

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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Lessons Drawn from the Prophet's Farewell Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **"Today I have perfected your religion for you, completed My blessing upon you, and chosen as your religion Islam."** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

The Prophet's Farewell Sermon represents an aspect of the Prophet's eloquence, as he could gather many great religious and humanistic values in brief statements, drawing an approach that would avail and please humanity as a whole.

The first thing our Prophet (PBUH) referred to in this universal sermon is to stress on the inviolability of human souls, properties and honour, when he (PBUH) said, "Verily! Your blood, property and honor are sacred like the sanctity of this day of yours, in this month of yours and in this city of yours." All souls should be saved; all properties should be protected, and the honor of every one should be respected. The Almighty

Allah said, **“Do not take the life that Allah has made sacred, except by right.”** The Shari’ah makes the killing of one soul without any legal justification as equal to killing all people as Allah said, “We decreed to the Children of Israel that if anyone kills a person- unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land- it is as if he kills all mankind, while if any saves a life it is as if he saves the lives of all mankind.” To stress the sanctity of blood, the Prophet (PBUH) warned against killing saying, “A believer continues to guard his Faith (and thus hopes for Allah’s Mercy) so long as he does not shed blood unjustly.”

Just as Islam forbids transgression against souls, it also forbids transgression against properties, whether they are public or private, as the Almighty Allah said, “You who believe, do not wrongfully consume each other’s wealth.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “Some people acquire Allah’s Wealth (i.e. Muslim’s wealth) in an unjust manner; such people will be put in the Hellfire on the Day of Judgement.”

With regard to the inviolability of people’s honour and the prohibition of violating it in any way, either in writing, speaking, or action or even through sharing any insult, Allah (Glory be to Him) said, **“And do not go anywhere near adultery; surely it is an indecency and an evil way.”** Also, Allah, Most High, said, “Those who undeservedly insult believing men and women will bear the guilt of slander and flagrant sin.” Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) prohibited slandering chaste women, and

even counts it among the major sins, saying: "Avoid the seven destructive things." He (PBUH) was asked: "What are they, O Messenger of Allah?" He replied, "...and slandering chaste women who never even think of anything touching chastity and are good believers."

Among the most important lessons learned from Prophet's Farewell Sermon is: establishing the principles of justice and equality among all people. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "O People! Verily your lord is One, and your father is one; an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; a white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white; [none have superiority over another] except by piety and good action. The best among you in the Sight of Allah is the most pious one..." Thus, people are equal in their rights and duties regardless of their races and colors. The Almighty Allah said, "People, be mindful of your Lord, who created you from a single soul." The Prophet (PBUH) said, "All of you are the children of Adam, and Adam was [created] from dust."

The principle of equality is a religious one and a human value that achieves stability and balance in the society. Once, a funeral procession passed in front of the Prophet (PBUH) and he stood up. When he was told that it was the coffin of a Jew, he said, "Is it not a living being (soul)?"

The Islamic Shari'ah has prohibited all forms of blind partisanship. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "Indeed Allah has removed the pride of *Jahiliyyah* from you, and its boasting about lineage. [Indeed a person is either] a pious believer, or a miserable sinner. And people are all the children of Adam, and Adam was [created] from dust."

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

One of the most important lessons included in the farewell sermon is stressing the status of women and emphasizing their rights and dignity. In his Sermon, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Act kindly towards women." The word "kindly" in the Hadith is fully inclusive as it indicates that men should be characterized with all good manners when dealing with women. The Almighty Allah said, "Live with them in accordance with what is fair and kind." In another verse, Allah said, "Wives have [rights] similar to their [obligations], according to what is recognized to be fair." The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Women are the twin halves of men."

This comprehensive Sermon stressed the need to adhere to the Law set by Allah regarding giving every heir his/her right, and that no will

should be made for heirs, as they have their rights stated in the Shari'ah. Therefore, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Allah has appointed for everyone who has a right what is due to him, and no bequest must be made to an heir."

How much the whole humanity needs to benefit from the lessons of the farewell sermon, which included great human principles and sublime teachings, so that nations and communities can stabilize.

O Allah! Protect our country Egypt and all other countries of the worlds!