

الخطبة الأولى في حقوق الحيوان

الحمد لله الذى خلق الإنسان فأحسن خلقه وكرمه ، وامنن عليه بخلق الحيوان فإياه سخره ، أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له في ربوبيته ولا في ألوهيته وأشهد أن محمداً عبده ورسوله المفضل على جميع بريته ، صلى الله وسلم وبارك عليه وعلى آله وأصحابه وأزواجه وأتباعه وذريته. أما بعد:

فيا معشر المسلمين! إن من عقيدة المسلم أن العرض الوحيد بخلقنا أجمعين أن نسترضى ربنا ، فنستسلم تماماً لما أسع علينا خالقنا في القرآن والسنة من الهداية والإرشاد لنفترق بين ما نحبه ويرضاه وما يسخطه وينهاه. ومن أهم ما نسترضى به ربنا هو تحقيق حقوقه له هي علينا مكتوبة ، مثل الصلوات الخمس وصيام رمضان وغيرها ، وكذا الامتناع عن ما لديه من المعاصي محظورة ، مثل الخمر والخنزير والزنا. وكذا منها وفاء حقوق خلقه ، فإن الإسلام قد أعطى خلقه من والدينا وأزواجنا وجيراننا وشباننا وشيوخنا حقوقاً علينا. فالذين يخلقه يضطهدون لا شك عند خالقهم يسخطون. فإن نبينا خير البرية ع قد أشجعنا على وفاء حقوق الآخرين أشد التشجيع حتى قال: « لتؤدن الحقوق إلى أهلها يوم القيامة حتى يُعاد للشاة الجلاء من الشاة الفناء ». [رواه مسلم] وندب القرآن إلى القسط في عدة مواطن فقد قال الله عز وجل: يا أيها الذين آمنوا كونوا قوامين بالقسط شهداء لله ... (135) [النساء] وقال تعالى: وأقسطوا إن الله يحب المقسطين (9) [الحجرات]

ومن مخلوقاته أنواع عديدة من الحياة الحيوانية ، فالتفكر في تنوعها المذهلة وجمالها المدهشة وسيلة لنا للتقرب إلى الله فقد قال الله: إن في خلق السموات والأرض واختلاف الليل والنهار لآيات لأولي الألباب (190) الذين يذكرون الله قياماً وقعوداً وعلى جنوبهم ويتفكرون في خلق السموات والأرض ربنا ما خلقت هذا باطلاً سبحانه فبقنا عذاب النار (191) [آل عمران] وقال تعالى: وإن لكم في الأنعام لعبرة ... (66) [النحل] وقال تعالى: ويؤيكم آياته فأي آيات الله تُنكرون (80) [غافر] وكثير من الآيات تعرضت لذكر الحيوانات في مناسبات عديدة ، إما مذكراً ببدع خلقه سبحانه ، أو منوهاً بوسع منه وكرمه علينا بتسخيرها لنا ، أو مشيراً إلى سابغ نعمة وآياته علينا يجعلها غذاءً لنا وكساءً ومالاً ومتاعاً إلى غير ذلك. وسميت السور المحددة باسم بعضها مثل النمل والنحل والبقرة والأنعام والعنكبوت والفيل فهي تتعامل بالخصوصية مع الفصايا الحيوانية. وإن الله تبارك وتعالى أوجب علينا حقوقاً تجاه هذه الحيوانات حتى وعند الذبح فقد قال عليه الصلاة والسلام: « إن الله كتب الإحسان على كل شيء فإذا قتلتم فأحسنوا القتلة وإذا ذبحتم فأحسنوا الذبح وليحد أحدكم شفرته فليرح ذبيحته ». [مسلم] وقد روى عنه ع ما يشجع على الرقي والإحسان وعدم الإرهاق فيما استخدم في العمل وما أقيمت كحيوانات أليفة. فقد مر رسول الله ع ببعير قد لحق ظهره بطنه فقال: « اتقوا الله في هذه البهائم المعجمة ، فاركبوها صالحاً ، وكلوها صالحاً ». [أبو داود] وفي الصحيحين من حديث ابن عمر ع أن امرأة عذبت ودخلت النار في هرة حبستها لا هي أطعمتها ولا هي تركتها تأكل من خشاش الأرض. وفيها من حديث أبي هريرة ع أن رجلاً مر بكلب عطشان فنزل البئر وسقاه بخفه فعفر له. فمبدأ تشجيع التعاطف وتجنب الظلم ينطبق أيضاً على المنتجات الحيوانية التي نستهلكها مثل البيض والسمك. فينبغي علينا أن نعرف أن هناك بعض طرق الصيد مثل الشبايك المجرورة مما يسبب ضرراً كبيراً على الثروة السمكية والحياة البحرية الأخرى. وهناك أفضال الدجاج البطارية تعيش الدواجن فيها مع ما فيها من المعاناة لها. وهناك طريق اصطياد السمك بالخيوط وبيض الدجاج المخللة الحرة التي هي أكثر تعاطفاً وتجنب تلك التي تسبب المزيد من المعاناة. ولا شك هو أحسن طريق لاسترضاء خالقنا.

