

To Embrace His Character

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا

يُخَيِّبُكُمْ ۚ

سورة الأنفال الآية 24

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ:

«كُلُّ أُمَّتِي يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَبَى

، قَالُوا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، وَمَنْ يَأْبَى؟ قَالَ: «مَنْ أَطَاعَنِي دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ

وَمَنْ عَصَانِي فَقَدْ أَبَى»

البخاري، الاعتصام، الاعتصام 2

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Allah (swt) sent prophets to be guides for people. Through the revelation sent to them, these messengers served as callers, witnesses, bearers of glad tidings, warners and lamps spreading light around them. In the Qur'an, Allah (swt) introduces the Messenger of Allah (saw) to us with the verses: **“We have not sent you except as a mercy to the worlds.”**¹ and **“Indeed, you are of a great character.”**²

On the other hand, the Qur'an also mentions that he is the best example for the believers, that he was given the duty and authority to explain the Qur'an, that obedience to him was commanded, and that he is closer to the believers than their own selves. To truly understand the significance of our Prophet's (saw) position for us, it is essential to learn every aspect of his life.

Throughout his prophethood, he established monotheism in place of idol worshipping, justice in place of oppression and brotherhood in place of enmity. He replaced ignorance with knowledge, conflict with unity and through his moral conduct; such as honesty, trustworthiness, justice, kindness and generosity. He became the best example for humanity. He fought against behaviors that disrupted individual and social peace and carried out the essential changes needed for social life. As a result of all these efforts, through his practices in governance, family life, economic, social, cultural

and moral spheres, he replaced the mentality described as *jahiliyyah* with a brand-new society in which peace, harmony, justice and brotherhood prevailed.

Dear Jama'ah!

For mankind to attain these noble qualities, one must not place their own words and actions ahead of the Messenger of Allah (saw), who was the living Qur'an. Rather, in every matter he must be taken as the leader and one's life should be arranged according to his example. As the verse I recited at the beginning of my khutba declares, Allah (swt) has given us a roadmap: **“O you who believe! Respond to Allah and to the Messenger when he calls you to that which gives you life...”**³

Taking our beloved Prophet (saw) as an example is not achieved by mere words of love but through heartfelt submission. To love him means to think like him, to live like him, to be just, merciful and dignified as he was. Every step of the Messenger of Allah (saw) was a light for humanity. A life illuminated by his Sunnah becomes a means of honor in this world and Paradise in the Hereafter. Listening to his words is realised by adopting his character and by regarding being his follower as the greatest honor. To follow his example is to be so considerate that you forgive those who wrong you, so gentle that you avoid hurting your friends. It is to smile as he smiled, to caress the head of the orphan, to be patient in the face of injustice as he was. It is to be kind, considerate and loyal to our family, neighbors and friends, just as he was. This is true love. Whoever strives to resemble him prospers both in this world and the Hereafter. Let us conclude our khutba with a hadith of our Prophet (saw): The Messenger of Allah said, *“All of my Ummah will enter Paradise except those who refuse.”* The Companions asked, *“O Messenger of Allah, who would refuse to enter Paradise?”* He replied, *“Whoever obeys me will enter Paradise, but whoever disobeys me, by rejecting my commands and prohibitions, has refused.”*⁴

May peace, blessings and honor be upon our Prophet Muhammad (saw), his family and his companions!

¹ Al-Anbiya, 21:107

² Surah Al-Qalam, 68:4

³ Surah Al-Anfal, 8:24

⁴ Buhārī, I'tisam, 2