

SPEECH NO.9**TOPIC: MANTAINING THE TIES OF KINSHIP****INTRODUCTION:**

All praise is due to Allah –The Almighty, The All Gracious. We praise Him, we seek His Guidance and ask for His Forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of our own souls and bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, none can lead him astray and whoever Allah leaves astray, no one can guide him to the straight path besides Allah. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone without any associates and I bear witness that Muhammad is the slave and messenger of Allah. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and all his family members and companions. Amen.

O you who have believed! Fear Allah as he should be feared and do not die except as Muslims (in the state of full submission to Him). (Chapter 3 verse 102).

Part 1 of the speech:

Dear Believers! The goal of Islam is to build a society where individuals have sympathy, love and mercy for each other and where true brotherhood, goodness and kindness towards others permeates the whole society.

The family as the basic unit of society attains happiness through being conscious of Allah-The All Glorious and through the fulfilment of the rights of close relatives. Islam took extra care to strengthen its foundations. Indeed, Allah’s command to fulfil the rights of close relatives came just after the command to worship Allah alone and to be kind and dutiful to parents. In Chapter 4 verse 36 of the Holy Qurán: Allah –The Almighty says: **“Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbour, the neighbour farther away, the companion at your side, the traveller and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful.”**

The duty of fulfilling the rights of kinship was compared to the duty of worshipping Allah-The All Glorious alone, performing the obligatory prayers and giving the poor-due (Zakat). According to a tradition related by Abu Ayyub al Ansari, a man came to the prophet Muhammad and said: “Tell me of a good deed

that will cause me to enter the Paradise?” The Prophet (pbuh) then replied: “You worship Allah and do not associate anything with Him, establish the obligatory prayers, give the poor-due and maintain the ties of kinship.” Agreed Upon.

Other nations before us were also commanded to maintain the ties of kinship as mentioned in the Holy Qurán: “And recall when We took the covenant from the children of Israel (enjoining them), “Do not worship except Allah; And to parents do good and to relatives, orphans, and the needy. And speak to people good (words) and establish the prayer and give the poor-due(zakat). Then you turned away except a few of you and you were refusing.”

Our prophet Muhammad(pbuh) also commanded Muslims to keep the ties of kinship and fulfil its obligations especially during the early phase of his prophetic mission in Makkah and Medina. Amru Ibn Abasa said I went to Makkah during the early days of the prophetic Mission and entered upon the prophet Muhammad and asked him: “ Who are you? He (pbuh) said: “I am a prophet”. So I asked him: “And who is a prophet?” He replied: “Allah has sent me.” So I said: “What did Allah send you with?” He replied: “fulfilling the ties of kinship, destruction of Idols and that Allah alone should be worshipped.” Related by Al-Hakim.

The Roman Byzantine Emperor Hercules asked Abu Sufyan ibn Al-Haritha about the prophet Muhammad (pbuh), what does he command you to do? He (Abu Sufyan) replied: “He(pbuh) commands us to worship Allah alone without associating partners with Him, to establish regular prayers, to be truthful and chaste and to fulfil the ties of kinship.” Agreed upon.

The prophet Muhammad(pbuh) commanded the Muslims in Medina to do the same when he first emigrated to Medina in 622 C.E. Abdullah Ibn Salaam (May Allah be pleased with him) related that when the prophet arrived at Medina, the people all flocked towards him. The first message that I heard him convey in his speech was: He said: “O people! Spread the peace greetings among yourselves, feed the hungry and the needy, fulfil the duties of kinship, pray at night when people are all asleep and you will enter paradise peacefully.” Related by Imam At-Tirmidhi and Imam ibn Majah. This was also the advice the prophet(pbuh) gave to Abu Dhār (May Allah be pleased with him)- a close companion of the prophet Muhammad. Abu Dhār related that “My beloved friend (Prophet Muhammad)

advised me to fulfil the duties of kinship even if it was descending downwards.”
Related by Imam At-Tabarani.

Keeping the ties of kinship and fulfilling the rights of the close relatives is a sign of faith. The prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: “Whoever believes in Allah and the last day, let him keep the ties of kinship.” Agreed upon.

Allah-The Almighty has criticized and blamed the Quraysh polytheists for severing the ties of kinship in the Holy Qurán:

“They do not observe toward a believer any pact of kinship or covenant of protection. And it is they that are the transgressors.” (Chapter 9 verse 10).

