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Friday Sermon

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Ihsan: Manifesting Gratitude Through Excellence

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهٰذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا اَنْ هَدَانَا اللّٰهُ. اَشْهَدُ اَنْ
لَا اِلَهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِينَ. اَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا
عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ. قَالَ تَعَالٰى فِي التَّزْوِيْلِ: يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ
حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تُمُوتُنَّ اِلَّا وَاَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Dear blessed Friday congregation,

Let us strive to deepen our *taqwa* to Allah s.w.t. by fulfilling all His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. May He make us among His servants who consistently embody and practice ***ihsan*** throughout our lives. Amin, ya Rabbal ‘Alamin.

My dear brothers,

Today's sermon invites us to reflect upon the words of Allah s.w.t. in Surah Al-Qasas, verse 77:

وَأَحْسِنْ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللّٰهُ إِلَيْكَ^ص

Which means: "...and do **good** as Allah has been **good** to you..."

My brothers, this verse establishes a core principle of our faith, that is the value of **ihсан**. It tells us that every act of **goodness** we do should be an expression of our **gratitude** for the countless **blessings** Allah has showered upon us.

Indeed, every day, we step out to earn our livelihood with peace of mind. Our spouses are safe and sound. Our children head to school and return home in safety, without us having to worry too much about their security.

The doors of our mosques are always wide open for us to prostrate and seek Allah's mercy. The very peace, quiet, and safety we feel when walking to the mosque late at night, or in the early hours of the morning, is a gift that has been tragically lost to many others in different parts of the world.

So let us look within ourselves and ask sincerely: Is it truly enough to show our **gratitude** by merely whispering "*Alhamdulillah*" by the tip of our tongues?

My dear brothers,

In a famous narration, Rasulullah s.a.w. said that which means: "*ihسان* is to worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you cannot see Him, (then know that) He indeed sees you."

And in another hadith recorded by Imam Muslim, Rasulullah s.a.w. also said that which means: *"Indeed, Allah has prescribed **ihسان** in all things..."*

Scholars explain that the teachings of **ihسان** in these narrations are meant to cultivate a constant sense of awareness of Allah. When we carry this awareness in our hearts, we naturally strive to perfect everything we do and constantly reach for **excellence**.

This means that wherever a believer may be, whether at the mosque, the workplace, the classroom, or in public spaces, we are called to always display **excellence**.

An employee who is a believer does not work hard simply to gain acknowledgement from his superiors. A student who is a believer does not study hard only when exams are approaching. Instead, a believer always approaches every duty with utmost dedication for two reasons: they know that Allah is always watching, and they hope sincerely for His pleasure.

Dear congregation,

Our **ihسان** is truly perfected when it brings value and benefit to others. This is especially important in our interdependent society. After all, our shared peace, progress, and well-being are built upon the collective efforts of every single one of us, by the grace of Allah s.w.t. This is the manifestation of **ihسان**.

Rasulullah s.a.w. reminded us: *"The people most beloved to Allah are those who are most beneficial to others."* (Narrated by At-Tabrani)

This is the true face of Islam. Our **goodness** or *ihسان* should know no boundaries of familiarity, race, culture, or lineage. When we become a believer who shows empathy, an employee who is trustworthy, or a person who spreads **goodness** to the community, that is our true contribution. That is how we truly **thank** Allah s.w.t. for the immense **blessings** we enjoy today.

My fellow brothers,

To apply this value of *ihسان*, let us focus on two practical steps:

First: Cultivating *ihسان* in the face of adversity

The quality of *ihسان* within a believer should manifest in both hardship and ease. When we see those around us facing challenges, *ihسان* calls us to step forward to offer solutions and genuine support.

In fact, when new challenges emerge in our society, we should never hesitate to work together to find answers. We see this beautifully reflected in our educators and *asatizah* who patiently nurture our community, and in our Fatwa institution which carefully studies and offers timely guidance to help us navigate today's challenges.

Second: Extending our service and kindness

Indeed, it is only natural that our priority is to care for ourselves and our families. However, if we find ourselves **blessed** with an abundance of wealth, time, or expertise, let us expand our range of contribution. Do not let **goodness** stop with us only. Share and contribute these **blessings** so they can form a continuous chain of kindness and bring lasting benefit.

My beloved brothers,

To bring the value of **ihسان** to life, let us strive to be a force for **good** wherever we may be, in whatever role we play, by the grace of Allah s.w.t.

As He beautifully reminds us in Surah Ar-Rahman, verse 60:

هَلْ جَزَاءُ الْإِحْسَنِ إِلَّا الْإِحْسَنُ ﴿٦٠﴾

Which means: *"Is there any reward for **goodness** other than **goodness**?"*

May Allah s.w.t. grant us steadfastness and strength to always do **good**, **bless** our every effort, and preserve us in a state of peace, harmony, and well-being. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَاسْتَغْفِرُ 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 الْغَرِيزِ: 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 وَالْقُرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنْ مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ 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. 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.