

Date: 03.06.2022

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي  
النَّاسِ لِيَذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ.  
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
إِنْ قَامَتْ عَلَى أَحَدِكُمُ الْقِيَامَةُ وَفِي يَدِهِ فَسِيلَةٌ  
فَلْيَغْرِسْهَا.

### A SIGN OF A MUSLIM: BEING ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS

#### Honorable Muslims!

The Almighty Allah (swt) has created a flawless universe. In this endless universe, He (swt) has fashioned the earth for His servants in the finest way. He (swt) has entrusted its improvement and enrichment to us, the Children of Adam (as), whom He descended from heaven to the earth and appointed as His vicegerent. He (swt) has commanded us to cherish, care for, preserve, and look out for our environment with the consciousness of rights and responsibilities. He (swt) has admonished us to refrain from wastefulness, overexploitation, and greediness in the usage of natural resources, as in every field.

#### Dear Believers!

Our beloved Prophet (saw) is the best guide for us in reading and making sense of the universe Allah (swt) has created. His perspective of nature is centered on wisdom, compassion, reflection, and drawing lessons from it. In Mecca and Madinah, the Messenger of Allah (saw) designated a “Haram Site,” in a way establishing natural protected areas. He (saw) would demonstrate his care for water by ordering that no water be wasted while performing ablution even from a running river.<sup>1</sup> He (saw) would show his affection for mountains by saying, “Uhud loves us and we love Uhud.”<sup>2</sup> He (saw) would remind us of our responsibility towards the nature by ordering, “If the Final Hour comes while you have a shoot of a plant in your hands and it is possible to plant it before the Hour comes, you should plant it.”<sup>3</sup> He (saw) would tell that what suits a believer is to be compassionate for all living beings through his warning “Fear Allah regarding these dumb animals.”<sup>4</sup>

#### Dear Muslims!

For the last two centuries, human family has unfortunately failed to know the value of the earth that was entrusted to them. They have disturbed the natural order and exploited the environment irresponsibly. Through extravagant and improvident spending, they have overexploited all kinds of blessings as if they will never run out. As a consequence, humanity is now confronted with environmental problems of enormous proportions. Our pristine air continues to become contaminated; the forests that provide us with oxygen is vanishing; the soil that is our genuine companion is turning into deserts; and the streams that sustain life run dry. The order of our seas and oceans is being disturbed. Many living species are going extinct. In sum, the order of our planet is being more disrupted by the day.

#### Dear Believers!

Our Lord (swt), Who has created the universe in an exact balance and entrusted the duty of protecting the nature and everything in it, states in the Holy Qur’an, “Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned so He may let them taste part of [the consequence of] what they have done that perhaps they will return [to righteousness].”<sup>5</sup>

Right, as stated in the verse, the order of the world is corrupted by human hands. What falls upon us today is to readopt the ethics for the nature that Islam has introduced to humanity. We should not let it slip out of our mind that we are not the owners of the earth, but mere attendants. We should not disturb the delicate balance that Allah the Almighty (swt) has set for the universe. We need to recover from the illness of wastefulness and greediness, and use resources in a more thoughtful manner. We should not squander even a single crumb of bread or a drop of water. We must watch out for our behaviors in picnic and recreation areas, and protect the environment as the apple of our eye. We must behave responsibly so as to leave a more habitable planet behind. Let us not forget that the sensitivity towards the environment entails paying due attention to what our Lord (swt) has entrusted to us and observing the rights of future generations.

<sup>1</sup> Ibn Majah, Taharah, 48.

<sup>2</sup> Bukhari, Jihad, 71.

<sup>3</sup> Ibn Hanbal, III, 184.

<sup>4</sup> Abu Dawud, Jihad, 44.

<sup>5</sup> Rum, 30/41.