

Date: 01.01.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَقْبَلُ مِنَ الْعَمَلِ إِلَّا مَا كَانَ لَهُ خَالِصًا وَابْتِغَى بِهِ وَجْهَهُ.

**REFLECTING ON THE PAST,
RENDERING THE FUTURE
PROSPEROUS**

Honorable Muslims!

Each passing year we move closer towards the Judgment Day before our Lord (swt), with each day tearing another leaf off our life calendar. As our life capital diminishes over time, the book of our deeds we will read in awe and have the reward or punishment for it in return in the Hereafter gets thicker.

Dear Believers!

Let us review the years we have left behind. Let us call our nafs to account and reckon with our own self. Let us turn from wrongs and sins and repent for them. Let us recall our responsibilities towards Allah, our own self, our family, and all that is created. In this regard, the Almighty Allah (swt) warns us as follows in the Holy Qur'an, "O

you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow..."¹

Dear Muslims!

Let us plan our days to come in line with earning the appreciation of our Lord (swt). Let us not waste our life in the Hereafter while we pursue worldly whims and desires. Let us not forget that every decision we make, every word we utter and every action we take are seen and heard by and known to Allah the Almighty (swt), and that we will give an account of all these to Him (swt).

Dear Believers!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) says, "Allah does not accept any deed except that which is purely for Him and for His sake."²

Then, let us turn to Allah in earnest. Let us show the resolve to lead a life in which our book of deeds will be filled with worship and benevolence. Let us keep our hope, faith, effort, trust in and support for each other alive at all times in these difficult days we are being tested by the pandemic disease.

¹ Hashr, 59/18.

² Nasa'i, Jihad, 24.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَا صَلَاةَ لِمَنْ لَمْ يَقْرَأْ بِفَاتِحَةِ الْكِتَابِ.

SURAH AL-FATIHA: THE OPENER AND PREFACE OF THE QUR'AN

Honorable Muslims!

One day Prophet Muhammad said to one of his companions, Abu Sa'id ibn al-Mualla: "Shall I teach you the greatest surah in the Qur'an before you leave the masjid?" After the prayer as they left the masjid, he (saw) said: "It is the Surah al-Fatiha that consists of seven verses and is recited repeatedly during prayers."¹

Dear Believers!

The Surah al-Fatiha is the preface of our divine book the Holy Qur'an. We recite this surah in every rakat of our prayers as Prophet Muhammad once said, "If anyone observes prayer in which he does not recite the Surah al-Fatiha, his prayer is deficient and not complete."² Whenever we recite the Surah al-Fatiha, which is a servant's heartfelt communication with their Lord, we become relieved knowing that Allah the Almighty states, "Whatever My servant wishes shall be granted."³

Dear Muslims!

We start the Surah al-Fatiha by reciting the Basmalah, namely "In the Name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful". We know that every act initiated without remembering the name of Allah is deficient, incomplete, and lacking of divine abundance of blessings.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ,

we extend our endless gratitude, thankfulness, praise and reverence to our Lord (swt), Who is the Creator and Ruler of the universe.

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

We know that He (swt) is the Entirely Merciful, and the Especially Merciful. His grace and mercy is abundant.

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

He (swt) is the only Sovereign of the Day of Judgment. He (swt) is the Owner of Absolute Justice, Who will make His servants recompense in the Hereafter.

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

It is Him alone we worship and Him we ask for help. For there is no other true authority to seek refuge in, lean on, and trust in.

إِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

O Allah, our Lord! "Guide us to the straight path, the path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor. Not of those who have earned Your anger or of those who are astray."⁴ Amin!

Dear Believers!

Let us strive with due diligence to recite, comprehend, and live by our Holy Book that opens with al-Fatiha. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to the campaign "Let's Learn the Qur'an from Home" launched by the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey. You can apply online at the website of the Presidency of Religious Affairs for the campaign, learn to recite the Qur'an with online courses wherever you are, and reflect its light on your family and life. In addition, there are optional and elective courses at schools such as the Holy Qur'an, Prophet Muhammad and His Life, and Basic Islamic Knowledge. Let us encourage our children to select these courses.

¹ Bukhari, Tafsir, (Fatiha), 1.

² Bukhari, Adhan, 95.

³ Muslim, Salat, 38.

⁴ Fatiha, 1/1-7.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لِّلرِّجَالِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ الْوَالِدَانِ وَالْأَقْرَبُونَ وَلِلنِّسَاءِ

نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ الْوَالِدَانِ وَالْأَقْرَبُونَ مِمَّا قَلَّ مِنْهُ أَوْ كَثُرُ

نَصِيبًا مَّفْرُوضًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ تَرَكَ مَالًا فَلِوَرَثَتِهِ.

INHERITANCE: GIVING EVERY RIGHT HOLDER THEIR DUE SHARE

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states as follows, “For men is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, and for women is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, be it little or much - an obligatory share.”¹

In the hadith I have read, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) states as follows, “Whoever, upon death, leaves property behind, that is for the inheritors.”²

Dear Believers!

One of the rights Islam places high emphasis on is the right to inheritance. Our religion has brought detailed provisions prescribing just and equitable share-out of inheritance, too, just as in every sphere of life. As a believer is on their journey to eternity, firstly the funeral costs are covered by the property left behind. Then, their debts, if any, are paid off. Then, their will concerning the share-out for those other than inheritors is executed on

condition that such share-out will not exceed one third of the inheritance. After all these, the inheritance is inherited to the inheritors.

Dear Muslims!

It is essential that each right holder be given their due share and no right holder, regardless of gender and age, suffer any unjust distribution of the inheritance. Customs and traditions that prescribe not giving any share to women from the inheritance mean injustice and oppression according to Islam, and are never legitimate. All Muslims who believe in Allah and in the Qur'an He (swt) has revealed need to be contented with their respective share out of the inheritance and avoid laying claims on the share of their brothers and sisters. In this respect, after setting out the ruling related to inheritance, Allah (swt) warns us as follows, “**These are the limits [set by] Allah, and whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger will be admitted by Him to gardens [in Paradise] under which rivers flow, abiding eternally therein; and that is the great attainment. And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger and transgresses His limits - He will put him into the Fire to abide eternally therein, and he will have a humiliating punishment.**”³

Dear Believers!

Let us not forget that inheritance is something entrusted and that there is a delicate line between inheritance and human rights. Let us never cross that line by falling for our ambitions. Let us show due diligence to mercifulness, conscientiousness, justice and equity when it comes to inheritance.

¹ Nisa, 4/7.

² Bukhari, Fara'idh, 25.

³ Nisa, 4/13-14.

Date: 22.01.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ

وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ

هَذَا بَاطِلًا لَّسُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْكَيْسُ مَنْ دَانَ نَفْسَهُ وَعَمِلَ لِمَا بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ.

HOW MIND WORSHIPS: TAFAKKUR (CONTEMPLATION)

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, Allah the Almighty (swt) states as follows, **“They always remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides. They give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, saying, ‘Our Lord! You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You above such a thing! Protect us from the punishment of the Fire!’”**¹

Dear Believers!

One of the greatest blessings the Almighty Allah (swt) has bestowed upon us humans is mind and reason. It is a superior faculty we are blessed with that helps us distinguish true from false, right from wrong, and useful from harmful. It is through this faculty that human is able to comprehend the verses/signs of Allah and make their lives more meaningful. They avoid the evil and turn to the good. They attain

great rewards in the Hereafter if they use their reason in the way of the good. They end up in misery, however, if they use their mind in the way of the evil.

Dear Muslims!

The fruit of mind and reason is tafakkur. Tafakkur is the informed and purposeful thinking in order to make sense of the reality and act appropriately. Through tafakkur we comprehend our reason for existence, the importance of servitude to Allah (swt), the value of time, and the merit of good deeds. We notice the unique balance of the universe and countless blessings. We figure out the wisdom in the creation of the heavens and earth, mountains and seas, the Moon and the Sun, and the countless known and unknown beauties. Through tafakkur we adopt a reflective perspective to look into events, draw lessons from them, and assume our part of the responsibility.

Dear Believers!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) states as follows, **“The clever person is the one who subjugates his soul, and works for what is after death.”**²

Happy be they, who use their mind in the way of becoming virtuous people and truthful servants of Allah (swt), and earning His appreciation! Happy be they, who view this world as a farm for cultivating the Hereafter and prepare from today for the eternal life.

¹ Al-i ‘Imran, 3/191.

² Tirmidhi, Sifat al-Qiyamah, 25.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا طَائِرٍ يَطِيرُ بِجَنَاحَيْهِ

إِلَّا أُنِمْ أَمْثَلَكُمْ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

فِي كُلِّ كَبِدٍ رَطْبَةٌ أَجْرٌ.

MERCY FOR ANIMALS: A RELIGIOUS AND HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

Honorable Muslims!

One day, the Prophet Muhammad talked about a man who filled his shoe with water from a well and offered it to a thirsty dog, and thus earned the appreciation of Allah and his sins were forgiven. When the Companions asked, “O Messenger of Allah! Shall we be also rewarded for showing kindness to the animals?”, the Prophet Muhammad said, **“There is a reward for helping any living creature.”**¹

Another day, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) talked about how a woman who got angry at a cat, kept it locked, and caused it to die from hunger earned the wrath of Allah (swt). He (saw) told that the merciless woman who took away the cat’s right to life was met with the punishment of Allah (swt).² This is because there is also a sin and divine punishment for evil done to any living creature.

Dear Believers!

Just like every other creature in the universe, animals also serve as evidence of the existence and might of the Almighty Allah (swt). From the tiniest of them to the largest, every animal is valuable as a work of Allah and is entrusted to humans by Him (swt). We humans are liable to treat animals conscientiously, mercifully, and compassionately.

Islam forbids every kind of act that means oppression and torture to animals and that forces them into being treated in nonconformity with their reason of creation. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) warns us as follows, **“There is no person who kills a small bird or anything larger for no just reason, but Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, will ask him about it.”**³

Dear Muslims!

It is stated in the Holy Qur’an as follows, **“And there is no creature on [or within] the earth or bird that flies with its wings except [that they are] communities like you.”**⁴ Indeed, animals, too, just like us humans, are the residents of the earth. Let us not forget that they, too, have the fundamental rights to life, protection from harm, and shelter. Let us look at the world of existence through the perspective of love, compassion and reflection. Let us not hurt any living creature. Let us be more careful and sensitive about animals particularly in winter conditions. Let us seek to earn the appreciation of our Lord (swt) by fulfilling our religious, conscientious and human responsibility.

¹ Bukhari, Musaqat, 9.

² Bukhari, Bad’ al-Khalq, 16.

³ Nasa’i, Sayd, 34.

⁴ An’am, 6/38.

Date: 05.02.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّهُمْ فِتْيَةٌ آمَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ وَزِدْنَاهُمْ هُدًى.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

سَبْعَةٌ يُظِلُّهُمْ اللَّهُ فِي ظِلِّهِ يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ:

...وَشَابُّ نَشَأً فِي عِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ...

OUR YOUTH: OUR GREATEST ASSET AND RICHNESS

Honorable Muslims!

Youth is the spring of life. It is the age of dreams and ideas thriving, strength and excitement peaking out. If youth is spent in the most beneficial way, it will enable one to attain happiness in this world and in the Hereafter, but, otherwise, it will turn to a period of time to be remembered with regret. In this regard, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) makes the following warning, **“Take advantage of youth before old age!”**¹ According to his good news, a young person who grows up with the consciousness of servitude to Allah (swt) will be protected in the shade of the ‘arsh (throne) on the calamitous Day of Judgment.²

Dear Young Brother and Sister!

You are in the most precious moment of your life now. You are the hope of our great nation and humanity. In fact, you are in the age of the Prophet Ibrahim assuming the challenge of putting up a great struggle in the cause of tawhid, the Prophet Ismail of submission to Allah (swt), the Prophet Yusuf of dignity, the Ashab al-Kahf of sincerity, and the Prophet Muhammad of the true cause in

the way of Allah (swt). You are in the age of engraving in your heart Asiyah’s faith, Maryam’s morality, Khadijah’s courage, and Aisha’s love for knowledge.

Dear Young Brother and Sister!

When you walked with the strength you had from your faith and your love for the homeland, you opened the gates of Anatolia to Islam in Malazgirt. You became the addressee of the Prophet Muhammad’s (saw) glad tiding when you conquered Istanbul. You made Çanakkale unpassable and fought against the great powers of the world in the War of Independence. You sacrificed your life and your loved ones for the future of our state and the prosperity of our nation on July 15, but did not give up on your homeland against traitors.

Dear Believers!

Our youth are our future and our hope. Our youth are our greatest asset and richness. Every member of our youth is each valuable for us and deserves care, kindness, support and love. Let us all strive to ensure they are raised as individuals who are beneficial for humanity, attached to their national and spiritual values, have awareness and ideals.

I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with the following verse on the Ashab al-Kahf, which are set as an example in the Holy Qur’an with their faith and virtuous stance: **“Indeed, they were youths who believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance.”**³

¹ Hakim, Mustadrak, IV, 341.

² Bukhari, Adhan, 36.

³ Kahf, 18/13.

Date: 12.02.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا
تَقْنَطُوا مِنْ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ
جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اَللّٰهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ وَبَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ.

TOWARDS THE SEASON OF INNER PEACE

Honorable Muslims!

We are excited to reach the spiritual climate of the Three Holy Months once again. Tomorrow is the first day of Rajab that is the herald of Ramadan. The night that turns next Thursday to Friday is the Night of Ragha'ib. May thanks and praises be to Allah the Almighty (swt) who has enabled us to make it to this season of mercy and forgiveness. May salat and salam be to the Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw) who joined our hearts with Islam's unique beauty. May the Three Holy Months and the Night of Ragha'ib be blessed for our great nation and the Muslim world.

Dear Believers!

Each moment of our life is priceless. But there are also special times when the Almighty Allah (swt) offers His grace and blessings for His servants in abundance. The Three Holy Months, namely Rajab, Sha'ban, and Ramadan, are what can be called as the gates opening, one after another, to blessings. These exceptional

times are conducive to our material and spiritual salvation, and to our eternal peace and bliss. The Three Holy Months is a period of time for us to review our life that passes like the wind. It is the time to reflect, turn to ourselves, have peace of mind, and deepen our spiritual life.

Dear Muslims!

It is stated in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **"O My servants who have transgressed against themselves! Do not despair of the mercy of Allah! Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful."**¹ So, let us seek refuge in the mercy and forgiveness of the Almighty Allah (swt) with the gratitude of being enabled to welcome the Three Holy Months. Let us show regret for our mistakes, errors, rebelliousness and transgression. Let us purify the exhausted and overwhelmed hearts of ours through repentance with the hope of being blessed with our Lord's boundless grace.

Dear Believers!

Let us turn, with our entire existence, to our Lord (swt) to earn His appreciation in these blessed times. Let our hearts soften, and our souls attain peace. Let our nafs be purified by staying away from any kind of sins and useless affairs. Let our principle be to live sincerely and race in benevolence and piety. Let our tongues and hearts supplicate in the Prophet Muhammad's (saw) words as, **"O Allah! Bless us in the month of Rajab and Sha'ban, and make us reach the month of Ramadan."**²

¹ Zumar, 39/53.

² Tabarani, al-Mu'jam al-Awsat, IV, 189; Ahmad ibn Hanbal, I, 259.

Date: 19.02.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ .

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ :

ثَلَاثٌ مَنْ كُنَّ فِيهِ وَجَدَ حَلَاوَةَ الْإِيمَانِ : أَنْ يَكُونَ اللَّهُ

وَرَسُولُهُ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِمَّا سِوَاهُمَا .

DELIGHT OF IMAN: TO LOVE ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER

Dear Believers!

The most precious emotion the Almighty Allah (swt) has engraved on the world of existence and on our souls is love. Love is a unique emotion that connects humans with their Lord, joins hearts, and makes life meaningful. So much so that, in the words of the Holy Qur'an, sincere love is one of the signs of the existence of our Lord Almighty.¹

Allah the Almighty (swt) is, without a doubt, the One most worthy of being loved. Because Allah (swt) is al-Wadud, namely, Who has created love and taught human how to love and be loved. He (swt) is the source of all feelings of love. The entire universe remains standing thanks to His love and mercy.

Dear Muslims!

It is stated in the Holy Qur'an: **"But those who believe are stronger in love for Allah."**² Yes, indeed, the most valuable corner of a Muslim's heart is allocated for the love for the Almighty Allah (swt). Muslims love their Lord unconditionally and endlessly in a sincere and respectable manner. At the same time, they strive to be servants worthy of Allah's (swt) love. They see all the creation through the perspective of compassion because of the deep love they have for Allah (swt). They love the created for the sake of the Creator.

Dear Believers!

A Muslim's heart is also full of love for the Messenger of Allah (saw). Because love for the Prophet Muhammad (saw), who is beautiful by name and by nature, is a requirement of our love for our Lord, Who has blessed us with the honor of being a member of his ummah. Muslims know that loving the Prophet Muhammad (saw) means to embrace our divine book the Qur'an tightly and his sunnah full of wisdom that he has entrusted to us. It means to follow in his footsteps, to love those he loved, and to internalize his morals.

Dear Muslims!

The love for Allah (swt) and the Prophet Muhammad (saw) comes from faith and means to savor it. In this regard, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) says as follows, **"Whoever possesses the following three qualities will have the delight of faith: The one to whom Allah and His Messenger becomes dearer than anything else, the one who loves a person only for Allah's sake, and the one who hates to revert to disbelief as much as he is afraid of being thrown into the fire."**³

Happy are those in whose hearts the love for the Almighty Allah (swt) has a deep place. Happy are those whose eyes get moistened with their love for the Prophet Muhammad (saw). Happy are those who embrace one another with the power of this blessed love.

Dear Believers!

As I conclude this Friday's khutbah, I wish the Almighty Allah's (swt) boundless mercy on our brothers, the heroic children of our homeland, who were martyred in the heinous terrorist attack last week, and extend my condolences to their grieving families, relatives, and our great nation. May Allah the Almighty (swt) never set us apart from our sacreds in whose cause our martyrs have sacrificed their lives.

¹ Rum, 30/21.

² Baqarah, 2/165.

³ Bukhari, Iman, 9.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِنَّ

اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ سَرَّهُ أَنْ يَسْتَجِيبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ عِنْدَ الشَّدَائِدِ

وَالْكُرْبِ فَلْيُكْثِرِ الدُّعَاءَ فِي الرَّخَاءِ.

FINDING STRENGTH IN OUR SPIRITUALITY IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty states as follows, **“O you who have believed, seek help through patience and prayer. Indeed, Allah is with the patient.”**¹

In the hadith I have recited, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) says, **“Whoever wants their prayers to be accepted through difficult times should pray a lot through normal times.”**²

Dear Believers!

During our time in this life, many problems, sorrows and troubles come in our way. Every incident that occurs to us is part of the test in this world, regardless of its consequences. What we call as the life capital is actually a limited time frame given to us. What is important is to spend this period of time faithfully by doing righteous deeds, and to maintain a right stance in the face of the incidents we encounter. As a matter of fact, the Almighty Allah (swt) states in the Holy Qur'an as follows: **“We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits. Give good tidings to the patient!”**³

Dear Muslims!

We should find strength in our love for and trust in Allah (swt) in our good days as well as in our bad days. Our primary responsibility as Muslims in the face of the challenging trials of life is to take all measures within our power. It is to adopt a calm and resilient approach to the incidents and to exert efforts in finding solutions

to them. It is to never fall hopeless and never lose our faith and resilience.

Dear Muslims!

