

## BROTHERHOOD

Sadly, today we find many Muslims unable to tolerate each another and to gain grounds of mutual understanding forgiveness and co-operation. Throughout this country we hear stories of Muslims harbouring hatred towards each other, even amongst those who claim to be on the way of the Pious Predecessors. Since when did the Pious Predecessors ever show the enmity towards one another that we find today. Some Muslims even go to the extent of harming other Muslims both with their tongues and actions. **“The examples of believers in their mutual love and mercy is like the example of a body, if one part of the body feels pain, then all the body suffers in sleeplessness and fever”** [Muslim]

Allaah the Most High says in Surah Imraan:

**O you who believe! Have taqwaa of Allaah as you should do, and do not die except that you are Muslims. And hold fast to the rope of Allaah and do not be divided. And remember the favour of Allaah upon you, for you were once enemies one to another, but he joined your hearts together, so by his grace you became brothers .**

And Allaah the blessed and most high further said in surah Imraan:

**“And do not be like those who differed amongst themselves after clear proofs had come to them, for them there is a painful punishment”**

O Muslims our Lord has commanded us with unity and has given us a severe warning against splitting and differing. Our religion is a religion of al-jamaah and the religion of unity and agreement.

The Messenger of Allaah (swt) said:

**“The believer to the believer is like a solid structure, one part supporting the other” and he (saw) interlaced his fingers to demonstrate this.** [Bukhaaree]

The Prophet (saw) also said:

**“The examples of believers in their mutual love and mercy is like the example of a body, if one part of the body feels pain, then all the body suffers in sleeplessness and fever”** [Muslim]

The wording of these hadeeth are well known to all of us and yes we have heard them many times before. But how many of us have truly listened, understood and attempted to implement these hadeeth into our lives. Unfortunately we will find that the practice of these hadeeth is not so well known amongst the Muslims.

Sadly, today we find many Muslims unable to tolerate each another and to gain grounds of mutual understanding forgiveness and co-operation. Throughout this country we hear stories of Muslims harbouring hatred towards each other, even amongst those who claim to be on the way of the Salaf-us-salih. SubhanAllaah! Since when did the Salaf-us-salih ever show the enmity towards one another that we find today. Some Muslims even go to the extent of harming other Muslims both with their tongues and actions.

It is narrated by Abu Musa (ra):

**“Some people asked Allaahs Messenger (saw) whose Islam is the best? He (saw) replied one who avoids harming the Muslims with his tongue and hands”** [Bukhaaree]

Allaah, the Most High gives a stern warning against harming other Muslims in surah Al-Ahzaab:

**“Those who harm believing men and women undeservingly, carry upon themselves the crime of slander and clear sin.”**

Perhaps the greatest cause of disunity amongst the Ummah is due to the harvest of our tongues and its use in vain talk, slandering and backbiting. Indeed we must be careful concerning our speech for Allaah’s Messenger (saw) said, as reported by Abu-Hurayrah (ra):

**“Indeed a servant may say a word from which Allaah’s pleasure is gained and the servant does not realise it, Allaah will raise him up levels. Indeed the servant may say a word from which Allaahs displeasure is gained and he does not realise it, Allaah will put him into Jahanaam due to it”** [Bukhaaree]

We should know for a fact that those things which cause us as Muslims to disunite whether it be between individuals or between groups of people is not from islaam. Rather it is the plot of shaitaan –from amongst jinn and mankind- against the Ummah as a whole.

Allaah has made oppressing the Muslims, both living and their dead haraam and He has made sacred their blood, wealth and honour. As stated by the Messenger of Allaah (saw):

**“Do not envy one another. Do not inflate prices upon one another. Do not hate one another. But be worshippers of Allaah and be brothers. The Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, he neither oppresses him, nor humiliates him, nor lies to him, nor holds him in contempt. And piety is right here- and he (saw) pointed to his chest three times. It is enough evil for a person to hold his brother Muslim in contempt. The whole of a Muslim is for another Muslim sacred, his blood, his property and his honour.”** [Muslim]

Further Umar (ra) relates that the Prophet (saw) said:

**“A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim. He neither oppress him, nor humiliates him, nor forsakes him. Whosoever removes one of the griefs of this world from a Muslim, then Allaah will remove one of his griefs on the day of resurrection. And whosoever hides a fault of any Muslims, then Allaah will hide one of his on the day of resurrection”**

How is it that we can find disunity and ill feelings amongst ourselves when the Messenger of Allaah (saw) has taught us such noble hadeeth. Indeed the fault can lie only within ourselves, in not doing justice to that which we know. This is a disease which we need to overcome and the cure lies in sincere obedience to Allaah and his Messenger (saw).

It is extremely disliked for us to cut off relations with other Muslims and if we do then Allaah and his Messenger (saw) have set limits for us to re-establish brotherhood between ourselves.

It is narrated that the Prophet (saw) said:

**“Entertain no malice or envy nor indifference nor cut off relations; all the servants of Allaah be brothers to each other. It is not permissible for a Muslim to keep away from his brother for more then three days”** [Bukhaaree/Muslim]

The Messenger of Allaah (saw) said:

**“It is not lawful for a man to desert his brother for more then three nights. It is unlawful for them that when they meet, one of them turns his face away from the other, and the**

**other turns his face away from the former, and the better of the two will be the one who greets the other first”**

[Bukhaaree]

Again these are well known Hadeeth. Unfortunately many Muslims break off from one another and fail to unite within the limits set by Allaah and his rasool (saw). Why, we have some Muslims who keep away from each other for weeks, months, years and indeed a lifetime. Indeed this is truly a sad state of affairs which can be very dangerous for those employed in it. It is reported that the Prophet (saw) said:

**“The gates of paradise are open on Mondays and Thursdays and every bondsmen of Allaah is forgiven who does not associate anybody with Allaah, except a person who bears enmity towards a brother. With regard to them it is decreed that they be given respite until they make friends”**

[Muslim]

Ill feelings arise when we fail to make excuses for one another within our shortcomings. Subhan'Allaah! When a Muslim makes a mistake, instead of advising him in an honourable manner it is common to see people jumping for his throat. And when the same mistake is made by oneself, how quickly we forgive ourselves again and again. WHERE is the justice in this? Rather we should protect the honour of our brother even in his absence, and in this there is a great reward. The Prophet (saw) said:

**“Whoever defends the honour of his brother, Allaah will protect his face from the fire on the day of resurrection”**

[Tirmidhee]

Allaah the most high has established brotherhood amongst ourselves and boundaries regarding brotherhood which we must not violate. We have rights on our fellows Muslims and they have rights on us. The summary of these rights can be found in the Hadeeth:

**“The Muslim is the brother of the Muslim!”**

[Bukhaaree]

Whenever a Muslim implements this, the Muslim nation will be happy and united insha'Allaah.