

# Compassion and Mercy

مَوَدَّةٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ

رحمت اور رحمہ

Khutbah Selection: Hafiz Sajjad

Allah is the Most-Merciful of the merciful.

هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ<sup>(1)</sup>

Mercy is a noble quality that reflects the kindness of the heart and the compassion of the soul, which leads to being forgiving and merciful. Kindness is a universal language which everyone understands.

It is one of the greatest virtues that has the best positive impact on the society. This is why, out of His generosity and kindness, Allah, the Most Exalted, promised to show mercy on His Creation. The Almighty says:

كَتَبَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ الرَّحْمَةَ<sup>(2)</sup>

**“Your Lord has decreed upon Himself mercy.”** (Al-Anaam: 54). That is to say, He pledged Himself to be merciful.

Indeed, Allah, the Most Compassionate, is the most merciful of the merciful. His mercy embraces all his

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(1) البقرة: 163.

(2) الأنعام: 54.

creation in this world and in the Heavens as illustrated in the Almighty's saying:

وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ<sup>(1)</sup>

“**And My mercy encompasses all things.**” (Al-Aaraf: 156). This means His mercy is unlimited, for it encompasses all mankind and animals. He also placed part of His mercy in them. In fact, all living creatures in existence, even beasts of prey, have some kind of parental affection towards their offspring.

The Prophet pubh said:

جَعَلَ اللَّهُ الرَّحْمَةَ مِائَةً جُزْءٍ، فَأَمْسَكَ عَنْدَهُ تِسْعَةً وَتِسْعِينَ جُزْءًا،  
وَأَنْزَلَ فِي الْأَرْضِ جُزْءًا وَاحِدًا، فَمِنْ ذَلِكَ الْجُزْءِ يَتَرَأَّحُمُ الْخَلْقُ،  
حَتَّى تَرْفَعَ الْفَرَسُ حَافِرَهَا عَنْ وَلَدِهَا؛ خَشْيَةً أَنْ تُصِيبَهُ<sup>(2)</sup>.

“There are one hundred (parts of) mercy for Allah and He has sent down out of this one part of mercy upon the jinn and human beings and animals and the insects, and it is because of this (one part) that they love one another, show kindness to one another and even the beast treats its young one with affection. And Allah has reserved ninety-nine parts of mercy with which He would treat His servants on the Day of Resurrection.”

Allah says:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ<sup>(3)</sup>

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(1) الأعراف: 156.

(2) متفق عليه.

(3) الأنبياء: 107.

And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.

The Prophet pbuh said:

إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ رَحْمَةً (1)

“I have been sent as a mercy”

He also said:

إِنَّمَا أَنَا رَحْمَةٌ مُّهْدَاةٌ (2)

“Indeed, I am a gifted mercy”

The great poet Allama Iqbal says:

یقین محکم، عمل پیہم، محبت فاتح عالم

(Having solid faith and trust, continuous efforts, conquering the world through *love and peace*;

The above are three qualities required in human struggle.)

محاورہ ہے کہ:

کڑوی زبان والے کا شہد بھی نہیں بکتا اور میٹھی زبان والے کی مرچیں بھی بک جاتی ہیں۔

The attribute of mercy enables people to show piety to their parents, show love and affection to their children, and demonstrate love and companionship with their spouses. This is the mercy by which bonds are built and strengthened with relatives, by which

(1) مسلم : 2599 .

(2) الدارمی : 15 .

friendship is valued, by which guests and neighbors are honored, by which orphans are cared for, by which the elderly are served, by which those who have special needs are looked after. This is the mercy by which charity and aid is given to whomsoever is in need. Ultimately, it is this mercy which in its compassion, gentleness and care encompasses all of creation.

On another level, the positive impacts of the character of mercy are many. Such impact reflects on the soul and tongue; the way we act and the way we speak. As a result, we tend to do all that is good for others. From this perspective, compassion in all its types and aspects is conducive to boost coherence and harmony in the society, affection and unity amongst its members, advancement and prosperity of the nation.

We all should promote compassion in our homes, at schools, at work and in all our dealings with one another as well as with other creatures.

It is our duty as well to nurture the quality of mercy in the minds and hearts of our children and youngsters.

All of this mercy was encompassed in our Prophet (pbuh). He was a living example of the perfect embodiment of such mercy, sent as a gifted mercy, the Prophet of Mercy, so we can try and emulate him in this mercy, each of us to the degree we are able to.

