

Date: Ramadan 1431(AH)

Corresponding to: August 2010 (AD)

***Your Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed, May Allah guard and support you with His care
May the Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah be upon you***

Subject: Eid Al-Fitr Sermon of 1431 (AH)

This Sermon addresses the issue and theory of virtue in the Holy Qur'an as a moral and behavioral value that constitutes five essential values, namely: equality, mercy, justice, public virtue, and seeking Allah's reward. These five values dictated by the verse: *{Show forgiveness, enjoin what is good, and turn away from the ignorant.}* The morality of virtue is a feature of thought and action, while the practice of virtue in words and deeds must be associated with what the Muslim says and how he acts. Turning away from the ignorant in terms of word and deed includes what must be abandoned. This implies the meaning of this verse: *{You [true believers in Islamic Monotheism, and real followers of Prophet Muhammad SAW and his Sunnah (legal ways, etc.)] are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind; you enjoin Al-Ma'ruf (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam has ordained) and forbid Al-Munkar (polytheism, disbelief and all that Islam has forbidden), and you believe in Allah.}* This means that promoting virtue in terms of thought, saying and action means adherence to these generally accepted and recognized virtues and values, and avoidance of vice (antonym of virtue) as a sign of discipline in the matters of lusts, desire, repentance and reconsideration.

I concluded by Sermon by stating that, if such morals transcended the individual level to the social and public domains, they would produce morals and policy of manhood, and would rectify the nation if it retained manhood as ethic and virtue as ground between the nation and the ruler, with the help and support of Allah.

I pray Allah that you enjoy the loyalty of His creatures and love of His servants and Keep for them your virtue and sublime benevolence.

Served for review and direction,

May peace and mercy of Allah be upon you

Abdullah bin Mohammed al Salmi (Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs)
