



Interconnected Society

First Khutbah

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of all the Worlds. He is the One who has encouraged us to be interconnected and to be of mutual support to one another. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely One who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon him and upon whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you, O slaves of Allah and myself, with the Taqwa of Allah, for Allah says:

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَى

And cooperate in righteousness and piety [Qur'an: ٥:٢]

O Believers: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

المؤمن للمؤمن كالبنيان يشد بعضه بعضاً

A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing (and supporting) each other. [Bukhari and Muslim]

When the Prophet spoke the above Hadith he intertwined his fingers. This indicates how the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was describing for us the nature of an interconnected and close-knit society. His act indicated that such societies are built upon affection, compassion, mutual bonding, and co-operation – as if they are the fingers on one

hand interlocking with the other. In this regard, the first building blocks in this edifice of an interconnected society are cohesive families and homes full of affection and compassion. For Allah says:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً

And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. [Qur'an: ۳۰:۲۱]

These families of mercy are cared for by parents with responsibility and care. So they invest their time with their families, sitting with them, promoting the values of faith and morality. Hence, Allah praises Prophet Ismail (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) with His saying:

وَكَانَ يَأْمُرُ أَهْلَهُ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالزَّكَاةِ وَكَانَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِ مَرْضِيًّا

And he used to enjoin on his people prayer and zakah and was to his Lord pleasing. [Qur'an: ۱۹:۵۵]

From that which strengthens the cohesion of society is honoring the ties of kinship amongst our families. This means that we should ask about them and show concern about their situation, in addition to striving to meet their needs. For this is their right, as Allah says:

فَاتِ ذَا الْقُرْبَىٰ حَقَّهُ

So give the relative his right [Qur'an: ۳۰:۳۸]

Also from the manifestations of such an interconnected society is when there is cohesion, harmony, generosity and the upholding of honor between its people. Within such a

dynamic the neighbor typically knows his neighbor and asks about him/her, preserving their rights and the relationship. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

وَأَحْسِنَ إِلَى جَارِكَ تَكُنْ مُؤْمِنًا

Be kind to your neighbor and you shall be a believer.

[Tirmidhi]

One of the characteristics of a cohesive society is that which arises in the educational environment such as the connections between the teachers and students. Our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to teach his companions and say to them:

إِنَّمَا أَنَا لَكُمْ مِثْلُ الْوَالِدِ أَعَلَّمَكُمْ

Indeed, I am like a father teaching you. [Abu Dawud]

Likewise, an attribute of a cohesive society are positive interactions in work environments, as a way of serving their countries so that collectively they can increase in their cohesion and mercy, and be like one body. O Allah, please sustain our interdependence and strengthen our cohesion.

I say this and seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most-forgiving.

Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, the One, and may peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and companions, and whomsoever follows them in the best of ways.

O Worshippers: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادُّهِمْ وَتَرَاحِمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ مَثَلُ الْجَسَدِ إِذَا
اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهْرِ وَالْحَمَى

The similitude of believers in regard to their mutual love, affection, fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches because of sleeplessness and fever. [Bukhari and Muslim]

So, the members of an interconnected society are all included as one society, and their interests are united even if they appear separate and different. Every individual in it always strives to strengthen the cohesion of society and to consolidate its values and principles. They demonstrate awareness of the future, aspiring to elevate their homelands through implementation of ten principles launched by the country's leadership. This vision serves as a vision and roadmap to enable a cohesive and interconnected society, one certain that having a unified vision is from the most important factors in achieving our goals.

And with this we ask You Allah that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and 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, his companions, all of them.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates. and guide them to all that is good and what pleases You. O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and

the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on those martyred for Your sake, and grant their families with patience and a great reward.

And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us. Please continue sending Your blessings and bounties upon this nation the UAE, and upon all the Muslims and the entire Ummah wheresoever they may be. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings upon us and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah: aid us, help us, and bless 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. Believers, 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. So, stand up for prayer.