

Rights of the neighbour

Jibreel kept counselling the Prophet (peace be upon him) about the neighbour until he thought he would be made an heir. What we owe the people closest to our walls.

CENTREPIECE Sahih al-Bukhari 6014, Sahih Muslim 2625

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Jibreel's insistence

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: Jibreel kept advising me about the neighbour until I thought he would make him an heir (Bukhari 6014). Inheritance is for blood. The angel argued the case for the man next door.

2. Three kinds of neighbour

Scholars name them: the neighbour who is Muslim and a relative (three rights). The neighbour who is Muslim (two rights). The neighbour who is not Muslim (one right, the right of neighbourliness). Religion is not a precondition; proximity is enough.

3. Practical neighbour care

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: he is not a believer whose neighbour is not safe from his harm (Bukhari 6016). Beyond that, share food when you cook extra (Muslim 2625), check in when you have not seen them, take care of their property when they travel.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to rights of the neighbour.

Suggested closing: When you walk home today, notice the houses on either side. Decide one small thing you will do for them this month.

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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