

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَا تَصِفُ أَلْسِنَتُكُمُ الْكَذِبَ هَذَا حَلَالٌ وَهَذَا حَرَامٌ

لِتَقْتَرُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْحَلَالُ بَيْنَ وَبَيْنَ وَالْحَرَامُ بَيْنَ ، وَبَيْنَهُمَا مُشَبَّهَاتٌ لَا يَعْلَمُهَا كَثِيرٌ

مِنَ النَّاسِ...

HARAM: THE GREATEST OBSTACLE BETWEEN ALLAH AND THE SERVANTS

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, Allah the Almighty states as follows: **“Do not falsely declare with your tongues, “This is lawful, and that is unlawful,” ‘only’ fabricating lies against Allah.”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) says, **“What is lawful is clear, and what is unlawful is also clear. And between them are matters that are not clear, about which not many people know. So whoever saves himself from these suspicious things saves his religion and his honor. But he who falls into the unclear matters falls into that which is unlawful.”**²

Dear Believers!

According to our sublime religion, Islam, halal refers to the words, attitudes, and behaviors that are permissible. And haram refers to the evil and ugly things that are prohibited. According to our religion, the authority to determine what is halal and what is haram belongs to Allah (swt) and, with His permission, to our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw). No one else can narrow or expand the boundaries of halal and haram based on their own thoughts and opinions. The circle of halal in our religion is quite broad. On the other side, the number of haram is quite limited.

Dear Muslims!

The greatest sin declared as haram by our Exalted Lord (swt) is shirk (polytheism). Believers never taint their faith with shirk. They do not associate anything with Allah (swt). They acknowledge that only Allah can decide how they should live. They worship Allah only, and only Him they ask for help.

Another major sin that is haram is targeting a person's life and property, and harming his or her honor and dignity. Islam regards human life as sacred and inviolable. It is stated in the Holy Qur'an that, **“Whoever takes a life, it will be as if they killed all of humanity.”**³ Despite this universal principle, the inhuman Zionist assailants are currently committing one of the gravest atrocities in Gaza and Rafah, right before the world's eyes, by indiscriminately massacring innocent women, children, and the elderly. However, let it not be forgotten that the curse of Allah, the angels, and the oppressed who were burned alive is upon the

tyrants who commit genocide, both in this world and in the Hereafter. And let it also be remembered that the oppression of tyrants only serves to bring about their own downfall. The fate of the unruly nations continually reminds us of this truth. They too will inevitably come face to face with this inescapable reality.

Dear Believers!

Islam has closed off all paths to ill-gotten gains. Activities such as theft, bribery, usury, hoarding, and black marketing, which diminish the barakah of life and undermine peace and security, are haram. It is also forbidden to violate the rights of individuals and the public, which is a great wrong in the sight of Allah.

Islam has declared both the lesser and greater forms of interest, one of the greatest tools of exploitation and oppression, to be haram. Usury or interest cannot be accepted as a form of trade. The evolving and changing conditions can never change the fact that interest is haram. Our Lord's (swt) warning in this matter is very clear: **“Those who consume interest will stand ‘on Judgment Day’ like those driven to madness by Satan's touch. That is because they say, “Trade is no different than interest.” But Allah has permitted trading and forbidden interest...”**⁴

All substances that endanger health and destroy families, such as alcohol, gambling, and drugs, are haram. Any action that corrupts human nature, undermines families and societies, and threatens the future of humanity, such as adultery, prostitution, and gender neutralization, is haram. Bad traits such as lying, gossiping, slander, and unfounded negative suspicion (su' adh-dhann), which destroy love among people and undermine social solidarity, are haram. It is also a fact that whatever is haram and sinful in real life is also haram and sinful on social media and digital platforms.

Dear Muslims!

Unfortunately, we live in a time when sensitivity to what is halal and what is haram is diminishing day by day, when haram acts are encouraged and openly committed, and when the boundaries of privacy are disregarded. In such a time, our duty is to meticulously observe the standards of halal and haram set by Allah and His Messenger. It is our duty to instill in our families and children the awareness of halal and haram. Let us not forget that haram actions are the greatest barrier between Allah and His servants. Losing the sensitivity of halal and haram is the greatest disaster for both individuals and society.

I pray to Allah the Almighty to make us and our future generations among those who possess sensitivity to halal and haram. I also wish clarity of mind and success to our children who will be taking exams this weekend.

¹ Nahl, 16/114.

² Bukhari, Iman, 39.

³ Ma'idah, 5/32.

⁴ Baqarah, 2/275.