ثَقَافَةُ الاِسْتِمَاع

Culture of Listening

حسنِ سماعت کی اہمیّت

انتخاب خطبہ: حافظ محمّد ابوبکر سجاد

حامداً و مصلّیاً۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔۔اما بعد

عزیزانِ محترم!

سماعت اللہ تعالیٰ کی نعمتوں میں سے ایک خاص اور عظیم نعمت ہے۔

اللہ تبارک وتعالیٰ ارشاد فرماتے ہیں:

وَاللّٰہُ اَخْرَجَکُمْ مِنْ بُطُوْنِ اُمَّھٰتِکُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُوْنَ شَیْئًا وَّجَعَلَ لَکُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْاَبْصَارَ وَالْاَفْئِدَۃَ لَعَلَّکُمْ تَشْکُرُوْنَ۔(ابراھیم۔34)

اللہ تعالیٰ نے تمہیں اس حال میں پیدا کیا کہ تم کچھ نہیں جانتے تھے اور پھر اس نے تمہیں سماعت، بصارت اور سوچ سمجھ عطا کی تاکہ تم شکر گزار بنو۔

طبّی زاویہ نگاہ سے دیکھا جائے تو انسان پہلے سننا سیکھتا ہے اسکے بعد بولنا سیکھتا ہے، اگر وہ سن نہ سکے تو بول بھی نہیں سکتا۔

اللہ تعالیٰ نے اپنے بندوں پر احسان کیا، انہیں سننے کی قوت عطا فرمائی تو اس نعمت سماعت کا شکر اسی طرح ادا کیا جا سکتا ہے کہ ہم اچھی باتیں سنیں، انہیں سمجھیں اور عمل کریں کیونکہ قیامت والے دن اس نعمت کے بارے میں سوال ہوگا۔

اِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ کُلُّ اُولٰٓئِکَ کَانَ عَنْہُ مَسْئُوْلًا۔ یقیناً کان اور آنکھ اور دل کے بارے میں سوال ہوگا۔

اللہ، رسولؐ کی بات کو سننا، والدین کی بات سننا، امیر کی بات سننا، اساتذہ کی بات سننا، بڑوں کی بات سننا، بچوں کی بات سننا، جمعہ والے دن آئمّہ دین کی بات (خطبہ جمعہ) کو سننے کا حکم ہے۔

قرآن میں ارشاد ہے: قد سمع اللہ قول اللّتی ۔۔۔۔۔، یقیناً اللہ نے اس عورت کی بات سن لی ۔۔۔۔ اس آیت کا پس منظر یہ ہے کہ ایک خاتون (خولہ بنت ثعلبہ) نے اپنے خاوند کی شکایت نبی اکرم ﷺ سے کی کہ میں بوڑھی عورت ہوں، بچوں والی ہوں، مال میرے پاس نہیں، میرے ماں باپ وفات پاچکے ہیں، اگر بچوں کو چھوڑوں تو مجھے تکلیف ہو، اگر نہ چھوڑوں تو انہیں تکلیف ہو کوئی ایسی صورت بن جائے کہ شوہر سے میری جدائی نہ ہو! اس پر یہ آیت کریمہ نازل ہوئی۔

حضرت عمر رضی اللہ عنہ ایک دفعہ اپنے لشکر کے ساتھ جارہے تھے تو اسی خاتون (خولہ بنت ثعلبہ) نے آپ کو روک کر آپ سے بات کی۔ آپ بمع لشکر رک گئے اور اس کی بات کو توجہ سے سنا۔ ایک آدمی نے حیران ہو کر پوچھا کہ اے امیر المومنین، آپ ایک بوڑھی خاتون کی بات سننے کیلئے پورے لشکر سمیت رک گئے؟ اس پر انہوں نے مسکرا کر جواب دیا کہ میں اس خاتون کی بات کیوں نہ سنوں جس کی بات کو اللہ نے سات آسمانوں کے اوپر سے سنا تھا ۔۔۔ (هَذِهِ امْرَأَةٌ سَمِعَ اللّٰہُ شَکْوَاهَا مِنْ فَوْقِ سَبْعِ سَمٰوَاتٍ، هَذِهِ خَوْلَةُ بِنْتُ ثَعْلَبَةَ، وَاللّٰہِ لَوْلَمْ تَنْصَرِفْ عَنِّي إِلَى اللَّيْلِ مَا انْصَرَفْتُ عَنْهَا)۔

