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Friday Sermon
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The Weight of Righteous Friendship

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهٰذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا اَنْ هَدَانَا اللّٰهُ، وَاشْهَدُ
اَنْ لَا اِلَهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَاشْهَدُ اَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِينَ. اَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا
عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اَوْصِيْ نَفْسِيْ وَاَيُّكُمْ بِتَقْوٰى اللّٰهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us increase our taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by fulfilling all His commands and avoiding all His prohibitions. Let us surround ourselves with the **pious** servants of Allah, so that we may increase in piety and taqwa. May Allah s.w.t. protect every **friendship** which is **righteous** and **pious**, and reunite us in His Paradise. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Dear blessed congregation,

Who are our close **friends**? And who deserves to be our close **friends**? Perhaps images of our colleagues, classmates, schoolmates or those who share the same interests with us and so on come to mind.

Would you believe me if I said that there are groups of people who are **friends** in this world, but will become enemies on the Day of Judgement? It's as if we would regret having **befriended** them.

Brothers, listen to what Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Az-Zukhruf, verse 67:

الْأَخِلَاءُ يَوْمَئِذٍ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ إِلَّا الْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٦٧﴾

Which means: *"On that day, some close **friends** will become enemies to one another, except for those whose **friendship** is based on taqwa (faith and **righteous** deeds)."*

Truly, the matter of **friendship**, which we sometimes take lightly, has a profound impact on the life of a Muslim. In other words, good **friends** are those who emphasise taqwa and righteousness, who enjoy doing good, and who consistently encourage us to follow the same path.

Dear blessed Friday congregation,

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. said which means:

*"A person follows the religion (way of life) of his close **friend**. So let each of you consider whom he **befriends**."*
(Narrated by Abu Dawud)

The Messenger of Allah s.a.w. showed a clear connection between **friendship** and a person's religious life. Our

friendships and social circles can **influence** our practice of religion and the way we live our lives. I believe many of us understand this reality, so let us heed the reminder from today's sermon with open hearts. Taking lessons from the verse and hadith mentioned earlier, allow me to share three tips on **friendship** from an Islamic perspective:

Firstly: Recognising good and bad influence

We must ask ourselves: Does this **friend** bring us closer to Allah, or further away from Him? Yes, my brothers, this question is relevant to people of all ages, both the young and the more mature.

Today, **friendships** are also formed in the digital world through social media platforms and online communication groups (group chats) each carrying its own kind of **influence**. We must distance ourselves from **influences** that are sinful, such as spreading gossip or false information, or viewing sinful behaviour lightly. On the other hand, when we identify and acquaint ourselves with positive **influences**, we will be shaped by them. The Prophet s.a.w. likened a good **friend** to a perfume seller – we will inevitably catch the fragrance of their goodness.

Secondly: Becoming an Example of Righteous Friendship in Our Lives

In relation to this, we must sincerely ask ourselves: Are we a positive **influence** who encourages our **friends** to become

righteous individuals? Or are we the reason they fall into sinful behaviour?

Dear brothers, just as we wish to be exposed to good **influences**, we too should strive to be a source of positivity in our **friendships**. Let us work together to be individuals who strengthen the faith of our **friends** through noble character, open-heartedness, empathy, listening without judgment, and offering support when our **friends** are tested or in need of help.

We give advice with wisdom and compassion. We are not just **companions** for casual talk and laughter, but also **companions** who motivate each other towards Paradise.

Thirdly: Join Environments That Nurture Righteous Friendship

We must seek out opportunities to build **righteous friendships** – connections that nurture the spiritual growth of a believer, whether through acts of worship, attending religious talks, and so on. These **friendships** also involve reminding us of our civic duties – such as participating in charitable or community volunteer activities, among others.

My dear brothers,

Surely, when we are surrounded by sincere **companions** who are striving together towards goodness, it becomes easier for us to remain steadfast in performing **righteous** deeds.

At the same time, if any of our **friends** have made mistakes in the past and are beginning to show signs of wanting to change, let us help and support them. Guide them towards Allah's mercy with excellence (ihsan), for the Prophet s.a.w. said: *"Whoever guides someone to goodness will have a reward like the one who performs it."* (Narrated by Muslim)

Dear congregation,

Good **friendship** is not just about establishing relations with who we like, but about who helps us become a servant whom Allah loves and is pleased with. Let us strive to be **friends** who remind, not merely entertain; who advise one another, not those who bring each other down or pass judgment.

May every **friendship** we form in this world become an everlasting one. May Allah s.w.t. make us among those who **befriend** one another upon taqwa, who strengthen each other in goodness, and who attain His divine pleasure. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهْدِيِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرُ وَعُثْمَانُ وَعَلِيٌّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَآةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنْ مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالْمُؤَلَّازِلَ وَالْمَحَنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ أَنْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعِفِينَ فِي عَزَّةٍ وَفِي فَلَسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزَنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتُبِ السَّلَامَ وَالسَّلَامَ وَالْأَمْنَ وَالْأَمَانَ

لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً،
وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.