

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَابْتَغِ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ  
الدُّنْيَا وَأَحْسِنْ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ...  
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
...فَمَنْ كَانَ أَحْوَهُ تَحْتَ يَدِهِ فَلْيُطْعِمْهُ مِمَّا يَأْكُلُ،  
وَلْيَلْبِسْهُ مِمَّا يَلْبَسُ، وَلَا تُكَلِّفُوهُمْ مَا يَغْلِبُهُمْ...

### THE SWEAT OF ONE'S BROW IS SACRED Honorable Muslims!

Islam is the religion of life that brings together earning and charity, craftsmanship and morality. Our religion invites all of humanity to observe rights and justice in working life and to adopt a consciousness of the halal and the haram. It regards the sweat of one's brow as sacred and considers seeking provision through halal and legitimate means as an act of worship. Our Prophet (saw) encourages us to work in a noble hadith as follows: **“For one of you to gather a bundle of firewood with his rope and carry it on his back, thereby preserving his dignity through Allah, is better than asking from people whose giving or withholding is uncertain.”**<sup>1</sup>

### Dear Believers!

Today, we witness attempts to push religious and human values out of working life. Regrettably, we Muslims, too, are affected by this misguided course. However, for a Muslim, activities in business and trade, as well as the income obtained from them, should not be an end or a goal in themselves. Rather, they should serve as a means to attain the pleasure of Allah the Almighty and to achieve happiness in both worlds. For this reason, we Muslims must adopt an understanding that is founded upon goodness, justice, and compassion in our trade, our buying and selling, and our relationships between workers and employers—an understanding that transmits moral principles from generation to generation within the framework of master-apprentice training.

### Esteemed Brothers and Sisters who are Workers and Employers!

Transforming the workplace into not merely a means of livelihood, but into a “haven of trust” where mutual confidence prevails, is a shared responsibility of all. In this regard, the workers should heed the advice of our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw), **“Allah the Almighty is pleased when you perform your work in the best manner,”**<sup>2</sup> and should carry out their duties with diligence, soundness, and quality. They should act with the awareness that both their work and workplace are a trust entrusted to them and strive to bring to their home halal sustenance earned through the sweat of their brow. As for the employers, in accordance with the command of the Messenger of Allah (saw), **“Whoever has a brother working under him should feed him from what he eats and dress him from what he wears. Do not burden them with tasks beyond their capacity,”**<sup>3</sup> they should endeavor to pay the worker their due fully and on time, and to observe their social rights. They must take all necessary measures to ensure that the workers are able to work in a safe and healthy environment. They should not forget that every effort made for this purpose serves to protect not only an individual but also the future of the family and society.

### Honorable Believers!

Being an employer or a worker holds no superiority in terms of human worth. In the sight of Allah the Almighty, the most virtuous of people is the one who is blessed with faith, who adorns their life with worship and good character, and who is clothed in the garment of taqwa. The most virtuous among people is the one who upholds justice, honesty, mutual assistance, and solidarity above all personal interests.

We conclude this week's khutbah with the following noble verse of our Almighty Lord: **“Rather, seek the ‘reward’ of the Hereafter by means of what Allah has granted you, without forgetting your share of this world. And be good ‘to others’ as Allah has been good to you...”**<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bukhari, Zakat, 50.

<sup>2</sup> Bayhaqi, Shu'ab al-Iman, 4/334.

<sup>3</sup> Bukhari, Iman, 22.

<sup>4</sup> Qasas, 28/77.

