

ISLAM LOVES CLEANLINESS

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ
كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى
سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

Cleanliness is one of the most important Islamic teachings. In Chapter 74 (Surah Al-Muddathir), verses (ayat) 4 and 5 Allah the Almighty says:

وَتِيَابَكَ فَطَهِّرْ ﴿٤﴾ وَالرُّجْزَ فَاهْجُرْ ﴿٥﴾

Which means: *And thy garments keep free from stain! And all abomination shun!*

Allah the Almighty loves beauty and cleanliness. This is stated in a *Hadith* of Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) which was narrated by Imam at-Tirmizi:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى طَيِّبٌ يُحِبُّ الطَّيِّبَ نَظِيفٌ يُحِبُّ النَّظَافَةَ كَرِيمٌ يُحِبُّ الْكَرَمَ
جَوَادٌ يُحِبُّ الْجُودَ فَانظِفُوا أَفْنِيَتَكُمْ

Which means: *'Indeed Allah is Tayyib (good) and he loves Tayyib (what is good), and He is Nazif (clean) and He loves cleanliness, He is Karim (kind) and He loves kindness, He is Jawad (generous) and He loves generosity. So clean your surroundings.*

The demand for cleanliness covers a wide range of areas. These include personal hygiene, your family, your home, the environment, places of worship, public places etc. Islam also emphasizes physical and spiritual cleanliness. Therefore, a spiritually unclean person (or a sinner) is required to repent, while a physically unclean person is required to purify himself.

Allah the Almighty mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 2 (Surah Al-Baqarah), verse (ayat) 222:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

Which means: *Allah loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who keep themselves pure and clean.*

In terms of personal hygiene, Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

الْفِطْرَةُ خَمْسٌ أَوْ خَمْسٌ مِنَ الْفِطْرَةِ الْخِتَانُ وَالِاسْتِحْدَادُ وَتَقْلِيمُ الْأَظْفَارِ
وَنَتْفُ الْإِبْطِ وَقَصُّ الشَّارِبِ

Which means: *Five things are of the inborn characteristics of man: circumcision, shaving the pubic hair, plucking out hair under the armpit, clipping the nails and trimming the moustaches.*

In Islam, keeping ourselves clean and pure is the prerequisite for our worship to be accepted by Allah the Almighty. Cleanliness is also closely related to the faith of a Muslim as stated in a *Hadith* of Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) which was narrated by the Imam Muslim:

الطَّهْرُ شَطْرُ الْإِيمَانِ

Which means: *Cleanliness is part of the faith (iman).*

Prophet Muhammad said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Baihaqi that a clean person is a potential inhabitant of Paradise:

الْإِسْلَامُ نَظِيفٌ فَتَنْظِفُوا فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ إِلَّا نَظِيفٌ

Which means: Islam is clean. Be a clean person. Indeed no one enters Paradise except a person who is clean.

Although Islam emphasizes hygiene, there are still Muslims who ignore it. Even more sad is when there are Muslims who deliberately throw garbage from their car windows, throw cigarette butts everywhere, throw plastic wraps into the river or leave food scraps like fruit skins in the recreational parks that cause pollution as well as a foul odor.

There are a handful of Muslims who let their homes become unclean with dirty drains and uncut weeds. Our mosque's toilets are sometimes very dirty which disgust those who use them. If we do not take care of cleanliness, the image of Islam will be tarnished.

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

Unhygienic habits and eating dirty things are contrary to the teachings of Islam. Therefore Islam prohibits us from eating carcasses, pork and a few other foods that are dirty or referred to as *al-khoba'ith*. Allah the Almighty mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 7 (Surah Al-A'raf), verse (*ayat*)157:

وَيُحِلُّ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَبَائِثَ

Which means: ... *for he commands them what is just and forbids them what is evil; he allows them as lawful what is good (and pure) and prohibits them from what is bad (and impure);...*

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

In conclusion, let us practice cleanliness in our daily lives. Let us clean up our environment to avoid diseases. Let us take care of ourselves by getting rid of impurities and unpleasant odors especially when we attend congregational prayers at the mosque. In addition, let us cleanse our souls, our thoughts and our hearts from spiritual impurities. Impure hearts will breed envy, jealousy, treachery, arrogance, hypocrisy, etc. A clean heart coupled with a clean self will help us to acquire knowledge, bringing us closer to being praiseworthy and practicing righteous deeds. Allah the Almighty said in the Quran in Chapter 16 (Surah al-Nahl), verse (*ayat*) 97:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيٰوةً طَيِّبَةً

وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُم بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٩٧﴾

Which means: *Whoever works righteousness, man or woman, and has Faith, verily, to him will We give a new Life, a life that is good and pure and We will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions.*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَتَفَعَّلِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ

وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ

قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ،

وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.