Muslims, who resort to causes and take all kinds of measures in the light of knowledge, reason and experience, should also know to trust Allah (swt) and be contented with the divine decree. They should act with submission and calm, not rebellion and extremism. They should get rid of their fears, worries and pessimism, and seek refuge in the absolute will of Allah (swt). For the safest haven is the Almighty Allah's (swt) matchless might, knowledge, wisdom, aid, and grace. It is the light for a Muslim's life to not lose faith in Him (swt) even for a moment, to lean on Him, trust in Him, and ask Him for help. It is the essence of the servitude to Allah (swt) to seek refuge in Him (swt) through prayers and supplications, repentance and asking for forgiveness, and thankfulness and gratitude.

Dear Believers!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) says in one of his hadiths as follows, **“How nice is the state of a believer! There is good in every affair of his, which is special to believers only. For if he has an occasion to feel delight, he shows gratitude and this is good for him. And if he gets into trouble and shows resignation (and endures it patiently), there is a good for him in it.”**⁴

Therefore, let us not forget that Muslims can overcome their difficulties by relying on their Lord (swt), feeling confident in themselves, and helping and getting help from their brothers and sisters. Let us read the incidents we experience through a reflective and insightful perspective. Let us look at them with the sense of responsibility and of reviewing our own self. Let us make sure that we fulfill what falls upon us. Let us weigh the tests of this world using the scale of devoutness, patience and gratitude. Let us keep vivid our spirituality through worship, supplication, contemplation and reliance on Allah (swt) in order to be strong in life.

¹ Baqarah, 2/153.

² Tirmidhi, Da'awat, 9.

³ Baqarah, 2/155.

⁴ Muslim, Zuhd, 64.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ
الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ
لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
اِثْنُوهُ فَصَلُّوا فِيهِ فَإِنْ لَمْ تَأْتُوهُ وَتُصَلُّوا فِيهِ قَابَعْتُوا
بِزَيْنٍ يُسْرَجُ فِي قَنَادِيلِهِ.

ISRA AND MI'RAJ

Honorable Muslims!

We are in the Three Holy Months, the season of grace and mercy, blessing and benefaction. Inshaallah, we will welcome and enjoy the Lailat al-Mi'raj on the night that turns Wednesday to Thursday. May the Almighty Allah (swt) bestow health, peace and well-being upon our great nation, the ummah of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), and all humanity for the sake of this night. I wish you all a blessed Lailat al-Mi'raj.

Dear Believers!

Our Lord Almighty (swt) states in the first verse of Surah al-Isra as follows, **“Exalted is He who took His Servant [i.e., Prophet Muhammad] 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

Isra, after which this surah is named, means the Prophet Muhammad's (saw) journey from the Masjid al-Haram in Makkah to the Masjid al-Aqsa in al-Quds. On the other hand, Mi'raj means his (saw) ascension to heavens where he witnessed Allah's (swt) might and greatness, and was bestowed the grace, mercy and glad tidings of Allah (swt).

Dear Muslims!

The first stop in the Mi'raj is al-Masjid al-Aqsa. About this blessed temple, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) says as follows, **“Go and establish prayer at the Masjid al-Aqsa. If you cannot go and establish prayer there, then send some oil to be used in the lamps.”**²

This hadith teaches us that it is a duty upon all Muslims to exert efforts to instill in hearts the love for the Masjid al-Aqsa and to uphold and render prosperous, our time-honored values both materially and spiritually.

The sacred land al-Quds, where the Masjid al-Aqsa is located, is an Islamic land. It is the Dar al-Salam, namely the land of peace and prosperity. Throughout the history, al-Quds has been the symbol of freedom, justice and peaceful coexistence under Muslim rule.

Dear Believers!

As I conclude this Friday's khutbah, I would like to share some of the advices our Lord (swt) has set out in the Surah al-Isra: Worship none but Allah. Be good to your parents; and should they attain old age, do not repel them, do not even say to them “fie”, but address them in terms of honor. Give the relative his right, and also the poor and the traveler. Do not be stingy and do not spend wastefully. Do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Do not kill the soul which Allah has forbidden, except by right, and do not pursue blood feud. Do not approach the property of an orphan. Fulfill every commitment. Give full measure when you measure, and weigh with an even balance. Do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge. Do not walk upon the earth exultantly.

Happy are those who heed our Almighty Lord's (swt) message of guidance! Happy are those who are meticulous in their servitude to Allah (swt) and uphold the glad tidings and entrustments of the mi'raj!

¹ Isra, 17/1

² Abu Dawud, Salat, 14.

Date: 12.03.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنْ يَنْصُرْكُمُ اللَّهُ فَلَا غَالِبَ لَكُمْ وَإِنْ يَخْذُلْكُمْ فَمَنْ
ذَا الَّذِي يَنْصُرُكُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ
الْمُؤْمِنُونَ .

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَ وَعْدَهُ وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ وَهَزَمَ
الْأَحْزَابَ وَخَذَهُ .

**INDEPENDENCE MARCH (TURKISH
NATIONAL ANTHEM): INDEPENDENCE
IS THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT OF MY
NATION WHO WORSHIPS AL-HAQQ!**

Honorable Muslims!

Allah the Almighty (swt) states in the verse I have recited, **“If Allah should aid you, no one can overcome you; but if He should forsake you, who is there that can aid you after Him? And upon Allah let the believers rely.”**¹

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) says in the hadith I have recited, **“Praise is to Allah who has fulfilled His promise, granted victory to His slave, and defeated confederates of enemy alone.”**²

Dear Believers!

A hundred years ago, we put up an all-out fight for existence. We all, together as men and women, young and old, mobilized in defence of our homeland. We sacrificed our lives, loved ones, and all our existence, but did not let the enemy's hand touch our heavenly homeland. It was in those most challenging times of ours when our national anthem, the Independence March, was born as the representation of our unshakeable faith, resolve to walk on the true

path, love for the homeland, and nobility and courage in verses. This epic anthem became a seal of belonging engraved in the minds and hearts of each and every member of our nation.

Dear Muslims!

Our National Anthem reflects the spirit of the following verse, **“Do not weaken and do not grieve, and you will be superior if you are [true] believers.”**³

Our Independence March teaches us our purpose of existence, who we are, and how we will continue to exist. It exclaims that our flag as the symbol of our independence will not be hauled down before the last hearth that is ablaze within our homeland is extinguished. It instructs that our homeland, watered by the blood of our martyrs, cannot ever be allowed to be trodden under enemy feet. It supplicates that the adhan, the testimonies of which are the foundation of the religion, may continue to echo in the skies of our homeland forever. It heralds the eternal independence of our nation with the following lines:

*For freedom is the absolute right of my
ever-free flag;*

*For independence is the absolute right of
my nation who worships al-Haqq!*

Dear Believers!

The 12th of March is the anniversary of the adoption of our National Anthem, and the 18th of March is the anniversary of our Çanakkale Victory. With heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate and wish Allah's mercy upon our heroic martyrs and veterans who have borne the banner of justice, peace and security throughout the history and bequeathed this heavenly homeland for us.

¹ Al-i 'Imran, 3/160.

² Ibn Majah, Diyat, 5.

³ Al-i 'Imran, 3/139.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا
إِمَّا يَبْلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ
لَهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرْهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
رِضَا الرَّبِّ فِي رِضَا الْوَالِدِ وَسَخَطُ الرَّبِّ فِي سَخَطِ
الْوَالِدِ.

PLEASURE OF OUR PARENTS CONDUCTS TO PLEASURE OF ALLAH

Dear Believers!

Our parents, who has brought us to this world, spent years striving to raise and educate us so that we develop a healthy character. For this reason, our sublime religion orders that we be on good terms with our parents, treat them with reverence, and protect their rights. It tells us that being supportive of our parents in the face of difficulties both materially and spiritually, showing them affection and compassion, and meeting their needs especially when they reach old age is a duty of loyalty upon us. In this sense, it is stated in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **“Your Lord has decreed that you worship not except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], “uff”, and do not reprehend them, but address them in terms of honor. And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy**

and say, “My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up [when I was] small.”¹

Dear Muslims!

Our Lord (swt), who has created us from nothing, has entrusted us to our closest people for us to stay with them until an age when we become believing servants able to assume responsibility. Our parents have brought us to these days with patience and sacrifice, love and mercy, and tears and supplications at times, and with the light of their eyes and sweat of their brows at other times. For this reason, when one day a man asked the Prophet Muhammad (saw), “What is the most superior of all good deeds?”, he replied, **“The salah that is performed right on its time, and treating the parents properly. Then, to participate in jihad in Allah’s cause.”²**

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Let us not withhold our kindness and benevolence, a couple of nice words and smiling face, respect and tolerance from our parents. Let us strive to win their hearts and deserve to be blessed with their supplications for us. Let us view their supplications to Allah (swt) for us as our blessing in this world and our means for salvation in the Hereafter. Let us never forget the following warning of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), **“The pleasure of the Lord lies in the pleasure of the parent. The anger of the Lord lies in the anger of the parent.”³**

¹ Isra, 17/23-24.

² Bukhari, Tawhid, 48.

³ Tirmidhi, Birr, 3.

Date: 26.03.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوتِيَ كِتَابَهُ بِيَمِينِهِ فَيَقُولُ هَؤُلَاءِ أَفْرُوا كِتَابِيَهٗ إِنِّي ظَنَنْتُ

أَنِّي مُلَاقٍ حِسَابِيَهٗ فَهُوَ فِي عِيشَةٍ رَاضِيَةٍ فِي جَنَّةٍ عَالِيَةٍ .

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ :

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يَنْزِلُ لَيْلَةَ التَّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ

الدُّنْيَا فَيَغْفِرُ لَأَكْثَرِ مَنْ عَدَدِ شَعْرِ غَنَمٍ كُلِّ .

LAILAT AL-BARA'AH: NIGHT OF FORGIVENESS

Honorable Muslims!

The shadow of Ramadan al-Sharif, the sultan of the eleven months, is cast upon us now. Tomorrow we will welcome and enjoy the Lailat al-Bara'ah as the herald of Ramadan. May Allah the Almighty (swt) bless our great nation and the ummah of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) with prosperity and abundance of His (swt) divine blessings for the sake of the Night of Bara'ah. I wish you all a blessed Lailat al-Bara'ah.

Dear Believers!

It was some hour of the night like tomorrow, Aisha (ra) woke up and, when she realized that the Prophet Muhammad (saw) was not next to her, she went out to look for him. Finally, she found him, at al-Baqi' Cemetery, with his head looking up to the sky and praying. In order to satisfy Aisha's (ra) curiosity and tell her about how abundant the grace of Allah (swt) was that night, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, **"Allah descends to the lowest Heavens during the night of the middle of Sha'ban and grants forgiveness to more than the number of hairs on the sheep of Banu Kalb."**¹

Dear Muslims!

In the Holy Qur'an, our guide to the true path, the state of those who are granted the warrant of eternal salvation in the Hereafter is

stated as follows, **"So as for he who is given his record in his right hand, he will say, 'Here, read my record! Indeed, I was certain that I would be meeting my account.' So he will be in a pleasant life - in an elevated garden."**²

We learn from these verses that in order to attain Allah's (swt) pleasure and enter His heaven, we have to prepare for the Hereafter while we are still alive in this world, and live by faith and worship on the true path.

These special opportunities and months of barakah are times of contemplation to review our past and plan our future. Times of making up our mind to strive to live in line with the pleasure of our Lord (swt), other than with the unending desires of our self... Times of supplication and prayers to repent for our wrongs and sins, and to seek refuge in the forgiveness of our Lord (swt). In this regard, the Messenger of Allah (saw) makes the following recommendation for us, **"When it is the night of the middle of Sha'ban, spend its night in prayer and observe a fast on that day. For Allah descends at sunset on that night to the lowest heaven and says: 'Is there no one who will ask me for forgiveness, that I may forgive him? Is there no one who will ask me for provision, that I may provide for him? Is there no one who is afflicted by trouble, that I may relieve him?'"**³

Dear Believers!

As I conclude this Friday's khutbah, I would like to remind once again an important issue. Our fight against the pandemic is still continuing. Let us keep up our sensitivity to observing the measures as seriously from now on as we have done so far. May our Lord Almighty (swt) enable us to overcome this pandemic in the shortest time possible.

¹ Tirmidhi, Sawm, 39.

² Haqqah, 69/19-22.

³ Ibn Majah, Iqamat, 191.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْمُؤْمِنُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبُنْيَانِ يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا.

BEING AWARE AND CONSIDERATE OF EACH OTHER

Honorable Muslims!

We each are going through a test and trial. We all are in pursuit of happiness in this world and in the Hereafter as well as of overcoming challenges. We experience happiness and sadness, joy and sorrow at the same time as required by the way we are created. In addition to a variety of diseases, troubles and handicaps, we also come across developmental differences as in Down's syndrome and autism.

Every hardship we face and every trouble we endure have a dimension that teaches us something and improves us. Standing up to difficulties and problems and observing the pleasure of Allah the Almighty (swt) in all situations are conducive to our developing perfectionate and maturational attributes.

Dear Believers!

We need to be well informed of developmental differences, search for opportunities for treatment and rehabilitation,

and get support from competent persons. Early diagnosis and correct treatment, and particularly suitable and timely education are crucially important in such cases.

Dear Muslims!

There are responsibilities upon all of us to not let our brothers and sisters with Down's syndrome and autism and their families feel alone and abandoned in any aspect of life. It is a religious and human duty of ours to be sensible and responsible towards our brothers and sisters, prove the necessary support for them, and facilitate their lives.

Dear Believers!

Allah the Almighty (swt) states in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **"The believing men and believing women are allies of one another."**¹ Therefore, let us be aware and considerate of each other. Let us form relations and sincere closeness with our brothers and sisters as would suit human dignity. Then, let us open our hands up to pray to Allah (swt) and ask Him to grant us patience and healing by bowing down before Him in full submission. Let us pray to Him (swt) to enable us to develop a sense of servitude to Him that will make us happy both in this world and in the Hereafter.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (saw): **"A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing each other."**²

¹ Tawbah, 9/71.

² Bukhari, Adab, 36.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِلنَّاسِ
وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَنْ شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ
الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِذَا جَاءَ رَمَضَانُ فُتِّحَتْ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ، وَغُلِقَتْ
أَبْوَابُ النَّارِ، وَصُفِّدَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ.

RAMADAN: THE BLESSED GUEST

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states as follows, “**The month of Ramadan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur’an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the crescent of] the month, let him fast it.**”¹

In the hadith I have said, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) states, “**When the month of Ramadan starts, the gates of the heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed and the devils are chained.**”²

Dear Believers!

The month of Ramadan, which is the last of the three holy months as the season of mercy, forgiveness and abundance of divine blessings, and to which we have been looking forward, is just around the corner. On the night the next Monday turns to Tuesday, we will perform the first tarawih prayer and wake up for suhoor, inshallah.

Dear Muslims!

Our blessed guest, Ramadan, is an exalted invitation for us from our Lord (swt). It is a call for us to recite the Holy Qur’an, our guide to the true path, more and contemplate more. It is the best opportunity for us to strengthen our will and discipline our self through fasting. With suhoor and iftar meals, it means peace and abundance of divine blessings in our homes. With tarawih prayers we perform in addition to the five daily prayers, it means health for our body and tranquility for our soul. With the zakat, fitr, and sadaqah we give, it means fondness between our relatives, neighbors and all our brothers and sisters. The greatest responsibility that falls upon us as Muslims in this month is to accommodate this blessed guest in the best place in our hearts and to accept this divine invitation wholeheartedly.

Dear Believers!

Let us calm down our exhausted souls with Ramadan al-Sharif. Let us ask Allah to relieve our depressed hearts. Let us turn to our essence and inside, and increase our sense of servitude to Allah (swt). Let us gird our sense of patience, compassion, contentment and gratitude. Let us promise to protect our hand, tongue, eye, mind, heart, in short, our soul and body, from sins.

Dear Muslims!

Ramadan Kareem! I wish you all a happy Ramadan. May our hearts and intellectual world find healing with the Qur’an. May the month of Ramadan be conducive to humanity overcoming all kinds of troubles and diseases, particularly the pandemic we have been going through.

¹ Baqarah, 2/185.

² Muslim, Siyam, 1.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ارْكَعُوا وَاسْجُدُوا وَاعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمْ
وَفَاعِلُوا الْخَيْرَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ
ذَنْبِهِ.

RAMADAN: THE MONTH OF HEALING

Honorable Muslims!

Alhamdulillah, we are once again in the month of Ramadan, when we reach abundance of divine blessings with suhoor, health with fasting, healing with the Qur'an, peace with tarawih, our brothers and sisters with zakat, and our essence with i'tikaf.

Dear Believers!

Ramadan is the month of fasting, which leads us to piety with our patience and will. Fasting is a divine blessing and entrustment our Lord (swt) has honored us with. It is a civilization and a miracle of revival that we welcome every year. Our bodies, emotions, minds and hearts are refreshed with fasting. Our bodies attain health with fasting. Our character is formed with fasting. Our nafs is disciplined with fasting. Our soul is purified with fasting. In this respect, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) says, **"Whoever observes fasts during the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith, and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven."**¹

Dear Muslims!

Ramadan is the month when the Holy Qur'an, which offers a unique horizon to the world of

existence, was revealed and is recited the most. The Qur'an is the light of our lives; it is our seeing eyes and running heart. The Qur'an is the healing for human, healing for societies, and healing for civilizations. Then, let us seek healing with the Qur'an. Let us unite our homes and hearts with the Qur'an. Let us strive to duly recite, understand, and live by the word of Allah. Let us revive the sunnah of our Prophet with muqabalah sessions. Let us revive it so that the Qur'an may touch our soul and the light of the Qur'an may illuminate our faces.

Dear Believers!

Ramadan is the month when we attain peace with salah that is the pillar of our religion. Then, let us increase our dhikr, gratitude, contemplation, supplications and invocations with salah. Let us protect ourselves from all kinds of evil, immorality and bad conduct with salah. Let us calm down our exhausted souls with tarawih.

Dear Muslims!

Ramadan is the month of helping and solidarity. Let us increase the barakah of our property by spending in His cause, with sadaqah, with charitable works and good deeds. Let us try to be the solution to the problems of our brothers and sisters with zakat and fitrah. Let us relieve their sorrows and increase their joys.

May Allah (swt) enable us to be revived with the Qur'an, fasting, and prayers. I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following commandment of the Almighty Allah (swt), **"O you who have believed, bow and prostrate and worship your Lord and do good - that you may succeed."**²

¹ Bukhari, Iman, 28.

² Hajj, 22/77.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَأَمَّا الْيَتِيمَ فَلَا تَفْهَرُ، وَأَمَّا السَّائِلَ فَلَا تَنْهَرُ،

وَأَمَّا بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ فَحَدِّثْ .

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَنَا وَكَافِلُ الْيَتِيمِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ هَكَذَا ...

THE ORPHAN: ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY'S ENTRUSTMENT TO HUMANITY

Honorable Muslims!

The Battle of Uhud was over, and Muslims were back in Madinah. A little kid came by the Prophet (saw) and asked him, “What happened to my father?” The words poured from the mouth of the Messenger of Allah (saw), “**Your father was martyred; may Allah’s mercy be upon him.**” Hearing these words, the kid started to cry. The Messenger of Mercy (saw) could not bear the situation, took the kid between his arms and hugged him, and tried to comfort him saying, “**Do not you cry.**” Then, he said, “**Maybe I would become your father, and Aisha would become your mother, would not you like it?**” The kid started to brighten. He happily replied, “Yes! I would like that very much.” The Messenger of Allah (saw) embraced the entrustment of the martyred man and made the kid forget his loneliness and being an orphan.¹

Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion Islam commands us to guard, protect and take care of the orphan. It recommends treating the orphan sensitively and approach them compassionately and mercifully. For the orphan are the Almighty Allah’s innocent

servants He (swt) has entrusted to all of us. The Prophet (saw) refers to this reality as follows, “**The best house among the Muslims is a house in which there is an orphan who is treated well.**”²

Dear Muslims!

