

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

... وَاللَّهُ فِي عَوْنِ الْعَبْدِ مَا كَانَ الْعَبْدُ فِي عَوْنِ أَخِيهِ ...

NOW IS THE TIME TO HEAL THE WOUNDS!

Honourable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, our Allah Almighty wills, **“Cooperate in righteousness and piety. But do not cooperate in sin and aggression.”**¹

And in the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (pbuh) says, **“Allah will help a person as long as he is helping his brother...”**²

Honourable Believers!

We have been going through a period in the world in which there are many ongoing conflicts and wars aggravating one another. Dark days are dooming various corners of the Islamic world; it is a shame for humanity. Innocent Muslims are going through unspeakable suffering. The bloodshed is not ending. As we are surrounded by a circle of fire, thousands of brothers and sisters of Turkmen, Arabic, and Kurdish origin are taking shelter in our country with hopes of peace.

On the other hand, our country is also going through a hard time. Treacherous hands testing our unity and targeting our integrity are escalating violence at one corner of our homeland. Dozens of heroes have fallen martyrs. We are deeply grieved as families mourn their lost ones.

We are today obligated, by using every means available, to rebuild the demolished, bring life to the exhausted, breath to the suffocated, company to the forlorn, and to remember our fellowship once again. Now is the time to be the light in the eyes, the prayer on the lips, and the courage in the hearts. Now is the time to heal the wounds.

Brothers and Sisters!

Firstly, I ask for mercy from Allah to our honourable martyrs who ensured the safety of our homeland at the cost of their lives, and I remember them with utmost gratitude and thankfulness. May Allah Almighty receive them with His mercy and grace. May they all rest in peace.

I would like to offer my condolences, once more, to families of our martyrs. May Allah, who welcomes His martyrs in the highest of ranks, bestow upon them patience and fortitude. May He put out the fire in their hearts and end their tears.

Brothers and Sisters!

Now is the time, as a nation, to honour our duty of loyalty to our martyrs. Now is the time to heal the wounds of martyrs' families. Let us be their children, kiss their

hand, care for them, add our prayers to theirs. Let us help martyrs' spouses with their moral and material needs. Let us embrace their children with open arms. The martyr has re-joined his Creator; he has been honoured with blessings and achieved eternal bliss. What falls to us is to make this life easier for the ones they left behind, instil them the will to stand up and hold on to life.

Brothers and Sisters!

Now is the time to heal the wounds of brothers and sisters aggrieved by terror. Thousands of citizens are looking forward to reclaiming their lives. They were forced to leave their city as their houses were burnt down. They have been unable to send their children to school. They have been out of business for a long time.

Today, our duty is to be their helpers, a remedy, and sympathize with their situation. Today, our responsibility is to stand with our brothers and sisters so that life can run its course in its old harmony and zest with more hopes than before. Well experienced in providing home for the homeless and company for the forlorn, our nation will surely not leave our terror-stricken brothers and sisters alone. Let us mend souls tumbled by terror and touch the hearts made destitute from longing for home. Let us remove the scene of destruction before the eyes of children, the future of this country, and let us make them forget the sound of gunshots in their ears.

Brothers and Sisters!

Now is the time to heal the wounds of Bayir Bujak Turkmen. They endeavoured to the last second to defend their land against the oppressors and not lose their homeland; they fought tooth and nail for survival. Now is the time to help heal the heavy wounds of thousands of our kin, who have taken shelter in our country after the latest large-scale attacks and strikes. Today is the day we provide all sorts of aid and support for them to feel in friendly hands and have the climate of safety and peace they have lost. Today is the day we heal their wounds.

Brothers and Sisters!

As the Presidency of Religious Affairs and Diyanet Foundation, we took our nation's helping hand to many parts of the world before. Today, we launch a new campaign titled **“Time to Heal the Wounds”**. It is not a campaign for distant lands but for our own world, our own citizens and guests. In this respect, an aid campaign will be held at all mosques across the nation for martyrs' families, terror-stricken citizens, and Turkmen brothers and sisters who have taken shelter in our country. May Allah accept the help you gave and will give.

Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to finish the sermon by mentioning a matter which, I believe, is important for all believers. For the education of our children, the assurance of our future, let us encourage them to choose the elective courses of Quran and Our Prophet's Life at school. Let us remember that this is a religious duty bestowed upon us as parents.

¹ Al-Mai'dah, 5/2.

² Muslim, Zikir, 38.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ

إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

... اللَّهُمَّ أَصْلِحْ لِي آخِرَتِي الَّتِي فِيهَا مَعَادِي وَاجْعَلْ الْحَيَاةَ زِيَادَةً لِي فِي كُلِّ

خَيْرٍ وَاجْعَلِ الْمَوْتَ رَاحَةً لِي مِنْ كُلِّ شَرٍّ.

BELIEF IN THE AFTERLIFE

Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty wills, **“O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do.”**¹

Brothers and Sisters!

It was Friday, our Beloved Prophet (pbuh) was at the minbar when a man entered the masjid and interrupted him by asking, “O Messenger of Allah! When will the Hour be established?” The Sahabah made gestures towards the man to be quiet but he repeated the same question three times. After finishing the prayer, the Prophet (pbuh) said: **“Where is the one who asked when the hour will be established?”** The man said: “It was I, O Messenger of Allah.” The Prophet (pbuh) then asked: **“What have you prepared for it?”** He said: “Not much, but I love Allah and His Messenger.” So the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: **“A man shall be with whomever he loves, and you shall be with whomever you love.”**²

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) emphasized with this hadith that we should always be prepared for that big day, the time of Judgment. What is more important than the exact date of the Last Hour is how well we were prepared for it. And the way to preparation for the Last Hour is through heartfelt love for Allah and our Prophet and leading a life in the manner Allah and His Messenger want.

Brothers and Sisters!

Belief in resurrection after death, the Last Judgment, the Day of Reckoning, and the afterlife is one of the basic principles of our religion. According to our faith; *mabda*, which means everything was created by Allah out of nothing, and *ma'ad*, which means everything will perish one day except for Allah the eternal, cannot be considered as separate concepts. One who does not know of the truth about existence,

the purpose of life, and the goal of creation cannot comprehend death, what lies beyond death, resurrection, judgment, reckoning, and afterlife. They cannot grasp the fact that the afterlife is our everlasting home and eternal place of residence.

Honourable Believers!

In our Holy Book, Allah tells us that we have not been created without meaning and purpose, we have not been sent unattended to this world, and we will be born into a new life after death. He frequently reminds us of the fact that the world is a deceptive meta for us. He informs us that the idea which suggests life consists of our time in this world will lead us to denial. He emphasizes that a world which disregards the afterlife is one that solely consists of games, amusement, vanity, and arrogance.

Brothers and Sisters!

The mortal worldly life is nothing but a temporary accommodation on our way to the eternal afterlife. We will earn our eternal home and afterlife on this world. While the world is a place of trial for us, the afterlife is the place where truth and absolute justice will arise in phases through reckoning, sirat, mizan, Heaven (Jannah), and Hell (Jahannam). On that day, we will answer for every sin we committed as well as being rewarded for every good deed we did. No one will face injustice even in the slightest degree.

A person who leads their life conscious of this fact will constantly examine themselves. They will think of the answer they have to give before Allah and therefore try to stand clear of unlawful things and sin. They will strive to be the lock on evil and the key to benevolence. They will aim to lead a life in pursuit of halal, good deeds, and goodness. A society in which these beliefs and concepts are established will surely be a society of peace, calm, and safety.

Brothers and Sisters!

People whose good deeds outweigh the bad ones on the mizan will attain salvation in the afterlife. Those whose good deeds appear lighter in weight will confess they have shamed themselves. Remember; Heaven is a garden the seed of which we sow in this world. And Hell is a furnace the fire of which we bring from this world.

I would like to end my khutbah with the following prayers:

“O Allah! Grant us good in this world and good in the life to come, and keep us safe from suffering through the fire!”³

“O Allah, set right for me my Hereafter on which depends my after-life. And make the life for me (a source) of abundance for every good and

**make my death a source of comfort for me
protecting me against every evil!”⁴**

¹ Al-Hashr, 59/18.

² Tirmidhi, Zuhd, 50.

³ Al-Baqara, 2/201.

⁴ Muslim, Dua, 71.

Prepared by: General Directorate of Religious Services

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَأَنزَلَ التَّوْرَةَ
وَالْإِنْجِيلَ ﴿٣١﴾ مِن قَبْلُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَأَنزَلَ الْفُرْقَانَ
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِن أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ وَأَحْسَنَ الْهُدَى هُدَى مُحَمَّدٍ

BELIEF IN THE BOOKS

Honourable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty wills, **“He has sent down upon you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming what was before it. And He revealed the Torah and the Gospel...”**¹

¹ Âl-i ‘Imran, 3/2-4.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Almighty Rabb created human beings as the most honourable of creatures. He accepted them as recipients of his word. Human history began with revelation, the divine word. He passed his words and will on to us through his books and prophets. He equipped us with revelations and knowledge so we could prosper in the universe. He guided us. He supported us with revelation so we could get acquainted with Him, worship Him, and find peace and happiness in both worlds. Through revelation He let us know the meaning of life and death, world and hereafter, right and superstitious, good and evil. He taught us morality and virtue, justice and rightness with revelation.

Brothers and Sisters!

There came periods in the history of humankind at times when tawhid and the wisdom and goal of creation fell into oblivion. Allah Almighty showed the true path to humanity again with His prophets. He sent books to be experienced. Allah’s books are Allah’s words, the finest of its kind, put into letters and paragraphs. Belief in Allah’s books

is another article of being a believer. Believing in the books is acknowledging Allah’s word is the true word. Belief in the books is accepting that each book confirmed the one before itself and the last piece of the chain was crowned with Quran.

Brothers and Sisters!

We are ordered to indiscriminately believe in all divine books. It is of course applicable for the untouched versions of those books, in the form they were sent by Allah. We believers believe in the original states of divine books. We accept them as the word of Allah in their pristine condition and pay them due respect. We know that denying a book is actually denying its owner. We also accept that the original versions of current divine books were changed except for Quran.

Brothers and Sisters!

At a time when holy books which served as divine guides were manipulated, Allah sent our Master as the prophet. Once again he showed the path to humanity through revelation. The tradition of revelation that began with the first human being ended with Muhammad Mustafa (s.a.w). He is the Khatam an-Nabiyyin, the last prophet. The Holy Quran, which he personally taught us through experience, is the last divine book. Now, the Quran, the source of true path, is the sole guide. Bliss in the world and in the afterlife depends on abiding by grand values presented to us in the example of the Quran and the Messenger of Allah.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The Holy Quran is the greatest legacy left by our Master to his ummah; it is the living miracle. As stated in the verse **“Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur'an and indeed, we will be its guardian.”**² it is under Allah’s protection.

Quran shows us the meaning of our existence, the purpose of our lives. It tells us where we came from and where we are headed. It teaches us how to be a good servant, a good daughter/son, a good neighbour, and in short

a good person. It advises grace, justice, and benevolence. Reading, listening to, and understanding the Quran is a religious service. Experiencing it through life is the goal of our existence. Quran is a protector and a saviour for those who cling to it. It is a source of healing, a guide for the true path, and a means of mercy. Those who put their lives in order under the guidance of Quran and treading in the footsteps of our Master the Prophet will never lose their way;³ they will never lose sight of their direction.

May Allah Almighty never deprive us of the light and guidance of our Holy Book and the example of our Master (s.a.w). I would like to conclude the khutbah with the following hadith from our Prophet: **“Word of Allah is the best word; path of Muhammad is the best path.”**⁴

1 Âl-i Imrân, 3/2-4.

2 Al-Hijr, 15/9.

3 Muvattâ, Kader, 1.

4 Nesâi, Sehv, 65.

Prepared by:

General Directorate of Religious Services



وَلَا تَسْتَوِ الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ۚ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ

عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَا تَكُونُوا إِمْعَةً تَقُولُونَ إِنَّا أَحْسَنُ النَّاسِ أَحْسَنًا وَإِنْ ظَلَمُوا ظَلَمْنَا

وَلَكِنْ وَطِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ ۚ إِنَّا أَحْسَنُ النَّاسِ أَنْ تُحْسِنُوا وَإِنْ أَسَاءُوا فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا

GOODNESS CHANGES THE WORLD

Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty wills: **“And not equal are the good deed and the bad. Repel [evil] by that [deed] which is better; and thereupon the one whom between you and him is enmity [will become] as though he was a devoted friend.”**¹

And in the hadith I have recited, our Master the Prophet (saw) warns us: **“Do not let yourselves be 'yes-men', saying: 'If the people are good then we will be good, and if they are wrong then we will be wrong. 'Rather, make up your own minds, if the people are good then you are good, and if they are evil, then do not behave unjustly.”**²

Brothers and Sisters!

The verse of the Quran and the hadith above teach us what sort of an attitude to assume towards hostility that we may encounter in any stage of our lives. They say that evil can only be eliminated by good deeds. They tell us that we should avoid making our hearts become captured by evil and turning it into stone with bad deeds. We are asked to first fill our own hearts with divine traits such as benevolence, compassion, and mercy; and then gradually spread it across our surroundings and our world.

Honourable Believers!

Goodness is the primary goal of existence in the civilization of Islam. Allah Almighty created human beings on Earth to make goodness, benevolence, beneficence, and charity prevail. The humankind is in this world to perform good, right, beautiful, beneficial, and serviceable deeds. We are in this world to avoid bad, wrong, and shameful deeds and prevent them.

Goodness is the trait that faith and all sorts of prayer aims to endow us with. The goodness and benevolence constitute the body of values that makes a person. It is the most important quality that Islam wants to see in each one of us to be a good servant, a good son/daughter, a good parent, a good spouse, a good neighbour, a good friend, and in short, a good person.

Brothers and Sisters!

Goodness does not mean a person's only working towards their own interest; and nor does it have a narrow

scope only to be confined to association with financial aid. It comes in countless ways. Any word, attitude, and behaviour that will make us beloved in both worlds, bring us happiness, and get us Allah's blessing counts as a good deed.

Goodness means being a friend to the lonely, something to rest on to the exhausted, a shelter to the wretched, and help to the needy; it means making the world liveable. It means being able to fondly pat on the heads of the Ummah's destitute orphans. It means making the downtrodden happy, and being like the Ansar to the immigrants of the Islamic world who have become refugees. It means removing the handicaps in front of our handicapped brothers and sisters who have to shoulder the heavy burden of life. Goodness means lending a helping hand to those in need and to the stranded, offering company to the abandoned, and help to the helpless. Sometimes it means smiling at our brothers and sisters, and sometimes it means meeting in prayers for one another in trying times. Remember, the more a person cares about their brother and sister, the more they sympathize with the troubles of the downtrodden, the orphan, the abandoned, the more good they will do for themselves as well.

Honourable Brothers and Sisters!

I regret to say that we and the whole humanity are surrounded by evil every passing day. The understanding of benevolence is getting damaged day by day. A part of the world is fighting to meet their basic needs in hunger, poverty, and fear. And the other part pursues their desires irresponsibly and lavishly. The humankind is losing its fairness, conscience, and mercy for the sake of ambition, greed, fancy, desire, and whim.

Brothers and Sisters!

Today, humanity is trying to destroy evil with evil, and eliminate violence with violence. It is disregarded that responding to evil with evil will only create more evil. However, our Mighty Rabb shows a magnificent path to all humanity. He commands us to make goodness prevail on earth to get rid of evil. He reveals that when we make goodness prevail, evil will disappear on its own; malice will be able to be mended with charity, and corruption with recovery. He wants us to throw hatred, anger, and loathing out of our hearts to avoid becoming a slave to evil, and adorn our souls with virtues like grace, compassion, mercy, and affection.

Brothers and Sisters!

Then come! Let us build bridges of goodness and mercy between our hearts. Let us spread goodness in waves across our houses, our homeland, our country, and our world. Let us not forget that goodness changes the world.

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following prayer that our Generous Book has taught us: **“Our Lord! Give us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and protect us from the torment of the Fire!”**³

¹ Fussilat, 41/34.

² Tirmidhi, Birr, 63.

³ Al-Baqarah, 2/201.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَنْتُمْ الْأَعْلَوْنَ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبُنْيَانِ، يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا.

ÇANAKKALE AND SPIRIT OF UNITY

Brothers and Sisters!

Before I start my khutbah, I wish Allah's mercy and grace for those who lost their lives at the heinous attack in Ankara on Sunday, and a quick recovery to the injured. And I invite all to say a Fatiha for the souls of brothers and sisters who lost their lives. Al-Fatiha.

Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty wills, **“Do not weaken and do not grieve, and you will be superior if you are believers.”**¹

In the hadith I have recited, our Master the Prophet (saw) says: **“A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing each other.”**²

Brothers and Sisters!

A century ago, our heroic ancestors exclaimed to the whole world: “Çanakkale is Impassable.” They sacrificed their blood and lives to spread the word of Allah and for the clear religion of Islam. They attained the glories rank of martyrdom. They defended tawhid and guarded Islam's honor and dignity and Muslims' pride. They did not let the hands of heathens touch our temples. They did not allow for the silencing of adhans, the testimonies of which are the foundation of our religion. They gained a great victory with their faith, courage, and self-sacrifice and with Allah's favor and help. On this occasion, I wish Allah's mercy and grace for all our martyrs and particularly our Çanakkale martyrs.

Honorable Believers!

Nations go through trials just like people do as individuals. As a nation, we have also gone through tests in almost every period of history. They aimed at our existence, our faith, the things we hold sacred, and our peace. Like in Çanakkale, powers with no conscience or mercy advanced towards us with full force in Sakarya and Dumlupınar. We did not have powerful weapons against these armies. But our hearts were full of faith. Our souls were united. We endured all struggles by being servants to Allah in the same sajdah, finding the direction in the same qibla, by cherishing one another, by loving each other, and with the spirit of unity and solidarity.

We fought shoulder to shoulder with the country's East, West, North, and South in the cause of religion, adhan, flag, and everything sacred. We made this

country our homeland thanks to the martyrdom of thousands.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Today, we are yet again going through another test as a nation and a region. Those who want to set us against each other and weaken us are trying to drag our country into a ring of fire. They are aiming at our fellowship, our unity and solidarity, and our peace irregardless of sect, disposition, race, color, or geography. Many young ones among us have fallen martyr. We are getting hurt and losing innocent brothers and sisters at malicious terrorist attacks committed by heartless people who know no moral or humane value. We are stricken with grief.

Those who are responsible for our suffering and aiming at our fellowship, unity, and peace should know that we are a nation which boasts different colors, languages, voices, and spirits in this country. For centuries, we have wept together in times of grief and poverty, and rejoiced together in times of happiness and abundance. Suffering, violence, and fear will never discourage us. On the contrary, it will make us close ranks and reinforce the bond of fellowship.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Therefore, what we have to do is being aware of our responsibilities and duties during the trying and troublesome period our country and nation is currently going through. Let us close the ranks indiscriminately to spite those who want to set us against each other with violence, fear, and suffering. We just have to become one body against raving murderous groups with the mentality of “us” and leave aside the mentality of “you” and “me”. Never forget that terror and the evil groups that use it are aiming at our country, our nation, things we hold sacred, and our future altogether. Keep an eye open against any sort of fitnah, malice and trickery. Keep away from any statement or action that may damage the love and fellowship between us. Remember that, otherwise, we will be an instrument to the purposes of terror and the dark powers that use it.

Brothers and Sisters!

Join me! Let us supplicate to our Lord in this holy time of Friday:

Lord! Do not give the opportunity to those who have set their sights on our fellowship, our unity, our peace, our dignity, and our honor! O, Allah! Protect our nation, our country, and the world of Islam from all sorts of attacks, fitnah, and malice from inside and outside! Let us band together against those who aim at our existence, our lives, things we hold sacred, and our peace, o Allah! Lord! Let us live together as brothers and sisters from now onward just like we have since the day we made this country our homeland!

¹ Âli Imrân, 3/139

² Bukhârî, Salât, 88; Muslim, Birr, 65.



يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ لِلَّهِ شُهَدَاءَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَا نُ قَوْمٍ عَلَى

أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا اعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَى وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلِمَ النَّاسُ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُ مَنْ أَمِنَهُ النَّاسُ عَلَى دِمَائِهِمْ وَأَمْوَالِهِمْ

TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Honorable Believers!

The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) was with his companions one day and he asked them: **“Do you know who the bankrupt is?”** One of them said: “The bankrupt among us is the one who has no Dirham nor property.” Then, our Beloved Master described the real bankrupt: **“The bankrupt in my Ummah is the one who comes with Salat and fasting and Zakat on the Day of Judgement; but he will find himself bankrupt on that day as he will have exhausted the good deeds because he reviled others, brought calumny against others, unlawfully devoured the wealth of others, shed the blood of others and beat others. So his good deeds would be credited to the account of those who suffered at his hand. If his good deeds fall short to clear the account, their sins would be entered in his account and he would be thrown in the Hell.”**¹

These holy words from the mouth of the Messenger of Grace emphasize the frustration to be experienced on that big day by the person who does not show sensitivity on the issues of faith, deed, words, and ethics.

Brothers and Sisters!

Before anything else, we have been sent to this world to witness the truth and the righteousness. Being the source, possessor, and determiner of truth and reality, Allah Almighty wills, **“O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice.”**² And he invited all believers to acknowledge the truth, proclaim the reality, and promote justice.

With the Shahada which is the proof of our faith and being Muslim, we, too, have borne witness to the existence of our Lord, to His oneness, to His infinite might, and to the prophethood of Muhammad Mustafa (s.a.w.) whom He sent as a Messenger of Grace to the universe. It was not just a testimony confined to words, of course. We have taken great responsibility with this divine testimony. We promised our Lord that we would witness, sustain, and maintain the truth and reality that He has entrusted to us.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Looking after the Truth means acting with responsibility towards our Lord, ourselves, our environment, and all created beings. Being righteous in the presence of our Lord means becoming a servant that shows submission and obedience in duties we do for Him. It means seeking His consent on every occasion.

Being righteous in ourselves means properly making use of the blessings that are the grace of Allah. It means preventing our minds from becoming captured by vile notions. It means shutting down our tongues against evil words. It means guarding our bodies against evil and using them for the good and benefit of humanity.

Being righteous in our social environment means treating others with compassion, mercy, fairness, and justice. It means not attacking the soul, property, honor, and dignity of anyone regardless of their language, race, sect, and disposition. It means remembering that the world does not only belong to us but to others as well.

Brothers and Sisters!

Everything that is forbidden by Islam –from all sorts of wastefulness to squandering public property, from gambling to usurpation, from fraud to theft, from deception to trickery, from trafficking to ill-gotten gains, from backbite to slander, from lies to forgery, from murder to violence and terror- is actually an offense and wrongdoing against both the rights of Allah and the rights of human beings. A Muslim cannot be engaged in such situations. A Muslim cannot be mentioned together with such evil deeds. A believer never extorts others. They also cannot keep silent against injustice, lawlessness, and unfairness. They cannot be insensitive towards oppression. They cannot side with the cruel. Because a believer, as described by our Prophet, is someone from whose hands and tongue the others are safe and from whom the people’s lives and wealth are safe.³

Brothers and Sisters!

We are members of a civilization that has genuinely established righteousness and law in the world and promoted justice. We know that no injustice or oppression lasts forever. And we heartily believe that the wrong will never inflict harm on us as long as we elevate the truth. Our Lord will exalt us as long as we side with the right. As long as we follow the lead of the Holy Quran, the source of truth and righteousness, and the Sunnah of our Prophet (s.a.w). As long as we avoid saying “I am the truth and the reality is in my hands and nobody else’s.” As long as we have the sensitivity for truth as taught by our religion, and endeavor to spread it.

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following prayer which we will readily say “Amin”:

“O Allah! Grant us to know the Truth and abide by it; and grant us to know the wrong and abstain from it.”

¹ Muslim, Birr & Sila, 59.

² Al-Ma'idah 5/8.

³ Nesâi, İman & Şerâihü, 8.



الَّذِينَ يُتَّقُونَ فِي السَّرَّاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَالْكَاطِمِينَ الْغَيْظَ وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ

وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَيْسَ الشَّدِيدُ بِالصُّرَعَةِ إِنَّمَا الشَّدِيدُ الَّذِي يَمْلِكُ نَفْسَهُ عِنْدَ الْغَضَبِ.

