



يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا
وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَى صُورِكُمْ وَأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ يَنْظُرُ إِلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ
وَأَعْمَالِكُمْ.

HUMAN BEINGS ARE VALUABLE IN THEIR ESSENCE

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, **“O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may get to know one another. Surely the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you. Allah is truly All-Knowing, All-Aware.”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) says, **“Allah does not look at your appearance or your wealth, rather He looks at your hearts and your deeds.”**²

Dear Believers!

The human being is the most valuable creature on earth. The value of human beings do not lie in their outward appearance, wealth and possessions, or fortune and fame. They are endowed with reason, to which the revelation is addressed. They have the will that can distinguish good from evil and right from wrong. They have the heart that should be filled with pleasant feelings like love, compassion, and mercy. If they equip their minds, wills, and hearts with the virtues of faith, worship, and morality, they will increase their value and become kaamil (perfect) human beings.

Dear Muslims!

Humanity learned about their dignity and their true value from our Prophet (saw). He (saw) would never judge anyone by their outward appearance, wealth and possessions, and position and power. He (saw) would value everyone and treat them with love, respect, compassion and mercy simply because they were human beings. The Messenger of Allah (saw) would not categorize people as having disabilities or not. He (saw) would never ostracize anyone because of their disabilities. He (saw) would pay close attention to the Companions who had different disabilities, and always supported them. He (saw) would try to integrate them into society by giving them important tasks according to their knowledge and skills. For example, he (saw) left ‘Abdullah ibn Umm Maktum, who was visually impaired, as his deputy in Madinah. He (saw) appointed the young

Companion Mu’adh ibn Jabal, who was orthopedically handicapped, as governor.

Dear Believers!

Disability, according to our religion, is not about not being able to see, not being able to speak or not being able to walk. Not being able to see the truth is the real disability. Not being able to see the reality is the real disability. Not telling the truth is the real disability. The real disability is the deprivation of faith from one’s soul, of Islam from one’s heart, and of good morals from one’s words and deeds. It is about not using one’s resources for the sake of Allah (swt) and for the good of humanity. It is about sacrificing sincerity for hypocrisy. In short, the real disability is the loss of one’s own value by one’s own hands. The Holy Qur’an describes people with real disabilities as follows:

لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ آذَانٌ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا
“...They have hearts they do not understand with, eyes they do not see with, and ears they do not hear with...”³

Dear Muslims!

Faith, perseverance and endeavor know no obstacles. The important thing is not to create obstacles for each other, and not to make life difficult for each other. What is important is that we stand with our brothers and sisters with disabilities and their families in their struggle for life. The important thing is to visit them, ask about their well-being, and thus, be the subject of their supplications. Treating them sincerely and genuinely is what is important. It is also important to observe our neighborly and human duties towards them. It also includes removing all obstacles that make it difficult for them to work and produce. Constructing our roads, streets, buildings and all our living spaces suitable for them to use comfortably is also important. It entails adopting our Prophet’s (saw) following hadith as our guiding principle:

يَسِّرُوا وَلَا تُعَسِّرُوا، وَبَسِّرُوا وَلَا تُثَقِّرُوا
“Make things easy for people, and do not make it difficult for them. Give people glad tidings and do not repulse them.”⁴

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The Zionist oppressors, who do not recognize rights and law, are committing an all-out genocide against our Palestinian brothers and sisters, irrespective of women, children, the elderly, or people with disabilities. It is the common duty of all humanity, regardless of religion, language and race, to prevent this persecution. Today, immediately after the Friday prayer, we will pray to our Almighty Lord (swt) for all our brothers and sisters who are suffering under oppression all around the world. May Allah the Almighty (swt) accept our supplications. May Allah lead all the oppressed to victory, especially our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

¹ Hujurat, 49/13.

² Muslim, Birr, 34.

³ A’raf, 7/179.

⁴ Bukhari, ‘Ilm, 11.