

## First sermon

[Begin with Khutbatul Hajah]

Dear my brothers in Islam,

All thanks and praise is due to Allah Ta'ala, we seek His help and forgiveness. We seek refuge to Allah from the evil within ourselves and the consequences of our evil deeds. Whosoever Allah guides will never be led astray, and whosoever Allah leads astray will never find guidance. We bear witness that there is no God to be worshipped except Allah, alone without any partners, and we bear witness that Muhammad shallallahu'alaihi wa sallam is His servant and His Messenger.

As a reminder for myself and all of us, let us increase our taqwa to Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala by fulfilling all of His commands and refraining from all His prohibitions. Let's continue to be guided by the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Shallallahu'alaihi wa sallam in our daily life.

Dear brothers,

There is no doubt that people are different in their characters. Some have good morality while others have less or fewer. We may also find others, who are known for their generosity, others for their tolerance and others for their courage and loyalty. All of these fine manners are loved by Allah the All Glory and His Messenger Muhammad Shallallahu'alaihi wa Sallam. Yet, one of the principles of Islam, "Al-Hayaa" or modesty (a pious shyness from committing religious indiscretions), really stands out. This is closest to faith. With this regard our Prophet Shallallahu'alaihi wa Sallam said,

إِنَّ لِكُلِّ دِينٍ حُلْفًا، وَحُلْفُ الْإِسْلَامِ الْحَيَاءُ

"Every religion has its distinct manner, and the distinct manner of Islam is modesty." (HR Ibnu Maajah)

In many places in the Quran and Sunnah, Islam has urged us to seek the path of modesty. Rasullullah Shallallahu'alaihi wa Sallam considered it part of faith as he said, "Faith has over seventy branches or over sixty branches. The most excellent of which is the declaration that there is no deity but Allah, and the humblest of which is the removal of what is injurious from the path and modesty is the branch of faith." (HR Bukhari and Muslim)

The fact that the Prophet Shallallahu'alaihi wa sallam singled out Hayaa in this hadith means that this part is central and leads to all other branches of faith. He also said,

الْحَيَاءُ لَا يَأْتِي إِلَّا بِخَيْرٍ .

The modesty does not lead to anything but only goodness. (HR Bukhari and Muslim)

This fact is emphasized by Umar Ibn Al Khattab, radhiyallahu'anhu who has said, "anyone who had his modesty weakened, his piety would wear out. And whoever had weak piety, his heart had died."

Looking at modesty from this perspective, it is clear that who embraces such a fine characteristic shall see his faith strengthened and his acts of goodness increased, ultimately leading him towards Paradise.

Dear brothers,

It is important to note that the modesty or shyness that we meant in this discussion is the one towards Allah. Our Lord is the most Decent and loves His servants who are modest and well-mannered. Rasulullah Shallallahu'alaihi wa sallam said, "I advise you to obey Allah and be ashamed of Allah in the same way you be ashamed of a righteous man of your own people." (HR Ahmad)

Such a rank is achieved by protecting our limbs as dictated by Allah Ta'ala. Abdullah bin Masud narrated that the Messenger of Allah Shallallahu'alaihi wa sallam said, "Have Hayaa for Allah with the truly Hayaa." We said, "O Prophet of Allah, we have Hayaa, and all praise is due to Allah." He

said, “Not that, but having the Hayaa for Allah which He is due is to protect the head and what it contains and to protect the insides and what it includes, and to remember death and the trial, and whoever intends the Hereafter, he leaves the adornments of the world. So whoever does that, then he has indeed fulfilled the Hayaa truly.”

This means someone who is not modest, lacking Hayaa, is most likely will transgress Allah's prohibitions, and he can easily commit major sins because he is not shy and not afraid of Allah. The Prophet Shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam says,

إِنَّ مِمَّا أَدْرَكَ النَّاسُ مِنْ كَلَامِ النَّبِيِّ الْأُولَى إِذَا لَمْ تَسْتَحْيِ فَاصْنَعْ مَا شِئْتَ

“One of the sayings of the early Prophets which the people have got is: if you don't feel ashamed do whatever you like.” (HR Bukhari)

Bearing this in mind, we implore Allah to bless us with piety and embellish us with modesty. We also plead with Allah to help us obey Him, His Messenger Muhammad Shallallaahu'alaihi wa Sallam and those He has decreed on us to obey in compliance with His orders:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ

“O you who believe! Obey Allah, and obey the Messenger, and those charged with authority among you.” (An-Nisaa: 59)

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

## Second sermon

[Begin with Shalawat, etc.]

Dear my brothers,

Please be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Almighty, as it ought to be by observing Him in private and in public and know that modesty is one of the most comprehensive branches of faith. So if someone shows modesty towards Allah, he will be keener to observe religious obligations and other recommended actions. Likewise he will avoid things that are forbidden as well as things that are disliked.

On another level, if someone shows modesty towards people, he will also avoid treating them in ways they do not like. Further, if he is ashamed of himself, he will hold himself accountable and watch over his speech and acts. If he does that, this shows he has a pure soul and truly he is a pious person. May Allah make it easy for us to be a modest person.

[End with du'a]