Neglecting and ignoring the orphan, leaving them abandoned and uncared is a grave sin. Violating their rights and setting eyes on their properties is a sin whose burden is too heavy to bear. In this respect, our Lord Almighty (swt) warns us in the Holy Qur’an as follows, “**So as for the orphan, do not oppress [him]. And as for the petitioner, do not repel [him]. But as for the favor of your Lord, report [it].**”³

Dear Believers!

On one occasion, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) indicated his index finger and middle finger joined together, and said, “**I and the guardian of the orphan will be in Heaven like that.**”⁴

Our great nation, connected from heart to the Messenger of Allah (saw), has throughout the history opened its arms for the orphan, the abandoned, the victimized, the oppressed and persecuted. Today, we should also open our hearts to the orphan with the same consciousness. Let us strive to increase the light in their eyes and the joy on their faces. Let us contribute to their upbringing as well-educated individuals with good morals. Let us stand by them both materially and spiritually, and be the hope for their future. Let us remember that extending a helping hand for the orphan means to attain the pleasure of our Lord (swt).

¹ Ibn Hajar, Isaba, I, 302.

² Ibn Majah, Adab, 3.

³ Duha, 93/9-11.

⁴ Bukhari, Talaq, 25.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَأَنْفِقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ أَحَدَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ فَيَقُولَ

رَبِّ لَوْلَا أَخَّرْتَنِي إِلَى أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ فَأَصَّدَّقَ وَأَكُنْ مِنَ

الصَّالِحِينَ .

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ أَنْفِقْ أَنْفِقْ عَلَيْكَ .

INFAQ: CURE FOR SOCIETY

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states as follows, **“And spend [in the way of Allah] from what We have provided you before death approaches one of you and he says, ‘My Lord, if only You would delay me for a brief term so I would give charity and be among the righteous.’”**¹

In the hadith I have read, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) informs us that Allah the Almighty (swt) states as follows, **“O, Children of Adam, Spend (on charity) and I shall spend on you.”**²

Dear Believers!

Infaq means to offer to other people from the property and wealth and from the blessings Allah (swt) has entrusted to us. It means to protect, observe, and guard those in need. It means to strive to be useful to our family, relatives, neighbors, brothers and sisters, and, in short, all humanity.

Dear Muslims!

Infaq leads to rehabilitation of the body and soul. We purify our nafs and property with infaq.

With infaq, we share our sorrow and suffering, thereby attaining the pleasure of Allah (swt).

Infaq leads to rehabilitation of the society as well. It reinforces the harmony, peace, unity and solidarity between us and our brothers and sisters. Helping and being there for our brothers and sisters become widespread with infaq. Ultimately, believers tend to enjoy the help of the Almighty Allah (swt) with infaq. In this respect, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) says, **“Allah helps His slave as long as he helps his brother.”**³

Dear Believers!

It is stated in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **“And from their properties was [given] the right of the [needy] petitioner and the deprived.”**⁴

Then, let us, with peace of heart, let our brothers and sisters enjoy their rights over us. Let us support the poor, the needy, the orphan, and the abandoned. Let us try to be a solution to the problems of primarily our relatives and neighbors, and all those in need, with fitrah and zakat. Let us not forget that never will we attain the good [reward] until we spend [in the way of Allah] from that which we love.⁵

Dear Muslims!

Türkiye Diyanet Foundation continues this year, too, just as every year, to deliver your charities, benevolent works, fitrah and zakat to those in need, with the slogan “Forget Not Your Brothers and Sisters, You Are The Waited One!” You may make contributions to our aid campaign through our local offices or online at our Foundation's website. May the Almighty Allah (swt) accept all of our previous and future aids.

¹ Munafiqun, 63/10.

² Muslim, Zakat, 36.

³ Abu Dawud, Adab, 60.

⁴ Dhariyat, 51/19.

⁵ Al-i ‘Imran, 3/92.

Date: 07.05.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ، وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ، لَيْلَةُ

الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ، تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَكَةِ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا

يَاذُنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ، سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّى مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي.

LAILAT AL-QADR: THE NIGHT BETTER THAN A THOUSAND MONTHS

Honorable Muslims!

We are experiencing sadness and happiness at the same time as the time flows rapidly, and we are approaching the last days of Ramadan, the month of healing that came as a blessing to our hearts thirsty for our Lord's (swt) forgiveness, mercy, and boundless grace. We are excitedly waiting to welcome the Lailat al-Qadr, which will tend to be a relief and peace of heart, during these pandemic days that leave us sour. Inshaallah, tomorrow night we will observe the Lailat al-Qadr. May endless praise be to Allah (swt) who have allowed us to reach these days. I wish you all a blessed Lailat al-Qadr.

Dear Muslims!

The Almighty Allah (swt) has revealed the Holy Qur'an so that all humanity is enabled to reach the light of Islam from the darkness of polytheism, oppression, persecution, and ignorance, and to reach spiritual maturity. He (swt) has elevated the value of everything that is strongly connected to the Qur'an, and promised to bless the lives of those who strive to recite,

understand and live by it. The month in which the Qur'an was revealed became the sultan of eleven months and the night it was revealed became the Lailat al-Qadr, the night better than a thousand months.

Dear Believers!

The Lailat al-Qadr is the night when our Lord Almighty (swt) manifests Himself on earth with His name "al-Salam" as well as the night He (swt) promises to instill peace and serenity in the believing hearts. The Lailat al-Qadr is a night of spiritual opportunity with an abundance of blessings, grace, prosperity and offerings. In this respect, Allah the Almighty (swt) states in the Surah al-Qadr as follows: **"Indeed, We sent it [i.e., the Qur'an] down during the Night of Decree. And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The angels and the Spirit [i.e., Gabriel] descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn."**¹

Dear Believers!

Then, let us review our connection to the book of our life, the Qur'an, on the Lailat al-Qadr, when the Qur'an was sent down. Let us contemplate about the reason of our creation and renew our covenant of servitude to our Lord (swt). Let us spend this holy night with worship, acts of servitude, dhikr, tasbeeh, repentance and praying for forgiveness. Let us supplicate to Allah (swt) to be safe from the pandemic and be cured from all kinds of material and spiritual diseases. Let us keep repeating the following supplication the Prophet Muhammad (saw) recommends making on this night: **"O Allah! You are Most Forgiving, and You love forgiveness; so forgive me!"**²

¹ Qadr, 97/1-5.

² Tirmidhi, Da'awat, 84.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا .

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادِهِمْ وَتَرَاحِمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ

مَثَلُ الْجَسَدِ إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ سَائِرُ

الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهَرِ وَالْحُمَى .

TOWARDS EIDS WHEN AL-QUDS IS FREE

Honorable Muslims!

We are experiencing a sour joy for Eid under the shadow of the pandemic disease this year, too, just like last year. This year, however, we are able to be together under the domes of great places of worship in this morning of Eid al-Fitr alhamdulillah. We pray to Allah (swt) for this Eid, which we will spend by observing the measures, to be the herald of more joyous eids. May this Eid be conducive to the fully opening of the gates of His (swt) help and assistance wide. May the verse, **“For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease [i.e., relief]. Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.”**¹ manifest itself for Muslims and all humanity.

Dear Believers!

Days of eid are the times to repair broken hearts and build bridges of friendship and affection. Let us avoid visits during this Eid, too, so as not to cause the spread of the pandemic and violate the rights of people. However, let us use the means of communication we have to exchange congratulations on Eid with our parents, friends, relatives, and neighbors, and ask how they are. Let us make them feel that we are there for them spiritually even if we are not able to be together. Let us view the days of Eid as opportunities to put an end to hard feelings and resentments between each other. Let us do our best not to lose the good habits we have acquired during Ramadan.

Dear Muslims!

We are saddened on Eid this year because al-Quds, sacred with its name and blessed with its surrounding, is wounded. We are witnessing an unruly and intimidating community's barbarian assaults and attacks against the Masjid al-Aqsa and our Palestinian brothers and sisters. We are saddened on Eid this year because the occupiers, who disregard law, ethics, sacred values, violate the sanctity of al-Quds and its value for humanity. They martyr innocent lives, without discriminating children, the elderly or the women; block their entry into and exit from al-Quds; and prevent them from enjoying their freedom to worship in the Masjid al-Aqsa. The commandment of our Lord (swt), however, is very clear: **“Who are more unjust than those who prevent the name of Allah from being mentioned [i.e., praised] in His mosques and strive toward their destruction? It is not for them to enter them except in fear. For them in this world is disgrace, and they will have in the Hereafter a great punishment.”**²

Dear Believers!

Al-Quds is a land of Islam that has been witnessing the most deeply rooted heritage of humanity. The Masjid al-Aqsa, the first qiblah of Islam, belongs to Muslims. The issue of al-Quds is a shared issue that concerns not only Palestinians, but also all Muslims. Today, too, just as in the past, our support and prayers are with our Palestinian brothers and sisters. For the sake of this Eid morning, may Allah the Almighty (swt) grant salvation to all oppressed people, and all victimized people forced out of their homes and lands. May He (swt) enable us to strengthen our spirit of being ummah and of brotherhood in faith. May He (swt) enable to us to see true days of Eid when al-Quds, the Masjid al-Aqsa, and all Islamic lands and places under occupation can freely celebrate. Eid Mubarak! I wish you all a happy Eid!

I would like to conclude this khutbah with the following hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), **“The similitude of believers in regard to mutual love, affection and fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches because of sleeplessness and fever.”**³

¹ Sharh, 94/5-6.

² Baqarah, 2/114.

³ Muslim, Birr, 66.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْبَاقِيَاتُ الصَّالِحَاتُ خَيْرٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ ثَوَابًا وَخَيْرٌ أَمَلًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

فَاحْسِنْ أَصْلَهَا وَسَبِّلِ الثَّمَرَةَ.

WAQF: THE CIVILIZATION OF COMPASSION AND MERCY

Honorable Muslims!

One day, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) said to his companions, **“When a man dies all his good deeds come to an end except three: sadaqah jariyah (ongoing charity), beneficial knowledge and a righteous son who prays for him.”**¹

One of the best examples of sadaqah jariyah mentioned in this hadith are the awqaf (foundations) that are the symbol of the Islamic civilization.

Dear Believers!

Waqf is the institutionalized form of the compassion and affection of Islam towards all existence. It is about putting to the service of all humanity, in fact all living beings, any property and wealth entrusted to humans. It is about holding the hand of the weak and the fallen, and offering a lasting solution to the problems of those in need. In this respect, on one occasion, when Umar (ra) came to the Prophet Muhammad (saw) and said, “O Messenger of Allah! I have a garden of date-palms which I prize highly. I want to give it in charity.”, the Messenger of Allah (saw) made the following recommendation for him, **“Endow it, and spend its fruits in charity.”**²

Dear Muslims!

Our forefathers viewed endowments as “institutions of loyalty” and put the wealth they acquired into the service of humanity again. With this understanding, they built many works such as mosques, masjids, schools, madrasas, libraries, hospitals, public kitchens, fountains, bridges, etc. That way, they provided jobs for the unemployed, food for the poor, relief for the indebted, home for the homeless, and healing for the sick. They enabled benevolence to prevail on the face of the earth with the motto “Brotherhood knows no

borders or boundaries”, and became home to the oppressed, and a hope to the miserable. It is not only people but also the unattended animals, the nestless birds, and even the birds of prey who enjoy their share from this deep compassion and grace of Islam.

Dear Believers!

Our Lord Almighty (swt) states in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **“The enduring good deeds are better to your Lord for reward and better for [one's] hope.”**³

Therefore, let us view the temporary worldly blessings as means to ensure that our book of deeds remains open for new entries eternally. Let us offer contributions to the establishment, maintenance, and betterment of awqaf. Let us not forget that it is compassion that lies in the heart of the waqf civilization. Compassion, moreover, is the manifestation of the names al-Rahman and al-Rahim of Allah the Almighty (swt).

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The oppressors, who know no rights or laws and lack mercy and conscience, are continuing to occupy the soils of our Palestinian brothers and sisters and attack bestially without discriminating children, the elderly, or the women. Let us open our hands to beg in praying to our Lord (swt) in this hour when prayers are accepted:

O Allah! You are the guardian of the lonely, and the shelter of the oppressed; treat us with Your mercy.

You are our Protector, help us against oppressors.

O Allah! For the sake of these blessed days, save our first qiblah, the Masjid al-Aqsa, and the city of prophets, al-Quds, from the occupation of the oppressors!

O Allah! Enable us and all Muslims around the world to strive for protecting the Masjid al-Aqsa, the first step to the mi'raj.

O Allah! Grant salvation to all oppressed Muslims forced out of their homes and lands who have become miserable in their own homeland.

Protect our heavenly homeland and our great nation, the hope of the oppressed and the home of the miserable, from all kinds of dangers, o Allah!

¹ Muslim, Wasiyyah, 14.

² Muslim, Wasiyyah, 15.

³ Kahf, 18/46.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ اللَّهَ غَافِلًا عَمَّا يَعْمَلُ الظَّالِمُونَ إِنَّمَا يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ

لِيَوْمٍ تَشْخَصُ فِيهِ الْأَبْصَارُ

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الظُّلُمُ ظُلُمَاتُ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ

OPPRESSION AND WRONGDOING CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states as follows, **“And never think that Allah is unaware of what the wrongdoers do. He only delays them [i.e., their account] for a Day when eyes will stare [in horror].”**¹

This verse is a hope and consolation for the oppressed, and a warning and threat for the oppressors. The oppressors who ignore this threat will find no peace either in this world or in the Hereafter. They will taste disgrace in worldly life, and a greater punishment in the Hereafter. As in the words of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), **“Oppression will be a darkness for oppressors on the Day of Resurrection.”**²

Dear Believers!

We are living at a time when feelings of mercy, conscience, and compassion are missing, oppression is second nature, and oppressors have all the support. The persecutors who recognize no rights or laws are raining bombs on the oppressed people of Palestine, without any distinction as to the children, the elderly, and the women. The raving murderers are massacring our innocent Palestinian brothers and sisters before the eyes of the international community. Those who feed on blood and tear are forcing, with pressure and violence, the Muslims living in and about al-Quds out of their homes and homelands, and usurping their right to life. They tread upon the divinity of the Masjid al-Aqsa by not recognizing the inviolability of sanctuaries. But we believe that there is no barrier between the oppressed and Allah (swt).³ Our Lord, al-Qahhar, will vanquish the oppressors, leaving them miserable.

Dear Muslims!

Believers do not take side with or laud oppression. They do not remain silent in the face of oppression or be the voice of oppressors. A believer's heart is never content with oppression. A believer stands by the truth and justice, always firmly against oppression. A believer is the enemy of oppressors and the hope of the oppressed. No matter where on the face of the earth, a believer's heart aches in the face of a bleeding wound. For a believer is submitted to Allah (swt) and a walker of the path to Him (swt). A believer knows that the grace and help of Allah (swt) will be with them as long as they are in the service of the truth and justice. As long as they uphold the truth, oppressors will never be able to inflict any harm on the oppressed and the victimized.

Dear Believers!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) states in a hadith as follows, **“Whosoever of you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand; and if he is not able to do so, then [let him change it] with his tongue; and if he is not able to do so, then with his heart — and that is the weakest of faith.”**⁴

As the cry-outs of the oppressed people reach the clouds, we as the Prophet Muhammad's ummah should come together and stand against the oppression and occupation. We should help our oppressed brothers and sisters as much as we can. We should know that the oppressors are going to have a very bitter end with the help of our Lord (swt) and the unity, discernment, courage and honorable stance of believers; and those who target peace and order are going to have their punishment sooner or later.

Dear Muslims!

What is happening in Palestine today loads important responsibilities on us. Today is the day for us to hit the road with such discernment as would fit a Muslim and submit our sincerity to our Lord (swt). Today is the day for us to embrace the Prophet Muhammad's (saw) ideal of ummah. Today is the day for us to be one with our brothers and sisters. After the Friday prayer, I will kindly invite you to extend a helping hand to our Palestinian brothers and sisters to dress their wounds. May Allah the Almighty (swt) accept our good deeds.

¹ Ibrahim, 14/42.

² Bukhari, Mazalim, 10.

³ Bukhari, Zakat, 63.

⁴ Muslim, Iman, 78.

Date: 28.05.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَكَانَ حَقًّا عَلَيْنَا نَصْرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَتُفْتَحَنَّ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّةُ فَلَنِعْمَ الْأَمِيرُ أَمِيرُهَا

وَلَنِعْمَ الْجَيْشُ ذَلِكَ الْجَيْشُ.

ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY IS THE HELPER OF BELIEVERS

Honorable Muslims!

It was the fifth year of the Hijrah. The polytheists who could not achieve their goal in the Battle of Uhud decided to launch a final attack against Madinah. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) who received the news of this had advisory talks with his Companions as he would always do. They decided to opt for a defensive war and dig a trench around Madinah. While the believers were digging the trench hand in hand, a big rock came in their way. The giant rock neither moved nor could they break it down. Just when the Companions were running out of hopes, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) showed up. On the one hand, he was breaking down the rock that his Companions had difficulty in doing, and on the other hand, he was giving the good news that the cities of Kisra and Qaisar would be conquered, even the thought of which was unlikely under the conditions of the time.¹

Dear Believers!

The Companions spread the universal messages of Islam from place to place so as to be the addressee of the Prophet Muhammad's (saw) good news. The Companions' army, including 'Iyad ibn Ghanam and Khalid ibn al-Walid, erected the blessed banner of Islam for the first time in Diyarbakır in our Anatolia and make it the first gate of Anatolia opening up to Islam. Diyarbakır, the city of Companions, has since continued to be the heart of Muslims and the stronghold of Islam, alhamdulillah.

Dear Muslims!

Our great nation's efforts to exalt the name of Allah and love of spreading the name of Allah on the face of earth, who was honored with Islam and never handed over the banner of Islam after taking it over, have never lessened. To this end,

our glorious ancestors, who tirelessly and steadfastly ran from an expedition to another and from a victory to another, made Anatolia our homeland with the Victory of Malazgirt (Manzikert). They conquered Istanbul (Constantinople) and became the addressee of the Prophet Muhammad's (saw) following glad tidings: **"One day Constantinople will be conquered. Great is the commander who will conquer it! Great are his soldiers!"**²

Dear Believers!

The conquest of Istanbul is more than ruling a city only. This conquest is the Prophet Muhammad's (saw) glad tidings, his Companions' aspiration, Abu Ayyub al-Ansari's dream, and our ancestors' devotion. This conquest, which brings to an end one epoch and starts a new one, marks the beginning of a golden age. This conquest is a victory that makes Mecca, Madinah, and al-Quds sisters with Istanbul.

Honorable Muslims!

Our Lord Almighty (swt) states in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **"... Incumbent upon Us was support of the believers."**³ Alhamdulillah, the support of our Lord (swt) has always been there for our great nation who never gives up on the right and the truth, and stands by and up for the oppressed and victimized. The victories of our nation at all fronts have been the greatest witness of this.

Dear Muslims!

Today, what falls upon us is to pass down our ancestors' great memory and glorious legacy on to the future generations. Incumbent upon us is to make every effort with all the power we have in the way of our religion, our state, our existence, and our nation. Incumbent upon us is to make no concessions on our unity and solidarity ever. Let us not forget that discord in a nation is what welcomes the enemy. No artillery can hit a nation as long as hearts beat together. Even if all unite against us, they shall not be able to divide our homeland, nor pull our flag down the post, or silence our adhan. **نَصْرُ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَكَفَتْحٌ قَرِيبٌ**

"Victory is from Allah and with His help is an imminent conquest."⁴

¹ Nasa'i, Jihad, 42.

² Ibn Hanbal, Musnad, IV, 325.

³ Rum, 30/47.

⁴ Saff, 61/13.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

...وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

نِعْمَتَانِ مَغْبُونٌ فِيهِمَا كَثِيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ: الصِّحَّةُ وَالْفَرَاغُ.

ISLAM PROHIBITS HARMFUL HABITS

Honorable Muslims!

