

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَأَنْ لَيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ إِلَّا مَا سَعَىٰ. وَأَنَّ سَعْيَهُ سَوْفَ يُرَىٰ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَىٰ يُحِبُّ إِذَا عَمِلَ أَحَدُكُمْ عَمَلًا أَنْ يُغْنِيَهُ.

WORK ETHICS: THE SOURCE OF SOCIAL PEACE

Dear Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Almighty Lord states, **“Each person will only have what they endeavoured towards, and that the outcome of their endeavours will be seen in their record.”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) says, **“Verily, Allah the Almighty loves for you to perfect a good deed when you perform it.”**²

Dear Believers!

One of the purposes for which our great religion, Islam, was revealed is to build a society which adopts good morals as its guide in every aspect of life. Just as Allah the Almighty has commanded us to worship for happiness in this world and the Hereafter, He (swt) has also commanded us to have good morals in our work.

Work ethics is the reflection of core values such as integrity, trust, respect and fairness in our work. It is about doing our job well, respecting the rights of other people and the public, and being upright in what we say and in what we are. It is about always striving for the halal, not allowing the haram to be in our earnings and the lies to be in our words.

Dear Muslims!

Work ethics is a virtue that has an impact on the whole of a person’s working life. Just as there is a code of ethics in being a subordinate, there is also a code of ethics in being a superordinate. Just as there is a code of ethics in being an employee, there is also a code of ethics in being an employer. Just as there is a code of ethics in being a seller, there is also a code of ethics in being a customer.

The ethics of being a public official includes being loyal to the state and serving the public with kindness and diligence. The ethics of being a supervisor includes never deviating from what is right and just, and treating those under one’s supervision fairly.

The ethics of being an employee includes performing one’s work in a sound and quality manner, and considering the workplace as entrusted by the employer. It entails not utilizing the possibilities of the workplace to satisfy personal needs. The ethics of being an employer includes creating a peaceful work environment for the employee. It entails not depriving

the employee of social rights, and paying their wages in full and on time, before the sweat of their brow dries.

The ethics of being a seller includes not deviating from honesty. It entails not concealing the defects of the goods, not engaging in hoarding and black marketeering, and not allowing the haram to get into one’s halal earnings. It includes not deceiving customers and not under-measuring or under-weighting, in accordance with the following hadith of our beloved Prophet (saw): **“مَنْ عَمَّنَا فَلَيْسَ مِنَّا”** **“He who deceives is not**

one of us.”³ The ethics of being a customer includes fulfilling what is promised to the seller, paying debts on time, and refraining from all kinds of words and actions that may cause the seller to suffer losses.

Dear Believers!

We live in an age where sensitivity in the business life is diminishing, virtues such as contentment, truthfulness and honesty are being undermined, and the concept of morality is being eroded and exploited. Inappropriate attitudes and behaviors such as worldliness, selfishness, and the urge to make a lot of money by selling or renting a property for more than its value deeply affect social peace and harmony. However, the Messenger of Allah (saw), who was sent to perfect good character, says, **“No one of you shall become a true believer until he desires for his brother what he desires for himself.”**⁴ and advises us not to be obsessed with personal interests, to observe the rights and laws of others, and to be fair and balanced in social life. What falls upon us is to adopt the sense of loyalty of our beloved Prophet (saw), and to undertake each and every one of our tasks with the awareness of entrustment. It is our duty not to violate the rights of the employee, and to be more attentive to occupational health and safety by observing his (saw) sensitivity to rights.

Dear Muslims!

Let us view all the means bestowed upon us as entrusted by our Lord (swt) and as an opportunity to earn His pleasure. Let us make both our life in this world and in the Hereafter prosperous by doing our job well. Let us observe the sensitivity of halal in everything we do. Let us realize that the pleasure of Allah (swt) is the true gain for us. Let us expend our wisdom and wealth in His (swt) way. Let us make trust prevail in every aspect of our lives. Let us neither deceive nor be deceived. Let us never stray away from truth, honesty, justice, and fairness. Let us not forget that what makes us valuable in the sight of Allah (swt) is that we act in accordance with the purpose of our creation, and that we reflect Islamic morals in everything we do.

¹ Najm, 53/39-40.

² Bayhaqi, Shu‘ab al-Iman, 4/334.

³ Muslim, Iman, 164.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Sifat al-Qiyamah, 59.