

## **SPEECH FROM KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

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### **1. Requisites for a Successful Social Life**

It is a fact that a purified and sound mind is most essential for a better social life. Our mind has to be so broad and wide enough to accept others' thoughts and opinions as well as so frank and open so as to get attracted and fascinated by other people. Once a person confines himself to narrow-mindedness and becomes bigoted, other people will find it very unpleasant. Hence, our mind should always be kept away from all sorts of mental illnesses - of jealousy, arrogance, haughtiness, hatred, hostility and hauteur that cause violence, rebellion and other kinds of immoral activities among the people. Holy Hadith warns us that if we keep these kinds of bad behavior in our mind it will adversely affect our worships and therefore even our good doings will be absolutely nothing to be rewarded just because of the bad doings.

Once upon a time, a man requested Prophet Muhammad (S.A) to advise him about the most important thing that he needs to be careful about. "Don't be angry" was the advice given by Prophet Muhammad (S.A). Prophet of Allah was uttering the same advice repeatedly while he asked the same question repeatedly.

Prophet Muhammad (S.A) has once proclaimed: "The most powerful man is one who is able to suppress himself when he is in a fit of rage" (Bukhari and Muslim). It is obvious that the consequences of anger will be some time dangerous too. The anger will occasionally cause to break up the friendship or family relations, or to bring about some troubles and even to end in tragedies.

The ability to suppress one's anger is his patience and tolerance. Prophet Muhammad (S) has mentioned that the tolerance is regarded to be a holy rite in Islam because it is of vital importance in a successful social life.

Prophet (S.A) teaches the importance of patience and tolerance through the following Hadith: "Some people from among the Ansar group begged from the Messenger of Allah (S.A) and he gave them too. They again begged and he again gave them everything they asked, till what was in his possession; and then he said: Whatever good (riches, goods) I have, I will not withhold it from you. He who refrains from begging Allah safeguards him against wants. And he who seeks sufficiency, Allah would keep him in a state of sufficiency; and he who shows endurance, Allah would grant him power to endure; and none is blessed with an endowment better and greater than endurance" ( Bukhari and Muslim).

One of the best characters of a typical Muslim is the ability to keep patience towards other people when he gets angry at them or he suffers from their annoyance. Kindness is another quality of a good person which comes from tolerance. One can tolerate only if he is kind enough. Some holy Hadiths signify that both kindness and tolerance are closely related characters. Let's see some Hadiths. "Verily Allah is kind and He loves kindness in every matter" (Bukhari and Muslim). "Verily Allah is kind and He loves kindness and confers upon kindness which he does not confer upon severity and does not confer upon anything else besides it (kindness)" (Muslim). "Kindness is not to be found in anything but that it adds to its beauty and it is not withdrawn from anything but it makes it defective" (Muslim)".

These holy words of Prophet Muhammad (S.A) would be helpful to encourage successful family relations in social life. Prophet Muhammad (S.A) mentions very clearly: "Give glad tidings to the people; do not create (in their minds) aversion; show them leniency and do not be hard upon them" (Bukhari and Muslim). "He who is deprived of kindness is in fact deprived of good" (Muslim).

It is very obvious from this Hadith that even good people would often regarded to be bad if they are not kind. Prophet Muhammad (S.A) has taught us that both tolerance and kindness are essential characters of a Muslim to pave him the way to the paradise. "Ibnu Masud reported Prophet Muhammad (S.A) as saying: May I inform you about those who are deprived of the hell, or the hell is deprived of them? The hell is deprived of those who are close, tolerable, kind and mild to others" (Thurmudi). All the above-mentioned holy Hadiths teach us in general about good qualities like kindness, patience, and mildness as essential for leading a successful social

life.

## **2. A Muslim's Responsibilities towards his Neighbors**

Prophet Muhammad (S.A) stated: If any one believes in Allah and the doomsday, he should not hurt the neighbor (Bukhari: 6018, Muslim, 75). If any one believes in Allah and the Domsday, he should be beneficiary to the neighbor (Muslim, 77) If any one believes in Allah and the Domsday, he should respect the neighbor" (Bukhari: 609, Muslim: 74). The Islamic religion teaches the believers to behave in a good manner by carrying out his obligations towards the creator and his creatures. One cannot attain success of life by carrying out the obligations to the creatures only and neglecting the obligations of the creator. Likewise, one cannot appease the creator by neglecting the obligations to the creatures.

A man becomes an actual believer when he lives with good habit by fulfilling his social obligations well. The Man has many obligations toward his society in general and some sections and individuals in particular. Neighbors are one of the important sections from them. See the proclamation of the Qur'an: "Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful" (The holy Qur'an 4:36). The above verses teach us about our obligations to our neighbors whether they are relatives or not.

Our Prophet Mohammed (PBH) says: Neighbors are of three types. There are three obligations to the first type, two to the second, and one to the third. Three obligations are to the neighbor who is Muslim and relative. He has the right of neighbor, the right of kinship and the right of Islamic brotherhood. Two obligations are towards the Muslim neighbor who has the right of neighbor and the right of Islamic brotherhood. One obligation is towards the neighbor the unbeliever who has the right of neighbor only (Ihya Uloomudheen 2/231, Thafseer Qurthubi 5:161).

Then, who are neighbors? All who live around our house are our neighbors. There are about 120 houses that would come under our neighbors. Once a man came to the apostle of Allah (S.A) and said: I have settled in an area of a section of people. From them the heartiest man to me is my nearest neighbor .Suddenly, the prophet (P B H) ordered his chief

disciples Abubacker, Umar and Ali (R) to announce the following at the doors of Masjids "Behold, forty houses are neighbors. If any one does not become fearless about his neighbor's disturbances, he will not enter the heaven." Interpreting the above Hadith, the well-known Islamic Scholar Ibnu Shihab Az- Zuhri Says: Forty houses from four sides of believer's house are his neighbors (Fathhul Bari: 13/513).

Besides the other human and social obligations, there have some special obligations and duties to the neighbors. See the statement of our beloved prophet (S.A) "Do you know the obligations to a neighbor? If he asked your assistance, assist him; if he asked protection, protect him; if he asked debt, lend him; if he became poor, help him well; if he became sick, visit him; if he died, go with his Janaza (dead body); if he got blessing, praise him; if he got danger, console him; don't rise your building without his consent so as to block him wind; if you bought fruits, give him some; if not, go with them to your home secretly; don't allow your child to enrage the neighbor's child because of the fruits you brought; don't disturb him with your cooking pot's smell and if you cook some good smelling Curry give him some (Ihya 2/233).

The character of a man, whether it is good or bad, is to be decided by his neighbor. One asked "Oh, the prophet of Allah, how can I know whether I am good or bad? He said; if you hear your neighbor saying that you are doing good, then you are good and if you hear him that you are doing bad, then you are bad (Ahmed, Thabrani).

Though the inhabitants of forty houses from four sides are neighbors, more obligations are to the nearest of them. Aysha (R) asked to the prophet: I have two neighbors, to whom I have to give Hadya (free gift)? The prophet (S.A) said "to the nearest of them (Bukhari: 6020).

Neighbors are the nearest people. So, don't disturb or hurt them. If they disturb us we should try to tolerate it and forgive it and we should, in return, behave with them kindly and in good manner by providing them our maximum help and support. These are the teachings of the above-mentioned Hadiths.