



يَا بَنِي آدَمَ قَدْ آتَوْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ لِبَاسًا يُؤَارِي سَوَاتِكُمْ وَرِيشًا
وَلِبَاسُ التَّقْوَى ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ ذَلِكَ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ
يَذَكَّرُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ مِمَّا أَدْرَكَ النَّاسُ مِنْ كَلَامِ النَّبِيِّ الْأُولَى: إِذَا لَمْ
تُسْتَحْيِ قَاصِنَعِ مَا شِئْتَ.

MUSLIMS SHOULD POSSESS TAQWA

Dear Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, Allah the Almighty states, **“O children of Adam! We have provided for you clothing to cover your nakedness and as an adornment. However, the best clothing is righteousness. This is one of Allah’s bounties. So perhaps you will be mindful.”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) says: **“Humanity has learned a saying expressed by all the early prophets: If you don’t feel ashamed, do whatever you like.”**²

Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion, Islam, has established certain principles in every aspect of life, from eating and drinking to speech and behavior, from clothing to shopping and entertainment. Allah the Almighty has revealed these principles in the Holy Qur’an, and our beloved Prophet (saw) has taught us by practicing them in his life. Adherence to these principles is called being pious (having taqwa).

Taqwa is the reverent avoidance of Allah’s displeasure. It means to incline towards goodness, and to avoid the evil. It is to protect oneself from all kinds of sins and forbidden acts. It means living with the awareness that our Lord (swt) sees and watches over us at all times, and knows everything we do. It is to live a lifetime without forgetting death, resurrection, the Day of Judgment, heaven, and hell.

Dear Muslims!

When taqwa takes root in our hearts, our souls become the center of goodness. Taqwa purifies us from negative feelings such as hypocrisy, arrogance, pride, and ostentation. When taqwa is manifested in our speech, our words become truthful and beautiful. It keeps us away from disasters like gossip, lies, and slander. When taqwa guides our minds, our behavior is transformed into kindness and elegance, mercy and justice, and affection and love. Evils that darken our lives, such as oppression, injustice, and violence, cannot find a place in our lives.

Dear Believers!

When taqwa is manifested in our clothing, we preserve the dignity of our bodies. Indeed, every person, whether male or female, has bodily privacy. Our exalted religion, Islam, commands us to cover the parts of our bodies that need to be covered, and prohibits us from exposing them to others, in order to protect this privacy from harm. For women, the parts of the body that must be covered in the presence of unrelated men and when going outside their homes are the entire body except the face, hands, and feet. For men, the body parts that should be covered are from the navel to the knee. Wearing tight or revealing clothing that exposes the features of the body violates the dignity of the body entrusted to us by Allah (swt). It should be remembered that covering the required body parts is first and foremost a commandment from Allah, not merely a personal choice. It is the adornment of a believer; it is a dispositional necessity. In one of his hadiths, the Messenger of Allah (saw) said: **“Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, is forbearing, modest and concealing, and He loves modesty and concealment.”**³

Dear Muslims!

When taqwa is reflected in our engagement and wedding ceremonies, our homes are built upon peace, happiness, and love. Islam allows for celebration and enjoyment at weddings within permissible limits. However, in Islam, there is no place for wedding celebrations that disturb the peace with loud noise, involve alcohol consumption, violate privacy boundaries, block roads, or turn joy into sorrow with celebratory gunfire. Such practices do not align with Islamic ethics. Besides, excessive spending on weddings can lead to financial and emotional difficulties for both the marrying couple and their families. This can lead to young people either avoiding marriage completely or delaying marriage. In this regard, the Prophet’s (saw) warning is clear: **“The most blessed marriage is the one that is the easiest to perform.”**⁴

Dear Believers!

Let us strive to imbue every moment and aspect of our lives with the consciousness of taqwa. Let us refrain from any words, attitudes, or behaviors that undermine our dignity and are inconsistent with human decency. We should not forget that what will enrich our world and make our Hereafter a paradise is our faith, righteous deeds, good morals, and sense of responsibility.

I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with the following invocation from our Prophet (saw): **“O Allah! I beg of You the right guidance, taqwa, chastity, and richness of heart.”**⁵

¹ A’raf, 7/26.

² Bukhari, Adab, 78.

³ Nasa’i, Ghusl, 7.

⁴ Ibn Hanbal, VI, 83.

⁵ Muslim, Dhikr, 72.