

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي
سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ آوُوا وَتَصَرَّوْا أُولَئِكَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ
بَعْضٍ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلِمَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ، وَالْمُهَاجِرُ
مَنْ هَجَرَ مَا نَهَى اللَّهُ عَنْهُ.

AS WE ENTER THE NEW HIJRI YEAR

Honorable Muslims!

In the early years of Islam, the believers were subjected to the ever-increasing persecution, suffering, torture, and boycott imposed by the polytheists of Mecca. Despite all the hardships they endured, the Muslims never compromised their faith. Finally, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) and his noble Companions migrated from Mecca to Madinah by the command of Allah the Almighty. This year was later accepted as the beginning of the Hijri calendar.

Dear Believers!

Hijrah is not merely migrating from one place to another. Rather, Hijrah is the ideal of valuing the pleasure of Allah and His Messenger above all else. It is the endeavor to turn toward the truth and to hold firmly to it. It is the determination to distance oneself from the unlawful desires and passions of the nafs and from the endless whisperings of Satan, and to lead a life filled with righteous deeds and noble character. Hijrah is the effort to repent from errors and sins and to seek refuge in the vast mercy and forgiveness of our Lord. It is the resolve to move from what is haram to what is halal, and from evil to goodness. Our the Prophet Muhammad (saw) drew our attention to this reality when he said: **“A Muslim is the one from whose hand and tongue other Muslims are safe. And a Muhajir is the one who abandons what Allah has forbidden.”**¹

Esteemed Muslims!

Every one of us has a Hijrah that we must undertake. What is required is that we recognize our mistakes and confront our shortcomings. Let us be at peace with ourselves. Let us listen to the voice of our fitrah. Let us never lose sight of the purpose for which we were created.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

A Muslim's Hijrah is the journey from arrogance to humility, from anger to compassion, from selfishness to selflessness, from oppression to justice, and from despair to hope.

A Muslim's Hijrah is to distance oneself from the evils of the tongue such as lying, slander, discord, and backbiting, and to embrace truthfulness, brotherhood, and affection.

A Muslim's Hijrah is to protect oneself and one's family from deviant ideas, false ideologies, and misguided tendencies, and to lead a life that is in harmony with one's religion, values, culture, and traditions.

A Muslim's Hijrah is to refrain from resorting to haram acts that undermine peace and security—such as alcohol, adultery, usury, bribery, hoarding, and black-market profiteering—and to be content with what is halal.

A Muslim's Hijrah is to refrain from every sin that violates the rights of individuals and the public, and to be mindful of one's words, conduct, and actions.

Noble Muslims!

What befits Muslims in the new Hijri year is to renew their understanding of the meaning and significance of Hijrah, to correctly assess the age in which they live, and to shape their future by taking account of their lives. They should make Islamic brotherhood their guiding principle, stand united with one another, and share their material and spiritual blessings with each other.

On this occasion, we pray to Allah the Almighty, that the new Hijri year, which we will observe next Tuesday, may bring relief and joy to the oppressed, peace and tranquility to humanity, and serve as a means of strengthening our unity, solidarity, and brotherhood.

We conclude this week's khutbah with the meaning of the following noble verse: **“Those who believed, emigrated, and strived with their wealth and lives in the cause of Allah, as well as those who gave them shelter and help—they are truly guardians of one another...”**²

¹ Bukhari, Iman, 4.

² Anfal, 8/72.