Our sublime religion Islam enjoins the protection of life, property, mind, religion, and posterity. Everything that is useful and clean for a healthy and peaceful life is regarded halal, and everything that is harmful is regarded haram in Islam. Harmful habits that damage human mind and body, too, are included in what is regarded haram. This is because harmful habits that threaten human health and undermine spirituality not only waste people's life entrusted by our Lord (swt) but also deplete one's property and wealth that should be spent in charitable works.

Dear Believers!

Today, cigarette smoking (tobacco use) comes on top of harmful habits that surround humanity. A cigarette contains many harmful ingredients and substances in it and destroys human body slowly. Cigarette smokers, in effect, prepare their end with their own hands and endanger first and foremost the health of their own and their family as well as that of others around them by intoxicating the air we breathe in. How sad it is that over one hundred thousand people in our country lose their lives due to smoking-related illnesses every year. However, Allah the Almighty (swt) states as follows, **"Do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction."**¹

Dear Muslims!

A lot of research conducted in recent years has scientifically proven that cigarette smoking has many adverse effects on human health. Taking into consideration the damages it inflicts on both the smoker and their environment, it is clear that it can be safely interpreted as trespassing the boundaries set out by Allah (swt). For this reason, smoking a cigarette, which contains several harms, is not permissible for Muslims.

Moreover, squandering and spending our wealth irresponsibly constitutes an act of wastefulness. Wastefulness is haram in Islam. The Almighty Allah (swt) commands that we act responsibly, be cognizant of the value of blessings, and avoid wastefulness, by stating as follows, **"... Eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess."**²

Dear Believers!

In a similar vein, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) informs us that one of the two blessings many people do not know the value of is health.³

For this reason, let us appreciate the value of a healthy breath and a healthy body. Let us keep up our sensitivity, which increased in the pandemic period, also against cigarette smoking and other harmful habits. Let us fight, collectively as a nation, for our children and youth not to fall into these kinds of traps. Let us work together to raise healthy, peaceful, and happy generations.

¹ Baqarah, 2/195.

² A'raf, 7/31.

³ Bukhari, Riqaq, 1.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا
إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ
يَتَفَكَّرُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
الرَّاحِمُونَ يَرْحَمُهُمُ الرَّحْمَانُ ، إِرْحَمُوا أَهْلَ الْأَرْضِ
يَرْحَمَكُم مَن فِي السَّمَاءِ.

COMPASSION AND PEACE IN FAMILY

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states as follows, **“And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.”**¹

In the hadith I have read, the Messenger of Mercy (saw) states as follows, **“The Compassionate One (Al-Rahman) has mercy on those who are merciful. If you show mercy to those who are on the earth, He Who is in the heaven will show mercy to you.”**²

Dear Believers!

Allah the Almighty (swt) has not left humankind, the most valuable of all creation, alone on earth, and blessed them with having a family. Family is a blessing that provides one's soul with peace, tranquility, and health. It is an institution that is guarded by our Lord Almighty's (swt) grace, and beautified by love, affection, and compassion. It is a warm home where the woman is entrusted to the man, and the man is entrusted to the woman, and, in short, all family members are entrusted to each other. Family is the core and essence of the society. It is for this reason that starting a family also means building a society.

Dear Believers!

Being and maintaining a family is as important as starting one. Being a family means meeting in the same world of feelings and thoughts. It means sharing a life in line with the pleasure of Allah (swt). It means living as conscious not only of being together in this world but also in the Hereafter.

Being a family means embracing tightly all the values that keep a family standing. Compassion comes on top of the values that keep a family standing. Compassion, which is the manifestation of our Lord's (swt) name al-Rahman, means loving the created for the sake of the Creator. Compassion means not hurting anybody and not getting hurt by anybody. It means sharing, forgiving, and tolerating. It means being a tender-hearted person and speaking in the language of love.

Dear Believers!

Today, our need to train our hearts and consciences with compassion is even greater. Today, we need more than ever to take heed of the Prophet Muhammad's (saw) following advice: **“The best of you is he who is best to his family, and I am the best among you to my family.”**³

Then, let us make every effort to embellish with peace our homes, which we start in line with the commandment of Allah (swt) and the sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), to be a family, and to remain a family. Let us ensure that the language of heart, kindness, and justice prevail our home that is leavened with love. Let us enable every member of our family, particularly our children and elderly, to drink heartily from the spring of compassion. Let us work to ensure that our homes bear the marks of the happy family of the Messenger of Allah (saw), who is our guide to compassion. Let us together rebuild the civilization of compassion that starts from the family and spreads to the society.

¹ Rum, 30/21.

² Abu Dawud, Adab, 58.

³ Tirmidhi, Manaqib, 63.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ
الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي
كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلِمَ النَّاسُ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ.

CHARACTER OF A MUSLIM

Honorable Muslims!

Islam is a religion that builds an individual with certain characteristics. The principles and values that Islam puts forward build and shape our feelings, thoughts and behaviors on the one hand and contribute to the maturation of our personality on the other hand. The character that Islam aims to build in a Muslim provides answers to all questions such as the meaning and purpose of life, the essence and course of existence, the source and authenticity of knowledge, and what is good, evil, and aesthetic.

Dear Believers!

The most important asset that shapes the character of a Muslim is iman (faith) that makes the world and the Hereafter meaningful. Iman is the greatest treasure that protects an individual from drifting away in the journey of servitude to Allah (swt), and leads to eternal happiness.

After iman, what ensures the robustness of a Muslim character is the worships that bring a Muslim closer to the Lord (swt), and the good morals as the tangible outcome of worships. These two values that feed one's spirituality are distinguishing qualities of a Muslim whose mind and heart are connected to Allah (swt). For this reason, what is expected of a Muslim is to turn to

worships and good morals that are the indicators of iman. This is because worship is the reason of the creation of human and the essence of servitude to Allah (swt). Good morals, in fact, are the complete set of noble behaviors that build one's thinking and grants one a sound character.

Dear Believers!

It is stated in the Holy Qur'an as follows, "There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often."¹

Then, what falls upon us is to not drift away from the example of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), not even for a moment. We should have a posture based on tawhid, leavened with worships, and matured with morals, just like him. We should gird ourselves with the grace and honor of Islam and have a strong character that does not change according to time or place. We should always pursue benevolence and race in charitable works. We should never incline toward injustice, oppression, and violence. We should treat every living being with mercy and compassion, first and foremost our parents, spouse, and children. We should strive, as in the words of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), to be "A Muslim from whose hand and tongue everybody is safe."²

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following verse of Allah the Almighty (swt), "Indeed, those who have said, 'Our Lord is Allah' and then remained on a right course - the angels will descend upon them, [saying], 'Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised.'"³

¹ Ahzab, 33/21.

² Ibn Hanbal, VI, 22.

³ Fussilat, 41/30.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَشِقَاءٌ
لِمَا فِي الصُّدُورِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ.

SPIRITUAL CLIMATE OF THE HOLY QUR'AN

Honorable Muslims!

It was one of those days in Madinah, full of peace. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) summoned Abdullah ibn Masud and said to him, “**O Abdullah! Recite (of the Qur'an) for me.**” Abdullah was surprised for a moment and replied, “Shall I recite it to you although it had been revealed to you?” The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, “**I like to hear (the Qur'an) from others.**” Thereupon, Abdullah ibn Masud started to recite from the Surah al-Nisa. Eventually,

فَكَيْفَ إِذَا جِئْنَا مِنْ كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ بِشَهِيدٍ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ عَلَى هَؤُلَاءِ شَهِيداً

when he came to recite the verse, “So how [will it be] when We bring from every nation a witness and We bring you, [O Muhammad], against these [people] as a witness?”¹, tears started to roll down from the eyes of the Messenger of Mercy (saw) and he said, “**Stop, enough.**”²

Dear Believers!

The Qur'an is the book of Allah (swt) and the most beautiful and correct of all words. It is our source of healing, guide to salvation, and means of the mercy of Allah (swt) for us that leads us to the right path. In this regard, it is stated in one verse as follows, “**O mankind! There has come to you instruction from your Lord and healing for what is in the breasts and guidance and mercy for the believers.**”³

Right! The Holy Qur'an is a unique address by the Almighty Allah (swt) to bring people out of the darkness of unbelief and into the light of guidance. It is a voice and sigh of relief from al-

Rahman that provides ease for our overwhelmed hearts. It is the most valuable entrustment the Prophet Muhammad (saw) left for his ummah.

Dear Muslims!

Reciting, correctly understanding, and duly living up to the Holy Qur'an should be the primary purpose of our life. Enabling our children, who are the light of our eyes, to meet with the spiritual climate of the Qur'an and teaching our children its messages as well as what it regards halal and haram should be our greatest ideal. Let us not forget that our children each are entrustment to us from the Almighty Allah (swt). We can look out for this rare entrustment in the best way only through raising them in the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah. It is our most important duty to raise our children as generations with the consciousness of being a servant of Allah (swt) and ummah of the Messenger of Allah (saw), with good morals, and as beneficial people for their homeland, nation, and humanity. As in the words of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), “**There is no gift that a father gives his child more virtuous than good manners.**”⁴

Dear Believers!

A season of nice opportunity is around the corner for our children to meet with and get introduced to the Holy Qur'an, worships, and the exemplary life of the Prophet Muhammad with the summer Qur'an courses.

Let us enable our children, who are our tomorrows and the light of our eyes, to have the blessing of the Qur'an, which is the divine dinner table of the Almighty Allah (swt) on the face of earth. Let us lead the way to ensure that the hearts and minds are illuminated by the light of the Qur'an. Let us be the means to ensure that the love for Allah and His Messenger, and Islam and the Qur'an are ingrained in innocent hearts.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), “**The best among you is the one who learns the Qur'an and teaches it.**”⁵

1 Nisa, 4/41.

2 Bukhari, Fadhail al-Qur'an, 33.

3 Yunus, 10/57.

4 Tirmidhi, Birr, 33.

5 Tirmidhi, Fadhail al-Qur'an, 15.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا
لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ
فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
خَيْرُ النِّكَاحِ أَيْسَرُهُ.

THE PROPHET'S EXAMPLE IN WEDDINGS

Honorable Muslims!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) had had his beloved daughter Fatimah (ra) and his uncle's son Ali (ra) married. Fatimah's (ra) dowry consisted of a piece of velvet, a water bag, and a pillow. Fatimah's (ra) wedding dinner was free from extravagance, just like her dowry and mahr. Those who witnessed this humble wedding said, "We have not seen a wedding nicer than Fatimah's (ra)."¹

Dear Believers!

Marriage is the command of Allah (swt) and the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (saw). It is a precious beginning that leads to happiness and abundance of divine blessings in this world and peace and paradise in the Hereafter. As stated by the Prophet Muhammad (saw), marriage is conducive to "protect half of the religion".²

The marriage contract signing and weddings that are the first step to marriage are the ceremonies carried out along the testimonials and good wishes of our loved ones. A wedding announces that a new family is set up. Joys are shared and hopes for the future are strengthened. Prayers are uttered to Allah (swt) to bless spouses with compassion and mercy between them as well as granting healthy and benevolent generations.

Dear Muslims!

Our religion recommends that both our wedding preparations and marriage contract signing and wedding ceremonies be facilitated. As in all affairs of ours, it advises that our weddings be far from extravagance, and be rather humble. In this respect, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) states in a hadith as follows, "The best marriage is the one that is most easy."³

Dear Believers!

Many a youth who want to get married today, unfortunately, are overwhelmed by the wedding costs that exceed reasonable measures, and even stay away from marriage. Families find themselves having to pay debts for a long time after the wedding because of the unnecessary wedding expenditures. This causes the young couples to go through financial problems and unease in the first years of their marriage. However, the Prophetic measure is clear: "Facilitate things to people (concerning religious matters), and do not make it hard for them. Give them good tidings and do not make them run away (from Islam)."⁴

Dear Muslims!

As in all affairs of ours, let us comply with the pleasure of Allah (swt) and the Sunnah of His Messenger (saw) in our weddings, too. Let us facilitate our marriages. Let us try to hold our weddings without getting dragged into wastefulness and extravagance. Let us have fun within the limits set out by Islam, be measured and balanced, and observe halal and haram. Let us turn our weddings into means to express our gratitude to our Lord (swt) who states in the Qur'an as follows, "And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy."⁵

¹ Ibn Majah, Nikah, 24.

² Bayhaqi, Shu'ab al-Iman IV, 382.

³ Ibn Hanbal, VI, 83.

⁴ Bukhari, 'Ilm, 11.

⁵ Rum, 30/21.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ
مُصْلِحُونَ. أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِنْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
بِئْسَ الْعَبْدُ عَبْدٌ يَخْتَلُ الدُّنْيَا بِالْدِّينِ، بِئْسَ الْعَبْدُ عَبْدٌ
هَوَىٰ يَصِلُهُ.

WE ARE WITNESSES TO LOYALTY, COURAGE AND MARTYRDOM AGAINST TREASON

Honorable Muslims!

The hypocrites were disturbed by and complaining about failing to prevent the gradual spread of Islam in Madinah. Losing their strength with each passing day, the hypocrites did not hold back from disruptive activities targeting the unity of Muslims. They built a masjid so that they could come together secretly and comfortably to work against Muslims. They wanted the Prophet Muhammad (saw) to perform prayers in this masjid that is referred to as the Masjid al-Dirar in the Holy Qur'an. This way, this place would gain legitimacy and be the center of the movements to cause discord that they pursue in the city. While the Messenger of Allah (saw) was preparing to perform prayers in this masjid, the following verses were revealed that informed him of the true color of the issue: **“And [there are] those [hypocrites] who took for themselves a mosque for causing harm and disbelief and division among the believers and as a station for whoever had warred against Allah and His Messenger before. And they will surely swear, ‘We intended only the best.’ And Allah testifies that indeed they are liars. Do not stand [for prayer] within it - ever. A mosque founded on righteousness from the first day is more worthy for you to stand in...”**¹

Dear Believers!

This incident that took place while the Prophet Muhammad (saw) was still alive is one of the clearest examples of exploitation of religion. Throughout the history, too, many persons and groups have not refrained from exploitation of religion to derive benefits by taking advantage of the influence of religion on people. Today, just as in the past, we face opportunists who exploit Islamic values and concepts. However, the Prophet

Muhammad's (saw) warning is quite obvious, **“What an evil servant is the one who seeks the world through the religion! What an evil servant is the worshipper who is misled by his desire!”**²

Dear Muslims!

Five years ago, on the night of July 15, we all witnessed a treacherous coup attempt by FETO hiding behind exploitation of religion. This organization that is a network of treason targeted our independence and future. It attempted against our homeland, state, and the life of our great nation.

Let us not forget that FETO used Islam's lofty truths for their own benefits. It distorted the fundamental values and concepts of our religion. It exploited our people's religious feelings. It has never refrained from sowing the seeds of discord and dissension among us and causing disruption by presenting themselves as true Muslims. Corruption-mongers are referred to in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **“And when it is said to them, ‘Do not cause corruption on the earth,’ they say, ‘We are but reformers.’ Unquestionably, it is they who are the corrupters, but they perceive [it] not.”**³

Dear Believers!

Endless thanks and praise be to our Lord (swt) for enabling us to witness our Lord's help and the victory of the truth over the untruth on July 15. On that night, we witnessed our nation's epic resistance and courage that foiled the traitors' aspirations. We witnessed the martyrdom of our people and the valour of our veterans who used their bodies as shields for this homeland.

What falls upon us not to experience such incidences again is to lead our life with authentic religious knowledge obtained from reliable sources. We should direct our life into the right path with the guidance of the Holy Qur'an and the example of Prophet Muhammad (saw). We should never allow those to succeed who aim to exploit our national and religious values. We should stand as one body and one heart against exploiters and abusers who want to drag our country and nation into discord.

As I conclude this Friday's khutbah, I wish Allah the Almighty's (swt) mercy on our august martyrs who have from past to present sacrificed their lives in the cause of our religion, country, sovereignty and nation, and on our heroic veterans who have passed away for this cause.

¹ Tawbah, 9/107, 108.

² Tirmidhi, Sifat al-Qiyamah, 17.

³ Baqarah, 2/11-12.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ إِن صَّلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اللَّهُمَّ مِنْكَ وَلَكَ عَنْ مُحَمَّدٍ وَأُمَّتِهِ بِاسْمِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ.

A SYMBOL OF TAWHID AND A PILLAR OF ISLAM: SACRIFICE (QURBANI)

Dear Muslims!

It was an eid morning in Madinah. Believing hearts were filled to the fullest with the excitement and exhilaration for the Eid. Young and old, men and women, and children all performed the eid prayer at the prayer site next to the Masjid al-Nabawi. After the Prophet Muhammad (saw) delivered the khutbah, it was time to do the slaughtering. As was customary for him, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) had prepared two animals for sacrifice. He gently placed down the rams brought to him by having them face the qiblah and recited the following verses: **“I have turned my face [i.e. self] toward He who created the heavens and the earth, inclining toward truth, and I am not of those who associate others with Allah.”**¹ **“Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds. No partner has He.”**² Then, the Messenger of Allah (saw) prayed as follows and did the slaughtering by mentioning the name of Allah (swt): **“O Allah! These sacrifices are for you. They are presented for your pleasure by Muhammad and his ummah.”**³ **“O, Allah! Accept these sacrifices on behalf of Muhammad, the family of Muhammad and the ummah of Muhammad!”**⁴

Dear Believers!

Endless thanks and praise be to our Lord Almighty (swt) for enabling us to reach another eid. We as the Islamic world will enjoy the Eid al-Adha next Tuesday. Together we will feel the consciousness of unity and the awareness of being brothers/sisters and an ummah. Although we are not able to perform hajj, we will add our earnest prayers to the prayers offered in the holy lands. We will once again show our servitude and obedience to Allah (swt) with our qurbanis.

Dear Believers!

The worship of qurbani (sacrifice), which incorporates deep memories, has been an obligation for every community from the time of the Prophet Adam (as) to the present. It is a symbol of tawhid and an important pillar of the perspicuous religion of Islam.

Qurbani is an endeavor to gain the pleasure of Allah (swt) and piety. It is a declaration of ikhlas and sincerity, loyalty and submission, and gratitude and devotion to the Almighty Creator. It is the demonstration of the will to sacrifice, without reservation, everything we possess in the way of Allah (swt).

Dear Muslims!

The worship of sacrifice enables us to feel the happiness of spending from our wealth for the pleasure of Allah (swt) and sharing with others. It protects us from the illness of stinginess and being enslaved by worldly possessions. Our sacrifices bring us closer to our Lord (swt) while also bringing affection and happiness into the homes of those who are in need. Our sacrifices enable us to build bridges of the heart that cross geographical boundaries. Our sacrifices allow us to share the sorrows of many of our brothers and sisters, whether we know them or not, and to extend a hand of goodwill and charity to them. With the worship of qurbani, we strengthen our unity and togetherness while also keeping the spirit of helping and solidarity alive.

Honorable Believers!

The Presidency of Religious Affairs, in cooperation with the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation, continues to carry out its organization of qurbani by proxy this year, too, just as it has been for the past years. The qurbanis entrusted to us by our august nation, with the motto “Qurbani Shared, Brotherhood Cherished”, will be slaughtered according to Islamic rites and delivered to many of our brothers and sisters who are in need in our country and across the world. With your donations, you may help to build the bridges of love and brotherhood among Muslims by applying directly to our mufti offices until the evening of the first day of Eid, or by donating online through Türkiye Diyanet Foundation’s website.

Dear Believers!

As I conclude this Friday’s khutbah, I would like to make an important point. Many of our brothers and sisters will be traveling during the Eid. At this point, let us stick to the traffic rules, be patient and cautious, and protect one another’s rights. Let us not let traffic accidents turn the peace and joy of the Eid into pain and suffering!

May our Lord Almighty (swt) keep us safe from any accident, trouble, and misfortune. May Allah (swt) let us make it to the Eid in peace and well-being!

¹ An’am, 6/79.

² An’am, 6/162-163.

