

17 June 2016 / 12 Ramadan 1437H

- Instilling Values in Our Family Through Acts of Worship

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ رَمَضَانَ شَهْرًا مُبَارَكًا. وَفَرَضَ فِيهِ الصِّيَامَ
وَأَعَدَّ فِيهِ فَضْلًا كَبِيرًا وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ
صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى
اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

- Blessed Friday jemaah,
- Alhamdulillah, all praises be to Allah who has granted us with the wonderful opportunity of welcoming the blessed month of Ramadan and to reap the merits of this month.

- I call upon all of you present here today, let us together aim to strive, together with our families, to make the best of every second in this holy month.

- With the coming of Ramadan and at a time when every Muslim is motivated to bring himself closer to Allah, one should also think of how to leverage on this month to close any gaps in one's relationship with one's family.

- How can our acts of worship that bring us closer to Allah, also strengthen our ties of kinship with our family?

- We do not want to be among those who are diligent in performing acts of worship, fasting, performing terawih prayers throughout Ramadan, steadfastly seeking Allah's forgiveness

- and His paradise, yet we are fighting with our family members, breaking the ties that bind us together, or not speaking to one another, be it between siblings, parents or parent and children.

- This is a mistake of those who are fasting.

- When we allow for ties of kinship to be broken without any efforts to repair them, then it is feared that it will cause us to trip and fall at the gates of Allah's Paradise.

- This is inline with the hadith of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. which means: *“A person who breaks ties of kinship will not enter Paradise”*.
[Hadith reported by Imam At-Tirmidzi]

- Jemaah,
- Ramadan is the perfect opportunity for us to strengthen our relations with our family members.

- This is because, it is a tradition for Muslims here to meet up and break our fasts together with family members, friends and neighbours.

- After that, they will pray together and perform terawih prayers together or even shop together.

- All these activities can help the family to spend time together and bring them closer to one another.

- Keep these memories dear to us. Insyallah it will help us to remember and to always care for and love our family members.

- Jemaah,
- For those of us who have ended our relationships with others, this is also a good time to rekindle that relationship.

- With the barakah of fasting, Ramadan is also the time when our hearts are softened.

- Hence, Rasulullah s.a.w. mentioned that the doa of a person who is fasting will not be rejected because when a person is fasting, he is close to Allah s.w.t.

- Hence, it is fitting for a person to rekindle the broken ties of relationships during Ramadan.

- Perhaps if we have not met or spoken for a long time, we can start by wishing each other greetings to celebrate Ramadan and to seek forgiveness from each other.

- This can be followed by sending food for breaking fast.

- Just as we hope Allah will forgive us in this blessed month, strive to find the space in our hearts to forgive those who may have wronged us.

- Allah s.w.t. says in Surah ali-Imran, verses 133-134:

السَّمَوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ
 ❁ وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا
 وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ
 الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ فِي السَّرَّاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَالْكَاظِمِينَ الْغَيْظَ
 أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ

- Which means: *“And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous. Who spend [in the cause of Allah] during ease and hardship and who restrain anger and who pardon the people - and Allah loves the doers of good.”*

- Nabi s.a.w. said that those who enjoin good relations are those who do not retaliate what others do upon them.

- Enjoining good relations is when the other party (family member) refuses to, and we take the first step to rekindle the relationship. [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari]

- Jemaah,
- By having good, strong relationships with our family, it will contribute to our internal happiness, bring about a positive attitude in us,

- which will affect how we face the world and its challenges, because we know we have strong support to get us get through difficulties.

- And that strong support will impact our attitude and also our ability to succeed in studies as well as work.

- This is because a person who is happy at home will be full of determination at work and school.

- Hence, Rasulullah s.a.w. once said:
“Whoever wants his sustenance (rizk) to be eased and his age to be lengthened, then he needs to enjoin good relations”. [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari]

- Grab the opportunity presented to us in this blessed month to strengthen family relations as it will bring benefits to us as individuals as well as a community,

- and at the same help maintain the harmony of the country. Equip our families with strong values, a noble akhlak and a good education.

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.