

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ...
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِنَّ أَشَدَّ النَّاسِ عَذَابًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، أَشَدُّهُمْ عَذَابًا لِلنَّاسِ
فِي الدُّنْيَا.

THE REMEDY FOR VIOLENCE: CULTIVATION OF MERCY

Honorable Muslims!

Human is the most precious being upon the Earth. They are deserving of every form of respect. The life of every human being, without distinction of woman, man, or child, or elder or infant, is sacred and inviolable. Therefore, regardless of who perpetrates it, who is subjected to it, or what justification is given, no form of violence can ever be accepted. Whether within the family, in social life, or on digital platforms, no one may be harmed through words, attitudes, or behaviors, and no one's honor or dignity may be violated. Our Prophet (saw) has defined the true Muslim thus: **"The Muslim is the one from whose hand and tongue people are safe."**¹

Dear Believers!

We are going through a time in which violence has become commonplace, peer bullying is growing more widespread each day, people consider it a virtue to share their conflicts with one another on social media, and the safety of life and property is disregarded in the streets, on public transportation, and in traffic. Addictions such as alcohol, gambling, and narcotic substances, digital games that incite wrongdoing, and screens polluted with harmful role models are unfortunately contributing to the increasing spread of violence day by day. Yet violence can never solve any problem. On the contrary, it extinguishes love, isolates individuals, and corrupts society. Indeed, throughout the blessed life of our beloved Prophet (saw), whose Ummah we are profoundly honored to belong to, not the slightest trace of violence is to be found. He declared: **"On the Day of Resurrection, those who shall suffer the most severe torment are the ones who, in this world, inflicted violence upon others."**², thereby making plain that neither violence nor oppression shall ever go unrequited.

Esteemed Muslims!

The remedy for violence is the cultivation of mercy. Children, who are entrusted to us as a sacred trust from Allah, first learn faith, goodness, compassion, love, and respect within the bosom of the family. In this regard, every parent who takes as their guide the Qur'anic command, **"Invite 'all' to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and kind advice..."**³, should touch the hearts of their children, show them tenderness, and strive to raise them as devout servants of Allah and as individuals who bring benefit to those around them. For a child, one of the most important figures in the journey of knowledge and wisdom is the teacher. Our Prophet (saw) has granted glad tidings to those who undertake the sacred duty of education and teaching: **"The one who imparts knowledge will be rewarded to the same extent as those who act upon the knowledge they have been taught..."**⁴ For every teacher who serves as a role model to their students through their character and manners, compassion and mercy, is a guarantor of virtue and excellence within society.

Dear Believers!

To keep the shadow of violence away from our lives, let us establish love in our hearts and make compassion prevail in our homes and schools. Let us extinguish the sparks of anger that fall into our hearts with the rains of mercy. Let us sow the seeds of love, respect, understanding, and sharing in the hearts of our children. Let us not forget that a beautiful word engraved upon a child's mind, and the mercy and affection gently planted in their heart, become a sapling raised for tomorrow's world of peace.

On this occasion, we remember with gratitude our parents, teachers, hodjas, and Qur'an instructors who have guided us in the education of compassion. I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following warning from the Messenger of Allah (saw): **"Allah shows no mercy to the one who shows no mercy to others."**⁵

¹ Tirmidhi, Iman, 12; Ibn Hanbal, VI, 22.

² Ibn Hanbal, IV, 90.

³ Nahl, 16/125.

⁴ Ibn Majah, Sunnah, 20.

⁵ Bukhari, Tawhid, 2.

