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Reflections on the Farewell Sermon

In the grand narrative of human history, there are moments that transcend time, their echoes lingering in the hearts and minds of successive generations. The Farewell Sermon of Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, delivered on the sacred plains of Arafat, stands as one such moment—a beacon illuminating the path of righteousness, justice, and unity for all of humanity.

It was the 9th day of Dhul Hijjah in the 10th year of the Hijrah. A vast assembly of 140,000 companions gathered, their hearts beating in harmony, their souls eager to embrace the words of their beloved Messenger. What followed was not merely a speech, nor a fleeting directive for his contemporaries, but a timeless charter of human dignity and divine guidance.

A Testament to Humanity's Core Values

As the Prophet addressed the congregation, his words were more than commandments—they were the pillars upon which the foundation of a just and ethical society was laid. "Your lives, your properties, and your honour are sacred to one another, like the sanctity of this day of yours, in this month of yours, in this land of yours," he declared.

This declaration was not limited to the Muslims present; it was a universal affirmation that every human life holds

intrinsic worth, that no person has the right to violate another's honour or possessions. In a time when the world is plagued with injustice, violence, and moral degradation, this message serves as an urgent reminder of our collective duty to uphold the sanctity of life and dignity. It challenges the destructive forces of greed, oppression, and discrimination that continue to threaten human harmony.

Dismantling the Shackles of Oppression

The Prophet's sermon shattered the remnants of the pre-Islamic era known as Jahiliyyah—a time marked by tribal feuds, economic exploitation, and social corruption. "All matters of the Days of Ignorance are abolished under my feet," he proclaimed, thus signalling a new dawn of enlightenment and justice.

Central to this reform was the abolition of blood feuds and the practice of usury (riba), both of which had long perpetuated cycles of vengeance and oppression. The courage to break free from harmful traditions—no matter how deeply ingrained—is one of the most transformative lessons of this sermon. In an age where exploitation persists, where economic disparities widen, and where systemic injustices continue unchecked, the Prophet's call to abandon unjust practices urges us to reflect on our own societal structures and strive for a more equitable world.

Elevating the Status of Women

Among the most groundbreaking aspects of the sermon was its emphasis on the dignity and rights of women. "Fear Allah concerning women!" the Prophet declared. "Verily, you have taken them as a trust from Allah."

In a world where patriarchal systems have historically marginalised women, these words were—and remain—revolutionary. Islam granted women honour, autonomy, and the right to be treated with fairness and compassion. It challenged the status quo of its time, and it continues to challenge modern societies where gender inequality persists in various forms. The Prophet's words serve as an enduring call to action: a reminder that the true measure of a society's righteousness lies in how it treats its most vulnerable.

The Unifying Power of Brotherhood

"O people! Your Lord is one, and your father is one," the Prophet declared. "All of you are from Adam, and Adam is from dust."

This statement dismantled the artificial hierarchies of race and ethnicity that had fuelled discrimination. He unequivocally proclaimed that no person—whether Arab or non-Arab, white or black—held superiority over another except by righteousness.

In a time when division threatens to tear humanity apart, when racism festers in hidden and overt forms, the Prophet's words remain a radical call for unity. They compel us to reject supremacist ideologies, to foster genuine brotherhood, and to judge one another based on character rather than superficial differences.

A Legacy of Divine Guidance

As the sermon neared its conclusion, the Prophet left his people with a final, unwavering directive: "I have left among you

that which, if you hold fast to it, you will never go astray: the Book of Allah and my Sunnah."

This was not a mere farewell—it was an eternal promise. The Qur'an and Sunnah are the unerring guides that lead humanity to justice, mercy, and wisdom. They provide solutions to every challenge, offering light when darkness threatens to consume.

As believers, we are entrusted with this divine heritage. The question that remains is whether we truly hold fast to it. Do we embody its teachings in our interactions, our governance, our relationships? Are we upholding the principles of equity and kindness in our own lives? The Farewell Sermon places before us a challenge—to be the torchbearers of truth, justice, and compassion.

The Unending Echo

The Farewell Sermon was not merely the Prophet's last public address—it was his final gift to humanity, a blueprint for righteousness that transcends centuries. Its words remain as relevant today as they were on that sacred day in Arafat.

As we reflect on its message, we find that the call to justice, unity, and moral integrity is louder than ever. In a world riddled with corruption, inequality, and conflict, these divine principles offer a roadmap to healing. They remind us that dignity is inherent, that righteousness is the only true measure of superiority, and that peace is possible when we align ourselves with divine wisdom.

The echoes of that sermon continue to reverberate, awaiting hearts willing to listen, minds willing to act, and souls willing to transform.

May you have a truly blessed Eid, filled with joy, peace, and countless moments of reflection. May He shower you with His infinite mercy and guide you towards prosperity in both this world and the next.