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الهيئة العامة للشؤون الإسلامية والأوقاف

A Character that is beloved to Allah and His Messenger

All praises are due to Allah Who has prepared for His slaves the means of love. Who has made desirous to them praiseworthy character and who has decreed that the reward for someone who possesses it – is entrance into Paradise itself. And I bear witness that our Leader and Sayyid, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), is the perfect example of servanthood unto Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe. O Allah send your peace and blessings upon him and upon his family and companions all of them, and upon whoever follows them in the best of ways until the Last Day. I advise You and myself to embody a consciousness of Allah, for He says:

فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ

Indeed, Allah loves those who fear Him. [Qur'an: ٣:٧٦]

O Believers: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to a man from his companions:

"You possess two qualities that Allah loves. These are forbearance and restraint." [Sahih Muslim]

In this noble Hadith, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) praised one of his companions for the fact that he was characterized with two great attributes. The first was the attribute of forbearance (hilm), which is an attribute from the attributes of Allah, as He says:

وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ حَلِيمٌ

And know that Allah is Forgiving and Forbearing.

[Qur'an: ٢:٢٣٥]

Hilm, which could be translated as forbearance, is from the character of the Prophets. Indeed, Allah has praised His Prophet, Ibrahim (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), with this character, when He said:

إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَلِيمٌ أَوَّاهٌ مُنِيبٌ

Indeed, Abraham was forbearing, grieving and [frequently] returning [to Allah]. [Qur'an: ١١:٧٥]

Likewise our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was an example of forbearance, a model of how to deal with others in the way that is best. This was because his forbearance would always overcome and supersede his anger. In fact whenever someone would display harshness that was usually due to ignorance then the more such harshness would be displayed, the greater his forbearance would become. So, forbearance is one of the greatest attributes of character and whoever is adorned with it, has achieved much good, his affair will be praised, with his rank becoming high. For this reason, it has been singled out and praised by the intelligent, and sought by the wise, as one of the poets said:

"My Lord, grant me from Yourself forbearance as an aid,
For I see that with forbearance in life, no regret is made."

As for the second attribute of restraint, then it means the wise ability to take a long-term view in seeing how things

will eventually end up. It is the ability to delay things without being hasty and is a sign of a mature and sound intellect, and a firmness of heart and resolve. It is amongst the best states to possess in this temporal world of fleeting desires, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

التَّوَدُّةُ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَيْرٌ، إِلَّا فِي أَمْرِ الْآخِرَةِ

Restraint in everything is good, except in the matter [of actions] of the hereafter. [Abu Dawud]

So it is indeed a tremendous thing for a person to be characterized with the attributes of forbearance and restraint. These attributes if possessed should ideally first become evident in our most intimate relations with our family, starting with our wives and our children. They should be evident to our neighbours, our work colleagues, our friends, and should be manifest in all the affairs of our lives. In the ultimate sense, the one who possess these attributes attains unto the greatest of reward – that of the love of Allah and His Messenger. This is the ultimate success, for whoever attains unto this attains unto bliss in this world and the hereafter. O Allah enrich us through knowledge and adorn us with forebearance, honour us with Taqwa, the consciousnessness of You, and beautify us with true well-being.

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

The Second Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, the One, and peace and

blessings upon the Prophet after whom there is no other, and upon his companions and those that follow him in guidance.

Slaves of Allah: Amongst other key attributes that Allah and His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) love are the adorning of sincerity in our words and deeds, to be faithful wherein one ensures that one fulfills their trusts, and to do good to one's neighbours. For the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is

reported to have said: **مَنْ أَحَبَّ أَنْ يُحِبَّهُ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ؛ فَلْيَصْدُقْ**

الْحَدِيثَ، وَيُؤَدِّ الْأَمَانَةَ، وَلَا يُؤْذِ جَارَهُ

Whosoever loves that Allah and His Messenger love them, then let him be true of speech, fulfill his trusts, and not harm his neighbour. [Shuayb al-Iman]

If we reflect upon these attributes and think about what makes them so special such that they are loved by Allah and His Messenger, we will see that these traits help plant love and affection into the hearts of people, and strengthen the bonds and ties that they have amongst themselves.

These are traits of being, being able to be part of the solution wherever we are, to be assets to our communities and wider society. So let's get to work. Let us start by embedding these attributes in our hearts first and foremost, then reflecting them to our near and dear ones, we can hope that they take on these attributes from our example. We especially want to reflect them in front of our children, for children absorb their characters, especially when young, by copying their parents. May Allah aid us all in this mighty task.

And with this, let us send our prayers and blessings upon our master, our Prophet, Muhammad. May Allah send His peace and blessings upon him, upon his family, his companions, all of them. O Allah increase us in Your love, and in love for whomsoever You love, and love for deeds, actions and traits that will allow us to attain unto Your special love. And guide us to the best and most beautiful of character. No one can guide us to this except You. We also ask You for good health for ourselves and our loved ones, and that You give us all true well-being.

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 the martyrs, 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. And continue perpetuating blessings and bounties upon the UAE. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah, bless us, bless us, bless us. O Allah: Give us in this life that which is beautiful and in the next life that which is beautiful, and save us from the fire. Stand up for prayer.