واعلموا أن خالقنا رحمان رحيم وأنتا اليوم في أشد حاجة إلى رحمته ورافقه وهدايته ليتبين لنا الصراط المستقيم ، وسنحتاج أيضاً إلى رحمته ورافقه غداً لنفور في اليوم الآخر عندما نحشر ونحاسب. وتذكروا أن الله تعالى عاهد أن يكون رحيماً للراحمين. وهذا يشمل جميع الخلق ومنها الحيوانات. فقد قال عليه الصلاة والسلام: « الراحمون يرحمهم الرحمن ارحموا أهل الأرض يرحمكم من في السماء ». [أبو داود]

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ. بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ. وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ فِي الْأَنْعَامِ لَعِبْرَةً لُنُسْقِيكُمْ مِمَّا فِي بُطُونِهَا وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَنَافِعُ كَثِيرَةٌ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ (21) وَعَلَى الْفُلْكِ تُحْمَلُونَ (22) [المؤمنون] بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِالْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ. إِنَّهُ تَعَالَى جَوَادٌ كَرِيمٌ مَلِكٌ بَرٌّ رُؤُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ.

First Khutbah on the Rights of Animals

All praise is due to Allāh Who created the human and so perfected his creation and bestowed honour upon him. And He favoured him with the creation of the animal and to him he made it subservient. And I bear witness that there is no deity but Allāh, He has no partner in His divinity nor in His deity, and I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is His Servant and Messenger who has been granted virtue over all His creation. May Allāh send salutations, peace and blessings upon him and upon his family and his companions and his wives and his followers and his progeny. As for what follows:

O assembly of Muslims! Indeed, it is of the belief of a Muslim that the sole purpose of our creation is that we seek the pleasure of our Lord. Thus, we submit fully to the guidance and instruction that our Creator has bestowed upon us via the Qur'ān and Sunnah that we may differentiate between that which He loves and is pleased by and that which displeases Him and He prohibits. One of the key aspects by which we can seek the pleasure of our Lord is to fulfill His rights that are incumbent upon us, such as the five prayers, the fasts of Ramaḍān etc, and similarly by abstaining from the sinful deeds that are prohibited by Him, such as *khamr*, pork and *ribā*. And like wise of such (key aspects) is to fulfill the rights of His creation for Islam has given His creation including our parents, our spouses, our neighbours, our youth and our elderly rights over us. Thus, those that oppress His creation, without doubt, they are the subject of their Creator's anger. For indeed, our Prophet, the best of creation, has encouraged us to fulfill the rights of others in the strongest of terms to the extent that he said: *"Rights will most definitely be rendered to their holders on the Day of Resurrection to the extent that the hornless goat will be given retaliation from the horned goat."* [Muslim] The Holy Qur'ān has enjoined justice on many occasions, thus Allāh, Almighty and Majestic is He, said: *"O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allāh ..."* [4:135]

