

Khutba Prep

Before facing the audience, a speaker should have a clear image of what he wants to say. He should rethink of his speech to ensure that he is presenting correct arguments that will not cause any negative psychological or social effects. He should also check his evidence. If it is an Ayah then he should memorize it well, and if it is a hadith he should narrate it accurately. If he is quoting a book, then he should make his as close to the original as possible. Good preparation is a sign of respect to oneself and to the audience.

Clarity

It is recommended that Khutba should be on one main topic. The speaker who talks about many issues distracts the audience from the focus. The result would be that he alternates between different emotions and ideas. Regardless of his eloquence and fluency, he will not be able to give a clear message about the teachings of Islam. Clarity is crucial for education. Ambiguity and excessive generalization is of no use. The Friday Khutba is not a theoretical session, but a practical explanation of the truth.

Concise

A Khutba that is concise enables the audience to better focus on its teachings and enables the speaker to convey the message more clearly. Excessive speech causes people to forget many details. The most important objectives of the Khutba might be lost in the midst of all these additions. Can't one see that a piece of land needs only a certain number of seeds? A farmer must necessarily uproot the extra plants to enable the rest of the plants to grow and bear fruits. Similarly, a human soul does not absorb values unless they are well defined and well presented. Too much talk and presenting too many facts would cause the minds of the listeners to overflow with the information, regardless of how precious those facts are.

Contents

The Khutba is mainly discussing the Islamic values, which are derived from the Book of Allah, the Sunnah, and the traditions of the salaf. Thus, each and everything in the Khutba should be supported by a Qur'anic verse, an authentic hadith, or an acceptable fact. Therefore, it is not acceptable at all for a Khutba to include non-authentic stories, let alone fabrications. It is beneficial to mention political and intellectual achievements in Islamic history. Islam founded a great civilization that sprang from the intellectual movement that the Qur'an initiated and the human consciousness that the Prophet (saw) awoke. The objective behind such Khutba is to raise self-confidence among Muslims and to remind them of their global mission.

Current Issues

A good speaker cannot ignore current affairs of the world or the Islamic community. If his speech is discussing a different place, time, and people, then he is totally discredited. This is precisely why the Qur'an was revealed over a period of twenty-three years. It dealt with events over time, and therefore, was most effective in its guidance. The Qur'an is a cure for social illnesses, but the speaker must diagnose the disease accurately. Then, he would extract from the Book or the Sunnah the required medication. This process requires experience. Otherwise, he would give the wrong medication and as a result would never be able to cure the disease. Furthermore, if he makes a mistake in the diagnosis, then his Khutba is useless, even if it includes a variety of authentic scripts.

Duration and Timing

The Friday prayer falls during the working hours of the day. Many members of the community use their lunch breaks to attend Friday prayer. WEIC is committed to making it easy for them to attend prayer. As a result, the duration of the Friday sermon should not exceed 25 minutes. Khutba start time is 1:20pm and end time is 1:50pm at WEIC. **Khateeb must start and end on time.**

Prohibition

The Khutba should never discuss controversial issues. It should never present only a single Islamic opinion and leave out others that are valid. The Khutba should unify and not divide people. The Ummah should be gathered around the fundamentals of Iman (faith) that every person agrees upon versus matters that are subject to personal opinion. There are numerous principles that can make good topics. Muslims have suffered enough from divisions among themselves, and it is the role of Islamic centers to provide unity and harmony.

Legal Framework

The West End Islamic Center is a charitable organization. It does not endorse political organization, parties and candidates.

Further, the WEIC operates within and upholds the local and federal hate speech laws. The WEIC does not tolerate speech that is racist, sexist, incites violence or is discriminatory towards any identifiable group. All speakers must abide by these requirements.

Our Values

In closing, the Friday prayers and sermon should reflect the Islamic values of the community, which include compassion, love, inclusion, tolerance, patience and respect. **The community is grateful to the volunteer speakers for their efforts and time.**