



AMERICAN MUSLIM DIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

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KHUTBA POLICY

OBJECTIVE OF THE KHUTBA

The objective of the Khutba is to give Muslims hope and encouragement. Emphasis should be on forgiveness and chance for repentance rather than on punishment. Keeping in view the work environment, no bad language or Dua'a damning any other group of people is to be used in Juma'a Khutba. Rather, ask for the misguided to be guided by Allah. Fiqh matters that are common to major schools and have the agreement of the majority of the Jurists are to be brought up. Do not discuss differences. Muslim social problems are to be addressed positively without hurting anyone by singling out or "pointing fingers", but rather by using generality and examples of our Prophet's (PBUH) life in dealing with similar problems. The Khutba is not the right place to settle personal conflicts between Muslims. Political events are to be mentioned, if at all, only to relate causes and effects those are relevant to Muslims. Political events should be mentioned only with the purpose of educating the Muslims and raising their level of awareness, and should be evaluated in accordance with the Qur'an and Sunnah guidelines and principles. In general, any topic that might cause division "fitnah" among Muslims is forbidden to be mentioned, any topic that might lead to the Unity of Muslims is encouraged in the Khutba. Khutba is not a place to settle scores.

FORMAT OF THE KHUTBA

The khutba should be formed of two parts with a short break of (istighfar) asking Allah's forgiveness, between them. The Khateeb takes his place and greets the Muslims by Assalamu'Alaikum. The Adhan is called. The two parts of the Khutba begin with Hamd to Allah (swt) and Thanaa on His prophet (pbuh). Khateeb mentions the title of Khutba and explains what he means using Qur'an and Hadith where possible. In all, both parts have to contain at least one Ayat from the Qur'an and one Hadith of the prophet (pbuh). The two parts of the Khutba have to be closed by Duaa of forgiveness and request of Allah's guidance to us. It is preferable that the second Khutba is largely devoted to Duaa.

DURATION OF THE KHUTBA

Traditionally, the Khutba of the Prophet (PBUH) did not exceed 10 minutes. His salaah was longer than his Khutbas. But some Sahabah kiram (followers of the Prophet (PBUH)) during their time took more than 10 minutes in their Khutbas. Yet, no more than about 25 minutes. However, the companions of the Prophet, in general followed his example; long salaah and short Khutba.

KHATEEB'S CHARACTER

Should have good knowledge of the Qur'an and Sunnah. For mixed congregation the Khateeb must be a male adult and Muslim with sound judgment. Should be practicing what he preaches. Should be a devote Muslim, and always aspiring to improve. Should be a good Daia, e.g. should not lose his temper or be insulting, is not harsh in behavior, will be listened to by Muslims and (interested) non-Muslims alike. The Khateeb should be a good example of the Ayat of Sura #3 ('Al `Imran: 3:159); Thus it is by the mercy of Allah that you deal with them gently, and had you been rough, hard hearted, they would surely have dispersed from around you.