, they were youths who believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance."***

This verse provides a great inspiration for all of us. Observe how Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* did not deem them as the elders or leaders of the nation, but they were mentioned as believing youth, engaged in righteous deeds, and always preserving their *imaan* and life principles with full determination.

### **Esteemed Friday congregants,**

Look at the reality today, not all youth are actually making effort to develop themselves. There are those that are still drowning in excessive entertainment, submerged in browsing through social media from dawn to dusk, and wasting their precious time with unbeneficial matters. The young age, which should serve as the best time to seek knowledge and prepare oneself, is instead wasted just like that without any regret.

There are youth that would opt to sit idle waiting for the perfect opportunity, waiting for a comfortable job to come knocking, waiting for the suitable time, while time continues to pass by waiting for no one. A plethora of jobs, skills training, entrepreneurship and self-development programs have been made available by the government and various agencies; however, laziness and picky attitudes have caused them to pass by just like that.

We must remain cognizant that Islam never teaches its adherents to just sit idle. Islam teaches us to exert effort and work according to our level best. The nobility in work remains for as long as it remains *halaal* (lawful) and performed with full *amaanah* (trust). What is blameworthy within the religion is laziness, leeching off the compassion of others, pursuing work that is *haraam* (unlawful), and allowing the young age to pass by without any effort to improve oneself.

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

***"Take advantage of five before five: your youth before your old age, your health before your illness, your riches before your poverty, your free time before your work, and your life before your death."***

(*al-Haakim*)

**Dear respected Friday congregants,**

If we traverse through the *seerah* (biography) of Rasulullah ﷺ, we will find that many Companions were granted with great *amaanah* at their young age. Among them is 'Ali bin Abi Taalib *radiyAllaahu 'anh*. When Rasulullah ﷺ was commanded to perform *hijrah* to Madeenah, he ﷺ asked Sayyiduna 'Ali *radiyAllaahu 'anh* to sleep in his place, even though at the time the Quraysh pagans were planning to murder Rasulullah ﷺ. This tremendous *amaanah* was bestowed upon a young man who was courageous and firm in *imaan* (faith).

Similarly, with Usaamah bin Zayd *radiyAllaahu ‘anh* who was still in his youth when appointed by Rasulullah ﷺ as the military commander to lead the Muslim army that was comprised of Companions who were much more senior and experienced than him. This event demonstrated that in Islam, leadership is not measured by age group alone but according to knowledge and ability instead.

Islamic history has also recorded accounts of prominent figures such as Salaah ad-Deen al-Ayyoobi who grew up with proper instillment of knowledge, *adab* (etiquette), and *jihad* that he was able to liberate Bayt al-Maqdis from colonization. We are also reminded of Sultan Muhammad al-Faatih, who was nurtured since young age with a great ambition that ultimately, he succeeded in conquering Constantinople. Their success did not originate from hedonistic entertainment or lazing around waiting for the opportunity to come, but instead it was due to authentic knowledge, discipline, continuous training, and solid certainty in Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala*.

### **Beloved Friday audience,**

In the preparation to endure current challenges, the youth of today cannot remain static. The world continues to change with artificial intelligence (AI) technology that is increasingly becoming prevalent, with increasingly fierce competition, and those that refuse to adapt will continue to be left behind. Hence, take advantage of opportunities provided by the government for self-development, and utilize technology as the medium for the spread of *da’wah* (calling to Islam) and good, not to spew out fitnah and insults.

Let us altogether ponder upon the reminder from Rasulullah ﷺ that was narrated on the authority of ibn ‘Abbaas *radiyAllaahu ‘anhuma*, who said:

كُنْتُ خَلْفَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَوْمًا، فَقَالَ يَا  
غُلَامُ، إِنِّي أُعَلِّمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ، أَحْفَظِ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظْكَ

***"I was behind the Prophet ﷺ one day when he said: 'O boy! I will teach you a statement: Be mindful of Allah and He will protect you.'"***

*(at-Tirmidhi)*

That is the fundamental, whoever preserves his relationship with Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*, safeguards his *salawaat* (prayers), and avoid all forms of disobedience, then Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* will safeguard his life, his religion, and his future. Therefore, while we pursue worldly advancements, let us not even once remove *imaan* and *akhlaaq* (character) from ourselves.

Remember, the great youth is not only one who is articulated regarding changes but also one that is willing to change. The successful youth is not one who waits for opportunities but one who is ambitious in creating opportunities. Hence, utilize this young age as the avenue to build identity and become the driving force for the progress of our religion, people, and country. Solidify our provisions in enduring an era that is becoming increasingly challenging, whether regarding *'aqeedah*, *akhlaaq*, economics, and digital transformation. Indeed, the young age that is wasted is an invaluable loss and endless regret.

**Dear esteemed guests of Allah,**

To end the *khutbah* today, let us derive several lessons as guidance in our lives, namely:

1. The Muslim *ummah* must realize that the youth plays a significant role in shaping the future of the religion, society, and country. Therefore, they must be guided with sound foundations of knowledge and excellent *akhlaaq* and granted the opportunity to gain experience.

