



O you who hope for the forgiveness of your Lord.

The First Sermon

All praises are due to Allah, the Sovereign, the Almighty. Exalted is He, the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful. I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, alone, without partner, and I bear witness that our master and prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger, being the best of people in character and the most forgiving. O Allah, grant Your peace, and bestow Your blessings upon him, his family, his companions, and those who follow them in the best of ways till the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you and myself to observe the Taqwa of Allah, your Lord, and to forgive others. Indeed, this is better for our lives and leads to real everlasting happiness. Allah, the Exalted, said: **وَأَنْ تَعْفُوا أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ**

**And to forgive is closer to righteousness (Taqwa)
(Quran ٢:٢٣٧).**

O believers, our religion urges us to strengthen the bonds of affection and foster unity. Good relationships among people are the essence of their nature, the foundation of their livelihood, and proof of their harmony. The Prophet Muhammad said: **الْمُؤْمِنُ مَأَلَفَةٌ، وَلَا خَيْرَ فِيمَنْ لَا يَأْلَفُ وَلَا**

يُؤْلَفُ

'The believer is affable, and there is no goodness in one who is neither affectionate nor is shown affection.'

[Ahmad]

Building strong relationships is enhanced by meeting others with a smile and kind words. Indeed, kind words open the hearts. Allah, the Exalted, said:

وَقُلْ لِعِبَادِي يَقُولُوا الَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَنْزِعُ بَيْنَهُمْ
إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ كَانَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَدُوًّا مُّبِينًا

'And speak to people good [words]. Indeed, Satan induces [dissension] among them. Indeed Satan is ever, to mankind, a clear enemy' (Quran ١٧:٥٣).

We seek refuge with Allah from Satan, the accursed and expelled [from Divine mercy], the one who whispers in the breasts of people. As Allah says:

الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ * الَّذِي يُوَسْوِسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ

The persistent whisperer, who withdraws, who whispers in the breasts of mankind (Quran ١١٤:٤-٥).

To avoid falling into the trap of Satan, one should not provide him with any opportunity, nor should one create conditions for malicious thoughts. Indeed Allah says:

إِنَّمَا النَّجْوَىٰ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ لِيَحْزَنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا

Secret conversations are of [the work of] Satan that those who believe may end up grieving (Quran ٥٨:١٠).

Believers should keep away from an environment of discord and malice, preserving the purity of their relationships by being open hearted and willing to forgive and overlook the faults of others. As Allah says:

خُذِ الْعَفْوَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْعُرْفِ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْجَاهِلِينَ* وَإِنَّمَا يَنْزَعَنَّكَ
مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْعٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

Indulge [people] with forgiveness, and enjoin kindness, and turn away from the ignorant. And if any insinuation from Satan should provoke you, seek refuge in Allah, He is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing. (Quran ٧:١٩٩-٢٠٠)

So the intelligent one is the person who does not open the door for Satan and does not allow for himself to have a bad opinion of others. So they would ensure that thoughts of conflict and ill-treatment do not come to them, striving to have a good opinion and make excuses for their brothers and sisters, this being one of the means of preserving good relationships. When leaving home, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ would seek refuge in Allah from doing harm to others or from being harmed by others. He would say:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ أَنْ أَضِلَّ أَوْ أَزِلَّ، أَوْ أَظْلِمَ أَوْ أُظْلَمَ، أَوْ أَجْهَلَ أَوْ يُجْهَلَ عَلَيَّ

'O Allah, I seek refuge in You lest I should stray or be led astray, or slip or be tripped, or do wrong or be wronged upon.' [Abu Dawud]

Among the things that enhance friendship is refraining from arguing, even if one is right, and avoiding debates and disputes. The Prophet Muhammad said:

إِنَّ أَبْغَضَ الرَّجَالِ إِلَى اللَّهِ الْأَلَدَّ الْخَصِمُ

'The most hateful person to Allah is the most quarrelsome one.' [Bukhari and Muslim]

And he □ also said about such a person: **إِذَا خَاصَمَ فَجَرَ**

And when he quarrels, he is abusive (behaves in a very impudent and insulting manner). [Bukhari and Muslim]

Servants of Allah: What is the matter with people who argue over trivial matters while years pass by them, one after the other, and yet they do not yield to one another? Have they not heard the saying of the Messenger of Allah:

لَا يَحِلُّ لِرَجُلٍ أَنْ يَهْجُرَ أَخَاهُ فَوْقَ ثَلَاثِ لَيَالٍ

It is not permissible for a Muslim to shun his brother for more than three nights. [Bukhari and Muslim]

So, O you who have severed ties with others through dispute, initiate peace with them. Have you not heard the saying of the Allah: **فَاصْفَحْ عَنْهُمْ وَقُلْ سَلَامٌ**

So turn aside from them and say, "Peace." But they are going to know. (Quran ٤٣:٨٩).

