

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ
فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَؤُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

حَقُّ الْمُسْلِمِ عَلَى الْمُسْلِمِ خَمْسٌ: رُدُّ السَّلَامِ، وَعِيَادَةُ
الْمَرِيضِ، وَاتِّبَاعُ الْجَنَائِزِ، وَإِجَابَةُ الدَّعْوَةِ، وَتَشْمِيتُ الْعَاطِسِ.

A MUSLIM'S RIGHTS OVER ANOTHER MUSLIM

Dear Muslims!

Thanks and praise be to our Lord Almighty (swt) for allowing us to beautifully enjoy the Eid al-Adha again. We performed our eid prayer where we strengthened our unity and togetherness. We submitted our qurbani to Allah the Almighty as one of the symbols and pillars of Islam. May our Lord (swt) accept our worships.

Days of eid are the days to express our servitude to Allah on the one hand, and win each other's hearts and strengthen our brotherhood on the other hand. This very Friday, let us lend an ear to the ethics of brotherhood as described centuries ago by the Prophet Muhammad (saw).

Dear Believers!

He (saw) informed people of the niceties that lead to Muslims' connecting with one another and establishing relations based on love: **"A Muslim owes another Muslim five rights: responding to greetings, visiting him in illness, following his funeral, accepting his invitation, and praying for him who sneezes."**¹

Right, the first thing to do which he (saw) recommends is to exchange greetings. Salam is conducive to the establishment of bridges of affection between hearts. It is a way of ensuring trust and peace as well as strengthening friendship and brotherhood. It is a requirement of faith, assurance of trust, and perfect form of love.

Dear Muslims!

The second recommendation the Messenger of Allah (saw) makes is to visit the sick. A visit as such that reminds us of the fact that we may lose our health any time and that we need each other is a means to obtain the endless grace of our Lord (swt). Angels pray for believers who pay a visit to the sick for the sake of Allah (swt) as follows, **"How nice it is that you did like this! May the steps you take be auspicious, and may you have a home in paradise!"**²

The third recommendation the Prophet Muhammad (saw) makes is to attend funerals. Attending the funeral prayer of a brother/sister of ours, expressing our testimony in a positive way, joining the burial process, and extending condolences to the deceased's relatives are both a religious and human duty. However, it is important under today's circumstances both for ourselves and the health of those around us to observe some measures such as social distancing and mask wearing. As always, a believer seeks refuge in Allah, who is al-Rahman, on sorrowful days as well. They find solace in the following divine words that please the Almighty Allah (swt): **"إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ"** **Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return.**³

Dear Muslims!

The fourth recommendation that the Prophet Muhammad (saw) makes is to accept the invitation of a Muslim brother/sister. It is one of the ethical behaviors of the Prophet to accept the invitation from and please another Muslim brother/sister to the extent allowed by circumstances and means.

The fifth recommendation made by the Prophet Muhammad (saw) is to pray for another Muslim when they sneeze. In this respect, he (saw) recommends that Muslims witnessing the sneezing of another Muslim should express wishes of health and guidance for one another as follows: **"When one of you sneezes, say يَرْحَمُكَ اللَّهُ. Your companion should say أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ. May Allah (swt) have mercy on you.' Then the sneezer should say يَهْدِيكُمْ اللَّهُ وَيُصَلِّحْ بِأَلْسِنَتِكُمْ. May Allah guide you."**⁴

Dear Believers!

Of course, our rights over each other are not only limited to these five recommendations. We have other responsibilities such as doing good to our family, neighbors, and relatives; take the orphan under our wings; and observe the needs of those who are in need.

Then, let us not deny our love, compassion, and mercy to each other. Let us share the joys and sorrows of our brothers and sisters. Let us strive, until our last breath, to observe the ethics and responsibilities of brotherhood.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following prayer taught to us in the Holy Qur'an by our Lord Almighty (swt): **"Our Lord, forgive us and our brothers who preceded us in faith. Put not in our hearts [any] resentment toward those who have believed. Our Lord, indeed, You are Kind and Merciful."**⁵

¹ Bukhari, Jana'iz, 2.

² Tirmidhi, Birr, 64.

³ Baqarah, 2/156.

⁴ Bukhari, Adab, 126.

⁵ Hashr, 59/10.