KEEPING YOUR TEMPER

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord Almighty wills in our Holy Book: **“Who spend [in the cause of Allah] during ease and hardship and who restrain anger and who pardon the people.”**¹ And He declares controlling their temper is another trait of pious believers.

While conversing with his companions one day, our Prophet (s.a.w) asked them: **“Whom do you count as a wrestler amongst you?”** They said, “He who wrestles with persons.” Then our Master said: **“No, it is not the one who overcomes the people by his strength, but the wrestler is the one who controls himself while in anger.”**²

The Prophet of mercy sent a message to be engraved in hearts and minds with this simple but yet such a meaningful message. He warned us about giving in to rage which causes so many regrets, tears, and remorse. While educating his companions about temper management on one hand, our Master gave indispensable advice for each one of us on the other. Once, a man approached him saying, “O Messenger of Allah! Give me one succinct counsel!” And he replied: **“Do not get angry.”**³

Honorable Believers!

Allah Almighty provides us with segments from lives of prophets on avoiding anger in our Holy Book. One of these prophets is Moses (a.s.). In his absence, his brother Aaron could not prevent his tribe from going astray. Infuriated with the situation, Moses seized him and shook him angrily. Eventually, he composed himself upon his brother's warning and sought the Lord's shelter by praying, **“My Lord, forgive me and my brother. And admit us into Your mercy, for You are the most merciful of the merciful.”**⁴

Jonah (a.s.) invited his people to submission and servitude to the one Allah. But they turned him down. In response, Jonah the Prophet abandoned his people in anger. But his anger turned into a test for him. He ended up in the dark inside a fish's stomach. He once again comprehended the meaning of patience and composure. And he remorsefully took refuge in Allah saying, **“There is no deity except You. Glorified are You. Truly, I have been of the wrong-doers.”**⁵

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The Lord of All Worlds educates us with these examples on prophets who shed light on the path of humanity. He teaches us that even prophets get angry from time to time but they get over it by taking shelter in Allah. Our Prophet (s.a.w.) also advises us to take shelter in Allah

at the moment of anger and to remember the settlement day, the good deeds, and the sins.⁶ He asks us to use our tongues for words of prayer, tranquility, and well-being and not for words of revolt, impiety, and revenge.

Brothers and Sisters!

One's ability to keep their temper is a manifestation of being a mature individual and a perfect believer. It means carrying water and not wood to its instantly sparkling fire. Because when overwhelmed with anger, the individual will not see nor hear anything; their reason and conscience are rendered out of use. A person who has lost their temper is stripped of mercy and tolerance; they become offending and destructive. They may exhibit extreme behavior that causes loss of life.

As a matter of fact, we witness almost every day many tragic events, cautionary stories, and sad incidents caused by anger. The devil plants seeds of hatred, spite, and revenge with the weapon of anger. Kinship, friendship, and brotherhood can turn into animosity with feuds and disputes that begin with trivial reasons. A moment of anger takes away happiness and destroys dreams in families, work environments, and in different areas of daily life. Many homes burn away with the fire of momentary anger. It tears our hearts out to see that spouses, children, parents, neighbors, and innocent people pay the price with their lives when humankind succumbs to anger.

Brothers and Sisters!

As humanity, we are living in an age of stress today. From time to time, we encounter exasperating incidents in daily life. But even if we are right to be angry, we should remember where it may drag us. We should always keep the fact in our minds that life is a test for us. We should filter through good sense everything we hear and everything we experience. Let us, as believers, have mercy, compassion, tolerance, and patience at all times. Let us not darken our hearts with the captivity of anger and with emotions like hatred, fury, and hostility. Let us make Mawlana's saying “Sword of clemency is sharper than sword of anger” a slogan for ourselves.

May our Lord Almighty makes us among His pious servants who keep their patience, overcome their anger, and forgive others even when they are right and not among those who succumb to their anger!

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Infinite praises be to our Lord that once again we have neared the three sacred months, the season of grace, abundance, and forgiveness. We will observe Laylat al-Raghaib on the next Thursday night and enter the month of Rajab, the first of three sacred months. I would like to wish you a blessed Laylat al-Raghaib in advance. May our Lord Almighty grant us to use the three sacred months in the best way and reach Eid al-Fitr altogether having gained His consent.

¹ Ali 'Imran, 3/134.

² Muslim, Birr, 106; Also see Bukhari, Edeb, 76.

³ Bukhari, Edeb, 76.

⁴ Al-A'raf, 7/151.

⁵ Al-Anbya, 21/86-88; Also see As-Saffat, 37/139-148.

⁶ Bukhari, Edeb, 44.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
ذَلِكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ فَاعْبُدُوهُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
النَّاسُ كُلُّهُمْ بَنُو آدَمَ وَآدَمُ خَلِقَ مِنْ تُرَابٍ .

THE PROPHET, TAWHID, AND WAHDAT

Fellow believers who adopt the faith of tawhid and acknowledge Kalimah Tawheed sincerely by saying “Lâ Îlâhâ Illallah”!

Elated Muslims who accept Allah Almighty as their Rabb, Islam as their religion, Muhammad Mustafa as their Prophet, and the Holy Quran as their Book!

My dear brothers and sisters who unite by the grace of Allah and solidify their fellowship by lining up in this mosque side by side and sharing the same goals! May your Friday be blessed.

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty wills: “**That is Allah, your Lord; there is no deity except Him, the Creator of all things, so worship Him. And He is Disposer of all things.**”¹

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: “**People are all the children of Adam, and Adam was created from dust.**”²

Brothers and Sisters!

Another Holy Birth Week has come, which is the anniversary of our Prophet’s honoring the Earth with his arrival. During this week, various events are held to remember our Prophet and understand his messages. Presidency of Religious Affairs will bring up the theme of “**The Prophet, Tawhid, and Wahdat**” in the Holy Birth Week to point out the belief of tawhid and concept of wahdat in our religion and raise awareness on the issue.

Tawhid and wahdat will be covered in all aspects with the call “Let’s stand together to bring humanity back to life, keep it alive, and glorify humankind!” and within the framework of examples put forward by our Prophet (s.a.w.). In these days of trouble for all humanity, it will help the shattered minds and the wounded hearts. On this occasion, I would like to wish you a happy Holy Birth Week. I pray to Lord Almighty that this week will be beneficial for all of us.

Honorable Believers!

Tawhid means heartily acknowledging the existence and oneness of our Almighty Lord and not considering anything equal to Him. The purpose and wisdom in creation of humankind is based on tawhid. All the prophets were sent to spread the belief of tawhid on earth and make it prevail. They put up hard fights for that cause, and went through excruciating tests. As the last envoy of tawhid faith, our Lord Almighty assigned our Master (s.a.w.). The grace of the worlds, our

Prophet communicated to people the existence and oneness of Allah once again. He called them to be the servants of Allah only and lead a humane life. Within a short period of time, the prophet of grace built a pious society that believed in Allah from a community of polytheism. The torch of tawhid he lighted in Makkah grew bigger every day. So much so that it turned darkness into light, cruelty into justice, and hatred and hostility into compassion and mercy.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Master the Prophet (s.a.w.) introduced the concept of wahdat together with the belief of tawhid. It produced the most precious examples of fellowship and unity between the Ansar and the Muhajir to the world. With our Prophet’s concept of wahdat, “ones” with different languages, colors, and races became “thousands” with the “one” faith, purpose, and soul.

Honorable Believers!

Tawhid is not merely a system of belief and thought. It is also a style of life. Tawhid is the manifestation of faith in individual life; it means leading a life as required by this faith. It means being fully aware of our responsibilities towards our Lord, ourselves, our environment, and the universe.

Wahdat is the equivalent of tawhid in community life. Wahdat is fellowship, friendship, love, respect, helping each other, solidarity, and sharing with others. It means having the awareness of cohabitation, uniting on shared values, and leaning towards common ideals. Wahdat means gathering under the banner of tawhid, and leaving all interests aside for the cause of Allah. It means sharing our wealth, our poverty, our pain, our joy, and our prayers. It means making every effort to prevent the blood of Muslims from being shed, and to avoid disintegration of Muslims.

Wahdat means being aware of the preeminent civilizations that the ummah of Islam built, and being aware of the great experiences put forward by these civilizations. Remember; in Islam lies the only solution that will bring peace and happiness to all the destitute and the downtrodden of the Earth. It lies in Islam’s concepts of tawhid and wahdat. However, we should accurately comprehend tawhid and wahdat for that to happen.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We have some great obligations in this period where the Muslims in particular and all humanity in general are going through the greatest crisis in history. It is among the greatest duties for us Muslims to become one voice against evil and one body against the cruel. However, it is only possible by taking Islam’s tawhid and wahdat as the base, not by basing the solution on one another’s sect, disposition, race, language, nationality, and ideology. The path towards unity, peace, and comfort as well as the way of recognizing friend and foe is through making the ummah happy and not anyone else.

Brothers and Sisters!

As we observe the anniversary of his holy birth, I pray to our Almighty Lord that the graceful universal messages of our Prophet (s.a.w.) on the religion of tawhid will be means to the wahdat, unity, peace, and prosperity of all Muslims, especially our country. I pray that humanity is never deprived of the grace and justice of Islam, the religion of mercy, and that Holy Birth Week will help in the strengthening of love and loyalty in our society towards our Prophet.

¹ Al-An’am, 6/102.

² Tirmidhi, Menâkib, 74.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُونِ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَلَا إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ وَاحِدٌ وَإِنَّ أَبَاكُمْ وَاحِدٌ... النَّاسُ كُلُّهُمْ بَنُو آدَمَ

وَأَدَمُ خَلِقَ مِنْ تَرَابٍ

CIVILIZATION OF TAWHID AND WAHDAT Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty wills:
“Indeed this, your religion, is one religion, and I am your Lord, so worship Me.”¹

Brothers and Sisters!

Muslims had been rendered unable to observe their religion because of oppression and persecution from the people of Makkah. Our Master (s.a.w.) allowed them to immigrate to another place. Ja'far, the son of our Prophet's uncle Abu Talib, was among the first immigrants. The King of Ethiopia Ashama ibn-Abjar wanted to listen to these people who took refuge in his country and received them in his court. While going inside, Ja'far and his friends did not grovel in the king's presence as was the tradition. When Ashama ibn-Abjar asked for the reason, Ja'far said: “We bow down to nobody but Allah.” And he continued: “King! We were plunged in the depth of ignorance. We did evil. We knew no law when Allah raised among us a man, of whose birth, truthfulness, honesty, and purity we were aware. And he called to the Oneness of Allah, and taught us not to associate anything with Him. He enjoined us to speak the truth, to be faithful to our trusts, to be merciful and to regard the rights of the neighbors and kith and kin. He forbade us all evil and sins or to eat the substance of orphans; he forbade us bloodshedding; he ordered us to flee from the vice; he forbade us to damage one's honor and dignity. We have believed in him. We have allowed what He has allowed, and prohibited what He has prohibited. For this reason, our people have risen against us. And we have come to your country.”²

Brothers and Sisters!

This is a speech that demonstrates the belief of tawhid and the concept of wahdat in Islam and emphasizes that the civilization of Islam is one of tawhid and wahdat. Ja'far's speech is one that summarizes the life and messages of our beloved prophet. It illuminates the darkened perception of Africa and makes Ashama ibn-Abjar join Muhammad Mustafa's Ummah together with his tribe.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Tawhid, the faith in Allah's existence and oneness, is the essence and spirit of Islam. It means proclaiming the sublimity and glory of Allah, the one and absolute creator of everything. It is the declaration that one can be servant to nobody but Allah.

Tawhid declares that human beings were not created without reason; they are not alone, and the Creator is closer to them than anything else. Tawhid reminds people of their humanity; it is the unity between humans and the universe, mind and heart, body and soul.

Tawhid is not an abstract faith; it is also a lifestyle, a wahdat. It means that believers who serve the same Rabb come together around the same feeling and the same purpose. Tawhid is assurance, safety; it is peace, comfort, security.

Brothers and Sisters!

The civilization of Islam is one of tawhid and wahdat. And the civilization of tawhid and wahdat does not divide the universe into East and West or North and South. The civilization of tawhid and wahdat does not discriminate people based on differences of language, color, and nationality.³ Members of this civilization consider all people as equals in creation⁴ or brothers or sisters in religion. They view all humanity and even the universe with compassion and mercy. They do not darken their soul with feelings such as hatred, animosity, and revenge.

This civilization unites the society in the oneness of ar-Rahman. Fame, glory, office, rank, wealth, power, race or sect is never a criterion for supremacy in this civilization. It values people for being human beings. It evaluates them based on their virtue and morals, their intent, their remarks, and their actions.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Certain movements that have emerged today in the shadow of violence and turmoil have given the most harm to Islam by damaging the civilization of tawhid and wahdat. The biggest problem for the world of Islam is the attempt to degrade tawhid to a mere abstract belief while it is a principle that deciphers human beings, history, society, universe, and civilizations. It is that tawhid is perceived as an ideology that declares others as unbelievers and wahdat as a concept of alienation. For those reasons, the belief of tawhid cannot be transformed into wahdat and unity in today's Islamic world. The civilization of peace and safety that set an example for people in the past cannot be rebuilt today.

Brothers and Sisters!

Let us work together today, as the Ummah of Islam, to make the realms of Islam the home of craft and wisdom again. Let us make peace, compassion, mercy, fellowship, friendship, justice, grace, and virtue prevail over the Islamic world. And let us remember that the way to accomplish that is through firmly embracing the graceful messages of our Holy Book and the unique example of our Master the Prophet. Let us come together to bring humanity back to life and elevate it.

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the translation of the verses of Surat al-Fatihah which we recite every day in Salat and acknowledge our faith in tawhid: “Lord, You alone We do worship and from You alone we do seek assistance. Guide us to the straight path; the path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked Your anger or of those who are astray.”⁵

¹ Al-Anbya, 21/92.

² Ibn Hanbel, I, 202.

³ Ibn Hanbel, V, 411.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Menakib, 74.

⁵ Al-Fatihah, 1/5-7.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE

DATE : 22.04.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ

وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبَنِيَّانِ، يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا.

BELIEVERS, THE PIONEERS OF TAWHID & WAHDAT

Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty wills, **“You are the best community produced for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah.”**¹

Honorable Believers!

Our Master the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) came to a graveyard and greeted its occupants with Salam, then he said: **“Peace be upon you, abode of believing people. We will join you soon, if Allah wills.”** Then he said: **“Would that we could see our brothers.”** Having heard the Prophet, his companions said: “O Messenger of Allah, are we not your brothers?” He said: **“You are my Companions. My brothers are those who will come after me.”**²

There were indeed few Believers once upon a time. They later grew in number from generation to generation. Over time, they have become a massive community surrounding continents. They spread the truth they learned from our Prophet across the world. They brought compassion, mercy, and humanity everywhere they went. Pious hearts warmed towards one another in faith; differences of race, color, language, nationality, and geography were overcome one by one. Muslims became brethren, they became one.³ They became the representatives of wahdat that came with tawhid. They displayed the finest examples of becoming one and living together. They had the peace and bliss of being an Ummah believing in the same religion as they turned towards the same qibla and circumambulate the Kaaba side by side. They considered knowledge, wisdom, and craft as

their guide; they built civilizations that glorified humanity. They established righteousness and justice on the face of the Earth.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The ummah of Islam is a community of believers brought together by Islam. It is the main society of people to set an example for humankind, lead them, and guide them. It is a community created for all of humankind. In this respect, the ummah has a responsibility for establishing righteousness and justice. They have a duty to enjoin good and prevent evil. The ummah of Islam is bonded with trust and loyalty like children from one mother. It is a community that observes and keeps alive grand values in guidance of the Holy Quran and our Prophet (s.a.w.). It is a moderate society distant from any type of extremism.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Believers fell into the trap of ignorance when they grew away from the path of knowledge, wisdom, and craft which is the first call of the Holy Book. And when that became the case, they became unable to produce values that shaped individual and social life and shed light on humanity. They became unable to build civilizations. Their progress in knowledge, ideas, philosophy, education, culture, and art came to a halt. They no more had a say in those.

Purity and sincerity were lost when fancy and whim and interest and expedience took precedence over truth and righteousness. They grew farther away from the real essence of religion. Hypocrisy and vanity were brought to the forefront.

They sank into poverty and scarcity when they gave up working and producing in the world of Islam. Others began to exploit the riches of Islamic regions. Muslims were forced consume what others produced.

The world of Islam lost its safety and peace when Muslims drifted away and divisions started to emerge within the community. We became weaker. We became unable to prevent evil and ensure peace.

Brothers and Sisters!

The world of Islam today is surrounded by the fire of fitnah on three fronts. The first one is the fitnah of sectarianism. It is the greatest fitnah for Muslims to prioritize affiliation with a sect over affiliation with Islam and with Muhammad Mustafa. Declaring those who do not think alike as

¹ Ali 'Imran, 3/110.

² Muslim, Tahâret, 39;

³ Bukhari, Salât, 88.

unbelievers and making the mistake of excluding them from the ummah is the greatest danger for Muslims.

The second biggest fitnah is racism which our Prophet (s.a.w.) called “prejudice of the Jahiliyyah.” Yet, our Lord says in the Holy Book: **“And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors. Indeed in that are signs for those of knowledge.”**⁴

And terror is the third fitnah as some think it is jihad to brutally murder innocent people and it is martyrdom to kill people, along with themselves, including men, women, and children. It is when the murderous terrorist groups with no humane and moral values deprive people of their homes, their homelands, their jobs, and their livelihoods. It is when the raving bands of blood-shedders target a whole nation’s, an Ummah’s future, and try to bury the hopes and dreams of people into the pits they have dug.

Brothers and Sisters!

May our Mighty Lord grant us to fight these afflictions and extinguish any fire of fitnah. May He make us a community of brethren that is one in mind and soul, one in goal and sentiment, one in joy and sorrow! As we stand side by side in this mosque, may He grant us to come closer in spirit like the community of believers that we are! May He unite the Ummah of Muhammad in tawhid and wahdat.

Written by: General Directorate of Religious Services

⁴ Ar-Rum, 30/22.



سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي

بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ مَسْعُودٍ قَالَ: أُعْطِيَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ثَلَاثًا:

أُعْطِيَ الصَّلَاةَ الْخَمْسَ وَأُعْطِيَ خَوَاتِيمَ سُورَةِ الْبَقَرَةِ وَغُفِرَ لِمَنْ لَمْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ

مِنْ أُمَّتِهِ شَيْئًا الْمَفْجَمَاتُ

LAILAT AL-MIRĀJ

Brothers and Sisters!

We are going to observe Lailat al-Mi'rāj next Tuesday night. I wish a blessed one for you in advance.

Isra and Mi'rāj constitute the miraculous journey that our Prophet (s.a.w.) took one night, first from Masjid Al-Haram to Masjid Al-Aqsa and from there to the goal of observing the infinite might of Lord Almighty. Containing many divine causes and plentitude, the journey is mentioned in the Holy Book as follows: **"Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-haram to al-Masjid al- Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing."**¹

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Mi'rāj is the most sublime witnessing of the Prophet of Grace (s.a.w.) upon His eternity, supremacy, and never-ending might. Our Lord demonstrated in the person of our Prophet to the humankind once again in this witnessing that supremacy only belongs to Him. He also taught him ways of purification, elevation, and reaching the peak as a believer. As the Lord of the Worlds rewarded the Blessed Prophet –the symbol of devotion, obedience, morals, righteousness, and honesty- with Mi'rāj, he also sent messages to us, His servants. Accordingly, those who have their lifetime decorated by said values will always rise on the stairs of servitude. They will be exalted at eternal ranks, honored by the everlasting blessings of Paradise.

Honorable Believers!

Mi'rāj is meeting with the Lord in one way, and abandoning what is forbidden by Him in another. It is good news for us believers. Our Lord heralded on this holy night that major sins of those who are not idolaters will be forgiven.

Mi'rāj is a gift for us. Salat, the closest moment between us and our Lord, was made obligatory five times a day on this very night.² As the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) went up step by step on the stairs of the spiritual world, we rise in the presence of Allah. By uttering the words "Allahu Akbar," we get away from the tumult of the world and deeply comprehend the wisdom and meaning in our creation and existence. With qiyam, we stand in the presence of Allah, symbolizing straightforward attitude. With qira'at, we praise and supplicate Him in the sincerest way. With ruku, we demonstrate we only bow before our Lord. With sajdah, we enjoy the delight of being the closest to Him and reaching the peak of servitude. With tahiyyat, we are exalted as we glorify our Lord. With salam, we remember freedom and salvation. We make the most of Mi'rāj in all its spirit as we pray five times a day.

Brothers and Sisters!

The verses that start with "Amanar Rasul" which we recite every isha time are gifts from the Mi'rāj. In these verses, we say we **"believe in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers"** and renew our commitment of servitude that we have made to our Lord. We state our devotion with the verse **"We hear and we obey. We seek your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the final destination."** We freshen our awareness of obligations by saying **"Every soul receives whatever it gains and is liable for whatever it does."** In addition, we acknowledge the afterlife and that everything we do on this earth will be settled for. And ultimately, we seek refuge in our Lord with the sincerest cries in the following prayers: **"Our Lord, do not impose blame upon us if we have forgotten or erred. Our Lord, and lay not upon us a burden like that which You laid upon those before us. Our Lord, and burden us not with that which we have no ability to bear. And pardon us; and forgive us; and have mercy upon us. You are our protector, so give us victory over the disbelieving people."**

¹ Al-Isra, 17/1.

² Muslim, Iman, 279.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Values of Mi'rāj are holy values that open great and meaningful horizons for us. With these values, we are saved from getting thrown away into asfal al-safilin, the lowest of the low. We reach ahsani takwimin, the best of stature. Values of Mi'rāj bring us to the peak of Sidrat al-Muntaha. These sublime values take us to Paradise where we will live in peace eternally. All that we have to do is firmly embrace them and be determined in reflecting them into our lives. All that we have to do is to have our buraq, our faith, our refref, our prayers, our good deeds, and our good morals. When this is the case, every moment of our lives will be Mi'rāj for us.

Brothers and Sisters!

On the occasion of Lailat al-Mi'rāj, I would like to remind everyone the responsibilities we have towards ourselves and our neighborhood. Let us not forget that we believers are not supposed to interpret the Mi'rāj as a memory of our Prophet (s.a.w) or as a historical event. What we are supposed to do is to have an attitude of obedience and devotion like Abu Bakr in the face of Allah's commands and bans. Those who are unable to demonstrate that stance will miss out the meaning, spirit, and gains of Mi'rāj.

On that note, I wish a blessed Lailat al-Mi'rāj to you once again. I wish from Allah Almighty that the prayers and supplications sent to Him on this holy night will be a means to bringing unity, peace, and solidarity to the whole world of Islam, to humanity being on the true path, and to ensuring peace and justice in the world.

Written by: General Directorate of Religious Services

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ. وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ.

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

بَنَسَ الْعَبْدُ عَبْدُ سَهَا وَلَهَا وَنَسِيَ الْمَقَابِرَ وَالْبَلَى...

ARE YOU READY FOR THE BIG DAY?

Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty Lord wills: **“So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it.”**¹

In the hadith I have narrated, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: **“What a miserable servant is the one who forgets the graves and the trials!”**²

Brothers and Sisters!

One day, a companion asked the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.), “O Messenger of Allah, which of the believers is best?” He said: **“He who has the best manners among them.”** He said: “Which of them is wisest?” He said: **“The one who remembers death the most and is best in preparing for it. Those are the wisest.”**³

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Praises to our Lord for once again bringing the three holy months to us- the season of compassion, abundance, and mercy. Altogether, we experienced the bliss and joy of the three holy months a short while ago. We observed Laylat al-Raghā'ib together with sincere prayers and supplications. We repeated our passion for our Lord. At Laylat al-Mi'raj, we refreshed our faith to our Lord, our commitment to our Prophet (s.a.w.), and our love for Salat. We opened our hands and hearts towards the Lord and asked for forgiveness and mercy. We sought refuge in Him from falling into the bottom of Hell. We asked Him to make us live in the best of stature with our faith and good deeds. May He accept these cries and wishes. May He make us reach Laylat al-Bara'at which is the opportunity for us to be purified of sins, evil, and to get our warrant for salvation. With Ramadan, the sultan of eleven months, may He make us among His fortunate servants who attain His eternal blessings.

Brothers and Sisters!

