



Lecture Summary – Thursday 30th October 2025

The Social Role of the Masjid – Shaykh Ali Abbas Malik

Begins by emphasizing that **human beings are social by nature**, created by Allah to live in **interdependence** rather than isolation. Islam recognizes that people thrive through connection, cooperation, and mutual support. Those who are cut off from others—such as prisoners or people in seclusion—experience deep hardship because isolation goes against the essence of human creation.

Allah says in the Qur'an:

“We created you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another.”

This verse is highlighted to show that **ethnic, tribal, and cultural diversity** is not a cause for division, but a divine means for recognition, cooperation, and respect. True honour lies not in lineage or race but in **taqwa (piety)** — *“Indeed, the most honoured among you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous.”*

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ demonstrated this principle through his **character and conduct**. He lived among people as the **most truthful and trustworthy**, embodying *makārim al-akhlāq* (noble character). His mission was not only to guide spiritually but also to build a moral and cohesive society.

The speaker then connects this teaching to the **ethics of social care and mutual service**. Islam encourages believers to:

- **Greet one another** with peace (*As-salāmu ‘alaykum*).
- **Inquire about each other’s wellbeing**.
- **Offer help** to those in need.
- **Feed others** and share in acts of kindness and charity.

These are not just recommended deeds (*mustahabbāt*) — they build the spiritual and social fabric of the Muslim community.

The lecture also reflects on the **secondary role of the masjid (mosque)** beyond worship: it is a **center of care, compassion, and connection**. Within it, believers strengthen unity, support the vulnerable, and uphold humility before Allah. The community should strive to ensure no one feels neglected or alone.

The speaker refers to the **International Day of Care and Support (29th November)** as an opportunity to revive this Islamic spirit — caring for one another, being attentive to those in difficulty, and seeing our different skills and professions as complementary tools to serve each other. Allah says:

“We made some of you as means for others.”

This means we are each created with unique abilities that benefit others; one may be a teacher, another a worker, an accountant, or a craftsman — all contributing to a balanced community.

In conclusion, the lecture reminds that **the best among us are those who serve others**. True worship (*‘ibādah*) is not limited to rituals but extends to **caring for the creation of Allah**. Following the example of the Prophet ﷺ and Ahlulbayt (عليهم السلام), believers should cultivate humility, empathy, and service — strengthening both their relationship with Allah and with one another.