

The Ethics of Unity and Brotherhood

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 ﴿وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا...﴾
 سورة آل عمران، 103/3

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ (رضي الله عنه) قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ):
 " لَا تَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ حَتَّى تُؤْمِنُوا، وَلَا تُؤْمِنُوا حَتَّى تَحَابُّوا،
 أَوَّلًا أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَى شَيْءٍ إِذَا فَعَلْتُمُوهُ تَحَابَبْتُمْ؟ أَفَشُوا السَّلَامَ
 بَيْنَكُمْ "

صحيح مسلم، كتاب الإيمان، 93

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

It is clearly stated in the Qur'an that believers are brothers. In Islam, brotherhood is not limited only to being born from the same parents. Allah (swt) informs us that every believer, regardless of language or race, is our brother or sister. At the heart of this brotherhood, which binds us firmly together, is the awareness of being servants of Allah and members of the ummah of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw). In many hadith, it is stated that Muslims must love one another, and that a person cannot truly have complete faith until they wish for their Muslim brother or sister the same goodness they wish for themselves. Our Prophet (saw) always encouraged beautiful deeds to strengthen love among believers, saying: *"You will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will not truly believe until you love one another. Shall I tell you of something which, if you do it, will cause you to love one another? Spread peace among yourselves."*¹

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In Islam, such great importance is given to the rights and responsibilities of Muslim brotherhood that a person who helps their Muslim brother or sister is given the glad tidings that, in return for this goodness, Allah will remove their needs and difficulties. Indeed, the Prophet (swt) said:
"A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim. He does not oppress him, nor does he abandon him to danger. Whoever fulfils the need of his Muslim brother, Allah will fulfil one of his needs. Whoever relieves a Muslim of a hardship, Allah will relieve him of one of the hardships of the Day of Resurrection because of this good deed. And whoever covers the fault of a Muslim,

*Allah will cover his faults on the Day of Resurrection."*²

Sharing the pain of a believing brother or sister is both a requirement of our religion and a reflection of the mercy that exists within our natural character. This is described in a hadith by comparing believers to the organs of a body:

*"The believers, in their love for one another, their mercy and compassion toward one another, are like a single body: when one part of it suffers, the rest of the body shares in its pain with sleeplessness and fever."*³

This sense of brotherhood among Muslims is reflected not only in helping those around them, but also in extending a hand to all people in need across the world.

Dear Jama'ah!

In the brotherhood of faith, there is no place for disputes of "you and me"; rather, there is the awareness and effort of becoming "us" by standing shoulder to shoulder. This brotherhood does not require division and separation but rather holding firmly together and standing strong in unity and solidarity. For the bond of brotherhood established by our faith is built upon love, compassion, mercy, and selfless support. Hatred, resentment and hostility should have no place whatsoever within this noble bond. Allah (swt) clearly commands unity and togetherness and forbids division and separation, saying: **"Hold firmly, all together, to the rope of Allah, and do not be divided..."**⁴

May Allah (swt) make us among His servants who help their Muslim brothers and sisters and who feel concern for their troubles. May He protect us from every evil feeling and thought. May He make our brotherhood, unity and love everlasting. Ameen.



¹ Muslim, Îmân, 93

² Muslim, Birr, 58

³ Buhârî, Edeb, 27; Muslim, Birr, 66.

⁴ Surah Âl-i Imrân, 3:103