Allah-The Almighty and the Most Glorious- created the womb and derived its name from His own name and promised to connect to Him whoever fulfils the uterine ties of kinship and disconnect from Him whoever severs the uterine ties of kinship. Whoever is connected to Allah is connected to all goodness and no one can cut him off. On the other hand, whoever is cut off by Allah-The Almighty-will never be happy in his life and will live in misery and sadness.

Allah –The All Glorious says in the Holy Qurán: (Chapter 22 verse 18):

“And he whom Allah humiliates-for him there is no bestower of honour. Indeed, Allah does what He wills. ”

The prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: Allah-The Almighty said to the womb; “Will you not be content that I connect whoever connects you and I cut off whoever cuts you off?” The womb replied: Yes. Allah said: “ So be it.” Agreed upon. In a famous tradition related by Imam Muslim, the prophet (pbuh) said: “The womb is hanging from the throne of Allah saying: “Whoever connects me, (i.e. maintaining the ties of kinship) Allah will connect them (i.e. Bless them with goodness, long life and His mercy) and whoever cuts me off, Allah will cut them off.” (i.e. Allah will cut them off from His mercy and goodness and blessings).”

Keeping the ties of kinship with relatives helps to ward off misfortunes and disasters that might befall the person by Allah’s permission. When the first five verses of the Holy Qur’an were revealed to the prophet (pbuh), he rushed home to his wife Khadijah while shivering from fear and said to her; “cover me, cover me.” When he calmed down, he informed her of what had happened in the cave

and commented: "I was afraid for myself that something bad had happened to me."

She said to him: "No, I swear by Allah! Allah will never humiliate you! You unite the uterine ties, you support the needy and the destitute and you entertain the guest." Related by Imam Al Bukhari.

Dear Muslims! Dear Believers! Our close relatives have a priority to money donated in charity over the orphans, the poor, the needy and the wayfarer. Allah –the Almighty and all Glorious says in the Holy Qur'an: (Chapter 2 verse215):

"They ask you (O Muhammad) what they should spend. Say, whatever you spend of good is (to be) for parents, relatives, orphans, the needy and the traveller. And whatever you do of good-indeed Allah is knowing of it."

Generosity towards close relatives and kin is doubly rewarded. The prophet(pbuh) said: "charity given to a poor person is rewarded as charity and charity given to a close relative is rewarded as both charity and uniting the ties of kinship." Related by Imam At-Tirmidhi.

The people who best deserve your charity are your close relatives who are in need. It is related that Abu Talha- companion of the prophet (May Allah be pleased with him), donated a garden that he owned to the prophet to dispose it as he saw fit. The prophet Muhammad(pbuh) told him: "I think that it is better that you divide it among your needy relatives." So Abu Talha divided it among his close relatives as per the advice of the prophet(pbuh). Agreed upon.

It is also related that Ali ibn Abi Talib (The cousin of the prophet), (May Allah honour his face) said: "That I spend one dirham as charity on my close relative is more beloved to me than I spend 20 dirhams in charity on non-relatives.

Dear Muslims! Fulfilling the duties of maintaining the ties of kinship leads to love of our spouses, increase in sustenance, blessings in our time, lives and wealth. Our beloved prophet(pbuh) said: "Fulfilling the ties of kinship will lead to love of our spouses, increase of our wealth and a prolonged life." Related by Imam Ahmed. In another similar tradition related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim, the prophet(pbuh) said: "Whoever loves that his sustenance is increased and that his life is prolonged, let him keep (maintain) the ties of kinship."

Ibn Ateen said: “The keeping of good ties with close relatives is a cause for achieving success, obedience, protection from sins and after his death he will be remembered in a good way as if he didn’t die.”

Dear Believers! Our close relatives are not perfect in their behaviour or character. They commit mistakes and fall into error or sins. They may also show ingratitude or rudeness. Therefore, if any such misbehaviour occurs from them, forgive and pardon them as this is the quality of the good doers. Allah-The All Glorious will increase the rank of the person who forgives and pardons others. You should reciprocate the evil they do to you with goodness and accept their apologies if they make any mistakes or wrong you. For the brothers of prophet Joseph(Yusuf) did to him what they did to him yet when they confessed their sin and apologised, he accepted their apology and forgave them without blaming them. He(pbuh) even prayed to Allah to forgive them. We read in the Holy Qur’an (Chapter 12 verse 92):

“ He said, “No blame will there be upon you today. May Allah forgive you and He is the Most merciful of the merciful.”

