# STRENGTHENING BROTHERHOOD (ukhuwah) AND KINSHIP (Silaturrahim)

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اَخْمُدُ لِلهِ الْقَائِلْ : إِنَّمَا ٱلْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُواْ بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ وَٱتَّقُواْ ٱللّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ ﴿ فَرَحُمُونَ ﴿ فَاللّهُ وَحْدَهُ لاَ شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ سَيِدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللّهُمَّ صَلِ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. اللّهُمَّ صَلّ وَسَلّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ الله، ، إِنَّقُوا اللهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللهِ، 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 Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

#### Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us be completely devout to Allah the Almighty by carrying out all of His commands and avoiding all of His prohibitions so that we may achieve success in our lives in this world and in the hereafter.

Let us build and strengthen brotherhood and kinship among fellow Muslims, in this holy month of Syawal. Indeed, Islam is a religion that emphasizes brotherhood and love for fellow human beings. Without this bond, our lives will be filled with disputes and enmity. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 49 (Surah al-Hujurat), verse 10:

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."

This verse emphasizes that every Muslim is a brother. Therefore, we are required to maintain harmonious relationships and reconcile any disputes so that love and understanding arise among us.

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam juga melarang keras terhadap mereka yang memutuskan hubungan silaturrahim dengan ancaman neraka terhadap mereka seperti hadis riwayat daripada Imam al-Bukhari dan Imam al-Muslim:

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also strictly forbade those who cut off ties of kinship, threatening them with hellfire, as reported in the hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Imam al-Muslim:

Which means: "Those who severs the ties of kinship will not enter paradise."

This hadith gives a strong warning that severing ties of kinship is a grave sin and prevents one from entering heaven.

#### Dear brothers and sisters,

The history of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) creating Islamic brotherhood among his Companions when he first migrated to Madinah is the best example of building kinship ties. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) united the Muhajirin and Ansar. At first, the Prophet (pbuh) established brotherhood among the Muhajirin who migrated to Madinah, just as he began by establishing brotherhood with Sayyidina Bilal ibn Rabah Radiallahu Taala Anhu.

Next, he reconciled the long-standing dispute between the Aus and Khazraj tribes and united them under the name Ansar, which means helpers (of the religion of Allah). After this, brotherhood was established between the Muhajirin and Ansar groups. Thus, the strength and unity of the Muslims in Madinah increased under the leadership of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) under the banner of Islam.

#### Dear brothers and sisters,

There are many advantages to building brotherhood ties in Islam. Among them, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) promised generosity in sustenance and blessings of life by extending one's life or being granted the blessings of life, as stated by the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim:

Which means: "Anyone who wants to have his provision expanded and his term of life prolonged should maintain ties of kinship."

There are many approaches to build brotherhood ties taught in Islam as a guide for life as a Muslim. The practice of visiting relatives and close friends is very effective in building kinship, as Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said regarding maintaining good relationships in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

Which means: "It is not permissible for a Muslim to desert (not talk to) his brother (Muslim) for more than three days".

We can repair strained relationships by visiting each other, and even show our concern for the person we visit. In addition to making visits, bring along gifts and souvenirs as a sign of remembrance and love. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari which means: "Give presents to one another for this would increase your mutual love."

#### Dear brothers and sisters,

Strengthening brotherhood can also be done by forgiving others' mistakes. Breakdowns in relationships, grudges and envy often occur because of minor disagreements and misunderstandings. Follow the example of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in forgiving others, even if it is someone who has hurt us.

Practice the culture of saying kind words and praying for each other because these practices show sincerity towards our brothers and sisters. Likewise, Islam prescribes the culture of giving and returning greetings to fellow Muslims when they meet and part to foster strong brotherly relationships. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim which means:

"You will not enter Jannah until you believe, and you shall not believe until you love one another. May I inform you of something, if you do, you love each other. Promote greeting amongst you (by saying As-salamu 'alaikum to one another)".

Likewise, in the context of a pluralistic country, we are also encouraged to establish relationships with non-Muslim communities, especially neighbors and friends, even if we have different religions.

#### Dear brothers and sisters,

In conclusion, silaturrahim refers to efforts to establish and strengthen relationships of love, brotherhood, and bonds of brotherhood (*ukhuwah*) between fellow human beings.

Let us strengthen brotherhood and kinship by maintaining harmony and reconciling disputes between fellow Muslims. Emulate the best example shown by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), namely by forming brotherhood between the Muhajirin and Ansar. Rest assured that Allah the Almighty promises great rewards to those who maintain ties of kinship, including increased sustenance, extended life, and blessings in life!

Strengthen brotherhood by forgiving each other, visiting each other, bringing gifts and praying for each other, and cultivating the habit of greeting each other. May we all always be blessed with the love of Allah the Almighty.

## أَعُوذُ بِٱللَّهِ مِنَ ٱلشَّيْطَانِ ٱلرَّجِيمِ

يَّأَيُّهَا ٱلنَّاسُ ٱتَّقُواْ رَبَّكُمُ ٱلَّذِى خَلَقَكُم مِّن نَّفُسِ وَحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَآءً وَٱتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَ ٱلَّذِى تَسَآءَلُونَ بِهِ وَٱلْأَرْحَامُ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا ۞