³ Ibn Majah, Adahi, 1; Abu Dawud, Dahaya, 3-4.

⁴ Muslim, Adahi, 19.



لِيَشْهَدُوا مَنَافِعَ لَهُمْ وَيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَّعْلُومَاتٍ
عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِنْ بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ فَاكُلُوا مِنْهَا وَأَطِيعُوا
الْبَائِسَ الْفَقِيرَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
مَا عَمِلَ آدَمِيُّ مِنْ عَمَلٍ يَوْمَ النَّحْرِ أَحَبَّ إِلَيَّ اللَّهُ مِنْ
إِهْرَاقِ الدَّمِ.

EID AL-ADHA

Dear Muslims!

Today is the tenth day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah. As in the words of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), it is the most valuable day in sight of Allah (swt).¹ Today is the blessed Eid al-Adha. It is a divine period of time when we express our servitude to our Allah (swt) through our worships and devotion, dhikr and gratitude as well as get closer to Him (swt) through our sacrifices (qurbani). Endless thanks and praises be to Allah the Almighty (swt), Who has allowed us to reach such a precious period of time. Salat and salam be to our Prophet Muhammad (saw) who taught us how to spend the days of eid.

Dear Believers!

Today, we perform the eid prayer as the first thing to do, and soon we will experience the joy of performing the worship of qurbani, inshaallah. The Messenger of Allah (swt) refers to the merit of the worship of qurbani in one hadith as follows, **“The son of Adam does not do any deed on the day of Eid al-Adha that is dearer to Allah (swt) than sacrificing an animal for Him.”**² Indeed, our sacrifice is the most precious gift we submit to our Lord (swt) to gain His pleasure. It is one of the greatest signs showing that we are in His way through our wealth and life.

Dear Muslims!

Days of eid are the times of grace and abundance of divine blessings. These are the moments to keep our brotherhood alive by remembering that we are the ummah of the Prophet Muhammad (saw). Days of eid are the times of being and making happy, and of peace

and serenity. These are the moments to please our parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and neighbors.

Dear Believers!

Days of eid are beautified through helping and sharing. Then, let us offer from our qurbani to our relatives and neighbors in order to increase our joy of the Eid. Let us share our qurbani with the poor, the orphan and the abandoned. Let us strive to follow the following recommendation of our Lord Almighty, **“... Let them mention the name of Allah on known [i.e., specific] days over what He has provided for them of [sacrificial] animals. So eat of them and feed the miserable and poor.”**³

Dear Muslims!

Days of eid are the days of brotherhood and affection. Then, let us take these rare days as an opportunity to bring an end to resentments and hard feelings between each other. Let us not forget that it is not halal for a Muslim to be cross with their brothers and sisters for more than three days.⁴

Days of eid are also the days of “silat al-rahm”, that is visiting friends and relatives. During these days, however, when we are being challenged by the pandemic, let us pay utmost attention to cleanliness, mask-wearing, and social distancing in order not to cast a shadow of sadness on our joyous days.

Let us fulfill our responsibilities in order to make the most of these blessed days. Let us bear in mind that we need to utter the takbir al-tashriq, starting from the fajr prayer on the Day of Arafat and ending with the ‘asr prayer on the fourth day of the Eid.

As I conclude this eid’s khutbah, I would like to congratulate you, our precious congregation, our august nation and the ummah of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) on the Eid al-Adha. May Allah’s (swt) peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. Eid Mubarak; I wish you all a happy Eid!

¹ Abu Dawud, Manasik, 19.

² Tirmidhi, Adahi, 1.

³ Hajj, 22/28.

⁴ Bukhari, Adab, 62.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ
فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَؤُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

حَقُّ الْمُسْلِمِ عَلَى الْمُسْلِمِ خَمْسٌ: رَدُّ السَّلَامِ، وَعِيَادَةُ
الْمَرِيضِ، وَاتِّبَاعُ الْجَنَائِزِ، وَإِجَابَةُ الدَّعْوَةِ، وَتَشْمِيتُ الْعَاطِسِ.

A MUSLIM'S RIGHTS OVER ANOTHER MUSLIM

Dear Muslims!

Thanks and praise be to our Lord Almighty (swt) for allowing us to beautifully enjoy the Eid al-Adha again. We performed our eid prayer where we strengthened our unity and togetherness. We submitted our qurbani to Allah the Almighty as one of the symbols and pillars of Islam. May our Lord (swt) accept our worships.

Days of eid are the days to express our servitude to Allah on the one hand, and win each other's hearts and strengthen our brotherhood on the other hand. This very Friday, let us lend an ear to the ethics of brotherhood as described centuries ago by the Prophet Muhammad (saw).

Dear Believers!

He (saw) informed people of the niceties that lead to Muslims' connecting with one another and establishing relations based on love: **"A Muslim owes another Muslim five rights: responding to greetings, visiting him in illness, following his funeral, accepting his invitation, and praying for him who sneezes."**¹

Right, the first thing to do which he (saw) recommends is to exchange greetings. Salam is conducive to the establishment of bridges of affection between hearts. It is a way of ensuring trust and peace as well as strengthening friendship and brotherhood. It is a requirement of faith, assurance of trust, and perfect form of love.

Dear Muslims!

The second recommendation the Messenger of Allah (saw) makes is to visit the sick. A visit as such that reminds us of the fact that we may lose our health any time and that we need each other is a means to obtain the endless grace of our Lord (swt). Angels pray for believers who pay a visit to the sick for the sake of Allah (swt) as follows, **"How nice it is that you did like this! May the steps you take be auspicious, and may you have a home in paradise!"**²

The third recommendation the Prophet Muhammad (saw) makes is to attend funerals. Attending the funeral prayer of a brother/sister of ours, expressing our testimony in a positive way, joining the burial process, and extending condolences to the deceased's relatives are both a religious and human duty. However, it is important under today's circumstances both for ourselves and the health of those around us to observe some measures such as social distancing and mask wearing. As always, a believer seeks refuge in Allah, who is al-Rahman, on sorrowful days as well. They find solace in the following divine words that please the Almighty Allah (swt): **"إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ"** **"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return."**³

Dear Muslims!

The fourth recommendation that the Prophet Muhammad (saw) makes is to accept the invitation of a Muslim brother/sister. It is one of the ethical behaviors of the Prophet to accept the invitation from and please another Muslim brother/sister to the extent allowed by circumstances and means.

The fifth recommendation made by the Prophet Muhammad (saw) is to pray for another Muslim when they sneeze. In this respect, he (saw) recommends that Muslims witnessing the sneezing of another Muslim should express wishes of health and guidance for one another as follows: **"When one of you sneezes, say يَرْحَمُكَ اللَّهُ. Your companion should say أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ. May Allah (swt) have mercy on you.' Then the sneezer should say يَهْدِيكُمْ اللَّهُ وَيُصْلِحْ بِالْكَمِّ. May Allah guide you."**⁴

Dear Believers!

Of course, our rights over each other are not only limited to these five recommendations. We have other responsibilities such as doing good to our family, neighbors, and relatives; take the orphan under our wings; and observe the needs of those who are in need.

Then, let us not deny our love, compassion, and mercy to each other. Let us share the joys and sorrows of our brothers and sisters. Let us strive, until our last breath, to observe the ethics and responsibilities of brotherhood.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following prayer taught to us in the Holy Qur'an by our Lord Almighty (swt): **"Our Lord, forgive us and our brothers who preceded us in faith. Put not in our hearts [any] resentment toward those who have believed. Our Lord, indeed, You are Kind and Merciful."**⁵

¹ Bukhari, Jana'iz, 2.

² Tirmidhi, Birr, 64.

³ Baqarah, 2/156.

⁴ Bukhari, Adab, 126.

⁵ Hashr, 59/10.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِتَّقِ اللَّهَ حَيْثُمَا كُنْتَ...

SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD NATURAL DISASTERS

Dear Muslims!

We as humans are created within and in need of an environment. For us, environment means life; it means the color, harmony, health and unity of life. The universe is a work of the Almighty Allah, which He (swt) has entrusted to human. For this reason, we as the most honorable caliph on earth are obligated to protect all humans and all created beings, alive or inanimate, and treat them with compassion and mercy. When we fulfil this responsibility of ours, we become more prosperous along with our environment. Otherwise, it is not only the heavens and earth that will be harmed, but also all of us and our future will be harmed as well.

Dear Believers!

The recent disasters have deeply saddened all of us. We have been already striving to dress the wounds caused by the floods. On the other hand, we have been fighting against forest fires that burn our hearts. While going through these challenging times, we should remember once again that we can mitigate loss of life and property in the face of disasters, such as floods, landslides, fires, earthquakes, droughts and pandemic diseases, only by taking necessary precautions and measures. This is because natural phenomena occur according to the Sunnah of Allah, that is the divine laws and order, in a cause and effect relationship. Therefore, a Muslim must not neglect their responsibilities and openly allow for anything that might lead to disasters. They must not take any step to disturb the natural balances on

earth. The majority of the bitter results of disasters are due mostly to our own mistakes and neglects. The Holy Qur'an Explains it in this way: **"Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned."**¹

Dear Muslims!

The Almighty Allah (swt) states in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **"Do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction."**² So, let us take reasonable and proper steps in line with the realities of the natural balances inherent in regions of high risk of floods, landslides and earthquakes. Let us avoid any neglect and irresponsible behavior that might cause the outbreak of a fire. When it comes to those persons who deliberately set our forests on fire, target our homeland, and attempt the lives of our nation, the curse of Allah (swt), angels, humans, and all living beings who have lost their lives by burning alive is going to haunt them down in this world and in the Hereafter. In this world and in the Hereafter, they will suffer the punishment for what they have done.

Dear Believers!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) states in one hadith as follows, **"Be wary of your responsibilities toward Allah wherever you are!"**³ Then, let us be aware of the responsibilities incumbent upon us. So, let us draw lessons from bitter experiences. Let us all get prepared against natural disasters for a safe and secure life. Let us be on alert and notify relevant authorities against all kinds of disasters and emergency situations, particularly against forest fires on these very summer days.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Lord's (swt) mercy upon our brothers and sisters who have lost their lives because of disasters, condolences to their relatives, and speedy recovery to the injured.

¹ Rum, 30/41.

² Baqarah, 2/195.

³ Tirmidhi, Birr, 55.

Date: 06.08.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادُّهِمْ وَتَرَاحُمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ مَثَلُ

الْجَسَدِ إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ

بِالسَّهْرِ وَالْحُمَى.

SOLIDARITY IN OVERCOMING HARDSHIPS

Dear Muslims!

Last week, we had to face the reality of disasters once again. Alhamdulillah, most of the fires erupted in our forests, the lungs of our heavenly homeland, are extinguished. In some areas, firefighting efforts are ongoing. May the Almighty Allah (swt) enable us to overcome this disaster, too, in the shortest time possible. May Allah (swt) never ever let any such sufferings hit us again.

Dear Believers!

We are saddened today, right; we have a grave suffering. Every one of us is broken by the loss of our brothers and sisters, the burning down of our forests, and the loss of innocent animals. But we know and believe that there is no challenge that we cannot overcome as long as we unite around the values that make us “us” and keep our brotherly spirit alive. Throughout history, we have overcome numerous adversities with the help of Allah (swt), the resolve of our state, and the perseverance of our nation. Today, too, no obstacle can stand in our way as long as we stand together as a state and a nation. There is no hardship that we cannot overcome as long as our hearts beat together.

Moreover, the good news from our Lord (swt) is clear: **“For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease [i.e., relief]. Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.”**¹

Dear Muslims!

Today is the day to unite, not fall apart. Today is the day to keep our unity, togetherness, and love alive. Today is the day to share our pain and suffering just as we do our joy and delight. In this respect, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) describes believers as follows, **“The similitude of believers in regard to mutual love, affection and fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches because of sleeplessness and fever.”**²

Dear Believers!

There are responsibilities that fall upon every one of us today, just like the ant that ran to put out the fire into which the Prophet Ibrahim (as) was thrown. Above all, we must remain calm and composed. We must see being aware, sensitive and precautionary in the face of disasters, such as fires, floods, earthquakes, and pandemic diseases, as a national struggle. We must notify the relevant authorities, wherever and whenever required. Let us not forget that even the smallest mistake or negligence can have serious consequences.

I would like to use this occasion to wish the mercy of Allah the Almighty (swt) on those who have lost their lives in disasters, particularly in fires, and speedy recovery for those who have been injured. May our Lord Almighty (swt) facilitate the works of our brothers/sisters who have been risking their lives in the fight against disasters, and be their helper.

¹ Sharh, 94/5-6.

² Muslim, Birr, 66.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ

وَاصْبِرُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَفْضَلُ الصِّيَامِ بَعْدَ صِيَامِ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ شَهْرُ اللَّهِ الْمُحَرَّمِ

BETRACHTEN WIR KERBELA MIT WEISHEIT UND LERNEN DARAUS

Geehrte Muslime!

Am vergangenen Montag war der erste Tag des Monats *Muharram*. *Alhamdulillah* (gelobt und gedankt sei Allah), haben wir ein weiteres neues *Hidschrah*-Jahr erreicht. Ich wünsche mir von unserem Schöpfer, dass unser 1443. neues Jahr nach der *Hidschrah* (Auswanderung) für unsere geliebte Nation, für die islamische Welt und für die gesamte Menschheit segensreich sein wird.

Verehrte Muslime!

Der *Hidschrah*-Kalender beginnt mit der Auswanderung unseres Propheten (saw.) und seiner Gefährten von Mekka nach Medina. Die *Hidschrah* ist nicht nur eine Reise von einem Ort zum anderen. *Hidschrah* ist ein Ausdruck aufrichtiger Hingabe, Loyalität und Ergebenheit gegenüber Allah und Seinem gesegneten Gesandten. *Hidschrah* ist der Name der Reise zur Wahrheit und Wahrhaftigkeit, zur Moral und Weisheit, indem man sich von Falschheit, nutzlosen Dingen und allen Arten von Wünschen und Begierden, die das Leben verschwenden, entfernt. *Hidschrah* ist die Geschichte von Hilfsbereitschaft, Solidarität, vom Teilen, von Freundschaft und Brüderlichkeit.

Verehrte Muslime!

Der erste Monat unseres *Hidschrah*-Jahres ist *Muharram*. *Muharram* bedeutet Respekt-würdig. Die Vorzüglichkeit und Segen dieses Monats sind im Überfluss, und die Segnung und Fülle darin durch Allah sind reichlich. Tatsächlich verkündete uns der Gesandte Allahs (saw.), dass das vorzüglichste Fasten, nach dem Fasten im Monat Ramadan, das Fasten im Monat *Muharram* ist.¹

Geschätzte Muslime!

Nächsten Mittwoch ist der 10. *Muharram*, der *Aschura*-Tag. Als unser geliebter Prophet (saw.) nach Medina auswanderte, sah er, dass die Juden am *Aschura*-Tag fasteten und er fragte sie nach dem Grund. Die Juden sagten: „Heute ist ein großer Tag, an dem Gott Moses und sein Volk rettete und den Pharao und sein Volk im Meer ertränkte. Als Danksagung hat Moses heute gefastet, und zu diesem Zweck fasten wir auch.“ Daraufhin sagte der Gesandte Allahs (saw.): „**Wir sind Moses näher als ihr**“, und empfahl seiner *Ummah*

(Glaubensgemeinschaft), einen Tag vor oder nach dem Tag der *Aschura* hinzufügend am *Aschura*-Tag zu fasten.³

Geehrte Muslime!

Der *Aschura*-Tag ist auch der Tag der Ereignisse in *Kerbela*; der Tag einer großen Traurigkeit, die uns das Herz bricht, wenn wir uns daran erinnern. Das ist der Tag, an dem der geliebte Enkel des Propheten (saw.), der ehrenwerten *Hussayn*, den unser Prophet als: „**Meine Blume in dieser Welt; mein Basilikum**“⁴, und als: „**Der Anführer der Jugend des Paradieses**“⁵, bezeichnete und mehr als 70 Gläubige aus dem *Ahl al-Bayt-i Mustafa* (der Verwandtschaft des Propheten saw.) stammten in *Kerbela* getötet und zu Märtyrern wurden. Der ehrenwerte *Hussayn* und seine Gefolgschaft, errichteten einen Thron in den Herzen aller Gläubigen durch ihren Widerstand gegen die Ungerechtigkeit und gegen die Unterdrückung und durch ihre aufrichtige Haltung für die Gerechtigkeit. Diejenigen, die ihnen diese Grausamkeiten antaten, werden im kollektiven Gewissen der Muslime verurteilt.

Geschätzte Muslime!

Kerbela ist die gemeinsame Trauer und der Herzschmerz unserer Geschichte von uns allen, der gesamten islamischen *Ummah*. Es ist traurig, dass heute noch neue *Kerbela*s in der islamischen Geografie aus Gier und Profit erlebt werden, weil wir nicht genügend Lehren aus den schmerzhaften Ereignissen der Vergangenheit gezogen haben. Obwohl es doch die Pflicht jedes Muslims ist, der jedes Mal, wenn der Name des ehrenwerten *Hussayn* erwähnt wird, mit einem schmerzhaften „*ach*“ ihm gedenkt, *Kerbela* richtig zu erfassen und zu verstehen. Um keine weiteren *Kerbela*s zu erleben, müssen wir uns das Bewusstsein des *Tawhid*-Glaubens (absoluter Monotheismus) und das Bewusstsein des *Wahdah*-Glaubens (Eins-Sein und Einzigartigkeit Allahs) fest anlegen und unsere Einheit und Solidarität schützen; auf der Seite der Wahrheit sein und auf dem Weg der Wahrhaftigkeit gehen. Es bedeutet, in Zeiten der Unruhen und Aufwiegelungen (*Fitna*) mit Weitsicht und Tiefsinnigkeit die Wahrheit zu sehen; genauso wie der ehrenwerte *Hussayn* sich gegen die Unterdrückung und Ungerechtigkeit zu stellen.

Bei dieser Gelegenheit wünsche ich allen unseren Märtyrern, die ihr Leben für unsere Heiligtümer geopfert haben, allen voran *Hussayn* – dem *Sayyid al-Schuhada* (dem Anführer der Märtyrer) – die Barmherzigkeit Allahs, des Allmächtigen.

Ich beende meine Predigt mit dem folgenden Vers unseres Schöpfers: „**Gehorcht Allah und Seinem Gesandten und streitet nicht miteinander, damit ihr nicht kleinmütig werdet und eure Kraft euch verloren geht. Und seid standhaft; siehe, Allah ist mit den Standhaften.**“⁶

¹ Tirmizî, Savm, 40.

² Müslim, Sıyâm, 128.

³ İbn Hanbel, I, 240.

⁴ Buharî, Fezâil-ü Ashâbi'n-Nebî, 22.

⁵ Tirmizî, Menâkıb, 30.

⁶ Al-Anfal, 8/46.

Date: 20.08.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى يُحِبُّ إِذَا عَمِلَ أَحَدُكُمْ عَمَلًا أَنْ يُتْقِنَهُ.

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN OUR DEEDS

Dear Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty Allah (swt) states as follows, **“Do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good.”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our beloved Prophet (saw) says, **“Allah loves someone who, when working, performs it in a perfect manner.”**²

Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion Islam enjoins that when we do something, we do it properly. It advises us to make every effort to do the task in the finest and most correct manner possible. It considers any improper deed, worship, attitude, or behaviour to be undesirable.

Dear Muslims!

Each of us is first accountable for practicing Islam properly as required of us as servants of our Lord (swt). Practicing Islam properly entails living our lives as though we were seeing our Lord. It is to embrace and abide by the teachings revealed to us by Allah and His Messenger (saw) with full devotion. It is to make no concession on tawhid in faith, ikhlas in worship, righteousness in behaviours, and properness in deed. It is to pass this world's test

without succumbing to our nafs, avarice, and aspirations, as well as Satan's whispering.

Dear Believers!

