

The Messenger of Allah calls us to visit and perform Ṣalāt in Al-Masjid Al-Aqṣā

Friday Khutbah¹ by,

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All praise is due to Allah, praise that complies with His blessings and compensates His abundance. Our Lord, for You is all praise as befits the majesty of Your countenance and the might of Your authority.

O Allah, I cannot sufficiently enumerate praises upon You; You are as you have praised Yourself. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone and He has no partner, and I bear witness that our Master² Muhammad is His slave and Messenger and His sincere and intimate friend, the best Prophet that Allah sent to the entire world as a herald of glad tidings and admonition. O Allah, pray upon, give peace and give blessings upon our Master Muhammad and upon the family of our Master Muhammad, prayers and peace that last inseparably until the Day of Judgment. I advise you and my sinning self to have fearful awareness of Allah the Exalted.

To proceed, O slaves of Allah:

It has been unanimity agreed upon by the Muslim religion scholars that when any region submitted to the Islamic *Fath*³, at then it became a *Dar Islam*⁴ (a house of Islam). They also unanimously have agreed that the territory distinguished by this characteristic never declines that feature till the Day of Resurrection. It means that it remains *Dar Islam* even if any occupied forces invade its lands or whenever years of occupation and aggression pass over. Therefore, Al-Mustafa, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, has declared in

¹ . Friday Khutbah (sermon) It was given on 29th of Jumad Al-'Awal 1433 (HJ), 20th of April 2012

² . Arabic: Sayed, which only applies to human beings

³ . The Islamic Fath (pl. Futūhāt): it is not an equivalent for the concept of occupation or conquest. The Muslims only defend their rights in delivering their message as a result of the Roman and Persian attacks to prevent spreading Islam at then. These Futūhāt never aimed at usurping lands, killing the others, or imposing their sovereignty as done by the Empires of Rome and Persia. (Translator)

⁴ . Dar al-Islam: it is the country where the Muslims can safely perform their religious rituals and legislations without any kind of oppression from the society. (Translator)

the authentic *Hadith*, "**The Jihad is prescribed on me and my nation till the Day of Resurrection**". He means here the fighting Jihad. So, why does he mean that?

Because the territories which, by Allah's will, were submitted to the Islamic *Fath*, considered to be entitled as "*Dar Islam*". Hence, there is certainly who wants to usurp or invade these homes of Islam. Consequently, these Islamic lands must be guarded; and anyone who wants to transgress them must be fought. The question that should come to our minds, o worshippers of Allah: Does the occupation of any part of these Islamic territories mean that an Islamic legislative ruling related in a way or another to this part will be cancelled?

In other words, when Al-Quds (Jerusalem) and its Masjid were occupied, or if we suppose that a transgressor occupied the shrine of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace; moreover he invaded *Baitulallah Al-Haram* (the sanctified house of Allah), would such occupation change a fixed and a permanent ruling in the *Shari'ah*⁵ of Allah, Glorified and Majestic? Would it be a warrant to abrogate a ruling declared in Allah's Noble Qur'an or by His Prophet Mohammed, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, in his prophetic tradition?

Both Al-Quds and Al-Masjid Al-Aqṣā have been occupied, and in case of the invasion of any other territory, would this be a justification to abolish the order of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, to visit and perform *ṣalāt* in Al-Masjid Al-Aqṣā? Would the occupation of the Masjid of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, be an excuse to cancel his recommendation to visit and perform *ṣalāt* there and an excuse to stop mentioning the great reward of praying there?

If it happens that *Baitulallah Al-Haram* was occupied, would it be a justification to annul the ordainment of Hajj mentioned in Allah's Book, "**And it is (a duty) upon mankind towards Allah (to come)**"

5. *Shari'ah*: The principles and laws legislated by Allah the Exalted and His Messenger Mohammed may Allah bless him and grant him peace, in the concepts of beliefs, life dealings, and morals. (Translator)

to the Home on Hajj (Pilgrimage), for whomever is able to make a way to it. " [Surat 'Āli `Imrān,3:97]

What is really strange, brothers, that when al-Mustafa, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, has called us to perform *ṣalāt* in his Masjid and AL-Masjid Al-Haram, he only has showed the rewards of performing *ṣalāt* in them. Nevertheless, when he has talked about Al-Masjid Al- Aqṣā, he has ordered us directly to perform *ṣalāt*. Both ibn-Majah and Baihaqy have related with an authentic chain of authority, that the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said, **"Go to it (Al-Masjid Al- Aqṣā) ,and perform *ṣalāt* there, because one *ṣalāt* there equals one thousand ones".**

I repeat once more: Does any Muslim dare to say that we have the right to abolish what Allah says clearly in the Noble Qur'an or what the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, has called us for in his authentic Hadith? Do we have to cancel the Islamic legislative rulings because of the domination of the occupied forces over Al-Masjid Al- Aqṣā and all the surrounding lands?

They claim that visiting and performing *ṣalāt* in Al-Masjid Al- Aqṣā would be an acknowledgment of the occupation, and an admission to give the invaders the legitimacy for their stance. Does this sound sensible?

So, why does the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, on talking about Al-Masjid Al- Aqṣā, he has said **"Go to it and perform *ṣalāt* there"** despite being occupied at then by the Roman empire as you know?? A lot of the companions in the reign of Abu-Baker and Omar before the *Fath*, headed toward AL-Masjid Al- Aqṣā to perform *ṣalāt* in spite of being under the Roman occupation. We have never heard that one of them said that this is a concession for their invasion.

