

The Most Merciful will appoint for them affection

First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Most Merciful, the Affectionate. He placed in the hearts of people love for the righteous believers. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

As to what follows,

I urge you and myself, **O Servants of Allah**, to be aware that you are asked to obey Him the Most Exalted in line with His orders: “**O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do.**” (Al-Hashr: ١٨).

Dear Muslims,

There no doubt that the love of Allah is a status for which the righteous compete, and it has signs and causes. It also returns with tremendous rewards to the believer. The Messenger of Allah pbuh said, “If Allah loves a person, He calls Gabriel saying, ‘Allah loves so and so; O Gabriel, love him.’ Gabriel would love him, and then Gabriel would make an announcement among the residents of the Heaven, ‘Allah loves so-and-so, therefore, you should love him also.’ So, all the residents of the Heavens would love him and then he is granted the pleasure of the people of the earth.”

So, people’s love and acceptance of the person amongst their community is a sign that Allah the Most Exalted loves them. Indeed, this is a precious favour that Allah the Almighty endows upon his true believing servants and part of their reward in this world. The Almighty says, “**indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - the Most Merciful will appoint for them affection.**” (Mariam: ٩٦). This means that Allah the Most Exalted will appoint for them affection in the hearts of people. This is a favour that Allah the Most Gracious has endowed upon His Prophet Musa pbuh, for He says, “**and I bestowed upon you love from Me.**” (Taha: ٣٩). That is to say: I have placed in the hearts of people

affection and acceptance towards you. As such, whoever had seen Musa pbuh has loved him.

This calls us to advise each other on how one can attain such a great attainment as to be loved by Allah the Most Exalted as well as by people. In fact, there are many ways through which the believer can achieve such a goal. One way is to adhere to Allah's ordains and strive to be sincere to Him. By so doing, one will win the affection of the people and good reputation amongst them. On this account, one of the righteous scholars once said, "A servant of Allah will never be sincere to Allah, the Most Exalted, in his heart except that Allah would place acceptance to him in the hearts of the believers, until He blesses him with their fondness and mercy."

Another quality that earns the person people's love is devotion to acts of kindness and righteous deeds. To this, some scholars said, "Hasana (act of kindness) brings a light to the heart, a light to the face, expansion in provision and love in people's hearts (for the doer of good)."

Dear Muslims,

The Prophet Muhammad pbuh has urged Muslims to seek all acts that are conducive to strengthen the connection amongst the members of the community and bring their hearts closer to one another. One such act is spreading the greeting of peace amongst them, for it is the most significant key to harmony and affection in the community. He pbuh said, "By the one in Whose Hand my soul is, you will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will not believe until you love one another. Shall I inform you about a matter which if you do it, then you will love one another? Spread the greeting of peace amongst each other."

Furthermore, generosity and giving to people in need has a great positive impact on the community. It boosts affection and take away animosity. For this reason, Allah the Almighty has praised the doers of good and promised them to have their matters facilitated for them. The Most Exalted says in this regard, "**as for he who gives and fears Allah, and believes in the best [reward], We will ease him toward ease.**" (Al-Layl: ٥-٧). This means, Allah will make it easy

for them to perform all such good deeds that are conducive to help them to win Allah's satisfaction and be admitted to His Paradise.

In this sense, the Messenger of Allah pbuh has really set a great model in his generous giving to his companions as well as other people. As a result, he pbuh attained their love and acceptance. On this matter, it was narrated that Safwan Ibn Omaiya has said before entering Islam, "By Allah, Allah's Messenger pbuh gave me what he gave me (and my state of mind at that time was) that he was the most detested person amongst people in my eyes. But he continued giving to me until now he is the dearest of people to me." In fact, it is a human nature that Allah, the Exalted in Might, has implanted inside human beings that they tend to appreciate doers of good and return their good deeds with affection.

More to the point, presenting gifts to people is one aspect of kindness that has a remarkable positive effect on people. It strengthens the bonds and increases affection amongst them. From this perspective, our Master Muhammad pbuh accepted gifts, rewarded the givers and encouraged Muslims to exchange gifts as he said, "Give presents to one another and you will love each other."

O Servants of Allah,

Amongst the other qualities that may earn a person the affection of those around him and respect of all those he interacts with is embracing good ethics. The Messenger of Allah pbuh has accentuated this as he said, "The most perfect man in his faith among the believers is the one whose behaviour is most excellent; close to people, love others and is loved by others." This means those who show leniency toward others and treat others in kindness. Truly, whoever embraces good manners will, definitely become closer to people's hearts because as part of their ethics, they would speak to others with the best words of mouth, the latter being a cause of bringing hearts closer to each other.

