

## Khutbah Contest Winners



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَخَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ  
وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
... وَالَّذِي تَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ بَيْنَهُ لِحُرْمَةِ الْمُؤْمِنِ أَعْظَمُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ حُرْمَةً مِنْكَ ...

### **SUPERIORITY IS ONLY IN PIETY AND SUBMISSION!**

#### **Dear brothers!**

God Almighty commands in the verse I recited from Sura al-Isra: "We have honored the children of Adam (with many distinctions): We have sustained their traveling on the land and the sea, and provided for them (their sustenance) out of pure, wholesome things, and preferred them with particular preferment above many of those whom We have created." (1)

The Prophet (pbuh) was circumambulating the Kaaba, and he turned toward the Kaaba and said:

"O the Kaaba! How beautiful you are. How good you smell. I admire your majesty and sanctity. But I swear by God that a believer is more dignified than you in the eyes of God." (2)

#### **Dear brothers!**

People are entitled to the same rights by nature. We, as human beings, all come from the same parents. When we look around, we see people with diverse colors and appearances. All of them come from the same essence as a work of God: from Adam and Eve.

We are equal in the eyes of God like the teeth of a comb. Rich or poor and black or white, people are the same in the eyes of God. Our difference can be attributable only to our behaviors toward the Creator.

Islam abolished artificial measures of supremacy in human relations. Islam recognizes no supremacy based on race, lineage or color. Rather, knowledge and piety (taqwa) is promoted as the sole measure of superiority. No other criterion is acceptable to God.

In this regard, the Messenger of God (pbuh) said:

**"Those whom Allah value most are the one who fear Allah most. No Arab holds greater esteem over a non-Arab; nor a non-Arab person over an Arab person. No person with a black skin has greater esteem over a person with white skin; nor a person with white skin over a person with black skin. Superiority is only in piety and submission." (3)**

In another hadith, he said:

**"Anyone who champions racism is not one of us. Anyone who fights for any racist cause is not one of us. Anyone who dies for any racist cause is not one of us (Muslims)." (4)**

**Dear brothers!**

Self-awareness of individual responsibilities is one of the rules of collective life. Every person is responsible for his/her own actions. Believers are responsible both for the entire humanity and their sisters and brothers in faith. Accordingly, they are responsible for preventing injustice around the world, contributing to the implementation of freedom of religion and conscience and fundamental rights and freedoms, and, in addition, for resolving the disputes among believers in an equitable manner and lending support to the right against the unfair.

**Dear brothers!**

Life, property, honor and dignity of every human being is sacred and inviolable in our religion. After migrating to Medina, our Prophet (pbuh) signed an agreement with non-Muslims, which is referred to as the Charter of Medina. With this agreement, our Prophet showed how diverse religions and cultures can coexist peacefully. Thus, he laid the moral and legal foundations of peace and coexistence among diverse religions and cultures, which is referred to as *ulfah* (harmony) in the Qur'an as God's blessing for humanity.

In this context, Muslims I fear only Allah. They adopt a compassionate approach to all creatures with principle of "loving the creatures, due to the Creator." They love their sisters and brothers in the name of God, and they share their problems and joys. They want for their sisters and brothers what they want for themselves. Muslims do not harm other people physically or with their words. They do not reprove or despise their sisters or brothers. They do not treat them unfairly; they do not support injustice. They protect them to death and give them safe haven. They try to help them in all states.

**Dear brothers!**

The Prophet (pbuh) said: "People are the children of Adam, and Adam is created from soil."  
(5)

We, as the sisters and brothers from the same parents, have to come together and promote tolerance instead of otherification and coexistence instead of division. Therefore, we should be exemplary manner with our acts and attitudes in the family and society. Let us work toward the promotion of brotherhood, friendship, fairness, justice, compassion, clemency, morality and virtue in this geography. In this way, let us build civilizations once again with knowledge and wisdom. I would like to end my sermon with a hadith from the Prophet (pbuh).

"The Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand the Muslims are safe. Whereas the believer is the one who is trusted with the lives and wealth of the people." (6)

1. Isra, 17: 70.
2. Ibn Majah, Fitan, 2.
3. Jam'u Al-Fawaid, 1: 510.
4. Muslim, Iman, 53, 57
5. Tirmidhi, Manakib, 74, Abu Dawud, Adab, 111
6. Nesai, Iman, 9.