



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**! We are in the month of **Rabi' al-awwal** and in the month of **Rabi' al-awwal** in what is known as the Year of Elephant and the year of the Prophet **Muhammad SAW** was born. His coming to this world was a mercy which **Allah** manifested for **His** creation, through whom **He** guides people to the Truth.

**Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Al-Hashr**:

**“...And whatever the Messenger has given you - take; and what he has forbidden you - refrain from. ...”** (S.59 V.7)

The Prophet **Easa** the son of **Maryam** stated as **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Al-Saff**:

**“...Bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me (Easa), whose name is Ahmad. ...”** (S.61 V.6)

So, the birth of the Prophet **SAW** was a blessing and his being sent forth was a huge grace unto mankind.

**Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Al-i-Imraan**:

**“Certainly, did Allah confer [great] favor upon the believers when He sent among them a Messenger from themselves. ...”**

(S.3 V.164)

The Prophet **SAW** was sent as a mercy unto mankind and said: **“Indeed, I am a gifted mercy”** [Darami] The Prophet **SAW**

came with a universal message for humanity, urging mutual love and harmony. The Prophet **SAW** said: **“Shall I tell you of something you can do to make you love one another? Spread Salam (true peace) amongst yourselves (i.e. between each other).”**

[Muslim] And he established the principles of justice and the fulfillment of oaths and trust, so he attended before his formal declaration of Prophethood, what is known as the “Alliance of the virtuous”. In this alliance the various tribes had gathered and agreed to safeguard and return the rights to people who may have been wronged. This alliance was an agreement and charter to bring about justice and any such alliances that involve mutual support to bring about similar aims and call to such virtues such as piety and righteousness should be emulated. This is how **Islam** asks us to honor justice and rights. The Prophet **SAW** said: **“There is no alliance established for good except that Islam intensifies and strengthens it.”** [Muslim] **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Ahzab**:

**“There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern. ...”** (S.33 V.21)

O Servants of **Allah**! **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Ahzab**:

**“Allah and His angels send blessings on the Prophet, O you who have believed send ye blessings on him, and salute him With all respect.”** (S.33 V.56)

Whoever sends their **salawat** upon the Prophet **SAW** then for every **salawat**, they will find **Allah** returns these blessings back to them tenfold. The Prophet **SAW** said: **“Whoever prays for Allah's blessings upon me once, will be blessed for it by Allah ten times.”** [Muslim] So, let us be of those who increase their **salawat** upon the Prophet **SAW**, for through it we increase our love



for the Prophet SAW. Through this we can also come to emulate his guidance, and to embody his noble character. Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Qalam:

**“And indeed, you are of a great moral character.”** (S.68 V.4)

Indeed, from the best of times to send salawat upon the Prophet SAW is straight after the adhan. For the Prophet SAW is reported to have said: “When you hear the Adhan repeat what the Mu'adhdhin (the call-maker) says then invoke salawat upon me.” [Muslim] From such blessed times is also the blessed day of Jumuah, for salawat upon the Prophet SAW sent upon him on Friday is showed to the Prophet SAW. The Prophet SAW said: “Amongst the best of your days is Friday. So send a great deal of salawat upon me on this day, for your salawat will be presented to me.” [Nasa'i]

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! Bless us with Your love. Bless us the love of those You love.

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