

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: لَا يَحِلُّ لِرَجُلٍ أَنْ يَهْجُرَ أَخَاهُ فَوْقَ ثَلَاثِ لَيَالٍ، يَلْتَقِيَانِ:

فَيُعْرِضُ هَذَا وَيُعْرِضُ هَذَا، وَخَيْرُهُمَا الَّذِي يَبْدَأُ بِالسَّلَامِ

Esteemed Muslims!

Our Lord says in the Holy Quran: **"The believers are but brothers, so make settlement between your brothers!"** (Surah Al-Hujurat, 10)

In the course of life, resentments, hurt feelings, and even estrangements can occur from time to time. This is a part of being human. However, what is never normal is for these estrangements to last for months or years. For Islam is a religion that unites hearts. It commands not hatred and grudges, but love, forgiveness, and peace.

My Dear Brothers,

A Muslim should approach their Muslim brother/sister with love, mercy, and understanding. To remain estranged, to cease greeting one another, is never compatible with Islamic morals and upbringing. Our Prophet ﷺ says: **"Do not cut off relations with one another, do not turn your backs on one another, do not bear malice against one another, and do not envy one another. O servants of Allah! Be brothers. It is not permissible (halal) for a Muslim to forsake his brother in faith and remain estranged for more than three days."** (Bukhari, Adab 57)

This noble Hadith clearly shows us that the period of estrangement should not exceed three days. If the parties cannot reconcile within this period, they should at least soften their hearts with a greeting (salaam) and intend to mend their relations. Because our Prophet ﷺ said: **"It is not permissible (halal) for a believer to forsake his brother in faith and remain estranged for more than three days. If three days have passed, he should meet him and give him salaam. If he (the other person) returns the salaam, they both share in the reward. If he does not return the salaam, the one who did not return it incurs sin, while the one who gave the salaam is absolved from the state of estrangement."** (Abu Dawud, Adab 47)

Precious Believers!

Remaining estranged is not just a worldly problem; it is also a great spiritual burden for the Hereafter. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ gives us this warning: **"Deeds**

are presented to Allah every Monday and Thursday. The sins of every servant who does not associate partners with Allah are forgiven, except for the person who has enmity with his brother in faith. (To the angels) it is said, 'Hold back (the forgiveness for) these two until they reconcile.'" (Muslim, Birr 36)

However, if there is a religious or Shari'ah (legitimate Islamic legal) reason, in that case, the period of estrangement may be extended and it is not forbidden (haram).

Precious Brothers,

Islam views believers as the limbs of a single body. Just as when one limb suffers, the entire body is affected, a believer cannot remain indifferent to the troubles of their brother/sister. Estrangement damages this spirit of unity.

When we are estranged, we find neither peace nor sweetness in our prayer (salah) or supplication (dua). It is easy to break a heart; what is difficult is to mend it.

Come, let us cast out any hatred, anger, or resentment that may be in our hearts. Let us extend a hand, let us offer salaam. Because: "Forgiveness is greatness. Reconciling is maturity. Remaining estranged is the work of Shaitan."

Let us conclude our khutbah with this glad tiding from our Prophet ﷺ: **"When two people who love each other for the sake of Allah meet, and one of them offers salaam to the other first, Allah, the Exalted, forgives the sins of the one who gave the salaam."** (Haythami, Majma' az-Zawa'id, 8/41)