A Muslim is expected to utilize their time wisely and to provide the greatest results in their actions. Bringing out the finest in one's acts is dependent on having good intentions first and then dealing with one's deeds with the joy of worship. Any responsible and conscientious Muslim observes fairness and sincerity in all aspects of life. They live by the truth, righteousness and honesty. They regard the responsibilities assigned to them as entrusted to them and perform them with zeal. They put every effort to produce the greatest results in the shortest amount of time and in the most beneficial quality.

Dear Muslims!

Exercising excellence in whatever we do is one of our responsibilities, both to Allah (swt) and to others. When we disregard our responsibilities, we are essentially deceiving ourselves since we will have to account for it before our Lord (swt). Let us not forget that those who execute their work in accordance with Allah's (swt) Sunnah and leave the rest to His discretion after taking the necessary precautions will be successful both in this world and in the Hereafter. I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following verse, **“Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - indeed, We will not allow to be lost the reward of any who did well in deeds.”**³

¹ Baqarah, 2/195.

² Bayhaqi, Shu'ab al-Iman, 4/334.

³ Kahf, 18/30.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنْ يَنْصُرْكُمُ اللَّهُ فَلَا غَالِبَ لَكُمْ وَإِنْ يَخْذَلْكُمْ فَمَنْ

ذَا الَّذِي يَنْصُرُكُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَخَدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ وَهُوَ

عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ.

UNDEFEATABLE WITH THE HELP OF ALLAH

Dear Muslims!

Our Lord Almighty (swt) states in the verse I have recited as follows, **“If Allah should aid you, no one can overcome you; but if He should forsake you, who is there that can aid you after Him? Upon Allah let the believers rely.”**¹

Our beloved Prophet (saw) states in the hadith I have read as follows, **“There is no god but Allah. Nor is there any partner with Him. Sovereignty belongs to Him. He is potent over everything. There is no might or power except with Allah.”**²

Dear Believers!

It was one of those days under ‘Umar’s (ra) caliphate. Diyarbakır was conquered, and the gates of Anatolia were opened to Islam, with the help of Allah the Almighty (swt) and the valor and sacrifice of the Companions under the command of ‘Iyad ibn Ghanam. On another August day back then, Anatolia has become the eternal home for Islam and Muslims with the Victory of Manzikert (Malazgirt). These sacred lands watered with the blood of martyrs from that day until the present have been the symbol of right and truth, safety and bravery, order and

peace; the enemy of the oppressor and the friend of the oppressed.

Dear Muslims!

Our glorious history bears witness that the goal of our ancestors was not just a mere fighting or gaining world dominance. Our ancestors, may they rest in heaven, embarked on expeditions with one aim in mind “Either I become victorious and achieve my goal, or I die a martyr and go to heaven.” With shouts of “Allah! Allah!”, they defended their homeland without hesitation despite the fact that they knew they were soon about to die. They ran from one victory to another in the cause of exalting the word of Allah (swt) and ensuring justice and mercy prevailed all over the world. It is precisely this spirit that has helped us win numerous victories in Augusts throughout history. We fought with the same spirit in Manzikert, Mohacs, Sakarya, the Great Offensive, as well as against all terrorist organizations and powers of evil.

Dear Believers!

What falls upon us today is to keep this spirit fresh and alive, and elevate it. It is incumbent upon us to make no concessions on our unity, togetherness, and brotherhood. It is our responsibility to unite around the values that make us “us” and that make us a nation. Let us not forget that no force can defeat what and whoever Allah the Almighty (swt) helps.

I would like to use this occasion to wish our Lord Almighty’s (swt) mercy on our glorious martyrs and deceased heroic veterans, who have been ablaze with the flames of love for Allah’s (swt) name to prevail across the world from the time of the Prophet Adam (as) until now, and sacrificed their lives for our sacred values.

¹ Al-i ‘Imran, 3/160.

² Muslim, Masajid, 139.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ

غَفُورٌ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ الْعُلَمَاءَ وَرَكَّةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ.

ALLAH MAKES THE PATH OF PARADISE EASY FOR SEEKERS OF KNOWLEDGE

Dear Muslims!

One day, our Prophet (saw) told about the value of knowledge to his Companions as follows: **“He who follows a path in quest of knowledge, Allah will make the path of Jannah easy to him. The angels lower their wings over the seeker of knowledge, being pleased with what he does. The inhabitants of the heavens and the earth and even the fish in the depth of the oceans seek forgiveness for him. The superiority of the learned man over the devout worshipper is like that of the full moon to the rest of the stars (i.e., in brightness). The learned are indeed the heirs of the Prophets. The Prophets bequeath neither dinar nor dirham but only that of knowledge. And he who acquires it has in fact acquired an abundant portion.”**¹

Dear Believers!

One of the wisdoms and purposes of Islam is to teach people the paths that lead to the right and truth, as well as to remove ignorance. People of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds need education and training, as well as decent manners and a moral code. This is because people can only make sense of revelation through knowledge and education. They render their world prosperous through knowledge and education. They illuminate their hearts, souls, and consciences through knowledge. They figure out the reason for their existence through knowledge. They equip themselves with morals and manners through knowledge.

Dear Muslims!

The source of knowledge (‘ilm) is Allah the Almighty (swt). He (swt) is al-Alim, the All-Knowing. He (swt) is Who taught man that which he knew not and Who taught by the pen. Knowledge is thus beneficial inasmuch as it draws one closer to Allah (swt) and faith. Otherwise, knowledge-related activities that seek to gain worldly benefits while driving individuals into darkness and peoples into strife are worthless in the eyes of Allah (swt). Such a quest is futile as the Qur’anic verse clearly states: **“[They are] those whose effort is lost in worldly life, while they think that they are doing well in work.”**²

Dear Believers!

It is stated in the Holy Qur’an as follows, **“Only those fear Allah, from among His servants, who have knowledge. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Forgiving.”**³ Right, knowledge is a tool that allows us to come to know our Lord Almighty more thoroughly and to feel love and reverence for Him (swt) in our hearts at all times. Moreover, any knowledge or practice that benefits humanity is valued. However, worldly peace and happiness in the Hereafter may be obtained only via knowledge that is put into practice. This is so critical that our beloved Prophet (saw) sought shelter in Allah (swt) from the knowledge which does not benefit.⁴

Dear Muslims!

After a long break, our children, the light of our eyes, are finally returning to school, alhamdulillah! Let us not forget, however, that there are responsibilities incumbent upon every one of us in the fight against the pandemic so that our children do not have to be separated from their schools again, and let us not make any compromises in taking all kinds of measures.

I would like to use this occasion to invoke the Almighty Allah (swt) to protect our children and us from any material or spiritual diseases that may hit our hearts or bodies, and to wish all the success for our teachers and children.

¹ Tirmidhi, ‘Ilm, 19.

² Kahf, 18/104.

³ Fatir 35/28.

⁴ Nasa’i, Isti’adha, 13.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ

فَاسْعَوْا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ

تَعْلَمُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

خَيْرُ يَوْمٍ طَلَعَتْ عَلَيْهِ الشَّمْسُ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ...

SALAT AL-JUMU‘AH (FRIDAY PRAYER): MUSLIMS’ WEEKLY GATHERING

Dear Muslims!

It was another Friday like today. Our beloved Prophet (saw) finally made it to Madinah after a challenging travel during the Hijrah. The dhuhr time had already arrived when he (saw) arrived at the place called al-Ranuna. The Messenger of Allah (saw) delivered a khutbah to the believers who had gathered there to welcome him (saw), and led the first Friday prayer.

Upon this event, which took place during the Hijrah, the day of Friday was set out as a day of eid, when Muslims come together weekly. Every Friday since that day, we too have been experiencing immense happiness and excitement. It is because Friday is an exceptional day for our weekly revival. It is the name of standing before our Lord (swt) after distancing ourselves from all worldly concerns. It is the time to reaffirm our bond of devotion to Allah (swt) and to pray to Him, knowing that prayers are not rejected on this day.

Dear Believers!

Today, our most important responsibility is to perform the Friday prayer. Allah the Almighty (swt) states in the verse I have recited at the beginning of my khutbah, **“O you who have believed! When [the adhan] is called for the prayer on the day of Jumu‘ah [Friday], then proceed to the remembrance of Allah and leave trade. That is better for you, if you only knew.”**¹

The believers devoted to this verse of our Lord (swt) get ready for the Friday prayer by suspending all worldly busynesses. They follow the example of our Prophet (saw) and perform ghusl if possible. They perform wudu properly. They take extra care to ensure their clothes are clean. They wear pleasant fragrances. When they arrive at a mosque, they behave in accordance with the spirit of worship. They observe the orderliness of the rows. They avoid creating any noise or causing their brothers any discomfort.

They listen to the Friday khutbah with a sense of worship, in silence, and attentively. It is because the khutbah is a requirement for the Friday prayer. Talking with other people or being preoccupied with our phones or other things during the khutbah would cause us to miss the core of the khutbah and miss out on its merits. The Prophet’s (saw) warning in this regard is quite clear: **“If you (even) ask your companion to be quiet on Friday while the imam is delivering the sermon, you have in fact talked irrelevance.”**²

Dear Muslims!

It is a serious sin to skip Friday prayer when there is no valid religious reason to do so. The Messenger of Allah (saw) cautions us against this by saying: **“Whoever does not establish Friday prayer three times because he does not care about it, Allah sets a seal on his heart.”**³

Therefore, let us take advantage of the merits and abundance of divine blessings of Friday, which is the best day on which the sun rises.⁴ Let us make Friday a chance to remember Allah together, worship Him (swt), and to deepen our brotherly ties. Let us acquaint our children with Friday prayer and welcome our youth to the peacefulness of Friday. Let us run to mosques on Fridays with all members of our family just as it was in the ‘Asr al-Sa‘adah. I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with our beloved Prophet’s (saw) following hadith: **“He who performed ablution well, then came to Friday prayer, listened (to the khutbah), all (his sins) between that time and the next Friday would be forgiven.”**⁵

¹ Jumu‘ah, 62/9.

² Muslim, Jumu‘ah, 11.

³ Ibn Majah, Iqamat, 93.

⁴ Muslim, Jumu‘ah, 18.

⁵ Muslim, Jumu‘ah, 27.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ إِلَّا أَنْ
تَكُونَ تِجَارَةً عَنْ تَرَاضٍ مِنْكُمْ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ
بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

التَّاجِرُ الصَّدُوقُ الْأَمِينُ مَعَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ
وَالشُّهَدَاءِ.

AWARENESS OF HALAL AND HARAM IN COMMERCIAL LIFE

Dear Muslims!

The Messenger of Allah (saw) had a habit. He (saw) would go to the Madinah market, exchange greetings with people there, and assess the market's status. While wandering around the market one day, he (saw) came upon a wheat seller. He checked the heap of wheat with his hand. The top of the mound was dry while the bottom was moist. When asked why, the seller claimed it was because of the rain. Thereupon, our beloved Prophet (saw) warned the seller as follows, **"Why did you not place this (the drenched part of the heap) over other eatables so that the people could see it? Whoever deceives us is not one of us."**¹

Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion Islam commands that we earn our income in halal and legitimate ways. It bans any transaction in which Allah's (swt) pleasure, human rights, and halal-haram sensitivity are not observed. In this regard, Allah the Almighty (swt) states in the verse I have recited at the beginning of the khutbah as follows, **"O you who have believed! Do not consume one another's wealth unjustly but only [in lawful] business by mutual consent, and do not kill yourselves [or one another]. Indeed, Allah is to you ever Merciful."**²

Dear Muslims!

The most important principles of business ethics, according to Islam, are integrity and honesty. A Muslim is someone from whose hands and tongue others are safe. A Muslim is someone who always

instills trust in others about their affairs and business. They know that they will earn the pleasure of Allah (swt) to the extent that they are down-to-earth and honest, whether they are selling or buying something. They never resort to lies and deceptions. It is because the wealth obtained through dishonesty and deception brings no benefit.

Dear Believers!

A Muslim who believes in Allah (swt) and the Day of Judgment does not engage in haram and illegitimate means of making a living in their business. They do not participate in deceit or unfairness while measuring and weighing their items for sale. They do not swear an oath to sell their items for sale. They avoid black-marketing and do not act opportunistically. They do not victimize individuals by overcharging. They do not engage in unfair competition or intervene while a seller and buyer are in the middle of bargaining. In summary, they do not succumb to worldly desires and turn to haram.

Dear Muslims!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) states in one hadith as follows, **"An honest and trustworthy merchant will be with the prophets, the righteous, and the martyrs on the Day of Judgment."**³ So, let us not neglect our life in the Hereafter while earning our living in this temporary world. Let us be certain that not even a morsel-sized haram enters our mouths. May divine blessings abound in our homes and on our plates. May our ethics be founded on non-wastefulness, moderation, gratitude and contentedness.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following advice from the Ahi Institution, the essence of which is rooted in Islam's universal principles: **"Control your hand, tongue, and what is under the belt! Keep your door and heart open, and stand in good conscience! Pay close attention to your spouse, job, and food! Do not look at haram, do not eat haram, and do not drink haram! Do not purposefully or unintentionally mismeasure anything! Do not fall prey to worldly possessions! Know to forgive when you are strong, and know to keep calm when you are angry!"**

¹ Muslim, Iman, 164.

² Nisa, 4/29.

³ Tirmidhi, Buyu', 4.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

... وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْحَسْبُ الْمَالُ وَالْكَرْمُ التَّقْوَى.

TAQWA (PIETY): BEING CONSCIOUS OF MAINTAINING ALLAH'S PLEASURE

Dear Muslims!

One day, our Prophet (saw) said to his Companions, **"I know such a verse that if people embrace it, it will be enough for all of them."** Then, he recited the following verse, **"Whoever fears Allah – He will make for him a way out."**¹

Through these words of his, the Messenger of Allah (saw) teaches us that the way out of all kinds of problems and hardships, as well as to attain happiness in this world and in the Hereafter is taqwa.

Dear Believers!

Taqwa is the consciousness of keeping our Lord's pleasure alive. It is the desire to demand His love. It is the fear of losing His pleasure with us. It is the lifelong endeavor to live responsibly. Having taqwa is like the sensitivity we have in order not to let our body be harmed while we are walking on a thorny path. Just like we would pay attention to our body not getting any injury while walking on such a path, the name of our struggle to avoid sins and haram in our life is taqwa.

Dear Muslims!

The first level of taqwa is the kalimat al-tawhid, which is the essence of Islam. In other words, it is to say **لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ** "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His Messenger." Muslims who have taqwa confirm it through their hearts and acknowledge it through their tongues. They have faith in Allah (swt), who has created us from nothing, and in the Prophet (saw), who taught us the religion. They love Allah (swt) and His Messenger (saw) more than anything and anybody else.

The second level of taqwa is obedience to Allah (swt) and His Messenger (saw). As stated in the Holy Qur'an, the noblest one in the sight of Allah is the one who has the most taqwā (i.e., consciousness and fear of Allah, piety and righteousness).² Devotion and obedience can be ensured through embracing taqwa. A Muslim girding oneself with taqwa demonstrates the effort to fulfill all requirements of Islam, performs their prayers in awe and in the most proper manner, and spends from the sustenance bestowed upon them in the cause of Allah (swt). They uphold justice and keep their promises. They observe human rights and public rights. They act well towards their parents, relatives, neighbors, as well as those they know or they do not know in person. They pay attention to halal and properly earned income. They employ their hands, tongues, eyes, and hearts always in acts with which Allah (swt) will be pleased.

The top level of taqwa is to remove everything from our heart except Allah (swt). The Prophet Muhammad (saw) pointed his hand at his chest three times and said, **"This is where taqwa is."**³ Muslims who have taqwa avoid ill feelings polluting their hearts, bad habits, and rude behaviors. They view committing great sins, which darken the heart, and insisting on small sins as a piece of glowing coal.

Dear Believers!

The Prophet Muhammad says, **"Wealth elevates one in the sight of people, and taqwa in the sight of Allah."**⁴ So, let us embrace taqwa that will increase our value in sight of Allah (swt) and make our faces brighter in this world and in the Hereafter. Let us keep away from being rebellious against our Lord, engaging in affairs to invoke His wrath, and showing up before Him with darkened faces on the Day of Judgment. Let us not forget that Allah the Almighty (swt) views those having taqwa as His allies. He (swt) heralds that for the allies of Allah there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve.⁵

¹ Darimi, Riqaq, 16; Talaq, 65/2.

² Hujurat, 49/13.

³ Muslim, Birr, 32.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Tafsir al-Qur'an, 49.

⁵ Yunus, 10/62-63.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ
وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ
فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَنْ يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِذَا رَأَيْتُمُ الرَّجُلَ يَتَعَاهدُ الْمَسْجِدَ فَاشْهَدُوا لَهُ
بِالْإِيمَانِ.

LOYALTY TO MOSQUES

Dear Muslims!

There was a woman in the 'Asr al-Sa'adah who would devote her time to the upkeep and cleaning of the Masjid al-Nabawi. When the Messenger of Allah (saw) could not see the woman, he (saw) grew concerned and asked his Companions about her. The Companions told him that the woman had passed away. Then, our Prophet (saw) expressed his sadness by saying, **"Why did you not inform me?"** Thereafter, he (saw) went to the woman's tomb, performed funeral prayer for her, and prayed to Allah (swt) for her.¹

This behavior of the Prophet (saw) is such a fine example of the loyalty expressed for those who are in the service of Allah's (swt) masjids.

Dear Believers!

The Ka'bah in Mecca is the first place of worship and a source of abundance of divine blessings and guidance. Every masjid and mosque on the face of the earth is a branch of the Ka'bah.

Our mosques and masjids are the "Bayt Allah", i.e. the house of Allah (swt). They are the symbol of Islam, the heart of tawhid, and the amplified sound of wahdat. They are the heart of our cities and lives. They are the wellspring of science, knowledge, and wisdom. Mosques and masjids, in the words of the Prophet (saw), are the most favorable places in the sight of Allah (swt).²

Dear Muslims!

Our mosques and masjids are indicators of our devoutness to the Ka'bah, the Masjid al-

Nabawi, and the Masjid al-Aqsa. We learn about the word of Allah (swt) in these places. In these places, we meet with the heirs of the Prophet (saw). We go through Divine and Prophetic education in these places. In these places, we are taught the rules and conventions of good manners. We embrace unity and solidarity, as well as brotherhood and loyalty, again in these places.

Dear Believers!

It is stated in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **"The mosques of Allah are only to be maintained by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day and establish prayer and give zakah and do not fear except Allah..."**³ Right, building a mosque is important. But what is even more important is to render our mosques prosperous with our presence. More important is to bring our hearts and minds together in the peaceful climate of our mosques. More important is to make our mosques lively by the presence of our women, men, children, youth, and elderly. More important is to strengthen our commitment to our Lord (swt) and to one another in our mosques, which serve as schools of wisdom.

Dear Muslims!

Every year, the 1-7 October is observed as "the Mosques and Religious Officials Week" in our country. Our Presidency's theme for the Week this year is "Mosques, Religious Officials, and Loyalty". Throughout the Week, we will have a deeper understanding of the place of mosques in our lives and hearts. We will remember with gratitude our men of loyalty, selfless religious officials, and servants of places of worship who have devoted their lives to serving for religion, and the deceased from among our great nation who have contributed to the construction and improvement of mosques.

I pray to our Lord Almighty (swt) that the Mosques and Religious Officials Week be auspicious. I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following hadith of Prophet (saw) that demonstrates the importance of devoutness to mosques and congregations: **"If you see a man who regularly comes to the masjid/mosque, then bear witness to his faith."**⁴

¹ Bukhari, Salat, 72.

² Muslim, Masajid, 288.

³ Tawbah, 9/18.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Iman, 8; Ibn Majah, Masajid, 19.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ

لِغَدٍّ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَا أَنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا كَرَائِبٍ اسْتَظَلَّ تَحْتَ شَجَرَةٍ ثُمَّ

رَاحَ وَتَرَكَهَا.

