

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَإِذَا حُيِّتُمْ بِتَحِيَّةٍ فَحَيُّوا بِأَحْسَنَ مِنْهَا أَوْ رُدُّوهَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَسِيبًا

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ، لَا تَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ حَتَّى تُؤْمِنُوا، وَلَا تُؤْمِنُوا حَتَّى تَحَابُّوا، أَوَّلَا أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَى شَيْءٍ إِذَا فَعَلْتُمْوه تَحَابَبْتُمْ؛ أَفْشُوا السَّلَامَ بَيْنَكُمْ.

### Respected Muslims!

Our exalted religion, Islam, which governs every aspect of our lives, enjoins upon us the important duty of exchanging greetings (giving salaam) when believers meet and part.

"As-Salām" is one of the most beautiful names of Allah the Almighty. It signifies peace, tranquility, and security. Saying "As-salāmu alaykum" means, "May the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you."

Our Lord declares in the Holy Qur'an: **"When you are greeted with a salute, greet in return with what is better than it, or at least return it equally. Indeed, Allah keeps account of all things."** (Surah An-Nisā, 4:86) The Prophet ﷺ said: **"You will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will not truly believe until you love one another. Shall I tell you something that will make you love one another? Spread greetings (salām) among yourselves!"** (Muslim, Īmān, 93)

### Dear Believers!

Giving greetings is Sunnah, responding is obligatory (fard), and ensuring it is heard is necessary (wājib). If one gives greetings out of habit without conscious intention and faith in its Sunnah, they do not earn its reward. In unsafe or deserted places, giving salām becomes obligatory—it means, "I am a Muslim; you are safe from me, be at ease."

According to the etiquette taught by our Prophet (‘alayhissalām): The superior initiates the greeting: the elder greets the younger, the rider greets the one on foot, the walking greets the standing, the one standing greets the seated, the fewer greet the many, the leader greets the subordinate, the teacher greets the student, the father greets the son, and the mother greets the daughter.

When entering a gathering, rank and age are disregarded—the one entering greets those present. Thus, it is Sunnah for the younger to greet the elder, the

subordinate to greet the superior, the student to greet the teacher, and the son to greet the father.

When entering a gathering, one should give salām. If even one person responds, the obligation is lifted from the rest. Otherwise, all present sin by neglecting this duty.

A ḥadīth states: **"When you meet one another, do not bow or embrace."** (Barīqa) The Prophet (‘alayhissalām) and his noble Companions only embraced warmly when reuniting after a long separation or welcoming a traveler.

Another ḥadīth states: **"When two Muslims meet and shake hands, their sins are forgiven before they part."** (Tirmidhī, Istīdhān, 11; Abū Dāwūd, Adab)

If one encounters someone whose behavior contradicts Islamic ethics and Sunnah, actions like bowing, kissing one's own hand, head-butting, or cheek-kissing during greetings are innovations (bid‘ah), religiously inappropriate, and considered reprehensible (makrūh).

I conclude this khutbah with the following noble ḥadīth: **"O people! Spread greetings among yourselves, feed one another, and pray while people are asleep—so that you may enter Paradise in peace."** (Tirmidhī, Şifāt al-Qiyāmah, 42)