

Date: 20.05.2022

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا  
إِيَّاهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ  
يَتَفَكَّرُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

النِّكَاحُ مِنْ سُنَّتِي فَمَنْ لَمْ يَعْمَلْ بِسُنَّتِي فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي.

### BEING A FAMILY WITH INTACT VALUES IN A DIGITALIZED WORLD

#### Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, “**And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Verily in that are Signs for those who reflect.**”<sup>1</sup>

In the hadith I have read, our beloved Prophet (saw) says, “**Marriage is part of my sunnah. Whoever does not follow my sunnah has nothing to do with me.**”<sup>2</sup>

#### Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion, Islam, commands us to build a family through legitimate marriage act. It recommends us basing our family life on such values as justice, compassion, love, respect, and trust. Islam never permits actions that lead to illegitimate affairs, immodesty, indecency, and unpleasantness. It does not approve any union that is not based on a legitimate marriage act.

#### Dear Muslims!

Family is the basis and insurance of a decent, peaceful, and secure life. It is the only institution that creates a clean and healthy society and protects our self and future generations. Family is a helping hand to grasp and a safe haven to seek refuge in amid life’s hardships and tribulations. It is a school of ethics where the values that make us “human” are taught. It is a guide that orientates people to what is

good and right, and a shield that protects against sins and evils.

#### Dear Believers!

We live in a time when the digital world is developing at a dizzying rate. Of course, we take advantage of several opportunities presented by this new era. However, we also see that the lifestyle it inspires is built on desire, greed, consumerism, and individualism. Unfortunately, our family structure is also deeply impacted by this. Sometimes, we lose sight of our values due to the allure of the virtual world. Our relationships grow more virtual as our connection to offline world is lost. In fact, sometimes smartphone screens and online platforms become our best friends. We choose to withhold our care, love, and affection from our family, which is a source of grace, tranquility, and affection. While connecting with people on the other side of the world, we become estranged from our parents, spouses, and children, with whom we share the same dinner table.

#### Dear Muslims!

A family is not a choice, but rather an innately human need. Forming and being a family is the sunnah of all prophets from the Prophet Adam (as). There is no social structure that can replace the institution of family.

Today, when perceptions win over the truth and humanity is compelled to go through transformations that are antithetical to human nature, it is incumbent upon us to take a posture based on our national and spiritual values against the hardships of the digital world. We should build and maintain a family with its intrinsic values intact, without losing sight of the realities of our day, and without becoming captives of digital platforms. We need to ensure that the caring, loving, compassionate, merciful, and affectionate family structure of our Prophet (saw) prevails in our homes. Let us not forget that values education begins in the family. We can establish a strong and peaceful family only by upholding our national and spiritual values.

<sup>1</sup> Rum, 30/21.

<sup>2</sup> Ibn Majah, Nikah, 1.