

Friday Khutbah of Masjid Otsuka
September 16, 2022
Seek Knowledge and help children to gain knowledge



All praises are due to **Allah**. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except **Allah** the uniquely One, who has no partners in **His** one-ness. And I testify that the Prophet **Muhammad** is the slave of **Allah** and **His** Messenger.

O Servants of **Allah!** **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Baqarah** and **Surah Tauba**:

“...And have **Taqwa** of **Allah**. And **Allah** teaches you. And **Allah** is Knowing of all things.” (S.2 V.282)

“And say, ‘Do [as you will], for **Allah** will see your deeds, and [so, will] **His** Messenger and the believers. ...’” (S.9 V.105)

In this noble verse there is an encouragement for people to strive to perform good deeds in order to attain their aims and ambitions they hope for, and that is through seeking beneficial knowledge. For this is what helps contribute to the maturation of their intellect, the refinement of skills, and helps prepare them for a prosperous and successful future. **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Taa-Haa**:

“...Say, ‘My **Lord!** Increase me in knowledge.’” (S.20 V.114)

Similarly, the Prophet **SAW** said: “The seeking of knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim.” [Ibn Majah] For this reason, indeed, the seeking of knowledge is a continuous journey that never really stops. So, knowledge is the best of what a person can occupy his time with and invest his life in. It is that which a person expends himself for and strives and struggles towards. This is the honor of knowledge, it raises one in esteem within their society and the entirety of humanity. So, let us follow beneficial knowledge with good deeds, for one of the Sahaba said: Seek knowledge and teach it, so whatsoever you know, teach it. **Abu Hurairah** reported: the Messenger of **Allah SAW** said, “When a man dies, his deeds come to an end except for three things: **Sadaqah Jariyah** (ceaseless charity); a knowledge which is beneficial, or a virtuous descendant who prays for him (for the deceased).” [Muslim]

O Servants of **Allah!** Indeed, for parents there is a huge role in the encouraging of their children towards knowledge. This helps them attain their aims through seeking knowledge and learning. We find the scholars avid in seeking and attaining unto knowledge and their parents supporting them and bearing all forms of hardship and expenses in assisting them. In this manner we see the example of scholars who through support of their parents went onto become from the most knowledgeable of their time. In similar manner we see the role of teachers in teaching children, so we should honor their efforts and their status is to be recognized. Hence let parents and teachers be avid in preserving and educating children and let them follow them and assist their upbringing and growth in the best possible way. This is what our beautiful religion encourages us to do.

May the peace and the blessings of **Allah** be upon prophet **Muhammad SAW**, his family and all of his Companions. May **Allah** be pleased with the Rightly Guided **Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman** and **Ali**, and all those who will follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment.

O **Allah!** Accept our prayers and all our **ibada**.

O **Allah!** Guide us to the right path and make us of those on whom **You** bestows **Your** mercy.

O **Allah!** Accept all of our good deeds and forgive us for our **sins**.

O **Allah!** Accept us for **Your** service and for the service of **Islam** and **Muslims**

O **Allah!** Grant safety and security to everyone here in Japan as well as all over the world. **Aamin ya Rabbil Aalamin**