

## MAINTAINING TIES OF KINSHIP

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

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،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

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,

All Muslims are brothers regardless of skin color, race and descent as Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 49 (*Surah Al-Hujurat*) verse (ayat) 10:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ<sup>ج</sup> وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ ﴿١٠﴾

Which means: “*The believers are brothers, so make peace between your two brothers and be mindful of God, so that you may be given mercy.*”

Islam forbids its followers from severing kinship. Therefore, we must love our fellow Muslims. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ قَاطِعٌ

Which means: “*The one who severs the ties of kinship will not enter Paradise.*”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In welcoming and celebrating *Eid-al-fitri* (the celebration at the end of the fasting month), let us strengthen the bonds of brotherhood with neighbors and friends as well as the kinship (*sillatulrahim*) among family members by visiting each other and asking for forgiveness. Make it a habit to bring children and family members along when visiting. Do not let children get engrossed in playing gadgets and games or watching television shows to the point that they do not have the opportunity to visit neighbors and relatives.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Severing kinship indicates we have ignored the command of Allah the Almighty and His Messenger. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated from Abi Hurairah by Imam Muslim which means:

*“By the One in Whose Hand is my soul! Faith does not enter a man's heart until he loves you for the sake of Allah, and for the sake of His Messenger.”*

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَالَّذِينَ يَنْقُضُونَ عَهْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مِيثَاقِهِ وَيَقْطَعُونَ مَا أَمَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَنْ يُوصَلَ

وَيُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أُولَئِكَ لَهُمُ اللَّعْنَةُ وَهُمْ فِي سَاءِ الدَّارِ ﴿٢٥﴾

Let us be reminded by the words of Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 13 (*Surah Ar-Ra'd*) verse (ayat) 25:

Which means: *“But there will be rejection for those who break their confirmed agreements made in God's name, who break apart what God has commanded to be joined and who spread corruption on earth: theirs is the dreadful home”*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ،

وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمِ

لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ أُمَّةٍ سَلِيمِينَ وَأُمَّةٍ سَلِيمَاتٍ، وَأُمَّةٍ وَآمِنِينَ وَأُمَّةٍ وَآمِنَاتٍ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ

الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

