

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْفُسُكُمْ لَا يَصُرُّكُمْ مَنْ ضَلَّ إِذَا
اهْتَدَيْتُمْ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِتَّقِ اللَّهَ حَيْثُمَا كُنْتَ، وَأَتَّبِعِ السَّبِيَّةَ الْحَسَنَةَ تَمَحُّهَا،
وَتَخَالِقِ النَّاسَ بِخُلُقٍ حَسَنٍ.

SENSIBILITY

Honorable Muslims!

One of the virtues necessary for a happy individual and a peaceful society is sensibility and consideration for others. Sensibility is to desire for others the same goodness that we desire for ourselves. It is to recognize our responsibilities and strive to fulfill them. Sensibility is to regard the lives and property of others as precious as our own lives and property, and to consider the dignity and honor of others as sacred as our own dignity and honor.

Dear Believers!

Being considerate and sensible toward our family, our society, and all people is a requirement of being Muslim. Allah the Almighty says, “**O believers! You are accountable only for yourselves. It will not harm you if someone chooses to deviate—as long as you are ‘rightly’ guided.**”¹ Indeed, indifference and apathy are not befitting of Muslims. They are those who strive to fulfill their responsibilities in the best possible manner. Sensible and considerate Muslims are those who show respect to their parents, spouses, and children, and treat them with kindness and tolerance. They are those who reflect the ethics of brotherhood in every aspect of their lives in order to establish social harmony. Wherever they may be in the world, they feel in their hearts the pain of every oppressed person and the suffering of every victim, and fulfill the duties that fall upon them.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

What is expected of Muslims is that they also be sensible and responsible toward the world entrusted to them. Just as they keep their homes, workplaces, and places of worship clean, they should maintain the same level of care for their entire environment. Muslims are expected to show concern and respect for their forests, land, and water resources. They should take the necessary precautions today so that tomorrow they do not wake up to devastating news like, “Our lungs are burning!” and do not have to live with the anxiety of hearing, “Our reservoirs have dried up; we have no water left!” anymore.

Honorable Believers!

Muslims, whose entire lives and acts of worship are organized around time, are also expected to be mindful of time and not waste it. For diligence and productivity are hallmarks of a Muslim. Their rest comes when they complete one task and begin another. The noble hadith, “**A believer is like a honeybee. Like a honeybee, they consume only what is good, pure, and halal. They constantly produce good things and continually pursue acts of goodness. They neither spoil, nor break, nor corrupt anything,**”² succinctly summarizes this principle for us.

Noble Muslims!

Let us not forget that the path to building a livable world for ourselves and our children lies in being sensible to our environment, our time, and all people.

We conclude this week’s khutbah with the following hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (saw): “**Be conscious of your responsibility toward Allah wherever you may be. If you commit a bad deed, whether knowingly or unknowingly, follow it with a good deed so that it may erase it. And treat people with good character.**”³

¹ Ma’idah, 5/105.

² Ibn Hanbal, II, 199.

³ Tirmidhi, Birr, 55.