It is a sign of greatness in souls that they know how to contain and accommodate others through their expansiveness. It is important to know that Allah is ever capable of placing affection in the hearts of those whom prior may have been enemies. For Allah is ever competent, and All-Forgiving and All-Merciful. Sheikh Zayed, may Allah have mercy on him, said: "Forgiveness is obligatory. If the greatest of all, the Creator, Almighty and Glorious, forgives, then why shouldn't we?"

So, O servants of Allah: When you are mistreated by others, forgiveness offers you relief. Without it, life would not be sustainable, and it would transform into an endless chain of grievances. Al-Fudayl said: 'When a person comes to you complaining about another, say: O brother, forgive him. For the one who forgives sleeps peacefully at night, while the other who doesn't remains troubled in their dispute'. As a poet said:

When I forgave and did not hold grudges against anyone

I freed my heart from the burden of enmity.

O Allah, O Most Generous, make us among those who forgive others, as You have forgiven them. And forgive us and have mercy upon us by Your grace, and grant us success in acting upon Your saying: '**O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.**' I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for Allah, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most forgiving and the most-Merciful.

The Second Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, and may peace and blessings be upon our Master and Prophet Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets, and upon his family, companions, and followers.

O servants of Allah seeking the forgiveness of your Lord: Indeed, we are in a noble month, where deeds ascend to the Lord of the worlds. And indeed, the greatest thing we should remember in this blessed month is what was narrated in the authentic Hadith from the Prophet ﷺ :

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَيَطَّلِعُ فِي لَيْلَةِ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ فَيَغْفِرُ لَجَمِيعِ خَلْقِهِ،
إِلَّا لِمُشْرِكٍ أَوْ مُشَاحِنٍ

Indeed Allah looks at His creation on the night of the middle of Sha'ban, and He forgives all of them, except for a polytheist or one who harbors enmity. [Nisai]

Do those who engage in disputes know what goodness they are missing out on? Do they realize what blessings they are deprived of by harbouring grudges and enmity? Therefore, seize, O servants of Allah, the opportunities in these

blessed days. **ارْحَمُوا تَرْحَمُوا، وَاغْفِرُوا يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ**

'Show mercy, and you will be shown mercy. Forgive, and Allah will forgive you.' [Adab Mufrad Bukhari]

Whoever has a dispute, this is the time for forgiveness, so that your hearts may reconcile, seeking the pleasure of your Lord. The believer is the one who avoids the causes of disputes, hastens towards good relations, and is eager for forgiveness and the continuity of affection. As Allah says:

أَلَا تَحِبُّونَ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Do you not wish that Allah should forgive you? And Allah is the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Quran

٢٤:٢٢)

Indeed, the most deserving of your forgiveness and pardon are the relatives whom Allah has commanded you to maintain ties with. Therefore, remember the virtues of your relatives and loved ones, overlook their shortcomings, and hasten to them with gifts and communication. Do not sever ties between yourselves and them due to disputes over inheritance, wills, properties, or partnerships. Be good to

others and hasten to forgive, as you would wish to be forgiven. As the Prophet said:

مَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلَّا عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلَّا رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ

Allah increases the honour of him who forgives another; and no one will humble himself for Allah's sake without Allah exalting him. [Muslim]

And as Allah says: **وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ**

And who restrain anger and who pardon the people - and Allah loves the doers of good (Quran ٣:١٣٤)

And with this we ask You to send Your blessings upon our Master and Prophet Muhammad, his family, and all his companions. And be pleased with righteous and rightly guided Khulafa: Sayyiduna Abu Bakr, Sayyiduna Umar, Sayyiduna Uthman and Sayyiduna Ali, and upon all of the companions and those of the righteous who come after them, may Allah be pleased with them all.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that which is good and what pleases You.

O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace.

O Allah have mercy on those martyred for Your sake, and grant them intercession for their people, and grant their families patience and a great reward. And have mercy, our Lord, upon all of the believers, the living and the dead.

Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Be grateful for your blessings and you will be increased therein.

وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ

And the remembrance of Allah is greater, and Allah knows what you do. (Quran ٢٩:٤٥).

So, stand up for prayer.