And He, Most High, said: *"Be just, for Allāh loves those that are just."* [49:9]

And amongst His creations are the many different types of animal life. Contemplating on their incredible diversity and amazing beauty is a way for us to draw close to Allāh for Allāh has indeed said: *"Behold! In the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of night and day there are indeed signs for those of understanding. Those who remember Allāh standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and contemplate the (wonders of) creation in the heavens and the earth, (with the saying) "Our Lord, not for nothing have You created (all) this. Glory unto you! Give us salvation from the chastisement of the fire."* [3:190-191]

And He, Most High, said: *"And verily, there is for you in an instructive sign ..."* [16:66]

And He, Most High, said: *"And He shows you His signs; then which of the signs of Allāh will you deny?"* [40:80]

Many verses have mentioned animals on numerous occasions; either reminding us of His wonderful creation, glory unto Him, or with reference to His enormous favour and honour upon us by making them subservient to us or whilst indicating towards his abundant blessings and favours upon us by making them sustenance for us, and clothing and wealth and chattels, etc. Several Sūrahs are named after specific animal species such as The Ant, The Bee, The Cow, The Cattle, The Spider,

and the Elephant and indeed these deal with animal issues. Allāh, Most Blessed and Most High, has obligated us with duties towards these animals even at the time of slaughter for he, upon him be salutation and peace, said: *“Verily, Allāh has prescribed excellence in everything; so when you must kill do it in the best manner and when you slaughter you should slaughter in the best manner, and each of you should sharpen his knife and so make his slaughtered animal comfortable.”* [Muslim] And it has been reported from him (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) that which exhorts gentleness and benevolence and to not overburden animals used for labour and those kept as pets. The Messenger (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) passed by a camel whose back had come to touch its stomach and said: *“Fear Allāh in relation to these animals; mount them in a manner that they are suitable to mount, and consume them in a manner they are appropriate for consumption.”* [Abū Dāwūd] And it is mentioned in the two authentic books from the narration of Ibn ‘Umar, may Allāh be pleased with him, that a woman was punished and entered the Fire on account of a cat she had confined whilst neither feeding it nor releasing it that it may feed off insects. It is mentioned in both of these [authentic books] from the narration of Abū Hurairah, may Allāh be pleased with him, that a man whilst passing a thirsty dog lowered himself in to the well and gave the dog water to drink with his leather sock and so he was forgiven. The principle of encouraging compassion and avoiding oppression also applies to animal products that we may consume like eggs and fish. Therefore, we should know that there are certain fishing methods, such as drag nets, which cause great harm to fish stocks and other sea life. And there are certain battery cages in which hens live despite the suffering that is caused to them. Equally, there are line-caught methods of catching fish and free range eggs which are more compassionate to sea life and to hens. Therefore, Muslims should strive to adopt these practices which are more compassionate and avoid those which cause more suffering. Without doubt, this is an excellent way in which we can seek the pleasure of our Creator.

And know you that our Creator is Most Beneficent, Most Merciful, and we today are in great need of His beneficence, mercy and guidance so that the straight path may be clear to us. We will also be in need of His beneficence and mercy and tomorrow so as to attain success on the Last Day when we will be resurrected and have to account for our actions. And remember, that Allāh, Most High, has vowed to show mercy to those who show mercy to others and this includes all creation including animals. For indeed he, upon him be salutation and peace, said: *“The Merciful, the Most Compassionate will show mercy to them. Show mercy to the dwellers of the earth and He who is in the sky will show mercy to you.”* [Abū Dāwūd]

I seek refuge in Allāh from Satan, the accursed. In the name of Allāh, the Beneficent, the Merciful. *“And verily, there is for you in this an instructive sign. We give you drink from that which lies in their bellies, and for you there are many benefits in them, and of them you eat. And on them and on the boats you are transported. [23:21-22]* May Allāh grant blessing to me and you in the Magnificent Qur’ān; and benefit me and you also with the verses and sound remembrance. Indeed, He, Most High, is Magnanimous, Munificent, Lord, Beneficent, Compassionate, and Merciful.