The life entrusted to us by our Lord is rapidly coming to its end. Each breath, each second brings us a little closer to the reality of death. We are advancing towards the Day of Judgment where everyone will get precisely something in return for what they have done. But are we ready for the hereafter which is a place of peace and prosperity for believers and a realm of regret and defeat for the deniers? How much is the day of reckoning, the trial balance is involved in our life flow? To what extent can we review our will on sins and good deeds, evil and good? Or does the daily pursuit of life make us forget all that as it flows away?

Brothers and Sisters!

Worldly desire, passion, ambition, hatred, spite, and fight all end when we breathe our last. Answering for sins,

revolts, disobedience, and broken hearts is left to the hereafter as well as getting rewarded for the good deeds. With that being the reality, sometimes death sounds unfamiliar amidst the daily hustle of life. We build walls between us and the afterlife when in fact the world is mortal and temporary and the afterlife is eternal and permanent. Afterlife is the place where ultimate justice will arise with phases of reckoning, trial, hell, and heaven.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Holy Book informs us that we have not been created for naught, we have not been left neglected, and that He will bring the dead to life and before the divine being.⁴ In order for us not to be deceived by the temporary joys and deceits of the world and reach the better and permanent bliss of the hereafter, our Lord warns us: **“O mankind! Indeed, the promise of Allah is true. So let not the worldly life delude you.”**⁵

Honorable Believers!

Surely we as believers heartily believe the afterlife. Because we know that belief in the afterlife is one of the articles of faith. We also know that belief in the afterlife is not a recognition out of our lips. Those who believe in Allah and the afterlife believes in their Lord from their heart. Those who believe in Allah and the afterlife takes the good morals of our Prophet as example, let themselves be guided by his Sunnah. Those who believe in Allah and the afterlife keeps away from what is forbidden, avoids evil and sin as if avoiding falling into the fire. Those who believe in Allah and the afterlife do not do injustice, do not oppress others, and do not commit violence. Those who believe in Allah and the afterlife do not deviate from the truth even if their lives are at stake. They could not kill a soul. They do not intentionally harm any living being. They cannot. They cannot harm their brethren even with their words. Those who believe in Allah and the afterlife take the poor, the homeless, and the wretched under their wings. They know how they feel. They offer them company and bring them remedy.

Brothers and Sisters!

Let us not forget that the world is the crop field of the afterlife. And everyone will determine their position there with what they have done here. Then come! Let us take advantage of the three holy months that we are in. Let us lead a life compatible with the wisdom and purpose in our creation. Let us make an effort to be able to turn our mortal, worldly life into eternal happiness and peace. Let us throw envy, grudge, and hatred and plant love, compassion, and benevolence instead. Let us become good servants to Allah, a good Ummah to our Prophet (s.a.w.), and good brothers and sisters to one another. Let us arrive in the presence of our Lord, the home of the hereafter, having led a life that we can answer for.

1 Az-Zalzalah, 7-8.

2 Tirmidhi, Sifatū'l-kiyāme, 17.

3 Ibn Majah, Zūhd, 31.

4 Al-Mu'minun, 23/115; Al-Qiyamah, 75/36, 40.

5 Fatir, 35/5.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً

إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ...

FAMILY: HOME OF PEACE AND AFFECTION

Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, Allah wills: “And one of His signs is that He created mates for you from yourselves that you may find rest in them, and He put between you love and compassion; most surely there are signs in this for a people who reflect.”¹

And in the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: “Indeed among the believers with the most complete faith is the one who is the best in conduct, and the most kind to his family.”²

Brothers and Sisters!

The Messenger of Allah advised us to always be nice to our family. His understanding of family can be particularly seen in his affection, devotion, and loyalty to Mother Khadija. As a matter of fact, mother Khadija was our Prophet’s (s.a.w.) wife and a symbol of faithfulness in being that. Our Prophet remembered his wife who had passed away before him always with gratitude and always kept her in his heart. He always mentioned his loyalty to her. When asked about the reason one day, the Messenger of Allah replied: “She believed in me when other people did not. She affirmed me when others disclaimed what I said. She supported me with what she had when others denied me any help. Allah Almighty bestowed me children from her.”³

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Family is the pact spouses make with one another uttering the name of Allah. It is a contract of loyalty made with the aim of keeping it for a lifetime. It is a blessing that instills peace and tranquility into one’s soul. Family is a shelter supported by the grace of our Lord and it gets nicer with love, respect, affection, and compassion. It is a strong and safe port that protects you from any danger or adversity.

Brothers and Sisters!

Every member is valuable and held in high regard in the family. Every single one has their heart filled with love, their soul is always open to others. The mother is the symbol of sacrifice; she does not keep an account of her labor. And for that reason, our Prophet (s.a.w.) defines our precious mothers as the people who deserve our attention and good deeds the most.⁴

The father represents respect, safety, and compassion. He stands out against any challenge and trouble to protect his family from evil. And he knows that the immense effort he

exerts in earning a livelihood for his family is his key to Paradise. In the words of our Prophet, our fathers are a gate to Paradise for us.⁵

The children, the comfort of our eyes, are the sweetest fruits of a home. They require compassion, mercy, attention, and love. They are a value to be prepared for the future in the hands of parents.

Brothers and Sisters!

Everyone looks after each other in a family, and every member of the family has certain responsibilities. From time to time, family is a test with the mother, the father, and the children. In this test, we should preserve and elevate the dignity, honor, and esteem of family members, not damage them. There should be compassion, mercy, grace, and good morals in this test; not upsetting, offending or harming others. It includes the concept of being “one” and “together”. It includes uniting in joy and sorrow, in wealth and poverty; it includes shouldering the burden of life altogether.

Honorable Believers!

Family has privacy and dignity. No one has any right to inflict harm on that. But regrettably, there are many negative aspects today which threaten the dignity of family. It can be revealed without any values or boundaries particularly in certain publications and in social media. And sometimes illicit intercourse and relationships without marriage are virtually encouraged. Without a doubt, it has a wearing effect on the institution of family, a most important value in our society.

Brothers and Sisters!

The importance of family, which is a blessing to us from Allah Almighty, is not fully comprehended by some in our day; and therefore it may be seen as a burden. The restful climate of family can be sacrificed for irresponsibility, unconscious acts, fancy, and desires. Unfortunately, families can be broken due to reasons such as infidelity, disloyalty, intolerance, and violence. The bitter and tragic ends of those broken homes are in front of our society with all the negative consequences. What is more, the heaviest price of a broken family is paid by the little kids who are forced to be crushed under the burden of life when they are only in the beginning of their life journey.

Brothers and Sisters!

Let us remember that our spouses whom we married in the name of Allah and our children who are bestowed upon us are great blessings. Our duty is to join hands with our parents, our spouses, and our children to avoid losing it under any circumstance and appreciate it.

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following prayer that our Holy Book has taught us:

“Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous!”⁶

1 Ar-Rum, 30/21.

2 Ibn Majah, Nikâh, 50.

3 Ibn Hanbal, VI, 118.

4 Bukhari, Edeb, 2.

5 Tirmidhi, Birr & sila, 3; Ibn Majah, Talâk, 36.

6 Al-Furqan, 25/74.



قُلْ إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ رَبِّي الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ وَالْإِثْمَ وَالْبَغْيَ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ...

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ مِمَّا أَذَرَكَ النَّاسُ مِنْ كَلَامِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَوَّلَى إِذَا لَمْ تَسْتَحْيَ فَاصْنَعْ مَا شِئْتَ.

LOSS OF PRIVACY IS DEPRIVATION

Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty wills: **“Say, ‘My Lord has only forbidden immoralities - what is apparent of them and what is concealed - and sin, and oppression without right.’”¹**

In the hadith I have recited, the Prophet (s.a.w.) says, **“One of the sayings of the early Prophets which the people have got is: If you don't feel ashamed from Haya', do whatever you like.”²**

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Chastity and modesty are the two indispensable fundamental values of Islamic moral values. They are the core of all virtues and ethical beauties. Because for human beings, modesty is life. It is a must for being human and living like a believer. Chastity and modesty characterize the comprehension and awareness of a human being's responsibilities towards Allah, nature, and the world. They constitute life and existence as well as achieving grace and abundance. Chastity and modesty signify keeping away from any evil and ugliness and making no fault in giving credit.

On the other hand, shamelessness signifies deterioration, dehumanization, and forgetting the purpose and wisdom of one's existence. It is the spiritual death of an individual. It indicates rebellion, denial, crossing lines, destruction, and injustice.

Brothers and Sisters!

There is another value that is complementary to chastity and modesty. We call it “privacy.” Privacy is reverence; it is dignity, honor, and respectability. Privacy is the special and private areas and boundaries of the individual and the family. It means maintaining those boundaries and areas above all under any circumstance.

Brothers and Sisters!

Privacy stems from the forbidden. Forbidden refers to the bans imposed by the Great Lord upon us. Some things are forbidden for they are evil and ugly. Drinking alcohol, gambling, committing adultery are forbidden because they are evil and harmful deeds. And somethings are forbidden out of reverence and respect. As parents are revered in a family, it is forbidden to even complain at them. The privacy of family, our paradise

on earth, also stems from the reverence that Allah bestows upon this blessed institution. Great evil and deterioration erupt in a society when the privacy of family is violated and exposed. For that reason, our Lord first taught humanity about the privacy of human beings and family through Adam and Eve and ordered them to preserve it.

Brothers and Sisters!

Values special to human beings like purity, honor, chastity, and modesty have been regarded in time as values that should be preserved only by a certain gender. But these concepts encapsulate everyone, male or female, and are not limited to any gender. Just as purity, chastity, and privacy make a woman noble, esteemed, and adorned; they also make a man noble, esteemed, and adorned. The absence of these values deteriorate a man in the same way as a woman.

Brothers and Sisters!

Almost all of these virtues which make a person human and make a believer perfect signify life and existence. If one loses these virtues and loses their understanding of privacy, then there is no difference between that person's existence and absence. Here is the reality: being deprived of some things in the world is a difficult and bad situation for someone. Keep in mind that the worst kind of deprivation is being deprived and devoid of privacy.

Brothers and Sisters!

We live in an age of communication and technology. Tools of communication make our lives harder in a way while they make it easier in another. The excessive and unlimited use of mass communication and social media with no regard for privacy brings along many personal, family, and social problems. Therefore, we need education for privacy and mercy to protect our family, our children, and our youth from all the evil. There is much-needed awareness for the course of events that has been taking our children away from the real world every day and confining them in the virtual world. We all have crucial duties and responsibilities on preserving values like fondness, mercy, love, loyalty, and privacy that constitute the basis of family and passing them on to future generations. May our Almighty Lord grant us to be among his servants who are aware of their responsibilities.

Brothers and Sisters!

Tomorrow night, we will observe Laylat al-Bara'at which is the precursor of Ramadan, the sultan of eleven months. I wish you a happy one in advance. I pray to Lord Almighty that Laylat al-Bara'at becomes our eternal salvation altogether and brings good things to our country, to our Ummah, to the world of Islam, and to all humanity.

¹ Al-A'raf, 7/33.

² Bukhari, Adab, 78.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَنْتَ مَا أَوْحَى إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ

وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ ﴿٤٥﴾

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الصَّلَاةُ الْخَمْسُ وَالْجُمُعَةُ إِلَى الْجُمُعَةِ كَفَّارَةٌ لِمَا بَيْنَهُنَّ مَا لَمْ تَغُصَّ الْكَبَائِرُ.

PRAYER IS PURIFICATION

Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty wills, **“Recite that which has been revealed to you of the Book and keep up prayer; surely prayer keeps (one) away from indecency and evil...”**¹

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Beloved Prophet (s.a.w.) asked his companions one day: **“Can anything of his filthiness remain (on the body of) any one of you if there were a river at his door in which he washed himself five times daily?”** They, said: Nothing of his filthiness will remain (on his body). He said: **“That is like the five prayers by which Allah obliterates sins.”**²

Honorable Believers!

Our Mighty Lord created this universe for humankind with all its eye-brightening beauty. He protected us when we were wandering around. He showed us the path and the way with His books and prophets when we did not know any. He taught us morals, how to be a human being, how to be Adam, how to be Abraham, how to be Ishmael, and how to be a good servant to Him. All these treats of the Great Lord are only a drop for his servants from his infinite beneficence. It is also a part of the value He puts on humans and human life. In response, our responsibility is to be a servant to Him with sincerity and loyalty, and to be thankful for his blessings.

Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer is indispensable for us as a form of gratitude, praise, and mentioning His name. Because, prayer is purification.³ As it cleanses the body five times a day, prayer is also a pure spring through which flows goodness, virtue, and good morals that keep the filth of evil away from the hearts.

Prayer is salvation; it is a blessed invitation that calls human beings to the origin of eternal grace with adhan surrounding the heavens saying “Hayya ‘alal-falāh (Come to success).” It is a petition from the servant to the Lord himself. It is when the believing hearts shiver knowing they are in presence of Allah.

Prayer is a spiritual journey filled with many pieces of wisdom. Our intent in this journey is to ready our minds and

hearts, and offer our existence to our Lord. The qibla is the symbol of our orientation towards Allah, the one and only, and the spiritual bond and unity in our hearts. The takbir iftitah is, in one way, cracking the door open to beauty, morals, and virtue; and in another way, it is the symbol of the fact that we can turn away from anything but from Allah and His approval. The qiyam is a lesson of direction and righteousness for us every day. The qirat is the time when we converse and make a pact with Allah Almighty. The ruku’ is the indication that we will not bow to anyone but Allah. The sujud, which teaches us modesty and that we have come from soil, is the time when we are closest to our Lord. The tahiyyat is a session of well-being and peace with our Lord and all the believers. The salam is our will to bring the spirit, manners, and method we have in prayer to our lives.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer is a blessing that makes people meet one another, get close to one another, and socialize with one another. Prayer is a wonderful time of togetherness that brings the youth and the elderly, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the black and the white together under the same belief, the same goal, and the same ideal.

Prayer is peace; it is serenity stemming from thanking for the infinite blessings of our Lord; it is a cure to the minds and hearts distressed by all sorts of tumults and pursuits.

And prayer is good tidings; it informs us that so much more of the temporary benevolence in the world is made eternally available for those who do not abandon their Lord and do not give up His love.

Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer is one of the Five Pillars of Faith in Islam. Keep in mind that prayer, which our religion asks us to perform, has not been reduced to looks and stripped of its spirit.

Our greatest duty today in regard to prayer is to avoid turning our prayers into dull ones that are devoid of sincerity with a shorter duration, postponed to the last moment with its impact long gone. Our duty is to make an effort so that our prayers can make us become more merciful, make us exemplary human beings, and contribute more to our moral values.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following prayer:

O, Allah! Grant us and our family members to be among those who duly perform their prayers!

O, Lord! Grant us to be among those who perform their prayers with sincerity, reverence, and cordiality!

O, Allah! Make our prayers a means for us to become free from all sorts of lowly wishes and desires and a means for eternal salvation!

Written by: General Directorate of Religious Services

¹ Al-'Ankabut, 29/45.

² Muslim, Mesâcid, 283.

³ Muslim, Tahâret, 14.



وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ
وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ بِيَدِهِ لَحُرْمَةُ الْمُؤْمِنِ أَكْبَرُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ حُرْمَةً مِنْكَ

LET'S PLEASE HEARTS

Have a Blessed Friday, Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Our Beloved Prophet (s.a.w.) faced the Ka'ba during circumambulation one day and said:

"O Ka'ba! How beautiful you are. How beautiful your scent is. I admire your grand and sanctity. But I swear by Allah, the esteem of believers is more than yours in the ranks of Allah..."¹

Honorable Believers!

The shadow of Ramadan, the season of grace, abundance, and forgiveness, is upon us once again. We are peaceful and happy these days for this occasion. We will enter this blessed month as we fast on Monday after our first tarawih prayer on Sunday. Infinite thanks and praises to our Lord who granted us to have Ramadan and Ramadan to have us.

Brothers and Sisters!

Every Ramadan, Presidency of Religious Affairs focuses on a significant value of ours that sheds light on our individual and social life. And we can raise awareness on the issue this way. The Presidency will say **"Let's please hearts, This Ramadan and always"** for this year's Ramadan. We aim it to build bridges between hearts and mend broken, wounded, and worn hearts.

Brothers and Sisters!

Human being is an honorable creature worthy of love and respect in the eyes of Islam.² Without a doubt, the heart and soul have a significant place in it. The Prophet (s.a.w.) said **"Verily Allah does not look to your faces and your wealth but He looks to your heart and to your deeds."**³ which emphasizes this point. Thus, the heart is considered a holy place in our faith. It is the center of our faith, our sincerity, our intent, our love; shortly, it is the center of traits that make humans beautiful. Our Lord values hearts that are pure and clean. In this regard, pleasing a heart is a must of our religion and humanity. And breaking one is a wrong behavior which is absolutely disapproved in our faith and beneath any believer.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

There are infinite ways of pleasing and conquering hearts. Before anything, hearts can be conquered with love, respect, and fondness. As He places love in the hearts of His servants, Allah is the ultimate source of all love. It is a great blessing of our Lord to join our hearts and make believers brothers and sisters.⁴ In the words of our Prophet, we need to love each other to become believers in the real sense.⁵

Brothers and Sisters!

We can win hearts by mercy. Mercy is the divine trait of existence. It is the reflection of Our Lord, the Compassionate, the Merciful. In the words of our Beloved Prophet, **"The believers as regards their being merciful among themselves and showing love among themselves**

and being kind, resembling one body, so that, if any part of the body is not well then the whole body shares the sleeplessness and fever with it."⁶

Hearts are bonded with sharing. Sharing means opening our hearts to one another with fondness and sincerity. It means taking animosity, spite, hatred, and revenge out of our hearts. Sharing means lending a helping hand to the needy, the orphans, the downtrodden wherever they may be in the world. Sharing means responding to any call for help regardless of where it comes from or who it is from.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The month of Ramadan is like a school. And students of this school are all the believers. Ramadan teaches us patience, thankfulness, the value of blessings, sharing, and comprehending the meaning of abundance and poverty. It also teaches us the value of the heart and how to treat with respect towards ourselves and people. Our duty is to feel the divine breezes of this blessed school down to our cells. Our duty is to make our fast, our sahur, our iftar, our aid, our tarawih a means to build bridges. Our duty is to make our hearts fellows with the sense of faith in the same Allah, the same Prophet, and the same Book.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our duty in the school of Ramadan and our reason for existence is to please the hearts of our parents who prepared us for life through all kinds of troubles and earn their pleasure. Our duty in the school of Ramadan is to open our arms to immigrant brothers and sisters who were forced to migrate to our country. Our duty is to have the same ethics of fellowship as the Ansar who shared their homes, their food, and their bread with the Migrants from Makkah who had left their homes and their hometown. Our duty is to understand the plight of the starving, pat on the head of the orphan, and wipe away the tears of the weeping.

Brothers and Sisters, Then Come!

Let us experience the school of Ramadan in full with the smile of our elderlies, our orphans, refugees, and our handicapped brothers and sisters. Let us open our hearts and extend our hands to them.

Let us veil the faults of one another and forgive the flaws of one another. Let us avoid breaking any hearts. Let us focus on mending any heart that we broke before it is too late.

Let us meet hearts devoid of our Lord with our Lord. Let us remember that pleasuring a heart is a way to earn our Lord's consent.

On that note, I pray Allah Almighty that Ramadan brings peace and mercy to our nation, our country, and the world of Islam. I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following verse that briefly describes the importance of a heart and not hurting it.

*"Refrain from breaking hearts, don't hurt anyone!
Don't hurt the one who cries far away from home!
Don't hurt the one separated from the path of love!
Show patience for all malice, don't hurt the House of the Merciful!
Don't hurt a soul when you're a mortal being too!
Don't be a sinner, don't be the Honorable One!"*

¹ Ibn Majah, Fiten, 2.

² Al-Isra, 17/70.

³ Muslim, Birr, 34.

⁴ Ali 'Imran 3/103.

⁵ Muslim, Iman, 93.

⁶ Muslim, Birr, 66.



شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

... إِنَّ أَصْلَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ وَأَحْسَنَ الْهُدَى هَدَى مُحَمَّدٍ ...

RAMADAN, THE MONTH OF QURAN

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty enjoins:

"The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion."¹

Brothers and Sisters!

The Prophet (s.a.w.) said to Abdullah bin Masud one day: **"O Abdullah, recite the Qur'an to me. I would like to hear it from you."** Abdullah responded: "O Allah's Messenger, shall I recite the Qur'an to you while it has been revealed to your heart?" Allah's Apostle said: **"I like to hear it from another person. Even more from you."** Then, Abdullah began to recite Surat An-Nisa. He recited the verses about orphans. Eventually, when he recited the verse **"How will it be, then, when We bring from every people a witness and bring you as a witness against these?"**² Eyes of the Messenger of Grace were overflowing with tears. And our Prophet said, "Enough for the present!"³

Brothers and Sisters!

And our book of compassion, the Holy Quran, which influences the believing hearts so deeply when recited, is a great gift to us from the holy Ramadan. Our Gracious Book began to be revealed on a Ramadan day with the command "Recite!" at Hira. It is a guidance for the true path and a means of mercy that brings people to the right way. Quran is our book of life that makes life meaningful and enables us to keep our hopes alive for today and tomorrow. Quran is the most eloquent of words, the biggest treasure of our creator, and His greatest blessing to us, His servants. Quran is the divine guide that introduces a person His Lord, their self, and their environment. Quran is the book of service that turns a believer's fortune and poverty and joy and sorrow into worship. Quran has elevated and dignified the human being with its graceful messages. Allah favored many nations and communities with this Graceful Book. Those who turned towards it have found salvation, and those who turned away from it have faced disappointment.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our great book of Quran has introduced universal values to humankind and blessed them with high values. From the first moment of its revelation, it has invited the entire humanity to truth, justice, mercy, morals, and virtue. It has taught us how to distinguish between good and evil, right and wrong, beautiful and ugly, and good deed and evil. It was this book which has brought our mind closer to our heart. And it has brought our heart

closer to our mind. It was this book that has brought our soul closer to our body. It has created a oneness in us and invited us to believe in oneness.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our book the Holy Quran has taught us how to be a good servant. It has reminded us that we were not created randomly, that we were reverend creatures with responsibilities. It has taught us how to be a good son or daughter. It said, "Do not even whine at your parents." It said, "You cannot lift the wings of grace and compassion from over your parents." It has taught us to show compassion towards our wise elderlies. It has taught us how to be a good father, a good mother. It has taught us how to be a good spouse, a good friend, a good neighbor. It has taught us how to make orphans happy, how to put a smile on the faces of our handicapped brothers and sisters, and how to embrace our refugee guests with a warm welcome.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Then come! let us prosper our hearts, our minds, and our lives with Quran in the month of Quran, in the season of mercy, abundance, and grace. Let us not deprive our hearts of the messages and sentiments of this great book. Let us remember how Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.) warned us saying, **"Indeed, the one who does not have the Qur'an inside his heart is like a ruined house."**⁴ Let us meet Quran's world of truth. Let us send Quran down to the heavens of our heart again, which had been sent down to the heavens of the Earth in this month. Let us reinforce our love for Quran and awareness of it with our muqabla which is an important Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah. Let us remember that the more we head towards the Holy Quran the wider it generously opens all its doors and horizons for us. It will welcome us in spiritual palaces that gives one peace and bliss.

Brothers and Sisters!

I wish Allah's mercy upon security forces and citizens martyred at heinous terror attacks in various cities of our country which were carried out by enemies of humanity who have lost their conscience and values even on holy days of Ramadan which embrace all humanity with their grace. And I wish a swift recovery to the injured. I vehemently condemn those who committed these sinister attacks that martyred and injured our brothers and sisters. I wish patience, fortitude, and offer my condolences to our nation and our brothers and sisters who lost their loved ones in these deplorable attacks that have grieved us.

I would like to conclude my khutbah from a hadith of our Prophet (s.a.w.): **"The best of word is the word of Allah and the best of guidance is the guidance of Muhammad."**⁵

¹ Al-Baqarah, 2/185.

² An-Nisa, 4/41.

³ Bukhari, Virtues of the Quran, 33.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Virtues of the Quran, 18.

⁵ Al-Nasa'i, Idayn, 22.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا آمَاكُمُ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْفَعُ بِهَذَا الْكِتَابِ أَقْوَامًا وَيَضَعُ بِهِ الْآخَرِينَ

QURAN, RAMADAN, AND CHILDREN

Honorable Brothers and Sisters who heartily have faith in our Book of Grace, our life guide, and our recipe for salvation! Have a blessed Friday.