حسنِ سماعت ہمارے پیارے نبی ﷺ کی سنّت ہے۔

حضور ﷺ دوسرے کی بات توجہ سے سنتے اور بات کو درمیان میں نہیں کاٹتے تھے۔ اس اسوہ نبویؐ کی کئی مثالیں ہمیں ملتی ہیں جن میں سے ایک مثال بالخصوص قابل ذکر ہے۔ قریش مکّہ نے آپؐ کو دعوت دین سے روکنے کیلئے عقبہ بن ربیعہ کو آپؐ کے ساتھ مذاکرات کیلئے بھیجا۔ اس نے آکر کہا میں آپؐ سے کچھ باتیں کرنا چاہتا ہوں۔ حضور ﷺ نے فرمایا "ابو ولید! تمہیں جو کچھ کہنا ہے کہو، میں سنوں گا"۔ عقبہ کو جو کچھ کہنا تھا اس نے وہ دل کھول کر کہا، جب وہ اپنی بات ختم کر چکا تو آپ ﷺ نے فرمایا "افرغت یا ابا الولید؟" ابو الولید! تمہیں جو کچھ کہنا تھا کہہ چکے ہو؟

اس نے کہا جی ہاں۔ آپ ؐ نے فرمایا "فاسمع منّی" تو اب میری بات سنو۔ پھر آپ ؐ نے سورہ حٰم سجدہ کی ابتدائی آیات تلاوت کیں۔ (بحوالہ مصنف ابن ابی شیبہ)

عزیزان محترم!

خلاصہ کلام یہ ہے کہ دوسروں کی بات سننا اللہ، رسول ؐ کی سنّت ہے۔ ہمیں اس کلچر کو فروغ دینا چاہئے۔ ہمیں بھی اللہ کے حبیب ﷺ کے نقش قدم پر چلتے ہوئے زندگی گزارنی چاہئے اور حسن سماعت کا مظاہرہ کرنا چاہئے۔ ہمارے دین میں مد مقابل کی بات سننے کی خاص اہمیّت ہے۔ دوسرے کی بات کو صبر و تحمّل سے سننا چاہیئے، اگر بات غلط ہو تو دوسرے کو نرمی اور حسن اخلاق سے سمجھانا چاہیئے۔

توجہ و غور سے سننے کی برکتوں میں سے یہ بھی ہے کہ جمعۃ المبارک کے دن مسجد میں آئمّہ کے خطبے کو سنا جائے۔ حضرت سیّدنا اوس سے مروی ہے، رسول اللہ ﷺ نے ارشاد فرمایا:: مَنِ اغْتَسَلَ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ وَغَسَّلَ، وَبَكَّرَ وَابْتَكَرَ، وَدَنَا وَاسْتَمَعَ وَأَنْصَتَ؛ كَانَ لَهُ بِكُلِّ خُطْوَةٍ يَخْطُوهَا أَجْرُ سَنَةٍ: صِيَامُهَا وَقِيَامُهَا۔ (ابوداود، ترمذی)

Culture of Listening – English Talk

One of the most important blessing of Allah swt is the sense of hearing.

Allah, the Almighty says, "and Allah has extracted you from the wombs of your mothers not knowing a thing, and He made for you hearing and vision and intellect that perhaps you would be grateful." (An-Nahl: 78). This is because man is accountable before Allah for such faculties and how he uses them. The Most Exalted says, "indeed, the hearing, the sight and the heart - about all those [one] will be questioned." (Al-Israa: 36). There are many ways through which one can make good use of the blessing of hearing that Allah has endowed upon them, the foremost of which is developing a culture of listening. The latter is a skill that enables the listener to give full attention to others while in conversation and focus on what they are saying. Indeed,