We also know the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, and together with a great number of his companions went to Makkah, although at then it was *Dar Kufur* (a house of disbelief). Moreover, all its inhabitants were warriors and fighters against Islam. They were the ones who fought the Messenger of Allah in

Uhud battle. They were the ones who fought him on the day of Khandaq (The Ditch) battle. They were the ones who fought him in Bader battle. Despite all of that, the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, went to Makkah to declare to its warriors that he came to perform safely Umrah⁶ and to do *Tawaf* (circumambulation) around the Ka'bah. It never crossed to his mind that this was an acknowledgment that while polytheists was fighting him he announced to reconcile them, Allah forbids!

The matters went on the same stance for long centuries till the reign of the Crusades who invaded Al-Quds. It lasted for nearly three hundred years. However, most people, Islamic scholars and the righteous men went there during that calamity. During that invasion they accomplished the ordainment of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, **"Go and perform ṣalāt, because one ṣalāt there equals one thousand more than in any other Masjid"**.

We have only heard, brothers, about this mysterious *Fatwa*, not in that age, but in the last few years. Rather, before that all the Islamic scholars, Imams, and all Mujtahideen⁷ submissively did the order given by the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. It was an unconditioned order which is applied as it is as long as there is not a confinement. In addition, we do not know any restrictions enclosed the order **"Go and perform ṣalāt there"**, whether by the Prophet, his companions or The Book of Allah.

During the Crusades' occupation, they were visiting Al-Masjid Al-Aqṣā. Nevertheless, it never crossed to their minds that their visit symbolized their acknowledgment of the Crusades! They knew well that their visit was a defying stance against the invaders' existence. Furthermore, they continued and renewed their convoy with Allah to fight those transgressors. How strange! From where was that mysterious *Fatwa* stemmed its argument?

6. Umrah : A voluntary short pilgrimage that can be performed at any time of the year.

7.A Mujtahid: is someone who has the capacity to put forward an opinion which cannot be challenged by anyone; since it is the most learned, the best researched, and accurately worked out. (Islamic Encyclopedia.org)

I was and still, brothers, among those who are very cautious concerning their religion; which is a granted blessing on me! I have done wide researches; moreover, I have accused my knowledge and my awareness. However, I have not found any preceding Imams issued this *Fatwa*. I have not found that one of the companions did not visit Al-Masjid Al-Aqṣā during the Roman occupation; I have not found that at all!!

Rather, when I look at those who adopt and advocate that *Fatwa*, I find out that they are dealing with the occupied troops who invaded Palestine and Al-Masjid Al-Aqṣā! All their meetings are well-known and documented. Then they say we should not visit Al-Masjid Al-Aqṣā because it is a concession of the occupiers' rights! How do we balance that unacquainted weird relation between them and the Israeli forces from one hand, and this mysterious *Fatwa* from the other?

Have you heard about the one who violated Allah's law? He insisted to commit adultery but he was keen not to nullify his *wudu* (ablution)!!! Can you imagine such thing?!!

You may ask: So, what is the aim behind that?

–It is not hidden any more. The world's intrigues have been unified under the leadership of the World Zionist Organization and Israel, that neighboring entity. Their sole aim is to uproot the spirit of resistance against that enemy that assaulted its war against Islam and the whole Muslims. This is the whole story!!

It is a great honor for us that it is our destiny to have this enmity and this conspired war on our blessed and sacred land, however, what is our future? How can we face that aggression? In brief, precise words brought from the Book of Allah **"The ones who have believed and have not confounded their belief with injustice, to those belong the (true) security, and they are right-guided"**. [Surat Al-'An`ām,6:82]

Do you hear me brothers? Let us thoroughly think about these Divine words **"The ones who have believed and have not confounded**

their belief with injustice, to those belong the (true) security, and they are right-guided".[Surat Al-'An`ām,6:82]

Let all of us, our leaders, our people, and our army to promise Allah to deepen our Iman in our Mawla (Allah the All-Fosterer), do we have another Mawla? Allah forbids!!

Let us promise Him to avoid injustice which is two kinds: the most dangerous of them is to be unjust to yourself. Let us promise Allah not to wrong ourselves. Let us repent to Allah from all small and great sins; and whenever we slip back, we come again in repentance. Allah accepts the repentance.

Let us pledge Allah to penitence, to avoid committing sins and doing what brings Allah's wrath. Let us take upon ourselves not to transgress each other. Allah, Glorified and Majestic, hates the tyranny and its supporters. Let us promise Him to be the justice guardians.

I advise myself and I call our leaders to that pledge. I ask Allah to guide them to His right path. I call our army to that pledge and I ask Allah to guide them and make them as guardians for its principles and values. I call our people, on their different categories and responsibilities. I call myself and all my brothers who are honored to live in that blessed country. We will be truly dignified, if we are faithfully apply that verse in Allah's Noble Book, **"The ones who have believed and have not confounded their belief with injustice, to those belong the (true) security, and they are right-guided".**

By Allah the One Who there is no god but Him, they are true words, **"Falsehood cannot come to it from before it or behind it"** [Surat Fuṣṣilat,41:42]. If we are faithful to our covenant with Allah, Mighty and Majestic, a merciful cloud of security granted by Allah, Glorified and Exalted, canopies us. No enemy can ever transgress us and the whole world enmity cannot ever reach its desires in that blessed country or defeat the nation of Al-Mustafa, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. I say this statement of mine and I seek the forgiveness of Allah, the Sublime.