As an example of this mercy, when the Prophet (pbuh) saw a camel groaning and in pain, he was moved in his compassion for the camel and acting

from the mercy he embodied, he placed his blessed hand and wiped the camel's head. It immediately stopped crying at the touch of the Prophet (pbuh).

O Allah, we need such a blessed touch to comfort us in our times of pain?

The Prophet then turned to the owner of the camel, wherein every owner of any animal and anyone who has responsibility for any living being should take heed and fear the words of the Prophet when he said:

أَفَلَا تَتَّقِي اللَّهَ فِي هَذِهِ الْبَهِيمَةِ؟<sup>(1)</sup>

***Do you not fear Allah concerning this animal in your possession?*** [Abu Dawud]

This simple query from the Prophet (pbuh) clarified that gentleness and clemency whether it be to animals, or to any living thing, is from the manifestation of mercy we are tasked to embody in following the Sunnah of the Prophet (pbuh). People looking after animals should feed and take care of their animals properly, giving them shelter, protecting them from harm, is all from emulation of this Prophetic mercy – so we should observe and see how much of this mercy is alive in our hearts.

The Prophet (pbuh) is reported to have said:

ارْحَمُوا تُرْحَمُوا، وَاعْفُوا يَغْفِرُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ<sup>(2)</sup>

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(1) أبو داود: 2549.  
(2) الأدب المفرد: 380.

Show mercy and you will be shown mercy, forgive others and Allah swt will forgive you”.

قَالُوا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَإِنَّ لَنَا فِي الْبَهَائِمِ أَجْرًا؟ قَالَ: فِي كُلِّ كَبِدٍ رَطْبَةٌ أَجْرٌ<sup>(1)</sup>

The companions asked “Do we get reward for taking care of animals? The Prophet pbuh replied “(Yes) you will have reward for taking care of every living creature”.

The Prophet pbuh also said:

بَيْنَا رَجُلٌ بِطَرِيقٍ فَإِذَا كَلْبٌ يَلْهَثُ مِنْ الْعَطَشِ، فَنَزَلَ الْبِئْرَ، فَمَلَأَ خُفَّهُ مَاءً، فَسَقَى الْكَلْبَ، فَشَكَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُ، فَغَفَرَ لَهُ<sup>(2)</sup>

While a man was walking on his way, he saw a dog which was panting out of thirst. So, he descended into the well, filled up his leather sock with water and quenched the thirst of the dog. Allah appreciated his action and forgave his sins [Bukhari and Muslim]

The Prophet (pbuh) is reported to have said:

إِنَّمَا يَرْحَمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الرَّحْمَاءَ<sup>(3)</sup>

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(1) متفق عليه.

(2) متفق عليه.

(3) متفق عليه.

Allah is merciful to those of His slaves who are merciful. [Bukhari and Muslim]

So, Allah manifests His special mercy on those who reflect mercy to His creation. These are the people whose lives become encompassed through His gentle care and His mandated success. These are the people who enjoy the blessings of families full of affection and intimacy. These are the people who become role models for their communities, who are the glue through which successful, compassionate societies are built. In mirroring tolerance, coexistence, and love of others, they become an embodiment of compassion, acting as a bridge which can be traversed to an abode of peace and felicity, ultimately the path to God – the real everlasting peace that awaits those who answer the call of Mercy. As Allah says:

ثُمَّ كَانَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْمَرْحَمَةِ\*  
أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ<sup>(1)</sup>

And then being among those who believed and advised one another to patience and ***advised one another to compassion.*** Those are the companions of the right (Admitted into Paradise). [Qur'an: 90:17-18]

And with this we ask You Allah that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and

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(1) البلد: 17-18.

Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad. O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family and his companions.

And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us.

O Allah: bless us in this life with that which is good and in the next life that which is good, and save us from the hellfire.

O Allah, make us from those who embody this mercy in creation, who strive to reflect this mercy to others so that we in turn may be encompassed by Your mercy. I say this and seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most-forgiving.

Remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Let us align ourselves towards Him sincerely, and align our hearts.

اللَّهُمَّ يَا رَحْمَنَ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَرَحِيمَهُمَا، اَرْحَمْنَا رَحْمَةً تُغْنِينَا بِهَا عَنْ  
رَحْمَةِ مَنْ سِوَاكَ.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ،  
فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.