Islam has attributed great importance to such a civilised etiquette. This was emphasised in the holy Quran as it mentions that Allah, the Most High, from above the seven heaves, listened to a woman who came to complain about her husband to the Prophet pbuh. In this regard, the Mother of Believers, Aisha (R.A.) said, "Praise be to Allah Whose hearing encompasses all voices. The woman who disputed concerning her husband (Al-Mujadilah) came to the Prophet when I was (sitting) in a corner of the house, and she complained about her husband, but I did not hear what she said. Then Allah revealed: 'certainly Allah has heard the speech of the one who argues with you concerning her husband and directs her complaint to Allah. And Allah hears your dialogue; indeed, Allah is Hearing and Seeing.'" (Al-Mujadilah: 1). The woman mentioned in this Hadith was Khawla bint Thaalaba. It was narrated that she once stopped Umar Ibn Al Khatta (R.A.) when he was moving with an army. He stopped and went to speak to her. He listened to her, nodded his head, solved her problem. Thereupon, one of his men said, "You stopped the entire army for one old lady?" So, Umar said "Do you know who she is?" The man said, "No." Umar replied, "This is a woman whose complaint Allah, the Most Sublime, listened to from above the seven heavens: this is Khawla bint Thaalabah. By Allah, if she did not leave me until night fell, I would not tell her to leave until she had got what she came for."

Being a good listener is a noble character, a praiseworthy merit and amongst the refined attitudes. It is one of the key elements that enable us to communicate effectively with others. Moreover, it reflects interest in, care to and appreciation of what is being said by others. In this sense, the first and foremost words that we should listen to and contemplate upon are the words of Allah, the Most Sublime, and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh. In this regard, it was narrated that Abdullah Ibn Masood, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "If you hear Allah saying: 'O you who

have believed,' listen to what He has to say, for it will be either a good conduct that He enjoins or an evil deed that He forbids." Indeed, the Prophet pbuh was the best of people in speech and in listening too. He did not speak until the other person has finished what he had to say. He listened to people and respected their opinions. Truly, such a Prophetic guidance is conducive to promote the culture of understanding between people, strengthening affection and trust between them. Another occasion where listening plays a very important role, is when parents listen to their children. In fact, this has a great impact on positive upbringing. It contributes to building the youngsters' personality, making them feel that they are cared for by their parents, extending the bridge of understanding and harmony between them, and establishing the foundations of a culture of constructive dialogue and transparency that is based on trust. As a result, the children will never hide any secrets from their parents, which in turn will help in finding the best and most prompt solutions for any issues that any of the family members may face. One the other instance where the art of listening can be seen is in meetings and sittings. In such occasions, people will listen to the eldest amongst them, avoid interrupting others while talking, following in this the example of the Messenger of Allah pbuh when he received Otba Ibn Rabiaa. He pbuh listened to him without any interruption. When Otba finished what he had to say, the Prophet pbuh said, "O Abul Waleed! Are you done?" Otba said, "Yes." Then the Prophet pbuh said, "Then listen to me."

Furthermore, the people of wisdom and knowledge used to teach their children such a wise attitude of listening well to others. For example, a wise ancestor said to his son, "My son! Learn the art of listening as you learn the art of speaking. Listening well means maintaining eye contact, allowing the speaker to finish the speech, and restraining your urge to interrupt his speech even if

you already knew it." This is because interrupting someone while talking may prompt their anger.

In fact, attentive listening is one of the good manners and etiquettes related to meetings. It is a right that one should fulfil to those whom he gathers in a sitting. One of the righteous Scholar said in this regard, "There are three rights for my sitting companion on me: if he comes, I give space for him to sit; if he sits, I welcome him; and if he speaks, I listen to him." More to the point, through good listening and concentrating on others' speech, one will learn from their experiences and knowledge. A word of wisdom said in this regard, "If you sit in the company of the people of knowledge, make sure that you listen more than you talk."

Indeed, listening has a significant positive impact on learning and quick grasping of the meaning of what is being said. For this reason, the Messenger of Allah pbuh urged us to listen attentively to the Imam. He pbuh said, "Whoever takes a bath on Friday, and bathes completely, and goes early, arriving early, and walks towards the Masjid and sits close to the Imam and listens to him, and does not engage in idle talk; for every step he takes he will have the reward of one year, the reward of a year's fasting and praying at night."

The merits of good listening are many. By paying attention to what is being said, one will draw lessons from others' experiences and benefit from their opinions and ideas. Attentive listening is also conducive to promote affection, harmony and mutual respect amongst people. A good illustration of this can be seen within the one family. When husband listens to wife and vice versa, and parents listen to their sons and daughters, family bonds and cohesion with be strengthened. In like manner, the elders should listen to the youngsters, the teacher to their students, so that all will be in harmony, understand one another

and cooperate with each other. You are, therefore, urged to nurture the culture of listening well to the speech in the minds and hearts of your sons and daughters. Likewise, we should embrace such a great etiquette in our meetings, our dealings and dialogue with the people around us.