

Keeping family ties when it is difficult

Silat ar-rahim is tested by distance, old wounds, and difficult relatives. The duty is not limited to the family members who make it easy.

CENTREPIECE Surah an-Nisa 4:1, Sahih al-Bukhari 5991

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Maintaining ties is an act of worship

Family contact is not merely culture or good manners. Allah joins mindfulness of Him with regard for kinship in an-Nisa 4:1. A call, visit, gift, or sincere question can therefore become worship when it is done for His sake.

2. Reciprocity is not the standard

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said that the one who truly maintains family ties is not simply the one who returns kindness. It is the person who keeps the tie when relatives cut it (Bukhari 5991). The reward begins where equal exchange ends.

3. Boundaries can protect a tie

Maintaining kinship does not require accepting abuse or placing someone in danger. Contact can be limited, mediated, or kept through messages and gifts. The aim is to avoid cruelty and needless severance while acting with wisdom.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to keeping family ties when it is difficult.

Suggested closing: Choose one relative you have allowed to drift away. Make the first gentle contact this week without reopening the old argument.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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