The Messenger of Allah was delivering a Khutbah one day and people were listening to him in complete attention. Then, two little kids entered the Masjid, wearing red shirts, walking and falling down. They were Hasan and Husain, precious grandchildren of the Prophet. So the Messenger of Allah descended from the Minbar and carried them, and placed them in front of him.¹ Then he said: “Allah spoke the Truth: Indeed, your wealth and your children are a trial.² I looked at these two children walking and falling down, and I could not bear patiently anymore until I interrupted my talk and picked them up.”³

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Beloved Prophet (s.a.w.) always openly demonstrated his fondness and love for children as in this example. The Messenger of Allah found peace with them and made them happy in return. He gave us important messages while stating his love for them. He pointed out that our love for our children is one of the biggest points of trial through life. As he recited one of our Lord's verses warning His servants on the matter, it was like he said to us: “Love your children but do not succumb to it! Do not lose interest in your children, fulfill your obligations towards them! Raise them as individuals that benefit their religion, their nation, and mankind! Otherwise you fail the trial!”

Brothers and Sisters!

Our children, who are the light in our eyes and hearts as stated in the Quran, are a blessing to us from our Lord. Like all blessings, they have been entrusted to us by Allah. Before anything, we need to feed that trust with love, and raise them with compassion and mercy. For such was the approach of our Prophet towards kids. Sometimes, he would hug children with sincerity and kiss them, and sometimes pat them on the head with his compassionate hands. He praised those who showed compassion for their children and warned those who spared their love from their children saying, “Not from us are those who do not show mercy towards children.”⁴

Brothers and Sisters!

It is surely our duty as parents to raise our children with love and compassion, ensure that they have good education, and prepare them for tomorrow. But also, the most valuable heritage that we will pass down to them is to ensure that they learn about Islam, our great religion, in the proper fashion, and that they become good Muslims and good people.⁵ It is to teach them about our Lord, our Prophet, our Book. The month of Ramadan that we are in, the month of grace, forgiveness, and abundance, is particularly a good opportunity for that. Ramadan helps children become familiar with the mosque, the community, the prayer. The prayers performed in devotion, the tarawih, the remembrance, the takbirs recited in unison, the salawats and amins leave indelible memories in the spiritual worlds of children.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our children are the joy and ornaments of our mosques. Let them run around in mosques, let them come to mosques with peace of heart. Let us indulge them. Let us leave nice memories in their mental and spiritual memories. We are the Ummah of a Prophet who taught us about compassion and mercy for children in his Masjid and who extended his prostration so that the kid on his back would not fall down. Let us remember that it is a grace for us to see our children meeting the mosque, the mihrap, the minbar, and the pulpit and joining us during prayer.

Brothers and Sisters!

A great opportunity is on the way in this blessed month for our children to get introduced to the Quran, the exemplary life of our Prophet (s.a.w.), the mosque, the mihrap, the minbar, and prayers. Our summer Quran Courses will begin on June 20 and continue until August 26. With the motto “**The summer comes, let Quran into your heart,**” our mosques will cheer up once again with our children, the light of our eyes.

Let us introduce our kids to the graceful messages of the Quran during the month in which it was revealed. Let us bless them with Quran, Allah's code of decency in this world. Let us ensure that they have a healthy bond with Lord Almighty. Let us instill the love and fondness of our Prophet into those tiny hearts. Let us help them discover peace and joy in prayer. Let us lead them into learning about humanitarian and moral virtues.

Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following hadith and verse: Our Lord enjoins: “**And this Quran is a Book We have revealed which is blessed, so follow it and fear Allah that you may receive mercy.**”⁶

Our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: “**Verily, Allah elevates some people with this Qur'an and abases others.**”⁷

¹ Tirmidhi, Menâkib, 30.

² Al-Anfal, 8/28.

³ Tirmidhi, Menâkib, 30.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Birr, 15.

⁵ Tirmidhi, Birr, 33.

⁶ Al-An'am, 6/155.

⁷ Muslim, Mūsāfirūn, 269.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ

عَنِ اللَّغْوِ مُعْرِضُونَ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلزَّكَاةِ فَاعِلُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

بُنِيَ الْإِسْلَامُ عَلَى خَمْسٍ شَهَادَةِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا

عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءِ الزَّكَاةِ وَحَجِّ الْبَيْتِ وَصَوْمِ رَمَضَانَ

A MEANS OF PURIFICATION: ZAKAT AND INFAQ

Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, Lord Almighty enjoins: “Successful indeed are the believers who are humble in their prayers, who turn away from ill speech, and who are observant of zakat...”¹

Brothers and Sisters!

After the Prophet (s.a.w.) had appointed Muadh ibn Jabal of the sahaba as the governor of Yemen, he summoned him and his company. He advised them: “Make it easier, not harder! Bring them good tidings, do not make them hate it!”²

Then he turned to Muadh and said: “You are going to a nation that is not yet a Muslim one. Call them to bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and that I am the messenger of Allah. If they obey that, then tell them that Allah has enjoined upon them five prayers every day and night. If they obey that, then tell them that Allah has enjoined upon them charity (Zakat) from their wealth, to be taken from the rich and given to their poor...”³

Honorable Believers!

All the blessings we have are but entrusted to us from our Lord. They are a means of test for us. Our duty is to appreciate them and utilize them in accordance with what pleases our Lord.

Our Mighty Lord persistently enjoins us to avoid greed and a lack of thankfulness and contentment. He tells us how neglecting to look after the poor and wealth without zakat will doom a person. He reminds us that we must turn our property, our wealth, and our possessions into a means for our eternal gain.

Honorable Believers!

Zakat is a form of worship that has existed in almost all ages of human history. This ancient worship is one of the five pillars of Islam.⁴ Zakat refers to the portion that people considered rich in our religion share with the needy and the poor. Verses and hadith specify who receives zakat and in what rate.

Brothers and Sisters!

Zakat increases wealth instead of reducing or consuming it. It guards the individual against the disease of greediness and gives them the virtue of generosity. It cleans

moral filth off souls and wealth off the rights of the needy. It builds bridges of love, respect, and fellowship between the rich and the poor.

Zakat is an expression of our awareness for thankfulness towards Allah. It is a reflection of our submission and obedience to Him. It is also a symbol of the fact that we will sacrifice anything in His cause, expecting His content.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The Holy Quran puts a particular emphasis on zakat. Those who give zakat and spend their wealth in the cause of Allah are praised as “fortunate believers” and heralded with blessings of eternal paradise.⁵ Those who neglect zakat, who do not look after the poor and who become slaves of their fortune are warned harshly. The following verse of our Lord is among those warnings: “Announce a painful chastisement to those who hoarded up gold and silver and do not spend it in Allah's way. On the day when it shall be heated in the fire of hell, then their foreheads and their sides and their backs shall be branded with it; this is what you hoarded up for yourselves, therefore taste what you hoarded!”⁶

Brothers and Sisters!

The Prophet of Grace warns us in his hadith: “Protect yourselves from the Fire, even with half a date.”⁷ In that, he offers us guidance from centuries ago about zakat, infaq, sadakah, helping one another, and selflessness. But regrettably, we are living in a world where natural resources are casually consumed, economic resources are unjustly distributed, and the gap between the poor and the rich is terrifying. While people are fighting starvation in some parts of the world, there is extreme waste and extravagance in other parts. The periods we went through led to wars, invasions, and millions of poor, homeless, and orphaned people. Zakat, in a sense, means protecting the orphans and the poor. Indeed, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation declared the fifteenth day of Ramadan as World Orphans Day to point out to this issue.

Brothers and Sisters!

It is obvious that humanity yearns for peace and happiness, love and respect, friendship and peace, solidarity and sharing today more than any other period in history. And it is the vital messages of Islam that will bring these virtues, the long-awaited peace, and a just income distribution to the world. It is the ethics of zakat and infaq, solidarity, and understanding of sharing that our Prophet taught us.

Then come, brothers and sisters, let us open our hearts, our hands, and our doors altogether in this blessed month to the orphan, to the homeless, and to the deprived near and far away from us to make them feel they are not abandoned. Let us pay our zakat and fitr without losing any time. Let us make it our principle to help others and share with others. Let us ensure we do not hurt or offend anyone as we give our zakat, fitr or perform infaq. Come! Let us use every opportunity to please hearts and win favors. Come! Let us turn our earthly possessions into eternal gain.

¹ Al-Mu'minun, 23/1-4.

² Bukhari, Megâzi, 61.

³ Bukhari, Zekât, 63; Muslim, Îmân, 29.

⁴ Muslim, Îmân, 21.

⁵ An-Nur, 24/36-38; Adh-Dhariyat, 51/15-19; Al-Ma'arîj, 70/22-35.

⁶ At-Tawbah, 9/34-35; Also see. Bukhari, Rikâk, 10.

⁷ Bukhari, Zekât, 10.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ (1) وَمَا أَزْيِكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ (2)
لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ (3) تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَكَةِ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ
مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ (4) سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّى مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ (5)
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
مَنْ قَامَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

THE NIGHT OF EMPOWERMENT: LAYLAT AL-QADR

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Praise be to our Lord who has granted us to see the most virtuous of nights, Laylat al-Qadr. Have a blessed one.

In the verse I have recited, our Lord describes this night to us as follows: **“Indeed, we sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree. And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn.”**¹

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: **“Whoever establishes the prayers on the night of Qadr out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not to show off) then all his past sins will be forgiven.”**²

Brothers and Sisters!

A short while ago, we all experienced the peace and joy of reaching Ramadan, the month of grace. We welcomed this blessed month exclaiming, “Welcome, O Ramadan!” Now, it is time to say goodbye. The sultan of eleven months that joined us at our tables with its abundance and grace is bidding farewell to us. We are sad to see this holy guest leave.

On the other hand, we are peaceful and joyful to have the blessed Laylat al-Qadr, the heart of Ramadan. Having dedicated a specific duration to this night in the Holy Quran, Lord Almighty Himself described its value in the most beautiful way. Three messages emerge out of the surah which describes Laylat al-Qadr that comes to us like a donation, like a gift from our Lord every year to enhance our power.

First; what makes Laylat al-Qadr so valuable is the fact that it witnessed the first revelation of the Great Quran, “the book of our reason of existence.” What makes Laylat al-Qadr more special is the fact that the graceful, universal messages of the Holy Quran began to be sent down on this very night. And for that reason, we should

look for the value, the power, the grandeur, the might, and the holiness of Laylat al-Qadr in our Holy Book that saves humanity from darkness. And we must let the Quran into heavens of our hearts which descended into the heavens of the Earth on this night.

Second message; Laylat al-Qadr offers an opportunity to believers for a lifetime. Our Lord gave this excellent night to believers as a gate of grace, a spring of hope. Our duty on this night is to look back and reflect on the days we consumed from our life. Our duty is to repent from our faults and sins and strive to lead a life that pleases our Lord.

Third message of Surat al-Qadr; Allah's angels descended on Earth on Laylat al-Qadr to bring peace and well-being. This marvelous incident is repeated every year as a great blessing and a treat from Allah Almighty to us believers. Then, we must lend an ear to the messages of peace and well-being in the Quran to properly observe Laylat al-Qadr. We must make an effort to make these messages prevail in the world.

Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to remind you once again that in order to properly observe this blessed night, one should appreciate the value of our Holy Quran, give meaning to their life with it, and look at people and the universe through it. To rejuvenate Laylat al-Qadr, one should appreciate the value of their heart and soul which our Lord directly addresses and beholds. One should mend and please hearts, and avoid hurting them for trivial reasons.

Only by doing that can we obtain spiritual developments on Laylat al-Qadr that can last a lifetime. Only by placing value on Quran's messages of peace and well-being can we comprehend the fact that Allah's angels descended upon the Earth to bring peace and well-being. Only by leading our lives with the motto “Consider every guest Khidr, and every night Qadr!” can we make proper use of Laylat al-Qadr. Only then can the night of honor, dignity, and reputation earn us honor, dignity, and reputation.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We are in an exceptional period where we are experiencing the spiritual atmosphere of Laylat al-Qadr and also the joy of Eid is upon us. In such a period, groups of terror and murder once again hurt all of us and the entire humankind in Istanbul in the person of tens of innocent people.

I wish Allah's mercy upon our brothers and sisters who lost their lives in this vicious attack, and a quick recovery to the injured.

May our Great Lord guard our nation against all sorts of disasters, troubles, and these heinous attacks. May our Lord never give the opportunity to those who attack our nation's solidarity, togetherness, and fellowship.

¹ Al-Qadr, 97/1-5.

² Bukhari, Fadlu Leyleti'l-Kadr, 3.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ

إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً قَالَتْ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَاصِخْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا...

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبَنَانِ، يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا.

EID AL-FITR

Brothers and Sisters!

Praise be to our Lord for granting us to have another Eid al-Fitr. A blessed Eid to you all.

We are bidding farewell to Ramadan, the month of mercy and grace, like an honorable guest. We are sad to see it go, but at the same time we are joyful with Eid today.

What a bliss it is that we have used fasting as shield against evil. We shed light on the darkness of the night with our sahur and prayers. We have once again learned how to reflect, be patient, and be grateful. We have devoted ourselves to be concerned with the troubles of our brothers and sisters. And our month-long iftar jubilation combines with the joy of Eid now.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Eids are joyful and delightful occasions that we observe with Allah's blessing. Eids mean praying, remembering, and worshipping; they mean rejoining, sharing, peace, and hope.

Eids are days when we become of one heart in the same temple, the same rank, and in the consciousness of same faith. It is when we put an end to our grievances and resentments. It is when we reinforce our unity, togetherness, and fellowship and let the world know.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Some hearts are sad, some are wounded, and some are troubled in this Eid. Our people are falling victim to the violence and terror that have surrounded our region. Mothers have been separated from their children, siblings have been separated from one another, youth has been separated from values, and hundreds of thousands of people have been separated from their homeland. Pain, sorrow, and tears wound the hearts.

Despite all these unfavorable circumstances, it is our duty today to rejuvenate our grieving hearts with the joy of Eid. It is our duty to observe Eid in the name of fellow believers who are unable to do so. It is our duty as the world of Islam to celebrate Eid properly and not see it off sadly.

Brothers and Sisters!

Today, our duty is to turn Eid into hope for all of us. Our duty is to consider our differences not a reason for division but a verse of our Lord and close ranks. Our duty is to do what is necessary as commanded by Allah in the verse **"Hold firmly to the book of Allah all together and do not become divided..."**¹

Our duty is to lead a life that is compatible with our Prophet's message: **"A believer to another believer is like a building whose different parts enforce each other."**²

Brothers and Sisters!

We are the hope of humanity. Keep this in mind: if we preserve our unity and togetherness, we will continue to be the hope of the downtrodden, the oppressed, the poor, and the orphans. And if we waste our time with redundant arguments, debates, and conflicts, then all hope fades away for humanity...

Let us not fade away hope. Let us spread the joy of Eid in hearts, in eyes, in words, and in homes. Let us not leave a single soul that is not joyful in Eid, a single person whose grief is not gone, a single orphan who does not receive love, a single elderly who does not get respect.

Honorable Believers!

Let us leave aside the grievances, the resentments, the hatred, and the anger that have a heavy burden on our souls. Let us go for the path of forgiveness. Let us open our hearts to one another, embrace with fondness, and celebrate Eid. Let us bring the joy of Eid to our parents who are the reason for our existence, our spouses with whom we shoulder the trouble of life, and our children who are the real feast of our homes.

Let us help those who can't celebrate Eid. Let us mend wounded souls and exhausted hearts. Let us remember our elderlies who have been yearning for seeing their children, and visit them. Let us show some love to orphans who are aching for it. Let us bring the joy of Eid to the sick, the needy, the orphans, and the poor.

Let us observe Eid in the name of humanity. Let us make our country beautiful first as the inheritors of a great civilization where everyone lived peacefully. Let us be friendly to one another with the awareness that we rejoice at the same table, we meet at the same qibla, we are the Ummah of the same Prophet, and we believe in the same Book. Let us not give an opportunity to those who want to pit us against each other. Let us free ourselves all the traps wrapped around our legs. Let us be a nice example of civilization to the entire world where people are not scorned, women are not oppressed, and children are not suppressed.

Brothers and Sisters!

With these thoughts and sentiments, I sincerely celebrate the Eid al-Fitr of our country, our region, and the world of Islam.

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following verses that talk about real festivities.

When the soul finds a lover, it becomes a festival,
When the servant finds a sultan, it becomes a festival,
Rid the sadness and gloom, and the shameful words,
May all sins be forgiven, have a blessed feast.

¹ Ali Imran, 3/103.

² Bukhari, Salât, 88; Müslim, Birr ve Sıla, 65.

LOCATION : GENEL
DATE : 08.07.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

... وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَفْشُوا السَّلَامَ وَأَطْعِمُوا الطَّعَامَ وَصِلُوا الْأَرْحَامَ...

A MEANS OF GETTING CLOSER TO ALLAH: FAMILY TIES

Brothers and Sisters!

After a long and toilsome journey that had started in Makkah, the Prophet (s.a.w.) finally arrived in Medina that he embraced as home with the believers from where he would spread Islam in waves. People of Medina had been longing to see the Messenger of Allah for days. Many of them had never seen him. They welcomed the Messenger of Grace saying, “O, the messenger selected among us, you have come with a great call. You have honored this city. Welcome, o beloved one!” All the men and women, kids and elderlies rushed to meet him. They wanted to take a closer look at him and hear his first words in person from his blessed mouth. This was one of the first messages of our Prophet (s.a.w.) to the crowd that was curiously following him: **“O people! Spread the Salam among yourselves. Offer treats to one another. And uphold the ties of kinship...”**¹

Brothers and Sisters!

The Messenger of Grace (s.a.w.) pointed out to the importance of family ties centuries ago. He diligently abided by the relationships he had with his family, his relatives, and his circle. He always looked after them and never neglected his responsibility towards them. Our Prophet always manifested his loyalty with sincerity and fondness at every opportunity.

Honorable Believers!

One of the most significant values in our religion is family ties which means maintaining our relationship with our family and relatives. It means sharing their joy and sorrow and acting as a safe port for one another. It means lending them a helping hand when they need it and letting them up when they fall down. It means relieving our mind and soul with the compassion, mercy, and fondness of one another when we get tired of the daily concerns of the world.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

It does not mean just keeping in touch with relatives who have not severed their ties with us. The real essence of family ties is being able to give a call to those who never call you, and visit those who never visit you. The real dignified thing to do is to be able to

do favors to those who have never done any favors to you.² It is exemplified in the following incident:

A companion approaches the Prophet and says: “O Messenger of Allah! I try to keep in touch with my relatives but they never contact me. I do them favors but they wrong me. I treat them warmly but they treat me with rudeness.” Then, the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) tells the companion that his relatives are at fault and says: **“Allah will assist you as long as you keep up your attitude.”**³

Brothers and Sisters!

We see many new inventions every day that make our lives easier. There have been stunning developments particularly in technology. The world is rapidly turning into a small village where the distance between people is fading away. By touching a button whenever we want, we can contact people at the other side of the world. But it is sad that sometimes we neglect one another and those closest to us. Day by day, we become more indifferent about other people and their problems.

We are getting dragged into experiencing joy, sorrow, existence, absence only by ourselves in cities where millions live. We share the same building with dozens or even hundreds of people, yet we get lonelier every passing day. Our houses may be getting bigger, but our hearts are getting just as smaller. There are many parents, abandoned to loneliness, who desperately wait for their beloved children to show up one day. There are many relatives waiting for a call from anyone to ask them how they are. There are many sorrowful, destitute people close to us who are looking forward to getting troubles off their chest even a little. There are many neighbors who desperately need a greeting, a sincere smile, warmth, and fondness.

Brothers and Sisters!

Let us not neglect family ties, a means of getting into paradise. Let us please the hearts of our parents. Keep in touch with our children, our close and distant relatives, and our neighbors. And let us ask this to ourselves: If we do not set an example for our children, who will they learn from about the beauty of respecting and serving elders? How will they know that one's joy gets even bigger when you share it with family, it eases one's sorrow to share it with family?

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following command of our Great Lord: **“...Have fear of the One by whose Name you swear to settle your differences and have respect for your relatives. Allah certainly keeps watch over you.”**⁴

¹ Ibn Majah, Et'ime, 1.

² Bukhari, Edeb, 15.

³ Muslim, Birr ve sıla, 22.

⁴ An-Nisa, 4/1.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE

DATE : 15.07.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

... وَإِنَّ أَحَبَّ الْأَعْمَالِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَا دَامَ وَإِنْ قَلَّ

A LIFE OF WORSHIP

Brothers and Sisters!

A group of three men came to the houses of the wives of the Prophet (s.a.w.) asking how the Prophet (s.a.w.) worshipped, and when they were informed about that, they considered their worship insufficient. Then one of them said, "I will offer the prayer throughout the night forever." The other said, "I will fast throughout the year and will not break my fast." The third said, "I will keep away from the women and will not marry forever." Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.) came to them and said, **"By Allah, I am more submissive to Allah and more afraid of Him than you; yet I fast and break my fast, I do sleep and I also marry women. So he who does not follow my tradition in religion, is not from me."**¹

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Allah's Messenger warned these people who gravitated towards a grueling mentality by giving an example from his own life. He also once said, **"Religion is very easy and whoever overburdens himself in his religion will not be able to continue in that way. So avoid going to extremes."**² With that, he stated that we are not asked to retire from the world and completely devote ourselves to worship. By saying **"The best deeds to Allah are the incessant ones though they were few."**³ he also advised us to not to take our worship for granted which is a way of showing our gratitude and loyalty to our Lord.

Brothers and Sisters!

Once again, we leave behind Ramadan, the season of grace, abundance, and forgiveness. Our religious sentiments, awareness of being servants became strengthened in the process. We embraced prayers more tightly in this blessed month. We observed fasting. We performed prayers. We enjoyed the abundance of sahur, the joy of iftar, and the jubilation of tarawih. We patiently and gratefully sought ways to control ourselves. We prayed and supplicated for our salvation and the salvation of our brethren, for the unity and peace of our country and the world of Islam, and for the true path for humanity. We opened our hearts as well as our homes to one another. We peaked at sharing with our zakat, sadakah, and fitr. We avoided breaking hearts. We tried to mend the broken ones and remedy people's pride. We tried to welcome Quran, our Book

of Life, into the heavens of our hearts. With Eid, we once again proclaimed our friendship and that we are one and we stand together.

Honorable Believers!

We are still sorry that we bid farewell to Ramadan and we will stay apart from it for eleven months. But we know that the end of Ramadan does not mean the end of our duties and responsibilities. Because our test on this mortal world is still going on. In order to attain eternal celebration in the afterlife, we must preserve the beautiful things we obtained in Ramadan. We must keep our consciousness of worship and servitude with the awareness of the verse **"And worship your Lord until there comes to you death."**⁴

Then come; let us continue performing our prayers with love and awe as we do in Ramadan. Let us keep vile notions off our minds, bad words from our nothings, and evil feelings from our hearts just like we are fasting but with no iftar at the end. Let us keep our minds and hearts, cleansed during the Ramadan, always purified afterwards as well. Let us avoid unbecoming behaviors for Muslims such as lies, gossip, slander, resentment, offense, dissent, ambition, selfishness, and wastefulness. Let us continue to protect ourselves against any ugliness that may lower our value in the eyes of people and our Lord.

Brothers and Sisters!

Let us open the gates of our hearts to one another like it is Ramadan. Let us extend a compassionate helping hand to the poor, to the needy, to the homeless, to the orphan. Let us keep away from words and behaviors that may damage our unity and friendship which became reinforced with Ramadan and Eid. Let us make an effort to reach eternal paradise and salvation altogether like we meet on iftar tables and prayer ranks.

Let us live like it is Ramadan all the time. Let us live a life of worship. Remember, our submission, our obedience, our sincere worship, and our good deeds will please our Lord. And keep in mind that the more we approach our Lord, the more He will treat us with mercy. If we walk towards Him, He will approach us running.⁵

Brothers and Sisters!

May our Great Lord grant all of us to be among those aware of their responsibilities. I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following prayer that our Prophet (s.a.w.) taught us: **"O Allah, help me remember You, to be grateful to You, and to worship You in an excellent manner!"**⁶

¹ Bukhari, Nikâh, 1; Muslim, Nikâh, 5.

² Bukhari, Îmân, 29.

³ Bukhari, Libâs, 43.

⁴ Al-Hijr, 15/99.

⁵ Bukhari, Tevhid, 50.

