

Qatari imams call for better treatment of workers

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Qatari imams delivered bold and more focused messages on Eid Al Adha in their sermons on Saturday as they broached topical and sensitive local issues.

Their expatriate counterparts, on the contrary, mostly talked of religious rituals and issues that were neither local nor pointed.

In his sermon delivered before the Eid prayers in Aisha bint Abu Baker Mosque, Dr Ali Mohiuddin Al Qurradaghi, urged sponsors to treat their workers well, especially maids and domestic drivers.

"Treating a worker well is the message of Islam and this is one of the best sacrifices a Muslim can make," he said. Besides, a Muslim must help the poor and needy, he added.

Talking of lowly-paid domestic helpers, he said: "Some of them may be your brothers in Islam, but those who are not Muslims, are your brothers in humanity. Be kind and fair to your employees, especially to those who work in your homes."

Mistreating or harassing a worker is considered the worst kind of sin in Islam, said the prominent cleric.

Before leading the Eid prayers in the main mosque in Al Wakra, Dr Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Bunain, in his sermon asked Arab rulers to be just and fair in treating their subjects.

He urged them to seek advice from Muslim clergy on important issues. The priest was highly critical of trends like fundamentalism and terrorism and hinted that by causing hatred among mankind, such elements were harming the religion.

Al Bunain lamented that the gap between the Muslim masses and clerics was yawning at a dangerous pace. This is what is increasingly causing ignorance in the community worldwide.

"Today, clerics have a greater responsibility to lead the masses and enlighten them," he said.