

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ كَآفَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا

خُطُواتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَفْشُوا السَّلَامَ وَأَطْعِمُوا الطَّعَامَ وَصَلُّوا وَالتَّاسُ

نِيَامٌ تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ بِسَلَامٍ

SALĀM (THE GREETING):

THE CALL OF ISLAM FOR PEACE AND TRUST

Dear believers who came together in the same row on this blessed Friday!

All praise and thanks be to Allah (swt), Who created us, Who let us live, Who equipped us with all kinds of blessings! May peace and blessings be upon His decent beloved Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw)! Peace be upon the pure and clean family, and dignified and gracious Companions of the Noble Prophet (saw)! Peace be upon the Muslim hearts who tightly hold on to the religion of peace and soundness Islam, and who give peace and confidence around!

Honorable Muslims!

When the Messenger of Allah (saw) set out for emigration from the secure city Mecca to the land of soundness Madinah, the Muslims of Madinah had been waiting for him for days in excitement and longing. Finally, when the message of our Beloved Prophet's arrival to the city was heard, people flooded the streets in great enthusiasm. Everyone was all ears, waiting for the first words to come out from the blessed mouth of our Prophet (saw). The Messenger of Allah (saw) addressed the crowd as: **“O people! Spread the Salām (greeting) among each other, feed (others), and perform prayer while other people are sleeping; that you shall enter Paradise in peace.”**¹

Valued Believers!

“al-Salām” is one of the beautiful names of our Lord (swt). Allah the Almighty is He Who bestows on His servants peace, health and appetite. Muhammad Mustafa (saw) is the last prophet, who invites mankind to tawhid and justice, calls them to servitude to Allah, to make peace and trust prevail, and to live in unity as brothers and sisters. As can be inferred from its lexical meaning, Islam is the religion of peace and eternal salvation. Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand other Muslims are safe.²

Esteemed Muslims!

Each and every moment believers greet each other with “Assalamu alaykum—may the peace of Allah

be upon you”, the rich world of meaning of “salām—peace” is reflected on our lives. Believers spread their feeling of peace and trust coming from their faith to their surrounding by exchanging greetings, and also in the same way they put their good intentions in utterances of prayers.

Exchanging greetings familiarizes and brings together people who have become alienated to one another while being busy minding their own business in the crowds. A friendly greeting reminds them that they are not alone. It softens the hearts, and eliminates hard feelings. When the sea of salām tides high, it washes away the hatred from the hearts. The salām-driven affection also has a milestone on the road to the heaven. In this respect, the Messenger of Allah (saw) stated, **“You cannot enter the Heaven without having proper faith, and you cannot have proper faith without having love among yourselves. Let me tell you about an act that will foster love among yourselves when performed. Let exchange of greetings among yourselves prevail.”**³

Honorable Muslims!

Believers establish a relationship of peace and trust with every creature in the universe, and a language of peace and trust they use in all their deeds. Muslims who wish the peace of Allah upon one another become the assurance of peace where they are with their words and actions. They do not hurt or break others' hearts, look down on them, harm their honor and dignity, and use vulgar words or speak rudely to them. In brief, when they exchange greetings by saying “salām”, it is not just an empty expression, but rather a sign of goodness fit for its meaning and purpose.

Esteemed Believers!

The Almighty Allah appeals to people in the Holy Qur'an, **“O you who have believed, enter into Islam [namely, peace and security] completely [and perfectly] and do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Indeed, he is to you a clear enemy.”**⁴

Then, let us spread the peace and let the exchange of greetings prevail among ourselves in the immediate surrounding to begin with, and let us increase the number of believers we greet even if we do not know them personally. Let us give due diligence to the exchange of greetings that is the prayers for peace and abundance. Let our presence spread peace and trust wherever we are. Let us establish ties of brotherhood from tongues to hearts. This way, let us stop the temporal life in this world from becoming a place of fights and troubles, and turn it into a place of peace and welfare.

¹ Tirmidhi, Sifat al-Qiyamah, 42.

² Tirmidhi, Iman, 12.

³ Muslim, Iman, 93.

⁴ Baqarah, 2/208.