

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ
وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: مَنْ أَحَبَّ أَنْ يُبْسَطَ لَهُ فِي رِزْقِهِ، يُنْسَأَ لَهُ فِي أَثَرِهِ، فَلْيَصِلْ
رَحِمَهُ

Esteemed Muslims!

The topic of our khutbah today will be "sila-i rahim," that is, upholding kinship ties.

Our religion commands us to strengthen our social bonds through acts of worship and beautiful behaviors such as maintaining communication with relatives, spreading greetings (salutations of peace), visiting the sick, attending funerals, and respecting the rights of others. Neglecting these duties brings with it the risk of punishment in the Hereafter and a severe reckoning.

Sila-i rahim means visiting relatives and close ones, inquiring about their well-being and circumstances, winning their hearts, and taking an interest in them. This is an obligation (fard) upon every believer. It is forbidden (haram) to sever ties with our relatives, even if they are sinners or non-Muslims. Such an attitude causes sustenance to diminish and life to shorten and lose its blessings.

Our Lord says in the Holy Quran: **"Fear Allah and beware of severing kinship ties"** (An-Nisa, 4:1).

"Indeed, Allah commands justice, excellence (ihsan), and generosity towards relatives, and He forbids indecency, evil, and oppression. Thus does Allah instruct you, that you may take heed." (An-Nahl, 16:90)

In a noble Hadith, our Prophet (peace be upon him) states: **"Whoever wishes for his provision to be increased and his lifespan to be extended, let him maintain ties with his kinsfolk."** (Bukhari, Adab 12)

Again, our Prophet (pbuh) says in a Hadith: **"The most virtuous spending a person engages in is what he spends on his family. After that comes what he spends on his close relatives."** (Muslim, Zakat 39)

Performing good deeds and acts of charity, helping the poor and needy, is a very beautiful act of worship. However, for a Muslim who is stingy towards his family and relatives at home, these charitable acts remain incomplete. Goodness begins with those closest to us.

Precious Believers!

Worldly life is like an inn, a temporary lodging place. We are guests in this inn. The day will come when the caravan will depart. In this short life, our stance towards the events that befall us will determine our character and our provision for the Hereafter.

It is an obligation (fard) to visit our relatives at least once a year, and if that is not possible, to inquire about their well-being, even if by phone. Taking a pleasing gift during the visit is a beautiful Sunnah.

Sila-i rahim is not performed expecting something in return. It should be maintained not only with those who visit us but also with our relatives who may have forgotten us, turned away, or remained indifferent. Because we did not choose our relatives, but the moral stance we adopt towards them is our choice.

Let us not forget that everyone will be brought to account for their intentions and deeds.

I conclude my khutbah with a noble Hadith: **"The one who maintains ties of kinship is not the one who reciprocates in kind; rather, the one who maintains ties of kinship is the one who, when his relatives sever ties with him, continues to do good to them."**

(Bukhari, Adab 15)