ENDLESS LIFE: AKHIRAH (AFTERLIFE)

Honorable Muslims!

It was back in the 'Asr al-Sa'adah. A man entered the Masjid al-Nabawi in a hurry and, with his sonorous voice, asked our Prophet, "O Messenger of Allah, when is the final hour?" He repeated the same question three times without lowering his voice even though the Prophet's Companions beckoned him to hush. The Prophet first led the prayer and then asked, "Where is that person who asked about the final hour?" The man replied, "It is me, o Messenger of Allah." The Prophet asked, "So, what have you prepared for the final hour?" The man replied, "I do not have many good deeds. But I really love Allah and His Messenger very much." The Prophet (saw) said, "A man will be with whom he loves, and you will also be with whom you love."¹ Thus, the Messenger of Allah (saw) reminds his ummah that they should not inquire about when the final hour is but prepare for it.

Dear Believers!

This world is a place of trials and a guesthouse. It is the cropland and preparation stage for the Afterlife. The Afterlife, on the other hand, is the last stop on our path of servitude before eternity. It is our true homeland and eternal residence. It is the place where we shall harvest what we have sown in this life and will undoubtedly account for everything, large or small, good or evil.

Dear Muslims!

Belief in the Afterlife gives significance to our lives, attitudes, and behaviors. It helps us to

understand the reason for our creation. It strengthens our faith in, worship for, and obedience to our Lord (swt). It aids in the development of a sense of responsibility for all existence, living and non-living.

Dear Believers!

A person who believes in the Afterlife is aware that they are under divine supervision. They are always well-measured and well-balanced. They are excusive, forgiving, and tolerant. They are patient and resilient in the face of hardships. They never give up hope and they constantly rely on Allah (swt). They seek peace and happiness by having faith in Him and doing deeds to gain His pleasure (swt). For a believer knows,

يَرَهُ خَيْرًا ذَرَّةً مِثْقَالَ يَنْمَلُ فَمَنْ يَرَهُ شَرًّا ذَرَّةً مِثْقَالَ يَنْمَلُ وَمَنْ

"So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it. And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it."²

Dear Muslims!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) states in one hadith as follows, "Verily, the example of this world and myself is that of a rider who seeks shade under a tree, then he moves on and leaves it behind."³ Yes, we are all passengers on our way to the Afterlife. We shall leave this world where we have been hosted as guests. When that great day arrives, we shall be confronted with the consequences of our actions in this life. Our book of deeds will be handed to us, the scales of justice will be set up, and we will be brought to account. We shall be rewarded for every good deed we have done, but we will also be punished for every sin we have committed. Happy are those who account for themselves before death and prepare for after death! Happy are those whose book of deeds shall be handed to them from the right hand side! Happy are those who shall be given a life with which they shall be pleased!

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with our Lord's (swt) following verse: "O you who have believed! Fear Allah and let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow. Fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is acquainted with what you do."⁴

¹ Tirmidhi, Zuhd, 50.

² Zalzalah, 99/7, 8.

³ Tirmidhi, Zuhd, 44.

⁴ Hashr, 59/18.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا

وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَنَا مُحَمَّدٌ وَأَحْمَدُ وَالْمُقَفَّى وَالْحَاشِرُ وَنَبِيُّ التَّوْبَةِ

وَنَبِيُّ الرَّحْمَةِ.

MAWLID AN-NABAWI

Chers musulmans !

Nous fêtons le Mawlid an-Nabawi, l'anniversaire du Prophète Muhammad Mustafa (sws) dans la nuit de dimanche à lundi. En effet, c'est l'anniversaire de la naissance du messager de l'Islam, le représentant de la droiture et de la vérité, notre guide, notre plus bel exemple. Louange à Allah (swt) qui nous a fait parvenir à cette nuit bénie, et qui nous a accordé la grâce d'être la Oumma de Muhammad (sws). Que le Salut soit sur la famille et sur les compagnons de notre Prophète.

Chers croyants !

Dans le verset que j'ai lu au début de ma khoutba, notre Seigneur dit : « **Ô Prophète ! Nous t'avons envoyé à la fois comme témoin, annonciateur de bonnes nouvelles et avertisseur, afin que par la permission de Dieu, et tel un flambeau étincelant, tu appelles les hommes à Dieu.** »¹

Dans le hadith que j'ai lu, notre Prophète bien-aimé (sws) déclare ce qui suit : « **Je suis Muhammad, je suis Ahmad, qui suit les prophètes, celui après lequel les gens seront rassemblés, je suis le Prophète du Repentir, je suis le Prophète de Miséricorde.** »²

Chers musulmans !

Nous avons appris le Coran et la Sunna du Messager d'Allah. C'est de lui que nous avons appris la loyauté, la bonté, l'amitié et l'affection. C'est lui qui a démontré une justice pleine de miséricorde et une morale pleine de sagesse à toute l'humanité. C'est lui qui a

montré les actes à accomplir pour gagner le Paradis. Nos cœurs se sont unis grâce à lui. C'est avec lui que notre monde a trouvé un sens, que notre vie a été bénie.

Chers croyants !

Dans ce monde d'aujourd'hui où les valeurs sont corrompues et où la déloyauté est répandue, le seul remède est de faire parvenir les conseils du Messager de Dieu à toutes les personnes. Alors efforçons-nous de connaître notre Prophète. Accrochons-nous au Coran et à sa Sunna, qui illumine notre chemin. Purifions nos âmes avec sa bonne moralité. Notre ère aura ainsi un souffle de la Période de la félicité. Notre monde sera en paix et notre vie après la mort sera le Paradis si Dieu le veut.

Chers musulmans !

Comme chaque année, nous commémorons l'anniversaire de la naissance du Prophète avec la Semaine de Mawlid an-Nabawi. Pour cette année, le thème de la semaine choisi par la Direction des affaires religieuses sera « **Notre Prophète et une communauté loyale** ». La loyauté est une valeur importante qui apporte la paix et le bonheur pour la communauté.

Comme dans chaque situation, le Messager de Dieu (sws) a présenté le meilleur exemple de loyauté. Avec les activités qui seront menées pendant la Semaine de Mawlid an-Nabawi, nous partagerons avec notre communauté les exemples de loyauté manifestés par notre Prophète envers ses parents, sa famille, ses amis, et envers toutes les créatures vivantes et inertes. Nous nous efforcerons de nous souvenir de notre promesse envers notre Seigneur et de renouveler ce pacte de loyauté avec toute l'humanité et l'univers.

En cette occasion, je souhaite une bonne fête de Mawlid an-Nabawi et demande à notre Seigneur que cette semaine apporte de la bonté à nos chers compatriotes, au monde musulman ainsi qu'à toute l'humanité.

¹ Al-Ahزاب, 33/45,46.

² Muslim, Fadâil, 126.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمَانَاتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رَاعُونَ

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَا إِيمَانَ لِمَنْ لَا أَمَانَةَ لَهُ، وَلَا دِينَ لِمَنْ لَا عَهْدَ لَهُ.

HIS (SAW) LEGACY FOR US: HIS UNIQUE LOYALTY

Honorable Muslims!

We've left another night of Mawlid al-Nabi behind us. We continue to observe this week, in which Mawlid al-Nabi falls, with the theme "Our Prophet and the Society of Loyalty" this year. In this Friday's khutbah, let us remember instances of loyalty from the life of our beloved Prophet (saw), who was sent as mercy to the worlds.

Dear Believers!

First and foremost, he (saw) was devoted to his Lord (swt). In this regard, he (saw) never failed to observe his servitude and devotion, allegiance and submission to the Almighty Allah (swt). One day, our mother 'Aisha (ra) saw our Prophet's (saw) swollen feet because of performing prayers at nights and asked, "O Messenger of Allah, why are you doing this when your past and future sins are forgiven?" Then, our Prophet (saw) said, "**O 'Aisha! Should I not be a thankful servant of Allah?**"¹

Dear Muslims!

The Messenger of Allah (saw) was loyal to people. He (saw) was so loyal that he spent his whole life to help people achieve happiness in this world and in the Afterlife. In this regard, our Lord (saw) addresses His Beloved (saw) as follows, "**Perhaps, [O Muhammad], you would kill yourself with grief that they will not be believers.**"²

Dear Believers!

Our Prophet (saw) was loyal to his family. He demonstrated his loyalty to his loving wife, who remained by his side through his most difficult moments, by having his tent set up near our mother Khadijah's (ra) grave on the day

Mecca was to be conquered; and to his daughter Fatimah (ra) by joyfully rising up to greet her anytime she came near him.

The Prophet of Mercy (saw) also placed a high value on loyalty to parents. One day after a young person said to him, "I have come to you, O Messenger of Allah, by leaving my parents weeping", our Prophet (saw) said, "**Go back to them, and make them smile as you made them weep.**"³

Dear Muslims!

Our beloved Prophet (saw) would follow through on his pledges and definitely keep his promises. In one hadith, he would tell the importance of loyalty as follows, "**He who breaches one's trust will never have his faith reach perfection. He who does not honor his word can never be pious in a perfect sense.**"⁴

The Crown Jewel of this world and the Afterlife (saw) was also loyal to the environment. He (saw) demonstrated his loyalty to the nature by saying "**If the Final Hour comes while you have a shoot of a plant in your hands, you should definitely plant it.**"⁵; to animals by saying "**Fear Allah regarding these animals that are unable to speak.**"⁶; and to water by commanding not to waste water even when performing wudu in a river.⁷

Dear Believers!

Being loyal stems from faith and is a distinguishing feature of Muslims. Then, today, what falls upon us is to be loyal, just like our beloved Prophet (saw), whose ummah we are honored to be a part of. It is incumbent upon us to live by the verse "**And they (believers) who are to their trusts and their promises attentive.**"⁸ Let us not forget that being loyal to our Lord (swt), people, family, environment, and pledges would help us achieve the pleasure of Allah the Almighty (swt) and would be conducive for us to attain happiness in this world and in the Afterlife.

¹ Muslim, Sifat al-Munafiqin, 81.

² Shu'ara, 26/3.

³ Abu Dawud, Jihad, 31.

⁴ Ibn Hanbal, III, 134.

⁵ Ibn Hanbal, III, 184.

⁶ Abu Dawud, Jihad, 44.

⁷ Ibn Majah, Taharah, 48.

⁸ Mu'minin, 23/8.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ
وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ
خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَا أَكْرَمَ شَابٌ شَيْخًا لِسِنِّهِ إِلَّا قَيَّصَ اللَّهُ لَهُ مَنْ
يُكْرِمُهُ عِنْدَ سِنِّهِ.

LOYALTY TO THE ELDERLY: A REASON FOR ALLAH'S MERCY AND GRACE

Honorable Muslims!

It was the day Mecca was conquered. The longing had come to an end and the Prophet Muhammad and his dear companions could return to Mecca after years. Muslims were all hugging each other with joy, and thanking Allah for blessing them with such a day. Our Prophet's (saw) loyal friend Abu Bakr (ra) hurried to his father Abu Quhafa as soon as he arrived in the city. He brought his father, whom he so wholeheartedly wanted to embrace Islam, to have him meet with the Messenger of Allah (saw). When the Messenger of Allah (saw) saw the gray haired and bearded, visually impaired old man in front of him, he humbly told his Hijrah companion, **"Would not it be better if your old father stayed home and I visited him?"**¹

Dear Believers!

Our elderly people are those people whose prayers Allah answers and whom He (swt) grants blessings abundantly. They are our most valuable bridges connecting our past with our future. We learn from them about how to love our Lord (swt) and have a fondness of our Prophet (saw). It is they who passed our national and spiritual values, customs and traditions down on us. They are the ones who are the pillars of our homes and the source of blessings.

Dear Muslims!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw), who attached special importance to the elderly all his life, calls on us as follows, **"If a young man honors an older person on account of his age, Allah appoints someone to show reverence to**

him in his old age."² What befits us as the ummah of the Prophet Muhammad is to not abandon our elders, who are sources of mercy and blessings, and our sacrificing and enduring parents as they reach old age. What befits us is to stand by their side and meet their needs in the most vulnerable stage of their lives. What befits us is to speak pleasantly with them and to not even say "fie" to them. What befits us is to treat them compassionately and mercifully, and strive to be the addressees of their prayers. For respect for the elderly is a reason for the pleasure of Allah the Almighty.

Dear Believers!

Our Lord (swt) states as follows, **"And We have certainly honored the children of Adam. And carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference."**³ Right, all humans, men or women, are valuable, have dignity, and deserve respect. Moreover, our elders with their gray hair and in need of assistance are our opportunities to attain the grace and mercy of Allah (swt) and our sources who pray for us. Our Prophet's (saw) word is clear: **"Allah the Almighty shies away from not answering the prayers of a gray-haired, elder Muslim on the true path."**⁴

Then, let us make no mistake in showing respect to our elders who held our hands when we were young and brought us to these days. Let us ask them how they are and if they need any help, and heartily run to serve them in any way. Let us not forget that respect for the elderly is a means for peace in our homes and blessings in our lives.

Dear Muslims!

Today is the October 29 Republic Day. I would like to use this opportunity to commemorate with mercy and indebtedness our glorious martyrs and heroic veterans as well as the statesmen who have long made these lands our homeland with their life and blood in the Independence War. May Allah the Almighty (swt) make our unity, solidarity, peace, and brotherhood permanent on these beloved lands until the end of time.

¹ Ibn Hanbal, VI, 350.

² Tirmidhi, Birr, 75.

³ Isra, 17/70.

⁴ Tabarani, al-Mu'jam al-Awsat, V, 270.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ
الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلًا خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا لَا يَبْغُونَ عَنْهَا حِوَلًا .

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْإِيمَانُ بَضْعٌ وَسَبْعُونَ شُعْبَةً أَفْضَلُهَا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَوْضَعُهَا
إِمَاطَةُ الْأَذَى عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ وَالْحَيَاءُ شُعْبَةٌ مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ .

FAITH EXALTS PEOPLE

Honorable Muslims!

Our Lord Almighty (swt) has bestowed upon us countless pleasant blessings. There is one such blessing among them that is more valuable and important the others. This great blessing is faith. For faith exalts people. With faith, hearts are filled with peace. With faith, consciences become purified. With faith, minds are at ease. With faith, graves are illuminated. With faith, the place of resurrection finds serenity. With faith, al-Sirat is crossed. With faith, one enters the paradise.

How great that treasure, o Allah, which is faith!

A mere burden in the chest is a heart without faith!

Dear Believers!

Faith entails acknowledging through heart and testifying through tongue all the messages our Prophet (saw) conveyed to us from Allah the Almighty (swt). Upon Jibreel's (as) question, "What does faith mean?", the Messenger of Allah (saw) replied as follows, "**Faith is to believe in Allah, His angels, His books, His prophets, the Resurrection, and destiny with all the good and bad things it entails.**"¹

Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - they will have the Gardens of Paradise as a lodging, wherein they abide eternally and they will not desire from it any transfer.² When it comes to those who disbelieve in the verses of their Lord and in [their] meeting Him, and ridicule the prophets, their deeds have become worthless. Hell is their destination in the Afterlife.³

Dear Muslims!

The first condition of being honored with Islam is to believe in Allah (swt) Believers believe wholeheartedly that their Lord is one, who has created all things from nothing, and who keeps alive and oversees all things. They worship Allah (swt) only and only Him (swt) they ask for help.

Believers who are sincerely devoted to Allah (swt) attain peace thanks to the angels who stand by them from birth to death, protect them, and pray to Allah (swt) to forgive them.

Believers hold tightly on to the Holy Qur'an, which is the cure for the soul and body, calmness for the heart and mind, and meaning for the words and life. They adhere to the sunnah of our Prophet (saw) who lived by our Holy Book in the best way. For they know that the most beautiful of words is the Book of Allah (swt) and the finest guidance is that of our Prophet (saw).⁴

Believers also believe in the Afterlife. They acknowledge that the world is temporary and the Afterlife is the permanent residence. They live aware that they will account in the Afterlife for what they have done in this world. Finally, believers believe in qada and qadar and that all good and evil occurrences take place as Allah (swt) has created them. With this belief, they use their will, mind, and conscience as well. They strive using all their strength to reach the best, the most truthful and the most pleasant. For what falls upon us as servants of Allah (swt) is to make the effort, and the result naturally depends on the decree of Allah the Almighty (swt).

Dear Believers!

For faith to take root in our hearts, we need to reflect the principles of faith on our life. In this respect, our Prophet (saw) states in one hadith as follows, "**Faith has over seventy branches. The most excellent of which is the declaration that "there is no god but Allah." The humblest of which is the removal of what is injurious from the path. And modesty (al-haya) is the branch of faith as well.**"⁵

Let us endeavor to live up to and keep up the values we believe. Let us pay attention to ensuring that all living beings are safe from our hand and tongue. Let us protect and observe human and public rights, as well as the orphan's property and rights. Let us spread love and affection around us. Let us be happy and thankful when we do good, and be sad and repent when we do evil. Let us not forget that happiness in this world and in the Afterlife are enjoyed by believers who duly obey their Lord (swt), embrace the faith principles truly, continue their worships sincerely, and make no concessions on good morals.

¹ Ibn Hanbal, I, 28.

² Kahf, 18/107, 108.

³ Kahf, 18/103-106.

⁴ Ibn Hanbal, III, 320.

⁵ Nasa'i, Iman, 16.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أَنْثَى وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ
فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيٰوةً طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا
كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

فَإِنَّ حَقَّ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ أَنْ يَعْبُدُوهُ وَلَا يُشْرِكُوا بِهِ
شَيْئًا...

WORSHIP: A BLESSED CONNECTION BETWEEN ALLAH (SWT) AND HIS SERVANTS

Honorable Muslims!

It was one of those early days when the light of Islam started to shine over Mecca. Our beloved Prophet (saw) went on top of the Safa Hill near the Ka'bah and addressed the people of Mecca as follows: **"Will you believe me if I say there is an army marching behind this valley which is about to attack you?"** The people of Mecca all together replied, "Yes, we will believe. For we have never heard a lie from you." Upon this, the Prophet of Mercy (saw) said, **"I am warning you against a vehement punishment."**¹ There, in the sight of the people of Mecca, he (saw) invited all humanity to Islam and eternal salvation.

Dear Believers!

This call of the Master of the Two Worlds, our beloved Prophet (saw), is an invitation for people to become servants of and worship the Lord of the Worlds. This call entails believing in Allah (swt) only and servitude to Him (swt) only. It entails bowing down before the one and only Allah (swt), and getting exalted while doing so. It entails staying away from polytheism and hypocrisy, disbelief and rebellion, strife and corruption, deception and traps, and lies and cheats.

Dear Muslims!

The reason for creation of human is servitude to the Lord Almighty and worship Him (swt). It entails doing good deeds that will help attain the pleasure of the Almighty Allah (swt) as well as happiness in this world and in the Afterlife. It means maintaining the relationship between oneself and the Creator. Indeed, it is our Lord's (swt) most important right over us that we believe in the existence and oneness of Allah the Almighty, Who has created us out of nothing, and to be servants of Him (swt) in the most perfect manner possible. In this respect, while on a journey with Mu'adh ibn Jabal (ra) one day, the Messenger of Allah (saw) asked him, **"O Mu'adh! Do you know what Allah's right is over His servants is?"** Mu'adh ibn Jabal replied, "Allah and His Messenger know best." Then our Prophet (saw) said, **"To worship Him alone and to associate none in worship with Him. As for His (swt) servants' right over Him (swt), it is for Him (swt) not to punish those who do not associate anything and anybody with Him (swt). ..."**²

Dear Believers!

It is stated in our divine book the Holy Qur'an as follows, **"Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, as a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life. And We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do."**³

Then, let us be mindful of our duty of servitude to our Lord (swt). Let us be wholeheartedly connected to Him (swt) and be a devoted servant of Him (swt). Let us not neglect to continue our worships and try to do them in the finest manner possible. Let us keep our worship free of all worldly distractions and hypocrisy. In this manner, let us express our gratitude for the endless blessings our Lord (swt) has bestowed upon us. Let us never forget that ignoring and abandoning our worships will result in a spiritual emptiness, a loss of divine graces, and disquiet in this world, as well as a heavy load of a grievous sin in the eyes of our Lord (swt).

