

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فِيمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ قَطًّا عَظِيمًا الْقَلْبِ
لَأَنْقَضُوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ ...
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
الرَّاحِمُونَ يَرْحَمُهُمُ الرَّحْمَنُ، إِرْحَمُوا مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَرْحَمَكُم مَن فِي
السَّمَاءِ.

ISLAM ENJOINS COMPASSION AND MERCY

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, **“It is out of Allah’s mercy that you, o Prophet, have been lenient with them. Had you been cruel or hard-hearted, they would have certainly abandoned you...”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our beloved Prophet (saw) says, **“The merciful are shown mercy by al-Rahman. Show mercy to those who are on the earth, and He Who is in the heaven will show mercy to you.”**²

Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion, Islam, is a religion of compassion and mercy. One of our Lord’s (swt) beautiful names is “al-Rahman”. Allah alone is the ultimate source of mercy. Each and every prophet of Allah (swt) is a messenger of mercy. Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw), whose ‘ummah we are honored to be a member of, is the last prophet sent as mercy to the worlds.

Dear Muslims!

Our Prophet (saw) built compassion instead of violence and mercy instead of hatred. He (saw) treated every living and non-living being with compassion and mercy. It is he (saw) who informed us that taking one life is equivalent to taking the life of all humanity, and hurting one heart is equivalent to destroying the Throne of al-Rahman. He (saw) taught us that every human being, regardless of religion, language or skin color, is worthy of respect, and that their life, blood, property and dignity are inviolable. He (saw) showed us that there is a moral code to war as well, and that the lives of innocent people, even the environment and animals, should not be harmed.

Dear Muslims!

Unfortunately, each passing day, we are moving away from the teachings of mercy that the Messenger of Allah (saw) bequeathed to us. Sadly, we witness all kinds of violence in the family, at work, in traffic, and, in short, in everyday life. Unfortunately, women, children and the elderly are the most vulnerable to violence. However, any form of violence is unacceptable, no matter who it comes from, against whom it is directed, or for what justification. No words, attitudes or behaviors that endorse violence can have a place in the Qur’an and Sunnah. According to Islam, violence is oppression, and a

violation of human rights. It is a heavy responsibility and a grave sin.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Violence is the greatest enemy of humanity. Those who rely on violence and hatred do the greatest evil to the family of humanity. One of the most painful examples of this great evil is happening today in Palestine. The oppressors, who refuse to respect rights and laws, inflict all kinds of violence on our Palestinian brothers and sisters. Places of worship, hospitals and schools are being brutally bombed, and Muslims are being forced out of their homelands through oppression and violence. Murderers without a conscience are committing a great genocide in Gaza, making no distinction between women, children and the elderly. In Palestine, the most basic rights such as human rights, children’s rights and the right to education are being trampled upon by the occupying oppressors. While those who claim to defend these rights turn a blind eye to these massacres with their hypocritical attitudes, the number of people of mercy and conscience is increasing day by day. It must not be forgotten that violence can never be the path to success for anyone or any society. Those who massacre the innocent people in Gaza will have to face frustration in this world and a painful punishment in the Hereafter. Our Prophet’s (saw) warning is very clear:

إِنَّ أَشَدَّ النَّاسِ عَذَابًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، أَشَدُّهُمْ عَذَابًا لِلنَّاسِ فِي الدُّنْيَا
“Among the people who will be most severely punished on the Day of Resurrection will be those who oppress people and inflict violence.”³

Dear Believers!

Parents and teachers are among the most important people who sow the seeds of compassion and mercy in people’s hearts. Our teachers are self-sacrificing people who work hard to build our future. They are selfless people who strive with all their might to guide our children to the good and the beautiful, to raise them as people who are loyal to their national and spiritual values and who are beneficial to their environment and people.

I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate with respect and gratitude all our teachers who have brought us together with knowledge and wisdom, and helped us to reach these days. I wish mercy to our deceased teachers, and health, prosperity and peace to those alive.

I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with the following invocation from our Prophet (saw), who says, **“Verily, I have been sent as a teacher.”**⁴: **“O Allah! I seek refuge in You from the heart that does not entertain the fear of Allah, from the knowledge which does not benefit, and from the supplication that is not responded.”**⁵

¹ Al-i ‘Imran, 3/159.

² Tirmidhi, Birr, 16.

³ Ibn Hanbal, IV, 90.

⁴ Darimi, Muqaddimah, 32.

⁵ Muslim, Dhikr, 73; Nasa’i, Isti’adha, 13.