

Mercy to the Worlds, The Prophet Muhammad (saw)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى أَكُونَ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ وَالِدِهِ وَوَلَدِهِ وَالنَّاسِ
أَجْمَعِينَ.

Honorable Muslims!

Humanity came to know mercy through our Prophet (saw). The Prophet of Mercy (saw) rose like the sun in an age dominated by oppression and darkness. In accordance with the command of Allah the Almighty, **وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ** **“We have sent you ‘O Prophet’ only as a mercy for the whole world,”**ⁱ he replaced hatred, enmity, and hostility with love, compassion, and mercy. To a man who trembled while speaking to him, he said, **“Be calm. Verily, I am only the son of a woman who ate dried meat,”**ⁱⁱ thereby teaching people humility.

The family found tranquility through our Prophet (saw). In accordance with the command of Allah the Almighty, he built the family upon love and mercy, harmony and affection, trust and loyalty. He never behaved harshly toward any member of his household, never uttered a harsh word, and never caused them harm. By saying, **“Be aware! Just as you have rights over your women, and your women have rights over you,”**ⁱⁱⁱ he restored rightful value to women who had been marginalized, scorned, and deprived of their human and social rights.

Esteemed Muslims!

Children came to know love through our Prophet (saw). The Messenger of Allah (saw) gave the glad tidings of Paradise to those who protected and cared for girls, once considered a source of shame and even buried alive, and who raised and nurtured them with proper upbringing.^{iv}

Young people gained worth through our Prophet (saw). The Messenger of Allah (saw) always placed his trust in the youth. He valued their opinions, instilled in them self-confidence and a strong sense of identity, and entrusted them with responsibilities suited to their character and abilities.

Dear Believers!

The elderly were shown respect through our Prophet (saw). The Noble Messenger (saw) said, **“Whoever shows respect to an elder due to their age, Allah will appoint someone to honor them in their old age,”**^v thereby teaching care, attention, and kindness toward the elderly.

The orphans and the oppressed found joy through our Prophet (saw). The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, while bringing together his index and middle fingers, **“I and the one who looks after an orphan will be in Paradise like this,”**^{vi} thus giving the glad tidings that whoever protects the orphan and safeguards their rights will be among those closest to him in Paradise.

Honorable Muslims!

In the hadith I recited at the beginning of my khutbah, the Messenger of Allah (saw) states: **“None of you truly believes until I am more beloved to him than his parents, his children, and all of mankind.”**^{vii} Indeed, our glorious ancestors held the Messenger of Allah (saw) dearer than their own lives. What falls upon us today is to bind our hearts with the love of the Messenger of Allah (saw), to unite our souls through the breezes of mercy he brought us, and to become true brothers and sisters through his call to unity and solidarity.

I would like to conclude this week’s khutbah with the following admonition of our Prophet (saw): **“Do not envy one another. Do not turn your backs on one another. Do not harbor hatred or resentment toward one another. O servants of Allah! Be brothers!”**^{viii}

ⁱ Anbiya, 21/107.

ⁱⁱ Ibn Majah, At’imah, 30.

ⁱⁱⁱ Tirmidhi, Rada’, 11.

^{iv} Abu Dawud, Adab, 120-121; Ibn Hanbal, III, 96.

^v Tirmidhi, Birr, 75.

^{vi} Bukhari, Talaq, 25.

^{vii} Bukhari, Iman, 8.

^{viii} Bukhari, Adab, 57.