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Friday Sermon

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Islam and The Etiquette of Neighbourliness

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 وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلٰى اٰلِهٖ وَاَصْحَابِهٖ اَجْمَعِينَ. اَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ. قَالَ تَعَالٰى فِي التَّنْزِيلِ: يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا اتَّقُوا
اللّٰهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهٖ وَلَا تَمُوْتُنَّ اِلَّا وَاَنْتُمْ مُّسْلِمُوْنَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Observe taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by obeying all His commands and avoiding all His prohibitions. May we be among His servants who remain steadfast. Amin, ya Rabbal ‘Alamin.

Dear Friday congregation,

One of the teachings of Rasulullah s.a.w. is caring for our **neighbours**. The Prophet s.a.w. said: “*Jibril kept advising me about the **neighbour** until I thought the **neighbour** would be given a **right** to inherit.*” (Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Why must we do **good** to our **neighbours**? Why has Allah made it one of the signs of our faith? Allah s.w.t. says in Surah an-Nisa', verse 36:

* وَأَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَنًا وَبِذِي
الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ

Which means: *“Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and be **good** to parents, relatives, orphans, the poor, the **neighbour** who is near, and the **neighbour** who is far...”*

Blessed congregation,

Allah created human beings to live together. Apart from our family, who lives closest to us? Our **neighbours**. Allah s.w.t. is All-Knowing of what nurtures our hearts and what unites people. In His wisdom, He made the **rights** of **neighbours** and **good** treatment of them a sign of faith, one that binds our hearts together and makes life more meaningful.

In **neighbourly** life, we see one another as we truly are. Our **neighbours** see us leave and return home. They hear how we speak to our families, and they observe how we handle challenges and trials.

Therefore, the **character** we display reflects the teachings of Islam to our **neighbours**. They may not learn about it from

religious talks, but they come to know it through the values and manners we show in our daily lives.

Blessed congregation,

How can we be **good neighbours**? Consider three simple ways rooted in the teachings of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w.:

Firstly: Get to know them

Being a **good neighbour** begins with acknowledging their presence. When we meet, let us smile and greet them with simple words. This is in line with the *Sunnah* of the Prophet s.a.w., who encouraged us to take the initiative in greeting others and to spread the *Salam*, so that affection may bind us together.

Secondly: Share our food with them

Rasulullah s.a.w. also advised: *“When you cook a stew, add more water to it, and give some to your **neighbours**.”* (Narrated by Muslim) Note, dear brothers, that what matters is not the type of food or the quantity of the dish, but the intention and thoughtfulness behind our gesture towards our **neighbours**.

Thirdly: Extend help when they are in need

Besides family, **neighbours** are the first to help and the first who should be helped. When someone is struck by hardship, outside help may take time to arrive, but **neighbours** are close at hand and ready. Consider the saying of Rasulullah s.a.w.: *“A person*

*whose stomach is full while his **neighbour** goes hungry does not have complete faith.*” (Narrated by Al-Baihaqi)

Reflect, dear brothers: Can we have the heart to live in comfort while our **neighbours** are left in hardship? Or is this an area we can improve, in answer to the call of faith?

Dear congregation,

We can choose whom we invite into our homes. But we cannot choose who our **neighbours** are. This is Allah’s decree, and Islam has established the **rights** owed to those known as **neighbours**.

Therefore, let us uphold the **rights** of our **neighbours** as best we can. May Allah s.w.t. continue to protect our relationships and grant us harmony and affection. 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. أَمَّا 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 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 وَالْمِحْنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ انْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي غَزَّةٍ وَفِي فَلِسْطِينَ 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.