

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَا تَقُمْ فِيهِ أَبَدًا لَمَسْجِدٍ أُسِّسَ عَلَى التَّقْوَى مِنْ
أَوَّلِ يَوْمٍ أَحَقُّ أَنْ تَقُومَ فِيهِ فِيهِ رِجَالٌ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ
يَتَطَهَّرُوا وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُطَهَّرِينَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِنَّ اللَّهَ طَيِّبٌ يُحِبُّ الطَّيِّبَ تَطْيِيفُ يُحِبُّ النَّظَافَةَ
كَرِيمٌ يُحِبُّ الْكَرَمَ.

ALLAH IS CLEAN AND LOVES CLEANLINESS

Honorable Muslims!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) received a revelation for the first time in the Cave of Hira. Overwhelmed with the heaviness of the duty he assumed, he returned home, and asked his beloved wife Khadijah, "Cover me!" She put a garment on him to cover, tried to calm him down, and uttered comforting words. A while later, Allah the Almighty revealed the following verses, "O you who covers himself with a garment. Arise and warn. And glorify your Lord. And purify your clothing. And avoid uncleanness."¹

Dear Believers!

These first verses of the Surah al-Muddaththir tell Prophet Muhammad (saw) to keep his clothing and body clean in the material sense, and purify himself in the spiritual sense by avoiding superstitions and committing sins. This is because cleanliness, which is one of the most fundamental qualities of Muslims, denotes having a clean body, clothes free from dirt, as well as a peaceful heart. Therefore, the Prophet Muhammad explains the relation between cleanliness on the outside and faith in heart as follows, "Cleanliness makes up half of the faith."²

Dear Muslims!

People who are not clean and who wear unclean clothes, have disorderly hair and beard, and untidy homes although they have the necessary means to clean themselves are not only welcome by other people but also by Allah (swt). This is because it is only possible through being clean to duly worship Allah and obtain His approval. Let us not forget that wudu and ghusl make up a unique system of cleanliness and the prerequisite for many worships, particularly salah. Paying due attention to cleanliness after using the toilet, mouth and nail care, and having a bath at least once a week on Fridays are among the Sunnah of our Prophet (saw).

Allah's love encompasses clean, pure, and pious people. In this respect, it is stated in the Holy Qur'an, "...A mosque founded on righteousness from the first day is more worthy for you to stand in. Within it are

men who love to purify themselves; and Allah loves those who purify themselves."³

When Prophet Muhammad asked the people of Quba', praised in the above verse, "How do you purify yourselves that Allah praises you in the Qur'an?", they replied "We use water to clean ourselves off any impurity."⁴

Dear Believers!

On top of every good and nicety comes being healthy, and being healthy requires being clean. Today epidemics wander the earth, just as in the past. Viruses that threaten all corners of the world cause mass casualties. Alhamdulillah, there has been no case identified in our country so far. We all have, however, our responsibilities to take care of ourselves and our loved ones.

Honorable Muslims!

Let us ensure that we have taken every measure to protect ourselves against the epidemic of coronavirus. Let us pay attention to the principles of cleanliness more than ever. Let us wash our hands with soap and water several times a day. Let us not touch our eyes, nose, or mouth if our hands are not clean. Let us stay hydrated for our body not to get weak. Let us follow a balanced diet and take enough sleep. Let us cover our mouth with a piece of tissue while sneezing or coughing, or use the inside of our elbow otherwise. Let us keep well ventilated the indoors we live in. Let us stay away from alcohol, drugs or other harmful substances that are not only considered haram by the religion but also make our body prone to several diseases.

Honorable Muslims!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) advises, "Know the value of your health before an illness."⁵ Sometimes we fail to heed this warning of him. We happen to better understand the value of having a healthy body only after we lose our health. However, it is our duty to live cleanly and protect our health. We need to take our precaution and then rely on Allah the Almighty for the rest. Let us not forget that our Prophet (saw) says, "Allah is good, loves what is good; He is clean, loves cleanliness; He is generous, loves generosity."⁶

O Allah! Protect our country and all Islamic lands primarily, and all humanity from epidemics, troubles, and disasters.

O Allah! Bless our gallant army with victory, which is currently engaged in a heroic cross-border struggle for our independence and future existence. Amin!

¹ Bukhari, Tafsir, 74; Muddaththir, 74/1-5.

² Muslim, Taharah, 1.

³ Tawbah, 9/108.

⁴ Ibn Kathir, 4, 213-214.

⁵ Hakim, Mustadrak, IV, 341.

⁶ Muslim, Iman, 147; Tirmidhi, Adab, 41.