

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاتَّقُوا يَوْمًا تُرْجَعُونَ فِيهِ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّى كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَا
كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَا يَأْخُذُ أَحَدٌ شِبْرًا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ حَقِّهِ، إِلَّا طَوَّقَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَى
سَبْعِ أَرْضِينَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ.

PERSONAL AND PUBLIC RIGHTS

Honorable Muslims!

Our sublime religion, Islam, recognizes the rights of all humans as sacred and inviolable, regardless of religion, language, race and gender. It commands to be just in every field and under all circumstances, to uphold fairness, and to observe halal-haram sensitivity. It advises respecting personal and public rights, and standing against injustice and oppression.

Dear Believers!

One of the most important responsibilities that encompasses the entirety of our lives is to respect the rights of people. Respecting the rights of people is a requirement of our faith in Allah the Almighty.

Muslims are extremely sensitive about it. They are aware that it is a violation of human rights to attempt people's lives, honor and dignity.

They do not backbite, gossip, lie, or slander either in real life or on social media. They avoid all kinds of words and behaviors that may offend human dignity and destroy families. They do not speak about things about which they do not have certain knowledge.

Sensitivity to rights is the most fundamental characteristic of a Muslim. They observe the rights of parents. They treat their spouse and children kindly. They respect the rights of their relatives and neighbors.

Esteemed Muslims!

The Messenger of Allah (saw) says,

“Whoever deceives us is not of us!”¹

A believer who follows the example of our Prophet (saw) does not engage in deception in their business. They behave honestly in both when buying and selling. They do not mismeasure or weigh incorrectly. They do not behave opportunistically, thus prevent haram from getting mixed with their earnings. They do not covet another person's property, nor do they cheat people out of their property.

A Muslim always upholds the truth. They respect the rights of their employee, and pay their wages before the sweat of their brow dries. They also pay due diligence to their work; they make every effort to ensure that their wages are halal and well-deserved. They never harm the place where they earn their livelihood.

Dear Believers!

The area where the rights of people concerns all segments of society is the rights of the public. Public rights are not only the rights of those still alive, but also the rights of our children who have not yet been born, the orphans, the needy, the miserable, and the abandoned.

Violating public rights is a great sin. Our Lord Almighty (swt) states in the Holy Qur'an, وَمَنْ يَغْلُلْ يَأْتِ

بِمَا عَلَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ “Whoever defrauds, the defrauded will be held against them on the Day of Judgment.”²

A Muslim respects public rights in all areas. They avoid bribery, hoarding and black-marketing. They regard working for the public as something entrusted to them with heavy responsibility. They do their job attentively, protect state property with utmost care, and never waste or usurp it. They are understanding and patient with the people they provide services for. They will never do to others what they do not want done to themselves.

Dear Muslims!

Our Prophet (saw) warns us as follows: “One should not take a span of land without having legitimate right to it. Otherwise, Allah would make him wear (around his neck) seven earths on the Day of Resurrection.”³ Therefore, let us strongly avoid violating the rights of the people and the public in order not to be ashamed on the Day of Judgment, when there will be no privileges, when the right and the wrong will be revealed, and everyone will be given their due in full for what they have done. If we have violated any rights, let us make certain to ask for forgiveness. Let us not forget that Allah (swt) will not forgive those who violate public and personal rights of people unless they are forgiven by the ones whose rights they have violated.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following verse: “Be mindful of the Day when you will all be returned to Allah. Then every soul will be paid in full for what it has done, and none will be wronged.”⁴

¹ Muslim, Iman, 164.

² Al-i 'Imran, 3/161.

³ Muslim, Musaqah, 141.

⁴ Baqarah, 2/281.