

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ
أَتَابَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Harmony

The Excellence of Reciting Ṣalāt upon the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

The Final Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: “Everything has a way to be washed and purified. The means to clean the rust from the hearts of the believers is to recite *ṣalāt* upon me.”¹

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

We are connected to an organisation that is busy trying to reform ourselves and the people of the entire world. To achieve this goal, we perform various **religious activities** and take part in them with great interest. We must remember that to do **religious activities** effectively, we also need teamwork. Teamwork can only be successful when our hearts are joined and there is harmony between them. Despite having different natures and backgrounds, we should be in harmony with each other for our goal.

What is Harmony?

Harmony means “a state of agreeing with the views of one another and supporting each other.” Harmony is a beautiful bond that creates balance between different things or people. The parts of our body are the best example of harmony. When we eat, our hands, mouth, teeth, and stomach fully cooperate with each other and work in harmony for their goal. If the brain thought of something else and the hand did something else, a person would not be able to eat even a single bite.

¹ Al-Qoul al-Badi' fi al-Salati 'ala al-Habib, p. 140

The Importance of Harmony

In collective life, harmony is needed to complete many big tasks and important plans. Until people unite and agree on a single idea to start a task, that task cannot be finished. In fact, without harmony, even the planning and start of an important task become difficult.

Harmony is a Divine Blessing

Harmony among Muslims is a great blessing from Allah Almighty. This is because harmony leads to love and brotherhood; it joins hearts and removes hatred to create affection. Allah, the Lord of the worlds, states in the Holy Quran:

وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا^١

and remember the favour of Allah upon you when you were enemies, but He united your hearts, 'and' so with His Grace, you became brothers;¹

Truly, the lives of the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ are practical examples of love and harmony. Despite belonging to different races, various tribes, having unique languages, and different natures, these noble individuals stood together for the sake of Islam. They forgot years of enmity and became brothers. When Islam needed them, they would stand shoulder to shoulder in harmony out of the love for Allah Almighty and His Messenger, for the honour of the true religion, and to raise the word of Truth.

Men of Harmony

In 5 AH, when the disbelievers of the Quraish planned to attack Madinah with their allied tribes, the Greatest Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ gathered his Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ and held a consultation. On this occasion, Sayyidunā Salmān Farīsī رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ presented a suggestion to dig a trench around Madinah for defence. This was a completely new idea for the Arabs.

¹ Al-Quran, Āl-'Imran, verse 103; translation from Kanz al-'Irfān

However, when the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ accepted this suggestion, the Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ not only agreed with this new idea but also worked day and night to carry it out. Despite hunger and harsh weather, they remained in harmony for their great goal. Once the decision was made, no one said, “I do not agree with this opinion.” Instead, the entire army moved forward with united thought, united direction, and united discipline. Even though they tied stones to their stomachs due to hunger, these noble personalities continued to dig the trench while remaining united and in harmony.

Harmony is Required by Sharia

Dear **Islamic brothers!** It is a requirement of Sharia that Muslims remain united, establish love and affection among themselves, and keep their hearts in such harmony that they live as one. Thus, Allah Almighty states:

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا

*Hold fast onto the rope of Allah, all together, and be not divided;*¹

Under this verse, it is mentioned in *Tafsīr Qurtubī* that Allah Almighty has commanded mutual love and forbidden division (i.e., creating rifts and splitting into sects). This is because disagreement leads to destruction, while unity and harmony lead to salvation.²

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ! The religion of Islam also teaches us harmony and unity through acts of worship. For example, the congregational prayer, the gathering of Hajj, the system of Zakat, and the fact that people of every colour, race, rich and poor, stand in one row behind one Imam and face the same direction. This is a practical way of teaching harmony. It is as if Sharia wants to create such a mindset in its followers that everyone stays together as one.

¹ Al-Quran, Āl-‘Imran, verse 103; translation from Kanz al-‘Irfān

² Tafseer-e-Qurtubi, vol. 2, p. 104, under the verse 103 of Āl-e-Imran

Disagreement Causes Cowardice and Weakness

Remember that a lack of harmony, along with disagreements and disunity, causes cowardice and weakness for any nation. Accordingly, Allah Almighty states:

وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ

and do not dispute with each other lest you become cowardly, and your vigour departs,¹

Under this verse, it is mentioned in *Tafsīr Ṭabarī*: Do not fight with each other, or you will fall into sectarianism. Disagreements will be created in your hearts, you will become weak and cowardly, and your strength and influence will vanish.²

Why is Harmony Necessary?