Therefore, we should ignore the lapses, forgive the slips, and overlook the pitfalls of the close relatives and we will reap the rewards of their love, brotherhood, softness and mildness in dealings and the purity of self. We will also attain the virtue of magnanimity and loyalty.

Always maintain good ties with your close relatives even if they cut you off and be the first to forgive even if they were the ones who wronged you. Be good to them even if they don’t treat you well.

STOP holding your relatives to account for every mistake they do and do not let your criticism of them lead to cutting off the relations with them. Be generous in giving and avoid stinginess as it is one of the reasons for cutting off ties with relatives. The prophet (pbuh) said: “Beware of stinginess as it destroyed those before you. It commanded them to become miserly and they did so. It also commanded them to commit aggression and they did so. It also commanded them to cut off ties of kinship and they did so. ” Agreed upon.

The prophet Muhammad(pbuh) said: “The person who connects his uterine ties is not the one who reciprocates. If a relative visits him, he also visits them. If a

relative brings him a gift, he will also do the same for them and so forth. However, the person who connects the uterine ties is the one who when the relatives cuts him off, he maintains the ties with them.” Related by Imam Al-Bukhari.

Allah-the Most Glorious-says in the Holy Qurán in chapter 8 verse 75: “And those who believed after (the initial emigration) and emigrated and fought alongside with you, they are one of you. But those of (blood) relationship are more entitled (to inheritance) in the decree of Allah. Indeed, Allah is Knowing of all things.”

May Allah-The Almighty continue to bless us with the teachings of the Holy Qurán and enlighten us with its wonderful verses, knowledge, wisdom and beautiful exhortations. I say this and seek Allah’s forgiveness for all of us and for all the Muslims from our sins so ask for His forgiveness for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Part 2 of the speech:

All praise is due to Allah for His generosity and All thanks is due to Allah for His guidance and countless blessings. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and all his family members and all his companions.

Dear Muslims! O Believers!

The bond of Muslims becomes stronger due to fulfilling the duties of kinship. Your close relative does not get bored or tired of you due to your proximity to them nor do they forget you due to your distance from them. Their glory is your glory and their humiliation is your humiliation. Enmity among relatives is a great evil and trial. There is no winner in this battle as all end up as losers.

Dear Believers! The severing of ties of kinship is a great sin and the one who does this is cursed by Allah-The Almighty. Allah has also promised such a person a severe torment in the Hell-Fire in the hereafter. In chapter 47 verses 22-23 of the Holy Qurán, Allah-The Most Glorious says:

“So would you perhaps, if you turned away, cause corruption on earth and sever your (ties of) kinship? Those who do so are the ones that Allah has cursed. So He deafened them and blinded their vision.”

Plotting against one's relatives could lead to the removal of Allah's blessings and an evil end to that individual. In fact, such a person might be punished in this world prior to the punishment in the hereafter. The prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: "The one who severs the ties of kinship with his relatives will not enter the paradise." Related by Imam Al-Bukhari.

The prophet (pbuh) also said: "There is no sin or crime which is more likely to bring forth the punishment of Allah upon his slave in this world prior to the punishment that Allah has stored for that individual in the hereafter than aggression and the severing of ties of kinship." Related by Imam At-Tirmidhi.

Imam Ibn Hajar said: "The person who severs the ties of kinship is cut off from the mercy of Allah."

Dear Believers! Having good manners and behaviour will affect the ties of kinship greatly. Therefore, keep your ties of kinship with good manners and behaviour and guard your tongue as whoever guards their tongues will have an easy life and less problems.

Finally, gifts can have a great impact in creating love and affection among relatives and removing grudges or hatred. Therefore, speak nicely and respectfully to your close relatives and be good to them by helping them with some of their needs and bestow upon them gifts regularly as per your ability and the special occasions that come up. In this way you will have attained eloquence of speech, the fruits of goodness and kind treatment of relatives.

Allah –The Most Glorious has commanded you to send salutations of peace and blessings upon His prophet as mentioned in the Holy Qurán:

"Allah and His Angels send salutations of peace on the prophet. O you who believe send salutations of peace and blessings on the prophet"

O Allah! Exalt the mention of Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you exalted the mention of Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim. You are the Praised and Most Glorious. O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you have blessed Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim. You are Praised and Most Glorious.