

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ذِي الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ، أَوْصَانَا بِحُسْنِ الْقَوْلِ، وَخَيْرِ الْكَلَامِ، وَأَشْهَدُ
أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ وَالْعَمَلُ
الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ
عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ
إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah, the Possessor of Glory and Honour. He ordains us to speak in kindness and use the best of words. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. To Him ascends good speech, and righteous works.

I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his pure blessed family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

- Information can make or break, honour/dishonour, fame/defame, the content and its presentation are both crucial.
- The Prophet ﷺ was not spared by false information or defamation, neither his wife Sayyidah Aisha. However, we must **Put Difficulties And Challenges In Context**. Know that we are not the first to encounter soul-shaking trials, nor are we likely to be the last. Faith always comes hand in hand with struggle of falsehood, and this is a *Sunnah* of Allah in the life of this world.

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَنْ تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُمْ مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ مَسَّتْهُمُ الْبَأْسَاءُ وَالضَّرَاءُ وَزُلْزِلُوا حَتَّى يَقُولَ الرَّسُولُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ مَتَى نَصُرَ اللَّهُ أَلَا إِنَّ نَصْرَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ

“Do you think that you will enter Paradise without such [trials] as came to those who passed away before you? They were afflicted by poverty and hardship and were shaken until [even their] messenger and those who believed with him said, 'When will the help of Allah [come]?' Unquestionably, the help of Allah is near...” (2:214)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا

Believers, fear Allah and speak the truth. Allah will set your deeds right for you and will forgive you your sins. Whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger has achieved a great triumph. (33:70-71)

الْكَلِمَةُ الطَّيِّبَةُ صَدَقَةٌ - A good word is charity (Bukhari)

لَيْسَ الْمُؤْمِنُ بِالطَّعَّانِ وَلَا اللَّعَّانِ، وَلَا الْفَاحِشِ وَلَا الْبَذِيءِ

"The believer does not insult the honour of others, nor curse, nor commit Fahishah, nor is he foul." (Tirmidhi)

وَقُلْ لِعِبَادِي يَقُولُوا الَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَنْزِعُ بَيْنَهُمْ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ كَانَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَدُوًّا مُبِينًا

And tell My servants to say that which is best. Indeed, Satan induces [dissension] among them. Indeed Satan is ever, to mankind, a clear enemy. (17:53)

مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلْيَقُلْ خَيْرًا، أَوْ لِيَصْمُتْ

"Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should talk what is good or keep quiet (Bukhari)

- **Always Verify information:** The Qur'an teaches us that if any untrustworthy person [*faasiq*] comes to us with news, to verify and confirm it before sharing with others "lest you harm people in ignorance, then be sorry for what you have done." News/stories that may incorrectly discredit someone or inappropriately cause panic or outrage?
- **Deliberate On What Is Actually Beneficial To Share And Discuss:** Not all information, news and updates are of benefit. The Prophet ﷺ would seek refuge in Allah from *علم لا ينفع* knowledge or information that does not have any real benefit. Consider the probable consequences, benefits and harms in sharing a particular piece of news or information and to whom. Think: Does it really concern you, and the people you are sharing it with?

مِنْ حُسْنِ إِسْلَامِ الْمَرْءِ، تَرْكُهُ مَا لَا يَعْنِيهِ

"A sign of man's good observance of Islam is to keep away from that which does not concern him." (Tirmidhi)

- **It Is Better To Keep Silent If One Is Unsure: Narratives/Agendas/Evidences Change** - Do not rush into judgments or draw conclusions until the facts and proofs are clear. Al-Hasan al-Basri said: **“The believer reserves judgment until the matter is proven.”**
- **Don't Rush To Everything You Hear:** It's exciting to be trending, get likes and be at the forefront of breaking news. however, we should be wary of sharing and repeating everything without the careful consideration

كَفَى بِالْمَرْءِ إِثْمًا أَنْ يُحَدِّثَ بِكُلِّ مَا سَمِعَ

"It is enough lying for a person to talk about everything he hears."

- This is especially true in times of crisis, when emotions are high and misinformation spreads quickly. Umar رضي الله عنه said: “A word at the time of tribulation [*fitna*] can be as devastating as the sword.”

الْأَنَاءُ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَالْعَجَلَةُ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ

“Calm deliberation is from Allah and hastiness is from Shaytan (Tirmidhi)

- In an age of fast-paced consumption of everything, including news and information, we should make it a point to embody the qualities of calmness, wisdom, deep consideration, analysis, and reflection in everything that we do.

مِنْ حُسْنِ إِسْلَامِ الْمَرْءِ تَرْكُهُ مَا لَا يَعْنِيهِ - “A sign of man's good observance of Islam is to keep away from that which does not concern him.”(Tirmidhi)

مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلْيَقُلْ خَيْرًا، أَوْ لِيَصْمُتْ
Day should talk what is good or keep quiet (Bukhari)