2. The Muslim *ummah* must benefit its young age with beneficial matters such as seeking knowledge, building skills, and utilizing technology and social media with *hikmah* (wisdom) and full responsibility.

3. The Muslim *ummah* must preserve its relationship with Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* by safeguarding *salaah*, *akhlaaq*, and limits of *Sharee'ah* so that life will always be driven with *imaan* and spared from matters that destroys the soul and society.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
يُيْنِّي أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَانْهَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأَصْبِرْ عَلَى  
مَا أَصَابَكَ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ.

**"O my son, establish prayer, enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and be patient over what befalls you. Indeed, [all] that is of the matters [requiring] determination."**

(Soorah Luqmaan 31:17)

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ  
مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتُهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ  
السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ  
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

## THE SECOND KHUTBAH

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الشَّرِيعَةَ، هَدَى لِلنَّاسِ وَرَحْمَةً،  
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا  
عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ

وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. أَمَّا  
بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ  
فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ  
وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.<sup>3</sup>

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ  
أَجْمَعِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ  
الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.  
اللَّهُمَّ أَعِزَّ الْإِسْلَامَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَأَذِلَّ الشِّرْكَ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ،  
وَدَمِّرْ أَعْدَاءَ الدِّينِ، وَاجْعَلْ هَذَا الْبَلَدَ آمِنًا مُطْمَئِنًّا وَسَائِرَ  
بِلَادِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ وَفِّقْ أَيْمَةَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَوُلَاةَ أُمُورِهِمْ وَجَمِيعَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ  
لِمَا فِيهِ صَلَاحُ الْبِلَادِ وَالْعِبَادِ.

<sup>3</sup> al-Ahzaab 33:56.

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ وَنَتَوَسَّلُ اِلَيْكَ بِنَبِيِّكَ الْاَمِيْنِ، وَنَسْأَلُكَ  
بِاسْمَائِكَ الْحُسْنٰى، وَصِفَاتِكَ الْعُظْمٰى، اَنْ تَحْفَظَ بَعِيْنَ  
عِنَايَتِكَ الرَّبَّانِيَّةِ، وَبِحِفْظِ وَقَايَتِكَ الصِّمَدَانِيَّةِ، جَلَالَةَ مَلِكِنَا  
الْمُعَظَّمِ، سُلْطَانَ سَلَاطُوْر، سُلْطَانَ شَرْفِ الدِّيْنِ اَدْرِيسِ شَاهِ  
الْحَاجِ ابْنِ الْمَرْحُومِ سُلْطَانَ صَلَاحِ الدِّيْنِ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيْزِ شَاهِ  
الْحَاجِ. اَللّٰهُمَّ اَدِمِ الْعَوْنَ وَالْهِدَايَةَ وَالتَّوْفِيْقَ، وَالصِّحَّةَ  
وَالسَّلَامَةَ مِنْكَ، لَوْلِيَّ عَهْدِ سَلَاطُوْر، تَعْكُوْا اَمِيْرَ شَاهِ ابْنِ  
السُّلْطَانَ شَرْفِ الدِّيْنِ اَدْرِيسِ شَاهِ الْحَاجِ، فِيْ اَمْنٍ وَصَلَاحٍ  
وَعَافِيَةٍ بِمَنْكَ وَكَرَمِكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْاِكْرَامِ. اَللّٰهُمَّ اَطْلُ  
عُمْرَهُمَا مُصْلِحِيْنَ لِلْمَوْظَفِيْنَ وَالرَّعِيَّةِ وَالْبِلَادِ، وَبَلِّغْ  
مَقَاصِدَهُمَا لِطَرِيْقِ الْهُدٰى وَالرَّشَادِ.

O Allah! Strengthen the 'aqeedah of the Muslims upon the creed of *Ahl as-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah*, which is upon the path of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his Companions *radiyAllaahu 'anhum*, as formulated by Imaam Abu Hasan al-Ash'ari and Imaam Abu Mansoor al-Maatureedi, practicing upon the Shaafi'i *Madhhab* (juristic school of thought) while accepting the other three *madhaahib*, practicing *tasawwuf* upon the way of Imaam Junayd al-Baghdadi and Imaam al-Ghazaali. Spare us from all forms of bribery and abuse of power,

as well as misguidance and extremism, and protect us from *fitan* that can harm the union and unity of the Muslim *ummah*.

O Allah! Bestow peace and prosperity upon our state and nation. Protect us from all forms of disaster, fitnah and calamity. Bestow upon us leaders that have utmost integrity, firmness, and courage in upholding the Truth according to Your *Sharee'ah*.

O Allah! Protect the Muslim *ummah* and Masjid al-Aqsa in Palestine. Preserve them from oppression and evil, and bestow upon them steadfastness, strength, and victory.

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا.<sup>4</sup>  
رَبَّنَا ءَاتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.<sup>5</sup>  
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَنِ وَإِيتَايِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى وَيَنْهَى  
عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.<sup>6</sup>  
فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ،  
وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا  
تَصْنَعُونَ.

<sup>4</sup> al-Furqaan 25:74.

<sup>5</sup> al-Baqarah 2:201.

<sup>6</sup> an-Nahl 16:90.