

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ كَمَا هُوَ اَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلٰوةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلٰى سَيِّدِ وُلْدِ اٰدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضٰى بِاَنْ يُصَلِّىَ عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

What it is to be a true Neighbour

It is mentioned that Abdullah bin Taahir was the Ameer or leader of Khuraasan during the Abbaside Dynasty. His neighbour was a very old lady who had five daughters. Someone once advised her to sell her house since she was in such a dire financial state. They mentioned that in this way at least her financial state will improve because she will have money in her hands. When she heard this advice, she mentioned, “It is my wish to sell the house, however I do not wish to move away from Abdullah bin Taahir being my neighbour.”

It is reported that when Abdullah bin Taahir heard this statement from someone, he certainly fulfilled his rights as a neighbour. He then made it clear that the four girls of this neighbour of his were also like his own daughters and he arranged the marriage of

each one of them and gave each one of them a hundred thousand Dirhams as a marriage gift.

In like manner, the famous Saint and scholar, Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Mubaarak - *may Allah be pleased with him*, also had a neighbour who was a Jew. The Jew also wanted to sell the house but he doubled the price when offering it to someone. Instead of one hundred thousand Dirhams, he asked for two hundred thousand Dirhams. People complained that the actual value of the house was only one hundred thousand Dirhams.

He replied that they were speaking the truth, however, the other one hundred thousand Dirhams was for the value of staying next to a neighbour such as Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Mubaarak - *may Allah be pleased with him*. When the great Saint heard about the comment, he called his neighbour and gave him one thousand Dirhams and told him not to sell his house.

The famous Taabaa'i, Sulyaman baa Al Jahm, was a neighbour of Hadrat Sayyiduna Saeed bin Al Aas - *may Allah be pleased with him*. He wanted to sell his house for one hundred thousand Dirhams and also he also asked would be purchasers what they would offer for also being the neighbour of Hadrat Sayyiduna Saeed bin Al Aas - *may Allah be pleased with him*.

They then asked whether a thing like a neighbour is also sold. He replied, "Give my house back and take your money. I swear by Allah Almighty that I cannot leave such a neighbour who, when I appear in front of him, he always asks about my state and condition. When he sees me, he welcomes me. When I am not here, he protects my house and when I ask him for anything, he does not refuse and even I do not ask for anything, he still helps."

It is mentioned that when Hadrat Sayyiduna Saeed bin Al Aas - *may Allah be pleased with him* - heard the comments of his neighbour, he sent him a hundred thousand Dirhams as a gift. (Al Makaarim wal Mafaakhir)