⁶ Abu Dawud, Tefrîu ebvâbi'l-vitr, 26.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَنْتُمْ الْأَعْلَوْنَ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

عَجَبًا لِأَمْرِ الْمُؤْمِنِ، إِنَّ أَمْرَهُ كُلَّهُ خَيْرٌ، وَلَيْسَ ذَاكَ لِأَحَدٍ إِلَّا لِلْمُؤْمِنِ، إِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ

سَرَاءٌ شَكَرَ، فَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ، وَإِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ ضَرَاءٌ، صَبَرَ فَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ

LET'S STAND TOGETHER AND BUILD OUR FUTURE

Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, our Great Lord enjoins: **“Do not be discouraged or grieved. You alone will have true dignity if you only are true believers.”**¹

In the hadith I have recited, the Prophet (s.a.w.) says: **“The situation of believers is one that is astonishing. Anything is good for them. It is only specific to them. They thank when something pleasing happens to them; it does them good. They endure when something troublesome happens to them; it does them good as well.”**²

Brothers and Sisters!

Infinite thanks to Allah Almighty for saving our nation from great troubles and disasters with His ever-profound mercy in the difficult period we are going through.

I wish Allah's mercy and grace upon all brothers and sisters honored with martyrdom in the process, and I wish patience and strength to their relatives and our nation. I wish from the Great Lord a swift recovery to the injured.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

On the night of July 15, we went through one of the longest and darkest nights in our nation's history. Lord Almighty granted our nation to stand together with all its segments and we protected what has been entrusted to us. Without a doubt, the spirit of unity, togetherness, and fellowship that we have as a nation is one of the greatest blessings. Thank Allah! Thanks to this great blessing, we were saved from rolling into a pit of fire and descending into darkness.

Brothers and Sisters!

This bitter experience showed us this: No power is superior than hearts filled with love for Allah and love for the nation! These treacherous attacks also showed this: Those who attempt to repress and defame our glorious nation are doomed to be humiliated and abominated! Allah Almighty, with

His power, grace, and favor, is with those who stands with the oppressed, the downtrodden, and the refugees.

Esteemed Brothers and Sisters!

Infinite thanks to Allah that this country has been a home for Muslims for centuries. This nation is the children of martyrs. The adhans, the Fridays are the symbols of Islam. This religion has a Book in which not a single letter has ever changed. It has a Prophet who is the most beautiful example for all. We have a mind and a heart bestowed upon us by Allah. We have unchanging values and a vast experience of 14 centuries. None of us as Muslims can leave those aside. We cannot hand over our minds, intellect, and conscience to one person or group. We cannot sacrifice our religion for the good of the world. And we can never allow those who want to take over the world by abusing the great religion of Islam.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Let us open our hands supplicate to Lord Almighty on this Friday, in this sacred hour:

O Allah!

Do not bring harm to this nation that has defied tanks to protect its honor!

Do not spare your grace and help from this nation that has offered hope to the downtrodden, stood with the oppressed, and welcomed the refugees for centuries!

Do not allow those who wish to disturb our peace and our hopes and plant seeds of disorder in this land!

Save us from all enemies, from within and outside, who may undermine the survival of our state and our nation!

We have relied on You, we have trusted You, we have drawn our strength from our faith in You; do not let us go down and fall apart, o Allah!

O Allah, do not let us deviate from justice and mercy despite the cruelty of the cruel!

O Allah, do not let us deviate from good despite the evil of the evil!

We seek refuge from You against being among servants of Yours who depart from justice with revenge and deviate from rightness by getting overwhelmed with anger.

Grant the noble resistance of our nation to prevail as a resistance for justice and fairness!

¹ Al-I Imran, 3/139.

² Muslim, Zühd ve rekâik, 64.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE
DATE : 29.07.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُصْلِحُونَ.

أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِنْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ عَشَّنَا فَلَيْسَ مِنَّا.

THE WORST TYPE OF MISCHIEF IS TO EXPLOIT THE SACRED VALUES OF ISLAM.

Brothers and Sisters!

The Prophet (s.a.w.) was anxious from the responsibility of the mighty mission bestowed upon him when the first revelation came. He went right back home and told it to Khadija, the mother of believers. Then, Mother Khadija said the following to the Prophet: **“Do not fear! I swear by Allah that He shall never humiliate you. By Allah, you join ties of relationship, you look after orphans, you help the poor and the needy, you offer treats to guests and you treat nicely to neighbors, you protect the destitute and the downtrodden, you defend what is right and stand with it.”**¹

Brothers and Sisters!

With these words, Mother Khadija actually heralded the news that Allah would never humiliate those who had these virtues and merits. Indeed, the Almighty never humiliated, suffered or deprived those who kept alive these virtues throughout history. Just like He did not humiliate our nation on July 15.

It is because the Almighty does not humiliate those who stand with the downtrodden against the cruel. Because the Almighty does not suffer those who lend a helping hand to the poor and the needy. Because the Almighty does not deprive those who open their hearts the downtrodden, the orphan, the abandoned. And this nation has always opened the doors of its heart to whomever took shelter in it without discriminating nation, race, language, religion or country. This nation has always looked after the orphan, the downtrodden, and the abandoned. This nation has stood with the oppressed against the oppressors. This nation has defended what is right under any circumstance, founded civilizations, and spread them all across the world.

Brothers and Sisters!

We believe that the Almighty will not let our nation be downhearted. Because this nation, from past to present, has considered its faith, its homeland, its future, and its independence its most sacred asset. The people have never allowed foreign hands to touch these values. As remarked by Mehmet Akif, the writer of our national anthem, in the lines “The generation of Asım was real indeed. / They didn’t let their honor be run over, they will never.”, our nation did not let its land, its honor, its

dignity, and its pride be run over. They did not give up their will, their mind, and their soul.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I recited at the beginning of my khutbah, the Almighty enjoins: **“When it is said to them, do not make mischief in the land, they say: We are but peace-makers. Now surely they themselves are the mischief makers, but they do not perceive.”**²

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

As enjoined in the verse, the greatest mischief throughout history was made under the guise of correction. And the worst type of mischief is to do evil to the people by hiding under religion. The greatest mischief is to deceive people by exploiting the sacred values of religion. Indeed, the Prophet says **“Whoever deceives us is not from us.”**³ in the hadith I have recited earlier.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our nation’s honorable stance on the night of July 15 will undoubtedly be remembered with gratitude and thankfulness for generations to come. Those who targeted the nation’s existence will surely be frustrated. There are of course big lessons to take out of the great crisis that we went through. We must not forget those who deemed this honorable nation to be deserving of such evil. We must learn about our great religion accurately from authentic sources. We must not give up our heart, soul, spirit, mind, intellect, and will to others. We must not believe even for a second those who invite people to be servants and slaves to them instead of being a servant of Allah. We must preserve our unity and togetherness, our peace and fellowship. We must look after one another and protect each other’s rights. We must see our differences not as reasons for division but as a type of richness and grace. We must treat sedition and traps with foresight and prudence. We must keep believing that tomorrow will be much better than today. Remember: what keeps us strong is our faith and our hope.

Brothers and Sisters!

Let’s pray the Almighty together:

O Lord! We have believed in You, we have trusted You, we have faith in You. Do not spare Yourself and Your mercy from us! Do not let our hearts go astray after the true path You have blessed us!

Lord! Treat us with Your grace! Help us against all sorts of deniers and hypocrites! Do not let us be humiliated against them!

O Allah! Let us always prevail over the troublemakers and the plotters! Protect us against all sorts of dissension, mischief, hypocrisy, and bad manners!⁴ Grant us foresight and prudence!

O Lord! Do not humiliate this honorable nation that has been carrying the flag of Islam for centuries and endeavoring to have Your name resound in the heavens!

¹ Bukhari, Bed’ü’l-vahy, 1; Tefsir, (Alak) 1.

² Al-Baqarah, 2/11-12.

³ Muslim, İman, 164.

⁴ Abu Dawud, Vitir, 32.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ
وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
... إِنَّ أَضْلَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ وَأَحْسَنَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ ...

SERVING IS FOR ALLAH ALONE

Brothers and Sisters!

It was the days when the light of Islam was just beginning to illuminate the land of Makkah. The Prophet (s.a.w.) ascended the Safa hill near Baytullah, and addressed the people of Makkah: **“Suppose I told you that there is an enemy cavalry in the valley intending to attack you, would you believe me?”** They said in unison, “Yes, for we have not found you telling anything other than the truth.” Then said the Messenger of Grace, **“I am a warner to you in face of a terrific punishment,”**¹ inviting the entire humanity in the presence of Makkah locals to be servants of Allah and adopt tawheed.

Brothers and Sisters!

The call of the Prophet is a great one that began with Prophet Adam and invites people to become servants to the Lord of the Worlds. This holy call was uttered by Noah, Abraham, Lot, Hud, Salih, Moses, Jesus, shortly by all prophets. The invitation reached perfection on the lips of the Last Prophet and is an invitation for eternal salvation that will continue until the Day of Judgment.

The call only contains faith in Allah and being His servant. It only contains bowing before only Allah and becoming glorified when bowing down. It contains attaining true freedom by refusing to be a servant to anyone other than Allah. It contains the truth, right, and the rightness. It contains being away from idolatry, discord, blasphemy, revolt, sedition, mischief, trickery, traps, lies, and deception.

Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited at the beginning of the khutbah, the Almighty enjoins: **“And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, being sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayer and to give zakat. And that is the correct religion.”**²

Brothers and Sisters!

This verse teaches us that serving and worshipping is for Allah alone. Indeed, here is a remarkable warning from Abu Bakr to certain companions who did not want to believe the passing of our Prophet: **“Whoever amongst you worshipped Muhammad, then Muhammad is dead, but whoever worshipped Allah, Allah is alive and will never die.”**³

Brothers and Sisters!

History of humankind has tragically witnessed many tyrants who divinized their selves, whims, and desires. There are countless lives wasted throughout history by serving the servants and being slaves for mortal souls. There are countless unwary minds and stone hearts that trampled on human

dignity and honor, playing the blind, deaf, and mute in the face of truth.

However, in the chapter al-Fatiha, the opening chapter of our great book Quran, the concept of serving in the clear religion of Islam is clearly presented to us. We recite this chapter five times every day in our prayers and repeat our faith and vow of servitude to the Almighty. We pray, **“O Lord! It is You we worship and You we ask for help. Guide us to the true path”** Without a doubt, the true path in question is the path of Quran and of the Messenger of Allah. Our Prophet (s.a.w.) declared it to us in the hadith **“The truest of word is the Book of Allah and best of guidance is the guidance of Muhammad.”**⁴ This path is the main path followed by the Ummah of Islam for fourteen centuries which has set an example for the humankind. This path is the only path to salvation that guides humanity to illumination. Those who walk on this path are heralded with the eternal blessings of the Almighty.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

To walk on this path of abundance, the Muslim identity and character should be built accurately before anything. To do that, we hold the guidance of our Book and our Prophet in high esteem. We strive to prosper in our hearts, in our minds, and in our lives with their refreshing, graceful messages. We know how to appreciate the blessings and assess them which have been entrusted to us by the Almighty for a humane life. We do not enslave our minds to the minds of others, our hearts to the hearts of others, and our conscience to the consciences of others. We recognize that the warrant of eternal salvation only depends on Allah and Allah's consent. We ignore those who promise warrant of salvation to us and claim they alone possess the truth. We devote our existence to the consent of our Lord, not of mortal beings; and to everlasting truths, not to temporary benefits and expectations.

Brothers and Sisters!

As soldiers of this bright path, we are wary of ignorance, division, and the fire of sedition and mischief that others try to set ablaze. We are aware of ourselves, our vales, and our faith. We avoid acts and behavior that will corrupt them and render them meaningless. We acknowledge that allegiance to our great religion, to our Holy Book, to our Prophet is above allegiance to anything else.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

As the travelers of the true path of the Holy Quran and our Prophet (s.a.w.), let us pray to our Lord in this holy time of the day:

O Allah! Make us love faith, adorn our hearts with faith! Grant us to be among those who thank You, who remember You, who obey You, who serve only You, and who turn towards You and supplicate to You!

O Allah! Do not let the hypocrites and mischief-makers who disguise themselves as do-gooders but attempt to sow seeds of sedition and mischief in our country!

Do not let us be among those who deceive and become deceived with religion, faith, Quran, and the Prophet, o Allah!

¹ Bukhari, Tefsîr, Şu'arâ, 2; Muslim, Îmân, 355.

² Al-Bayyinah, 98/5.

³ Bukhari, Fedâilü ashâbi'n-nebî, 5.

⁴ An-Nasa'i, Salâtü'l-îdeyn, 22.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَارَهُمْ وَرُهَبَانَهُمْ أَرْبَابًا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ وَالْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا

أَمَرُوا إِلَّا لِيُعْبَدُوا إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ سُبْحَانَهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

تَرَكْتُ فِيكُمْ أَمْرَيْنِ لَنْ تَضِلُّوا مَا تَمَسَّكْتُمْ بِهِمَا كِتَابُ اللَّهِ وَسُنَّةُ نَبِيِّهِ.

THE STRAIGHT PATH

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (s.a.w.) recited a verse from the Holy Quran when he was with some of his companions. The verse was about how members of the religion before Islam distorted Allah's religion: **"They have taken their scholars and monks as lords besides Allah, and also the Messiah, the son of Mary. And they were not commanded except to worship one God; there is no deity except Him. Exalted is He above whatever they associate with Him."**¹

Following the Prophet's recitation of the verse, a companion who had converted to Islam from Christianity said, "O Messenger of Allah! We did not worship them!" Then the Prophet asked him, **"They ruled whatever they wished lawful or unlawful. You did abide by them, did not you?"** And when he said "Yes!" the Prophet said, **"That is what the verse addresses."**²

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The verse shows us that the humankind went through deviations and slips in their religious understanding and vision throughout history. To prevent those slips and deviations, the Almighty called humankind to belief in oneness through His blessed messengers from Adam (a.s.) to our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (s.a.w.).

The belief in oneness (tawheed) is the straight path. On this path, there is obedience, there is submission, and there is servitude to the one and only Allah. On this path, there is straightforwardness, there is honesty, there is seeming as you are, and there is being as you seem instead of apostasy, blasphemy, discord, and hypocrisy. On this path, there is morality, there is virtue, and there is sincerity. On this path, there is right, not wrong, there is obedience, not betrayal. On this road, there is a destination, there is justice, and there is abiding by what is right; not deviance, rampage, presumption, and cruelty.

The last inviter to this sacred path was our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (s.a.w.). Allah Almighty made the clear religion of Islam reach perfection with our Holy Book and our Beloved Prophet.³ Since then,

there have been many elated people of true knowledge and wisdom who called the humankind to this abundant path. However, there have also been many miserable beings who, under the guise of good faith, led people astray from the straight path.

Brothers and Sisters!

No other concept gets ahead of Allah and His Messenger, Quran, and Sunnah on the straight path. There are no attempts to change the constants of religion on the straight path. There is no power invested in anyone to rule over what is lawful or not according to their desires and benefits on the straight path. Because it means distorting the clear religion of Islam. It means emptying the religion. It means destroying the religion. It means creating a new religion. It should be known that those who attempt to create a new religion by putting themselves ahead of the Quran and Sunnah and those who blindly follow such people are the travelers of a futile path. On the contrary, the straight path is about leading a pure life in the eternal guidance of the Quran and Sunnah, accompanied by the rich scholarly knowledge of the Islamic culture and civilization.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

On the straight path of the Almighty, there is no other "innocent and indisputable" person with a virtuous character other than Prophets. Nobody other than Prophets can be considered special, chosen or infallible on the straight path. Nobody's words, works, and acts are attributed with holiness and sheer wisdom. No creature can be obeyed with regard to rebelling to Allah on the straight path. Shortly, absolute obedience and commitment are principles the framework which is defined by the Quran and Sunnah.

Brothers and Sisters!

Remember that everybody will define their own consequence in the afterlife with what they do in this world. Nobody will lay the burden of their own responsibility and account on others.⁴ On that great day, our loyal faith, our sincere intent, our true knowledge, our good deeds, our sound heart will be our sole hope. The profound compassion of the Almighty will be our sole shelter.

May the Almighty grant us to be among His servants who always live in awareness of their responsibility, conscious of their accountability, and who are honored with His compassion. May the Almighty never let us go astray from the straight path or deprive us of it even for a moment. May the Almighty never allow those who want to destroy and abuse our religious values, our faith, and our Islam.

¹ At-Tawbah, 9/31.

² Tirmidhi, Tefsiru'l-Kur'an, 9; Al-Bayhaqi, Sünenü'l Kübrâ, X,196.

³ Al-Muwatta, Kader, 3.

⁴ Al-Isra, 17/13-14.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَخُونُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ وَتَخُونُوا أَمَانَاتِكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْمُؤْمِنُ مَنْ آمَنَهُ النَّاسُ عَلَى دِمَائِهِمْ وَأَمْوَالِهِمْ ...

BELIEVER AND ENTRUSTMENT

Brothers and Sisters!

The belief of oneness was spreading in waves every day in Makkah. The idolaters could not accept it. They did not hesitate to torment and show animosity towards our Prophet (s.a.w.) and believers. Eventually, they went to his uncle Abu Talib to make our Prophet give up his cause. They promised our Prophet rank, fame, etc. They threatened him with death if he would not give up his cause. But, the Messenger of Allah did not fear from their threats, nor did he compliment their proposals. And he gave the following response: **“O Uncle! Even if they place the Sun in my right hand and the Moon in my left hand, I will never give up this cause. Either Allah makes His religion triumph or I die for it.”**¹

Brothers and Sisters!

The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) did not give up his cause. He always looked after the great entrustment of the Almighty. Because he was Muhammad the Trustworthy, the reliable prophet. He was always loyal, he always complied with the entrustment.

Our Prophet also advised his Ummah to be trustworthy and protect what was entrusted to them. He said that we must avoid betrayal under any circumstances. He defined the believer as someone from whose tongue and hand the people are safe, and from whom the people's lives and wealth are safe.²

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Allah Almighty Himself named us “believers” in the Holy Quran. He entrusted this title and all blessings to us. Without a doubt, the greatest thing entrusted to us is our faith and our Islam. We can only attain bliss in this world and the next through blessing of faith. At this point, what we need to do is never betray this great entrustment. Protect it under any circumstance. Remain faithful to the vow we made to our Lord with Kalimah tawheeds, Kalima shahadas. Adorn our lives with good deeds and good morals as required by our faith.

It means being wary against those who want to abuse and damage our faith and religion. It means denying the opportunity to those who steal spirituality over faith and Islam, deceive people with our great religion, and who act in betrayal. The following verse from the Almighty should be kept in mind: **“O you who**

believe! do not betray Allah and the Messenger or knowingly betray your trusts.”³

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Holy Book, and the Sunnah, the great heritage of our Prophet, are entrusted to us as believers. Indeed, the Prophet (s.a.w.) informed us about it: **“I am entrusting two things to you, you will not go astray as long as you hold tight to them. They are the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of the Prophet.”**⁴

What we must do today is to prosper our heart with the rejuvenating messages of the Quran and Sunnah. We must never forget that a Muslim-like life is only possible by walking on the path determined by the Quran and Sunnah. We must properly comprehend the fourteen centuries of knowledge and wisdom blended with Quran and Sunnah. We must get inspiration from these two great entrustments and strive to present new civilizations to humankind.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

As the children of Adam and Eve, we are entrusted to one another. It requires us to live with love, respect, and understanding. It requires us to consider one another as brothers and sisters, and consider the joy and the sorrow of one another as ours.

It requires loyalty and faithfulness in every case, as per the hadith **“A Muslim is the brother to a Muslim. He does not betray him, he does not lie to him, and nor does he fail him in times of difficulty...”**⁵ It requires sharing, helping each other, and showing solidarity.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our numbered breaths, running time, and short life are entrusted to us. Our mind, our heart, our tongue, our entire body are entrusted to us. Our family, which is the source of peace and fondness, our children, who are the light of our eyes, our neighbors, whom we need all the time, our property, our knowledge, our experience is all entrusted to us. What we must do is to strive to attain our Lord's content with these entrustments.

The land of our homeland which is watered with the martyrs' blood, our flag which is the symbol of our independence, our azan which is the symbol of Islam, and in short all sublime values are entrusted to us. What we must do is to consider them as precious as our life.

Brothers and Sisters!

May the Almighty grant us to be among those who preserve their honor by protecting what is entrusted to them. May He grant us not to be among those who are held in contempt for betraying His trust. May the Almighty Lord grant us to be among His loyal, reliable, and elated servants whom He will keep in His Paradise.

¹ Ibn Hisham, Sîret, I, 101; Al-Baladhuri, Ensâb, I, 229-230.

² Al-Nasa'i, Imân, 8.

³ Al-Anfal, 8/27.

⁴ Muwatta, Kader, 3.

⁵ Tirmidhi, Birr ve sila, 18.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

... وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا . وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ

عُدُونَا وَظُلْمًا فَسَوْفَ نُصْلِيهِ نَارًا وَكَانَ ذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرًا

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَأَنْ يَهْدِيَ اللَّهُ بِكَ رَجُلًا وَاحِدًا خَيْرٌ لَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا فِيهَا

HAYAT VEREN DİN: İSLÂM

Honorable Believers!

During the conquest of Khaibar, our Prophet (s.a.w.) handed the banner over to Ali (ra). At one point, Ali uttered words saying he would relentlessly fight the people of Khaibar until they accepted Islam.

Upon hearing him, the Prophet said: **“O Ali! Invite the people of Khaibar to Islam and inform them what is enjoined upon them. I swear by Allah that if Allah gives guidance to somebody through you, it is better for you than the world and what is on it.”**¹

Brothers and Sisters!

One of Allah’s names is al-Hayy; he is the undying, the everlasting. He is the giver of life. He takes the living out of the dead, and the dead out of the living. He has bestowed life upon humankind as an indispensable right. He has enjoined to keep people alive, not kill them. However, many merciless, cold-blooded murders were committed throughout human history despite the command of our Lord.

Brothers and Sisters!

The humankind’s history of taking lives began with Cain, the son of our ancestor Adam (as). Cain shed sibling blood for the first time, he took a life. Since that day, humanity has sadly witnessed many invasions, many wars, many massacres, many migrations, and many exiles. So many Abels were slain by raving murderers. The right to life, human being’s most precious possession, was violated countless times in history.

Brothers and Sisters!

In modern times, the humankind has got to know a new type of murder and massacre. A new atrocity emerged: suicide bombers committing suicide attacks and murdering hundreds of innocent people with themselves. Even worse and more saddening is that this is associated with our great religion of Islam. Such a brutal murder cannot belong to our civilization, to

our world. Such a massacre cannot be linked together with sacred values like martyrdom and jihad.

Brothers and Sisters!

Islam does not even approve self-harm, let alone slaughtering others. According to our religion, a person’s taking their own life is rebellion to their Creator and, in a sense, is an attempt to take revenge from the Creator. Indeed, the Almighty firmly forbade taking one’s own life in our Holy Book by enjoining **“Do not kill yourselves!”**² And killing an innocent soul is like killing the entire humankind.³

How can Islam, the religion of life, be associated with massacres that have absolutely nothing to do with humanity, conscience, ethics, and law of war. How can a person’s transformation into a killing machine and murdering innocent people can be predicated upon the gracious messages of Islam? Remember, those who authorize these slaughters under the guise of religion are also responsible for the massacre of all innocent people.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our great religion of Islam is one that gives life, not one that takes it. This religion presents its book as one that gives life. The messages of this book put forward the principles of giving life, not killing. The prophet of this religion is one that brings grace to the worlds. This religion considers a person’s life, property, honor, and dignity untouchable and respectable.⁴ What a massive treason it is to predicate murders, deaths, and massacres on a religion that gives life, on a book that exalts the individual, and one a prophet that brings mercy and grace.

Brothers and Sisters!

Let it be known that the butchers who have taken dozens of lives with them can neither be martyrs nor become immortal. The following tragic and pitiful outcome awaits them as informed by the Almighty in our Holy Book: **“The punishment for one who purposely slays a believer will be to live in hell fire forever. Allah is angry with him and has cursed him. He has prepared for him a great torment.”**⁵

Brothers and Sisters!

Lastly, so many innocent brothers and sisters, most of them in the prime of their lives, lost their lives with the sinister terror and suicide attacks in various cities. Wedding day for our people turned into a day of death. Once again, I wish Allah’s mercy upon all brothers and sisters who lost their lives in these heinous attacks. I offer my condolences to their relatives and loved ones. And I wish a speedy recovery to the injured citizens.

