

## THE PROPER CONDUCT IN MOSQUES

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ  
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيَكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our obedience towards Allah the Almighty by doing everything that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The mosque is the place of prostration, the house of Allah the Almighty. Those who frequent the mosque are those who devote themselves as servants to Him by always obeying His commands. The mosque is one of the signs of the existence of Muslims on this earth because this is the place of meeting as well as the symbol of unity of the believers. The mosque is also the place for the pious to forge their brotherhood in Islam. Allah the Almighty mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 7 (Surah At-Taubah), verse (ayat)18:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسْجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ

وَأَتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَنْ يَكُونُوا مِنَ

## الْمُهْتَدِينَ

Which means: *The mosques of Allah shall be visited and maintained by such as believe in Allah and the Last Day, establish regular prayers, and practise regular charity, and fear none (at all) except Allah. It is they who are expected to be on true guidance.*

Mosques cannot be compared to other places such as private houses, public halls, shopping malls or markets because these holy and noble sanctuaries are where Muslims worship Allah the Almighty. They are also places of virtue that are full of grace and blessings.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) urged his followers to love the mosques in order to gain salvation and protection from Allah the Almighty on the Day of Judgment. Those who frequent the mosques with the intention of worshiping and seeking the pleasure of Allah the Almighty will get a great reward which is paradise. It will also be the proof of their faith in the hereafter. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

مَنْ غَدَا إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ وَرَاحَ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُ نُزُلَهُ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ كُلَّمَا غَدَا أَوْ رَاحَ

Which means: "He who goes to the mosque in the morning or in the evening, Allah prepares for him a place in Jannah whenever he goes to the mosque in the morning and returns from it in the evening."

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

However, it is disturbing that a few members of today's community are negligent when visiting the mosque. They do not hesitate to taint the purity of the mosque by committing abominable acts such as abusing, slandering and tarnishing the reputation of others. The act of making the mosque a center of slander, cultivating individualism and partisan politics are contrary to the teachings of Islam. Allah the Almighty strictly condemns the hypocrites who tried (and continuously try) to make mosques as instruments of disunity as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 9 (Surah At-Taubah), verse (ayat) 107:

وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مَسْجِدًا ضِرَارًا وَكُفْرًا وَتَفْرِيقًا بَيْنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

وَإِرْصَادًا لِّمَنْ حَارَبَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَلِيَحْلِفْنَ إِنْ أُرْدْنَا إِلَّا أَلْحُسْنَىٰ

وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ ﴿١٠٧﴾

Which means: *And [there are] those [hypocrites] who took for themselves a mosque for causing harm and disbelief and division among the believers and as a station for whoever had warred against Allah and His Messenger before. And they will surely swear, "We intended only the best." And Allah testifies that indeed they are liars.*

Therefore, it is the responsibility of all Muslims to ensure that our visits to the mosque are to prove our obedience to Allah the Almighty. We must be mindful of our manners, behavior, actions and conversations while in this blessed place. Those with the intention of creating disunity or tarnishing the image of Islam are prohibited from entering the mosque and can be likened to idolaters who are not worthy of attending the mosque.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us together guard the sanctity of the mosque by guarding our conduct such as entering the mosque with the right foot while reciting specific supplications; praying two units of special prayer (tahiyyatul masjid), having intention to do *i'tikaf* (to stay in the mosque souly to worship), not passing in front of people who are praying, etc. We must try our best to avoid physical impurity such as wearing dirty clothes, having bad breath due to smoking, or littering. In addition, we must also avoid spiritual impurity such as lying, having evil intentions against others, feeling jealous towards others, or talking about worldly affairs excessively. Sa'id bin Musayyab said: "Whoever sits in the mosque is meeting his Lord and therefore he should only speak of good words ". Allah the Almighty reminded us in the Quran in Chapter 7 (Surah Al-A'raf), verse (*ayat*) 29:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلْ أَمَرَ رَبِّي بِالْقِسْطِ وَأَقِيمُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ عِندَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ

الَّذِينَ كَمَا بَدَأَكُمْ تَعُودُونَ ﴿٢٩﴾

Which means: *Say: "My Lord hath commanded justice; and that ye set your whole selves (to Him) at every time and place of prayer, and call upon Him, making your devotion sincere as in His sight: such as He created you in the beginning, so shall ye return."*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنْ  
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ  
الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ  
وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.