

MEN AS LEADERS

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أَحْمَدُ 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،

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 Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters

Wife, children and family are trusts that have been held accountable by syarak (islamic law) to a man who has the title of husband or father through the bond of marriage. When the offer (*ijab*) and acceptance (*qabul*) have been sealed, the journey of a household that is entrusted by Allah the Almighty begins. A man should be aware of the great role and responsibility he has over the family because he will be questioned in front of Allah the Almighty later. Neglecting this responsibility is sinful. In a hadith narrated by Imam Abu Daud from Abdullah bin 'Amr bin al-Ash, the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said:

كَفَى بِالْمَرْءِ إِثْمًا أَنْ يُضَيِّعَ مَنْ يَتَّقُوهُ

Which means: *“Neglecting one’s own dependents is a reason enough for a man to commit a sin.”*

Men are entrusted to be the head of the family because it is in accordance with their nature and other advantages they possess compared to women, as mentioned in by Allah the Almighty in chapter 4 (Surah al-Nisa') verse 34:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

الرِّجَالُ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ بِمَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَبِمَا أَنْفَقُوا مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ

Which means: *“Men are the caretakers of women, as men have been provisioned by Allah over women and tasked with supporting them financially...”*

Allah the Almighty has granted leadership potential to men such as courage, religious strength, reasoning, rationality and they are not easily driven by emotions. The nature of men's creation is different from that of women. Thus, in accordance with the potential and the high respect given, men are obliged to manage their families and overcome the problems and crises that arise in their households with intelligence and wisdom.

Dear brothers and sisters

Allah the Almighty mentions in the Qur'an (القَوَّامِينَ) meaning that men are responsible leaders and guardians.

A man who is a protector and maintainer (*Qawwamun*) must be fair, knowledgeable, trustworthy, considerate and attentive to the problems of the family and the community around him and have wisdom and foresight in every matter of life.

Dear brothers and sisters

Let us become husbands or fathers who strive to strengthen the three main foundations of Aqidah, Sharia and Morals (*Akhlak*) by deepening our knowledge related to these matters.

A husband or father must be responsible, considerate, meet the needs of the family, and defend his wife and children based on the guidance of the Al-Quran and As-Sunnah such as inviting the family to do congregational prayers in the mosques, read the Al-Quran, recite zikr every day, give alms, be kind to neighbors, help the poor, respect the elderly and all Muslims wherever they are.

Let us reflect upon what Allah the Almighty says in chapter 25 (surah al-Furqan) verse 74:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ﴿٧٤﴾

Which means: *“They are those who pray, “Our Lord! Bless us with pious spouses and offspring who will be the joy of our hearts, and make us models for the righteous.”*

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، 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.