¹ Bukhari, Cihâd, 143; Taberânî, III, 318.

² An-Nisa, 4/29.

³ Al-Mai’dah, 5/32.

⁴ Bukhari, Hac, 132.

⁵ An-Nisa, 4/93.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ إِنْ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اللَّهُمَّ تَقَبَّلْ مِنْ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَمِنْ أُمَّةٍ مُحَمَّدٍ.

DECLARATION OF SERVITUDE AND SINCERITY: SACRIFICE

Brothers and Sisters!

It was the morning of Eid in Medina. After the prayer, it was time for sacrifice. As was his tradition, the Prophet (s.a.w.) had two sacrificial animals. He got them down on the ground with his compassionate hands, and turned them toward the qibla. Then he recited the following verses from our Holy Book: **“Indeed, I have turned my face toward He who created the heavens and the earth, inclining toward truth, and I am not of the idolaters.¹ Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds. He has no partner.”²**

After reciting the verses, our Prophet said the following prayer and slaughtered the animals in the name of Allah: **“O Allah! These sacrifices are your blessings and they are for your consent. Accept them from myself, from my family, and from my Ummah!”³**

Honorable Believers!

The greatest honor in the world is being close to Allah. Allah is close to us, closer than our jugular vein. And He wants us to be closer to Him as well. That is why He has bestowed on us countless blessings to make us get closer to Him. He made worship a means of getting closer to Him. We fulfill all our religious obligations to be closer to our Lord. For whoever is close to Him is close to truth. Whoever is close to Him is close to justice and mercy. Whoever is close to Him is away from the devil. And here comes another religious ritual that gets us closer to Him. Here comes the sacrifice and a feast: Eid al-Adha (Sacrifice Feast). Jubilation is rushing into our spirits already.

Brothers and Sisters!

We have been through very challenging days as a nation. We have left them behind altogether. Now, it is time to leave all that aside and get ready for the sacrifice, for the feast. Now, it is time to remember the closeness of Allah and remind that to one another. Now, it is time to get away from everything that keeps us away from Allah.

Well, are we ready to get close to our Lord with sacrifice? Are we committed to remove the whole distance? Are we making plans that will get us closer to

our Lord and ourselves? Are we getting in touch with the poor, the wretched, and the immigrant with whom we will share the sacrifice?

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Sacrifice is not merely about shedding the blood of an animal. It contains much deeper meanings and wisdom. Before anything, sacrifice is the intention to let go of all the burden that keeps us away from Allah. The aim in sacrifice is to get rid of those who get between us and Allah. It is to open our hearts directly to Allah. In short, sacrifice is a declaration of servitude and sincerity to Allah. Our Lord informs us this fact as such: **“It is not the flesh and blood of your sacrifice that reaches Allah. What reaches Allah is your piety..”⁴**

Brothers and Sisters!

Sacrifice is the name of submission and obedience, loyalty and solidarity, selflessness and sharing. It has the obedience of Prophet Abraham. It has the submission of Ishmael. And it has the mercy, loyalty, charity, sharing ethics of Muhammad Mustafa (s.a.w.).

Sacrifice is to keep our awareness of charity alive in the cause of Allah. It is to share the joy of Eid with those who cannot afford to celebrate it. It is to get closer to our neighbors, our relatives, our friends and loved ones; in short, to each other. From that perspective, sacrifice is a helping hand we extend to brothers and sisters we have never known or seen in countries we have never heard of.

Brothers and Sisters!

If you can afford it, sacrifice an animal. If you cannot, treat your fellowship to fellow Muslims. Give away your smiles as charity. Let us forget those who made us forget Allah. Let us remain pure and true. Let us be one and together. Let us be companions of Prophet Abraham (as) who was tested with his son Ishmael. Let us keep in mind that our children are also entrusted to us like Ishmael. Let us not veer away from the path of our Prophet (s.a.w.) and his companions.

Brothers and Sisters!

Like every year, our Presidency of Religious Affairs and Diyanet Foundation are ready this year to take our nation's charitable and benevolent hand to the whole world. Sacrifices of our charitable nation will be taken to needy and oppressed brothers and sisters inside and outside the country. And therefore, bridges of friendship will be strengthened. Let us keep in mind that each sacrifice we will give to our needy brothers and sisters will be a letter of compassion and mercy that carries the shared signature of our nation.

On these thoughts and sentiments, I wish that our Lord may make us reach Eid in peace and accept our sacrifices.

¹ Al-An'am, 6/79.

² Al-An'am, 6/162-163.

³ Ibn Majah, Edâhi, 1; Abu Dawud, Dahâyâ, 3-4.

⁴ Al-Hajj, 22/37.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قَدْ كَانَتْ لَكُمْ أُنُوءٌ حَسَنَةٌ فِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ...

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنِّي دَعَوْتُ أَبِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَبِشَارَةَ عِيسَى بِي وَرُؤْيَا أُمِّي...

EID AND PROPHET ABRAHAM

Brothers and Sisters!

A group of companions asked the Prophet (s.a.w.), “O Messenger of Allah! Could you talk to us about yourself?” Then, our Prophet said: **“I am the prayer of my ancestor Abraham, the gospel of my brother Jesus, and the dream of my mother Aminah.”**¹

Brothers and Sisters!

Praise be to the Almighty that we will altogether observe Eid al-Adha next Monday. Millions of prospective Hajj pilgrims from different regions of the world are about to go up Mount Arafat. There, they will offer their repentance and supplication to the Lord of the worlds. They will include us in their prayers. As they enjoy the peace and jubilation of Hajj worship, we will perform the sacrifice. We will once again renew our purpose and effort to be closer to the Almighty and to one another. May the Lord let us peacefully reach the Eid with this understanding.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We have this magnificent feast every year. However, we have insufficient knowledge of the great prophet associated with Eid al-Adha. He is Prophet Abraham, who was honored with being called al Khalil, the friend of Allah.² He is a spectacular character presented an example for all believers that came to the world after him. As the Almighty presented our Prophet as the best example in our Holy Book,³ He also presented Abraham as an example by enjoining, **“There is for you a good example in Ibrahim and those with him.”**⁴

Brothers and Sisters!

When we say Abraham (as), the oneness of Allah comes to mind. his fight for it comes to mind. Prophet Abraham took the risk of being thrown into a massive fire in the cause of his belief. He showed the entire humankind how to believe and serve Allah. He rejected to serve the servants. He never turned back from his path of truth, justice, righteousness, and true freedom.

When we say Abraham (as), unity comes to mind. He built an ummah with a son. He attained the honor of being the father of all prophets and all

believers after him.⁵ Every prophet after Abraham was included in his prayers.

When we say Abraham (as), submission and obedience come to mind. He went through a challenging test with his beloved Ishmael. And he demonstrated the devotion of committing his entire existence to Allah in this test.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today, the memory of Abraham the Friend of Allah is enshrined in many signs and symbols of Islam. He rebuilt the Grand Kaaba with his son Ishmael. He taught the humankind the wise worship of pilgrimage. The worship of sacrifice, our search for closeness to Allah, has come to be identified with him.

Prophet Abraham’s (as) tremendous effort to prove the existence of Allah to the disbelievers is a great example for us. His leadership to the ummah is a great example for us. His blessed march on the path of oneness and his emigration are a great example for us. His patience and fortitude, gratitude and generosity are a great example for us. His supplications in our Holy Book, which are reflections of the awareness of being a servant, are a good example for us.

Brothers and Sisters!

Both our Prophet (s.a.w.) and his ancestor Abraham (as) are on the holy path. Our duty today as the ummah of our Prophet is to have a mindset for oneness, an understanding for unity, and an awareness of servitude just like Prophet Abraham had. It is to strive for the kind of obedience and submission that Abraham demonstrated. It is to model ourselves on the determination and good character of this great prophet. It is to introduce Abraham (as), who brought great things to humanity, to our children and our youth on the occasion of Eid and with inspiration from the Quran.

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the supplications of Prophet Abraham that our Almighty Lord taught us in the Holy Quran:

“Our Lord! Make us in submission to You and our descendants in submission to You!”⁶

“Our Lord! Upon You we have relied, and to You we have returned, and to You is the destination. Make us not objects of torment for the disbelievers!”⁷

“My Lord! Make me an establisher of prayer, and those from my descendants! Accept my supplication! Forgive me, my parents, and the believers on the Day of Reckoning!”⁸

¹ Ibn Hanbal, IV, 127; Ibn Hisham, I, 158.

² An-Nisa, 4/125.

³ Al-Ahzab, 33/21.

⁴ Al-Mumtahanah, 60/4.

⁵ Al-Hajj, 22/78.

⁶ Al-Baqarah, 2/128.

⁷ Al-Mumtahanah, 60/4-5.

⁸ Ibrahim, 14/40-41.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهُ لُحُومُهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤُهَا وَلَكِنْ يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَا عَمِلَ آدَمِيُّ مِنْ عَمَلٍ يَوْمَ النَّحْرِ أَحَبَّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ إِهْرَاقِ الدَّمِ

EID AL-ADHA

Eternal gratitude to the Almighty Lord who created us from nothing and blessed us with Eid joy once again.

Peace and salutations to our beloved Prophet who turned into a celebration the obedience of Prophet Abraham and the submission of Ishmael.

Dear Brothers and Sisters who have gathered here to perform the Eid prayer, a symbol of Islam! Have a blessed Eid.

Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty Lord enjoins: **“It is not the flesh and blood of your sacrifice that reaches Allah. What reaches Allah is your piety.”**¹

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (s.a.w) says: **“The son of Adam does not do any deed on sacrifice days that is dearer to Allah than sacrifice...”**²

Brothers and Sisters!

We are experiencing the peace, joy, and abundance of having reached Eid al-Adha once again which contains much beauty and wisdom. Eid al-Adha brings to us the worship of Hajj from, one of Islam’s five pillars, and the sacrifice which is a chance to get closer to the Almighty. Hajj, sacrifice, and Eid take us back to the lives of Prophet Abraham, Ishmael, and Hagar. It takes us back to the history of Islam and to the exemplary life of our Prophet.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Millions of brothers and sisters performing their Hajj obligation on Eid al-Adha rush the House of Allah, to Mount Arafat. They renew their vow to Allah. As Muslims of the world, we also sacrifice animals in the name of Allah during Eid. And by doing that, we renew our faith in oneness and our awareness of being servants. Fellow Muslims at Hajj acknowledge, wearing ihram which resembles shroud and crying sincerely, that there is no shelter but Allah, that worldly passion and desires are

temporary, and that salvation only comes from piety. And we here show with our sacrifice that being close to Allah is the most important thing and that we are ready to devote all we have in His cause.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Every year, Eid al-Adha is the celebration of peace, well-being, prayer in unity, and supplication. It is the celebration of setting aside all differences and being equal, knowing one’s self, contemplation, remembrance, and renewal. It is the celebration of purifying minds, clarifying hearts, and of a great revival. It is the celebration of taming one’s soul and avoiding hurting others. It is the celebration of being patient and grateful, and understanding the wisdom and purpose in our existence. It is the celebration of comprehending Islam’s principles and history; the celebration of approaching the poor, the orphan, the needy; and the celebration of aiding the helpless.

Brothers and Sisters!

Eids are times that help us become closer to one another and properly fulfill the needs of friendship. They are days when the sentiment of unity and togetherness, the sharing, and the charity reach a peak. They are seasons of peace and joy bestowed upon us by the Almighty in our journey of life that runs sometimes with happiness and sometimes with sorrow.

Then come. Let us turn the Eid into a rally for winning hearts. Let us put a smile on the faces of our parents, our brothers and sisters, our neighbors. Let us bring the joy of Eid to the poor, to the elderly, to the orphan, to the downtrodden, to the sick, and to the disabled. Let us mend the broken hearts, the upset souls with the abundance and beauty of Eid. Let us do away with all resentment, conflict, or dispute that prevents our joy.

Remember; each Eid gift that we offer to one another will bring us closer to the Almighty. The greatest gift of Eid that we can offer to each other will be our greetings and salutations from the bottom of our heart, and our smiles and visits.

Brothers and Sisters!

As I conclude my khutbah, I would like to wish a blessed Eid to our glorious nation, to our citizens abroad, to our brothers and sisters in our spiritual geography, and to the world of Islam. I pray the Almighty Lord that your sacrifice may be accepted, the Hajj pilgrimage of all brothers and sisters may be appreciated, and our Eid may be joyful.

¹ Al-Hajj, 22/37.

² Tirmidhi, Sacrifices, 1.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَأَنْسَاهُمْ أَنْفُسَهُمْ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اللَّهُمَّ أَعِنِّي عَلَى ذِكْرِكَ وَشُكْرِكَ وَحُسْنِ عِبَادَتِكَ.

TO ETERNAL FEASTS TOGETHER

Brothers and Sisters!

Muadh b. Jabal was a companion honored with Islam at a young age. He loved the prophet. Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.) also loved Muadh; he would express his fondness and give him advice. One day, the Prophet gave this advice to the young companion about living with the awareness of being a servant: **“O Muadh! Say this supplication after prayer: ‘O Allah! Help me remember You, expressing gratitude to You and worship You in the best manner!’”**¹

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Eternal gratitude to the Almighty that we have left behind another season of abundance. His grace literally rained down upon us during the period. We are joyful. Because our brothers and sisters completed their Hajj pilgrimage. The heartfelt supplications of believers that rose to the heavens from Arafat and Kaaba involved all of us. We are joyful. Because all together, we observed Eid al-Adha, the celebration of the foundation of Islam's Ummah by the hand of Abraham. We are joyful. Because once again we have renewed our obedience and submission, our awareness of servitude with our sacrifice.

Brothers and Sisters!

We are hopeful. Because hajj, sacrifice, and Eid offered us a chance to become purified, clarified, and get rid of sins once again. They gave us the good tidings of reinvigoration and elevation. The season of abundance took away the distance between one another. It brought our soul, which we trapped in the land of body, closer to the Almighty, its true owner.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We are responsible for breathing in the climate of this abundant season throughout life. We are responsible for preserving the divine traits brought to us by Hajj, by sacrifice, and by Eid.

Hajj reminded us of getting to know Allah, being a sincere servant to Him. Then come, let us remember and mention Allah not only during Hajj season but in every moment of our life. Let us be His servant alone. Let us be among those who find life with His name and pass away with it instead of those who forget Him. Let us always keep in mind the verse, **“Be not like those who**

forgot Allah, so He made them forget themselves. Those are the defiantly disobedient.”²

Honorable Believers!

Sacrifice reminded us of sincerity and piety, keeping away from hypocrisy, and being close to our Lord. Then come, let us figure out ways to be close to our Lord not only with sacrifice but also in all our worships, charity, and good deeds. Let us pursue good and nice things that will help us get close to Him, not negative things that will drag us away from the Lord.

Brothers and Sisters!

Eid reminded us of being “one”, being “we”. It reminded us how to be a whole like the close-knit bricks of a building, the organs of a body that act together. Then come, let us look after one another at all times, not only during Eid seasons. Let us maintain the unity, fellowship, intimacy, and fondness which become solidified in Eid. Let us treat each other every day to the grace and abundance, joy and cheer, peace and tranquility of Eid. Let us never neglect one another, our brothers and sisters. Let us never abandon others to loneliness and desperation. Let us lead a life being aware that we are the Ummah of a prophet sent upon the worlds as grace.

Brothers and Sisters!

Let us remember that the world is a field of the afterlife and we win the afterlife right here. Then come, let us work towards turning our mortal worldly life into eternal happiness and peace. Let us take jealousy, hatred, and grudge out of our heart and compete to spread love, mercy, and goodness across the earth. Let us try to be servants worthy of Allah, an Ummah worthy of our Prophet (s.a.w.), and be true brothers and sisters to one another. Let us appear before the Almighty and the afterlife having lived a life we can account for. Let us go to eternal feasts altogether.

Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to remind you something before I conclude my khutbah. The traffic accidents in recent years are turning the peace and joy of Eids into pain and sorrow. Many citizens, many brothers and sisters lose their lives in these accidents. Many families perish. Many hopes and futures die away. Many parents, children, relatives are left destitute with tears.

Today, we go back to our home, our house, our work. For that, I would like to call all brothers and sisters to follow the traffic rules, be patient and careful, and look after the rights of one another.

May the Almighty Lord let all brothers and sisters reach their home safe and sound. May He protect us all sorts of accidents, troubles, and calamities.

¹ Abu Dawud, Vitir, 26.

² Al-Hashr, 59/19.



إِفْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ إِفْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَا نَحَلَّ وَالِدٌ وَلَدًا مِنْ نَحْلٍ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ أَدَبٍ حَسَنِ.

O ALLAH! ELEVATE US WITH KNOWLEDGE!

Honorable Believers!

The Holy Quran had not yet been revealed. The unceasing malice of Makkah was wearing down our Prophet (s.a.w.). The belief of polytheists which was contrary to oneness and their customs were upsetting him. At such a time, our Prophet was introduced to worship and contemplation at Hira, to his delight. While at Hira one day, the angel of revelation came and said “إِفْرَأْ” or “Read!” Allah’s Messenger asked, “What shall I read?” And Gabriel (as) informed him the first five verses of Chapter Al-‘Alaq:

“Read in the name of your Lord who created. He created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. He Who taught the use of the pen, taught man that which he knew not.”¹

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The civilization of Islam, which opened up the horizon of humanity, began with that command to “Read.” In these first verses of our Holy Book, the Almighty informed humanity His two great blessings. One is that He taught us how to write with the pen. The other is that He taught us what we had not known, he saved us from the darkness and quagmire of ignorance.

Brothers and Sisters!

In our civilization, knowledge is first knowing one’s self and our Lord. Knowledge is trying to comprehend the truth about the instrument, the purpose and wisdom of creation. Knowledge is being aware about our duties and responsibilities.

The Holy Quran made no discrimination when addressing us with the “Read” command. It commanded us to read the verses of the book and verses of the universe together. As it commanded us to read the book of Allah, it also commanded us to read divine laws in the universe such as physics, chemistry, mathematics, and biology. In short, our religion asked us to learn about all sorts of knowledge useful for humankind.

Brothers and Sisters!

In our tradition, there are three big institutions where our children learn about their life, truth, and their values: family, school, and mosque. They form their identity, personality, and perspective on life mostly with family. They obtain awareness and culture at school. And they

reinforce their senses of identity and belonging as well as spiritual values at mosque. In our history, our families have raised many great exemplary personalities. Many figures that guided humanity in wisdom and knowledge were raised at our schools, our mosques. Today, these institutions are responsible for raising these values together.

Brothers and Sisters!

As of this week, eighteen million kids have started yet another school year. Nearly one million teachers are taking part in this lofty task. First of all, I wish from the Mighty Lord that the new school year may bring good things to our children, our esteemed teachers, all families, and our nation. May the Almighty grant our kids to equip themselves with knowledge that will help them attain His approval, knowledge that they will use for the good of the Islamic world and the entire humankind. On that note, I would like to address our teachers, our students, and our parents.

Devoted teachers who build our future!

You have given us wisdom and knowledge. You have treated our children as if they were yours. You have built today, and will build tomorrow. Generations that do not give in their mind, will, and heart to others will rise out of your compassionate hands. Our children will learn from you first to be conscientious and merciful, to serve only their nation and the truth. May the Lord bless you.

Dear children, the warrant of tomorrow!

You will always be equipped with knowledge that is useful for humanity. You will use every piece of it for the good of your nation and humankind. You will attain good morals and virtue. You will always show love and respect toward your teachers, your friends, your parents, and all people. You will live and help others live the divine values. You will continue to be the hope of our country, the world of Islam, and all the downtrodden, the oppressed, and the destitute.

Self-sacrificing parents!

You were the first teachers of your kids. Your duty is to never forget that home is a school as well. It is to always keep in contact with the teachers and schools of your children. It is to act with the awareness that education is not merely about imparting knowledge to your child. By the hadith **“No parent has ever left a better inheritance to their son than good manners.”²** your duty is to make an effort to ensure they become good and useful human beings as well as making an effort for their future. And your duty is to make sure they take the Holy Quran and Our Prophet’s Life classes taught at school as elective courses so that they may teach the verses of the Book together with the verses of the universe as a way of that.

Brothers and Sisters!

May the Almighty Lord grant us as teachers, students, and parents to be among those who are aware of their responsibilities. May He let us benefit from what He has taught. May He impart to us beneficial knowledge. May He enhance our wisdom and comprehension. May He take us in to the band of the good.

¹ Al-‘Alaq, 96/1-5; Bukhari, Bed’u’l-vahy, 1.

² Tirmidhi, Birr, 33; Ibn Hanbal, IV, 77.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE
DATE : 30.09.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ أَمَنِ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ

وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ...

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

...جُعِلَتْ لِيَ الْأَرْضُ مَسْجِدًا وَطَهُورًا.

MOSQUE AND BOOK CIVILIZATION **Honorable Believers!**

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty enjoins: **“The mosques of Allah are only to be maintained by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day and establish prayer and give zakat and do not fear except Allah.”**¹

And in the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: **“The earth has been made for me purifying and as a mosque.”**²

Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let us first remember the Hijrah altogether in today's khutbah. Let us remember Allah's Messenger's Hijrah from Makkah to Medina, and the transformation of Yasrib into Medina. Let us reminisce about Hijrah, the great milestone in the Islamic cause. Let us remember Umar's adoption of Hijrah as the beginning of the Islamic calendar. And let us remember that the real Hijrah today is to emigrate from evil that is forbidden from Allah and His Messenger. On that note, I pray to the Almighty Lord that our new hijri year which starts on Sunday may bring good things.

Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let us also remember the month of Muharram in our khutbah. Let us remember Muharram ul haram, the month worthy of reverence, and Ashura, and also remember Karbala with sorrow. Let us remember Hussain, the highest of martyrs, the lord of paradise youth. Let us send our greetings and regards to Allah's Messenger, and his family.

Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let us remember in today's khutbah the mosque and the Mosque Week that we have been celebrating for over a quarter century. Let us

find ways of placing the mosque in our city's heart, in the center of our lives. Let us remember the importance of the masjid, the temple in our lives. On that note, I wish you a good Mosque Week. I wish Allah's mercy upon all believers who contributed to our mosques and have passed away to the eternal world.

Brothers and Sisters!

Today, I would also like to remind you the topic of Mosque Week: Mosques and Books. Come! Let us introduce books to our mosques once again! Let us read! Let us read our Holy Book, the universe, and the people. Because the civilization of Islam is a civilization of books. It came to life with our Holy Book's command “read!”

It is clear that lack of knowledge, ignorance, and bigotry lie behind the most difficult period we are going through today as the world of Islam. Those who distance themselves from books start seeing truth from people and replace it with individuals.

But our duty is to read on the basis of people, civilization, universe, and thought. It is to find out about truth, justice, morals, and virtue in books. It is to equip ourselves with knowledge of books. It is to comprehend the purpose and wisdom of our existence through books.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let us embrace the Book and its command to “read!” to elevate again. Let us raise generations that first read the Book and then themselves and the universe, and who pursue the truth and what is right. Let us turn our mosques into centers of wisdom and knowledge once again. Let us build libraries in our mosques, create classes. Let us make our minds, hearts, and souls prosper with the mosque and the book. Let us make our lives a mosque, and the mosque our lives. As the poet says;

“For us, a book is no different than a mihrab,
And wails our dome from the command
‘read!’”

Brothers and Sisters!

May the Lord never spare the beam of knowledge, the light of wisdom from us. May He never deprive us of the peace of the mosque and the abundance of knowledge.

¹ At-Tawbah, 9/18.

² Bukhari, Salât, 56.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE

DATE : 07.10.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ وَاصْبِرُوا

إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

... وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِخْوَانًا .

DON'T TURN YOUR HEART INTO THE DESERT OF KARBALA

Honorable Believers!

We are observing the month of Muharram in the Hijri year of 1438. Muharram, described as “a month of virtue”¹ by our Prophet (s.a.w.), is full of infinite blessings and wisdom. It is also the month that witnessed the painful Karbala incident that inflicted deep wounds in our hearts.

Brothers and Sisters!