Dear **Islamic brothers!** Dawat-e-Islami is like a body, and every member is like a limb. Just as different parts of the human body do different jobs—for example, the eyes see, the ears hear, and the feet walk—there is complete harmony between them. If these limbs started competing with each other, the whole body would suffer. In the same way, harmony is necessary between all the *Nigrans*, *Zimmedars* (responsible persons), and subordinate **Islamic brothers** of Dawat-e-Islami. Although the tasks and responsibilities of a *Nigran*, *Zimmedar*, preacher, and general **Islamic brother** may be different, everyone's goal is the same. As long as there is harmony, the organisation will continue to flourish.

Harmony within Departments

Similarly, different departments of Dawat-e-Islami perform various tasks. No single department can do all the work alone; the whole system runs through mutual harmony. This means the great **religious activity** of Dawat-e-Islami can only be completed on the basis of harmony.

¹ Al-Quran, Al-Anfal, verse 46; translation from Kanz al-'Irfān

² Tafseer-e-Tabari, vol. 6, p. 261, under the verse 46 of Al-Anfal selected

Remember!

- Mental harmony does not mean that everyone should think exactly the same way. Rather, it means that everyone should think for the same goal. Opinions should be given, but discipline must not be broken. Once a decision is made, everyone should stand together.
- After anything is decided in the organisational procedure, every person—whether a *Nigran* or a subordinate—should act upon it with full devotion and focus. No hidden plan or disagreement should be kept.
- A *Nigran* and a subordinate, or one *Nigran* and another, may have a difference of opinion. However, hearts must be united and the goal must be one. The improvement and success of **religious activities** lie in this. Even after a difference of opinion, respect and love should remain.
- When there is trust in the elders, aligning one's individual opinion with the collective decision is the guarantee of success.

Observe the following benefits of harmony for the members of an organisation:

Benefits of Harmony

1. Harmony makes any organisation or institution strong and plays a major role in its development and success.
2. Harmony keeps one safe from trials, conspiracies, and bad suspicions, and creates an environment of love and respect.
3. Harmony helps in making important decisions and saves one from unnecessary disagreement and interference.
4. Harmony saves time.
5. With harmony, the focus remains on the basic goal of the organisation, and time is not wasted in solving internal problems and disagreements.

Madani pearls taken from Madani Muzakarabs and Madani Mashwarabs of the Central Executive Committee

- If we recognise each other's mindsets, there will be unity. When we try to force our own thoughts on others, then unity becomes difficult.¹
- Mutual unity and agreement between the *Zimmedars* are very important.²
- Everyone should ensure that they do not keep malice or enmity against another person in their heart without a Sharia-permitted reason. Everyone should keep their heart clean from hatred and grudges. Stay together with love, affection, and as brothers in practice.³
- If someone says something that opposes your mentality, the other person should observe patience.⁴
- We can make someone a *Nigran*, but we cannot make him enter people's hearts. He can enter people's hearts himself through his good character, kindness, and humility.⁵
- A movement does not just run; it is made to run. Where there is work, there will be issues. One should move forward by solving these issues.⁶
- Instead of having a demanding style with subordinates, a *Nigran* should adopt a lenient approach. An important matter in the organisational system is that everyone should respect one another.⁷

¹ Madani Muzakarah, 20 Shawwal-ul-Mukarram 1443, 21 May 2022

² Madani Mashwarah Markazi Majlis-e-Shura, 10-15 Zulqada 1445 AH, 19-24 May 2024

³ Madani Muzakrah 11 Zulhajjah 1444 AH, 1 July 2023

⁴ Madani Muzakarah, 2 Safar-ul-Muzaffar 1442 AH, 19 September 2020

⁵ Madani Muzakarah, 2 Safar-ul-Muzaffar 1442 AH, 19 September 2020

⁶ Madani Muzakrah Markazi Majlis-e-Shura 10-15, Zulq'adah 1445 AH, 19-24 May 2024

⁷ Madani Muzakrah Markazi Majlis-e-Shura 15-19, Rajab-ul-Murajjab 1445 AH, 27-31 January 2024