

Strengthening kinship and Building Brotherhood

6 May 2022 / 4 syawal 1443h

أَحْمَدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ اللَّهُ 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،

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

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Him in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are grateful to Allah the Almighty who has given us the opportunity to perform various acts of worship in the month of Ramadan; may our deeds be accepted by Allah the Almighty. We are also thankful for the opportunity to celebrate Eid al-Fitr with joy. Among the great blessings of Eid al-Fitr is that we

can strengthen our relationship with our relatives and friends. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 4 (surah an-Nisa) verse 1:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَأَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا ﴿١﴾

Which means: *O humanity! Be mindful of your Lord Who created you from a single soul, and from it He created its mate, and through both He spread countless men and women. And be mindful of Allah—in Whose Name you appeal to one another—and honour family ties. Surely Allah is ever Watchful over you.*

Indeed, the effort to strengthen the bond of kinship with relatives is highly demanded in Islam. The practice of giving salam, visiting and greeting each other, preparing meals, giving gifts and shaking hands will strengthen kinship and Islamic brotherhood and all these practices will be greatly rewarded by Allah the Almighty. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلْيُكْرِمْ ضَيْفَهُ، وَمَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلْيَصِلْ رَحِمَهُ

Which means: *“Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should serve his guest generously; and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should unite the bond of kinship (i.e. keep good relation with his kith and kin).”*

Allah will also bestow the blessings of longevity, sustenance and good death for those who always maintain good kinship as mentioned by the Prophet (pbuh) in a hadith narrated by Imam Ahmad which means: “Whoever loves that he be granted more wealth and that his lease of life be prolonged then he should keep good relations with his Kith and kin.”

Dear brothers and sisters,

Indeed, it is obligatory to strengthen the relationship among one's friends and relatives. On the other hand, breaking ties with them is prohibited (*haram*) and is included in the group of people who commit immorality and major sins. Thus, those who sever ties with family and friends will not enter paradise. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim which means:

“The one who severs the ties of kinship will not enter Paradise.”

The severed kinship is usually due to disputes caused by property, debts, incitement, slander, arrogance and selfishness that lead to *mazmumah* (despicable attributes) as mentioned by the Prophet (pbuh) in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

Which means: *“Do not envy one another; do not hate one another; do not turn away from one another; and do not undercut one another,... but be you, O servants of Allah, brothers.”*

It is our duty to maintain the best possible relationship. Do not let small and trivial matters cause relationships to become strained.

Let us work together to maintain and strengthen our relationships. If there are disputes; try to find an amicable solution and reconciliation because all muslim believers are brothers.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 49 (surah al-Hujurat) verse 10:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

﴿١٠﴾ إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

Which means: *“The believers are but one brotherhood, so make peace between your brothers. And be mindful of Allah so you may be shown mercy.”*

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ آيَاتِ وَالِدِ الْكَرِيمِ،
وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي
وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.