Husayn ibn Talib (ra) and 70 other people most of whom were from the House of Mustafa were brutally murdered at Karbala and became martyrs. He was one of our Prophet's two eximious grandchildren whom he would describe as “My two sweet-smelling flowers in this world”² and presented as “the leaders of the youth of Paradise.”³ He was the beloved son of Ali al-Murtaza and Fatima al-Zahra. On this occasion, I remember with benediction and gratitude the martyrs of Karbala, particularly Husayn, the Sayyid of martyrs; and all the martyrs so far who have sacrificed their lives for what is right, the truth, justice, morality, and virtue; for religion, faith, homeland, and nation. May Allah rest their soul!

Brothers and Sisters!

Karbala is the common, centuries-long pain and sorrow of Islam's Ummah, all the believers. It is a common anguish for every believer who has faith in their heart and who love Allah's Messenger, his companions, and his family no matter where they live or which denomination they belong to.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Our responsibility today is to read and understand Karbala in the right way. It is to avoid turning it into a tale, an ordinary event in history. It is to take lessons from this sad incident.

Understanding Karbala means, beyond anything, knowing that the path for which Husayn (ra) and his friends sacrificed their lives is the path of the Quran, the path of Muhammad Mustafa (s.a.w.). It means understanding and adopting the supreme values for which they sacrificed their lives. It means striving for

truth, morals, virtue, dignity, and honor just like they did.

Brothers and Sisters!

Today, Karbala should instill a new sense of awareness in all of us. It should be a means for unity and togetherness, not division and separation. Karbala should enable us to band together as the Almighty said, “Obey Allah and His Messenger. And do not quarrel; for if you were to lose courage, your strength and grandeur would vanish.”⁴

Today, our responsibility is to figure our direction by taking lessons from history, not losing our way in its pages. The task and responsibility that Karbala lays on us is to open the doors of our hearts wide open to one another. It is to avoid turning our hearts into the desert of Karbala. It is to dearly take heed of our Prophet's (s.a.w.) call “O servants of Allah, be fellow brothers!”⁵ and renew the vow of fellowship between each other.

Brothers and Sisters!

We regretfully witness even today that there are still Karbalas going on in the regions of Islam. There are still cruel people who shed the blood of their brothers and sisters and make them suffer the atrocity of Karbala. Aleppo, one of humankind's greatest centers of civilization, is bombed before the eyes of humanity today. Dozens of innocent people in Aleppo and in many regions of Islam are brutally murdered every day just like in Karbala. The bodies of children, women, and innocent people taken out of rubble show us that it is in fact humanity that is buried under the rubble. Because the humankind continues to watch all the horror and atrocity quietly.

Brothers and Sisters!

We need more foresight and discernment in the face of these painful incidents. We need to elevate our shared values and once again declare that we are equal in creation, brothers and sisters in religion, and one in joy and in sorrow.

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following prayer of Husayn (ra): O Allah! I present to You the best of gratitude. O Allah! I give thanks to You for making our forefather the prophet. O Allah! I offer gratitude to You for sending us the Quran and teaching us its depth. O Allah! I am thankful to you for blessing us with eyes that see the truth, ears that hear the truth, and a heart that thinks of the truth. O Allah! Grant us to be among the grateful! Grant us to be away from the wrongdoers, to be guardian of the believers!

¹ Muslim, Sīyām, 203.

² Tirmidhi, Menākib, 30.

³ Ibn Majah, Sunne, 11/4.

⁴ Al-Anfal, 8/46.

⁵ Bukhari, Edeb, 57.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ

وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

فَمَنْ كَانَ أَخُوهُ تَحْتَ يَدِهِ فَلْيُطْعِمْهُ مِمَّا يَأْكُلُ، وَلْيَلْبِسْهُ مِمَّا يَلْبَسُ،

وَلَا تَكْلِفُوهُمْ مَا يَغْلِبُهُمْ، فَإِنْ كَلَّفْتُمُوهُمْ فَأَعِينُوهُمْ.

TOUCHING LIFE WITH LABOR

A blessed Friday to you, Brothers and Sisters!

In today's khutbah, I would like to talk to you about an important issue which concerns millions of brothers and sisters but which we neglect so many times: Treating with respect and kindness towards those who make our lives easier with their service and labor.

Brothers and Sisters!

There was a female sahabia in Medina by the name of Umm Mihjan who was sincerely devoted to Allah's Messenger. Residing at the one of Medina's slums, she would go every day for Allah's sake and clean Al-Masjid an-Nabawi. Our Prophet (s.a.w.) would appreciate her sacrifice and had a deep fondness for her. Unable to hear from her for a while, the Prophet asked where she was. When he was told that this self-sacrificing woman had passed and been buried, he was deeply sorry. The Blessed Prophet expressed his grief by saying, **"Why didn't you tell me?"** And he did something he had never done before. He went to Umm Mihjan's grave, performed funeral prayer, and prayed for her.¹

Brothers and Sisters!

Each one of us has a preoccupation in life. Some are supervisors, some are officers, some are workers, and some are employers. In essence, we touch others' lives with labor, with sacrifice. Some are cleaning our streets, schools, and mosques. Some are making our bread, food, and clothing. Some are ensuring our safety and peace at the risk of their lives. But during the course of our daily life, we often forget, neglect and sometimes even do not see brothers and sisters who serve us with their labor. However, we should regard both the honor and labor of every brother and sister, who contribute to our lives and make it easier, as sacred and significant.

We should appreciate it. We should never belittle or despise anyone for the sort of legitimate service they offer to society and humanity. Because every person has the same human dignity and honor regardless of our occupation or status in social life. And in the words of our Holy Book, every person is respectable and revered.² Besides, we have been created from the same earth. And we are brothers and sisters in faith.

As a matter of fact, our Prophet said:

"Those who serve are your brothers and sisters. Allah put them under your protection. Whoever has a brother or sister working for them, feed them what you eat and clothe them with what you wear. Do not burden them beyond their strength. If you burden them with heavy work, help them."³

Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let's remember today, on this blessed our how Allah's Messenger personally attended to his affairs. Let's remember again that he repaired his shoes, sewed splits on his clothing, and milked. Come! Let's hear about his kindness and grace toward those who served him from Anas who served him for ten years: "Allah's Messenger never even once scolded or hurt my heart. He did not even tell me 'Why didn't you do it like that?' or 'Do it this way!'" He always addressed me with conciliatory, loving expressions such as 'my son', and 'dear child'.⁴

Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let's pay attention again to our Prophet's words **"Give the worker his wages before his sweat dries."** Come! Let's respect brothers and sisters who make our lives easier and touch our lives with their labor. Come! Let's avoid any behavior that may hurt them. And let's be aware that our lives get better with their labor and service.

Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let's finish the khutbah with the following prayer to which we will sincerely say "amin": O Lord! Make us not devoid of respect and mercy to human beings whom You created with reverence! Prevent us from any behavior that may hurt their dignity and honor or lose their efforts! Grant the job of brothers and sisters who make our lives easier with their labor and service to have an easy job, o Allah!

¹ Bukhari, Salât, 72.

² Al-Isra, 17/70.

³ Bukhari, Īman, 22.

⁴ Bukhari, Edeb, 39; Muslim, Âdâb, 31.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الَّذِينَ يُؤْفُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَنْقُضُونَ الْمِيثَاقَ ﴿٢٠﴾ وَالَّذِينَ يَصِلُونَ مَا

أَمَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَنْ يُوصَلَ وَيَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ وَيَخَافُونَ سُوءَ الْحِسَابِ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ لِأَتَمِّمَ مَكَارِمَ الْأَخْلَاقِ.

A PERSON FAITHFUL TO THEIR VOW TO ALLAH: THE BELIEVER

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

May Allah's peace, grace, and abundance be upon all of us.

The Almighty enjoins in a verse: **"These believers fulfill the covenant of Allah and do not break the contract. They join that which Allah has ordered to be joined. And they have awe of their Lord. They are afraid of the evil of their account."**¹

In the hadith I have recited, the Prophet (s.a.w.) says: **"I was sent to simply complement good morals."**²

Brothers and Sisters!

There are such speeches that sum up an entire history, a civilization. I would like to share with you one of them which Jafar al-Tayyar delivered before the Abyssinian King Najashi that summarized the civilization of Islam.

Because Jafar al-Tayyar's speech encapsulated the life, purpose, message, and the word of Allah's Messenger. It was a speech that enlightened the darkened mentality of Africa and humanity. It was a speech that added Najashi and his tribe into Muhammad Mustafa's (s.a.w.) ummah.

Brothers and Sisters!

Jafar was only 25 years old. He had migrated to Abyssinia with several other believers from Makkah. He took the besieged believers there. In fact, what he did was to search for a Medina, a home with the order of Allah's Messenger. Aware of this, the idolaters sent a delegation to Najashi to extradite Muslims. Head of the delegation, Amr ibn al-As, appeared before Najashi and asked for Muslim extradition saying: "O king, there is a group of evil persons from among our youth who have escaped to your kingdom. They have forsaken our religion and have not embraced your religion. They have invented a new religion that neither we nor you know. Their fathers, uncles, and close relatives have sent us to you to request you to return them. They know better than you the faults and mistakes of these persons."

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

After hearing Amr, Najashi decided to hear the believers who had sought refuge from him. He summoned them. Jafar and his friends did not prostrate before the king as per tradition. When Najashi asked why, Jafar replied: "We prostrate before nobody other than Allah." The continent of Africa heard these words from his lips for the first time. Jafar continued: "O king, we were a people in a state of ignorance. We worshipped idols made of wood and stone. We ate the flesh of dead animals. We knew not what was lawful or not. We buried our daughters alive. We committed all sorts of abominations. We broke the ties of kinship. We treated our neighbors badly. And the strong among us exploited the weak.

We remained in this state until Allah the Exalted sent us a Prophet, one of our own people whose lineage, truthfulness, trustworthiness and integrity were well-known to us. He called us to worship Allah alone and to renounce the stones and the idols, which we and our ancestors used to worship besides Allah. He commanded us to speak the truth, to honor our promises, to be kind to our relations, to be helpful to our neighbors, to cease all forbidden acts, to abstain from bloodshed, to avoid obscenities and false witness, not to appropriate an orphan's property nor slander chaste women.

We believed in him and what he brought to us from Allah and we follow him in what he has asked us to do and we keep away from what he forbade us from doing. We only worshipped Allah and associated with Him nothing else.

For this reason, our people have risen against us, have persecuted us in order to make us forsake the worship of Allah and return to the worship of idols. We were rendered unable to practice our religion. They have tortured and injured us, until finding no safety among them; we have come to your country, and hope you will protect us from oppression. We chose you before anyone else, desiring your protection and hospitality. O King! We hope to live in justice and in peace in your midst."³

Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following prayer:

O Lord! Let us not steer away from the faith of tawhid, the path of our Prophet, and the awareness of unity!

O Lord! Grant us to be like those believers who adhere to nice traits taught by our Prophet and who maintain them during their lifetime!

¹ Ar-Ra'd, 13/20-21.

² Ibn Hanbal, II, 381

³ Ibn Hanbal, I, 202.

LOCATION : GENERAL
DATE : 28/10/2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
أَلَمْ أَعْهَدْ إِلَيْكُمْ يَا بَنِي آدَمَ أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا الشَّيْطَانَ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ
وَأَنْ اعْبُدُونِي هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
تَرَكْتُكُمْ عَلَى الْمَحَجَّةِ الْبَيْضَاءِ، لَيْلَهَا كَنَهَارُهَا

THE SURE RELIGION OF ISLAM

A blessed Friday to you, Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty Lord enjoins: **"Did I not enjoin upon you, 'O children of Adam, that you not worship Satan - [for] indeed, he is to you a clear enemy - And that you worship [only] Me? This is a straight path."**¹

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: **"I have left to you a path as clear at night as it is during the day."**²

Brothers and Sisters!

Omar narrates: Once we were sitting in the company of Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) when there appeared a man dressed in very white clothes and having extraordinary black hair. No signs of fatigue of journey appeared on him and he was known to none of us. He sat down facing the Prophet (s.a.w.) leaning his knees against the knees of the Prophet (s.a.w.) and placing both of his palms over his two thighs and said, **"O Muhammad أَخْبِرْنِي عَنِ الْإِسْلَامِ"** (s.a.w.)! Tell me about Islam". The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) replied, **"Islam is to testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and that Muhammad (s.a.w.) is the Messenger of Allah; that you observe prayers, pay Zakat, observe fasting of Ramadan and perform Hajj (pilgrimage) of the House, provided you have resources of making journey to it."** He replied: "You have spoken the truth." We were surprised to see that he had asked him and confirmed the correctness of the answers. He then enquired: **"فَأَخْبِرْنِي عَنِ الْإِيمَانِ"** Tell me about faith." Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.) said: **"It is to believe in Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers and the Last Day and that you believe in preordainment, its bad and good consequences."** He said, "You have spoken the truth." He then enquired: **"فَأَخْبِرْنِي عَنِ الْإِحْسَانِ"** Tell me about Ihsan." Our Prophet (s.a.w.) said, **"It is to worship Allah as if you are seeing Him; and although you do not see Him, He sees you."** The man once again said, "You have spoken the truth." and he enquired: **"فَأَخْبِرْنِي عَنِ السَّاعَةِ"** Inform me about the Hour." Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.) replied, **"Whoever is asked this question has no more knowledge thereof than the one who addresses it."** Then he departed. Our Prophet (s.a.w.) kept silent for a while then he said to me, **"Do you know who the questioner**

was?" I replied, "Allah and His Messenger know better." The Prophet (s.a.w.) said, **"He was Jibril (Gabriel); he came to you to teach you your religion."**³

Brothers and Sisters!

Known in Islamic sources as the hadith of Gabriel, this hadith clearly shows us the conditions of Islam, the principles of faith, and the tenets of ethics. According to this, Islam is clear, lucid, plain, pure, limpid, and vivid. When we have such clear provisions, an eternal truth such as the Quran, it is completely unacceptable to try to build our Great Religion of Islam upon secrecy, mystery, dreams, discoveries, supernatural abilities, and future predictions. The greatest ability is always being on the straight path.

When we have such a great guide in our Prophet (s.a.w.), it is completely unacceptable to create a religion through signs of doomsday with expectations of a savior. The "complex dreams" described expressly by the Quran as **"أَضْغَاثُ أَحْلَامٍ"** cannot be the foundation upon which to

build a religion. Religious duties cannot be performed through dreams, the works of fancy and desires, instead of Allah's clear commands. The good cannot be made into bad and bad into good with dreams when we have the sound hadith of Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.) Wrongdoing and injustice cannot be based on dreams. Because nobody's dream apart from Prophets' can be considered as a source of information. People's conscience and spiritual world cannot be exploited through dreams.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

When Gabriel (as) asks "Inform me about the Hour.", the Prophet (s.a.w.) gives a quite meaningful answer: **"Whoever is asked this question has no more knowledge thereof than the one who addresses it."** To confuse minds with things about the unknown world in spite of that with information even our Prophet (s.a.w.) said "I do not know" is futile. It is meaningless to build our lives upon news that some give from the unknown. It is unacceptable to understand and read religion through doomsday scenarios about the world of the unknown and the spirits.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our duty is to believe in the hereafter and prepare for it. When a companion of his asked one day Allah's Messenger, "When is the Hour?", the Prophet (s.a.w.) said: **"What have you prepared for that day?"**⁴ Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.) advises us to question what we have prepared for afterwards instead of dwelling on when it is going to happen.

Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to conclude my khutbah with a prayer from the Holy Quran.

رَبَّنَا لَا تُرِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

"Our Lord! Let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us to the true path, and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower."⁵

¹ Ya-Sin, 36/60-61.

² Ibn Majah, Mukaddime, 43.

³ Bukhari, Iman, 37.

⁴ Muslim, Birr, 164, Tirmidhi, Zuhd, 50.

⁵ Ali 'Imran, 3/8.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE

DATE : 04.11.2016



BEING AN EXEMPLARY UMMAH

A Blessed Friday to You, Fellow Believers!

In the verse I have recited, Lord Almighty enjoins: **“Indeed this, your ummah, is one ummah, and I am your Lord, so worship Me.”**¹

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: **“A believer to another believer is like a building whose different parts enforce each other.”**²

Brothers and Sisters!

Several companions were conversing at Al-Masjid an-Nabawi. Then, Salman entered the mosque. One of them asked the others about their family and ancestry. Each of them mentioned theirs, boasting about it. Eventually, he turned to Salman and asked, “What is your lineage, Salman?” He was attempting to put him in a difficult position by asking that. Because he had a personal problem with Salman. As everyone curiously waited for what Salman had to say, these exemplary words came out of his mouth:

أَنَا سَلْمَانُ ابْنُ الْإِسْلَامِ I am Salman, the son of Islam.

كُنْتُ ضَالًّا فَهَدَانِي اللَّهُ بِمُحَمَّدٍ me with Muhammad.

كُنْتُ فَقِيرًا فَأَغْنَانِي اللَّهُ بِمُحَمَّدٍ I was poor. Allah made me rich with Muhammad Mustafa.

كُنْتُ مَمْلُوكًا فَأَعْتَقَنِي اللَّهُ بِمُحَمَّدٍ I was a slave. Allah liberated me with Muhammed Mustafa.”

Upon hearing the conversation, Omar came and asked the group, “Would you also like to know who I am and where I am from?? And then he said: “أَنَا عُمَرُ ابْنُ الْإِسْلَامِ I am also Omar, son of Islam, and I am brother of Salman, son of Islam.”

Brothers and Sisters!

The sure religion of Islam is built on two main pillars: Tawhid and wahdat. Tawhid is faith in Allah’s unity and acknowledgement of Allah’s uniqueness. The Holy Quran is a book of oneness. All the prophets and the Seal of the Prophets Muhammad Mustafa (s.a.w.) are prophets of oneness. All religious duties deemed obligatory to us by Allah such as

praying, fasting, hajj, sacrificing animals, zakat are all acts of oneness.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The greatest main principle after tawhid is wahdat, the unity among believers. There is no ummah without unity and there is no oneness without the ummah. And without tawhid or wahdat, the goal of the Almighty’s following verse cannot be accomplished: **“You are the best community produced for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah.”**³

Honorable Believers!

The verse demonstrates that the biggest goal of Islam’s ummah is to make goodness prevail on the earth and wipe away evil. It is to side with ethics, justice, virtue, and goodness at all times. It is to stand against all sorts of evil, misdeeds, and superstition. It is to make an effort to stop any wrongdoing or injustice no matter where it is. Because these are the qualities of the best ummah praised by our Lord.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

The biggest evil against tawhid is idolatry, attributing a partner to Allah. To break tawhid. To turn away from acknowledging Allah’s uniqueness and believing Him.

And the biggest evil against wahdat is discord. To divide the ummah. To tear the ummah apart. To cause mischief. To sow discord among the ummah. To pit brothers against one another with remnants of the jahiliyya like short temper, hatred, rage, and anger.

Brothers and Sisters!

As a community of believers, we need to rebuild the awareness of ummah today. We need to make peace and well-being, compassion and mercy, truth and justice prevail again in the world of Islam. Let’s not forget that in order to be an exemplary ummah, we need to be brothers and sisters who are one in spirit, one in purpose, full of sincerity and loyalty.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following prayer: **“O Allah! We seek refuge with you from mischief, enmity, hypocrisy, treachery, and bad character.”**⁴ Guard us against such evil deeds!

Grant the ummah of Muhammad to once again and eternally become a glorious ummah, o Allah!

¹ Al-Anbya, 21/92.

² Bukhari, Salat, 88; Muslim, Birr and Sila, 65.

³ Ali ‘Imran, 3/110.

⁴ Abu Dawud, Vitri, 32.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE

DATE : 11.11.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْهُكُمُ إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صِدْقًا مِنْ قَلْبِهِ

إِلَّا حَرَّمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّارِ.

WORD OF TESTIMONY

Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, our Almighty Lord enjoins: **“Your deity is One Allah. There is no God but He, the Beneficent and Merciful.”**¹

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: **“Whoever testifies sincerely that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is his Apostle, Allah will save them from the Hell-fire.”**²

Fellow Believers!

Think of a word that makes one a believer and a Muslim. Think of a word that saves us from serving the servants and makes us servants of Allah only. Think of a sentence that describes the meaning of our lives and the purpose of our creation. Think of a word that saves one's afterlife and eternal life. This word is the kalima shahada (word of testimony), which is أَفْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَفْهَدُ أَنْ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ .

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The word of testimony is a statement of truth that constantly illuminates a person's life on the path from their emergence into creation towards eternity.

The word of testimony is a solid oath we take for our Lord promising a believer's attitude during our entire life.

The word of testimony is a statement of oneness and unity that brings us under the same faith, sentiment and ideals, banding us together and making us the ummah of our Prophet regardless of our region, language or race.

Brothers and Sisters!

When we name our new-born children, we recite the azan “the principles of which are the foundation of religion” into their right ear, and we recite the kamat which repeats the same testimony into their left ear. We initially teach the word of testimony to anyone who will convert to Islam.

We console brothers and sisters who are in the last stage of life with the word of testimony. Actually, all these include messages as to the necessity of a person's life starting with the word of testimony and coming to an end also with it.

Honorable Believers!

The word of testimony is established upon two basic things that constitute the essence of Islam. The first part of the word of testimony (أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ) means we should be servants to Allah only and not to any other servant and we should not bow before anyone but Allah. It has such abundance in meaning that every destitute person finds in it what they seek. When the oppressed recite it, they mean it like “If the oppressor has cruelty, the oppressed has Allah.” When an orphan, a poor person utters it, they mean it like “You are my support, my refuge, and my hope, o Lord!” When a scholar recites it, they mean it like “O Allah, you are the source of absolute knowledge. You know everything rightly.” When a leader, a governor says it, they mean it like “لَا غَالِبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ” or “O Lord! There are no other victors but You. You are the sole possessor of power and might. And I am Your servant.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The second part of the word of testimony which goes like وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ is the recognition and acknowledgment of the prophethood of Muhammad Mustafa (s.a.w.), the Prophet of Islam. It means, “Allah created us and did not give rein to us. He sent messengers to teach us how to lead a life suited for His pleasure. He cared for us. He honored us with being the ummah of the last prophet Muhammad Mustafa (s.a.w.).” It means promising to “follow the guidance of the Quran and the sunnah of our Prophet.”

Brothers and Sisters!

It should not be forgotten that the word of testimony is a whole. A person who only utters لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ and rejects the part وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ does not count as a believer. Because one cannot be a Muslim without unwaveringly believing in Allah, our Prophet and what He brought.³ This principle will remain as an unchanging truth of Islam from its beginning to the morning of the Reckoning Day.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

May the Almighty Lord never spare us a second from the abundance of the word of testimony. May He grant us to be among those who lead a life in His path and who take every breath and the last with the word of testimony.

¹ Al-Baqarah, 2/163.

² Bukhari, Ilim, 49.

³ An-Nisa, 4/150-151; Al-A'raf, 7/158.

Written by: General Directorate of Religious Services

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE

DATE : 18.11.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ. مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ
إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ...
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
لَا صَلَاةَ لِمَنْ لَمْ يَقْرَأْ بِفَاتِحَةِ الْكِتَابِ.

THE MOTHER OF THE BOOK: FATIHA

A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

There is a surah in our great Book the Holy Quran by the name of The Mother of the Book. It is the mother of the Book. Our Lord started His Holy Book with this chapter.¹ And our Prophet (s.a.w) wanted us to start all prayers with it.²

Brothers and Sisters!

This surah is Fatiha, as known to us. Allah's Messenger said Fatiha was a conversation, a dialogue between us and our Lord. We praise our Lord in the beginning of Fatiha for giving us countless blessings and answering to us. "الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ" When we say "All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds." the Lord of the Worlds enjoins, "مَجَّدَنِي عَبْدِي" "My servant praised me."

When we say, "الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ" "He is the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.", Allah Almighty enjoins, "أَتَى عَلَى" "My servant eulogized me. He commended me, gratified me."

When we say, "مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ" "He is the Master of the Day of Judgment.", Our Lord enjoins, "مَجَّدَنِي عَبْدِي" "My servant glorified me." and expresses his pleasure over our praise of Him in the first part of Fatiha.

In the second part of Fatiha, we present our situation and wishes to our Lord. When we say "إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ" "It is You we worship and You we ask for help." our Lord enjoins, "هَذَا بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَ عَبْدِي وَلِعَبْدِي مَا سَأَلَ" "It is between me and my servant. I will answer to my servant's wish."

إِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ. صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ.