It is for this very reason that a word of wisdom suggested, "He whose words are lenient earns (others') love, good reputation and people's hearts will long for meeting him and compete in loving him." This is because such a person would always tell the truth, fulfil his promises, raise above material things and refrain from desiring

what others possess. In this context, it was narrated that a man came to the Prophet pbuh and said, “O Messenger of Allah, direct me to an act which, if I do it, [will cause] Allah to love me and the people to love me.” So he pbuh said, “Renounce this world and Allah will love you, and renounce what the people possess and the people will love you.”

With this in mind, let us pray to Allah the Almighty to make us amongst His good doing servants and place for us affection in the hearts of the believers. O Allah, the Lord of the World, we seek Your favour to increase our love to and harmony with one another.

May Allah guide us all to obey Him and obey His Messenger Muhammad pbuh and obey those He have commanded us to obey in line with His orders: “**O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.**” (An-Nisaa: ٥٩).

May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh.

I say this and ask Allah for forgiveness for me and you, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Second Sermon

All praise is due to Allah the Lord of the Worlds. Our Lord, all the praise is due to You as befitting to Your Sublime Countenance and Supreme Status. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. He is an ally of the righteous. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you, **O Servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Most High and Exalted.

O Worshipers,

Please know that embracing good manners is conducive to earn the Muslim the satisfaction of Allah the Almighty and the affection of the people. Amongst such good conducts is showing tolerance toward others, wishing good for them, protecting the weak, helping

the less fortunate and alleviating the distress of the victims of calamities. The Messenger of Allah pbuh has emphasised this as he said, “The deeds that are most loved by Allah are to bring joy to a Muslim’s heart, bring a Muslim out of discomfort, pay off his debt, or remove his hunger.”

Indeed, the fruits of all the above mentioned good deeds will, undoubtedly, be gracious. The good doers will attain a good mention amongst people, receive their appreciation and Allah will place for him affection in their hearts. With such affection the society will definitely become more harmonious and so strongly bonded like the bricks of a building, enforcing each other. The believers will, ultimately, resemble one body as regards their being merciful among themselves and showing love among themselves and being kind.

That is said, please bear in mind that you are instructed to invoke peace and blessings on the Prophet pbuh. Allah, the Most Sublime, says, “**indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.**” (Al-Ahzab: ٥٦).

On the same matter, the Prophet pbuh said, “For everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah.”

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all of the noble Companions.

O Allah, we implore to You to increase us in faith, assurance, cooperation, success, consolidation and harmony. O Allah, may You also forgive us and our parents and bless us in our offspring. Our Lord, please continue blessing us with happiness with our families and in our homeland, and make us amongst those who are dutiful for their parents and kind to their kith and kin.

May Allah grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we also seek Your favour to grant him continued health and care. May Allah also ensure success to his Vice-President, trustworthy Crown Prince and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, please forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, living and dead. We pray to Allah to show mercy on late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the late UAE Sheikhs. O Lord, grant them abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Allah, please admit them to Paradise, being given bounties therein without account. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whoever has done a favour to us.

O Allah, we implore to You to continue blessing us with Your bounties, endow upon us Your favours and make us rejoice peace of mind and wellbeing. O Allah, please accept our good deeds and accept our prayers.

We pray to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, to continue blessing the UAE with stability and welfare and increase it in bounties, knowledge, civilisation, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with happiness and security.

May Allah have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the prophets. May Allah make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You are ever responding to the supplications.

O Allah, please grant the best reward for the families of the martyrs and offer them patience and solace. May Allah grant victory to the soldiers of the Arab Coalition who gathered to restore the rights to their owners. O Lord, please be by their side and guide the Yemeni people to everything that is good. O Allah, make them rally for the word of truth and legitimacy, and bless them with welfare and stability, O the Most Generous.

O Lord, we beseech You to bless all of the Muslim countries and the whole world with stability and peace.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to send us wealthy rain and make us not amongst those who are despondent. O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us with a wealthy, healthy and sufficient rain! O Allah, give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth.

Our Lord, give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire. O Allah, admit us to Your Paradise with the righteous. Indeed, You are Exalted in Might and Forgiving.

Remember Allah and He will remember you. Be grateful of His benevolence and He will increase His blessings to you.

Please stand up for prayer.