

Date: 15.09.2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ إِلَّا أَنْ
تَكُونَ تِجَارَةً عَنْ تَرَاضٍ مِنْكُمْ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ
بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

التَّاجِرُ الصَّدُوقُ الْأَمِينُ، مَعَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ.

AHI BROTHERHOOD: MAKING HONESTY AND COMPASSION REGULATE THE BUSINESS

Honorable Muslims!

Our supreme religion, Islam, which provides the roadmap for a peaceful and just life, determines the basic principles and guidelines of our business and commercial life. Islam enjoins us to be sensitive to halal and haram in trade, as in any business, and to adopt honesty, integrity and compassion as our guiding principles. It forbids greed and avarice, lies and deceit, fraud and injustice, and all kinds of unlawful and immoral behavior. In the verse I have recited at the beginning of the khutbah, our Almighty Lord (swt) states, **“O believers! Do not devour one another’s wealth illegally, but rather trade by mutual consent. And do not kill each other or yourselves. Surely Allah is ever Merciful to you.”**¹

Dear Believers!

Believers do not only take into account the worldly profit of the trade, but also the reckoning of the Hereafter. They refrain from unjust gains, black markets, opportunism, and the violation of the rights of other people and the public. They know that in our faith and tradition, not all means of earning money are permissible. Believers cannot be violators of human dignity in order to earn more. People in difficult situations should not be the subject of exploitation. A person cannot be harmed or deceived by abusing their lack of knowledge.

Dear Muslims!

Believers cannot be enslaved by wealth and possessions. They cannot earn their living by violating the rights of others. They cannot live on unlawfully earned livelihoods for themselves and their families. They cannot be a hoarder of fundamental household goods for the sake of greater profit. They cannot sell goods above their value by upsetting the supply/demand balance. They cannot keep vacant their homes and workplaces, which are essential needs of people, and drive up their prices. A conscientious landlord would not forget that their tenant has a family

to look after as well. Also, a considerate tenant would not deliberately put the landlord in a difficult position. According to our beloved Prophet’s (saw) hadith, **لَا ضَرَرَ وَلَا ضِرَارَ** no one can be harmed on purpose, nor can a harm be repaid with a harm.² According to Islam, causing harm to a person’s life, property and dignity is haram and is one of the major sins.

Dear Believers!

In another hadith, our Prophet (saw) says, **مَنْ غَشَّنَا فَلَيْسَ مِنَّا** **“Whoever deceives us is not one of us.”**³ Inspired by this prophetic warning, our ancestors established the Ahi organization in order to make love and respect, brotherhood and compassion, truthfulness and honesty, solidarity and cooperation dominate the trade. The basic principle of this organization is to control the hand, tongue and waist. It is to pay close attention to one’s spouse, job, and food. It is not to look at haram, not to eat or drink haram, and not to lay a hand on haram. It is not to mismeasure or underweigh. It is to know how to forgive when strong, and to be tender when angry.

Dear Muslims!

Halal and haram sensitivities in trade are diminishing by the day. Virtues like truthfulness and honesty are becoming weaker. Moral values and principles of law are being disregarded in favor of the pursuit of higher earnings. Excessive consumption, luxuriousness and wastefulness are increasing day by day. What falls upon us in this situation is to embrace the principles of Ahi Brotherhood and strive to make these principles dominant again in our business and commercial life. We should strive to attain the good news of our beloved Prophet who says, **“The truthful and trustworthy merchant will be with the Prophets, the truthful, and the martyrs on the Day of Resurrection.”**⁴ We should not forget that on the Day of Resurrection we will have to give an account of what we have earned and what we have spent.

Dear Believers!

As I conclude, I would like to announce an important topic. Pre-registration for the 2024 Hajj has begun. Our brothers and sisters who will be applying for the first time will be able to do so via the e-government system (e-devlet) until October 11. Those who have already registered and do not wish to change their status will have their registration automatically renewed. Those who wish to change their status can do so via e-government or through our provincial and district mufti offices.

¹ Nisa, 4/29.

² Ibn Majah, Ahkam, 17.

³ Muslim, Iman, 164.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Buyu’, 4.