When we say, "Guide us to the straight path, the path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked Your anger or of those who are astray." Allah the Exalted enjoins, "هَذَا لِعَبْدِي وَلِعَبْدِي مَا سَأَلَ" "This wish of my servant will not go unanswered. Whatever my servant wants is his."³

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Fatiha is the essence and summation of the content and reason for revelation of our Holy Book. It is a declaration of the purpose and wisdom in our creation. When we open the Holy Book, it is Fatiha that we recite the first. We come into our Lord's presence every day five times in prayer with Fatiha. We renew our vow we made to Allah as servants with Fatiha through Kalima shahada. We keep alive our awareness of being and remaining servants with Fatiha. With it we time and again understand and acknowledge Allah's might, justice, vast mercy and infinite power. With it we express every day our gratitude, praise, compliment, and appreciation to our Lord. With it we submit to Our Lord our flaws as human beings, our requests, and our demand for mercy every day.

With Fatiha, we ask for a cure to our hearts. With it we seek a remedy for our troubles and worries. In short, as Fatiha adds meaning to our creation and existence, it is a cure for our hearts. A guidance for our minds. A door of grace to infinite blessings.

Brothers and Sisters!

It is not merely to utter it that we are asked to recite Fatiha in every rakat of prayers. In fact, it is for us to deeply comprehend it and give direction to our life with its meaning. Because every verse and every word in Fatiha blesses us with a believer's awareness, a believer's attitude, a believer's life. It relieves the hearts. It shows us an excellent ideal and opens a horizon before our eyes and minds.

Fatiha leads to a new revival, a new resurrection for us every day. It is a concise petition we offer to our Lord. With Basmala, we state the rank where we send the petition. With praise, we glorify the holder of that rank. Between the hope gained from the titles "Gracious" and "Merciful" and fear from the expression "master of the day of judgment", we come into our Lord's presence. We present our petition to our Lord in all our helplessness and weakness. We know that He is our only shelter, our only support, our boundless hope. He is the only power and might to whom we serve and pray for help. He is the one who will keep us on the true path, the straight path of the Quran, the prophets, the martyrs, the good ones. And it is only our Almighty Lord who will guard us against His wrath and torment, and lead us to infinite blessings at the end of this path.

Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following prayer: O Lord! Do not let us and our offspring grow apart from the truth of Fatiha! Do not spare us the abundance of Fatiha! O Lord! Grant us to be among those who frequently recite Fatiha, understand it, and reflect it in their lives!

¹ Al-Fatiha, 1/1-7.

² Bukhari, Ezân, 95.

³ Muslim, Salât, 38.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE

DATE : 25.11.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

فَإِنَّ حَقَّ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ أَنْ يَعْْبُدُوهُ وَلَا يُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا

PURPOSE OF LIFE

Brothers and Sisters!

Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.) and young companion Muadh were travelling together. The Blessed Prophet shouted **"Muadh!"** and repeated it three times. With loyalty, love, and respect from his heart, Muadh replied every time saying, "At your beck and call, and at your pleasure, Messenger of Allah!" Our Prophet eventually asked the companion who was listening to him wonderingly: **"Do you know what right has Allah upon His servants?"** Muadh answered, "Allah and His Messenger know best." And the Prophet said: **"Verily the right of Allah over His servants is that they should worship Him, not associating anything with Him."**

After a while, our Prophet asked, **"Do you know what rights have servants upon Allah?"** And then he delivered the following good news: **"That He would not torment them and put them in Paradise provided they worship Him and do not associate anything with Him."**¹

Honorable Believers!

The right our Almighty Lord has upon us is for us to acknowledge to Him and be servants to Him. It is to be loyal and in submission to Him. For our purpose of creation is to have faith without any shadow of a doubt in the existence and oneness of Allah. It is to accept that all might and grandeur only belongs to Allah. It is to lead a life in line with His commands and bans

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord Who created all creatures is unprecedented in grace and generosity. Innumerable are the blessings bestowed upon us by Him. From the breath we take to the water we drink, from the food we eat to the time we spend, everything is a favor from Him to us. Our mind, our heart, our love, our mercy, and our fondness of one another are all treats from Him to us.

Then, we could never thank Allah enough who blessed us our life, our family, our children, countless

blessings, and in short, our existence. Would it suit a human being to ignore all those blessings of the Lord, neglect human responsibilities and lead an aimless life?

Brothers and Sisters!

The purpose of our existence is to build the earth as well as to have faith in Allah and become His servants. It is to spread love, respect, mercy, and compassion all over the world. It is to make goodness prevail in our world which is home to us all. It is to elevate justice at all times. It is to articulate the truth and the true path. It is to stand with the truth against superstition, with the oppressed against the oppressor, with knowledge and wisdom against ignorance. It is to stand up against all evil like sedition, mischief, oppression, war, and massacre.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today, the region of Islam in particular and the world in general long for peace and quiet, mercy and compassion, safety and calm. It should not be forgotten that all these nice qualities are found in the eternal truths of the Quran, in the exemplary character of our Prophet (s.a.w.) that goes beyond the ages. All we have to do is to decorate our lives as believers with these beautiful traits, to present them to the family of humanity in a suitable, wise tone.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Almighty Lord said that he created death and life to test which of us is best in deed.² Then, our duty in this short world of test is to have a tongue that mentions and shows gratitude to Allah, a heart full of fondness, and a life spent on His path. Our duty is to always keep our afterlife, our actual home, in mind while building our temporary world. It is to live with the hope that our Almighty Lord will not ignore even the smallest effort to gain His favor, as long as we trust and rely on Him alone. As long as we live with our Lord, for our Lord saying, **"Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds."**³

Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let's revisit our purpose of life. Let's try to lead a life in line with our purpose of existence. Let's try to return to our Lord with honor, so that we may always keep hope alive to hear this divine news when our life ends: **"O reassured soul! Return to your Lord, well-pleased and pleasing to Him! And enter among My righteous servants. And enter My Paradise."**⁴

¹ Bukhari, Cihâd, 46; Muslim, Îmân, 48.

² Al-Mulk, 67/2.

³ Al-An'am, 6/162.

⁴ Al-Fajr, 89/27-30.

Written by: General Directorate of Religious Services

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE

DATE : 02.12.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ

وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَا يَرْحَمُ اللَّهُ مَنْ لَا يَرْحَمُ النَّاسَ.

THE WORLD'S LITTLE AND HONORABLE SUCCESSORS: CHILDREN

Brothers and Sisters!

Anas (ra), who had been raised beside our Prophet (s.a.w.) from a young age, had a brother by the name of Abu Umayr. He loved birds. He had a pet sparrow. One day, the Prophet noticed the kid was sad. He asked him the reason. Abu Umayr said that his sparrow had died and he was sorry about it. Then, the Messenger of Grace approached Abu Umayr, fondly patted him on the head, and consoled him. He did not stop at that. The Prophet went on to pay his little friend a condolence visit and talked with him for a long time.¹

He was a messenger of grace. He was a spring of mercy. He reminded us the children in everyone that we lost. He reintroduced us to the innocence we longed for. For him, childhood and children were the breath of paradise in people.

Honorable Believers!

Children are the comfort and the light to our eyes. That's what the Quran says and teaches us.² When that light is gone from the eye, it cannot see ahead and loses its future. If children are neglected, ignored, and passed over, family and society cannot see the future. The humankind cannot have peace unless it thinks of good things for children and design the world for children's future. It cannot attain salvation unless it views children as "the world's little and honorable successors." It's a fact that all children are innocent and they deserve all the nice things.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

It should be sadly noted that the world's children today are deprived of their innate rights. They are in dire need of the Prophet's mercy. Because in today's world, devoid of mercy and compassion, many children are neglected and exposed to various abuses. Some are deprived of their most fundamental rights such as shelter, food, healthcare, and education. Some are crushed beneath the physical and emotional burden they

cannot shoulder. And some are left mercilessly left to the loneliness and dereliction of the streets, to starvation and death.

Honorable Believers!

The cries of children that rise to the heavens every day in our region of affection tear our hearts out. Dozens, hundreds of kids wail under oppression in Mosul, in Aleppo, in Rohingya, and in many cities of Islam. Many of them become disabled or are left orphans or get brutally murdered. Today, future of the ummah perishes in the darkness of savagery and persecution, war and violence. Many children, to whom we are supposed to leave a peaceful world, writhe in terror. As they go out in search of a place where they can live humanely, the lifeless bodies of kids like Aylan wash ashore as do their hopes. What washes ashore in fact is not just the lifeless bodies of children but also the mercy and future of the entire humankind. Kids like Umran are waiting for a helping hand to reach them under the bombs raining on them. What is really under the rubble is the conscience and compassion of humanity. Many innocent, downtrodden, and aggrieved little ones complain the human kind to the Supreme Creator every single day.

Brothers and Sisters!

We should keep in mind that children are a test for us. Sadly, we fail the test every passing day. We are responsible for the tears of every single kid on the earth. We will be accountable for the orphans and the homeless on the Day of Reckoning.

Then, brothers and sisters, we must awake at once. We must work to leave children a more virtuous humanity and a better world. We must fight altogether against the evil surrounding us every day. We must especially take orphans of the ummah under our wings. We must adopt mercy as a principle as per the Prophet's (s.a.w.) warning, "**Allah does not have mercy on those who do not have mercy on people.**"³ We must raise our children in an environment of mercy and compassion. We must reinforce the love for Allah already available in their pure hearts. We must properly introduce our Prophet's exemplary character to our children.

Brothers and Sisters!

As you know, we sent our kids to the other side. The grief of loss is in our hearts. The fire at a dormitory in Aladağ, Adana devastated all of us. I wish Allah's mercy upon our children and brothers and sisters who passed away in this painful incident, and a quick recovery to the injured. May the Lord grant patience to the parents and relatives. Condolences to our nation.

May the Almighty Lord grant us to build a nicer, safer world for our children.

¹ Bukhari, Edeb, 112; Abu Dawud, Edeb, 69.

² Al-Furqan, 25/74.

³ Bukhari, Tevhid,

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE
DATE : 09.12.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ

وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

وَاللَّهُ فِي عَوْنِ الْعَبْدِ مَا كَانَ الْعَبْدُ فِي عَوْنِ أَخِيهِ

DON'T LET HUMANITY DIE IN ALEPPO!

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ،

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ....

Peace and blessings be upon you, o Allah's Messenger! Peace and blessings be upon you, o Allah's Friend! Peace and blessings be upon you, o Prophet, the grace for the worlds!

Brothers and Sisters!

We will observe Mawlid Night altogether on next Sunday night. I wish you all a blessed night in advance.

In the verse I have recited at the beginning of my khutbah, the Almighty enjoins: **“There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent example for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and who remembers Allah often.”**¹ May our Lord never let us veer away even for a moment from the example and blessed path of His Messenger. May He never let our hearts lack the enormous respect and fondness we have towards our Prophet, the grace for the worlds. May He grant us to be among those who understand him accurately, know him correctly and introduce to others as such, and properly benefit from the nice things he introduced to humanity.

Honorable Believers!

Imagine a city where bombs fall on people's houses and hunger falls on their dinner tables. Imagine a city where chemical weapons are being mercilessly experimented on people.

Imagine a city where dozens of innocent people – without exception for women, children, elderly- are killed every day. Imagine a city where the cries of the persecuted and the aggrieved shatter the heavens every moment.

Brothers and Sisters!

Imagine a city where hospitals are destroyed under heavy bombing, where the wounded cannot be treated due to desperation, where the cries for help by those seeking medicine echo in the streets.

Imagine a city where there is no bread to have, no water to drink, and no home to take shelter, where people freeze to death.

Brothers and Sisters!

This city is Aleppo with which we have an age-old bond of affection. Today, a civilization, a history is being destroyed in Aleppo in front of the entire humankind. An ancient city is being wiped off the map with its residents. We are at a point where words fail. We as the humankind are witnessing one of the greatest tragedies in history, an unnamable plight. Cities of Islam turn to rubble because of the ambition, interests, and power struggles that dominant powers have in our region. The land a step away from us is filled with wails, tears, and blood. Violence and hatred begin where our border ends.

Brothers and Sisters!

Let's ask ourselves: Will we keep silent as the persecutors gather victories and the persecuted wait before wire fences? Will we as world's Muslims gulp before the holders of power? Will we do nothing but resent, condemn, weep, and grunt?

Of course not! As a nation, we will keep on voicing the truth, calling people to mercy and conscience, becoming the voice of the persecuted and hope of the aggrieved. We will keep on so that humanity may not die!

We will surely hear the devastating screams of children, the desperate cries of mothers, and the wails of fathers and elderlies in Aleppo. We will hear them so that humanity may not die!

We will certainly not turn down the hands reaching out to us from Aleppo with one last hope. We will not turn them down, so that humanity may not die!

Brothers and Sisters!

Our noble nation has adopted the following hadith as a motto: **“As long as one helps a brother, Allah helps him as well...”**² We have indiscriminately helped all immigrants who came to us for shelter. We brought goodness and beautiful things all around the world. This nation screamed to the entire world for centuries that humanity was not dead. Today, it's Aleppo's turn. It's our duty again to keep Aleppo alive and scream that humanity is not dead. It's our duty to show our brothers and sisters that they are not alone and to be a beacon of hope for them.

Brothers and Sisters!

The Presidency of Religious Affairs leads a new campaign bringing together non-governmental organizations for the persecuted and the aggrieved in Aleppo. We expect your support in this campaign launched with the call “Don't Let Humanity Die in Aleppo!” And we know that our noble nation, always the voice of the persecute and the hope of the aggrieved, will not remain indifferent to this campaign either. As they did yesterday, they will generously extend a helping hand to their aggrieved brothers and sisters today. May the Almighty Lord bless you for the support you gave and will give.

¹ Al-Ahzab, 33/21.

² Muslim, Zikir, 38.

Written by: General Directorate of Religious Services

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَزَوَالِ الدُّنْيَا أَهْوَنُ عَلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ قَتْلِ رَجُلٍ مُسْلِمٍ

WITH HARDSHIP, THERE IS RELIEF.

A blessed Friday to you, brothers and sisters.

We suffered a horrible terror attack on the eve of Mawlid Night when we celebrate the honorable arrival of our Prophet (s.a.w.) to the world. We once again wish Allah's mercy to our martyred and a swift recovery to those injured by this heinous attack committed by an inhumane, murderous network. May the Almighty grant patience and strength to all of us. Condolences to our nation.

Brothers and Sisters!

Whether murders are committed in Istanbul or Aleppo, the two eternal judgments of the Mighty Lord will always go after those who want to reach their goals by killing people, taking lives, and murdering people.

The first judgment is: **"Whoever kills a soul wrongfully, it is as if he had slain mankind entirely."**¹ Murderer of an innocent soul will appear before Allah as if he slaughtered the entire humankind. Those who killed 44 people in Istanbul murdered the entire humankind 44 times. Those who kill every child in Aleppo murdered humanity time after time. Those who committed these massacres will answer as if they murdered the entire humankind.

The second judgment by our Lord on murderers is: **"Whoever kills a believer intentionally - his recompense is Hell forever."**² Because **"the world ceases to exist is less significant to Allah than killing a Muslim."**³

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

The Almighty enjoins in our Holy Book, **"Indeed, with hardship there is relief."**⁴ We believe that the hardships we go through today as a

nation and as the world of Islam will not last forever. The difficult periods we experienced in the past were harbinger of new resurrections for us. We have the utmost belief that the pain we all suffer today and the hardship we endure will be followed by another new resurrection and our Lord's grace and blessing. All we need to do is never to lose that hope. All we need to do is to properly fulfill our duties and obligations we have in this cause. All we need to do is never compromise from our values that the martyrs died for, from unity and brotherhood, from truth and justice.

Let's bring our hearts together without any discrimination. Let's avoid any words or acts that may harm the fondness and amity we have towards one another. Let's be wary of all sorts of tricks, traps, and plots. Let's keep our calm and composure in the face of crimes committed by murderous networks that recognize no humane or moral values whatsoever.

Honorable Believers!

We believe that Allah's wrath, curse, and fury are as right as His mercy, justice, and forgiveness. Those who murder dozens of innocent souls without blinking an eye and those who side with them will surely get the punishment they deserve. Those who target our existence, our values, and our peace will be overpowered by Allah's title of "al-Qahhar."

Brothers and Sisters!

Come, let's supplicate to the Almighty Lord in this sacred time of day with these heartfelt prayers:

O Lord! Defeat those who set their eyes on our unity, peace, dignity, and honor! Guard our nation and Islam's ummah against all foes from inside and outside!

Help the innocent kids, women, elderlies, and all brothers and sisters inhumanely massacred in Aleppo, o Allah!

O Lord! Grant us strength, foresight, and will! Grant our nation to stand up together against those who feed off terror and violence, blood and tears! Help us against the deniers!

O Lord! Grant us to be among those who protect the honorable legacy of our martyrs and preserve the divine values they have entrusted to us with their lives!

¹ Al-Ma'idah, 5/32.

² An-Nisa, 4/93.

³ Tirmidhi, Diyât, 7.

⁴ Al-Inshirah, 94/5-8.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَنْتُمْ الْأَعْلَوْنَ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَا يَمُوتَنَّ أَحَدُكُمْ إِلَّا وَهُوَ يُحْسِنُ الظَّنَّ بِاللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ

ALLAH'S HELP IS WITH BELIEVERS.

A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty Lord enjoins: **“Do not weaken and do not grieve, and you will be superior if you are indeed believers.”**¹

In the verse I have recited, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: **“None of you should court death but only hoping good from Allah.”**²

Brothers and Sisters!

The early Muslims went through a period called “the difficult years.” So much so that the polytheists from Mecca put Muslims through suffering in the hard years of blockade. They deemed all sorts of evil proper on them. They even constrained them from worshipping Allah. They tortured them merely for their faith in Allah, and martyred some of them.

But the Lord always turned hardship into ease for believers who had submitted to Him from the heart. He said good things and ease would follow those difficulties. The Almighty introduced it into human life with a law in the verse,

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

hardship there is ease.”³ Allah’s Messenger (s.a.w.) overcame all those difficulties with his companions. With Hijrah, Muslims laid the foundations of a worldwide civilization.

Honorable Believers!

Today, both as a nation and as the world of Islam we are going through similar difficulties that our Prophet and the early Muslims who accepted him did. Evil is surrounding us and the entire humanity every passing day. They are trying to put fear in our hearts and weaken us with terror and violence. And the biggest danger we believers must avoid in these times of hardship is to lose hope. To be in discord. To lose unity and togetherness. To give up protecting the brotherhood and being hope to the oppressed.

Brothers and Sisters!

The evil toward our nation has three goals. The first goal is to pit against one another the members of a nation that has lived on this land in peace and harmony for centuries. To sow seeds of sedition and division among our people. But these are all futile attempts. Because we are a nation that made this country a homeland altogether by fighting and sacrificing side by side at Malazgirt, at Çanakkale, and at the War of Independence. We are the believers of the same religion, the same book, the same prophet as we are the children of the same country, the same culture, and the same history.

The best answer from our nation to evil, violence, and terror is to close the ranks and embrace one another more than ever. To renew the oath of brotherhood. To never allow the discord and sedition they want to instill into our hearts.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The second goal of the evil our nation faces is to drive us to despair. To sever our connection with the world and life. To destroy our faith, the values that make us a nation, our sense of belonging, our hope, our confidence. But we are the followers of a religion that forbids despair. We are the ummah of a prophet that never lost hope for the future no matter the circumstances.

Brothers and Sisters!

The third goal of evil targeting our independence and future is to make our nation no longer the hope of the oppressed, the downtrodden, the destitute of the world. However, we must continue to be the hope for the innocent children, the grief-stricken women, the helpless elderlies in Aleppo. We must continue to be the hope of the oppressed in abandoned Rohingya, and the destitute in Africa which was exploited for centuries. We must, with this mindset, continue to stand with the good against evil, with the truth against lies, with the oppressed against the oppressor.

Brothers and Sisters!

As I conclude my khutbah, I would like to wish Allah’s mercy to our honorable martyrs who became immortalized while fighting on our border to protect our nation from evil and malice yesterday. And condolences to our nation. May the Lord protect our glorious nation. May He grant us power, strength, and fortitude against those who target our future and independence. May He set us straight on His path. May He always grant us His help, mercy, grace, and protection against the deniers. Amin.

¹ Ali ‘Imran 3/139.

² Muslim, Cennet, 82.

³ Al-Inshirah, 94/5-8.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE
DATE : 30.12.2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَلَّمَتْ لِغَدٍّ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ

إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اِغْتَنِمْ خَمْسًا قَبْلَ خَمْسٍ: شَبَابَكَ قَبْلَ هَرَمِكَ، وَصِحَّتَكَ قَبْلَ سَقَمِكَ،

وَعِثَّتَكَ قَبْلَ فَقْرِكَ، وَفَرَاغَكَ قَبْلَ شُغْلِكَ، وَحَيَاتَكَ قَبْلَ مَوْتِكَ

THE BLESSING THAT IS LIFE

A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, Allah the Exalted enjoins: “O you who believe! Fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow...”¹

In the verse I have recited, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: “Appreciate five things before they are gone: Life before death, leisure before work, wealth before poverty, youth before old age, and health before sickness.”²

Brothers and Sisters!

We have entered into a new Hijri year a short while ago. Nowadays, we are in the last days of the common calendar year. Another year is deducted from our stock of life. May the Almighty Lord grant all of us a good, blessed life.

It is a fact: it does not matter if the year is Hijri or otherwise. What really matters is how we spend our days and years. As witnesses of time, both the Moon and the Sun are the verses of Allah. What really matters is how we make use of time, a blessing entrusted to us by Allah. How and for what purpose we spend our numbered breaths. Whether we use every single moment of our life stock in accordance with the purpose of our creation and existence.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

There is a short period of time our Lord has endowed us with for our test in the world. We call it “life.” A life wasted cannot be considered a proper life. Life is best when spent with goodness and niceness. Life is best when adorned with humane and moral virtues. Life is best when built with an awareness of obligation and trust, faith and good deeds.

Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (s.a.w.) says, “The feet of the son of Adam shall not move from before his Lord on the Day of Judgement, until he is asked about five

things.”³ The first thing is life and what we did with it. عَنْ غَمْرِهِ فِيمَا أَفْنَاهُ We will be asked where and how we spent our life, how we spent our time, and in short everything we did.

Brothers and Sisters!

The second question we will be asked on the Day of Reckoning is, عَنْ شَبَابِهِ فِيمَا أَبْلَاهُ where and how we spent our youth. We must always keep this question in our mind. Because we can sometimes make the mistake of delaying prayer and good deeds for after youth. But the Prophet (s.a.w.) described the ideal youth as وَشَابٌ نَشَأَ فِي عِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ “Youth who find joy and peace in worshipping their Lord.”⁴

Honorable Believers!

Another question that will be asked to us on the Day of Reckoning وَعَنْ مَالِهِ مِنْ أَيْنَ اكْتَسَبَهُ، وَفِيمَ أَنْفَقَهُ will be about the wealth Allah blessed us with. Our Lord will ask us “Where did you earn your wealth, and where did you spend it? Did you abide by what is forbidden and what is lawful? Did you protect the rights of the poor and needy?” Because wealth, fortune, all means and earnings are entrusted to us by the Almighty Lord. They should not take hold of our mind, heart, and future.

Brothers and Sisters!

Another question that will be asked to us before our Lord وَعَنْ عِلْمِهِ مَاذَا عَمِلَ فِيمَا عِلْمٍ is about knowledge. We will be answering the following questions on that day: Did you do deeds with your knowledge? Did you use it for the good and benefit of humanity or turn it into a weapon for evil? Did your knowledge lead to spreading of good among people or did you make it a means for mischief, sedition, and troublemaking? Did your knowledge guide your life, morals, and relationships?

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

The end of each year is actually the beginning for a new one. Then, let's take the opportunity for this new beginning and ask ourselves again the aforementioned questions. Remember: At the end of a year gone by, it is completely unbecoming for a believer to forget about themselves and their purpose of creation and display unlawful attitude and behavior that in no way comply with our values. It is worrying that the first hours of a new year are turned into waste with new year entertainment of other cultures and other worlds. It is saddening that the hours which must be spent contemplating on good & bad deeds, good and evil are wasted on gambling and games of chance like the lottery with the desire of getting rich without working.

Brothers and Sisters!

May the Almighty Lord grant us to spend the rest of our life in a better and more blessed way than the past. May He prevent us from leading a life that we cannot account for.

¹ Al-Hashr, 59/18.

² Hâkim, el-Müstedrek, IV, 341.

³ Tirmidhi, Sıfatü'l-kıyâme, 1.

⁴ Bukhari, Ezan, 36.