

## THEME 7 - RESPECTING TEACHERS, IMAMS AND THOSE IN AUTHORITY

### تَوْقِيرُ الْعُلَمَاءِ أُمَّةٌ وَ الْكِبَارِ

#### Learning objectives:

- To learn that people in authority must be respected.
- To show respect means that we listen and obey our teachers, Imams and those in authority.
- To understand that knowledgeable people who serve and teach others are given a special rank.

#### In this theme, you will learn:

Respect means to admire someone for their good qualities, value them for their achievements, have regard and concern for them. Respect is a sign of ones love and affection. Respecting your teachers, Imams and those in authority will make you achieve many goals in life and keep you away from mischief. Teachers and Imams have the knowledge and skills to help and advise us. Those in authority have the power to make right decisions in making sure that disputes are settled in a just and fair manner.

قَالَ اللهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

[الزمر: 9] وَقَالَ تَعَالَى ﴿أَمْ نَجْعَلُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ

كَالْمُفْسِدِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَمْ نَجْعَلُ الْمُتَّقِينَ كَالْفُجَّارِ ﴿ص: 28﴾  
 وَقَالَ تَعَالَى ﴿يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ﴾  
 [المجادلة: 11]

Allah ﷻ says: “Say: Can those who know be equal to those who don’t know?” (39:9). “Should We put those who believe and do righteous deeds on par with those who wreak havoc in the land, or those who are mindful of Allah on par with outright sinners?” (38:28). “Allah will raise the ranks of the believers among you, particularly those who have knowledge. Allah is aware of what you do” (58:11).

[1] عن أبي مسعود عقبة بن عمرو البدي الأنصاري قال: قال رسول الله: «يَوْمَ الْقَوْمِ أَقْرَبُهُمْ لِكِتَابِ اللَّهِ، فَإِنْ كَانُوا فِي الْقِرَاءَةِ سَوَاءً، فَأَعْلَمُهُمْ بِالسُّنَّةِ، فَإِنْ كَانُوا فِي السُّنَّةِ سَوَاءً، فَأَقْدَمُهُمْ هِجْرَةَ، فَإِنْ كَانُوا فِي الْهِجْرَةِ سَوَاءً، فَأَقْدَمُهُمْ سِنًا، وَلَا يُؤَمِّنَنَّ الرَّجُلُ الرَّجُلَ فِي سُلْطَانِهِ، وَلَا يَقْعُدُ فِي بَيْتِهِ عَلَى تَكْرِمَتِهِ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ» رواه مسلم.

1. Abu Mas’ud ‘Uqbah bin ‘Amr Al-Badri Al-Ansari ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “The best reciter of the Quran should lead the prayer, if all are equally good then the one who is most knowledgeable about the Sunnah, if they are equal in that too then the one who migrated to Madinah first, if they are all equal in that too then the oldest of all should lead. No one should lead another in a place where the other has authority, nor should he sit in his home without his permission.”

[2] عن أبي مسعود الأنصاري قَالَ: كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ يَمَسُّحُ مَنَاكِبَنَا فِي الصَّلَاةِ، وَيَقُولُ: «اسْتَوُوا وَلَا تَخْتَلِفُوا، فَتَخْتَلِفَ قُلُوبُكُمْ، لِيَلِينِي مِنْكُمْ أَوْلُوا الْأَخْلَامَ وَالنُّهَى، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ» رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ.

2. Abu Mas'ud Al-Ansari رضي الله عنه reported: When we stood up for Salah in rows, the Messenger ﷺ would place his hands on our shoulders and announce, “Stand straight and do not quarrel. Let the mature stand near me, then those who are similar to them and then those nearest to them.”

[3] عن أبي موسى قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ: «إِنَّ مِنْ إِجْلَالِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى: إِكْرَامَ ذِي الشَّيْبَةِ الْمُسْلِمِ، وَحَامِلِ الْقُرْآنِ غَيْرِ الْعَالِي فِيهِ، وَالْجَافِي عَنْهُ، وَإِكْرَامَ ذِي السُّلْطَانِ الْمُقْسِطِ» رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ.

3. Abu Musa رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “The reverence of Allah’s majesty is shown by respecting; the old person, the Hafiz of Quran (who reads it properly and practices it) and the just ruler.”

[4] عن عمرو بن شعيب عن أبيه عن جده قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ: «لَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ لَمْ يَرْحَمْ صَغِيرَنَا، وَيَعْرِفْ شَرَفَ كَبِيرِنَا» رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ.

4. ‘Amr bin Shu’aib رضي الله عنه on the authority of his father who heard it from his father reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: “the person who is not kind to the young and respectful to our elders is not part of the community.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith highlights the importance of kindness towards the young and respect for our elders as fundamental qualities that define a cohesive and harmonious community. It emphasises the significance of nurturing and supporting the younger generation, while also acknowledging the wisdom and experience of the older members of society.

[5] عن أبي سعيد سمره بن جندب قال: «لقد كنت على عهد رسول الله غلاماً، فكنت أحفظ عنه، فما يمنعني من القول إلا أن ها هنا رجالاً هم أسن مني.» متفق عليه.

5. Abu Sa'id Samurah bin Jundub رضي الله عنه reported: “During the Prophet’s ﷺ life, I was a young boy. I used to memorise his beautiful sayings, but I remained quiet and did not narrate them since there were older people present.”

[6] عن أنس قال: قال رسول الله: «ما أكرم شاب شيخاً لسنه إلا قيض الله له من يكرمه عند سنه» رواه الترمذي

6. Anas bin Malik رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “When a young person honours an elderly person, Allah selects a person who will honour him in his old age.”

### Activities:

- Discuss how to respect your teacher, Imam and other members of society.
- Reflect on your own ambitions in life and how to achieve them; realising the need to respect authority to achieve your goals.
- Draw a diagram of the organisational structure of a school to

show the different ranks amongst the teachers.

**In this theme you have learnt:**

- Knowledge and good behaviour is acquired by respecting teachers Imams and those in authority.
- Those who know and those who don't know are not equal.
- If you show respect to the elderly then Allah will appoint a person to care for you in your old age.
- When requested to do something that is not right, a person should refuse no matter who is requesting it.
- Always listen to adults and teachers.