

وَيْلٌ لِّلْمُطَفِّفِينَ. الَّذِينَ إِذَا اكْتَالُوا عَلَى النَّاسِ يَسْتَوْفُونَ.

وَإِذَا كَالُوهُمْ أَوْ وَزَنُوهُمْ يُخْسِرُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

رَحِمَ اللَّهُ رَجُلًا سَمَحًا إِذَا بَاعَ، وَإِذَا اشْتَرَى، وَإِذَا اقْتَضَى.

THE ETHICS OF AKHISM

Esteemed Muslims!

During these days in which we commemorate the birth of the Messenger of Allah (saw) under the theme “Our Prophet and Noble Character,” we endeavor to remind our society that, following his example, we should inspire trust in those around us and be people from whose hands and tongues others are safe. One of the areas in which we must reflect the virtue of trustworthiness and reliability, qualities so closely associated with our Prophet (saw), is our commercial dealings.

Dear Believers!

First and foremost, let us emphasize that the divine and prophetic principles that guide every aspect of our lives also serve as a guide in our commercial dealings. These religious, humane, and conscientious principles include pursuing halal earnings, being honest and trustworthy, refraining from unfair competition, upholding justice, truthfulness, and integrity in trade, and honoring agreements.

Esteemed Muslims!

Inspired by our religion, civilization, and traditions, our noble nation established an institution such as Akhism. Through this institution, it brought together trade, craftsmanship, and mastery with moral values, contentment, and the ideal of raising virtuous individuals, thereby building a bridge of brotherhood between tradespeople and their customers. Indeed, this bond of brotherhood became so strong that it paved the way for many people to embrace Islam and for many lands to be conquered without the use of the sword. Our glorious ancestors acted with the conviction that “Serving the people is

serving Allah” and raised successive generations according to the principle: “Guard your hands, your chastity, and your tongue.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Regrettably, some people among us may place material gain above everything else, regarding deception as cleverness and misleading others as an accomplishment. Even though our Prophet (saw) clearly warned, “**Whoever deceives us is not one of us!**”¹, some may still regard concealing the defects of their goods for the sake of worldly gain as a sign of skill and distorting the truth as a marketing technique.

Dear Tradesmen!

Dear Merchants!

Dear Artisans!

At this very point, what is expected of us is to heed the warning of our Lord Almighty: “**Woe to the defrauders! Those who take full measure ‘when they buy’ from people, but give less when they measure or weigh for buyers.**”² What is expected of us is to fulfill our duties of servitude to Allah without becoming engrossed in our daily occupations, and to respect the rights of individuals and the public. What is expected of us is to refrain from trading in things that our religion has declared haram and to stay away from unlawful practices such as bribery, usury, black-marketeering, and hoarding.

Dear Muslims!

We would like to remind you that the more we reflect the principles of Akhism, which are rooted in divine revelation and the noble sunnah of our Prophet (saw), in our commercial dealings, the more we will strengthen trust, peace, harmony, and justice in our society. We conclude this week's khutbah with the following supplication of the Messenger of Allah (saw): “**May Allah have mercy on a person who is lenient when selling, buying, and seeking repayment.**”³

¹ Muslim, Iman, 164.

² Mutaffifin, 83/1-3.

³ Bukhari, Buyu', 16.

