



...وَمَنْ أَوْفَى بِمَا عَاهَدَ عَلَيْهِ اللَّهُ فَسَيُؤْتِيهِ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِنَّ حُسْنَ الْعَهْدِ مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ.

LOYALTY COMES FROM FAITH

Honorable Muslims!

One of the virtues that leads a person to the pleasure of Allah and grants happiness in this world is loyalty. Loyalty is a sign of love, respect, fidelity, and selflessness. It is keeping one's word and responding to goodness with goodness. It is not forgetting those who lift you when you fall, rejoice with you in your happiness, and wipe away your tears in times of sorrow. Loyalty is standing by love rather than self-interest, by forgiveness rather than hatred, by justice rather than oppression; it is to embrace the ethics and laws of brotherhood.

Dear Believers!

The highest form of loyalty is remaining true to the promise we made to the Almighty Allah in the pre-eternal covenant and worshipping Him faithfully throughout our lives. It is to obey Allah the Almighty's commands, show gratitude for His blessings, and meet trials with patience, to attain the glad tidings, "...**Whoever fulfills their pledge to Allah, He will grant them a great reward.**"¹ It is to bring peace to our hearts through faith, to our minds through knowledge, to our hearts through remembrance of Allah, to our souls through repentance, and to our lives through the Qur'an.

Esteemed Muslims!

After loyalty to the Almighty Allah, the most precious is loyalty shown to our Prophet (saw). As stated in the verse, "**There certainly has come to you a messenger from among yourselves. He is concerned by your suffering, anxious for your well-being, and gracious and merciful to the believers.**"², faith in the Messenger of Allah (saw), who cares deeply for us as his ummah, and love for him and his Ahl al-Bayt are the obligations of our loyalty. To follow his Sunnah, uphold the cause of truth and justice, and recite salawat whenever his blessed name is mentioned constitutes our debt of loyalty to our Prophet (saw).

Dear Muslims!

Loyalty also means showing fidelity to our family, respect to our elders, and compassion to our children. Sometimes loyalty is offering a remedy to a brother's hardship and hope to their loved ones through blood donation or organ donation. Sometimes it is planting a sapling and bringing it together with the soil.

Moreover, upholding firmly our civilization and culture that spring from Islam, and safeguarding our national and spiritual values, is also an expression of loyalty. Honoring with gratitude our great martyrs who made our heavenly land a homeland, our heroic veterans who have passed to the Hereafter, and all our deceased ones is a debt of loyalty we owe to our ancestors.

Dear Believers!

In a transient world where loyalty is waning and ingratitude is rife, upholding loyalty is a requirement of our faith, as indicated in the hadith: "**Showing true loyalty in keeping a promise is part of one's faith.**"³ Today, let us take a moment to reflect upon our own loyalty. Have we fulfilled our duty of gratitude for the countless blessings bestowed upon us by our Almighty Lord? Have we become good people who touch the hearts of our parents, spouses, children, relatives, and neighbors? Have we, as a debt of loyalty to the society we live in, reached out to comfort the motherless and the fatherless? Have we been able to soothe the suffering of the sick or the helpless, and come to the aid of those in need? Have we alleviated the loneliness of the elderly, or made life easier for a disabled brother or sister?

Right, Dear Brothers and Sisters! In the hope that we may answer these questions affirmatively as human beings, I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following hadith of our Prophet (saw): "**The faith of one who honors trusts is perfected, and the religion of one who fulfills promises reaches completion.**"⁴

¹ Fath, 48/10.

² Tawbah, 9/128.

³ Hakim, Mustadrak, II, 20. (1/16).

⁴ Ibn Hanbal, III, 134.