¹ Bukhari, Tafsir, Shu'ara, 2; Muslim, Iman, 355.

² Bukhari, Jihad, 46.

³ Nahl, 16/97.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

...مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا

قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَلَا أُخْبِرُكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِ مَنْ أَمِنَهُ النَّاسُ عَلَى أَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ

وَالْمُسْلِمِ مَنْ سَلِمَ النَّاسُ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ.

VIOLENCE AND HUMAN DIGNITY NEVER GO TOGETHER

Honorable Muslims!

It was the tenth year of the Hijrah at the time. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) and His distinguished Companions met for the worship of hajj in Mecca, the mother of all cities. They were performing one of the obligations during hajj, the standing at Arafat. Addressing tens of thousands of believers gathered at this holy site and giving important messages for all humanity, the Messenger of Allah (saw) began his Farewell Sermon as follows: **“O People! Verily your blood, your property, and your honor are as sacred and inviolable as the sacredness of this day of yours, in this month of yours (Dhu al-Hijjah), in this city of yours (Mecca).”**¹ After this warning, our beloved Prophet (saw) continued his remarks as follows: **“Behold! I am describing who a believer is: A believer is someone in whom people trust regarding their life and wealth. A Muslim is the one from whose hand and tongue people are safe.”**²

Dear Believers!

According to our great religion, Islam, the body, the person, the dignity, the chastity, and the honor of every human being, whether a man or a woman, a child or an elderly person, are inviolable. For this reason, no person may seek to harm another person's life, property, or personal rights. No person has the right to act in a manner that might jeopardize the respect and dignity of another person. No person may act in a way or have an attitude that might cause harm to any living or non-living being.

Dear Muslims!

Violence against women, which we are tragically experiencing more and more on a daily basis, burns our consciences and blisters our hearts.

In fact, having no place in our faith, violence is a crime against humanity. Violence is impotence, mercilessness, and oppression. It is a violation of the right to life and will never be acceptable to human dignity. No rationale may ever be used as an excuse for violence.

Violence knows no religion, language, race, geography, or social status. No form of violence, regardless of its source, can ever be acceptable. The wrath of our Lord (swt), the curse of angels, and everything that exists on the land and in the skies are all directed against oppressors who resort to violence and take lives that Allah (swt) sees as sacred. There is only disgrace for them in this world. Hell is their only destination in the Afterlife.

Dear Believers!

According to our religion, what matters most is compassion, mercy, and keeping alive. What matters most is not to attempt against or harm a soul Allah (swt) regards innocent. In this respect, it is stated in our divine book the Holy Qur'an as follows, **“...Whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely.”**³

Today, when we see images of violence and mercilessness on screens much more often, what falls upon us is to gird ourselves with mercy at all times and act with compassion and conscience. We should make compassion and love, affection and kindness an integral part of our lives. We should make sure that our spouse, children, family, neighbors, and all around us are safe from our hand and tongue. We should oppose any forms of rhetoric and action that create, promote, legitimize, and lead to violence. We should utilize all of our available resources to end violence and defend human dignity. We should never forget that breaking a heart is a sin worse than destroying the Ka'bah, not to mention resorting to violence. We must constantly remember that we are the heirs of a civilization whose members refrained from even harming an ant.

I would like to use this opportunity to wish the Almighty Allah's (swt) mercy on all my sisters who were subjected to violence and whose lives were taken from them. May our Lord Almighty (swt) bless us with the ability to make mercy reign supreme in our hearts first, and then throughout the face of the earth.

¹ Bukhari, 'Ilm, 9.

² Ibn Hanbal, VI, 22.

³ Ma'idah, 5/32.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ، الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ
خَاشِعُونَ ، وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنِ اللَّغْوِ مُعْرِضُونَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
مِنْ حُسْنِ إِسْلَامِ الْمَرْءِ تَرْكُهُ مَا لَا يَغْنِيهِ.

A MUSLIM STAYS AWAY FROM USELESS WORDS AND ACTIVITIES

Honorable Muslims!

Allah the Almighty (swt) states in the verse I have just recited, **"Certainly will the believers have succeeded: They who are during their prayer humbly submissive. And they who turn away from ill speech."**¹

In the hadith I have just recited, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) says, **"A sign of man's good observance of Islam (his piety) is to keep away from that which does not concern him."**²

Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion, Islam, commands that we participate in good and helpful activities in all aspects of our life. It urges us, in line with our reason for being, to conduct good actions in addition to having faith. It advises us that we stay away from affairs that cause loss of time and labor and serve no purpose for our life in this world and in the Hereafter. In this respect, the believers who will attain salvation are described in the Holy Qur'an as follows: **"By time, indeed, mankind is in a loss. Except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to patience."**³

Dear Muslims!

Every word we utter and deed we perform that benefits all humanity, particularly our family members and those close to us, and all creation, assists us in attaining our Lord's (swt) pleasure. The

fineness of our words and acts determines how peaceful our families are, how abundant divine blessings are in our businesses, and how long our unity and solidarity can last. Frustration is the destination for anything contrary to right and truth, as well as everything that pulls love and affection away from our inner world. In this aspect, it is either a careless phrase said or inconsiderate conduct that undermines trust, destroys social harmony, pits siblings against one another, or leads couples to divorce.

Dear Believers!

Our Lord (swt) states in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **"And indeed, [appointed] over you are keepers. Noble and recording. They know whatever you do."**⁴

So, let us let our lives be a reflection of our religion. Let us prepare for the Day of Resurrection when Allah the Almighty (swt) will address every one of us as follows:

"حَسِيبًا عَلَيْكَ الْيَوْمَ بِنَفْسِكَ كُلِّي كِتَابُكَ إِفْرَأُ"

"Read your record! Sufficient is yourself against you this Day as accountant."⁵ Let us invest our life capital in the pursuit of the good and in the quest of the pleasure of our Lord (swt). Let us endeavor to conduct good things that will benefit our lives in this world and in the Hereafter. May our inner and outer selves comply with one another, our attitudes and deeds be beneficent, and our destination be Heaven. I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following invocation from the Prophet Muhammad (saw): **"O Allah! I seek refuge in You from the knowledge that is of no benefit, a heart that is not humble, a soul that is not satisfied. and a supplication that is not heard."**⁶

¹ Mu'minun, 23/1-3.

² Tirmidhi, Zuhd, 11; Ibn Majah, Fitan, 12.

³ 'Asr, 103/1-3.

⁴ Infitar, 82/10-14.

⁵ 'Isra, 17/14.

⁶ Muslim, Dhikr, 73.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَى أَجْسَادِكُمْ وَلَا إِلَى صُورِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ يَنْظُرُ

إِلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ.

OVERCOMING DISABILITIES TOGETHER WITH LOVE

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, **“We have certainly created man in the best of stature.”**¹

Yes, my dear brothers and sisters! The human being is the noblest of all creatures. Of all created beings, human beings are the most noble and wonderful. Human beings are endowed with superior and excellent qualities. Despite this, the worth of human beings in the eyes of our Lord (swt) is not determined by their skin color, gender, or whether or not they are disabled. The most valued in Allah’s (swt) sight are those who are proper in their servitude to Him and avoid transgressing His commandments.

Dear Believers!

In this life, where we are created for a purpose, being handicapped or disabled does not imply any defect or fault, just as not having any impairments or being non-handicapped does not imply superiority over others. What matters is that our souls and hearts remain unimpaired. In this respect, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) says, **“Allah does not look at your figures, nor at your attire, but He looks at your hearts.”**²

Dear Muslims!

The Messenger of Allah (saw) would esteem and devote particular attention to people with disabilities. He (saw) would treat a visually-impaired companion, Abdullah ibn Umm Maktum, with such delicacy that he would put his cloak on the ground for him to sit. He (saw) advised us that if handled with patience and calm, having disabilities may serve as a pathway to heaven.³ He (saw) would appoint people with disabilities to significant positions such as teacher, *muadhdhin*, and acting governor while he was out of Madinah. When we look at the Islamic civilization that our Prophet (saw) built, we see many disabled brothers and sisters of ours who, by their rhetoric and art, knowledge and wisdom, experience and accumulation, have contributed to humanity and had their names etched in the history.

Dear Believers!

Today, it is incumbent upon every one of us to demonstrate a proper understanding of and respect for our brothers and sisters with disabilities. We should share their problems and make their lives easier. We should also use all possible measures to enable them to make full use of all available resources. It is also required that we avoid words that may sadden them and acts that may complicate their lives. Let us not forget that we may attain faith perfection to the extent we facilitate one another’s life. I would like to conclude this Friday’s *khutbah* with the following advice of the Prophet Muhammad (saw): **“Guiding a visually-impaired person is sadaqah. Assisting a weak person is sadaqah. Helping a person with speech impairment to explain themselves is sadaqah.”**⁴

¹ Tin, 95/4.

² Muslim, Birr, 33.

³ Bukhari, Marda, 7.

⁴ Ibn Hanbal, V, 152.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظًا

الْقَلْبَ لَأَنفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْمُؤْمِنُ مَأْلَفٌ، وَلَا خَيْرَ فِيمَنْ لَا يَأْلَفُ وَلَا يُؤْلَفُ.

THE MUSLIM IS FRIENDLY

Honorable Muslims!

One of the Companions was passing through a beautiful valley. He liked the taste of the water in the valley. He was also very impressed with the landscape. He thought of getting away from people and settling in that valley. He went to the Messenger of Allah and told his intention. Our beloved Prophet (saw) told him not to do such a thing. He stated that standing in the cause of Allah is more virtuous than the salah performed at home alone for years.¹

Dear Believers!

Living by Islam duly means to both fulfill our duties towards Allah and to take the life-centered messages of our religion as the guide in our relations with people. It is not a proper attitude to isolate ourselves from the society and prefer a selfish and lonely life. As a matter of fact, besides being a responsibility of servants towards Allah, there is much more wisdom behind the worships such as salah, fasting, zakat, hajj and qurbani like meeting people, socializing, sharing and solidarity.

Dear Muslims!

In the modern age, we are unfortunately trapped in our own lives. We have become individualized and isolated. We have become selfish and unable to think of anyone but ourselves. While our homes have gotten closer to one another, our hearts have drifted apart. Our friendship and neighborly relations have

weakened. We have turned into people who deprive each other of a greeting, a nice word, asking about one another's situation, and a sincere smile. Sometimes we are unaware of the illness or even the death of our neighbor right next to us.

The digital world offers us many opportunities. However, we lost ourselves to the lure of the virtual world. We cannot safeguard good morality in digital platforms, neither can we observe the rights of people and the law. We have become prisoners of computers, tablets and smartphones. As we lose touch with real life, we are getting lonelier in crowds. While communicating online with people from a remote corner of the world, we have forgotten to talk with our families, children and neighbors with whom we share the same house and environment.

Dear Muslims!

Addressing to the Prophet (saw), Allah the Almighty states in the Holy Qur'an as follows: **"So by mercy from Allah, (O Muhammad), you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude (in speech) and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you...."**²

So, let us take the morality of our Prophet, whose ummah we are honored to be, as an example. Let us adopt compassion and mercy, self-sacrifice and contentment, sweet words and smiling faces as principles. Let us establish good relations with our relatives, neighbors, and all people, starting with our family. Let us seek peace and happiness not in loneliness and selfishness but in attaining the pleasure of our Lord (swt) and in the du'as of our brothers and sisters.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following hadith of the Messenger of Allah (saw) describing the believer: **"The believer is friendly and befriended, for there is no goodness in one who is neither friendly nor befriended."**³

¹ Tirmidhi, Fadha'il al-Jihad, 17.

² Al-i 'Imran, 3/159.

³ Ibn Hanbal, II, 400.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ

عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ تَشَبَّهَ بِقَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ.

MUSLIMS LIVE BY THEIR RELIGIOUS AND MORAL VALUES

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, Allah the Almighty (swt) states, **“You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah...”**¹

Dear Believers!

Each Muslim, proud to be a part of the lauded “best nation,” imprints only the high values of Islam on their hearts and minds. They adopt a cautious approach toward any forms of thinking, practice, and habit that are not based on revelation. They keep away from situations that might put their faith in jeopardy. They mirror the morals of Islam with their words and acts. They do not chase worldly cravings and desires. They are conscious of the importance of hard work, as well as the abundance of divine blessings that come as a result of halal earning. They are conscious of the fact that they will be held accountable for what they buy or sell. They are content with what is halal, even if it is only marginally sufficient. They do not squander their lives on alcohol, which dulls the mind, or on gambling, which destroys homes and families.

Dear Muslims!

Muslims who maintain their identity do not get lost in the whirlpool of popular culture. They do not adopt lifestyles of other cultures without consideration. They do not accept symbols, modes of entertainment, attitudes, or behaviors that are inconsistent with our faith or authentic tradition. They are fully aware that doing so erodes Muslim identity and alienates society and future generations from their religion, history, and values. They are not blind to the fact that several civilizations that have vanished from history first lost their faith and values, and then their culture, literature, and art.

Dear Believers!

Our Prophet (saw) warns us as follows: **“Whoever imitates any people is one of them.”**² In other words, whoever accepts another’s beliefs and practices, rather than living by and preserving their own, gradually begins to think and act like them. Because it is inescapable that material and physical affinity will have spiritual ramifications.

So, let us be mindful of our responsibility to our Lord (swt), humanity, and future generations. Let us hold onto the Qur’an and the Sunnah wholeheartedly. Let us arm ourselves with the morals and manners of Islam in all spheres of our lives. Let us avoid all types of words, understandings, and practices that draw us away from our reason of creation, as well as degrade our culture and civilization. Let us not forget that nations exist and thrive on the basis of their religious and moral values and the awareness that is nourished by these values.

¹ Al-i ‘Imran, 3/110.

² Abu Dawud, Libas, 4.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ

سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

يَا إِخْوَانِي لِمَنْ هَذَا فَأَعِدُّوا.

AFTERLIFE IS ENDLESS AND MORE AUSPICIOUS

Dear Muslims!

The Messenger of Allah (saw) was at a funeral with his companions. He sat at the edge of the grave. He was so deeply affected by the moment that tears ran down his blessed cheeks. He cried so much so that the soil got wet with his tears. The Messenger of Allah (saw), who wished the happiness of his ummah for the world and the Afterlife more than anything, told his companions, “O my brothers! Prepare yourselves for death.”¹

Dear Believers!

While chasing never-ending desires, sometimes we forget our purpose of creation and we do not even think about death. We take the death incidents around us or in media as ordinary events and do not pay attention. Unfortunately, we just glance at the number of lives we lose every day due to the pandemic and do not care about it.

We all know and believe that death and resurrection are true. We are the passing guests in this life. We will suddenly pass away from this world, in which we came for trial, and arrive at the Afterlife (*akhirah*) that is our original home. We will answer for our good and bad deeds in the presence of Lord of the Worlds (swt). We will either attain the eternal reward or be subjected to the painful torment.

Dear Believers!

Belief in the Afterlife is the most important principle that directs our life and gives meaning and value to it. Because the person who believes in the

Afterlife is aware that the keys of eternal happiness is in this world. With this consciousness and faith, one endeavors to live a life that seeks the pleasure of Allah (swt). The believers make their lives fruitful with the righteous deeds they do as a requirement of the faith. They adorn their life with good morals. They make efforts to be exalted in the presence of Allah with their taqwa. They find peace only by remembrance of Allah (swt). They stay away from obscenities that make them forget the Almighty Allah (swt). They present their servitude to the Almighty Allah (swt) with their du‘a. They express their gratitude for the blessings bestowed upon them. They live at peace with their family, environment and society.

Esteemed Muslims!

We should be aware that the Afterlife is more auspicious and endless. We should not be among those who prefer life in the world to the life in the Afterlife.²

يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ مَا غَرَّكَ بِرَبِّكَ الْكَرِيمِ

We should duly perform the requirements of servitude to the Almighty Allah (swt) for not being the object of the question, “O mankind, what has deceived you concerning your Lord, the Generous?”³

إِفْرَأْ كِتَابَكَ كَفَىٰ بِنَفْسِكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكَ حَسِيبًا

We need to question ourselves before encountering with the call “[It will be said], ‘Read your record. Sufficient is yourself against you this Day as accountant.’”⁴ We must fill our deed books with righteous deeds for being able to say “So as for he who is given his record in his right hand, he will say, ‘Here, read my record! Indeed, I was certain that I would be meeting my account.’”⁵ Let us not forget that, “But whoever desires the Hereafter and exerts the effort due to it while he is a believer - it is those whose effort is ever appreciated [by Allah].”⁶

¹ Ibn Majah, Zuhd, 19.

² A‘la, 87/16, 17.

³ Infitar, 82/6.

⁴ Isra, 17/14.

⁵ Haqqah, 69/19, 20.

⁶ Isra, 17/19.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْكَيْسُ مَنْ دَانَ نَفْسَهُ وَعَمِلَ لِمَا بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ وَالْعَاجِزُ مَنْ

اتَّبَعَ نَفْسَهُ هَوَاهَا وَتَمَنَّى عَلَى اللَّهِ.

REVIEWING OUR PAST AND SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Honorable Muslims!

The second caliph of Islam, the symbol of justice Umar b. al-Khattab once said to his friends as follows: **“Reckon with yourselves before you are reckoned with, and prepare for the Greatest Inquisition. The reckoning of the Day of Judgment is easy for those who reckoned with themselves in the world.”**¹

Dear Muslims!

Time flies. Days of our life are running out day after day. Our numbered breaths are coming to an end. We are leaving another Gregorian year behind us with its ups and downs and its sorrow and joy. Let us decide to face with ourselves in this blessed time of Friday when prayers are accepted. Let us review what we have done so far. Let us reckon with ourselves before we are reckoned with.

Dear Muslims!

The essence of the reckoning is to know oneself. It means to see oneself through the mirror of truth. It also means to contemplate on where one came from, why s/he came and where s/he will go.

The beginning of the reckoning is to be able to stop all kinds of carnal and lustful desires. It means to abandon bad habits and behaviors. It also means to repent of our sins and decide not to commit the same sins again.

The reckoning is the effort to mature our faith and maintain our direction. It is the endeavor to adhere to the words and behaviors which Allah (swt) made halal (permissible) and stay away from the haram, (prohibited). It is the determination not to give up worshipping for even a moment until the death. It is the resolution to equip ourselves with the morals of our Beloved Prophet (saw) who is a man of outstanding character.

Eventually, the reckoning is being a servant of Allah (swt) with complete submission, and meticulously abiding by the rights of people. It means to purify our hearts from everything but Allah.

Dear Believers!

It is stated in the Holy Qur'an: **“O you who believe! Fear Allah and keep your duty to Him. And let every person look to what he has sent forth for the tomorrow, and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is All-Aware of what you do.”**² This verse calls us to reckon with ourselves as a requirement of our faith. It invites us to make a future plan in accordance with our purpose of creation.

Then, in the last day of this Gregorian year, let us ask ourselves these questions in order to review our past and shape our future: Are we loyal to our servitude now we gave to Allah (swt) in reply to the question “Am I not your Lord?” Did we spend our life with faith, worship and good morals? Did we stay away from everything Allah (swt) prohibited? Did we fulfill our responsibilities towards all living and non-living creatures? In brief, did we appreciate the value of every year, every month, every day, and even every hour?

I would like to conclude this week's khutbah with the following hadith of the Messenger of Allah (saw): **“The clever person is the one who subjugates his soul, and works for what is after death. And the incapable is the one who follows his desires and merely hopes in Allah.”**³

¹ Tirmidhi, Sifat al-Qiyamah, 25.

² Hashr, 59/18.

³ Tirmidhi, Sifat al-Qiyamah, 25.