

INTEGRITY

3 JANUARY 2025 | 3 REJAB 1446H

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

أَشْهَدُ 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 وَأَوْصِيكُمْ 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 Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

On this blessed Friday of the New Year 2025, we invite all Muslims to appreciate the importance of one of the main values that is the foundation of the stability of a society and country. The value in question is integrity. Integrity can be defined as honesty or sincerity. Having integrity means being honest, trustworthy and not committing any inconsistencies especially in the duties or responsibilities undertaken. Integrity is also understood as consistency between actions and moral, ethical and legal principles; as well as consistency between self-interest and public interest.

The value of integrity is highly emphasized in Islam. For this reason, many verses in the Quran and hadith emphasize the qualities of trustworthiness or honesty. One of them is stated by Allah Tthe Almighty in chapter 4 (Surah al-Nisa') verse 58:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
 ﴿٥٨﴾ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تُؤَدُّوا الْأَمَانَاتِ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا وَإِذَا حَكَمْتُمْ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ
 أَنْ تَحْكُمُوا بِالْعَدْلِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ نِعِمَّا يَعِظُكُمْ بِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا ٥٨١

Which means: *“Indeed, Allah commands you to return trusts to their rightful owners; and when you judge between people, judge with fairness. What a noble commandment from Allah to you! Surely Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.”*

This verse explains that Allah Azza wa Jalla commands that trusts be safeguarded properly and handed over to the right person. According to Imam al-Tabari, this verse is addressed to leaders or holders of power to safeguard the trust that has been given.

Trustworthiness and integrity are among the characteristics of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Before he was appointed as a Messenger, he was known as al-Amin, which means the most trustworthy person. The Prophet (pbuh) emphasized that a person who lacks integrity is one whose faith is incomplete. He said in a hadith narrated by Imam Ibn Hibban:

لَا إِيمَانَ لِمَنْ لَا أَمَانَةَ لَهُ وَلَا دِينَ لِمَنْ لَا عَهْدَ لَهُ

Which means: *“There is no iman (faith) for the one who cannot be trusted and there is no religion for the one who does not keep his promise.”*

Acts of lack of integrity can not only tarnish the reputation of individuals, departments or institutions, but they can also damage the country. An example of a loss of integrity is an employee who is not trustworthy with his/her work time such as not being in the office during working hours, being sloppy, lazy, hanging out or chatting at coffee shops.

Other examples are employees who do not perform their duties properly, misuse of department or company assets, abuse of power for personal gain, employees who cheat, make false claims, embezzle money, accept bribes, are not fair, are biased or practise favoritism, and so on. These are all examples of acts of lack of integrity that symbolize weakness of faith. These acts are forbidden and sinful in Islam and we will be held accountable in the hereafter.

Remember that the blessings of sustenance will be lost if we obtain it dishonestly or fraudulently in our work, and it can even become an unlawful source if the income is obtained without doing the work entrusted to us.

Allah Azza wa Jalla says in chapter 8 (Surah al-Anfal) verse 27:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَخُونُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ وَتَخُونُوا أَمْنَتِكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ۚ ٢٧

Which means: *“O believers! Do not betray Allah and the Messenger, nor betray your trusts knowingly.”*

This verse reminds us to never betray the trust given, whether in relationships with Allah the Almighty, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), or with fellow humans.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Trustworthiness and honesty need to be fostered in the family, especially in children from a young age. Educate young children that everyone must be honest in their speech and actions. Do not lie, do not steal, and do not take other people's rights without permission.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Ahmad Radiallahu Anhu which means:

“Maintain truthfulness, for truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to Heaven; A man continues to maintain truthfulness until he is recorded in Allah’s book as truthful. Refrain from lying, for lying leads to blatant evil, and evil leads to Hell; A man continues to lie until he is recorded in Allah’s book as a liar.”

Dear brothers and sisters,

It can be concluded from today's sermon that:

Firstly, integrity is the consistency between actions and moral, ethical and legal principles, as well as the consistency between self-interest and public interest.

Secondly, cultivate the qualities of trustworthiness, honesty and sincerity in carrying out responsibilities. This is a religious commandment that is often mentioned in the Quran and Hadith, and it is a noble quality possessed by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Thirdly, educate family members especially children from a young age to be honest in their speech and actions.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 33 (surah al-Ahzab) verse 21:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ
وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ۚ ٢١

Which means: *“Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah often.”*

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي
وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَانِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.