

## COMMUNITY

Friday Khutbah (1/2/2008) delivered by Shaykh Muhammad Taher

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God

Oh Muslim<sup>1</sup>: If I pause to consider and reflect upon the teachings of Islam with you, we will find that within it is the basis for the building of society – that basis for society is brotherhood - a brotherhood which should extend beyond the narrow meaning of the family to the great meaning of - how we address and how we respond to each other as one family in submission to its Lord.

You will find that the teachings of Islam<sup>2</sup> encourage you to mix and live with your fellow Muslims in good times and also the bad times.

Dear Muslim, think how God the Almighty described the Muslim community as “like a seed-produce which puts up a shoot, then it grows and thickens, so it becomes stout and stands firmly on its stem“ [Al Fath 48:29]

What we often hear described as humanitarian law is simply the cooperation between members of the society and for that society to be in submission to God, it is a requirement upon it to cooperate bring benefit and prevent harm for the whole community.

All humans should learn how to live together, a Muslim should tend to his Muslim brother even if they have different views and ideas. In fact, all humans were created different and every one of them has gaps that can only be filled by having the support and cooperation of the people around them. Some wise people said: “men are like trees, they drink the same water, and they produce a different fruit!”

And you oh Muslim<sup>1</sup>; if you are living here or staying for a short time to study -you are still a part of this small community that is cooperating to respond to the favours of God. Everything that matters to this community should matter you, you should become happy for their happiness, sad for their sadness, so be hand in hand with your fellow Muslims<sup>1</sup> in this community so hearts become combined and ideas become united to achieve the successes needed for every bit of work and hope. Oh brothers and sisters, you are listed as a member of this community which needs you so be an effective element

“And obey God and His messenger, and do not dispute among yourselves, lest you lose heart and your momentum leaves you. But steadfastly persevere. God is with those who steadfastly persevere.” [al Anfal 8:46]

Work for the benefit of your community, try your best to bring goodness and prevent harm. Make sure that you leave a good trace of wherever you have been and leave a useful mark of achievement which others can benefit from. To do this, you have to get in touch with and maintain regular contact with your fellow Muslims<sup>1</sup>, provide your advice when needed and suggest your thoughts for

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<sup>1</sup> literally servant of God i.e. one who submits to God

<sup>2</sup> literally submission or servitude to God

public benefit. To build requires a focal point and there is no place better than the places of prostration to God (mosques) to be this for you.

Oh Muslims<sup>1</sup>, know that God's support is with the community (rather than distinct and separate individuals and groups). There is no example better than the example of prophet (pbuh) who despite his status as prophet he participated with his companions and helped them. He (pbuh) participated in digging the trench, he was digging while wrapping his stomach with a stone to prevent himself from hunger. He also helped them in building his mosque while repeating "oh God, there is no good but the good of the hereafter so forgive the ansar<sup>3</sup> [helpers] and the muhajreen<sup>4</sup>" as Anas bin Malik narrated. (Al Bukhari, Muslim, an-Nisaei)

Abu Hurairah also narrated that prophet (pbuh) said "God will continue to help the servant as long as the servant is helping his brother"

and "You find the Muslims in their mutual love and compassion, like one body, should any organ of it fall ill, the rest of the body will share in the fever and sleeplessness that ensues". (Al-Bukhari)

God almighty ordered us to

"help one another in goodness and piety, and do not help one another in sin and aggression"  
[Al Maida 5:2]

"Indeed the believers are brothers, therefore make peace between your brothers and be careful of (your duty to) God so that hopefully you will gain mercy." [al Hujurat 49:10]

"And hold fast by the covenant of God all together and be not disunited [do not separate], and remember God's favour to you when you were enemies, then He joined your hearts together so you became brothers by His favour" [al Imran 3:103]

The message of our religion and the spirit of submission to God is to call for a united community that is focussed upon cooperating to do good.

"And (as for) the believing men and the believing women, they are cherishers (awliya) of one another; they direct to good and forbid evil and keep up prayer and pay the Zakah (poor-rate), and obey God and His Messenger; those are the people on whom God will have mercy; God is Mighty, Wise" [at Tawba 9:71]

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<sup>3</sup> literally helpers - those who helped the prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the emigrants when they sought asylum from persecution from the people in Makkah

<sup>4</sup> literally emigrants – those who were persecuted in Makkah but rather than act in revenge, left their homes and belongings so that they could be free to practice their faith